

PRESS RELEASE (RIBA/06/2008/06)

Wednesday 11th June 2008

TYNE FUTURE – HIGH SPEED FERRY & HOTEL SHIP

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) North East will tonight launch its '*BridgeScape - Bridges for People*' publication. The launch will take place at Newcastle Civic Centre where a dinner is being hosted to celebrate the European Heritage Awards. The Heritage Awards are an integral part of this year's EUROPA NOSTRA Congress which is being held in NewcastleGateshead and Durham from 11th-15th June.

The *BridgeScape* publication is the latest contribution by North East architects, urban designers, planners, landscape architects, engineers and artists in setting out a vision for the Tyne for the coming years. Previous RIBA North East '*scape*' publications have addressed city centres and riversides.

BridgeScape sets out a bold vision for the future of the Tyne, examines the importance of bridges and suggests how the river could be utilised to improve the physical, commercial and civil connections between Newcastle and Gateshead. Report authors have suggested a number of visionary projects for the Tyne including a high speed ferry crossing, an hotel ship and conference centre and a new bridge to cross the river. The report also studies the history of the Tyne bridges and looks at them in the context of other bridges from around the world.

In his foreword to the *BridgeScape* document Dolan Conway, Chair of RIBA North East says:

'*BridgeScape* is now the latest in the continuum of '*scape*' studies led by the RIBA in the North East. The publication celebrates our architectural bridging heritage and attempts to celebrate NewcastleGateshead by illustrating our great engineering past and looking forward to possibilities for the future.'

Andrew Dixon, Chief Executive of NewcastleGateshead Initiative, posed a challenge in his contribution, commenting that:

‘Given the strong vision and leadership that exists in NewcastleGateshead I have no doubt that we will see another bridge across the Tyne within the next decade. Perhaps we should create a challenge to local architects, developers and planners to work with business, communities and the media to start thinking about where the bridge might have the most impact.’

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Note to Editors:

PHOTO: The first copy off the press of the *BridgeScape* publication will be presented to Cllrs John Shipley and Mick Henry by Dolan Conway, Chair of RIBA North East.

For further information on *BridgeScape* please contact Jon Jo Macnamara, Head of RIBA North East, on 07875 492659

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