



PRESS RELEASE – 10 March 2011

Spring Green 2011: Sustainable Schools



Krishna-Avanti Primary School, Harrow, Cottrell & Vermeulen Architects. Image Anthony Coleman.

Celebrating five years of sustainable innovation at the Architecture Centre

Five years ago, the Architecture Centre began a season of exhibitions and events exploring different aspects of sustainable design and innovation in architecture, engineering and planning. Subjects covered so far range from cutting-edge sustainable housing developments to urban green networks, from the future of our suburbs to issues around water, flooding and climate change.

This year's focus falls on schools and the pressing need to ensure our educational institutions - typically some of the most energy-hungry public buildings - fall into line with current energy-saving criteria.

The recent Building Schools for the Future building project ensured that new-build schools have been designed using the most up-to-date energy-saving technologies and designs, responding to the Carbon Reduction Commitment in design, behaviour and management. Exemplar schools from the UK and around the world are showcased within Sustainable Schools - the Architecture Centre's current exhibition and associated events season of visits, talks and debates.

But what about the schools that haven't been rebuilt, many of which are inefficient Victorian monoliths, hurriedly constructed post-war buildings or even Portakabins? Sustainable Schools also looks at how

best local authorities can tackle the management of existing building stock (which can account for up to 50% of buildings falling under local authority responsibility), adapting buildings designed 100 years ago to the education and environmental needs of today and on into the future.

Covering a wide range of subjects from sustainable school design and construction to maintenance and refurbishment, there will also be a major debate on the many complex issues that surround this subject bringing together all those involved, from designers to educationalists. Sustainable Schools is aimed at those designing, building, managing and maintaining our schools as well as those who use them - teachers, colleagues, pupils and parents. The Architecture Centre also hopes to welcome back audiences who have enjoyed previous Spring Green programmes, such as those working in and/or interested in the areas of environmental sustainability and climate change.

The Architecture Centre is grateful for the support of Ramboll who have collaborated with the Centre to devise and produce three exhibitions in our shop gallery between March and June: A Timeline of School Design, Learning in a material world, and Passivhaus for Schools.

Spring Green 2011 is kindly supported by Willmott Dixon.

Events calendar:

Events include talks, debates, lectures and visits, which give professionals, students and public the opportunity to meet high-profile practitioners, to be inspired by their projects and to broaden their understanding of architecture.

Green Day: Half-day Teacher Training

Wednesday 23 March, 13.00 - 16.00, Free but registration essential
Green Day is an initiative that helps schools become more sustainable. It inspires pupils and teachers to learn more about climate change and how it relates to the buildings and spaces around them.

Rednock School Tour

Tour: Friday 25 March, 09.45 - 12.00, meet at the school, £7/£4.50
Jane Lock Smith, founder and Director of Cube Design Ltd will give a presentation and guided tour of Rednock Secondary School, Dursley, Gloucestershire.

John Ferneley College and Rogiet Primary School

Talk: Thursday 30 March, 18.30, £5/£3

A joint talk by the architects of two very sustainable schools by White Design.

Architecture for Everyone: Built Environment Careers Day

Workshop for school students: 30 March 2011, 9.30 - 14.30

Faculty of Environment and Technology, UWE: A one day workshop for 14-19 year olds to explore careers in the built environment sector.

Ground Rules: Learning and sustainability through the school landscape

Talk: Wednesday 6 April 2011, 18.30, £5/£3

In addition to contributing to a school's overall sustainability, outdoor spaces can be a rich resource for inspiring learning outside the classroom.

Sustainable Schools Debate

Debate: Wednesday 11 May, 18.00, £7/£4.50

At the CREATE Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol. Refreshments beforehand. Booking in advance essential through the Architecture Centre: 0117 922 1540.

Architype: Designing Passivhaus Schools

Talk: Wednesday 18 May 2011, 18.30, £5/£3

Passivhaus is the most rigorous energy standard in Europe. Jonathan Hines, Director of Architype and member of the Passivhaus Trust zero-carbon working party, explores the challenges of designing and delivering the first Passivhaus schools in the UK.

Scandinavian School Design

Talk: Thursday 9 June, 18.30, £5/£3

This talk presents findings from a study trip to Denmark and Sweden undertaken by a group of education and construction professionals during October 2010.

For more on the above events, visit our website:

<http://www.architecturecentre.co.uk/events?page=1>

To book for any of the events, call the Architecture Centre on 0117 922 1540.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. High resolution images are available on request from Jodie Marks or Mark Haydn: jodie.marks@architecturecentre.co.uk or mark.haydn@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
Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA
0117 922 1540
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.

6. Spring Green is the Architecture Centre's annual season exploring innovation in sustainable design.

Previous subject areas covered:

2007 - Greenprint: Design for sustainable living: showcasing housing and sustainable construction best practice

2008 - Suburban Futures: new and existing neighbourhoods facing radical change

2009 - Urban networks: the need for green spaces in towns and cities in preserving urban biodiversity

2010 - Water and built environment sustainability: 'blue' infrastructure, flooding and climate change

7. About our sponsors:

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In capital works, they work with government, local authority and private sector clients, delivering capital projects in education, justice, retail, health and social housing. They also deliver fit-out and sustainability consultancy to meet the low carbon challenges we all face.

In regeneration, they develop complex mixed-tenure projects, often in joint venture with developers, local authorities and RSLs. They also seek opportunities in urban areas and are actively involved in developing accommodation under the PPP.

In support services, they deliver a range of planned, preventative and responsive care to property, which includes maintaining 120,000 homes across the UK and providing a fast efficient service to a number of commercial brands.

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