

**THE ARCHITECTURE POLICY FOR SCOTLAND**  
**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND**  
**Response to the Scottish Executive Public Consultation**

**SECTION ONE: IMPACT OF POLICY 2001-2005**

The Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS) was formed in June 2003, almost two years after the Scottish Executive published the Architecture Policy for Scotland. HEACS welcomes the Architecture Policy, congratulating the Scottish Executive for its promotion of excellence in the design of Scotland's built environment and particularly lauds the commitment to a comprehensive approach to public as well as professional debate on this important issue.

HEACS also welcomes the inclusion of the Historic Environment in the current development of the Architecture Policy as referred to in Section Two: Future Challenges. It is the view of HEACS, however, that this was a serious omission from the existing Policy and this omission has a bearing on HEACS' observation on its impact in the first five years.

The comment from HEACS on the impact of the Policy, 2001-2005, covers three of the principal areas of activity contained in the current review:

- The activities of the Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Architecture, Design and the City
- The creation of Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS)
- Public Awareness and the Quality Agenda

**The Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Architecture Design and the City:** The Scottish Executive's is to be congratulated for its financial support of the Lighthouse which provides funding for a large proportion of its programme of exhibitions, seminars and publications and its business and education programmes.

In terms of the National Programme, HEACS, welcomed the two exhibitions **Common-Place** and **Field Trip**, both of which made reference to the importance of protecting the historic environment to the social and economic well being of Scotland's existing communities. It is unfortunate that these themes have not since been developed.

HEACS also welcomed the Scottish Executive's programme on sustainability, SUST, which is managed by the Lighthouse, and which has included a comprehensive mix of activities and audiences thus meeting both the inclusion agenda and the quality standards set by the Architecture Policy.

In general, however, despite these successes, and the Lighthouse's commitment to touring many of the exhibitions, there is still a view that the primary effect of the Lighthouse is being felt in the West of Scotland. Whilst it is valuable to explore

prototypes locally, there should be a method of monitoring the spread of activity throughout the country.

On the international front, there has been excellent progress in bringing exhibitions to Scotland. However, there is no information on the audience profile and whether it reflects the wide range of professional and public participants which the Architecture Policy seeks.

Whilst there has also been an equally excellent creation of Scottish material going abroad, there is little feedback as to how other countries regard the quality of the Scottish architecture that we send them. In international terms, just how good is it?

The Lighthouse is a substantial resource to Scotland and in recognising this unique position, HEACS would encourage the Scottish Executive to ensure that its reputation for promoting design excellence here and abroad is enhanced by a stated desire to reach a wider geographical base and to secure an audience profile beyond that of the architecture community. HEACS would also encourage the Lighthouse to explore the themes of design and development as it affects Scotland's historic environment.

**Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS):** The Scottish Executive has fulfilled its pledge to increase investment substantially beyond the former Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland so that there is now an adequately resourced organisation to perform the role of championing, enabling, researching and advocating design excellence. EACS welcomes this initiative.

As A+DS has only been in operation for a year, it is difficult to assess whether this increase in resource has resulted in a commensurate rise in activity. It is to be hoped that performance indicators will be established for A+DS and an annual evaluation undertaken and published, so that its part in delivering the next five years of the Architecture Policy can be monitored.

**Public Awareness and the Quality Agenda:** The principal problem areas in the delivery of the Architecture Policy derive from the policy's dependence upon consensus. As a consequence, significant tracts of Scotland's towns and cities have been, or are in the process of being, developed during these first five years of the policy which do not meet its yardsticks. Significant amongst these are the landmark sites of Aberdeen beachfront, Newhaven harbour, Kirkcaldy harbour, Dundee foreshore and harbour, and the canal basin in Edinburgh.

None of these match up to the policy in terms of quality, international standard, or in terms of involving the community. Examples of comparable schemes overseas do not appear to have been studied and the method of procurement has not included design competitions. Yet all are prominent sites and showcase developments. For the Architecture Policy to be accepted as a success there needs to be a clear correlation between its publication and delivery and an increase in the quality standards of development across the country. To date, this correlation is not evident.

## SECTION TWO: FUTURE CHALLENGES

### 01 CO-ORDINATION AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

#### ***Q: What should be the key cross cutting priorities for policy?***

HEACS would suggest that the principal cross cutting priorities remain those identified in the original policy, namely:

- promoting the value and benefit of good architecture;
- fostering excellence in design;
- promoting greater interest and community involvement in architecture;
- establishing a culture of quality in publicly funded procurement; and
- ensuring that planning and building legislation suits these agendas.

The Architecture Policy should promote the development of mechanisms whereby these priorities are reflected in the development of strategies for the main issues facing Scotland such as:

- safeguarding our historic environment and/or managing its change and development;
- development of policies aimed at regeneration of deprived areas in rural and urban Scotland;
- development and management of renewable energy projects;
- development of new major public sector projects in health, education, housing and transport;
- identification and development of key landmark sites; and
- development of design responses to the impacts of climate change.

HEACS would suggest that these issues could be explored by directing the focus of the Architecture Policy upon the following areas:

#### 1. Process

- Client education
- Procurement
- Civic ambition

#### 2. Knowledge

- Understanding urban evolution
- Sharing knowledge of practice elsewhere.
- The understanding of the Historic Environment and its potential

#### 3. Focus on pre-emption

- Identification of areas of sensitivity
- Identification of critical sites

#### 4. Focus on problem areas

- Peripheral estates
- Decaying smaller town centres
- The urban periphery/Edge City

## **02 RAISING DESIGN STANDARDS AND BUILDING QUALITY**

### ***Q: How can we engender a greater commitment to good design across disciplines, sectors and interests?***

The Scottish Executive should lead the way in best practice in procurement of architecture as well as in its management of historic buildings. PFI / PPP has been highly successful in bringing private finance into the construction of social infrastructure. The overall design quality of the resulting buildings, including their ability to accommodate the needs of their end users, has however been questioned and design quality, too often, suffers as a result of “value engineering”. The RIBA’s “Smart PFI” initiative is intended to address these and other issues and may be worth considering in relation to the architecture policy.

The Historic Environment suffers as a result of current PFI / PPP procurement methods which view historic buildings, all too often, as an unacceptable financial risk or burden rather than an opportunity for positive development. The Scottish Executive must work to break down the perceived and real barriers between heritage and development; demonstrate the “public value” of heritage in the creation of sustainable communities both in terms of private and public space; and show how the public value of heritage is helping people to take control of change through community regeneration and renewal. The links between the proper care of our historic environment and the Scottish Executive’s overall social and economic policies must be made explicit.

In releasing land for private development, the Scottish Executive could also be more pro-active in encouraging the formulation of Development Briefs for such land that take into account the wishes and needs of local communities and create a framework within which qualitative decisions can be made without leaving them solely to the vagaries of a commercial developer or unskilled designer. Within our Historic Environment, Conservation Plans are currently used by enlightened clients to guide the development of heritage sites. If framed appropriately, these could also be used to guide development in heritage areas whilst accommodating commercial reality and without stifling good design. Both suggestions would appear to fit well with the new planning legislation and relate to urban as well as rural areas where the spread of mediocre housing is ruining the character and identity of local communities.

### ***Q: What further steps can the policy take to raise standards of building quality?***

Design Awards schemes are a positive way of commending and communicating good design. Such awards however are predominantly focussed on individual architects rather than the enlightened clients and communities that commission the design. A change of emphasis in the focus of awards is required and the awards launched by the Scottish Executive and the Lighthouse in June 2004 are a welcome move towards recognition of this wider interest group. Current architecture awards currently tend to focus on the “trophy” architecture and aesthetics of individual buildings rather than champion good concept development, sense of place, context and identity.

Educating children and older people to understand the intrinsic, instrumental and institutional public values of our historic environment is critically important.

We should also “benchmark” the quality of our architecture and impact of policy against that of other similar countries.

***Q: How can A+DS work to promote better standards of building quality?***

The key to the promotion of better standards is early involvement. A+DS could and should be involved early in the development stages of significant development schemes to influence design decisions at an early stage when critical decisions are being made. Encouragement should be given to developments that champion contextualism, local identity, and good place-making.

A+DS’ research agenda could also be a significant basis for gathering and disseminating exemplars of good practice from both the UK and abroad and in this way could be instrumental in setting and raising standards.

**03 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

***Q: How can we promote a debate about spaces and places that not only engages the public but inspires them to demand better design?***

The excellent programme on sustainability organised by The Lighthouse was far reaching in its audiences and comprehensive in the range of subject matter it covered. The same approach to lifting the debate on designing places may be appropriate, perhaps working jointly with A+DS to extend the 2005/6 range of seminars and workshops undertaken which focused on schools, housing and public buildings and spaces. These were predominantly targeted at the professions and client groups but are topics which exercise all members of the public. A more comprehensive media campaign and venue selection may encourage a wider turnout of ordinary members of the public. This would require financial and staff resourcing but could be co-sponsored through participation of local authorities and local amenity organisations.

It may also be appropriate if there were smaller architecture and design centres across the Country. These mini ‘Lighthouses’ could be the bases for ongoing community consultation on issues concerning the natural and built environment which are of interest to adjacent communities. They could be organised on the same basis as Scottish Enterprise’s ‘Business Gateway’ outlets which tend to be based in shopping centres to ensure ease of public access.

***Q: What steps can we take to encourage communities to become more engaged with the planning system and with new developments?***

The recently published PAN on Community Engagement in Land Use Planning discusses in depth the opportunities for, and constraints to, encouraging a more active debate in communities on the development agenda. The essential ingredients are; requiring that the plan is understandable and readable; that there is time for communities to assemble and discuss the issues; that these discussions are held at project development rather than planning stage; that the comments are heard and interpreted to provide a better and more locally recognisable development; and that the planning authorities respect the needs and aspirations of both the community and developer/designer team, and assist the process to an amicable solution.

It is often very difficult for local groups to resource adequately any sustained involvement in local planning issues. However, HEACS is aware of the number of very successful local heritage and amenity groups, as well as Community Councils, who all contribute hugely to the planning debate within their local communities. Some are particularly active in working to protect, restore and develop projects within Scotland's historic environment. HEACS wishes to encourage the Scottish Executive to adequately resource the planning authorities and, through them, these groups, so that they can further develop the quality of debate.

***Q: How can [scottisharchitecture.com](http://scottisharchitecture.com) be developed to open up a wider audience for architecture and design?***

The web site is a great resource for the professions involved in development. It already encourages schools and students to participate and it is difficult to know how this can be broadened to include the wider public beyond signposting them to particular projects which display best practice and the associated architects, urban planners and/or landscape designers.

One of its roles is to act as a coordinating facility for organisations involved in development. Perhaps this target client group could be expanded to include amenity organisations involved in the historic and/or natural environment spheres and community councils.

***Q: What role should awards play in raising public awareness of good architecture?***

The growing media interest in promoting programmes on design, restoration, home improvements and more recently, whole street improvements has both reflected, and encouraged, public interest. There is potential to involve the media more in the reporting and discussion of existing awards.

In addition, following the Lottery's televised campaigns to award grants on Restoration and People's Millions, there is perhaps an opportunity to develop a similar approach to making awards which will widen the appeal for new architecture and place making schemes.

**04 PLACE-MAKING/URBAN DESIGN/LANDSCAPE**

***Q: How can the policy support the creation and regeneration of neighbourhoods and communities to create places with character and the successful qualities identified in designing places?***

What constitutes a community, or a neighbourhood, needs to be understood better in order to provide a sound basis for regeneration, and to engage those who may live within an area for redevelopment or improvement in raising expectations. HEACS perceives that the greatest challenges occur where large new developments are proposed for which there is no established framework of providing local healthcare, schools, community centres, local shopping, restaurants, public transport, and meaningful open space.

***Q: How can we ensure that the quality of the public realm is not overlooked in new development?***

At present quality in the public realm is too much reliant on the development management process — through local plans, and conditions attached to planning consents where applications may have failed to address the issue. A + DS has a role in raising standards and expectations, in conjunction with the relevant professional bodies of the ILA, RTPi and the RIAS. Successful schemes should be celebrated. The art of civic design has been absent for too many years. The creation of new landscapes, or preserving existing ones, should always take into account the more abstract concept of cultural landscapes.

***Q: How do we maximise the potential offered to us from the historic environment?***

The role of the historic environment merits a broader discussion that cannot be provided in a short response to a document such as this. The inspiration to be gained from Scotland's historic environment in place-making must rely, firstly, on it being understood, and too rarely is this the case. The historic environment is often misrepresented, and perceived as a constraint on development rather than the inspiration for it. There is little evidence, as yet, of true partnership working across government in achieving this broad aim.

***Q: How can A +DS work to improve the quality of place making in Scotland?***

HEACS recognises that effective masterplanning holds the key to improved place-making, and A + DS is uniquely positioned to raise standards and expectations; for masterplanning to be effective there needs to be a clear understanding of the history of a site and how it has developed over time, and hence its significance.

## **05 PROCUREMENT**

***Q: What further steps should public sector clients take through the procurement process to promote design excellence?***

The reality of dominant design and build, PFI schemes, and volume housebuilding implies that the ambitions of this section are currently marginalised. The examples of publicly funded or publicly encouraged indifferent development bear witness to that. The Executive should be congratulated on its ambition, but if it is to be achieved then certain steps would be necessary:

- examine the different ways EU competition regulations are implemented. Generally in Scotland, there has been insufficient study of how quality is maintained elsewhere through such procedures, although the National Trust for Scotland pioneered one method;
- encourage a greater number of architectural competitions. The current focus upon limited selection is stultifying compared to the architectural culture of the late 1980s. They can be contained and need not add any cost to the process;
- public sector clients should be persuaded to share their ambitions with their stakeholders at public meetings – which show what similar has been achieved elsewhere;
- area sensitivity analysis, as mentioned above, carried out pre-emptively, should assist the procurement process in identifying the opportunities for change; and
- pre-emptive briefs or even finance to commission a variety of schemes should be made available for landmark sites.

***Q: How might A+DS provide greater support and incentive for higher quality public sector design?***

A+DS must ensure that its role as enabler, champion and advisor is recognised more generally in Scotland so that schemes are brought to the Advisory Panel at an embryonic stage. Current practice of schemes being submitted at planning stage is often too late to influence the design approach of the building and/or masterplan site.

In addition to Design Review, A+DS' role as practical enabler is an important mechanism for A+DS to *directly* improve quality in public sector design. For example, the establishment of an agreement with the NHS whereby A+DS will fund a design consultant to work with procurement officers in setting the design framework for new build health buildings, is a welcome initiative. This should be developed across other sectors, particularly in the procurement of new schools and housing areas.

HEACS would also encourage A+DS to extend its enabling activity to include providing advisors to groups involved in the preparation of development briefs and plans for buildings and/or areas of historic significance.

## **06 SUSTAINABILITY**

***Q: How can we encourage and promote the recognition and adaptive re-use of Scotland's historic buildings rather than their replacement?***

Historic buildings are inherently sustainable: that is why they have lasted so long. Investing in the historic environment therefore makes sense from an environmental perspective. Re-using buildings consumes less energy than new construction,

capitalising on the imbedded energy invested in original structures; reduces the waste sent to landfill; and makes best use of existing infrastructure by reinforcing existing urban footprints.

Sustainability also relates to the quality of life and the culture and identity of communities that makes them environments in which people are proud to live and feel they belong. The historic environment plays a key role in this regard. Our heritage bridges both culture and environment and evaluating it in terms of sustainable development is a useful way of framing heritage issues.

Within Scotland and abroad there are many excellent examples of the adaptive re-use of historic buildings. The best of these demonstrate how new uses can be imaginatively accommodated within existing structures whilst enhancing the building users perception of the historic building's cultural significance. These projects need to be promoted widely and accessibly.

## **07 THE WIDER DESIGN AGENDA AND THE COX REVIEW**

***Q: To what extent should the policy on architecture be broadened to tackle wider design-related issues?***

Rather than expand the policy to incorporate other design-related issues, it would be more effective if was better circulated, explained and made convincing to a wider audience. This would include surveyors, project managers, bankers, investment houses, planners, CBI, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs – anywhere where the business community meets to discuss their activities.

***Q: How can we promote the benefits of good design in its wider sense – raising awareness and understanding within the business community of the strategic importance of design?***

Too often, management of development is masterplanned and organised by project managers with roots in the surveying world. Projects are primarily assessed, therefore, in cost terms and on the basis of returns to investors. Clients of large scale projects rarely have a hands-on role, particularly where the developments are major shopping or town centre retail and housing developments. Design is not a priority and is often relegated to an afterthought to oblige the planning process.

The Scottish Executive's APU and the Lighthouse and A+DS must engage with the CBI, RICS, ICE, The Association of Project Management, the Town Centre Management Association and any other fora where there is a platform from which to encourage discuss the financial benefits of design in the development process. The benefits to investors as well as recipient communities of individualistic developments which reflect the cultural backdrop and historic environment of a community must be discussed with the people who are making the major investment decisions in the development of Scotland's towns, cities and countryside.

More also needs to be done to encourage planning authorities to be more discerning about the developments which they are willing to accept on the basis of jobs and

economic benefit to their locality. Long term sustainable economic growth is dependent on the quality of the 'place making' activity.

***Q: How can we use the power of public procurement to encourage more imaginative solutions from suppliers and thus help improve public services?***

The Executive is to be congratulated on the profile it has given the design of schools since 2002 through the conference programme and the subsequent publications, the Sustainable Schools project and the FLaT project. However, the pressures facing procurement officers within Councils to meet the needs of teachers, pupils, parents and local resident communities while maintaining a quality product within a tightening budget often means that quality of design, placement of buildings, attention to surrounding landscape and creation of artworks are sacrificed in the desire to meet a consensus around the most appropriate development.

Similarly the large scale housing transfers which have occurred across Scotland has stretched management, design and construction capabilities. Health sector building programmes must equally be adding to this pressure on available resources

There needs to be a comprehensive review of the quality of the first phases of the PPP/PFI developments and their impact on surrounding communities and for the user groups. There also needs to be a pause to consider how best the Scottish Executive can be of more assistance in producing guidance that requires the procuring bodies to produce design guidance, with exemplars, which will provide the basis for development. The current guidance, while good, is failing to survive the final stages of procurement. While quality may score highly in the judgement of tenders as against price, there must be some doubt both as to the weighting given to design quality within this overall score and of the procuring body's commitment to ensuring that this part of the brief is fully met during development and construction

***Q: As Scotland's Centre for Architecture and Design, what role can the Lighthouse play to address the challenges set by the Cox review?***

The Cox review lists the main problems which prevent businesses making the best use of the UK's creative talents as;

- lack of awareness and experience;
- lack of belief in the value of, or confidence in, the outcome;
- not knowing where to turn for specialised help;
- limited ambition or appetite for risk; and
- too many other pressures on business.

The Lighthouse is already making inroads in the area of raising awareness and providing access to specialised help through its seminars and web site. The exhibitions here, and abroad, similarly will assist with the issues of confidence and risk taking. It is to be welcomed that these activities are to be continued and, hopefully, enhanced.

The problem, however, may be that the target audience for the programmes and projects is too inward looking towards the architecture and design professions and

there is a requirement to develop a programme which looks at ways of bringing other business sectors to the table to debate how design can enhance business activity and increase effectiveness, regardless of sector.

## **08 INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION AND NETWORKS**

***Q: How can we develop and strengthen the international links developed over the first five years of policy development?***

The presentation of Scottish material abroad is a first step and the Lighthouse has been very strong in representing Scotland abroad. But this should not be an end in itself. The real value would be to have a critique of that material from non Scots so that the country's international culture level might be established.

The particular value of international connections should be to learn what is being done elsewhere and test those lessons for their applicability to Scotland. HEACS would encourage A+DS and the Lighthouse to promote international seminars, study visits and research projects. HEACS would encourage the Scottish Executive to ensure that these should produce tangible results in the form of published material which will benefit the further development of Scotland's architecture and urban design while offering insights in to the better protection and development of our historic environment.

## **09 RECORDING AND ARCHIVING THE BUILT HERITAGE**

***Q: How can we raise awareness and interest in Scotland's historic environment – one of our greatest cultural assets?***

HEACS welcomes the inclusion of the historic environment in considerations affecting the development of the Architecture Policy, a serious omission from the policy when it was first formulated. However, it remains to be convinced that an integrated approach is being adopted, other than may have come about as a result of the Architecture Unit being the sponsoring body for the RCAHMS. HEACS maintains that the historic environment, as the Architecture Policy, is a crosscutting issue, and that responsibility for promoting it in an integrated way must rest primarily with Scottish Ministers. At a practical level working concordats should be set up as a matter of urgency between A + DS, RCAHMS, and Historic Scotland. HEACS will be pleased to advise further on other initiatives that might be undertaken as a consequence of its strategic advice to Ministers.

***Q: What further steps can RCAHMS take to promote access to its collections?***

HEACS observes that this is the wrong question to pose - RCAHMS has been very successful in recent years in promoting the historic environment within the limitations of access to its collections, and there is mounting evidence of effective collaboration with Historic Scotland in this field. HEACS is concerned that the current emphasis through the development management system has been archaeological, with a dwindling emphasis on recording and promoting architecture. This has been reinforced by the assembly of data by local authorities for Sites and Monuments, and HEACS welcomes moves to convert these to Historic Environment Records as is

happening in England, and in linking local and national databases to ensure greater accessibility to information.

## **10 MANAGING AND UNDERSTANDING CHANGE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

### ***Q: How can we ensure that new buildings complement and enhance Scotland's historic buildings and areas?***

The historic environment is in a constant state of change. Succeeding generations have a responsibility to create the future historic environment as well as respect and pass-on the best heritage of the past to future generations. The historic environment must be managed to maintain its cultural value, sense of identity and significance. Decisions about change must be informed decisions. Where demolition or alteration of the historic environment is proposed, we must be sure that it is the right thing to do for the right cultural, economic, social, and environmental reasons. Decisions about change should also be reasonable, transparent and consistent.

Whilst it is sometimes difficult to establish empirical measures of the value of the historic environment we all have a duty to articulate clearly its cultural value and much work has been done in recent years on this. The recent conference on "Capturing the Public Value of Heritage" held in London and attended by representatives of government and many of the leading heritage organisations sets out a number of ways in which the value of the heritage can be assessed and promoted.

Heritage Protection legislation needs to be reviewed. It needs to be more clearly linked with the new Planning legislation; more capable of managing change; more proactive than reactive; and perceived as being less obstructive to development. This is the subject of a forthcoming report from HEACS which will be published later this summer.

### ***Q: What more can we do to promote the historic environment as an asset?***

HEACS has established a working group examining the economic significance of the historic environment to Scotland's economy and the findings of this working group will assist in providing information on this.

HEACS would also encourage a close working relationship between A+DS and Historic Scotland as part of their joint roles as 'champions' of different aspects of our built environment and as 'enablers' of sensitive development around our historic sites and buildings.

## **11 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

### ***Q: How can the Building Connections Initiative be developed further to interest children and young people in architecture?***

It is not sufficient to devise resources and circulate them to schools in the expectation that schools will automatically make good use of them. At best, only awareness-raising will be accomplished. It may be that a particular teacher has a specific interest in architecture and will make sensible use of resources but without targeted training on how to make best use of resources the Buildings Connections material may simply languish as one set amongst a welter of resources.

The following actions are suggested:

- an analysis of the use of the BC materials in schools be commissioned. This requires being more than a focused questionnaire and should relate to perceived outcomes as demonstrated by schools;
- pilot the usage of materials in selected schools by working with specific staff and with the intention of establishing both good practice in action and also exemplars;
- involve the Schools of Architecture and architectural students in working with school pupils, both for the benefit of the school pupils and as a method of raising knowledge and awareness of the architectural profession with young people; and
- Seek to establish working relationships with schools/ local authorities which are in process of considering new build/ refurbishment projects and make concrete the design concepts contained within the BC initiative.

***Q: How can we best harness our wealth of student talent and our schools of architecture as a resource, having impact on the real world?***

The problem with most student undertakings is that their education and training is largely theoretical as there is a natural reluctance to let students loose in the real world before they are fully trained. It is suggested that, in practice, it is this dissociation from the real world that makes their training over-theoretical and largely impractical, especially where there is no live engagement with Planning regulations or financial realities.

If there is a serious intention to harness talent, the following actions are suggested:

- recruit two students to serve as advisers to A&DS, acting for six months and on a rotating basis to ensure, for example, six students on A&DS over a period of three years;
- encourage, with sufficient funding, the Schools of Architecture to set up parallel projects to real projects and challenge the Schools/students to develop their own vision. Compare the end results in discussion with the real project organiser; and
- offer incentives to Practices engaged in real projects to utilise the services of students as a form of coaching and mentoring for the students.

***Q: How can we achieve greater dissemination and usage of research within the design process to achieve better outcomes?***

Architecture has the same problem as most professions in that robust and effective research is conducted but the findings rarely find their way into practice in the short term, and frequently fail even at the consciousness-raising level.

The following actions are suggested:

- hold regular workshops where research findings are publicised – give architectural research the prominence given to scientific and medical research;
- appoint a spokesperson on A&DS who knows how to relate to the media and how to get the message over. Give this person the research-publicising role; and
- show the importance of research by publicising the implementation of findings in specific projects.

## **12 FUTURES AGENDA**

***Q: In what ways might the policy on architecture best support these aims to take forward our aspirations for the future?***

The Policy framework needs to help create the culture where:

- more than a few Scottish designers strive to be world class;
- where we are much more proactive about bringing ideas and examples from abroad for public discussion;
- where we identify landmark sites where the design quality of development is absolutely crucial to the national identity and/or critical for the management and protection of our historic environment;
- where we celebrate the best of new architecture through awards schemes but where we also award those designers who create good quality urban and rural settings for new and existing buildings;
- where we award those designers who create sensitive and enhancing development within and around our historic landscapes;
- where the quality of the projects procured through the public sector sets the design standard for development; and
- where the business sector recognises in the Architecture Policy, the basis for embracing quality of design as a means of enhancing their business activity.

***Q: What can we do to help ensure that what we build today is worthy to be Scotland's heritage of tomorrow?***

HEACS welcomes the Scottish Executive's acknowledgement that the first place to start this process is to recognise the positive impact that our current heritage has on the quality of Scottish life and culture and to support the position that the historic environment is not a drag on development but an asset.

In terms of new architecture, the A+DS enabling and advisory role should grow as the organisation matures and the impact on public buildings should become

significant. This, in turn, should raise the standard of planning aspirations and decisions and induce a positive response from the major private developers.

There needs to be a more prominent Champion for Scottish Architecture - A+DS and the Lighthouse could perhaps become closer in the delivery of joint programmes with the Scottish Executive, reinforcing the joint commitment to pursuing design excellence.

HEACS would encourage touring the results of awards schemes and exhibitions celebrating design excellence in architecture and place making to Scottish Towns and Cities to reach as wide an audience as possible.

To raise expectations for quality by the public, there needs to be a better introduction in schools to the concept of place making, the protection of the historic environment and the process of creating new design. HEACS would encourage that work should be undertaken with curriculum advisors to increase the access for young people in schools to issues which concern the built environment as successfully as has been achieved on the natural environment.

**HEACS  
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