

ARCHITECTURE CENTRE S AND POLICY IN ENGLAND

August 2011

1. ARCHITECTURE CENTRES

In England there has been a clear differentiation between architecture centres and architecture museums, and also the role of architects and the built environment professions. However, the differentiation is becoming less distinct with areas of cross over and overlap with architects and planning consultancies undertaking more community engagement activity. There are also organisations and institutions which fit into neither category, being galleries or museums that occasionally have architectural exhibitions and accompanying lectures etc. The information provided here only relates to the architecture centres and policy related organisations.

Architecture centres are rarely collection-based and have been established for a wide range of reasons, often from a different cultural field than architecture museums. The architecture centres tend to be smaller locally based with a programme of activity that responds to the needs and circumstances of the locality. Architecture museums are those with permanent collections or are historic buildings in their own right. Architecture centres engage more actively with local planning and architectural issues, public participation and engagement with the general public, children and young people. Their independent status gives them a neutral mediating position.

Architecture Centre Network is the national advocacy, support and development organisation for the 20+ architecture and built environment centres in England and Northern Ireland. The architecture centres have been established over the last 20 years and reflect the growing interest in the design and development of neighbourhoods, towns and cities in the UK. The centres are diverse but share the aim of making architecture and the built environment accessible to the public; *helping people make better places*.

For more information on Architecture Centre Network and the member centres see <http://www.architecturecentre.net> The core members are:

Arc

www.arc-online.co.uk

Arc promotes and fosters quality in architecture and public space in the Humber region. Arc is located in Hull within a bespoke, publically accessible sustainable building.

The Architecture Centre, Bristol

www.architecturecentre.co.uk

The Architecture Centre's principal aims are to demonstrate the value of good design and, by increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of their built environment, to stimulate the demand for design excellence. Located on the Quayside in Bristol in their own bespoke building, a converted warehouse.

The Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall

www.acdandc.org.uk

Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall aims to raise public awareness of design issues, and support local authorities, communities and practitioners in the creation of high quality design. Currently a non-building based organisation.

The Architecture Foundation

www.architecturefoundation.org.uk

The Architecture Foundation is a non-profit agency for contemporary architecture, urbanism and culture. They cultivate new talent and new ideas. Through their diverse programmes they facilitate international and interdisciplinary exchange, stimulate critical engagement amongst professionals, policy makers and a broad public, and shape the quality of the built environment. They are independent, agile, inclusive and influential. Central to their activities is the belief that architecture enriches lives. Based in central London with a public gallery space.

Beam

www.beam.uk.net

Beam is a company dedicated to the imaginative understanding and improvement of the public realm — our urban and rural streets, buildings, neighbourhoods and public spaces. Beam is based within a Listed building in Wakefield but works across Yorkshire, the grounds and gallery space are open to the public.

The Building Exploratory

www.buildingexploratory.org.uk

The Building Exploratory, based in Hackney, East London helps people discover the secrets of their local area and gain a better understanding of the buildings and spaces that surround them. The Building Exploratory runs an extensive education programme, leads innovative learning projects and facilitates the engagement of local residents with changes taking place in the public realm. The Building Exploratory is based in central London with a publically accessible (by appointment) hands-on interactive resource.

CUBE

www.cube.org.uk

CUBE, The Centre for the Urban Built Environment, is dedicated to broadcasting the ideas and issues that lie behind the buildings, spaces and environments that make up the built environment in the North West. CUBE is a gallery based organisation in central Manchester.

Concourse

www.concourse.org.uk

Concourse is the Leeds Centre for art, architecture, construction, landscape, planning and urban design.

Fundamental Architectural Inclusion

www.fundamental.uk.net

Fundamental seeks new ways for people to genuinely participate in the planning and development process of regeneration in their neighbourhoods. Based in Newham, east London, Fundamental operates across east London but is not within a public building.

Kent Architecture Centre

www.architecturecentre.org

Kent Architecture Centre works with design professionals, decision-makers and the wider community to promote the value of good architecture and urban design. Based in offices in Chatham, Kent, the centre works across the south east of England.

MADE

www.made.org.uk

MADE Supports and promotes excellence in place-making in the West Midlands, bringing architecture, public space and urban design together to make better places for people. MADE is based in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham.

Northern Architecture

www.northernarchitecture.com

Northern Architecture champions high quality design and focuses on raising aspirations for good design among professionals and the public. Northern Architecture is based in a Listed building in Newcastle upon Tyne, but operates across the North of England.

Open-City

www.open-city.org.uk

Open-City encourages Londoners to experience, explore and understand architecture, design and the built environment. Over the last 20 years, the organisation has grown from showcasing the capital's architecture annually to research, training, advice and campaigns that impact on the whole city.

Opun

www.opun.co.uk

Opun works with decision makers, design, planning and regeneration professional and communities to encourage investment in good design in the East Midlands. Opun is based within De Montfort University in Leicester.

PLACE

www.place.uk.net

The mission of PLACE is to positively influence the creating and sustaining of excellent places and buildings, making Northern Ireland an environment of exceptional quality for all. PLACE is a publically accessible building in Belfast, but work all across Northern Ireland.

Places Matter!

www.placesmatter.co.uk

Places Matter! is devoted to generating a strong sense of place in living, working and learning environments throughout the Northwest. Places Matter! Is delivering with partner organisations including RIBA North West, North West Development Agency (NWDA), DC CABE and English Heritage. Places Matter! is based in Liverpool.

The Solent Centre for Architecture + Design

www.solentcentre.org.uk

Solent Centre for Architecture + Design (SCA+D) works in the Solent area (Hampshire and the Isle of Wight) and also the bordering areas of Dorset, West Sussex, Surrey and the Thames Valley. It aims to promote high quality design in the built environment, with an emphasis on achieving environmental and social sustainability. SCA+D's office base is in Winchester.

Shape East

www.shape-east.org.uk

Shape East works with communities, schools and professionals to increase understanding of the importance of good planning, urban design, architecture and construction, and to encourage people to participate in the planning process. Shape East is based in Cambridge but works across the East of England.

TransForm Places

www.transformplaces.com

TransForm Places promotes good design and aims to inspire, encourage and help all those involved in development and growth in Milton Keynes and the South Midlands.

Urban Vision North Staffordshire

www.uvns.org

Urban Vision North Staffordshire aims to inspire the people of North Staffordshire to demand high quality architecture and urban design, and make it a priority in all major regeneration schemes in the region.

2. ARCHITECTURE POLICY

There is no architecture Policy for England. Architecture, spatial planning and the built environment in England is addressed within the remits of several government departments and non departmental public bodies (NDPB, an 'arms length' from Government, i.e. independent from them, but Government funded organisation), all of which have separate policies. The Regional Spatial Strategies and the former 9 regional government areas for England were abolished in 2011.

2.1 Government

The below sets out the key government departments involve with spatial planning, architecture and the built environment, other departments may also have an influence but to a lesser degree.

Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)

www.culture.gov.uk

Architecture is within the remit of the DCMS; there is a minister whose portfolio includes architecture. They are the department responsible for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. They are also responsible for: the arts; broadcasting; creative industries; historic environment; licensing and gambling; libraries; museums and galleries; the National Lottery; sport; telecommunications; and tourism.

Their responsibilities also include listing of historic buildings, scheduling of ancient monuments, export licensing of cultural goods and management of the Government art Collection and The Royal Parks Agency. They work jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on design issues, including sponsorship of the Design Council (but not the activities of the CABE element) and on relations with the computer games and publishing industries.

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

www.communities.gov.uk

Planning, building and the environment; housing; local government; and Building Regulations are within the remit of the DCLG. There is currently (Autumn 2011) a major

review of the planning system in England, with the abolition of regional government structures and policies and greater powers at a local level due to the Localism Bill, and the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (currently draft and in consultation) which reduces all existing planning policy documents to a concise document with a focus on sustainable growth. There is also a review of all local planning policies.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

www.defra.gov.uk

Defra is the UK government department responsible for policy and regulations on the environment, food and rural affairs. This includes: the natural environment, biodiversity, plants and animals; sustainable development and the green economy; food, farming and fisheries; animal health and welfare; environmental protection and pollution control; rural communities and issues.

Although not directly responsible for spatial planning as such there are areas which have significant impact on the built environment, particularly for rural communities.

Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

www.decc.gov.uk

DECC's remit is to save energy with the Green Deal (reduction of household energy programme) and support vulnerable consumers; deliver secure energy on the way to a low carbon energy future; drive ambitious action on climate change; manage the energy legacy responsibly and cost effectively.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

www.bis.gov.uk

BIS is responsible for business sectors; consumer issues; economic development; economics and statistics; enterprise and business support; Europe, trade and export; further education and skills; higher education; and science.

The key areas impacting on spatial planning are economic development and enterprise, as part of the Localism Bill new economic partnerships have been created at a local level (Local Economic Partnerships, LEPs); these in some cases may have a planning role but will have an economic influence on planning decisions. Enterprise zones have also been introduced as part of the Localism Bill, these will be areas of reduced or no planning constraints.

The higher education and further education and skills areas include architecture and other built environment professions. There have been significant changes to funding available to support young people in higher (post 16 yrs colleges) and further education (universities); also reductions in funding to the institutions who deliver the education. These will be introduced in 2013 and the impact on the architecture and built environment professions will be seen in due course.

Department for Education (DfE)

www.education.gov.uk

Department with responsibility for infant, primary and secondary education. This includes all issues on the curriculum, including any remit for architecture and the built environment.

The curriculum is currently under review, with a decision due in October. Architecture Centre Network will create an updated document on built environment education in England following the publication of the final Bill.

Department of Transport (DoT)

www.dft.gov.uk

Responsible for transport issues (except when devolved), in particular railway franchising and a range of executive agencies.

2.2 Other relevant national organizations

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

From 1999 until May 2011 CABE was the government's advisor on architecture; at this point the status of the organisation was changed to a charity and they merged with The Design Council, which also lost its status as an NDPB. Design Council CABE receives some funding from DGLG to deliver design review and enabling support.

Design Council CABE

www.designcouncil.org.uk

The Design Council is a charity incorporated by Royal Charter and now includes CABE. Their aim is to promote design and architecture for the public good. Current CABE activities include national and specialist design review panels and some enabling work.

English Heritage

www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage exists to protect and promote England's spectacular historic environment and ensure that its past is researched and understood. They manage the listing and heritage protection of buildings in England; hold archives and collections, including over 400 historic properties and sites; they provide advice, including on planning applications; prepare guidance and publications; provide funding programmes for engagement, education and building preservation; offer training and skills programmes.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

As the Government's national housing and regeneration agency HCA's purpose is to contribute to economic growth by helping communities to realise their aspirations for prosperity and to deliver quality housing that people can afford. The HCA coordinates land and usage plans in England. The HCA has a statutory duty to improve the supply and quality of housing in England. While their main focus is on new homes, they also help to improve the condition of existing stock particularly through the Decent Homes programme and by supporting initiatives such as retrofitting. The HCA also plays a major role in identifying and unlocking surplus public sector sites to increase the supply of land available for commercial, housing and community-led development.