

**A POLICY ON ARCHITECTURE FOR SCOTLAND
PROGRESS REPORT 2005**



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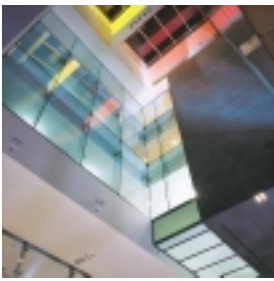
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THE QUALITY OF SCOTLAND'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO OUR OWN QUALITY OF LIFE, BUT TO THE PERCEPTION OF OUR COUNTRY ABROAD AS AN OUTSTANDING PLACE TO LIVE, TO WORK AND TO VISIT.

FOREWORD



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In October 2001, the Scottish Executive published *A Policy on Architecture for Scotland* and we became the first part of the UK to commit ourselves to a formal policy on architecture. Since that time, I believe that we have made significant advances in delivering many of the commitments set out in the policy document, and this report sets out our progress in detail.

Across Scotland, we are seeing a growing interest in good design and the value of well designed architecture and we have sought to nurture this trend. Over the past four years, the National Programme on architecture delivered by The Lighthouse, Scotland's National Centre for Architecture Design and the City has underpinned a series of exhibitions, events, seminars and publications to stimulate debate and to raise awareness of the fundamental importance of architecture to the cultural richness of our society. The quality of Scotland's built environment is important not only to our own quality of life, but to the perception of our country abroad as an outstanding place to live, to work and to visit. As part of the international dimension of policy, our best new architecture has now been exhibited at a variety of key events in Europe, and Scotland was separately represented for the first time at the 2004 Venice Architecture Biennale.

Within the policy document, we indicated that we would be dependent on partnerships to take forward the implementation of policy, and I have been greatly heartened by the response to our call for a partnership approach. The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) and a growing number of other partners have collaborated with the Executive's Architecture Policy Unit on a variety of initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the importance of the quality of Scotland's built environment and the importance of architecture as a cultural phenomenon.

I believe it is important that we maintain our momentum and that we build upon the many achievements of the first years of the policy. As the Minister with responsibility for architecture, I look forward to leading the development of policy in coming years. A policy on architecture must have a long-term focus, and the establishment of Architecture and Design Scotland in April 2005 is an important factor affecting the way in which policy will develop in the future. Architecture and Design Scotland will become a new independent champion for good architecture and design in Scotland's built environment, taking over and expanding the present activities of the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland (RFACS). Its aim is to inspire higher design quality across the public and private sectors which contributes in a positive way to our quality of life and to our built heritage. We have more than doubled the resources previously available to RFACS so that Architecture and Design Scotland can effectively tackle the challenges of ensuring that our built environment, our architecture and our infrastructure are well designed, well thought out and of high quality.

In the earliest days of policy development, the Executive recognised that for a policy on architecture to remain relevant, it would require to respond to the complex and changing nature of built environment issues and it would have to evolve over time. We undertook, therefore, to periodically review our objectives and priorities and to assess the effectiveness of actions taken. When Architecture and Design Scotland has bedded in, and the ways in which the organisation works with us and others to take forward the aims of policy have been tested, the first formal review of policy will take place in 2006.



Patricia Ferguson

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport



**STRATEGY AND
INTENTIONS**

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A central aim of the policy on architecture is to encourage a greater public interest in the built environment and to raise awareness of its importance in the cultural life of Scotland. During the development of policy, we considered that the establishment of a long term strategy for taking forward our advocacy and promotional aims should be an early priority. We believed that a national centre for architecture could provide a clear focus for this strategy and, in the public consultation on the development of policy in 2000, there was strong endorsement for the role of a national architecture centre in raising the profile of architecture in Scotland, in stimulating debate and discussion, in developing initiatives on education, and in encouraging community interest in the built environment.

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The Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Architecture Design and the City, opened in 1999 and is one of the key legacies of Glasgow's year as the UK's City of Architecture and Design. In a very short time, The Lighthouse established itself as an important hub for the creative industries in Scotland, and also established a strong profile and links both in Europe and elsewhere. Through commissioning a National Programme of activities in line with policy, we sought to consolidate the position of The Lighthouse as the national centre for architecture. Funding was initially provided to The Lighthouse for the development of a three year National Programme on architecture. The programme, which includes touring exhibitions, community events and a national website on architecture, has now been extended, with increased funding, to 2008.

We are committed to the promotion of Scottish architecture both at home and abroad. As the National Programme has bedded in and the programme of national touring exhibitions has become firmly established, we have been able to place greater emphasis on international promotion. Our strategy for exhibition development has taken account of priorities in the Executive's *Promotion of Scotland* strategy. In the past year, events have taken place in Catalonia, the Netherlands, France and Italy.

In the framework document, we indicated our belief that the opportunity to develop an understanding of architecture and the built environment should be part of the social and cultural education of all our young people. Because of this, the policy contains a commitment to work to deliver, through the National Grid for Learning (NGfL), online interactive teaching resource material on architecture and the built environment.

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www.buildingconnections.co.uk has been developed with The Lighthouse as a major resource for schoolchildren on the built environment which forms part of the National Grid for Learning. Building Connections brings together educational resources, ideas and case studies from organisations, individuals, schools and local authorities across Scotland, and all content is appropriate for the curriculum in Scottish schools. Building Connections is intended to enhance teaching and learning across the entire curriculum, with stimulating resources to support the development of programmes of study, group work and individual learning.





One of the key objectives of the policy on architecture was to ensure that the planning and building standards systems and their associated processes both promote and facilitate high quality in development. In order to take this objective forward, the Executive made a commitment to review the status, organisation and remit appropriate for a national design review body to provide independent advice on development procedures. We considered this task to be one of the highest priorities during the first years of policy implementation. For over seventy years, the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland (RFACS) has advised Ministers, local authorities and other bodies on questions of amenity and, in particular, major development proposals likely to have strong visual impact, or to be of considerable significance to the environment. In line with the above policy commitment, a fundamental review of RFACS was carried out, and a new body, 'Architecture and Design Scotland' will be set up to replace RFACS from April 2005. The new body will continue the design review function of RFACS, but will have a wider, more proactive role in the promotion and advocacy of good design, and the increased funding and additional activities proposed for the new body will enable it to assist more effectively in the implementation of the policy on architecture.

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Since the launch of policy, we have sought to build stronger relationships with a wide range of bodies and individuals with an interest in the built environment. We are now taking this partnership approach further forward to feed into our strategy, and a Policy on Architecture Progress Group has recently been established drawing together key bodies in Scotland with an interest in the built environment. The principal aims of the Group are to inform Executive decisions on initiatives to take forward the implementation of policy commitments, and to provide a platform to assist in the co-ordination of initiatives between built environment bodies in Scotland.

We have sought to stimulate debate through our policy documents themselves, and this Progress Report continues with that aim in mind. In Section 2 of this report we provide more detail on the ways in which individual commitments have been taken forward, whether by The Lighthouse, with other partners, or by the Executive. Section 3 provides an indication of the main ways in which we see policy developing in future. In Section 4, we have invited architectural writer Mark Cousins to provide his views on the impacts of policy.



PROGRESS REPORT
MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF POLICY

Within this section, reports on progress in meeting policy objectives are set out under each of the 5 key objectives of the policy on architecture

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To promote the value and benefits of good architecture, encourage debate on the role of architecture in national and local life and further an understanding of the products and processes of building design.



An annual £300,000 grant from the Executive to The Lighthouse has funded a National Programme of exhibitions and events in support of the policy on architecture objectives. A central part of this Programme to date has been three national touring exhibitions developed by The Lighthouse to reflect key themes of policy. These exhibitions were complemented by educational and community programmes:

> The **Anatomy of the House** exhibition examined the historical precedents for contemporary house types in Scotland and highlighted issues of affordability, regeneration, innovation and sustainability.

> The **Common-place** exhibition investigated intimate and expansive public places in Scotland and explored the idea that what is interesting about buildings and places is not just how they look – but the way they are conceived and developed and how they fit within the city, town or landscape. Common-place won the Scottish Design Awards' Design Grand Prix in 2004.

> The **Field Trip** exhibition explored the variety of marks that, through the ages, we have made on the landscape of Scotland, and explored the idea that much of what we may think of as our natural landscape is often the product of human intervention.

www.scottisharchitecture.com was launched in June 2002, meeting a policy commitment to develop an online, virtual architecture centre as a national educational and public resource for information, communication and outreach. The web site is intended as a central hub for all available information in the field of Scottish architecture. In addition to the wide range of resources provided, it presents a means to co-ordinate the activities of a range of organisations concerned with the built environment. Now in its third year, it has become a valuable resource, with around 5,000 visitors a month utilising the services available on-line.



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Phase 1 of *SUST: The Lighthouse on Sustainability*, a £600,000 Executive funded initiative which was implemented in 2002-3, involved a programme of 18 projects on sustainability developed by The Lighthouse in partnership with a wide range of organisations who have benefited from the campaign. These include client groups, government agencies, local authorities, professional organisations, academic institutions, architectural practices and other voluntary sector groups. The SUST campaign has now been extended by a further 3 years with an additional £600,000 of investment from the Executive's *Sustainable Action Fund*. The Key objectives of the SUST programme are as follows:

- > to raise public awareness of sustainable design and the contribution it can make in delivering a sustainable future;
- > to improve clients' and client organisations' knowledge and understanding of sustainable design and encourage greater commitment towards a 'green' approach when commissioning new buildings;
- > to highlight and celebrate achievement in sustainable design in Scotland, whilst drawing attention to best practice internationally;
- > to act as a catalyst for a change in attitude on sustainable design, working in partnership with key agencies to mainstream 'green' thinking in the built environment; and
- > to provide educational opportunities for young people linking the themes of green design, sustainability and architecture.

The Executive worked with Learning and Teaching Scotland to develop the Building Connections document and CD ROM, which were launched in May 2002. The publication provides guidance for teachers on the use of the built environment to inform curriculum subjects and other national priorities for education. To support and follow up the guidance document prepared with Learning and Teaching Scotland, teaching resource material was developed for delivery through the National Grid for Learning. The Executive provided £144,000 to The Lighthouse to create the Building Connections website, which was launched in December 2002. The site provides practical tools for teachers to download and also practical studies for pupils and is one of the most comprehensive sources of information for schools on architecture in Europe.

Historic Scotland has an educational remit and has worked with us in a number of areas including the NGfL initiative, where it provided material to use the built heritage as an educational resource. In 2002, we co-sponsored a conference on *Timber and the Built Environment* as part of our commitment to work with Historic Scotland on matters relating to building conservation and traditional materials. In the same year, we co-funded and commissioned a *Timber Cladding in Scotland* publication and, more recently, the Executive supported the 2004 *Building with Scottish Stone* publication to inform building designers on availability, selection and good practice in using Scottish stone. European Heritage Days are partly sponsored by Historic Scotland and take place in Scotland under the title 'Doors Open Days'. It has worked to broaden the social range of participants in the initiative through a variety of means including television advertising.

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A number of exhibitions were staged to take forward the international promotion of Scottish architecture including:

> **Landforms**, developed by The Lighthouse, was shown in Barcelona in September 2003 as part of the *Scotland with Catalonia* programme, working with the British Council. The exhibition, accompanied by a seminar, featured 17 Scottish projects constructed, or in construction, over five years from 1999 to 2004, chosen to reflect the new spirit and sense of identity emerging in Scottish architecture following devolution. *Landforms* has also shown in Utrecht as part of the Scotland in the Netherlands season, and in Marseille as part of the *Made in Scotland* season. *Made in Scotland* was a major showcase of Scottish architecture within the *Entente Cordiale* celebrations in France in 2004. Scotland was separately represented through *Landforms* for the first time at the Venice Architecture Biennale in September 2004.

> **Re:Motion: New Movements in Scottish Architecture** was a touring exhibition curated by The Lighthouse and Graven Images. It was developed as part of the SUST campaign devised on behalf of the Executive and was shown at the inaugural Rotterdam Architecture Biennale in 2003, the theme of which was *mobility*. The exhibition invited eight Scottish architectural practices to consider how mobility and transport impact on our environment and sustainable design thinking.

THE LIGHTHOUSE'S OWN EXHIBITIONS HAVE COMPLEMENTED THOSE OF THE EXECUTIVE. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE *MAGGIE'S* EXHIBITION WHICH ACCOMPANIED NATIONAL PROGRAMME EXHIBITIONS IN MARSEILLE IN 2004 AS PART OF *ENTENTE CORDIALE*. THE *MAGGIE'S* EXHIBITION LOOKS AT THE WAY IN WHICH ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN CAN CREATE ENVIRONMENTS THAT IMPROVE LIVES. THE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN OF EACH OF THE *MAGGIE'S* CANCER CARE CENTRES IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THAT CENTRE. THIS EXHIBITION SHOWS HOW THE *MAGGIE'S* PHILOSOPHY AND THE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN OF EACH CENTRE COMBINE TO CREATE ENVIRONMENTS WHICH ALLOW PEOPLE TO FEEL SUPPORTED AS THEY ADJUST TO LIVING WITH CANCER.



To foster excellence in design, acknowledge and celebrate achievement in the field of architecture and built environment, and promote Scottish architecture at home and abroad.



The Executive has been involved in the creation and support of a number of awards for architecture as follows:

> An award for exemplary achievement in the field of architecture was launched by The Lighthouse in June 2004. The award acknowledges contributions to architecture in its broadest sense and may be awarded to architects, clients, educationalists, filmmakers or other eligible individuals. The first of these awards went to Glasgow Letters on Architecture and Space (GLAS). GLAS is a workers co-operative of architects, designers, and activists who, through design activity, graphic works and writings, question and suggest alternatives to the dominant way in which our built environments are put together. The annual award event also involves a talk by a leading figure in world architecture each year, and the first of these was given by Peter Cook.

> A *Designing Places* award was created for students of planning.

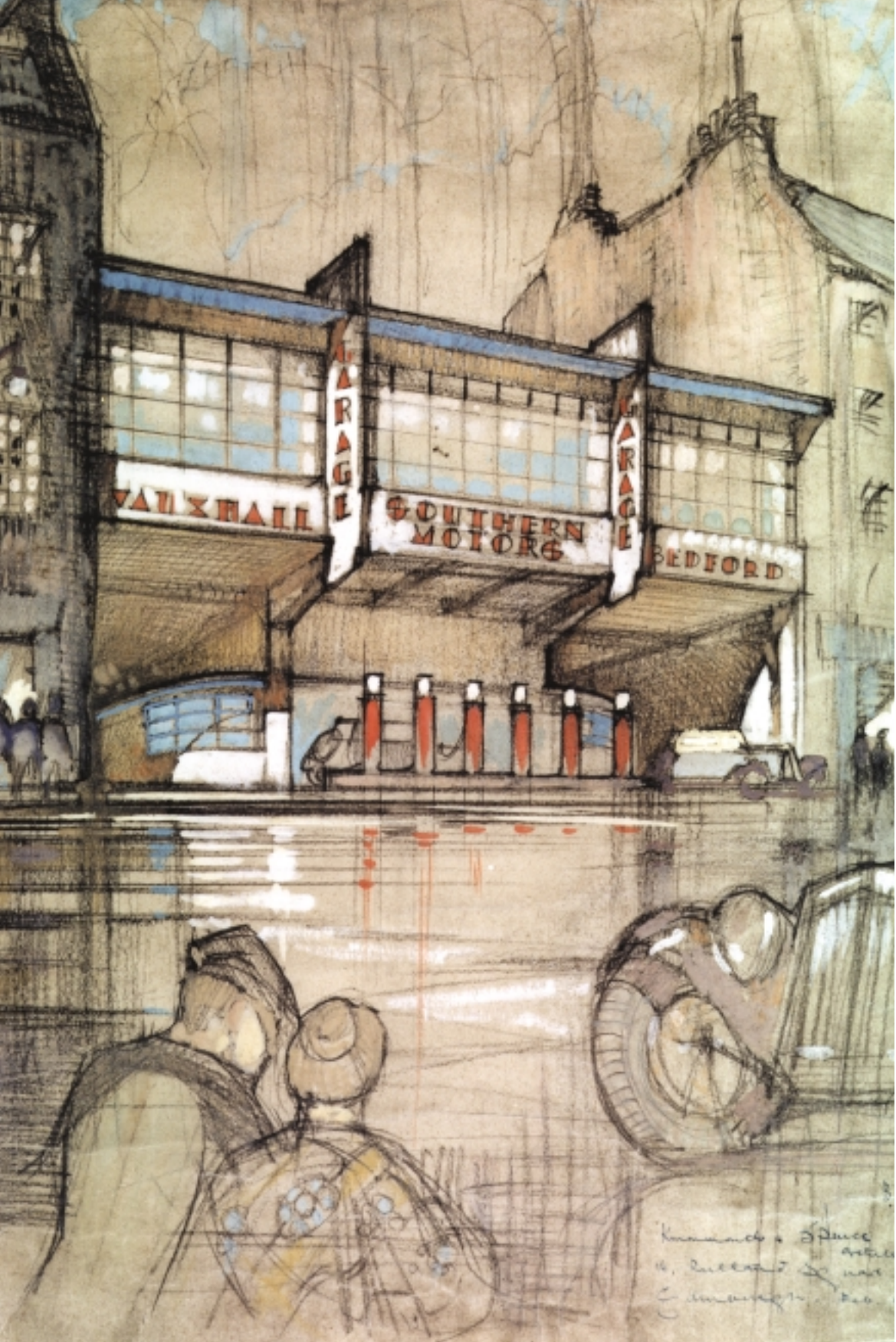
> An architecture student award scheme *SIX* was created as a joint venture between the National Programme and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) incorporating the existing RIAS Silver Medal and reconfiguring Scottish student architecture awards to provide an enhanced public profile. The first annual exhibition of the students' work was held in 2003 in The Lighthouse.

> A Prospect magazine supplement provides a further media showcase for the work of students. The single focus and increased profile of the Awards offers an excellent opportunity for the public and businesses to view the standard of student work.



In 2003, The Lighthouse published *Scottish Architecture 2000-2002*, the first of our bi-annual reviews of Scottish architecture and urban and landscape design. The Executive aims, through these reviews, to identify and explore developing themes in Scottish architecture and to encourage debate. The second review, published in September 2004, was developed in collaboration with the RIAS. Its launch was also marked by the launch of an accompanying exhibition at The Lighthouse.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) is an executive NDPB which surveys and records Scotland's built heritage under international convention. It compiles and maintains a public built heritage archive, and its activities provide support to the policy on architecture, the promotion of tourism and the work of Historic Scotland. The resources of the RCAHMS archive and specialist staff knowledge are frequently used by other organisations and in creating exhibitions and producing publications in support of the policy on architecture and the work of Historic Scotland. RCAHMS and The Lighthouse were jointly commissioned to prepare a series of architecture tourist maps, identifying key historic and contemporary buildings of interest in Scottish cities. The first of these, the Edinburgh Map, was launched in 2003 and the Glasgow Map followed in 2004. Work on maps for Aberdeen and Dundee is now underway and it is our intention to extend the series further. The maps have been distributed to tourist information centres across Scotland. RCAHMS has contributed material to on-line itineraries available through scottisharchitecture.com and has also contributed educational material to buildingconnections.co.uk. The Executive provided support enabling RCAHMS to bring the 'Culture 2000' exhibition 'One hundred houses for one hundred European architects of the twentieth century' (three of whom were Scottish) to Scotland to The Lighthouse.



OBJECTIVE

To encourage greater interest and community involvement in matters affecting local built environments.



The Lighthouse has developed a community programme with a series of projects aimed at achieving a wide geographical coverage, reaching different types of communities and engaging with a wide range of issues. Each of the three touring exhibitions curated by The Lighthouse was also accompanied by community based seminars, exploring ideas and issues raised by the exhibitions in depth. Local cultural organisations have been encouraged by The Lighthouse to include architecture in their programmes, and the touring exhibitions have enabled a number of venues in a wide range of places across Scotland to do this. The community programme has included projects such as:

> The *Girvan masterplan project*, in which architects were commissioned to develop a catalogue of ideas to enable local residents to envision the potential for their town.

> The *Campbeltown community project*, which involved workshops with architects, artists and local groups to build a small scale intervention to improve a public space.

> The *Big Issue community project*, which comprised a series of activities/ workshops allowing Big Issue vendors a voice in Glasgow City Council's consideration of possible alternative accommodation for 2,000 people in Glasgow following a hostel closure.

> The *At Home in the City project* explored ways for schools of architecture to engage with local communities in their teaching programmes. A year long competition project involving senior students from the Strathclyde and Mackintosh schools of architecture addressed housing issues in the Gallowgate area of Glasgow. The project involved a 'live' site, identified by Glasgow Housing Association (GHA), and the outcomes fed into the GHA's strategy for the area.

Innovation Fund grants were managed by The Lighthouse to encourage built environment related projects within communities and to encourage new architectural initiatives and the development of an architectural network at local level. Eighteen projects have been awarded funding to date. The grant awards have had a wide geographical spread and have included projects set in Peterhead, Dundee and St Andrews, projects with regional impact across the Highlands and North East Scotland, and projects having a national basis.

RCAHMS makes on-line access to the Commission's heritage database available through a system called 'Computer Application for National Monuments Record Enquiries' (CANMORE). It contains details of around 250,000 archaeological sites, ancient monuments, buildings and maritime sites in Scotland and also provides an index to the catalogued collections of RCAHMS. CANMAP, an on-line map searching service for the Commission's computerised heritage database was launched in 2002, allowing anyone with access to the web to zoom in, through various mapping scales, to any geographical area in Scotland. Users are able to see the distribution of archaeological sites and buildings of historical interest located in their chosen area, and are then able to find out more about any selected site by using the in-built link to CANMORE. An *Images on CANMORE* enhancement, making images directly accessible through the internet, was launched in 2004, greatly increasing its value as a worldwide public resource. Over 60,000 images are already available for download, and additional images are constantly being added. PASTMAP, which provides links with scheduled monuments and listed buildings was also added in 2004.

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There has never been a clear guide to each archaeological site and historic building in Scotland, and a new initiative *Accessing Scotland's Past* (ASP) aims to address this by providing a short descriptive account of many sites and buildings, and a guide to where further information can be discovered. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, RCAHMS is currently running ASP as a 'proof of concept' for one year in a limited geographical area. The target areas chosen are the Cairngorms, in Aberdeenshire and Moray, and the Merse, in the Scottish Borders. The project is being run in partnership with the local authority archaeologists for Moray, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Borders Council.



OBJECTIVE To promote a culture of quality in the procurement of publicly-funded buildings that embraces good design as a means of achieving value for money.



Architecture policy contains a commitment to work to ensure that design quality is properly taken into account in the guidance, training and advice made available to Executive clients for construction projects. Policy and procedural guidance for construction works projects, which promotes design quality and value for money for Executive Departments, Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies is contained within Building Division's Client Pack. The Executive recognises that true value for money is a mixture of both tangible and intangible benefits and that sound, creative building design is an essential part of this equation.

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Strategies for improving quality in health and school buildings are presently a matter of high priority in the Executive's own thinking, and the Architecture Policy Unit is currently in discussion with the Executive's Health Department regarding the promotion of design quality issues in health sector procurement. Given the high level of investment by the Executive in new school building, we are determined that the building programme should deliver high-quality, inspiring and well-designed learning and teaching environments. A number of initiatives to drive up the design quality of our new schools have been carried out as part of the *school estate strategy* as follows:



- > Conferences on school building design were held in 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- > The Executive's *School Design* booklet, published in 2003 as part of our *school estate strategy*, provides guidance on school design for local authorities and other stakeholders with an interest in school building design.
- > A seminar on a sustainable approach to the design and operation of schools was held in July 2004, and this was followed in December 2004 by a *Sustainability* booklet as part of the *school estate strategy*.
- > Guidance on the preparation of output specifications for school Public Private Partnerships (PPP) projects was published in 2004 as part of the *school estate strategy*.
- > Guidance on evaluating and learning from completed school projects was published in 2004 as part of the *school estate strategy*.
- > The *Sustainable Schools Project* funded by the Executive's Future Learning and Teaching (FLaT) Programme explored new design scenarios for school buildings through a workshop based model centred on real schools, with collaboration between local authorities, international and local design professionals, teachers and young people themselves. Schools design workshops were held in January 2003 involving Scottish and international architects and led to the publication of a booklet and CD-ROM, later in 2003.
- > The FLaT project *Design for Learning – The 21st Century School* is a 3 year £750,000 programme presently underway (2003-2006) to help generate ideas for school buildings which will inspire and motivate teachers and pupils to maximise their individual and collective educational potential. Two publications, *Design Strategies* and *From Consultation to Design* have been produced as part of this work to date.

A focus on good design is increasingly recognised as an prerequisite in strategies for the future development of our cities. This is evidenced by the recent appointment of Sir Terry Farrell as the City Design Champion for Edinburgh City Council and the intention of Glasgow City Council to create a similar post.

INSPIRING

HIGH-QUALITY, **INSPIRING** AND WELL-DESIGNED LEARNING AND TEACHING ENVIRONMENTS

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OBJECTIVE To ensure that planning and building standards systems and their associated processes both promote and facilitate design quality in development.



As a non Departmental Public Body, the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland (RFACS) was included in the Executive's 2001 Review of Public Bodies. The review concluded that, whilst RFACS carried out an important and necessary function, a more fundamental review was required to consider the status, organisation and remit appropriate for a modernised design review body in the context of the policy on architecture. In October 2002, Ministers announced the outcome of the second review and their intention to set up Architecture and Design Scotland; extending the remit of RFACS to create a more proactive organisation which will act as the national champion for good architecture, design and planning in the built environment. The legal, organisational and locational issues have been addressed and the new body will come into operation in April 2005.

Designing Places was published in November 2001, and sets out the Scottish Executive's policy on design quality in new development. It sits alongside the *Policy on Architecture* and seeks to demonstrate the value and importance of good design. Its publication marked the determination of the Executive to raise standards of new urban and rural developments that are considered by the planning system. It also provided the foundation for a series of related and more detailed documents:

- > Planning Advice Note (PAN) 67: *Housing Quality*, published in February 2003, sets out the Executive's aspirations for Scotland's housing and explains how *Designing Places* should be applied to new housing.
- > PAN 68: *Design Statements*, published in August 2003, emphasises the value and importance of design statements in support of planning applications.
- > PAN 71: *Conservation Area Management* This PAN identifies good practice for managing change. It provides a checklist for appraising conservation areas and provides advice on funding and implementation. Conservation areas are living environments where change must be carefully managed.
- > PAN 72: *Housing in the Countryside* focuses mainly on urban housing. PAN 72 supersedes, updates and replaces PAN 36 on the *Siting and Design of Housing in the Countryside*. New developments in the countryside, if properly planned, sited and designed, should contribute to the quality of a landscape.

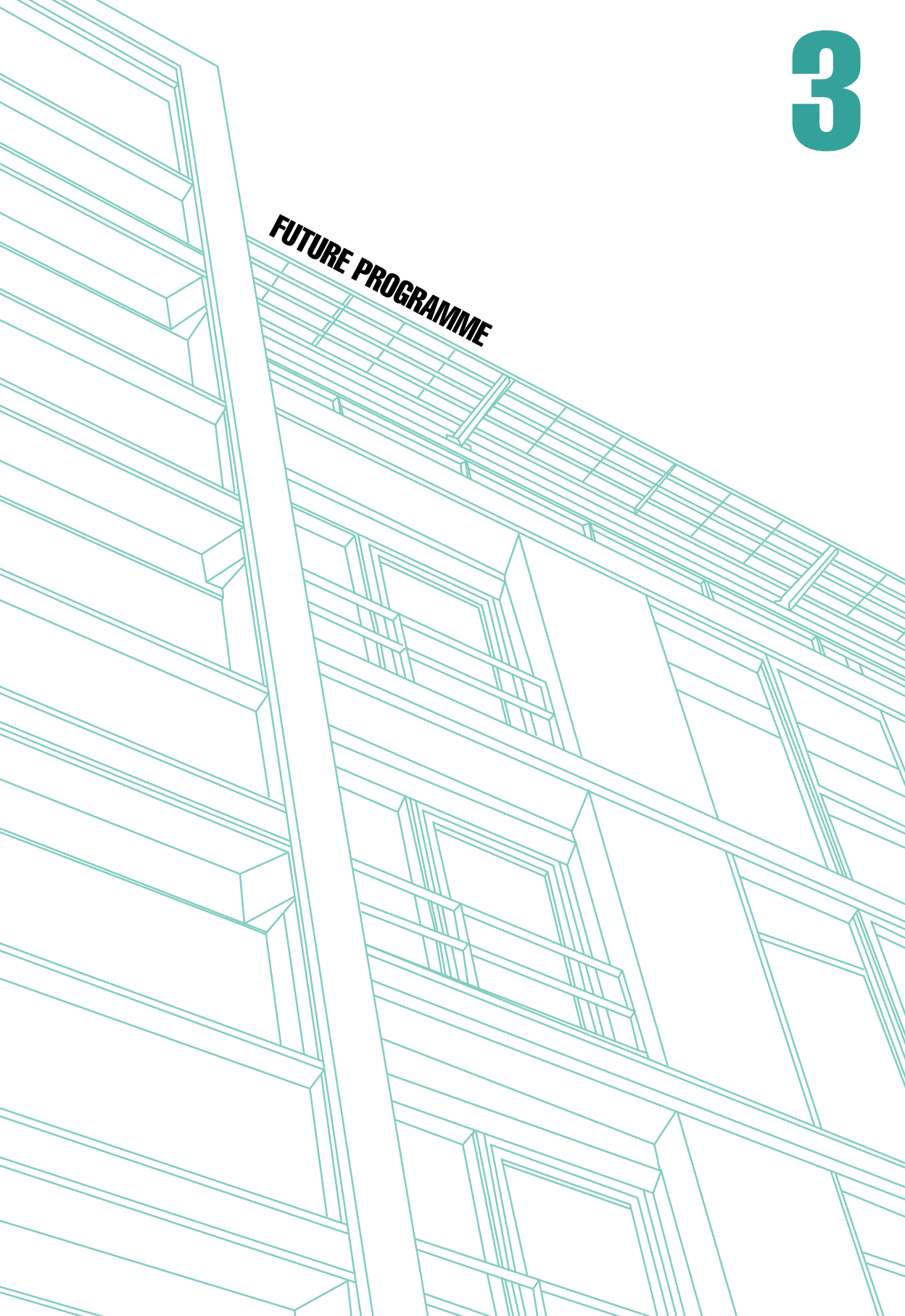
Further related publications are proposed.

The Scottish Executive continues to promote the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning, which in 2005 will achieve its 9th annual event.

The new Scottish Building Standards Agency was established in 2004 and the Agency will be seeking to spread understanding of the new building standards system, and to take in ideas for continuous improvement. A new act, the Building (Scotland) Act 2003, has been passed with the aim of introducing a new building control system in May 2005. The new system is designed to be more flexible and faster in response. It is intended to be a system that is more responsive to the needs of industry and the public, while supporting the Executive's aims of providing excellence in public services and encouraging sustainable development. The new form of building regulation will allow designers greater freedom to innovate and tailor designs to specific sites. Existing buildings, including historic buildings, will also be treated in a more flexible way.



FUTURE PROGRAMME



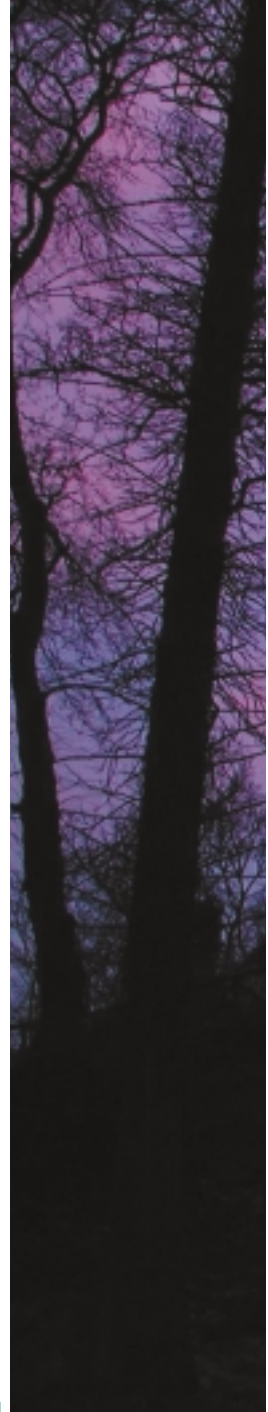


The Architecture Policy Unit provides support to Ministers on questions related to architecture and the built environment; and is responsible for taking forward the commitments of the policy on architecture. The aim of the Unit is to contribute to a better physical environment through promoting and encouraging better architecture and to provide a 'think tank' on architecture and design as a cross-cutting issue. The Unit presently undertakes the sponsorship of RCAHMS and RFACS and, from April 2005, will assume sponsorship of Architecture and Design Scotland. The future role of the Unit will involve co-ordinating the work of Architecture and Design Scotland and the National Programme and other Executive initiatives delivered by The Lighthouse. The Unit will also undertake a full review of policy in 2006 which will take into account the views on architecture of the Cultural Commission, following the publication of the report on its review of culture in Scotland in June 2005.

POLICY PROGRESS GROUP

Our strategy for the future development of the policy on architecture will also be informed by key bodies in Scotland with an interest in the built environment. The inaugural meeting of the Policy on Architecture Progress Group, which has been established to take forward this aim, was held in November 2004.

Our future considerations will reflect the work of the Group, however, the following section provides an overview of key developments in policy:





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ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN SCOTLAND

Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS) will be formally established in April 2005. The aim of A&DS is to raise the quality of new development, so that high standards of layout and design are the rule, not the exception. A&DS will also act as an enabling body to assist in delivering and promoting quality across Scotland, operating within the Executive's policy framework on architecture and design, as well as in partnership with a range of bodies (both the private and public sector) to help turn the aspirations of policy into reality. Overall, the development of well designed and attractive cities, towns and villages will support Ministers' determination to make Scotland a better place to live, work and visit.

The role of A&DS is to be proactive in promoting the qualities and benefits of good design by:

- > **inspiring** excellence in all kinds of development from housing estates to major cultural buildings, and in all parts of the country;
- > **encouraging** high quality public buildings (e.g. schools and hospitals) and public places;
- > **stimulating and supporting** a demand for better design by clients and the public for better design from investors, developers and the design professions;
- > **working** in partnership with local authorities, government agencies, professional bodies, Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and, where appropriate, local communities to develop effective design policies, frameworks and guidance;
- > **improving** skills in design of the built environment through training by working with universities and professional bodies;
- > **communicating and disseminating** key messages, in a clear and accessible form, on architecture and design to a wide audience, including the media;
- > **building up** evidence which demonstrates the value of investment in good design;
- > **considering** new thinking on how the built environment needs to respond to drivers such as climate change, technological advances and demographic changes.

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A&DS will be an approachable organisation able to offer informal and impartial advice to a range of stakeholders involved in the design process. Examples of the type of advice which can be sought include details on commissioning buildings, best practice in drawing up master plans and help with the wording of design policies in development plans. A&DS will confirm in writing if it is unable to offer advice.

One of the first tasks of A&DS will be to engage with the people responsible for, or with an interest in, the built environment across Scotland. This consultation exercise lead by A&DS will help to establish the nature and priority of the type of work required, as well as fine tuning some operational details.

A Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) document published in February 2005 outlines the body's role in more detail, with particular reference to how A&DS will engage with the planning system.

RCAHMS

40 RCAHMS compiles, maintains and curates a publicly available archive and database called *The National Monuments Record of Scotland* (NMRS); and a key element of its work is to promote an understanding of the archaeological and historical information it records by all appropriate means. The NMRS is a cultural and educational resource of great importance, and Scotland is leading the rest of the UK in the quality and size of the archive, as well as in the development of web-based access. The rapid growth of the NMRS has put considerable pressure on storage facilities for the archive, and the Executive has recently allocated capital finance of £12 million over the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 to create a new remote storage building. This will provide accommodation for the increasing quantity of collections being deposited with the Commission. It will ensure that the collections are cared for under optimal environmental conditions and it will enable the development of improved public access to these collections.





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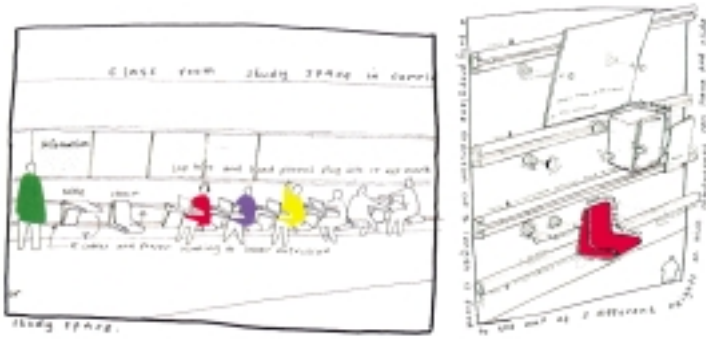
THE LIGHTHOUSE AND THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME

The National Programme on architecture delivered by The Lighthouse will remain a cornerstone of the policy over the next three years, building on the successful work carried out since 2001. The funding for the Programme will rise to £350,000 per annum in 2007-08. The National Programme will continue to raise public awareness of architecture and design through a series of exhibitions, events and other activities. It will continue to promote and celebrate the best in Scottish architecture through publications, and scottisharchitecture.com will remain a key strand of activity. An increasing emphasis on educational work for young people will also take place through the Building Connections initiative in the next phase of the National Programme's development.



SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME

For the second phase of the SUST programme delivered by The Lighthouse, there will be increased emphasis on raising awareness and education, targeting client groups, local authorities and others who have a responsibility for commissioning buildings. The development of an overarching 'E-Centre' for the project is a logical development of the resources available. A key objective of the programme will be to facilitate clients' consideration and adoption of a more holistic approach to the design, construction and management of the built environment. Other tools and techniques developed in Phase 1 which are supportive of this objective such as the Green Directory and the Ecological Design Gateway will be maintained. The guide to sustainable issues in schools in December 2004 was one of the first outputs of Phase 2. This is also linked to the development of further schools guidance and partnership working among stakeholders.



THE FUTURE LEARNING AND TEACHING (FLaT) PROGRAMME DESIGN FOR LEARNING: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

The FLaT programme delivered by The Lighthouse will provide schools with the resources and ideas to challenge orthodoxy, to explore their visions of the future and get to grips with the key drivers for change in school buildings. The programme is based on generating the right knowledge to make best use of the resources being channelled into the school estate so that design solutions can respond effectively and imaginatively to the technological, social, cultural changes in our economy and working practices. Key programme aims are:

- > highlighting and disseminating good practice in the design and procurement of school buildings via a series of Scotland-wide seminars and publications;
- > developing, through workshop scenarios, a number of design solutions addressing a range of issues which are considered to have a bearing on learning outcomes;
- > developing the right partnerships between local authorities, service providers, designers, teachers and pupils to help deliver tangible solutions that can make a difference in practice.

PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT

In line with the Prime Minister's *Better Public Buildings* initiative, Building Division, in consultation with the Architecture Policy Unit, is developing a new section for the Client Pack providing guidance on achieving design quality in public sector building procurement. This Section will be completed end of March 2005.

BEST BUILDING IN SCOTLAND AWARD

The RIAS Award for Architecture for the Best Building in Scotland was established in 2002 and, over the three years since its launch, has gathered increasing publicity and prestige. Building projects of all sizes and types which demonstrate innovation, design excellence and competence are eligible for the award. From 2005, the Executive will provide £15,000 support per annum for the Award.

SIX CITIES FESTIVAL

The First Minister's St Andrew's Day speech in 2003 outlined a vision for Scotland as a creative hub, using the nation's creativity as a key national resource. Work is presently underway to explore the feasibility of a festival to help to achieve that vision. *6 Cities* is a new initiative supported by the Executive and developed by The Lighthouse to celebrate, promote and develop Scotland's creative industries at an international, national and citywide level. The proposal is to initiate a nation-wide biennial festival of creative design centring on Scotland's six cities, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Stirling. The project forms part of the programme of crosscutting bi-lateral initiatives agreed between the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning.

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR ARCHITECTURAL POLICIES

In 1999, under the Finnish Presidency of the European Union, proposals to create a forum for co-operation between EU states were developed. The first formal meeting of the European Forum for Architectural Policies took place under the French Presidency in 2001, and a Resolution of the Council of the European Union on architectural quality was agreed and published in a formal document.

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The Scottish Executive will host an event during the UK Presidency in the second half of 2005. The three day event will take place in Glasgow and Edinburgh, with a strong focus on the new Scottish Parliament building. The proposed theme is "Identity and Democracy".

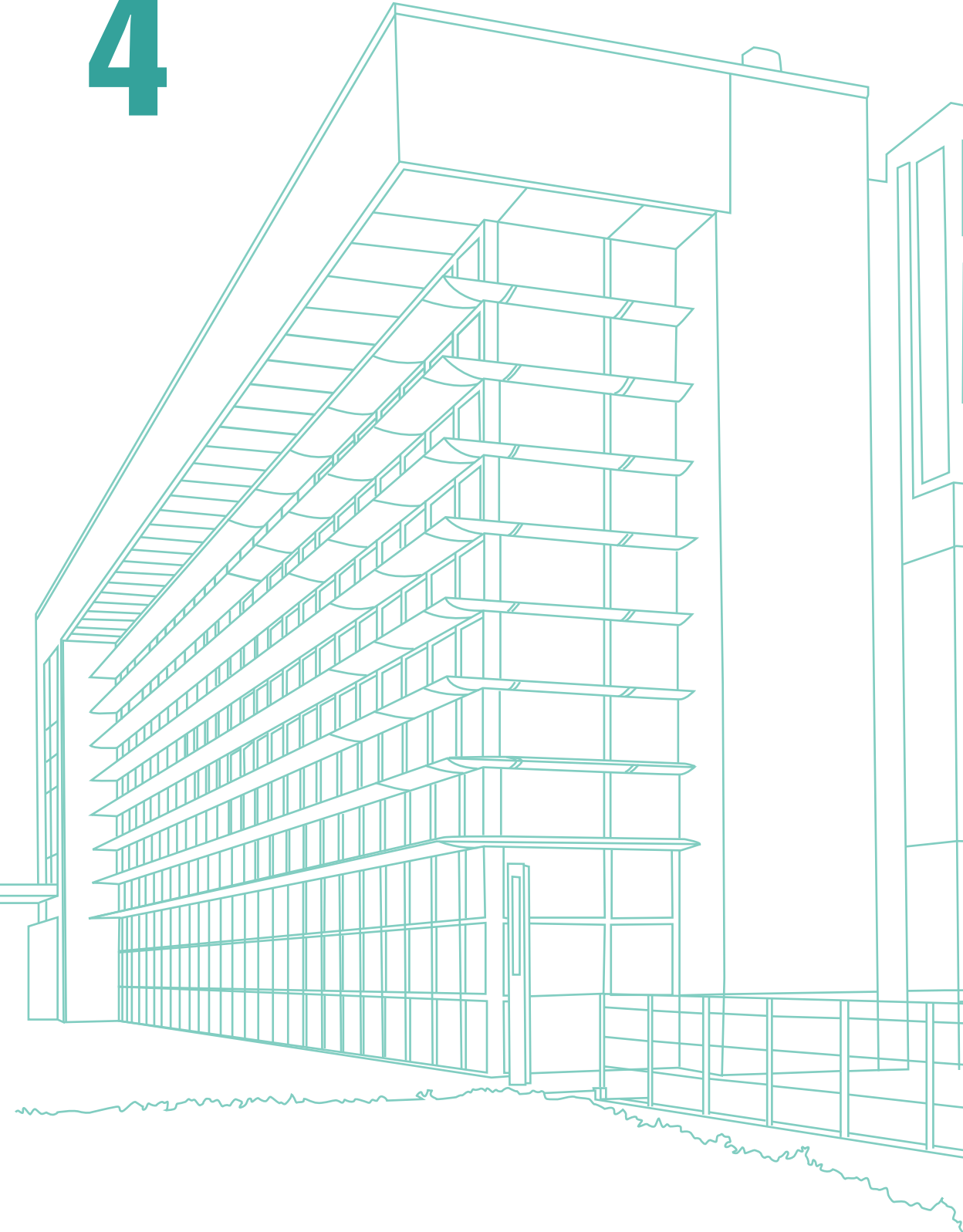
SUMMARY

The quality of our built environment has a key role in making Scotland one of the best small countries in the world, valued as an outstanding place to visit, work and live. Through better design, a built environment can be created which future generations will enjoy and appreciate. The Executive will continue to develop its design agenda in partnership with a wide range of agencies and organisations who can contribute to making Scotland a place where the value and benefits of good architecture and design are fully appreciated.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPACTS OF POLICY

ARCHITECTURAL WRITER, MARK COUSINS SETS OUT HIS INVITED VIEWS

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EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The professions (and architecture in particular) are often seen as opaque and somewhat indifferent to the concerns of ordinary people. Architects invariably fall into a number of popular stereotypes ranging from visionary hero to pedantic dilettanti; dedicated professional to cultured aesthete. Some architects combine many of the above traits but the Policy on Architecture endeavours (in part) to recast the architect as a populist facilitator. Consequently, architecture as a Fine Art is played down in the Policy and the more expansive term Built Environment favoured as the means to engage with the general public and school children in particular.

Education is often cited as the measure of a civilized society and historically Scotland has had an enviable record in this regard. However, the rally cry of "Education, Education, Education" has been subject to intense scrutiny of late. Currently education policy is moving away from the accumulation of hard facts and knowledge to one which influences children's behaviour and promotes the concept of active citizenship. This encompasses both emotional and academic intelligence.

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The potential of the built environment to stimulate children's imagination and engender an understanding of society was a key element in the development of the Policy. It was argued that its incorporation into the school's pedagogic framework would promote new learning experiences and opportunities across the curriculum, and enrich subjects as diverse as geography, technology and religious education.

In May 2002 the then Deputy Minister with responsibility for architecture Dr. Murray launched "Building Connections: the Curriculum and the Built Environment" embodied in a 22-page booklet and accompanying CD ROM. Some 4,500 copies were produced and sent to all schools in Scotland. The material was attractively produced, employed a teacher-friendly vocabulary and was augmented by an dedicated website www.buildingconnections.co.uk.

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HE WHO IS WITHOUT VISION WILL NEITHER BE ABLE
TO FULFIL GREAT HOPES NOR REALIZE GREAT PLANS.

Thomas Woodrow Wilson

Most commentators accept the benefits of developing a deeper understanding of the built environment, but has this message found a tangible outlet in every classroom? It is self-evident that individual headmasters wield considerable influence and act as gatekeepers. Although the values and objectives enshrined in this initiative have a 5-10 year shelf life, the website needs to be up-dated regularly if it is to remain fresh. Having established this excellent resource, it would be prudent now to undertake a qualitative and quantitative assessment to gauge the success of the 'Building Connections' initiative and what improvements might be introduced to enshrine it within the school curriculum.

The Policy has instigated a number of research projects to encourage architects and other stakeholders to examine and embrace social inclusion issues. It is hoped that this will consolidate links between disparate government agencies and ensure architecture plays a greater role in the delivery of social justice and community objectives. The Policy on Architecture needs to be central to the government's drive to improve people's lives. Only then can we reflect on Thomas Woodrow Wilson's assertion that: "*He who is without vision will neither be able to fulfil great hopes nor realize great plans.*"

SUSTAINABILITY

The dominance of our market-driven economy and the irresistible rise of a sound bite culture has spawned the curious phenomena whereby our buildings are now being 'branded' (somewhat like desirable consumer products). The implications for the built environment are potentially ruinous because the complex subtleties and infinite number of considered details (evident in the best architecture) are often expunged in favour of brand identification and the rigorous pursuit of a distinctive style. Sadly, the mere mention of certain star-architects' names can trigger instant recognition and engender a sense of predetermined quality, and the misguided belief that the building (like the imported beer) will be reassuringly expensive.

Brands and labels are invariably interchangeable and relatively disposable but our long term investment in building schools, hospitals, homes and workplaces cannot be shackled to the vagaries of fashion. Architecture is part of the continuum and should endure; it should transcend the superficial and make a dynamic contribution to the built environment. Environmental considerations have become crucial in the assessment of good buildings, and the combination of dwindling natural resources and global warming have reinforced the arguments in favour of more sustainable development.

Unfortunately, the term sustainable is much abused and over-used, but sustainability encompasses not only environment and energy issues but also social and economic factors. The development of 'green' architecture as an identifiable brand, however, remains somewhat ambiguous. It must become more mainstream and eschew out-dated associations with esoteric, hand-knitted, muesli-munching sects. The task is to convince sceptics that sustainability, once seen as a superfluity, is now a necessity.

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The Scottish Executive's architecture unit (who introduced the Policy on Architecture) is allied to, and reliant on, various government departments and agencies (such as the Sustainable Development Team) in order to realise particular projects and proposals. The Policy recognised the significance of partnering arrangements and therefore has targeted three specific sectors - clients, community groups and architects - with a view to pursuing a more sustainable approach.

The Policy on Architecture programme on sustainability comes under the banner heading of SUST and has been managed by The Lighthouse. A variety of initiatives have been initiated including:

➤ **Seminars:** a number of focused seminars have been organised to probe issues pertinent to the sustainable growth of Scotland's cities and an international conference: with key presenters from around Europe was held to share best practice relating to urban ecology;

➤ **Green Directory:** an online catalogue of environmentally benign building products from Scotland;

➤ **Courses:** bespoke training courses for housing association staff and elected committee members (many of whom are elderly);

➤ **Exhibitions:** the 'Re:motion' exhibition proved a provocative response to the dilemma of sustainable transportation and infrastructure shortfalls;

➤ **Connections:** the programme has evolved a good working relationship with local authority officials, politicians and other relevant bodies such as the American Institute of Architects;

➤ **www.sust.org:** the website provides on-line access to reports, documents and case studies on most of the initiatives that formed the pilot programme.

While such programmes are laudatory, they are only a start, and the real measure is whether such good intentions carry through into practice. Hopefully the new accreditation scheme (operated by SUST in conjunction with the RIAS) will act as a useful conduit for clients to consider the appointment of 'green' architects. Practices' ecological credentials will be assessed, monitored and accreditation will hopefully prove more than just another superficial label.

THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Lighthouse (Scotland's National Centre for Architecture, Design and the City) is acknowledged as one of the most respected Architecture + Design Centres in Europe. The Lighthouse occupies the former Glasgow Herald building designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1895 which was extensively revamped to provide a base for Glasgow's Year of Architecture + Design in 1999. Its remit under the National Programme has been to promote excellence, encourage access, exhibit the best, develop people's skills and galvanise the Creative Industries. The Programme encompasses a variety of initiatives, exhibitions, lectures and activities all intended to realize the aims and aspirations of the Policy on Architecture.

Although instigated and funded by the Scottish Executive, the National Programme has been developed and managed by The Lighthouse, and the two organisations have evolved a mutually beneficial, symbiotic relationship. Indeed The Lighthouse was able to boast (on the occasion of its 5th birthday celebration) that the National Programme had delivered a variety of initiatives including the following:

- ten exhibitions (four of which toured, one internationally) attracting some 56,784 visitors;
- three seminars attracting 288 participants;
- twenty-two talks attracting 781 participants;
- various educational workshops and activities attracting 398 participants (with 50% being school children).

An underlying ambition of the Policy has been to connect with different communities throughout Scotland, break down prejudices and kick start a meaningful dialogue between the public and the professionals. This robust and proactive approach has spawned a number of site specific projects in Girvan, Campbeltown, Tiree and the Isle of Bute.

The Lighthouse has proved an invaluable conduit in promulgating the Policy's primary objectives, including raising public awareness and celebrating architecture's contribution to Scottish culture. Certainly the dedicated funding for the 5-year programme has strengthened the position of The Lighthouse itself and provided further economic security for the national Centre.

The exhibition programme has garnered much praise and is perhaps the most tangible outcome of the Policy. Each year a specific theme is explored such as 'Anatomy of the House' which looked at the domestic realm, illustrating historic precedents for modern forms and the sheer diversity of housing types across Scotland from the humble croft to the suburban villa. This was followed by 'Common-place' which examined the public realm and the changing relationship between ownership and space. Examples included swirling organic grassy landforms (reputed to mimic Chaos Theory) and a bespoke belvedere (intended to instil a sense of reverie and contemplation). Then 'Field Trip' examined the changing nature of Scotland's landscape through human intervention over time. Using selected routes, a variety of landscapes, marks, buildings and structures show the "unnatural" landscape as an evolving cultural and recreational facility.

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Following a high profile launch at The Lighthouse each exhibition has then toured Scotland. Finding suitable venues to receive these venues is challenging, however Kirkcaldy, Portree, Fraserburgh, Orkney, Selkirk, Aberdeen and Dundee have enjoyed an enthusiastic response from the general public. Special preview events have been organised for school teachers who can then inspire their classes.

Since its inception the Innovation Fund has facilitated a number of idiosyncratic projects submitted by a broad cross-section of the community. Awards are usually limited to £1,000-£5,000 and work has ranged from launching a regional website, curating an exhibition or subsidising promotional literature. The Lighthouse mounts a small exhibition each year but the work deserves greater public exposure.

The Lighthouse has cultivated many useful links with business and sympathetic entrepreneurs. However, it cannot become too complacent about this burgeoning synergy and must continue to challenge and confront relevant issues. It is imperative that the welter of high-minded conferences, trumpeted reports and earnest exhortations start to make a difference in the 'real' world if we are to escape nit-picking parochialism.

WEBSITE AND PUBLICATIONS

The First Minister's St Andrew's Day Speech in 2003 acknowledged that:

FOR YEARS OUR CULTURE, ALONG WITH SOME OF OUR MOST TALENTED PEOPLE, HAS BEEN SCOTLAND'S GREAT GIFT TO THE WORLD. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT TODAY, THE WORLD CONTINUES TO SEE HOW SUCCESSFUL A CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY AND CULTURE WE ARE.

Most would agree that the printed word can be a powerful ally in this task but an increasing number of people now seem to have compressed their view of the world to just three letters, www. The exponential growth of the World Wide Web has been breathtaking and the supremacy of the book may be under threat but it remains one of the most effective and accessible means to disseminate information and ideas.

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In promoting the tenets of the Policy on Architecture a plethora of press releases, posters, leaflets, booklets and catalogues have been generated. Most of the major exhibitions (including 'Anatomy of the House', 'Common-place' and 'Re:motion') have been supported by an accompanying catalogue but perhaps the most significant publications have been the bi-annual reviews. 'Scottish Architecture 2000-2002' (ISBN 0-9536533-5-8) published by The Lighthouse comprises a number of challenging essays alongside twenty-six notable Scottish buildings completed during 2000-2002. Featured projects range from the ultra-modern, timber slatted Mount Stuart Visitor Centre to the turf-roofed, Nissen hut 'pods' originally seen in the BBC's popular 'Castaway' series. The recently published 2002-2004 review "Architecture in Scotland" (ISBN 1-905061-00-5) adopts a similar format but more effort is needed to ensure a wider distribution to design book stores across the globe.

The Policy's own website **www.scottisharchitecture.com** was launched in June 2002 and has proved remarkably successful to date. Registration is not required and access is free to all. However, the life span of such sites is often surprisingly short and it will need to be kept rigorously up-to-date, and periodically recast, if it is to keep pace with technology and avoid feeling stale.

The site has already had one major redesign (in response to users' comments) and is managed by The Lighthouse. It is up-dated weekly with breaking news stories and diary items gleaned from trawling both national sources (such as the broadsheet newspapers and the BBC's website) and professional journals (such as the *Architect's Journal* and *Building Design*).

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The site has grown expansive and didactic. Dialogue and debate have been encouraged, and a series of articles have been commissioned (under the banner title 'Cranespotting') on pertinent topics such as the massive Granton Waterfront and Clydeside regeneration projects.

Visits to virtual buildings (perhaps never actually built or tragically lost) are always popular but such 'ghee whizz' sites are expensive to construct and soak up a disproportionate amount of funds. Nonetheless the sheer diversity and inclusive nature of **www.scottisharchitecture.com** is commendable. In many ways it is a pioneering project; certainly few other countries have such a comprehensive web-based resource which ties together the many threads which comprise a nation's architecture.



CHANGE IS INEVITABLE.

IN A PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY CHANGE IS CONSTANT.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Architecture has always been an integral part of our everyday lives and no-one can doubt the relevance of good design to society's well-being. However, architecture is enmeshed in politics and reflects the particular mores of our time.

It is essential, therefore, to see the profession in a wider context i.e. as part of the Creative Industries. This cluster includes publishing, film making, manufacturing, etc. and generates an estimated £10 billion turnover with architecture and design accounting for approximately 10% overall. However, the Architecture Policy (despite pressure from some quarters) is not an economic policy and is thankfully bereft of the usual governmental platitudes to employment statistics or explicit financial promises. Nonetheless architecture does contribute to our export drive and helps bolster Scotland's reputation abroad.

Disney's fanciful version of 'Brigadoon' buckled under a surfeit of garish plaid and Highland laddies whereas Disraeli dismissed Scotland as a land of oatcakes and sulphur. However, he also wrote (during a visit to Edinburgh in 1867) that "...change is inevitable. In a progressive country change is constant".

The decision to appoint the Catalanian Enric Miralles as architect of the new Scottish Parliament signalled a determination to banish cozy tartan stereotypes and fashion a more contemporary vision. Certainly RMJM/EMBT's parliament building has generated an enormous interest abroad and will undoubtedly lead to an influx of tourists. Miralles may even repeat Gehry's trick at Bilbao but such transformative effects are unpredictable. The genuine excitement surrounding the Parliament's opening was undeniably evident, but its real impact on the architectural psyche of Scotland remains to be seen.

The Lighthouse has built an enviable reputation in its particular field and is seen as a forward-looking institution with strong international connections. It has hosted various touring exhibitions and international guest speakers and has embarked on a number of joint projects with Arc en Rêve Centre d'Architecture (France), Vitra Design Museum (Germany), Gammel Dok Architecture Centre (Denmark), Arkitektur Museet (Sweden) and Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum (USA).

The cost of transporting, insuring and installing major exhibitions can be prohibitive but a number of Scottish exhibitions (namely 'Field Trip', 'Landforms' and 'Maggie's') are travelling to Marseille to mark centenary celebrations surrounding the signing of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France. 'Landforms' has also been to Barcelona, Venice and Utrecht. Scotland made its debut at the Rotterdam Biennale last year with 'Re:Motion' and plans are afoot to have a presence again next year.

Priorities are invariably shifting and any transmogrification of the current Policy must not jettison the already established framework. Greater emphasis, however, could be invested in promoting Scottish talent abroad, better quality publications and how to connect architecture into other government initiatives.



SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE

Scotland boasts six schools of architecture and attracts a sizeable number of talented students from home and abroad. Student awards are intended to acknowledge, instil and promote the necessary confidence and competence that will enable students to then contribute to the development of their own communities.

56 Architecture is a demanding vocation with a protracted period of study and apprenticeship before securing qualification. The Policy on Architecture made a commitment to support the six architecture schools in Scotland and subsequently launched SIX - the National Programme Student Awards for Architecture. This joint initiative with the RIAS provides an annual exhibition with accompanying booklet, creating an opportunity, once rare, to view the best student work from across Scotland.

SIX was managed by The Lighthouse who have directed a variety of new initiatives to further the ambitions of the Policy. 'Pigeonhole City', for example, invited architecture students to challenge conventional notions on the dissemination of architectural ideas, issues and events. The winning proposal by Missing Presumed Found secured financial backing from the Innovation Fund which allowed them to mount an exhibition to document the success of their quixotic project.

Another student competition was 'The Big Issue' which sought ideas for an easily demountable shelter and sparked a lively debate on alternatives to hostel life for the homeless. The immediate outcomes have been rich and diverse but the ambition is to inculcate a creative response to any (and every) problem. If Scotland is to succeed as a nation it is essential to foster young talent and reward their genius.



DESIGN REVIEW

The Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland (RFACS) was established by Royal Prerogative in 1927 to enquire into, and report on, design issues relating to major planning applications and other development proposals. It currently comprises twelve Commissioners (all unsalaried positions) who advise the Scottish Executive and local authorities on the merits (and demerits) of specific proposals.

The Commissioners include architects, planners, designers and artists but this disparate group appear well qualified in assembling coherent and cogent assessments of (often) complex proposals. Their comments may oscillate from caustic criticism to passionate praise but are intrinsically intended to identify excellence, highlight areas of concern and anticipate any detrimental effects arising from contentious development proposals.

Although maligned by some critics as "...undemocratic and regressive in its approach", the RFACS has made a valuable contribution in pursuing quality amidst a myriad of projects which can vary from sprawling industrial complexes, prominent city centre edifices, historic burgh street furniture schemes and strategic road improvements. The RFACS could never be accused of anodyne sophistry, and has been resolutely committed to Scotland's built environment and its distinctivelandscape characteristics.

Any new development is often perceived as progress (of sorts) but if unregulated or ill-considered its impact can prove detrimental. The unique character of a place (its 'genius loci') can be damaged irrevocably if a proposal is too big, too brutal, too noxious and/or too ugly. Decisions on planning applications, however, can be difficult and delicate; discussions can be protracted and fraught (especially if job creation is part of the equation) – impartial expert advice is therefore a pre-requisite.

Now, under the government's most recent review of public bodies, the RFACS is to be dissolved and a new body 'Architecture and Design Scotland' created with an extended remit including training, advocacy and promotion. This will require a more pro-active rapport to be established with local authority officials. The new body can also make a substantial input to the ongoing debate on the future of our cities by stimulating discussion and addressing social and economic issues.

It is salutary to consider the defunct English RFAC which mutated into the Commission for the Built Environment (CABE). Its self-evident success is reflected in a tenfold jump in their budget allocation from under £1 million (2000) to £11.5 million (2004) and design has been elevated from niche interest to national interest.

Design is now enshrined as a material consideration in the planning process and is something that we can actually control for the betterment of society. Although the new design review body should complement The Lighthouse in promoting the ambitions of the Policy on Architecture, it must act judiciously and demonstrate its independence. Design and the built environment can no longer be marginalised as a fine art pursuit (dominated by a self-selected elite) but must expand its influence and become central to government policy.

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COMMUNITY DESIGN

It is often said that good architecture is too important to trust to architects alone. Certainly aesthetes are simply one component in a swirling maelstrom of competing demands including identity, durability, accessibility, funding, context, materials and sustainability. The Policy on Architecture refers to Scotland as a "...place of imagination, creativity and innovation" but if this is to ring true we must invest more care, time and effort into every new building especially community projects such as health centres, hospitals and schools. Big budgets do not necessarily produce good buildings and an understated 'ordinary' building is preferable to something gauche, mediocre and out of context.

Philosophical thinking on schools, for example, has undergone a radical transformation of late. Today the emphasis is on learning rather than teaching, and children are seen as fledgling adults (proto-consumers even). The school itself is no longer seen as a forbidding fortress but an open, accessible resource for the whole community. The design therefore has to be flexible enough not only to absorb local demands but also the shifting targets of the national curriculum.

Ideologically this is an exciting time for schools and can be likened to the great post-war comprehensive movement. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity to create something of lasting value. The 'Future Learning and Teaching Programme' (FLaT) has been devised, therefore, to encourage schools and relevant educational authorities to establish a creative learning and teaching environment.

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In 2003 The Lighthouse organised a series of interdisciplinary workshops to explore current trends and test new ideas such as sustainable design, curriculum development and flexible usage. The sessions brought together practitioners, artists, council officers and teachers and are documented in the 'Designing Scotland's Sustainable Schools of the Future' booklet and accompanying CD ROM. The Scottish Executive has also committed to address the dearth of exemplary new school buildings. Sizeable funds have been set aside and promises given these schools would aspire to world class status.

It is encouraging to see Clackmannanshire Council take the initiative and invite three leading Scottish practices (Richard Murphy Architects, Gareth Hoskins Architects and Murray + Dunlop Architects) to develop innovative proposals for new schools in Alloa, Alva and Lornhill. It is hoped that this approach to tendering will become a template for all future school projects. Good design is a prerequisite if we are to realize our aspirations for the school estate and banal off-the-shelf schemes simply will not suffice. The comprehensive booklet on 'School Design - Building our Future: Scotland's School Estate' produced by the Scottish Executive offers valuable lessons for anyone commencing such an important commission.

HERITAGE AND TOURISM

We can be justifiably proud of the 'world class' status of a number of Scotland's cultural undertakings in recent times, and it is important that we also aspire to the highest standards in the quality of our contemporary architecture. Aspiring to 'world class' status can often incur costs but most people accept that the potential rewards can be considerable in terms of attracting both kudos and enthusiastic visitors. A cultural shift is needed therefore if we are to undo ingrained prejudices and enhance Scotland's place in an increasingly competitive world.

The Policy on Architecture has confounded expectations and cast Scotland in a new light. The Lighthouse endorses the Policy and makes manifest the Scottish Executive's agenda whilst Dr Stuart MacDonald (Director of The Lighthouse) represents its personification and has become a consummate ambassador for Scotland's Creative Industries.

The Policy is starting to impact on many of our most venerable institutions including the august Royal Commission of Ancient + Historic Monuments for Scotland (RCAHMS). Established in 1908 to safeguard the nation's built heritage, the RCAHMS is undergoing a sea change and efforts are underway to redefine their role as stewards/custodians of the nation's archive. A new Chief Executive and dedicated Education Officer have been appointed and will introduce an expansive education programme. Clearly the intention is to increase access and boost numbers using this remarkable archive including original drawings, maps and aerial photographs.



A key aspect of the Policy's success has been to instil a new focus for organisations such as the RCAHMS, and The Lighthouse has helped forge a renewed sense of co-operation between like-minded institutions (including RCAHMS, Historic Scotland and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland). Indeed, the recent decision by the Edinburgh City Council to appoint a de facto Design Tsar to champion urban design may be (arguably) a direct consequence of the Policy. His statements to date appear to echo the Policy and prioritize the public realm whilst promoting architecture's power to regenerate entire city quarters.

Statistical analysis has shown that a significant percentage of visitors come to Scotland because of the architecture. Edinburgh, for example, can offer a breathtaking snap shot of Scottish architecture's progressive evolution from Medieval garrison to Post-modern folly. A joint initiative by the RCAHMS and The Lighthouse has launched a rolling programme to produce a series of handy, pocket-sized, folding maps identifying notable buildings (both ancient and modern) initially for Edinburgh and Glasgow with Aberdeen, Dundee, Stirling and Inverness to follow.

IMAGE CREDITS

COVER

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Elder and Cannon Architects
Photograph: Keith Hunter

Title page from left to right

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24. Landforms exhibition at the
Venice Architecture Biennale
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25. Glencoe Visitors Centre
GAIA Architects
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26. Campbeltown windshelter
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27 & 28. Children taking part in Field Trip
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29. Craiglockhart Campus, Napier University, Edinburgh
BDP
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30. scottisharchitecture.com home page
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31. Scottish Parliament
EMBT/RMJM
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32. SIX exhibition
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33. Crown Street Phases 5 and 6, Glasgow
Hypostyle Architects
"the Gatekeeper" by artist group Heisenberg
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34. Monifieth Medical Centre
Campbell & Arnott Architects
Photograph: Campbell & Arnott Architects

35. St Brycedale Campus redevelopment, Fife College
RMJM
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36. Newhailes House,
Conservation work: LDN Architects LLP
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