

# EDGE Report 2017

## 21 Years

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**Dr Bill Bordass** Usable Buildings Trust  
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**Jane Briginshaw** JB Assocs  
**Caroline Cole** Colander  
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**Rachel Fisher** Co-Founder of Urbanistas  
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**Bill Gething** Sustainability + Architecture  
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**Jim Green** Baylight Properties  
**Prof Peter Guthrie** University of Cambridge  
**Dave Hampton** The Carbon Coach  
**Prof Colin Haylock** PPRTPPI Haylock P&D  
**Stephen Hill** C<sub>2</sub>0 futureplanners  
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**Michael Pawlyn** Exploration Architecture  
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**Helen Taylor** Scott Brownrigg  
**Ian Taylor** FCB Studios  
**Eddie Tuttle** CIOB  
**Chris Twinn** TwinnSustainabilityInnovation  
**Prof Lorna Walker** LW Consulting  
**Michelle Wang** Kings College London  
**Dr Eleanor Warwick** Clarion Housing Group  
**Jane Wernick** engineers HRW  
**Prof Mark Whitby** PPICE whitby wood  
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**Albert Williamson** Taylor AKT II

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.

### Introduction

2017 was a harrowing year for the construction industry with much thinking and discussion dominated by the tragedy arising from the fire at Grenfell Tower on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Edge believes that there are a great many lessons for the industry to learn from the fire covering topics that include regulation, lines of responsibility, procurement and professionalism – all of which it will hope to contribute to in the months and years ahead.

The Edge is pleased to announce that in 2017 the Landscape Institute became the latest addition to our roster of institutional supports.

### Edge activities - summary

#### Engagement

Over the year the Edge has had meetings with Building Performance Network, CIAT, CIBSE, CIC, CIOB, Constructing Excellence, Construction Leadership Council, DCLG, ICE, LABC, Lord Stunell, Parity Projects, Place Alliance, RAEng, RIBA, RICS, SDF, UCL, University of Cambridge, University of Reading and Loughborough University.

#### Collaboration for Change

The Edge is still working on a number of issues that emerged from Collaboration for Change, the Edge Commission Report on the Future of Professionalism.



- Shared Code of Conduct: the Edge is in discussion with a range of professional institutions over the possibility of jointly developing a framework code. The Edge has proposed its own draft model code drawing on existing codes for discussion (see [www.edgedebate.com/?page\\_id=3185](http://www.edgedebate.com/?page_id=3185)). At present this is a developing conversation, but in due course the Edge anticipates publishing its code both as an example of best practice and a free resource for future code development. Further to this work Edge members will be contributing to the RIBA's work on revising its position on professional ethics through membership of the RIBA Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission.
- Professional Compact: complementing the draft model code the Edge has issued a proposal for a formal Compact between construction/property professionals and their clients/ employers (see below).

- Transparency and inclusivity: the Edge is asking the institutional members of the CIC to develop and commit to a 'Best practice reporting standard' covering consistent data reporting in their annual reports on topics such as membership, staffing, discipline, education and outreach.
- Building Performance: The Edge is pleased to welcome the Constructing Excellence Oxford Performance Gap Group formed in response to the recommendations of C4C on performance.

### Edge workstreams

- Building Performance: Edge member Lynne Sullivan has been working through the Green Construction Board to feed proposals on building performance to the CLC. Chris Twinn continues to move forward proposals for moving building regulations from unfulfilled compliance to measured performance. See the Edge paper: A New Framework for Energy Performance of New Homes. This has included input to the new London Plan with proposals for improving the transparency of performance predictions, comment metric for targeting and operation, support for on-going monitoring, and redefining Zero Carbon to better cover all building energy use.

Research and new knowledge: progress continues in developing the new online research digest with input from the ICE, CIOB, RTPI and RIBA.

- Procurement: Mike Murray has been leading the first Integrated Project Insurance (IPI) project at Dudley College. See report at [http://constructingexcellence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Trial-Projects-Dudley-College-Advance-II-Case-Study\\_Final.pdf](http://constructingexcellence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Trial-Projects-Dudley-College-Advance-II-Case-Study_Final.pdf)
- Keith Clarke and Richard Lorch of the Edge have arranged for John Kingsman CEO of L&G to send a letter to all construction professional institutions asking them what skills and training their members are currently required to have with regards to climate change
- Following the example set by DEGW, the Edge is in discussions with the University of Reading about housing the Edge archive to make it fully accessible to researchers and others.

### Edge Debates

The regular series of Edge debates continues with events exploring key issues that affect the whole industry.

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 2017

- Debate 78 – January 24<sup>th</sup>: Arup, London  
**Heritage Capital**  
**Chair:** Ros Kerlake – 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

## Debates held in 2017 continued ...

- 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?**  
In **collaboration** with CIBSE Home Counties North East Region  
**Chair:** Dr Anne Kemp: Director, Atkins; Chair of UK BIM Alliance, Chair ICE BIM Action Group  
**Speakers:** Les Copeland: Technical Director, WSP, Chair of CIBSE BIM Steering Group, Helen Taylor: Practice Director, Scott Brownrigg, Edge Member.  
Karen Alford: BIM & GSL Programme Manager, The Environment Agency  
Dwight Wilson: Digital Engineering Manager, Imtech, Member of dotBuiltEnvironment
- Debate – March 8<sup>th</sup>: 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
- **Debate** 81- September 25<sup>th</sup>: UCL  
**Can new players achieve a real increase in house building?**  
In **collaboration** with Place Alliance  
**Chair:** Terrie Alafat CBE: CEO Chartered Institute of Housing  
**Speakers:** Andrew Whitaker - Planning Director, Home Builders Federation, Dr Janice Morphet - Visiting Professor, Bartlett School of Planning, UCL, Janet Sutherland - Housing consultant for Pocket Homes & formerly senior housing officer at Lewisham & Camden Councils, Stephen Hill - C20 futureplanners

31 individuals spoke at Edge Debates in 2017, 14 men and 17 women (45%/55%).

## Debates scheduled for 2018 include:

- **Ecobuild Edge Debates 2018**
  1. **How can the economics of housing serve the needs of the people?** – 7<sup>th</sup> March  
**Chair:** Jane Briginshaw - Jane Briginshaw Associates & the Edge  
**Speakers:** Polly Toynebee - journalist and writer, John East - Strategic Director Growth and Homes London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, David Roberts - Director Igloo, Claire O'Shaughnessy - Director Deloitte Real Estate

## 2. Construction quality in a post-Grenfell world – 7th March

In **collaboration** with the Good Homes Alliance

**Chair:** Jane Duncan

**Speakers:** Lynne Sullivan - LSA Studio, Chair Good Homes Alliance & the Edge, Richard Cook - Head of Residential Lendlease, Paula Higgins - Founder and CEO, Home Owners Alliance, Peter Caplehorn - Deputy Chief Executive and Policy Director Construction Products Association, Robin Nicholson - Senior Partner Cullinan Studio & the Edge

## 3. Construction leadership and a vision for the future – 7th March

Convened by Louise Clarke - Berkeley Homes and Julie Godefroy – Julie Godefroy Sustainability & the Edge

**Chair:** Oliver Wainwright

**Speakers:** Diana Sanchez Socio-economist, Lydia Dutton - Co-Founder Circular Economy Start-Up, Zohra Chiheb Architect, Kavita Kumari, Engineer, Ben Pritchard - Consultant, Nick Baker Sustainability Operations Director Skanska, Ed McCann, Director Expedition Engineering & Vice President ICE, Jane Duncan PPRIBA Chair of RIBA Fire Safety Advisory Group, Martin Gettings - Group Head of Sustainability Canary Wharf Group, Tony Burton - Senior Partner Gardiner & Theobald

## 4. Who do we build for? Ethics, public interest and a shared code of conduct – 8th March

Convened by Simon Foxell – the Edge

**Chair: Rowan Moore**

**Speakers:** Liz Male – Liz Male Consulting, Paul Nash – PPCIOB, Simon Foxell – The Architects Practice, Philippa Foster Black – Director Institute of Business Ethics

- Debate 82- March 19<sup>th</sup>- Eversheds

### **The Spirit of Stevenage – housing debate**

In **collaboration** with Eversheds

**Speakers:** Gary Younge – The Guardian, Matt Leach - Local Trust, Nick Corbyn - Land Securities, Stuart Andrews – Eversheds, Vicky Pryce - Centre for Economics and Business Research, Tom Mann – Savills, Andrew Screen - Trade Risks Ltd, Frances Coppola - Sheffield University

## **Consultations & Support**

The Edge has responded to a number of consultations and given its support to a range of organisations over the past year. These include:

- IDBE Cambridge
- DQI (CIC)
- Industrial Strategy
- Building's Brexit Campaign
- Raynsford review of Planning
- Elementa report 'Getting to zero'
- ICOMOS-UK
- The Future of London Diversity Pledge
- London Environmental Strategy
- London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI)

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

## 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 at Cambridge University. The Edge is pleased to note that the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) supported by the departments of Architecture and Engineering will be running the course, giving it a new lease of life.

## The Edge Committee

The Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis and in 2017 welcomed landscape architect Hal Moggridge of colvin & moggridge, Simon Sturgis of Sturgis Carbon Profiling and Michelle Wang of King's College London as members.

Several members of the Edge Committee have been active elsewhere:

- Julie Godefroy published *Achieving a green Brexit* in the CIBSE Journal, contributed to the RIBA publication *Post-Occupancy Evaluation* and spoke at conferences in Reading, UK and Huelva, Spain
- Lynne Sullivan spoke at the Construction Leadership Council's Sustainable Buildings Training Summit in December 2017.
- Hal Moggridge published *Slow Growth: on the art of landscape architecture*, Unicorn in September.
- Simon Sturgis published *Targeting Zero: Embodied and whole life carbon explained*, RIBA Publishing in May and the RICS Professional statement: Whole life carbon assessment for the built environment, RICS and the RIBA Guidance: Whole life carbon assessment for architects, RIBA in November.
- Robin Nicholson spoke on housing quality at a DCLG symposium. He took part in the Sir Isaiah Berlin Colloquium on Urbanism in Jerusalem and gave a lecture at Al Quds University in East Jerusalem.
- Chris Twinn was section author for 'The Design Companion for Planning and Placemaking', involved in training planning officers through Urban Design London, Chatham House contributor, and speaker at events for GLA, UDL, CIBSE, BSRIA, RIBA, Historic England, University of Cambridge, Ecobuild, LETI, Leaderquest, among others.
- Dorte Rich Jorgensen has become a permanent UK resident and is helping other EU 27 nationals currently living and working in the UK through UKCEN.
- Andrew Scoones has been involved with organising a number of inter-disciplinary events including the City Conversations discussions for the Happold Foundation. Reports on recent Conversations can be found at:  
[www.happoldfoundation.org/news-and-events/?\\_sft\\_focus-area=conversations](http://www.happoldfoundation.org/news-and-events/?_sft_focus-area=conversations).

## 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.

The Edge supports The Place Alliance.

## 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 2017 these have been held at: Cullinan Studio, FCB Studios, 5<sup>th</sup> Studio, UCL Energy Institute, Spie, Hoare Lea, Pell Frischman, AKTII, CEREB - London South Bank University, Max Fordham, Ramboll, & Penoyre & Prasad.

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 2018 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.

## **Proposed Edge Professional Compact:**

between construction/property professionals and their clients/employers

### **Professionals in the construction and property sectors will deploy:**

- expertise, skill, knowledge and experience to deliver agreed services in good faith
- competence, diligence, honesty, integrity and care;
- evidence-based judgement to achieve high standards of work and conduct,

### **Subject to the obligation to:**

- put the interests of the wider world and society first and to take protective action when necessary, but otherwise to put clients' interests before their own;
- take personal and corporate responsibility for the outcomes of their work;
- show proper care, consideration and fairness towards others, especially those involved in realising projects and those who will live with the outcome;
- keep their own knowledge relevant and up to date;
- train and help develop the abilities of other members of both their profession and society;
- measure, feed back and share relevant information and insights gained from their work in order to develop and improve knowledge and skill across the disciplines.

### **In exchange for:**

- the trust of those commissioning services;
- recognition of their independence and right to self-direction;
- the grant of respect and status;
- a degree of exclusivity over the provision of socially important services;
- fair payment for their work.



## Reporting

In 2018 the Edge is looking forward to working with the institutions and organisations in the construction industry on a Good Practice Reporting Standard for consistent reporting of basic institutional data. We thought it would be a good idea to get our own house in order first. Below are anonymised data on the Edge's membership:

<b>Members</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>M%</b>	<b>F%</b>
Committee members	31	12	43	72%	28%
Committee members <35 Emeritus/Corresponding members	2	1	3	67%	33%
	21	4	25	84%	16%
TOTAL	54	17	71	76%	24%
<b>Membership Gains/losses</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>M%</b>	<b>F%</b>
Committee members	2	1	3	67%	33%
Committee members <35 Emeritus/Corresponding members	0	0	0	0%	0%
	0	1	1	0%	100%
TOTAL	2	2	4	50%	50%
<b>Geography (office address)</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Rest Engl d</b>	<b>Scot/Wale s</b>	<b>Interntl</b>	<b>%</b>
Committee members Emeritus/Corresponding members	31	12	2	1	65%
	19	4	1	1	35%
TOTAL	50	16	3	2	71
%	70%	23%	4%	3%	100%
<b>Ethnicity (ONS categories)</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Asian/AB</b>	<b>B/A/C/BB</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Committee members Emeritus/Corresponding members	43	3	0	0	46
	22	2	1	0	25
TOTAL	65	5	1	0	71
%	92%	7%	1%	0%	100%