



29th January 2007

Edge Debate No 31
Regime Change:
is there a case for restructuring ?

6-8pm

Monday 19th February 2007

Wren Room, 6th Floor, The Royal Institute of British Architects
66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

Control of building development has grown piecemeal over the centuries from the medieval Assize of Building of 1189 on. New elements and layers have been constantly added to the control regime in response to new concerns; they have rarely been taken away or the whole restructured. There are now so many pieces of legislation and control functions carried out by separate bodies that any coherent overall decision making ability has long since disappeared and the system is largely impenetrable to insiders let alone outsiders. At a time when buildings are increasingly needed to perform holistically, has the time come to rethink and restructure this system?

EDGE MEMBERS

Dr Bill Bordass
William Bordass Associates
Chris Beauman
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Michael Dickson Pres. IStructE CBE
Buro Happold
Dr Frank Duffy PPRIBA CBE
DEGW
Dr Garry Felgate
The Carbon Trust
Prof Max Fordham PPCIBSE OBE
Max Fordham & Partners LLP
Andy Ford
Fulcrum Consulting
Simon Foxell
The Architects Practice
Bill Gething
Feilden Clegg BradleyArchitects
Jim Green
Baylight Properties
Prof Peter Guthrie
University of Cambridge
David Hampton
The Carbon Coach
Dr Jan Hellings
Dr Jan Hellings & Assocs. Ltd
Paul Hyett PPRIBA
RyderHKS
Prof Paul Jowitt
Heriot-Watt University
Janet Kidner
Battle McCarthy
Duncan McCorquodale
Black Dog Publishing
Prof Mike Murray
i to I Solutions Ltd
Robin Nicholson
Edward Cullinan Architects
Adam Poole
Engineering Relations
Andrew Ramsay
Engineering Council
Yasmin Sharrif
Dennis Sharp Architects
Dr David Strong
BRE Environment
Chris Twinn
Arup
Mark Whitby PPICE
Whitbybird Ltd
Terry Wyatt PPCIBSE
Hoare Lea & Partners

SUPPORTED BY
Carbon Trust
CIBSE
ICE
RIBA
RICS
IStructE

www.at-the-edge-org.uk

I am writing to invite you to the 31st Edge Debate, at the RIBA, to discuss whether the three separate planning, building regulation and health & safety control regimes should be reorganised as a single system with a more coherent view of design development, working from strategy, through detail design, to implementation. Could it deliver better, safer and greener results?

This debate will be chaired by **Peter Bishop**, Director of Design for London and formerly Director of Culture and Environment at the London Borough of Camden. The speakers will include:

- **Paul Everall CBE**, Chief Executive of Local Authority Building Control and formerly the head of the Buildings (previously Building Regulations) Division in the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
- **Chris Watts**, Executive Director of Renaissance Bedford and formerly co-author of the Halcrow Report into the Unification of Consent Regimes [2004] commissioned by the ODPM

The outcome of this debate will feed into RIBA's separate enquiry into Improving the Planning Process to be held in March 2007 as well the RTPI's own policy process. The audience will include a wide range of built environment professionals and policy makers.

The Edge is an inter-institutional ginger group involving CIBSE, ICE, IStructE, RIBA and the RICS and seeks to promote interdisciplinary co-operation between construction professionals and is supported by the Carbon Trust. We seek to encourage change in the industry through intellectual debate, political lobbying and inter-institutional working. Several of our recent debates have been on climate change and synopses of previous debates are recorded on our website www.at-the-edge.org.uk I do hope that you will be able to join us and please let Jane Powell know if you can attend on jane.powell@whitbybird.com;

With best wishes

Simon Foxell
Edge Committee Convenor

