



PRESS RELEASE – 23 November 2009

Building Health: Planning and Designing for Health & Happiness

National conference to be held in Bristol 22 January 2010

With the worst of the recession behind us, planners and developers are turning their attention to planning for the growth that's soon to resume. And two items in the news mean that the future will be very different from the recent past.

First, the Climate Change summit at Copenhagen in a couple of weeks will bring greater global commitment to the need for low carbon economies. Second, new forecasts about the impacts of obesogenic environments on our health mean even greater urgency on changing our everyday environments to encourage more healthy living. ['Obesogenic' is a recent medical term for factors tending to make individuals fat.]

To help all professionals involved in the built environment get equipped to tackle these challenges, a major national conference is being held in Bristol on 22 January 2010. The event will showcase one of the greenest and healthiest cities in Europe – Freiburg – from which the UK has much to learn, as well as home-grown examples of good practice. Leading experts in their field will share their techniques and tips for success.

A high-profile line-up of speakers includes:

Irena Bauman, Director of Bauman Lyons Architects and author of *How to be a Happy Architect*;
Wulf Dasking, Director of City Planning in Freiburg, Germany;
Professor Mike Kelly, Director of the Centre for Public Health Excellence at NICE;
and Sarah Gaventa, Director of CAFE Space.

This conference will be invaluable for senior practitioners and policy-makers involved in the design and development of our neighbourhoods, towns and cities; including planners, developers, urban designers and professionals working in transport, green space, regeneration and public health.

Gabriel Scally, Regional Director of Public Health for the South West, said:
'This is a first rate opportunity for professionals shaping our built environments to see how they can deliver health benefits as an integral part of their roles. With our region gearing up for one of the fastest growth rates in the UK we have a unique responsibility to built health in major projects, before a single brick is laid or tree planted.'

Ends

Notes to editors:

Conference details

One-day conference, Friday 22 January 2010

Frenchay Campus, University of the West of England, Bristol

More information (including link to online booking):

<http://www.architecturecentre.co.uk/events-building-health>

The conference is organised by The Architecture Centre, Bristol in partnership with Department of Health South West, The South West Strategic Health Authority, Government Office of the South West and WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Policy, University of the West of England. Hosted by the Institute for Sustainability, Health and Environment at UWE.