



PRESS RELEASE – 25 March 2010

The Architecture Centre's Spring Green season 2010

Water and built environment sustainability

From rivers, canals, harbours and the sea, to drains, sewers and treatment plants, water is at the heart of our infrastructure. This year's Spring Green season at the Architecture Centre focuses on water and built environment sustainability, encouraging debate around this crucial and topical area.

Through a season of exhibitions, events and lectures we highlight the importance of the network of water that forms the infrastructure to urban environments and the key role it plays in shaping our understanding of our climate and environment.

Spring Green 2010 will explore this diverse subject, from technological advances in flood management, infrastructure, and global issues around resources, to the psychological influence of water on cities and urban planning.

Spring Green is the Architecture Centre's annual programme of exhibitions and events that celebrate and showcase sustainable innovation in the built environment.

Two exhibitions make up Spring Green 2010:

1. Facing up to Rising Sea Levels

Main gallery: until 8 April

Facing Up To Rising Sea Levels forecasts three different attitudes towards flooding policy – retreat, defend, attack – and visualises these scenarios in the future.

The problems and challenges posed by future population growth, urban migration patterns and housing demand will fall predominantly on cities, and the exhibition scrutinises the current practice of coastal flood management in the urban context. This think-piece is designed to provoke longer-term thinking about sea level-rise and its implications, using case study examples from Portsmouth and Hull.

The result of a joint project between RIBA Building Futures and the Institution of Civil Engineers, this touring exhibition has been supplemented by information specific to Bristol and looks at the flood risk strategies proposed by Bristol City Council.

2. H2O.space: Young people and the Cultural Olympiad

Shop gallery: 30 March – 9 May

Weymouth in Dorset is the sailing venue for the 2012 Olympic Games, and is subject to major waterfront regeneration.

In early March the Architecture Centre will lead a Design Challenge Workshop with local students to consider coastal town regeneration. 30 students from Budmouth Technology College will undertake a site visit, and will then respond to a topical design brief, related to the development of the Weymouth waterfront. Their work will form this exhibition at the Architecture Centre.

This project is part of O.space - a nationwide CABE programme building on the excitement around the Olympics to inspire people about architecture and the built environment.

Five events accompany the season:

1. Bristol's Flood Risk Strategy

Talk: Tuesday 30 March 2010, 18.30, £5/£3

The impacts of climate change will be felt by all in one way or another. The city of Bristol will face many challenges in coming years, such as threats to the coast line and rivers, and storm surges – potential catastrophe is never far away.

Steven Sodek, Flood Risk Manager at Bristol City Council, will focus on flood risk within the city boundary and the influences this will have on the lives of city-dwellers.

2. Horizon House: Bristol's new headquarters for the Environment Agency

Talk: Tuesday 20 April 2010, 18.30, £5/£3

Due to be occupied at the end of 2010, Horizon House has been awarded the highest ever BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) score for an office in the UK, scoring over 85%.

Alec French Architects with engineers Hoare Lea will explain how this has been achieved by this new development opposite Bristol Central Library. The scheme also includes apartments and a further office building, both elements expected to achieve Ecohomes and BREEAM 'excellent' scores. This mixed-use development concludes the regeneration of a prominent district in the city, marking a new milestone in sustainable design.

3. The Blue in the Green: Water and green infrastructure

Arup auditorium. Booking through the Architecture Centre

Talk: Tuesday 27 April, 18.30, £5/£3

Green infrastructure re-introduces a way of designing our cities and landscape around natural cycles. The multi-functional benefits of green infrastructure and its ability to reduce or replace grey infrastructure will play a vital role in sustainable new developments and retrofitting existing settlements.

Parks and green corridors are an important part of green infrastructure; however private gardens, street trees, green roofs and sustainable urban drainage also play a crucial role in balancing natural cycles, offering opportunities to adapt to changes facing our communities.

Jochen Rabe of Arup will focus on the complex role of water as the lifeblood of green infrastructure and outline ways to solve problems while providing a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits.

4. Fire and Ice: The impact and influence of water in our changing climate

Talk: Wednesday 12 May, 18.30, £5/£3

As our climate changes in response to global warming so too will the patterns of our rainfall, the levels of our seas, and the risk and frequency of flooding and drought.

In this talk Mark Letcher discusses the connections between water in all its forms, climate change, and our built environment. Drawing on practical examples he will look at how these changes will influence the way we live and work, and why we need to adapt the design of our homes, businesses, towns and cities to cope with them.

Mark Letcher is the Director of Climate Works Ltd, a sustainable energy and climate change consultancy based in Bristol.

5. The Bridges of Bristol's Floating Harbour

Ferry boat tour: Saturday 22 May, 14.45, £8/£6

A guided tour around the heart of Bristol's historic Floating Harbour looking at bridges old and new, together with other engineering features of interest.

The tour will be led by Henrietta Ridgeon, Senior Bridge Engineer with Arup in Bristol. and bridge engineer Simon Birkbeck, an Associate with Arup. They will explain the different structural forms of Bristol's bridges and changes to the historic harbour over the years. The tour will begin and end at St Augustine's Reach taking in the entire Floating Harbour.

Tickets for all events available through the Architecture Centre. Call 0117 922 1540 for further information and to book.

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
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.