

place

planning / landscape / architecture / community / environment

25 June 2010

Local Environmental Quality - Streets and Spaces

APSE N.I. Regional Meeting

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Architecture & Built Environment Centre N. Ireland

Established 2004 by RSUA & Belfast City Council to promote understanding, debate & awareness of landscape, townscape, architecture, participation & the broad range of built environment issues.

Part of an international network & the first on the island of Ireland.

Promotes quality through various activities including exhibitions, debates, lectures, lobbying and events devised to engage with the community.



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From Sick Buildings to Healthy Environments

Sick Building Syndrome

- Lethargy, tiredness, fatigue
- Difficulty concentrating
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Skin rash, dry or itchy skin
- Dry throat
- Cough
- General allergic symptoms
- Sensitivity to odours
- Aggravation of other conditions
- Breathing difficulties



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From Sick Buildings to Healthy Environments





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N.I. Built Environment:
Good Examples

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Concept of a Healthy City

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Healthy City Model 1
Leonardo da Vinci

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Influence of early models in N.Ireland

"Town plans are .. no mere diagrams; they are a system of hieroglyphics in which man has written the history of civilisation, and the more tangled their apparent confusion, the more we may be rewarded in deciphering it."

Patrick Geddes, Cities in Evolution, 1950

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Influence of Modern Movement models in N.Ireland




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Modern Movement Influence on NI Roads

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Ideal Models versus Indigenous Landscape

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Back to Front Houses
Throughout our cities, towns and villages we can see examples of houses seemingly designed the wrong way round. Back gardens face onto streets and what should be streets appear like a cul-de-sac parking courts for bin disposal. Designers and road planners have sometimes forgotten to remember that in many street types, a house does not sit outwards to a street with a garden. Can we create roads and streets with visual character and distinction that aid our sense of direction and memory? Can we define 'backing up' as a kind of unobserved neighbourhood?



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Barriers to Healthy Cities



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Building Block 1
Town Centres,
Bridges & Parks



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Building Block 2
Education



PLACE has initiated a pilot for primary schools, showing how the built environment can be used to teach the curriculum.

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Building Block 3
Participation
Royal Exchange / Cathedral Quarter



PLACE has initiated community participation early in the process on real projects including the proposed large mixed-use retail led development Royal Exchange - participants include Cathedral Quarter, Belfast Civic Trust, Neighbours & Conservationists

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Building Block 3
Participation
West Belfast



PLACE has initiated community participation on real projects including the former Andersonstown Barracks



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Creative uses -Vacant Spaces

PLACE has taken occupancy of a vacant retail unit to show that other uses can enrich town centres in the absence of retail.

"The intention of this project is to bring life to parts of the city or other towns in Northern Ireland in areas that may be struggling to find tenants to fill all the shops .. it has a serious purpose in preventing a downward spiral of decline in once-thriving commercial areas."
Sammy Wilson MP MLA,
Minister for Finance and Personnel




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PROMOTE DEVELOP CONNECT

PLACE mission:
to positively influence the creating & sustaining of excellent places & buildings, making N. Ireland an environment of exceptional quality for all.