

THE EVIDENCE FOR DESIGN QUALITY

Updated October 2011

The design of our built environment has a number of positive impacts that have been measured and evaluated to varying degrees of scientific accuracy. These include the following:

GOOD DESIGN

The Economic Value of Good Design 2009 Full Report

The purpose of this report is to: identify where best to target resources, in terms of design, given the increased restrictions on costs; explore how design might mitigate the effects of the current economic downturn; and, assess the extent to which good design is still able to add value.

PlacesMatter!

http://www.placesmatter.co.uk/webfm_send/25

The Economic Value of Good Design

The purpose of this report is to: assess what constitutes good design; identify what are the potential benefits associated with good urban design; and, present an overview of the Impact Assessment Framework, which has been developed to assess the value of urban design. This 2007 report sets out the economic value of good urban design in clearly measurable and tangible terms.

PlacesMatter!

http://www.placesmatter.co.uk/webfm_send/23

Public Realm Toolkit

Developed by the Regeneration East Midlands (REM), and Open the architecture centre within REM, this research highlights the impact that improved public areas can have on the economy of a place. This toolkit draws upon the research and provides information and guidance to enable the successful delivery of public realm projects. The handbook is for the use of local authorities and commercial businesses. Design teams can use the information as an essential reference source for delivering any public realm scheme, and to solicit decisions about investments in the public realm that are based on value rather than solely on cost.

<http://www.emda.org.uk/uploaddocuments/publicrealmtoolkit.pdf>

The Health Impacts of the Built Environment,

2006 report from the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)

http://www.publichealth.ie/files/file/Health_Impacts_of_the_Built_Environment_A_Review.pdf

Irish Times

Architecture and the built environment have a huge impact on our health and particularly on how physically active we are. A World Health Organisation (WHO) report in 2006, *The Solid Facts: Promoting Physical Activity and Active Living*, argues that “design elements in the built environment, such as street layout, land use . . . parks, public buildings, and the transport system, can either encourage or discourage physical activity. For example, an average public transport trip includes 19 minutes of physical activity, nearly two-thirds of the minimum daily requirement. When streets are designed for walkers and not cars, people are 25 per cent more likely to walk to work.”

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/health/2011/1018/1224305986638.html>

CABE PUBLICATIONS

Paved with gold: the real value of street design

This report presents new research that shows how good street design contributes both economic benefits and public value. It shows that investment in design quality brings quantifiable financial returns and that people value improvements to their streets. It is intended for local authorities, regional government, business, developers and investors.
CABE June 2007

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/paved-with-gold>

Community green: Using local spaces to tackle inequality and improve health

Investigating the relationship between urban green space, inequality, ethnicity, health and wellbeing in the largest study of its kind in England.

CABE. July 2010

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/community-green-full-report.pdf>

Future health: sustainable places for health and well-being

Explaining how good design makes healthy places by bringing together what CABE knows about sustainable, health-promoting design with the latest thinking about individual health and well-being.

CABE November 2009

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/future-health>

Making the invisible visible: the real value of park assets

Explaining why traditional accounting methods are unhelpful when valuing assets – such as parks – that can appreciate over time.

CABE February 2009

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/making-the-invisible-visible>

Sure Start children's centres: a post occupancy evaluation

Post-occupancy evaluation presenting views of parents, staff and design professionals on the new Sure Start children's centre facilities.

CABE October 2008

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/sure-start-childrens-centres>

Does money grow on trees?

Examining how well-planned and managed parks, gardens and squares can increase the value of nearby properties and attract people and inward investment.

CABE March 2005

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/does-money-grow-on-trees>

The role of hospital design in the recruitment, retention and performance of NHS nurses in England

Providing evidence that well-designed hospitals have a significant influence on the performance of nurses and a positive impact on their recruitment and retention.

CABE June 2004

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/role-of-hospital-design-in-the-recruitment>

The value of housing design and layout

Demonstrating a way of measuring the economic dividends of investing in high quality housing design and layout.

CABE / Thomas Telford

January 2003

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/the-value-of-housing-design-and-layout>

The value of good design: how buildings and spaces create economic and social value

Summarising key research from the UK and abroad to show that investment in good design generates economic and social value.

CABE November 2002

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/the-value-of-good-design>

A bibliography of design value

for the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Examining the value added by good design in the five key areas of health, education, crime and safety, housing and social inclusion.

December 2001

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/bibliography-of-design-value>

STREETS

Manual for Streets bases its guidance on good data from the UK and abroad and you can read more about it here: <http://tinyurl.com/36hnds>

More work has been done for **Manual for Streets 2** and you can read that here:

<http://tinyurl.com/35k543b>

Walkability: Todd Alexander Litman - Victoria Transport Policy Institute Summary on

<http://tinyurl.com/38pyzfd>

The British Journal of Psychiatry (2002) 180: 428-433 © 2002 The Royal College of Psychiatrists. Mental health and the built environment: cross-sectional survey of individual and contextual risk factors for depression <http://tinyurl.com/3xc64py>