

EDGE Report - August 2012

The Edge is a multidisciplinary built environment think tank with members drawn from across the built environment professions and beyond

Edge activities - summary

In the last year the Edge has maintained its usual series of high level policy debates, has been closely involved with the Government's Green Construction Board and has developed its Research Edge initiative.

The Edge has maintained its links with its sponsor institutions (the RIBA, ICE, CIBSE, IStructE & RICS) and is exploring formal links with the RTPI.

The Edge committee

The Edge 'Committee' continues to meet on a monthly basis with several members achieving additional prominence:

- 1 Lynne Sullivan joined the Green Construction Board as the representative from the Edge. Edge member Sunand Prasad is also a member of the CGB
- 2 Richard Lorch and Bill Bordass of the Edge gave Keynote Addresses to the World Sustainable Building Conference in Helsinki in October 2011
- 3 Andy Ford handed over the Presidency of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers to Professor David Fisk in June 2012
- 4 Rachel Fisher has become Head of Homes and Land at the National Housing Federation
- 5 Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen has been appointed Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor of Innovation at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh
- 6 Doug King joined the Edge Committee and since then has been appointed as Chief Science and Engineering Advisor to the Building Research Establishment and elected as a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering.
- 7 Michael Pawlyn/Exploration Architecture's Sahara Forest Project is underway with a pilot facility in Qatar
- 8 Simon Smith has established the new engineering practice, Smith and Wallwork, in Cambridge

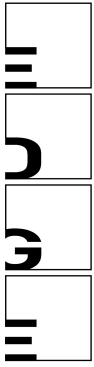
In 2012 the Edge welcomed Gary Felgate back onto the committee after a gap of several years. Following his role as Chief Executive of the Energy Retail Association Gary has become a director of Chop-cloc Ltd – the energy innovations company.

Members of the Edge committee continue their active involvement with the sponsoring construction and built environment institutions as well as other groups including; the Academy of Urbanism, the Aldersgate Group, the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group (APPCCG), the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), Building Futures, the British Property Federation, Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), the Cambridge Quality Panel, the Civic Trust, the Construction Industry Council, Design Council CABE, the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP), the Global Commons Institute (GCI), Green Deal forums, Good Homes Alliance, the National House-Building Council (NHBC), Shape east, SPONGE, the Royal Society for the Arts, the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) and the Zero Carbon Hub,

David Adams
Willmott Dixon Construction
Guy Battle
dcarbon8, Deloitte
Dr Bill Bordass
Usable Buildings Trust
Chris Beauman
European Bank for Reconstruction
and Development
Caroline Cole
Colander
Dr Alison Cooke
Cooke Associates
Paddy Conaghan
Hoare Lea
Dr Frank Duffy PPRIBA
Co-Founder DEGW
Gary Felgate
Chop-cloc Ltd
Rachel Fisher
Nation Housing Federation
Prof Max Fordham PPCIBSE
Max Fordham LLP
Andy Ford PCIBSE
Mott MacDonald Fulcrum
Simon Foxell
The Architects Practice
Bill Gething
Sustainability + Architecture
Jim Green
Baylight Properties
Prof Peter Guthrie
University of Cambridge
Dave Hampton
The Carbon Coach
Stephen Hill
C₂0 futureplanners
Mike Hitchens
Pell Frischmann
Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen
Atkins
Prof Paul Jowitz, PPICE
Heriot-Watt University
Janet Kidner
Lend Lease
Prof Doug King
Francis Li
Buro Happold
Richard Lorch
Building Research and Information
Dr Mike Murray
One Creative Environments Ltd
Robin Nicholson
Edward Cullinan Architects
Michael Pawlyn
Exploration Architecture
Adam Poole
Buro Happold
Dr Sunand Prasad PPRIBA
Penoyre and Prasad LLP
Lars Ostenfeld Riemann
Ramboll
Yasmin Shariff
Dennis Sharp Architects
Prof Richard Simmons
University of Greenwich
Simon Smith
Smith and Wallwork
Lynne Sullivan
sustainableBYdesign
Chris Twinn
Arup
Prof Lorna Walker
Lorna Walker Consulting
Bill Watts
Max Fordham LLP
Elanor Warwick
Technology Strategy Board
Jane Wernick
Jane Wernick Associates
Prof Mark Whitby PPICE
Davies Maguire + Whitby
Albert Williamson Taylor
AKT II
Jane Powell
Debate Secretary

SUPPORTED BY
Carbon Trust, CIBSE, ICE, RIBA
RICS, IStructE

www.edgedebate.com



The Edge and its members maintain regular contact with government departments, including; BIS, DECC, CLG, DEFRA, DCMS, DfE and The Cabinet Office, as well as ministers and members of both houses of parliament. Members of the Edge teach and lecture widely, both in the UK and abroad as well as being active professionally in the design and delivery of significant projects across the world

The Edge has close links with a range of UK research bodies including the Bartlett School of Planning, the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the CUED Centre for Sustainable Development, Imperial College London, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), School of Construction Management and Engineering University of Reading, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), the UCL Energy Institute and the University of Bath.

Edge workstreams 2012-13

1 Debates 11-12

At the core of the Edge's activities is the holding of debates. These involve an invited audience, including senior members of the sponsoring institutions, civil servants, academics and practitioners as well as politicians and influential public figures, to discuss and make sense of pressing issues facing the construction industry and its professions. Over the past year the Edge has run a series of debates aiming, as ever, at challenging the thinking of the professional institutes and others in the construction and property industry.

Debate 45 – September 8th 2011, Bristol (CIBSE Presidential Debate)

Cutting carbon at any cost?

Chair: Andy Ford

Speakers: Bill Bordass, Prof. Doug King, Mike Roberts

Debate 46 - September 15th 2012, RICS

What does it mean to be a building professional in the 21st century?

Chair: Rab Bennetts

Speakers: Prof. Matthew Bacon, Alan Crane, Bill Bordass, Stephen Hill

Conference – 6th & 7th October 2011, Newman Street, W1

City Performance Workshop – see International Edge below

Debate 47 – November 2nd 2012, Institution of Mechanical Engineers

The Politics and Geopolitics of Low carbon Growth

An Edge seminar under the Chatham House Rule

Debate 48, March 13th 2012, The Design Council

Fixing Procurement

Chair: Robin Nicholson

Speakers: Rab Bennetts & others

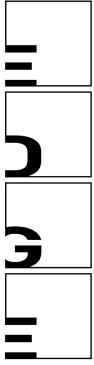
An Edge seminar organised in collaboration with Design Council CABE

Debate 49, April 23rd 2012, ICE

Shale gas: a game changer?

Chair: Chris Huhne MP

Speakers: Bill Bordass, Mark Whitby, John Miles



Edge workstreams cont...

Future Edge debates are scheduled for the autumn of 2012:

Debate 50, September __	CIBSE Presidential Debate – South
Debate 51, October 8 th	Creating the conditions for innovation in the building design sector
Debate 52, October 30 th	London – redistributed?
Debate 53, November __	Building a state of equilibrium
Debate 54, November __	Creating an Institute of the Built Environment
Debate 55, December __	Women are key to changing the construction industry

Further debates are planned into 2012: on happiness, lessons from Fukushima, the Green Deal and design leadership as well as further debates in the series of regional debates run in conjunction with CIBSE.

The Edge committee plans the debates and reviews and follows up on the resulting outcomes Francis Li acts as Minutes secretary, while Jane Powell continues to manage events and finances.

2 International Edge

The Edge continues to develop international links, with several members working overseas, corresponding members in many different countries and proposals for new 'sister' Edge groups in various cities around the world.

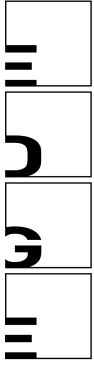
In October 2011 the Edge collaborated with Buro Happold and the Danish, Italian and Dutch embassies organised the two day City Performance Conference with a wide range of international speakers addressing the topic of improving how cities can better tackle issues including wealth creation, congestion and climate change.

The Edge's close links with various London Embassies and High Commissions continues and further events are planned including a follow-up conference on the topic of Smart Cities to be held in London in January 2013.

3 Consultation

The Edge offers its services to government, built environment bodies and professional organisations as a source of positive criticism and considered ideas. In the last year it has worked with

- The Government's Chief Construction Adviser, Paul Morrell
- The Green Construction Board where members of the Edge sit on the main Board and the Board's Routemap, Buildings and Knowledge and Skills working groups
- BIS Foresight
- The Technology Strategy Board
- Design Council CABE
- Grosvenor
- The CLUES Project at the Bartlett School of Planning
- Buro Happold on Green Deal wargaming



Edge workstreams cont...

4 Brokerage

Fundamental to the Edge's work is the idea of linkage and making connections between different disciplines and between the worlds of research, practice and policy-making. In the last year this has, as ever, involved working with the Edge's sponsoring professional institutes, their presidents and senior executives; with government and their advisers and agencies; with think tanks, arms-length delivery bodies and pressure groups.

5 Thinking

The Edge is a thinking organisation, providing a forum for a wide range of industry expertise to come together to address current issues, policy development and emerging ideas, to reconsider previous experience and bring extensive practical knowledge to bear on present problems.

The Edge's focus is the built environment and the professional bodies that work with it; but it has the freedom to think widely and to propose initiatives and policy ideas that address the big picture. It will continue to use its institutional freedom to challenge, to provoke and to influence. Importantly, the Edge's thinking capacity is available to other built environment bodies to help them develop thinking, share ideas, test propositions: a necessary sounding board for the industry only used to dialogue within its own segment.

6 Research Edge

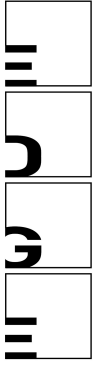
The research Edge is subsidiary group of the Edge working to connect research, practice and policy-making communities in the built environment sector and to promote open access to publicly funded research. There is a particular concern to ensure that information on effective measures to counter and adapt to climate change flows rapidly and effectively between the communities.

The research Edge can provide services, drawing on the knowledge and experience of the Edge family including:

- Brainstorming
- Consultation with both member & other organisations
- Events – presentations, debates & seminars
- Matchmaking and brokerage
- Road testing and providing guinea pig projects
- Reviewing proposals
- Practice input - experience & feedback
- Peer review
- Publishing and information campaigns
- Imprimatur & branding
- Feedback

7 Edge connections

The Edge website www.edgedebate.com includes reports of the majority of the Edges debates along with think pieces and links to other Edge activities. The Edge also has an on-line debate forum on Linked-in. This is currently restricted to Edge members but it is planned to open it to a wider audience in the coming year.



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Edge Funding

The Edge currently runs without external funding and is dependent on the goodwill and contributions of its members, their employers and its sponsor institutes (the RIBA, ICE, CIBSE, RICS and IStructE). In the recent past the Edge has been generously funded by the Arup Foundation and the Carbon Trust. The Edge is grateful for continuing support from Ramboll.

The sponsor institutes provide support in kind through the hosting of debates at their premises along with the provision of refreshments and access to senior members and staff. The individual companies of Edge committee members generously host Edge committee meetings on a regular basis.

The Edge also benefits greatly from the time provided by a range of senior members of the construction professions including architects, engineers, surveyors, planners, social scientists and others, including current and former presidents and vice presidents from the institutes who are active on the Edge committee.

The Edge is currently actively seeking funding for the year 2013-14 and beyond in order to continue and develop its activities, in particular the Edge debates and the work of the research Edge. Please contact Simon Foxell of the Edge at sf@architectspractice.com if you are interesting in discussing this further.

The Edge September 2012