

## EDGE Report - August 2012

The Edge is a multidisciplinary built environment think tank with members drawn from across the built environment professions and beyond

### Edge activities - summary

In the last year the Edge has maintained its usual series of high-level policy debates, has been closely involved with the Government's Green Construction Board and has developed its Research Edge initiative.

The Edge has maintained its links with its sponsor institutions (the RIBA, ICE, CIBSE, IStructE & RICS) and is exploring formal links with the RTPI.

### The Edge committee

The Edge 'Committee' continues to meet on a monthly basis with several members achieving additional prominence:

- 1 Lynne Sullivan joined the Green Construction Board as the Edge representative. Edge member Sunand Prasad is also a member of the CGB.
- 2 Stephen Hill, Richard Lorch and Bill Bordass of the Edge gave Keynote Addresses to the World Sustainable Building Conference in Helsinki.
- 3 Andy Ford handed over the Presidency of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers to Professor David Fisk in June 2012
- 4 Rachel Fisher has become Head of Homes and Land at the National Housing Federation
- 5 Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen has been appointed Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor of Innovation at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh
- 6 Doug King joined the Edge Committee and has recently been appointed Chief Science and Engineering Advisor to the Building Research Establishment and elected as a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering.
- 7 Michael Pawlyn/Exploration Architecture's Sahara Forest Project is underway with a pilot facility in Qatar
- 8 Simon Smith has established the new engineering practice, Smith and Wallwork, in Cambridge

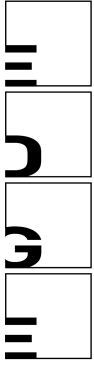
In 2012 the Edge welcomed Gary Felgate back onto the committee after a gap of several years. Following his role as Chief Executive of the Energy Retail Association Gary has become a director of Chop-cloc Ltd – the energy innovations company.

Members of the Edge committee continue their active involvement with the 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), Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), British Property Federation, Building Futures, Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), Cambridgeshire Quality Panel, Civic Trust, Construction Industry Council, Design Commission for Wales, Design Council CABE, European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP), Global Commons Institute (GCI), Green Deal forums, Good Homes Alliance, National House-Building Council (NHBC), Research Excellence Framework Built Environment Panel, Shape east, SPONGE, Royal Society for the Arts, UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) and the Zero Carbon Hub.

**David Adams**  
Willmott Dixon Construction  
**Guy Battle**  
dcarbon8, Deloitte  
**Dr Bill Bordass**  
Usable Buildings Trust  
**Chris Beauman**  
European Bank for Reconstruction  
and Development  
**Caroline Cole**  
Colander  
**Dr Alison Cooke**  
Cooke Associates  
**Paddy Conaghan**  
Hoare Lea  
**Dr Frank Duffy PPRIBA**  
Co-Founder DEGW  
**Gary Felgate**  
Chop-cloc Ltd  
**Rachel Fisher**  
Nation Housing Federation  
**Prof Max Fordham PPCIBSE**  
Max Fordham LLP  
**Andy Ford PCIBSE**  
Mott MacDonald Fulcrum  
**Simon Foxell**  
The Architects Practice  
**Bill Gething**  
Sustainability + Architecture  
**Jim Green**  
Baylight Properties  
**Prof Peter Guthrie**  
University of Cambridge  
**Dave Hampton**  
The Carbon Coach  
**Stephen Hill**  
C<sub>2</sub>0 futureplanners  
**Mike Hitchens**  
Pell Frischmann  
**Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen**  
Atkins  
**Prof Paul Jowitt, PPICE**  
Heriot-Watt University  
**Janet Kidner**  
Lend Lease  
**Prof Doug King**  
**Francis Li**  
Buro Happold  
**Richard Lorch**  
Building Research and Information  
**Dr Mike Murray**  
One Creative Environments Ltd  
**Robin Nicholson**  
Edward Cullinan Architects  
**Michael Pawlyn**  
Exploration Architecture  
**Adam Poole**  
Buro Happold  
**Dr Sunand Prasad PPRIBA**  
Penoyre and Prasad LLP  
**Lars Ostenfeld Riemann**  
Ramboll  
**Yasmin Shariff**  
Dennis Sharp Architects  
**Prof Richard Simmons**  
University of Greenwich  
**Simon Smith**  
Smith and Wallwork  
**Lynne Sullivan**  
sustainableBYdesign  
**Chris Twinn**  
Arup  
**Prof Lorna Walker**  
Lorna Walker Consulting  
**Bill Watts**  
Max Fordham LLP  
**Elanor Warwick**  
Technology Strategy Board  
**Jane Wernick**  
Jane Wernick Associates  
**Prof Mark Whitby PPICE**  
Davies Maguire + Whitby  
**Albert Williamson Taylor**  
AKT II  
**Jane Powell**  
Debate Secretary

SUPPORTED BY  
Carbon Trust, CIBSE, ICE, RIBA  
RICS, IStructE

[www.edgedebate.com](http://www.edgedebate.com)



The Edge and its members maintain regular contact with government departments, including; BIS, DECC, CLG, DEFRA, DCMS, DfE and The Cabinet Office, as well as ministers and members of both Houses of Parliament. Members of the Edge 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

The Edge has close links with a range of UK research bodies including the Bartlett School of Planning, the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the CUED Centre for Sustainable Development, Imperial College London, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), School of Construction Management and Engineering University of Reading, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), the UCL Energy Institute and the University of Bath.

## Edge workstreams 2012-13

### 1 Debates 11-12

At the core of the Edge's activities is the holding of debates. These involve an invited 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 professional institutes and others in the construction and property industry.

Debate 45 – September 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, Bristol (CIBSE Presidential Debate)

#### **Cutting carbon at any cost?**

Chair: Andy Ford

Speakers: Bill Bordass, Prof. Doug King, Mike Roberts

Debate 46 - September 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, RICS

#### **What does it mean to be a building professional in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?**

Chair: Rab Bennetts

Speakers: Prof. Matthew Bacon, Alan Crane, Bill Bordass, Stephen Hill

Conference – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Newman Street, W1

#### **City Performance Workshop** – see International Edge below

Debate 47 – November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012, Institution of Mechanical Engineers

#### **The Politics and Geopolitics of Low carbon Growth**

An Edge seminar under the Chatham House Rule

Debate 48, March 13<sup>th</sup> 2012, The Design Council

#### **Fixing Procurement**

Chair: Robin Nicholson

Speakers: Rab Bennetts & others

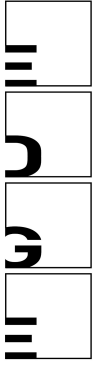
An Edge seminar organised in collaboration with Design Council CAFE

Debate 49, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012, ICE

#### **Shale gas: a game changer?**

Chair: Chris Huhne MP

Speakers: Bill Bordass, Mark Whitby, John Miles



## Edge workstreams cont...

### **Future Edge debates are scheduled for the autumn of 2012:**

Debate 50, October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Creating the conditions for innovation in the building design sector
Debate 51, October 30 <sup>th</sup>	London – redistributed?
Debate 52, November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Building a state of equilibrium
Debate 53, Nov-December	Creating an Institute of the Built Environment
Debate 54, January/February	Women are key to changing the construction industry

Further debates are planned into 2012: on happiness, lessons from Fukushima, the Green Deal and design leadership as well as further debates in the series of regional events run in conjunction with CIBSE.

The Edge committee plans the debates and reviews and follows up on the resulting outcomes Francis Li has acted as Minutes secretary, while Jane Powell continues to manage events and finances.

## **2 International Edge**

The Edge continues to develop international links, with several members working overseas, corresponding members in many different countries and proposals for new 'sister' Edge groups in various cities around the world.

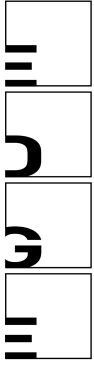
In October 2011 the Edge collaborated with Buro Happold and the Danish, Italian and Dutch embassies organised the two day City Performance Conference with a wide range of international speakers addressing the topic of improving how cities can better tackle issues including wealth creation, congestion and climate change.

The Edge's close links with various London Embassies and High Commissions continues and further events are planned including a follow-up conference on the topic of Smart Cities to be held in London in January 2013.

## **3 Consultation**

The Edge offers its services to government, built environment bodies and professional organisations as a source of positive criticism and considered ideas. In the last year it has worked with

- The Government's Chief Construction Adviser, Paul Morrell
- The Green Construction Board where members of the Edge sit on the main Board and the Board's Routemap, Buildings and Knowledge and Skills working groups
- BIS Foresight
- The Technology Strategy Board
- Design Council CABE
- Grosvenor
- The CLUES Project at the Bartlett School of Planning
- Buro Happold on Green Deal wargaming



## Edge workstreams cont...

### 4 Brokerage

Fundamental to the Edge's work is the idea of linkage and making connections between different disciplines and between the worlds of research, practice and policy-making. In the last year this has, as ever, involved working with the Edge's sponsoring professional institutes, their presidents and senior executives; with government and their advisers and agencies; with think tanks, arms-length delivery bodies and pressure groups.

### 5 Thinking

The Edge is a thinking organisation, providing 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 necessary sounding board for the industry only used to dialogue within its own segment.

### 6 Research Edge

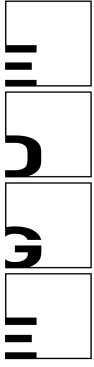
The research Edge is subsidiary group of the Edge working to connect research, practice and policy-making communities in the built environment sector and to promote open access to publicly funded research. There is a particular concern to ensure that information on effective measures to counter and adapt to climate change flows rapidly and effectively between the communities.

The research Edge can provide services, drawing on the knowledge and experience of the Edge family including:

- Brainstorming
- Consultation with both member & other organisations
- Events – presentations, debates & seminars
- Matchmaking and brokerage
- Road testing and providing guinea pig projects
- Reviewing proposals
- Practice input - experience & feedback
- Peer review
- Publishing and information campaigns
- Imprimatur & branding
- Feedback

### 7 Edge connections

The Edge website [www.edgedebate.com](http://www.edgedebate.com) includes reports of the majority of the Edges debates along with think pieces and links to other Edge activities. The Edge also has an on-line debate forum on Linked-in. This is currently restricted to Edge members but it is planned to open it to a wider audience in the coming year.



## Edge Funding

The Edge currently runs without external funding and is dependent on the goodwill and contributions of its members, their employers and its sponsor institutes (the RIBA, ICE, CIBSE, RICS and IStructE). In the recent past the Edge has been generously funded by the Arup Foundation and the Carbon Trust. The Edge is grateful for continuing support from Ramboll.

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 generously host Edge committee meetings on a regular basis.

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 funding for the year 2013-14 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 [sf@architectspractice.com](mailto:sf@architectspractice.com) if you are interesting in discussing this further.

The Edge October 2012