

**George Adams** PPCIBSE  
SPIE

**Prof Roberto Amendola**  
Formerly CERN + Italian Embassy

**Guy Battle**  
The Sustainable Business Partnership

**Chris Beauman**  
EBRD

**Francesca Berriman**  
CIAT

**Richard Boyd**  
Arup

**Richard Brindley**  
R Brindley Consult

**Dr Bill Bordass**  
Usable Buildings Trust

**Jane Briginshaw**  
Jane Briginshaw Associates

**Peter Clegg**  
FCB Studios

**Caroline Cole**  
Colander

**Paddy Conaghan**  
Hoare Lea

**Dr Frank Duffy** PPRIBA  
Co-Founder DEGW

**Dr Gary Felgate**  
Assoc for the Conservation of Energy

**Rachel Fisher**  
National Housing Federation

**Prof Max Fordham** PPCIBSE  
Founder Max Fordham LLP

**Andy Ford** PPCIBSE  
London South Bank University

**Simon Foxell**  
The Architects Practice

**Bill Gething**  
Sustainability + Architecture

**Jim Green**  
Baylight Properties

**Julie Godefroy**  
Julie Godefroy Sustainability

**Prof Peter Guthrie**  
University of Cambridge

**Dave Hampton**  
The Carbon Coach

**Prof Colin Haylock** PPRTP  
Haylock Planning and Design

**Stephen Hill**  
C<sub>2</sub>0 futureplanners

**Mike Hitchens**  
Pell Frischmann

**Sue James**  
TDAG

**Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen**  
Atkins

**Chris Jofeh**  
Arup

**Prof Paul Jowitt**, PPICE  
Heriot-Watt University

**Sara Kassam**  
CIBSE

**Janet Kidner**  
Lend Lease

**Prof Doug King**  
University of Bath

**Richard Lorch**  
Building Research and Information

**Ciaran Malik**  
engineersHRW

**Dr Mike Murray**  
DMPIP

**Charlie Murray**  
Arup

**Robin Nicholson**  
Cullinan Studio

**Prof Tadj Oreszczyn**  
The Energy Institute, UCL

**Michael Pawlyn**  
Exploration Architecture

**Adam Poole**  
Buro Happold

**Dr Sunand Prasad** PPRIBA  
Penoyre and Prasad LLP

**Lars Ostenfeld Riemann**  
Ramboll

**Prof Flora Samuel**  
University of Reading

**Andrew Scoones**  
ngenuity Ltd

**Prof Richard Simmons**  
UCL

**Oliver Smith**  
5<sup>th</sup> Studio

**Lynne Sullivan**  
LSA Studio

**Helen Taylor**  
Scott Brownrigg

**Eddie Tuttle**  
CIOB

**Tamsin Tweddell**  
Max Fordham

**Chris Twinn**  
TwinnSustainabilityInnovation

**Prof Lorna Walker**  
Lorna Walker Consulting

**Elanor Warwick**  
Affinity Sutton

**Jane Wernick**  
engineersHRW

**Prof Mark Whitby** PPICE  
WME consultants

**Ollie Wildman**  
Ramboll UK

**Albert Williamson Taylor**  
AKT II

**Sebastian Wood**  
WME

# EDGE Report 2016

## 20 Years

The Edge is a multidisciplinary built environment think tank with members drawn from across the built environment professions and beyond. It held its first debate on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1996.

### Edge activities - summary

#### Engagement

The Edge has spent much of 2016 engaging with its supporters and partners on a range of issues, but particularly including; construction industry research, building performance, institutional structures and the continuing discussions around the 2015 Collaboration for Change report. It has also launched a new series of debates on topics ranging from the EU referendum to the qualities required to be a built environment professional in future.

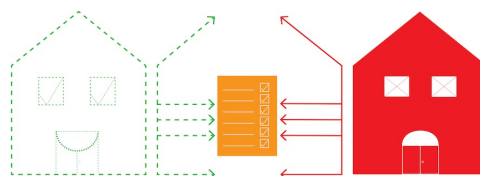
Over the year the Edge has had meetings with Arup, BRE, CEE, CIAT, CIBSE, CIC, CIOB, CITB, Constructing Excellence, the Design Council, ICE, Innovate UK, LABC, Place Alliance, RAEng, RIBA, RICS, UCL, University of Cardiff, University of Reading and the University of the West of England.

#### Research red-top

The Edge has continued working with a cross-institutional group comprising ICE, CIOB, CIBSE, RTPI and RICS on an editorial vehicle for disseminating research and development outputs widely across the industry. It is hoped that this will be ready for launch in Spring 2017.

#### Closing the Performance Gap

The Edge launched 'A plan for the built environment' on Closing the Performance Gap at Ecobuild in February 2016 at a session chaired by Paul Morrell. Supported by organisations including CIAT, CIBSE, CIOB, LABC, UKGBC and the RIBA.



Signatories to the plan agreed (in précis) that:

1. The gap is a serious and damaging failure by the industry that must be urgently addressed by organisations working closely together to find effective solutions;
2. that a means of open disclosure of performance information is essential if the problem is to be tackled; and
3. to contribute to a joint working group focusing on the study and closure of the performance gap

A round table involving 12 industry organisations met in July 2016 and agreed to develop a proposition to launch a 'What Works Centre for Built Environment Performance'. The Edge will be working with CIBSE and others to develop a business plan for the Centre for presentation in 2017.

## A new framework for Energy Performance of New Homes

The Edge has launched a proposition for reform of the Building Regulations for energy use in buildings. This has been submitted to the Department of Business Innovations & Skills' Cutting Red Tape Review and led to further discussion with the GCB, DBEIS and DCLG

## Collaboration for Change

Collaboration for Change, the Edge Commission Report on the Future of Professionalism, was published in May 2015 and has been cited and responded to innumerable times since. A year on from the launch the Edge, together with The Building Centre Trust, held a dinner to revisit the findings and to discuss any next steps.

Of the six core recommendations for professional institutions (PIs) in the report it was felt that there was some progress on three fronts, but the picture in general is as follows:



- Ethics: Several BE institutions are actively working together in the International Ethics Standards Coalition and individually on a range of initiatives.
- Industry reform: The ICE is working with the UK Client Group and the subject is high on the agenda of the Construction Leadership Council, but there is otherwise little institutional activity.
- Educational reform: A number of universities are working on cross-disciplinary initiatives and some reform measures are under discussion within PIs, but there is little sign of working across the professions on this issue.
- Research/knowledge: As reported above several institutions are collaborating on the research red-top and the CIC has committed itself to becoming 'an effective thought leader, representing the UK built environment professions together'
- Performance: A range of institutions is exploring working together on a building performance initiative (see above).
- Climate change: There appears to be very little joint working across and between PIs on climate change issues, despite the Paris Agreement at COP21 in December 2015.

In 2016 the Edge has continued to contribute to and deliver sessions across the UK discussing Collaboration for Change in particular several organised by Constructing Excellence. These have included:

- January - University of West of England
- February - Paul Morrell delivers the annual RSA Bossom Lecture, London
- February - Heriot-Watt and University of Edinburgh
- February - CIC North East with 2 Universities in Newcastle
- February - Reading University
- February - Regeneration Skills Collective Wales, Cardiff
- March - Construction Industry Council, ICE, London
- April - Constructing Excellence Oxford, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford
- July - Constructing Excellence HE/FE Group, London
- September - Constructing Excellence Reading
- October - Constructing Excellence Manchester, Manchester
- November - Birmingham City University

Several branches of Constructing Excellence and the Regeneration Skills Collective Wales are considering their local responses to the challenges presented by Collaboration for Change.

During 2016 members of the Edge have also presented the Collaboration for Change report at the Sustainable Built Environment (SBE16) Conference in Chongqing, China.

The Edge Commission of Inquiry is sponsored by The Ove Arup Foundation.

## Edge Debates

The regular series of Edge debates continues with events exploring key issues that affect the whole industry. The debates included the Edge's first international event organised by Prof Roberto Amendolia during the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale.

Debates examine questions that urgently need airing, but are not necessarily susceptible to easy answers. Edge Debates use an invited expert 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 construction industry.

### Debates held in 2016

- Debate 71 – February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ramboll  
**Can decentralisation solve the housing crisis?**  
**Chair:** Charlotte Alldritt, Director of Public Services and Communities, RSA  
**Speakers:** Luke Raikes - IPPR North, James Dunnett - James Dunnett Architects  
John Sampson - URBED, Kathryn Firth - Urban Designer and Masterplanner
- Debate 72 – March 9<sup>th</sup>: Ecobuild  
**Closing the Performance gap: A Plan for action**  
**Chair:** Paul Morrell - Paul Morrell Consulting, former Government Chief Construction Adviser, Commission Chair and Principal Author of *Collaboration for Change*  
**Speakers:** Karen Rogers - Canary Wharf Contractors, Alan Penn - Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Nick Higgs – Arup, David Adams - Wilmott Dixon Energy Services, Lynne Ceeney - UK Green Building Council, Simon Hart - Innovate UK
- Debate 73 – June 9<sup>th</sup>: UCL  
**EU Referendum - Environmental & climate change consequences for the built environment**  
**Chair:** Antony Oliver, Antony Oliver Consulting  
**Speakers:** Dr Charlotte Burns - University of York, Dr Janice Morphet – UCL, Professor Michael Grubb - UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources, Dr Robert Cohen – Verco, Dr David Greenfield - Social, Environmental & Economic Solutions Ltd, Rob Lambe - Aldersgate Group & Willmott Dixon
- Debate 74 – July 11<sup>th</sup>: House of Lords  
In collaboration with the Place Alliance  
**Building Better Places – who cares?**  
**Chair:** The Baroness Whitaker – Chair, Member of The Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment  
**Speakers:** The Baroness Andrews - Select Committee Member, Prof. Matthew Carmona - UCL & Select Committee Adviser, Ben Rogers - Centre for London

## Debates held in 2016 continued ...

- Debate 75 – October 13<sup>th</sup>: London South Bank University  
In collaboration with LSBU, CIBSE & APP Sustainable Built Environment Group  
**'Generalist' vs 'Specialist' – Learning for a Sustainable Built Environment**  
**Chair:** Nigel Tonks, Arup  
**Speakers:** Satheesh Jacob, Ramboll, Alex MacLaren - Heriot Watt University, Paul Tymkow, Hoare Lea, Robert Schmidt III – Loughborough University
- Debate 76 – November 24<sup>th</sup>: University of Sheffield  
In collaboration with University of Sheffield and Building Research & Information  
**Co-producing Neighbourhood Resilience**  
**Chair:** Janet Sharpe, Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services, Sheffield City Council  
**Speakers:** Professors Fionn Stevenson & Doina Petrescu - University of Sheffield, Barra MacRuari, Director of Place, Bristol, Dr. Dorte Rich Jorgensen - Atkins Global, Dr. Meike Shalk, KTH University, Stockholm, Nigel Ingram, Director, Aurora Estates
- Debate 77 – October 21<sup>st</sup>: Hoare Lea, Kings Cross  
In collaboration with R&D Society  
**Not invented here! R&D in Construction**  
**Chair:** Nico Macdonald – Chief Executive, R&D Society  
**Speakers:** Elspeth Finch - Indigo&, Paddy Conaghan, Hoare Lea & VP CIBSE, Annabel Filer - SCIN Gallery, Mike Moseley - Knowledge Transfer Network

## The Edge has also run or participated in a number of workshops in 2016 including:

- University of Edinburgh – Innovation Learning Week, February 17<sup>th</sup>
- Venice – October 29<sup>th</sup>: Palazzo Flangini  
In collaboration with The Italian Chamber of Commerce & Valorizzazioni Culturali  
**Our Past, your Future**  
**Speakers:** Oliver Smith - 5th Studio, Stefano Della Torre - Politecnico di Milano, Robin Nicholson - Cullinan Studio, Anna Devitofrancesco, ITC Milano, Roberto Di Vincenzo, Officina L'Aquila, Martina Mazzotta, Fondazione A.Mazzotta Living Archive, Andrew Scoones, ngenuity Ltd, Anna Magrini, Univ. of Pavia, Julie Godefroy – Julie Godefroy Sustainability, Piero Baglioni - University of Florence, Giuseppe Fumarola, ENEL & project Futur-E
- Birmingham City University – Superstudio, November 30<sup>th</sup>

## Debates scheduled for 2017 include:

- Debate 78 – January 24<sup>th</sup>: Arup, London  
**Heritage Capital**  
**Chair:** Ros Kerslake – Chief Executive, Heritage Lottery Fund  
**Speakers:** Chris Jofeh – Arup, Jonathan Schifferes – RSA, Kate Pugh, formerly The Heritage Alliance, Kate Brown – Grosvenor, Ingrid Samuel - National Trust  
Jason Eis - Vivid Economics, Martina Mazotta - Fondazione Mazzotta Living Archive

- Debate 79 – January 31st: London  
In **collaboration** with Building Research & Information  
**Overheating in UK Buildings – a disaster waiting to happen?**  
**Chair:** Mark Jones – National House Building Council  
**Speakers:** Kevin Lomas – Loughborough University, Fionn Stevenson – University of Sheffield, Rajat Gupta - Oxford Brookes University, Lynne Sullivan – LSA Studio, Angie Bone – Public Health England
- Debate 80 – February 28<sup>th</sup>: Institute of Physics  
**Level 2 BIM roll out – how’s it been for you?**
- Debate – March 8th: Ecobuild  
**A challenging future: how does the next generation want to shape our world?**  
**Chair:** Sunand Prasad PPRIBA - Penoyre Prasad  
**Speakers:** Michelle McDowell – BDP, Fergus Feilden - Feilden Fowles Architects  
Angela Crowther – Arup, Matthew Fedigan – Domec, Doug Baldock - Hoare Lea  
Stephanie Keay - Skanska

## Consultations

The Edge has responded to a number of consultations and requests for detailed information over the past year. These include:

- CIC Strategic Review
- Cutting Red Tape review run by the Department of Business Innovations & Skills – February 2016 with a submission on ‘A new framework for Energy Performance of New Homes’
- London Plan (climate change chapter) on the ‘Embodied Energy Hierarchy’ and multiple offer energy efficiency issues.
- Urban Design London on micro-climates and access to natural amenity around high rise buildings
- London Assembly’s Housing and Planning Committee on EPCs

Formal submissions are available on the ‘Edge thoughts’ page of [www.edgedebate.com](http://www.edgedebate.com)

The Edge continues to support The Place Alliance.

## Thinking

The Edge is a thinking organisation and provides 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 sounding board for an industry that needs to converse more across its internal boundaries.

Since its inception the Edge has supported the Inter-Disciplinary Built Environment (IDBE) course in Cambridge, sponsored by the Arup Foundation. During the year the Edge has been helping address options as a very real threat to close the course became clear. The Edge is looking forward to supporting a refreshed course in 2017.



## Diversity

For many years the Edge has been keen to improve diversity both on its committee and in the speakers it invites for its debates. Since Edge Debate 53 – ‘Construction needs Women, because ...’ held in January 2013 the Edge has had an informal rule that at least one speaker in three should be from each gender. In September 2016 the Edge signed the Future of London’s Speaker Diversity Pledge (see <http://futureoflondon.org.uk/2016/08/24/diversitypledgedn-goes-live>) and encouraged, with success, its partner institutions and their presidents to follow suite.

In October the Edge was called out on its record and ‘the lack of representation of women on the panels’ assessed across 14 debates (63 to 76). Over those debates three had no female representation, two had only one woman speaker, four had two, two had three and three debates had full gender parity. The informal rule was broken in 50% of cases.

The Edge responded, “We accept that we are not meeting our targets. We are aware we are choosy about our membership and our topics. We don’t want to ‘have women for the sake of having women’, yet we do always try to get them onto the list. Of course we are sometimes constrained by either our lack of knowledge of, or the actual lack of women in a particular area.” The Edge is committed to improving the diversity of its speaker panels in future and to achieving the best balance of gender, age and ethnicity of its Committee.

## The Wedge

Following a Collaboration for Change event in Cardiff in February 2016 there was much discussion in the audience about next steps. The next day the formation of a Welsh Edge was announced. The Edge is very proud of its new offspring.

## The Edge Committee

The Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis and in 2016 welcomed Francesca Berriman, Chief Executive of CIAT; Richard Brindley, formerly Executive Director of Professional services at the RIBA and now Managing Director of R. Brindley Consult Ltd; Julie Godefroy of Julie Godefroy Sustainability and sustainability adviser to the National Trust Historic Environment Group, Sara Kassam, Head of Sustainability Development at CIBSE, Charlie Murray of Arup; Helen Taylor, Practice Director of Scott Brownrigg; Flora Samuel, Professor of Architecture and the Built Environment at the University of Reading; and Tamsin Tweddell of Senior Partner of Max Fordham LLP as members.

Several members of the Edge Committee have been active elsewhere:

- Lynne Sullivan collaborated with other Green Construction Board and Working Group members to deliver the Sustainable Buildings Training Guide to be published early 2017 by the CLC
- Richard Brindley was secretary to the CIC Strategic Review in 2016 and sits on the Executive Board of the Architects Council of Europe. He is currently Master of the Worshipful Company of Architects
- Jane Briginshaw has established Jane Briginshaw Associates
- Frank Duffy and former colleagues have established the DEGW archive at the University of Reading, with an exhibition at the new School of Architecture
- Rachel Fisher has been appointed Head of Infrastructure at DCLG
- Sunand Prasad had been appointed to the board of the UK GBC
- Lynne Sullivan has both founded LSA Studio and been appointed Chair of The Good Homes Alliance



- Lynne Sullivan and Simon Foxell have contributed chapters to the RIBA Ambassadors' publication to be released 2017
- Jane Wernick gave a lecture on her work at the V&A as part of the 2016 'Engineering Season'
- Max Fordham LLP celebrated their '50 Years of Beautiful Engineering' at the Tate Modern Switch House and the Engineering Club held an event 'Max Fordham: the next 50 years' at the Building Centre with questions put by Julie Godefroy.
- Dr Richard Simmons and Robin Nicholson were members of the APPDIG Design Commission Inquiry whose report on the relationship between Place and Behaviour will be published in Spring 2017
- Ian Taylor authored 'Future Campus' published by RIBA Publications and launched a new joint 'Masters in Engineering and Architectural Design' degree at UCL.
- Dr Mike Murray, Chris Twinn and Robin Nicholson gave presentations to the international Sustainable Built Environment Conference (SBE16) in Chongqing, China. They then participated in the launch of the China/UK 'Joint International Research Laboratory of Green Buildings and Built Environments'. Mike and Robin led the three-day 1st RIBA/Chongqing workshop for young professionals in association with the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design.
- Chris Twinn joined the Chatham House delegation to Chengdu for the China-UK Bilateral Reform and Innovation Forum with the Development Research Center of the State Council of China (DRC).
- Dr Frank Duffy and John Worthington established the DEGW Archive at Reading University with the help of former colleagues
- Prof Flora Samuel is leading an AHRC-funded research project on 'Evidencing and Communicating the Value of Architects', leading to a two-day conference at Reading in April 2017.

## Linkages

The Edge works at the intersection of the construction industry professions, research bodies and policy-making groups inside and out of government. Its members maintain regular contact with professional and academic bodies, technical and campaigning organisations and central and local government departments. Members of the Edge also 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

Members of the Edge committee continue their active involvement with sponsoring construction and built environment institutions as well as other groups including; the Academy of Urbanism, Aldersgate Group, All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group (APPCCG), All-Party Parliamentary Design & Innovation Group, Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), British Property Federation, Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), Cambridgeshire Quality Panel, Civic Trust, Design Commission for Wales, Design Council Cabi, Good Homes Alliance, Green Construction Board, Landscape Institute, National House-Building Council (NHBC), National Trust, Place Alliance, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Town Planning Institute, the RSA, Sustainable Development Foundation, Trees and Design Action Group, the UK Green Building Council and the Worshipful Company of Architects.

The Edge has close links with a range of UK research bodies including the Bartlett Schools of Environment, Energy and Resources and Planning, Cambridge University Engineering Department Centre for Sustainable Development, Imperial College London, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Innovate UK, School of Construction Management and Engineering University of Reading, the University of Bath, London South Bank University and in particular the UCL Energy Institute.

## Edge Support & Funding

The Edge currently runs without external funding and is dependent on the goodwill and contributions of its members, their employers and its partner organisations (the RIBA, ICE, CIAT, CIBSE, RICS, IStructE, CIOB, SocEnv, CIC, The Building Centre and UCL Energy Institute). In the recent past the Edge has been generously funded by The Ove Arup Foundation and The Carbon Trust.

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 have kindly hosted the monthly committee meetings. In 2016 these have been held at: AKTII, WME (x2), Spie, London South Bank University, Max Fordham, Pell Frischman, Hoare Lea, Ramboll, Buro Happold, Penoyre & Prasad & Scott Brownrigg.

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 support for 2017 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 [contact@edgedebate.com](mailto:contact@edgedebate.com) if you are interesting in discussing this further.

the Edge, January 2017  
[www.edgedebate.com](http://www.edgedebate.com)