

## RIBA North East Newsletter

# Insight

### Hadrian Awards featured on the internet



Photograph by Steve Brock

The Hadrian Awards Celebration 2007 was held at Newcastle Civic Centre on 6 September.

FILMS of the seven winning buildings and places from the Hadrian Awards 2007 have been launched at [www.hadrianawards.com](http://www.hadrianawards.com), so people can now take a look inside the buildings which have been given the sought after accolade of the best design in the North East and Cumbria.

The three-minute short films have been created by North East award-winning film maker Daniel Elliot, who is internationally recognised and renowned for his drama and documentary short films.

The films have been designed to capture why these buildings and public spaces are winners and to show people the high quality design of each project commended by the Hadrian Awards scheme.

Commissioned by the Hadrian Awards partnership of RIBA North East, Northern Architecture, North of England Civic Trust and Landscape Institute Northern Branch, the films have been made entirely independently from the architects, clients and owners. They relate the thoughts of members of the public and building or space users, providing a weighty testimony to the genuine impact good design does have on people's lives.

The website, which has listed Hadrian Award-winning buildings for the past few years, is gradually becoming the definitive directory of buildings of design excellence in the North East, boosting the region's profile as design-conscious and progressive. This is reinforced by the fact that six out of the seven winning buildings were designed by architects from the North East and Cumbria.

Past Chairman of RIBA North East, John Devlin said: "I think many of them were really apprehensive, not knowing what to expect. I was delighted by the enthusiasm with which they were received. I think it was a moment of real pride for many of them, hearing such amazing testimonies from the people using the buildings and places."

"The seven winning schemes of the 2007 Hadrian Awards ooze style, thoughtfulness and a sense of purpose, all of which have been captured into these short films.

"Whether you love design, plan to commission a building or a public space or just want to have a sneaky peak, the films are guaranteed to please."

The award-winning buildings featured in the films include Dance City in Newcastle, Darlington Education Village, Gateshead International Stadium, St Christopher's Parish Church in Gunnerton, The Jerwood Centre in Grasmere, The Quadrus Centre in South Tyneside and Trinity Gardens in Newcastle.

To view the films go to [www.hadrianawards.com](http://www.hadrianawards.com)



Photograph by Steve Brock

Darlington Education Village - 2007 Hadrian Awards Winners receiving their certificates



Photograph by Steve Brock

The hub of activity, Newcastle Civic Centre's Banqueting Hall



Photograph by Morley von Sternberg

Dance City in Newcastle upon Tyne by Malcolm Fraser Architects of Edinburgh, won not only a 2007 Hadrian Award but also a 2007 RIBA Award.

## Regional Chairman's Welcome



Photograph by Moira Conway

**Dolan Conway, new Chair of RIBA North East was elected at the Regional AGM in December.**

Welcome to the first 2008 edition of 'Insight', our quarterly newsletter to members and partners to inform you of the RIBA activities in the North East Region. Let me also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous 2008.

This is the first opportunity I have had to write to members since I was elected at the Regional AGM in December. I am delighted to be able to assume the position of RIBA North East Chairman.

I would particularly like to thank my predecessor John Devlin who throughout the course of the last 3-years has changed the direction and focus of the RIBA in the North East. As Chairman, John had to take difficult decisions, which have proved to be extremely successful. I am therefore pleased that the Regional Council is not losing John's expertise as he is staying on as the Past Chairman.

The past year has been an extremely exciting period for the RIBA. Throughout the course of the year we have forged new relationships with the ICE and other Professional Institutes, opened our new Regional Office at Northumbria University and celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Hadrian Awards at Newcastle Civic Centre.

This year promises to be equally as exiting, with new events planned for 2008, including a, NEW lecture series – 'Architects on Architecture', a new CPD Programme and with further engagement with other Professional Institutes we will under the direction of Jon Jo MacNamara and his Team continue to develop and grow RIBA North East.

As many of you will be aware, Peter Beacock and I are your representatives on the RIBA National Council, giving Peter and I a greater opportunity to strengthen our policy position and add a North East perspective to the decision making at a national level.

In addition to this, throughout the course of the year I will be focussing my efforts engaging with Practise and Schools of Architecture across the region. I am determined that at the heart of our development in the next 2 years we will not only put architecture centre stage but also the people who make architecture happen – Architects. I want to see greater involvement with members and greater profiling of their work and achievements in creating world-class Architecture and enhancing the lives of people up in the North East.

It is a challenging agenda, but I am greatly looking forward to the year ahead and meeting as many members as possible.

With Best Wishes

**Dolan Conway**  
RIBA North East Regional Chairman

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## IGNITE – Powering Regeneration in North East England

### What is IGNITE?

IGNITE is the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Communities in North East England. Its aim is to “inspire the desire to create lasting places in which people aspire to belong.” Its purpose (as highlighted in the Government Urban White Paper of 2000 and more recently the Sustainable Communities Plan) is to raise standards of practice in the built environment - creating great places whilst developing the skills and capacity of professionals and practitioners to deliver sustainable communities.

With such a wide agenda, the IGNITE Steering Group has been created to advise and influence the IGNITE programme and promote the work of IGNITE to decision makers, professionals and practitioners within the region's regeneration community. Core activities have been planned around the five key objectives of IGNITE which are:

1. To empower professionals and practitioners to work across occupations
2. To raise the standards of the built environment
3. To develop regional capacity and capability to deliver
4. To promote a shared understanding of how we develop, deliver and maintain our sustainable communities
5. To raise regional aspirations

### How can IGNITE help you achieve your goals?

IGNITE has many tools that you can use as a professional to help you achieve your goals. The IGNITE knowledge management portal has been created and can be found at [www.ignite-ne.com](http://www.ignite-ne.com). It is an electronic resource created to build skills and knowledge and share good practice and learning. All practitioners and professionals involved in regeneration are encouraged to become members. Here, you can search the knowledge bank storing a range of documents relevant to the sustainable communities' taxonomy in the North East. The knowledge bank is detailed and relevant to professionals, making life easier to find specific information.

To ensure the portal has an up-to-date supply of knowledge documents, IGNITE has been building relationships with regional practitioners who supply the portal with information. If you would like to contribute and share your knowledge across the region, all you have to do is email [info@ignite.com](mailto:info@ignite.com). If all regional practitioners share their knowledge via the portal, the more information the portal will hold and the more relevant it will be - enabling you to source the information that you need, empowering you to achieve your goals. The portal also contains information on specific organisations in the region, exhibition areas - where you can share best practice or highlight your organisation - and team zones, where you can undertake collaborative work around a specific project.

On a day-to-day basis, practitioners can use IGNITE in a different way. A regional events calendar enables you to find out what's going on

across the region. By selecting and attending events run by other organisations, you can expand your understanding of the sustainable communities' agenda and the need to think and act across occupations. Future development will hopefully see IGNITE develop cross-occupational learning through shared Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Working with professional membership organisations, IGNITE will publicise regional CPD events on the events calendar, enabling the practitioner to attend a much wider range of events as part of their professional development and learning.

Highly relevant to architects – and one of the benefits of registering as a member on the IGNITE portal - is the ability to gain free access to the Resource for Urban Design Information (RUDI) website - the largest web resource dedicated to urban design and place-making.

The Design and Access Statement Writing Tool enables practitioners to create their own Design Statements – which are becoming more of a regular occurrence in support of planning applications, and are a mandatory requirement in many circumstances. The Writing Tool works through a questionnaire system that guides the user through the issues. On completion it creates a document that you can edit and include your drawings.

It is an exciting time for IGNITE, when this autumn, the IGNITE Regional Design Review and Enabling Service will be launched. The Design Review and Enabling Panel will be drawn from a wide range of experts - regional and national - who can contribute to raising the quality standards of place-making through investment in the built environment. The Panel will be recruited through a Nolan compliant appointment procedure where IGNITE will be advertising in a national planning journal and will alert IGNITE members via email. Please sign up to IGNITE if you are interested.

**If you would like to become an IGNITE member to gather information, contribute and share your knowledge and best practice, or even just highlight your organisation, please see [www.ignite-ne.com](http://www.ignite-ne.com) or email [info@ignite.com](mailto:info@ignite.com).**

## Sandcastle Challenge and Ball 2007

In 2008, RIBA North East will once again be supporting our partners in Children North East to facilitate the annual Sandcastle Challenge and Ball.

This year's dates are –

Sandcastle Challenge	4th July
Sandcastle Ball	11th July

**To enter your practice and team please contact the Regional Office on 0191 222 0186 or email [riba.northeast@inst.riba.org](mailto:riba.northeast@inst.riba.org).**

## RIBA North East welcomes James McArdle



Photograph by Mike McArdle

James McArdle has joined RIBA North East to provide media services to raise the profile of architects and architecture across the North East Region.

James a fully trained press and communications officer will be working alongside the Head of Region, Jon Jo MacNamara to help promote events over the next year.

## Jon Jo and Caroline step up to new roles

Jon Jo MacNamara has been formally appointed the new Head of RIBA North East and assumed the new title from the beginning of January.

Jon Jo commented: “I am delighted to accept this new role. I joined the RIBA in January 2006 as the new Head of Strategic Partnerships and believe in that 2-year period we have strengthened our organisation and will now move to the next stage of our development”.

Caroline Albin has also been promoted to the new joint Events and Marketing Officer for RIBA North East and Yorkshire. Caroline will be working closely with both Jon Jo MacNamara and Emma England on CPD promotion, Communications and broadening our financial base.

Caroline said: “I am thrilled to have received this promotion and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and the opportunities to further strengthen the RIBA's position in both the North East and Yorkshire.”



Photograph by Ben Duffy



Photograph by Ben Duffy

## Bridgescape Series

As part of the RIBA Northumbria Branch on-going Townscape series, work is well underway on a new publication called Bridgescape. An inaugural meeting of the working group was held at the start of September and workshops and seminars are now planned for the next 6-months.

The Bridgescape publication will be produced as part of the 2008 Europa Nostra congress, which is being held in NewcastleGateshead. As a sponsor of the Europa Nostra Congress the RIBA is delighted to

be facilitating another publication.

The next Bridgescape Workshop will be held on 2nd February at The Newcastle Arts Centre, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, between 10am and 12 noon.

Cyril Winskell has once again kindly taken on the role of Convenor of the Working Group and should you wish to participate in the publication then either contact Cyril directly at [cwinskell@hotmail.com](mailto:cwinskell@hotmail.com) or e-mail Jon Jo MacNamara at [jonjo.macnamara@inst.riba.org](mailto:jonjo.macnamara@inst.riba.org).

## CPD Diary Dates 2008

**Core Event 2 - Project Management**  
Thursday 21 February  
Gateshead Civic Centre

**Non-Core Event - Planning Update**  
(Rescheduled Core Event 10 from October 2007)  
Thursday 6 March  
Gateshead Civic Centre

**Core Event 3 - Building Regulations**  
Thursday 20 March  
Gateshead Civic Centre

**Non-Core Event - Low Carbon Homes with EST, BRE and CIAT**  
Tuesday 25 March  
Durham County Cricket Club

**Core Event 4 - Employment**  
Thursday 17 April  
TBC

**Core Event 5 - ITC Skills**  
Thursday 15 May  
TBC

**Non-Core Event - The Disability Discrimination Act 12 Years On**  
Thursday 22 May  
TBC

**Core Event 6 - Construction Techniques**  
Thursday 19 June  
TBC

**Core Event 7 - Code for Sustainable Homes**  
Thursday 17 July  
TBC

**Core Event 8 - Costs**  
Thursday 21 August  
TBC

**Core Event 9 - Design Skills**  
Thursday 18 September  
TBC

**Non-Core Event - Natural Ventilation**  
Thursday 2 October  
TBC

**Core Event 10 - Personal Effectiveness**  
Thursday 16 October  
TBC

**Core Event 11 - CDM**  
Thursday 20 November  
TBC

**For further details please see our website or call the Regional Office on 0191 222 0186.**

Insight is the quarterly publication of RIBA North East. It is distributed free of charge to RIBA members and construction professionals. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor and/or the RIBA.

Monthly email bulletins, including diary dates, are sent to all members, so please ensure that you keep us informed of any changes in your contact details.

For sponsorship opportunities in this newsletter or any other RIBA communications, please contact the Regional Office.

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