

PRESS RELEASE (RIBA/01/2008/01)

Tuesday 15th January 2008

**RIBA President to Highlight North East Architectural Achievement in
Tackling Climate Change**

Sunand Prasad, the newly elected President of the **Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)** is visiting the North East on **Thursday 17th January**. He will be giving a keynote address at Northumbria University, highlighting the role architects can play in addressing climate change. Before his speech he will be visiting a **2007/8 RIBA award winning building, the Rivergreen Centre, at Aykley Heads in Durham**. This building was designed by Newcastle practice JDDK Ltd and was commended for its low impact design, its sustainability, and use of re-cycling and imaginative landscaping.

11:30 Visit to Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS. Sunand Prasad will tour the centre with design architect David Kendall and Rivergreen Development plc senior staff member. ***Media invited – Photo op and Sunand Prasad will be available for interview.***

14:00 ‘Combating Climate Change’ – Sunand Prasad to give main address at RIBA event at **Northumbria University, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST.** *Media invited.*

Ahead of his visit Sunand Prasad said:

‘I want one of the hallmarks of my presidency of RIBA to be the encouragement of architects to fully engage with the challenges of climate

change and to be delivering environmentally sustainable building designs. I am delighted to be in the North East to set out my vision for our profession.'

'I am also delighted to be visiting the Rivergreen Centre in Durham as it is a great example of the direction in which we should be moving and demonstrates that the North East is taking a lead in this area.'

David Kendall, North East RIBA member and partner at JDDK Ltd, said:

'We are very proud of the award winning Rivergreen Centre as it showcases a sustainable and low environmental impact office space that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional.'

ENDS

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Biography

Sunand Prasad MA(Cantab) AA Dip PhD (RCA) RIBA FRSA

Sunand is a founding partner of Penoyre & Prasad LLP and current President of the RIBA (2007-2009). He was born in India in 1950 and came to the UK in 1962 with his family. He trained at the University of Cambridge and the Architectural Association and was partner at Edward Cullinan Architects before practicing on his own and forming Penoyre & Prasad together with Gregory Penoyre in 1988.

He was a founding Commissioner for the UK Government's Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, established the CBE Enabling Programme and chaired its Skills Programme. As Vice President for RIBA Policy & Strategy, he in particular led on the Institute's response to climate change. He founded the RIBA's Constructive Change group and played a leading role in the development of Design Quality Indicators for the Construction Industry Council.

Sunand has taught and lectured in many schools of architecture in the UK and India, acted as an external examiner and continues to be involved in teaching. His theoretical work includes research in North Indian urbanism and domestic architecture, writings on Le Corbusier, on architecture and cultural diversity and the exploration of the value of design. He wrote the essays in Penoyre & Prasad's monograph "Transformations", published September 2007 and is the editor of a forthcoming book on Contemporary Hospital Design. He has made many contributions to conferences and events relating to Architecture, Urban Design and sustainability.