

# Edge Debate 64 – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014

## Buildings for Humans: Are We in Danger of Value Engineering out the Wellbeing of Occupants?

### Joint Debate with The Feeling Good Foundation

Can our drive for profit margins, structural aesthetic and energy efficiency simultaneously create healthier, more productive buildings? Should occupant wellbeing be the optional variable? Why value engineer wellbeing out when we could be value engineering it in? Are built environment professionals members of the wider public health workforce?

The Feeling Good Foundation (a hub for research and guidance on wellbeing in the built environment) has assessed views of the UK property sector and has found that agents, developers and investors do believe that wellbeing has a role in the design, marketing and management of property assets despite appearing to be contrary to wider project and industry activities.

The [World Green Building Council](#) has commissioned guidance and best practice information on features of green building that enhance health, wellbeing and productivity in the hope of transforming this knowledge into mainstream design practice. At the same time they are developing up proposals for common financial metrics with which to measure health, wellbeing and productivity.

Are we on the brink of a tipping point? Should it take development of financial metrics to put occupant wellbeing back at the centre of building design? And is putting a price on occupant wellbeing the only way to ensure that it will be designed into, rather than out of, the value engineering process?

**Chair:** Andrew Scoones – ngenuity Ltd, the Edge & Feeling Good Foundation board

#### Speakers:

- Richard Francis, The Monomoy Company, Feeling Good Foundation board and World Green Building Council's chair of wellbeing report Metrics Group
- Elina Grigoriou, Grigoriou Interiors and Feeling Good Foundation board

#### Expert Panel:

- Professor Derek Clements-Croome, Feeling Good Foundation/University of Reading
- Lynne Sullivan, Sustainable BY Design, the Edge
- Elanor Warwick, Affinity Sutton, the Edge
- Charles Seaford, New Economics Foundation

We would be delighted if you could join us at this by-invitation only debate. If you would like to attend please register [here](#). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.

**Venue:** Davison Highley, Lower Ground Floor, The Old Brewery, 16 Brewhouse Yard, Clerkenwell, London EC1V 4LJ

**Timing:** Debate 6.30 - 8.30 pm followed by networking and a glass of wine

**Supported by:** DAVISON HIGHLEY



The Edge is an inter-institutional ginger group that seeks to promote interdisciplinary co-operation between construction professionals. Synopses of previous debates are recorded on our website [www.edgedebate.com](http://www.edgedebate.com)

The Edge is supported by Arup Foundation, Building Centre, CIBSE, CIOB, ICE, IStructE, RIBA, RICS, SocEnv, UCL Energy Institute and is an Affiliated Member of CIC

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Formerly CERN/ Italian Embassy  
**Guy Battle**  
The Sustainable Business Partnership  
**Dr Bill Bordass**  
Usable Buildings Trust  
**Chris Beauman**  
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**Richard Boyd**  
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**Jane Briginshaw**  
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