

Edge Debate 95 – 16th October 2019

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Bill Gething Sustainability + Architecture

Dr Julie Godefroy Julie Godefroy Sustainability

Prof Peter Guthrie University of Cambridge

Dave Hampton The Carbon Coach

Hattie Hartman The Architects Journal

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Trans or Trad?

What is the value of a T-shaped Education?



A debate hosted jointly with The Engineering Club looking at whether we need to reassess our approach to professional education to address the climate crisis.

Are we preparing the right sort of graduates for the modern construction industry? A T-shaped education has a broad grasp across all the disciplines and an in-depth knowledge of one. With the climate crisis influencing the education of future professionals, should this now become the norm? The challenge for professionals is to break down the silomentality to create a more integrated team and hence a more efficient industry. Some might argue that greater integration between design and construction is more desirable, add to this challenges such as climate change and understanding building physics, and the requirement for more 'T-shaped' graduates becomes ever stronger. Nonetheless the attraction of traditional courses persists due to the value attributed to the identity and culture promoted by the institutions that set the curriculum and accredit courses.

The specialist professional degree is something admired around the world and perhaps interdisciplinary education is better tackled at a post-graduate and practice level.

- Are the new interdisciplinary courses a small, worthy, peripheral variation on the mainstream of construction education or a revolutionary model that should be encouraged by the institutions to grow?
- Or should we be creating a new construction discipline through which educational establishments can attract a new generation of graduates more attuned to the needs of the environment?

Chair: Jane Wernick, EngineersHRW

Speakers: Luke Olsen, Bartlett Engineering Architecture Design course

leader

Maria Smith, Interrobang! Trans-disciplinary practice

Peter Roberts, Principal of the multidisciplinary engineering

practice OR Engineers. Faith Wainwright, Arup

John Connaughton, University of Reading

Chris Stobbart, graduate of Sheffield architecture and

engineering course.

Venue: The Building Centre

26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT

Timing: Wednesday 16th October 2019

Debate 6.30 – 8.00 pm

Drinks and networking - until 9.00 pm

Please come and contribute to the discussion. To attend please register by each attendee's name at engineeringclub.org.uk/choice/talk/trans-or-trad-what-is-the-value-of-a-t-shaped-education/