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Does built environment policy work? And how should professionals engage?

- What do we know about the successes and failures of built environment policy?
- Can we learn anything from recent experience?
- What role should professionals play in influencing policy-making and its effective delivery?

In July 2015 the refereed journal *Building Research and Information (BRI)* published a Special Issue, "Closing the Policy Gaps: From Formulation to Outcomes", guest edited by Simon Foxell and Ian Cooper. This Edge event will use the BRI Special Issue as the basis for an in-depth examination of the relationship between built environment professionals and the policies and politics that underpin so much of what they eventually design and build.

The editorial of the Special Issue notes: "*it is apparent that built environment professionals need to develop and maintain an informed knowledge base on why and how policy initiatives work. Such a knowledge base would both assist professionals to input into and work directly and effectively with those policy processes that define their ability to deliver successful projects and professional bodies to better fulfill their public interest obligations in relation to built environment policy.*"

The debate will examine policy for the built environment from the perspective of recent experience and consider proposals for new approaches with responses from invited commentators before the discussion is opened to the audience.

Introduction: Simon Foxell, The Architects Practice

Chair: Simon Rawlinson, Head of Strategic Research and Insight at Arcadis UK and member of the Construction Leadership Council

Speakers: Dr. Richard Simmons, Bartlett School of Planning at UCL. Author of 'Constraints on evidence-based policy: insights from government practice', BRI Vol. 43, No. 4
 John Alker, Policy and Communications Director, UKGBC
 Dr. Kathryn Janda, University of Oxford. Co-author of 'Telling Tales: using stories to remake energy policy', BRI Vol. 43, No. 4

Respondees: Professor Fionn Stevenson, University of Sheffield
 Clare Devine, Director Design Council Cabe
 Ian Cooper, Eclipse Research Consultants

Venue: Design Council Cabe, Angel Building, 407 St John Street, London EC1V 4AB

Timing: Arrival 5.30 pm
 Debate 5.45 – 8.15 pm
 Drinks and networking – 9.00

Note: The Special issue of Building Research & Information Vol. 43, No. 4 is available free at <http://www.tandfonline.com/r/closing-policy-gaps> for a limited period.