
Minutes

Meeting RIBA Schools Forum
Date February 5 2003
Venue RIBA 66 Portland
Present
Keith Armstead (KA) Dorset County Council
Valerie Bragg –Chair (VB) The 3Es Enterprises Ltd
Tim Crabb (TC) West Sussex County Council
David Emmanuel Noel (DEN) Royal Institute of British Architects
Georgina Frank (GF) Bovis Lend Lease
Peter Foale (PF) Nottinghamshire County Council
Jane Gray (JG) Felce & Guy Partnership
Hilary Graves (HG) Building Research Establishment
Shirley Turner (ST) Hampshire County Council
Catherine Harrington (CH) Architype
Sally Livesey (SL) Westminster RC Diocese
Jonathan Labrey (JL) RIBA
Mukund Patel (MP) DfES
John Russell (JR) Southwark Diocese
Roger Robertson (RR) Suffolk County Council
Andy Thompson (AT) DfES
John Waldron-Convenor (JW) Architecture PLB

Apologies

Dominic Cullinan (DC) SENJIT/ Institute of Education
Chris French (CF) Essex County Council
Janet Newton (JN) Lancashire County Council
Helen Penn (HP) Institute of Education
John Procter (JP) Hertfordshire County Council
Anthony Slater (AS) Building Research Establishment
Paul Scott (PS) Paul Scott Architects
Desmond Williams (DW) Ellis Williams Architects

John Waldron, Convenor of the Forum welcomed members and introduction Valerie Bragg of the 3Es Enterprises Ltd as the new Chair

66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD UK
Tel +44 (0)20 7580 5533
Fax +44 (0)20 7255 1541
info@inst.riba.org
www.architecture.com

1.0

Minutes From the Last Meeting

2.0

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted

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Matters Arising

DfES – Response to John Waldron Paper on Exemplar Designs

MP explained that capital spending on schools would rise from 3 billion this year to 5 billion in 2006. Ministers have organised a seminar to discuss the rise in further detail. Local Authorities have been invited. There are a number of building initiatives in all key sectors including airports. The ‘Schools for the future’ initiative will have six benchmark designs. Secondary and first school designs have been suggested. MP stressed that the initiative will not provide one design for all schools. Fundamental layouts with regards to circulation space will be kept.

The designs will be various sizes to accommodate specialist schools for science and arts related courses. The school designs will be sensitive to community needs and, where possible, used as a community resource. The millennium school was given as an example. The DfES has established a working group consisting of representatives from the GLA, the Head Teachers Association, CABA and RIBA. The RIBA President Paul Hyett is a group member.

The OJEC notice has been published and a shortlist of thirty to forty practices will be drawn up. MP indicated that approximately twelve practices would be shortlisted with a maximum of four projects each. The first design is likely to be drafted by September this year. The DfES will provide updated information on the programme. This will be available on the DfES website and a CD Rom.

Local Authorities, encouraged to use local practitioners are likely to modify designs to meet particular needs. The members of the group were appreciative of MP’s presentation. Prior to MP’s presentation some members had the impression that only six designs would be available. They remained concerned with the relationship between schools and less experienced local architects over costs. Would design quality remain a priority? The curriculum of the school and cost modelling would have to be considered when designing the building. MP said that £1,025 per sq. metre would allow them to build good schools. After discussions with the David Milliband, Minister for Education and CABA the new benchmark for secondary schools is £1,050. Primary schools are still being reviewed.

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GF questioned whether pre fabrication of design should take place at stage D as opposed to C. It was argued that it may be dangerous. Stage C was more guidance and not a commitment to build. AT added that the programme had to relate to PFI output specification. Members also addressed the impact of the template design on inclusive schools and argued that this should be included in the briefing. There appeared to be a shift towards central government involvement in school design. MP emphasised that local authorities would still be making the ultimate decision.

3.0 **DfES Guidelines**

AT disclosed that the revised guidelines are now in use. The working group will be meeting to discuss the implementation of Building Bulletin 95. KA stated that many LEAs have been building in excess of Building Bulletin 82. He questioned whether 'draft' would be dropped from the new document available online.

4.0 **RIBA SENJIT March 14 Conference**

DEN updated members. All speakers have confirmed their availability for March 14. He presented the draft programme. This will be circulated to all the members. Forty people were already booked. He encouraged members to forward data on potential delegates.

5.0 **School Forum Agenda and Programme for 2003-4**

JW disclosed that he was working with a Barking based school which increased it's class room size from 50 to 75 square metres. The ICT was transforming schools by including library resources in each classroom. This flagship school in the Thames gateway provided flexible teaching where each child remained in view of the teacher at all times. He encouraged the group to assess what would be the educational advantages.

Consultant Engineer John Parker and David Luckstone, who has considerable experience of school models in Switzerland, was considered as a possible guest speaker at a future meeting

Other areas considered were:

- How changes in the curriculum affect the future design of buildings.
- The adaptation and refurbishment of Victorian schools
- Learning through landscapes

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- Adult Education and community use of school grounds.
- Sport Facilities in Schools (with particular attention to New Opportunity Funding).
- The future of Post 16 education
- Sustainability

Future themes for conferences included Classrooms for the future. DEN will liaise with AT and Nick Peacey of SENJIT / Institute of Education

After members advocated visiting schools as part of the days agenda, VB agreed to stage a future Schools Forum at the Bexley Business Academy. The December 10th meeting was ear marked as a convenient date. The Millennium School in Greenwich was also considered. AT will investigate further possibilities.

AT

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Funding of future school building projects

Members agreed that clarification on the responsibility and role of bodies such as DfES, CABE, the 4Ps and Partnerships UK was needed.

ALL

7.0

Dates of the Schools forum

May 7 2003 at 10am
September 17 2003 at 10am
December 10 2002 at 10.am

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