



PRESS RELEASE – 13 May 2010

Aardman and the architects

An exhibition looking behind the scenes at Bristol's favourite animation studio

Aardman, the award-winning animation studio, moved into their new Gas Ferry Road headquarters in Bristol just over one year ago.

The story of the building, from initial concept to final coats of paint, is told in this exhibition which looks at a five-year, £8 million project demonstrating Aardman's commitment to the city.

Alec French Architects worked closely alongside their creative clients, who had significant input into the design, including a strong interest in sustainable building (the HQ is BREEAM rated 'excellent' with natural ventilation throughout) as well as a desire to use British craftspeople for details such as the laminated wood and stainless steel staircase at the heart of the entrance atrium.

Since occupation, the building has won two awards at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) South West Town and Country Design Awards 2009, as well as a Bristol Civic Society Environmental Award.

Featuring concept sketches, examples of materials used, a documentary recording the development as well as some of Aardman's best-loved characters, the exhibition runs until 27 June 2010 – free admission.

Aardman: Animated architecture

Talk: Thursday 20 May, 18.30, £5/£3

Dave Sproxton and David Mellor, directors of Aardman and Alec French Architects, discuss the relationship between client and architect on this exciting new-build workspace.

Alec French Architects got to know the philosophy of their creative client, leading to some very Aardman-specific design elements.

Particularly true of an owner-occupied building, the project exemplifies the need for an architect to work closely with a client in order to understand the way they operate.

This event will be chaired by Simon Cooper, broadcaster, founder director of The Hub in Bristol and Director of CSR Consultancy Ltd.

Booking for this talk is through Arnolfini: 0117 917 2300

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. High resolution images are available on request from Jodie Marks or Lottie Storey jodie.marks@architecturecentre.co.uk or lottie.storey@architecturecentre.co.uk

2. The Architecture Centre aims to increase people's awareness and enjoyment of architecture and the built environment, and to demonstrate the value of good design through its exhibitions, events, education and outreach programmes. The Centre is situated on the waterfront in Bristol with two exhibition spaces, a meeting room and shop.

3. Centre opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday, 11am - 5pm
Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon - 5pm
Closed all day Monday (office open)

4. Centre address:

The Architecture Centre
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www.architecturecentre.co.uk

5. The Architecture Centre is funded by Arts Council England, CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), and creating:excellence, and is a founding member of the Architecture Centre Network.