



RIBA North East Passionate about Architecture

RIBA North East E-Bulletin – April 2008

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Quotation of the Month

“The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts.”

[Bertrand Russell](#)

British author, mathematician, & philosopher (1872 - 1970)

News

House of Lords hold first debate on architecture in four years

The House of Lords, for the first time since 2004, held a debate to ‘call to attention the case for encouraging high-quality architecture in the UK and for ensuring that design quality is taken into account by local planning authorities.’

Led by former architecture Minister the Rt Hon Lord Howarth of Newport, prominent Lords, including Lord Rogers, offered their views on architecture, planning and specifically the planning system. The debate was scheduled to take place ahead of the current Planning Bill, which will be considered in the Lords in April. Baroness Andrews is the government Minister who responded to the debate.

The list of Lords who spoke included:

- Lord Rogers of Riverside
- Rt Hon Lord Rodgers of Quarrybank
- Rt Hon Lord (John) Patten
- Lord Carlile of Berriew
- Lord Dixon-Smith
- Lord Low of Dalston
- Baroness Hamwee
- Baroness Whitaker

RIBA response to Budget Statement

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, delivered his first Budget Statement to the House of Commons. Among the key points of most interest to the Royal Institute of British Architects are:

- Small and medium sized firms are to be encouraged to procure 30% of public sector business in the next five years, through the creation of an advisory committee
- Funding to be made available for the Green Home Service to advise consumers on how they can reduce carbon emissions, waste and water consumption
- An ambition for all new non-domestic buildings to be zero-carbon from 2019 and for all new homes to be zero-carbon from 2016. All new public buildings are to be zero-carbon from 2018.
- Extending the stamp duty land tax exemption from zero-carbon homes to new flats, retrospectively from the first of October 2007

- The Government aims to increase housing supply and affordability. The housing Corporation is undertaking an £8.4billion pound investment over the next three years, the largest investment programme in its history
- The Government has committed to achieving the delivery of 200,000 new homes on surplus public sector land by 2016. The budget announces that the Government has firmly identified many these sites
- The Government is introducing measures to reform the tax incentives for developing Brownfield land, to make them more environmentally sustainable.
- Reference made to pre-existing policies on reducing energy emissions from the household sector and the existing housing stock.

Responding to the statement, RIBA President Sunand Prasad said:

“We welcome many of the items in the Chancellors budget statement as they connect well with the RIBA’s own manifesto. I hope that the Government’s aim to engage small and medium sized firms in public procurement programmes, signifies the beginning of a sea-change in how all public buildings are delivered. We want the best designers irrespective of practice size to be involved in creating our future schools, clinics and other public buildings”.

RIBA announces two new scholarships for 2008

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) today announced two new scholarships for 2008, generously funded by **Komfort Workspace** and Mrs Margot Auger, in memory of her late husband, **Boyd Auger**. The deadline for receipt of applications for the next round of funding will be 12 June 2008.

The **RIBA Komfort Workspace Research Scholarship in Spaces for Health Care** supports individuals or teams for medium term projects (ideally between six to twelve months), where the focus is on improving the interior spaces of public areas and patients’ rooms in hospitals and surgeries to enhance the quality of life for patients and health professionals.

The **RIBA Boyd Auger Scholarship** will support one student or a group of students for a period of research of 6 months or longer, to carry out research preferably outside the UK.

Both scholarships, valued at £10,000 each, will support architectural students, graduates, academics and recently-qualified architects to produce a piece of closely defined research in the field of Architecture. Although priority will be given to projects not leading to an academic qualification, the scholarship may be used as part of broader research at postgraduate level, namely towards a Masters or PhD/MPhil programmes.

David Gloster, Director of Education at the RIBA said:

“We are absolutely delighted that our members and the industry have been so supportive of education for the last few years”.

“It is very rewarding that we are able to provide so much more support to our student members, as well as architectural researchers and academics.”

2008 Affordable Home Ownership Housing Awards

Following the immensely successful 2007 Affordable Home Ownership Housing Awards, we are pleased to announce the 2008 Awards Ceremony on Thursday 4th September. We are also delighted to have (as our celebrity host) again George Clarke (BA Hons UCL Dip Hons), RIBA Architect, Designer, Writer, Lecturer and TV Presenter, of '*Build a New life in the Country*', '*Property Dreams*' & '*A Dream Home Abroad*' 2007 saw almost 300 housing professionals attend the event and this year we are expecting over 400. We have added a number of categories for entry

For further details on a number of opportunities for sponsorship and exhibition please see separate attachment.

RIBA President's Award for Research 2008

Professional Practice-located Research Award

The RIBA is keen to encourage and recognise excellence in research undertaken in architectural practice. Work in any area of architecture, including the design or aspects of the design of a building, and considered to be an exceptional contribution to architectural knowledge and understanding is sought from RIBA members and practices.

There are few bounds to the potential subjects but the submission for the award must be a completed research project, not the life-time achievement of an individual or practice. Entry for the award is restricted to RIBA members and RIBA Chartered Practices. Interdisciplinary collaborative projects are encouraged but the research entered must be under the intellectual and financial control of an RIBA member/Chartered Practice.

All submissions will be assessed in terms of the degree to which they contribute new knowledge and understanding to architecture and particularly in terms of:

- **Originality:** the degree to which the research produces new insights and innovations in architecture.
- **Significance:** the degree to which the research has influenced, or has the potential to influence, knowledge and understanding in architecture.
- **Rigour:** the intellectual precision and/or systematic method and/or integrity embodied in the research.

Judges will also take into account the degree to which the work communicates clearly through written, visual and spatial language, and where appropriate, engages audiences beyond specialists in the field.

The RIBA President's Awards for Research for Outstanding Professional Practice-located Research was awarded for the first time in 2007 when it was won by Short and Associates for their work *Design for the Warming Environment*.

Formal submission documentation is available from

<http://www.architecture.com/Awards/RIBAPresidentsAwardsForResearch/RIBAPresidentsAwardsForResearch.aspx>

Job Vacancies on RIBA Jobs Website

RIBA members can now place job adverts on a dedicated regional page of www.ribajobs.com. RIBA Appointments offer a good value service for web advertisement and the site is linked to the regional web site.

RIBA Trust Exhibitions

Until 1 June 2008, V&A + RIBA Architecture Gallery, **Architecture Now: Up on the Roof**

The RIBA exhibition spaces are open Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm and Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Entry to all exhibitions is free. Evening or weekend functions sometimes affect gallery opening times. If planning a visit on a Saturday or late weekday afternoon, it is advisable to call beforehand. Contact: Tel: 020 7942 2000 or visit www.vam.ac.uk

Events

Architects on Architecture – ‘The Istock Lecture Series’

A new RIBA North East lecture programme – ‘Architects on Architecture’ was launched in February. The next lecture is being held in Lecture Room 2, Herschel Building, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.

The new programme has been developed in conjunction with Istock Brick Ltd who have kindly agreed to sponsor 8 events throughout the year. The events are also supported by both Newcastle and Northumbria Universities.

The third lecture will be given by Bill Gething, a long-standing partner of Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects. He has been involved with many of the projects that have contributed to the practice’s reputation for sustainable design. One of the first practices to develop expertise in sustainable design, Feilden Clegg Bradley has received numerous awards for its work in this area including a Queen's Award for Sustainable Development and the Civic Trust's Sustainability Award.

For further details please see separate attachment or contact Zoe Townsend on 0191 222 0186

RIBA CPD Core Event 4 – Employment Law

Speaker:

Chris Graham, Partner at Watson Burton

Chris joined Watson Burton LLP in 2002 from leading Leeds law firm, Ford & Warren. He has specialised in employment law for twelve years. His broad experience involves advising and representing employers in claims for race, sex and disability discrimination as well as unfair dismissal and contract disputes. Christopher has experience in claims under the more recent legislation including sexual orientation, age and also religious belief. With significant clients in the construction, engineering, sales and retail sectors, Christopher conducts his own advocacy and regularly appears before the Employment Appeal Tribunal as well as Employment Tribunals nationwide. He has expertise in corporate fraud, health and safety and enforcing restrictive covenants as well as project managing the relocation of businesses, TUPE transfers and extensive experience in managing industrial action.

Venue: The Bridges Room, Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

Date: Thursday 17 April 2008, 2 – 5pm, registration commences at 1.30pm

For further details please see separate attachment or contact the Regional Office.

SIKKENS Colour forum

As well as looking at the psychology of colour, the forum will provide you with inspiring solutions to help you take a more informed approach to colour selection within the interior environment. We’ll be examining how certain colours can alter our perceptions on space, atmosphere and function and looking at the latest colour trends.

Venue: Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8ST.

Date: Wednesday 7th May, 2 – 5pm, registration commences at 1.30pm

Cost: Free – Refreshments included

To reserve your space contact Zoe Townsend on 0191 222 0186

For further information or to book a place on the course, please contact Malcolm Sollitt – Sikkens Technical Consultant – on 07899 061 043 or email Malcolm.sollitt@sis.akzonobel.com

RIBA CPD Core Event 5 – ITC – supported by Constructing Excellence

As part of their leading role in the building industry, Architects can play an integral part in the uptake and use of IT & ICT throughout the design and construction process. This seminar on IT & ICT for Construction is designed to inform you of current methods and techniques, raise awareness of issues and to enable you to engage more successfully with some of the issues.

This seminar, supported by The IT Construction Forum, is intended to give you a clear understanding of the following topics whilst also providing guidance on the principles, tools and techniques used. The seminar will update on the legislative situations where relevant. Guidance and direction on where to go for additional advice and information will be available, together with detailed information through case studies and applications.

For further details please see separate attachment or contact the Regional Office.

Non-Core Joint Event – CDM 2007

This half-day seminar will explain the significant changes introduced by the 2007 Regulations and the effect of these changes on architects. Full hand-outs will be provided.

Content:

- Overview of new CDM 2007 Regulations
- The role of the CDM coordinator & differences in documentation
- Effect on clients and designers
- Effect on site
- Open forum

Speaker: Steve Bielby – Steve is currently working as CDM Coordinator on 18 schemes in Yorkshire with a number of local architects. Bielby and Charles are a practice of Chartered safety advisors specialising in construction safety and CDM coordinator in particular. They have been involved with the CDM Regulations since their inception and have acted, initially as planning supervisors, and now as CDM Coordinators on over 150 construction projects varying in build cost from £25,000 to £250,000,000.

Venue: Bedern Hall, Bartle Garth, St Andrewgate, York, YO1 7AL
See website www.bedernhall.co.uk for a map and further details of this beautiful venue in the centre of York.

Date: Wednesday 9 April 2008, 2 – 5pm, registration commences at 1.30p

For further details please see separate attachment or contact the Regional Office.

Grid Launch Event

The University of Sunderland Grid Computing facility went live in December 2007. Funded from the Science Research Infrastructure Fund, it will provide advanced computational research facilities for students and staff in the School of Computing and Technology. The Grid Computing facility will also be made available to companies and other organisations for research and reach-out activities.

The Grid operates as a close-coupled cluster, and has a number of potential application areas. These include graphics rendering, computational fluid dynamics, network simulation and performance testing.

The Grid is a dual-boot system supporting Scientific Linux and Windows 2003 Server Compute Cluster Edition. The Grid configuration allows both operating systems to run in parallel on different parts of the Grid, and performance comparisons to be made on the different platforms.

The University of Sunderland Grid Computing Facility will be officially launched at a special event on **Thursday 24th April 2008**. The event will include an afternoon lecture by grid computing specialists.

The main event will commence at 18:30 in the Prospect Building at St. Peter's Campus. There will be a welcome address by Professor John MacIntyre, Dean of the School of Computing and Technology and talks by CISCO and Dell. Demonstrations of grid computing applications will be organised later in the evening.

The format of the event will be as below:

3.00pm - Coffee and Tea in the Balcony Restaurant

3.30pm - 5.00pm - Lecture on Grid Computing

5.30pm - Opportunity to speak with CISCO, Dell, Knowledge House and the School of Computing and Technology

6.30pm - Welcome address from Professor John MacIntyre

7.00pm - Dell speaker and CISCO Speaker

7.30pm - Buffet

If you would like to attend the Launch Event please e-mail marc.hall@sunderland.ac.uk

For more information please visit: www.cit.sunderland.ac.uk/grid/home.cfm

EASA SEMINAR in conjunction with the RIBA:AABC Register

To support those members who wish to become accredited, EASA are sponsoring two seminars in conjunction with RIBA:AABC. The first in spring 2008, will be held at Gorton Monastery in Manchester. The second in October 2008, will be held at St Cassians Centre, Kintbury, Berkshire.

“What is the purpose of the RIBA:AABC Register?” The purpose of the Register is to promote the benchmarking and improvement of abilities and competence of individual architects through a process of peer-review based on submitted evidence. The qualification of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation is a positive means of setting standards and of approving the abilities, skills and competencies of professionals in order to give reasonable assurances by way of current information to clients and grant giving bodies. In so doing it is also raising the standards of building conservation in England and Wales.

“What is the purpose of the Seminars?” The seminars will be tailored to those architects who are considering applying, or reapplying, for inclusion on the register either in the Architect (A) or Consultant Architect (CA) category. They will concentrate on what the RIBA:AABC Board is looking for in terms of conservation experience and training.

“What will these Seminars offer me?” They are an opportunity to hear RIBA:AABC Board members and assessors explain and illustrate the process and guidelines leading up to Accreditation. The speakers will highlight key issues for applicants, including relevant experience and CPD, the selection and preparation of the required detailed examples of work, developing a CV and a personal statement of a philosophy of conservation.

For further details please see separate attachment

April's Event Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
31 st March	1 – April Fools Day	2	3	4	5 6
7	8	9 Non-Core Joint Event – CDM 2007 : An Update for Architects Bedern Hall, York 2-5pm £	10	11	12 13
14 – Titanic Struck the Iceberg in 1915	15 EASA SEMINAR in conjunction with the RIBA:AABC Register The Monastery of St Francis, Manchester 10.00am – 4.30 pm £	16 – International Noise awareness day	17 CPD Core Event 4 Employment Law Bridges Room, Gateshead Civic Centre 2 – 5pm ♣	18	19 20 – National Pineapple Upside down cake Day
21	22 Architects on Architecture Bill Gething Lecture Hall 2, Herschel Building, Newcastle university 6 – 8pm ○	23 – St. Georges Day	24 Grid Launch Event University of Sunderland's St Peter's Campus Main Event 6.30pm onwards	25	26 27
28	29 – International Make a wish day	30	1 st May	2	3 4

♣ This event is included in CPD Club membership

£ There is any additional charge for this event

○ This event is free