

**PRESS RELEASE (RIBA/07/2008/10)**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**Wendy's Building Odyssey**  
*RIBA North East Launch Lecture Series*

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in the North East is tomorrow launching a new series of its successful *Architects on Architecture* series and has invited three eminent practitioners to come to the region over the course of the next two months.

The first event at Northumbria University is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October and the guest speaker will be Sri Lankan-born Wendy de Silva.

Reflecting on her architectural influences Wendy said:

'I am interested in and influenced by everything around me, and am lucky enough to have a thorough understanding of two diverse cultures. This has given me the confidence to be open to the richness of the world's culture, architecture and materials ..... and a brilliant excuse to follow my nose!'

Wendy immigrated to England in the 70's and studied at the Bartlett School of Architecture, (University College) London. She started her career as a trainee on a building site with John Laing Construction. Shortly after qualifying, she went back to Sri Lanka and worked with RIBA Royal Gold Medalist Geoffrey Bawa on the 'Ruhunu University' Project.

Most of her professional life has been spent in London where she has worked on a large variety of buildings including schools, retail, and housing and listed buildings. Wendy's most recent completed project is the award winning 'Cargo Fleet' which she worked on with her partner Stephen Chance. Wendy is also a director of Dransfield Owens de Silva, a Bermondsey based practice which is involved in a number of community health buildings, housing and mixed use regeneration projects in London as well as the Heartlands Big Lottery Regeneration Project in Cornwall.

Jon Jo Macnamara, Head of RIBA North East said:

‘We are delighted to be launching this year’s ‘Architects on Architecture’ lecture series and have a very impressive list of speakers. Once again this collaboration between RIBA and Newcastle and Northumbria Universities is proving very fruitful for our members and students.’

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editor:**

Photo of Wendy de Silva (GIF Image) attached to email.

*Architects on Architecture* is sponsored by Ibstock Brick Ltd and supported by both Northumbria and Newcastle Universities and is an opportunity for RIBA members and interested parties to listen to, and question, leading experts in the field.

Wendy de Silva will be giving a presentation on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 6pm. This will be held at Nixon Hall, Northumbria University City Campus. This event is free and open to all including RIBA members, students and interested members of the public.

After the lecture guests are invited to join Wendy and members of the RIBA North East for a drinks reception in the Hub area, 2nd Floor, Wynne Jones Building (above Nixon hall).

If you would like to book a place at the lecture please email [riba.northeast@inst.riba.org](mailto:riba.northeast@inst.riba.org) or telephone 0191 2617441.

For all media inquiries please contact James McArdle on 07966 595075.