

Edge Debate 53 – 31st January 2013

Construction needs Women, because

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
Dr Garry Felgate
 Chop-Cloc Ltd
Rachel Fisher
 Nation Housing Federation
Prof Max Fordham
 PPCIBSE
 Max Fordham LLP
Andy Ford PPCIBSE
 Mott MacDonald
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;0 futureplanners
Mike Hitchens
 Pell Fritschmann
Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen
 VP Heriot-Watt University
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
 Cullinan Studio
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 Wallwoek
Lynne Sullivan
 sustainableBYdesign
Chris Twinn
 Arup
Prof Lorna Walker
 Lorna Walker Consulting
Bill Watts
 Max Fordham LLP
Elanor Warwick
 Kings College
Jane Wernick
 Jane Wernick Associates
Prof Mark Whitby PPICE
 Davies Maguire + Whitby
Albert Williamson Taylor
 AKT II
Jane Powell
 Debate Secretary

The premise of this Debate is that if there were more women in the Design/Construction/Management Industry the current culture of competition and confrontation could evolve to embrace processes and outcomes that work effectively for all stakeholders. Women's attributes would encourage co-operation and shared goals and enable participants to work together across disciplines to achieve exceptional results and proper engagement with sustainability. In other sectors women are better represented at all levels, so how can the Construction Industry learn from these?

It has been shown that businesses with more senior women on their boards out-perform those with the least, with 42% higher return on sales, 66% higher return on invested capital and 53% higher return on equity (The Bottom Line: Corporate performance and women's representation on boards, Catalyst, 2007). The Davies Report of 2011: 'Women on Boards' called urgently for a more diverse selection of skillsets in the governance of business. In July 2012, the Credit Suisse Research Institute showed that companies with at least some female board representation outperformed those with no women on the board, citing share price improvements of 26% over the past 6 years.

Where do we go from here in the light of such evidence? How can the perceptions and behaviours of both men and women be changed so that they co-operate more effectively? How can policy-makers devise and enforce relevant mechanisms? How can women be encouraged to stay in the Industry, and how can the Industry be influenced to respect the essential role of women? Currently women represent an average 11% of the workforce in our industry.

Can change happen fast enough for better solutions to be achieved, that can support our delicate ecological system, and also help resolve the current financial crisis?

Host: Anne Hedensted Steffensen, Her Excellency the Danish Ambassador in London

Chair: Harvey Francis Murray, Vice-President Skanska UK

Speakers: Katherine Whitehorn, The Observer
 Stephanie Wray, Construction Industry Consultant and Non-Executive Director
 Charlotte Morgan, Linklaters

Suggested hashtag for the Debate #edgewomen.

The Edge is an inter-institutional ginger group involving CIBSE, ICE, RIBA and the RICS and seeks to promote interdisciplinary co-operation between construction professionals. We seek to encourage change in the industry through intellectual debate, political lobbying and inter-institutional working. Synopses of previous debates are recorded on our website www.edgedebate.com

The debate is an invitation only event. If you would like to join us please contact Simon Foxell at sf@architectspractice.com to confirm your place. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.

Venue: Danish Embassy
 55 Sloane Street London SW1X 9SR

Timing: Debate 6.30 - 8.00 pm
 Drinks and networking – 8.30 pm