

RESET DEVELOPMENTS

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF RESET, THE ECOLOGICAL BUILT ENVIRONMENT CHARITY



ISSUE 4 | WINTER '10/11

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EDITORIAL

The new year has marked a new start for everybody at RESET. As the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 kicked off, we moved from Dalston to Training for Life's building on Hoxton Square - a big thank you to all those who gave up their time to help us with the task of constructing our new home!

RESET has been working at home and overseas over the past couple of months. In December, Eversheds supported RESET's 'Introduction to UK Passivhaus' and Oxford Brookes University hosted our 'Living Roofs & Ecosystem Services' 2-day masterclass led by Dusty Gedge, Gary Grant and John Little. In January we helped with Lewisham's Green Roofs conference, whilst on the other side of the world in partnership with Practical Action Bangladesh, a 3-day technical symposium in Dhaka looked at affordable housing in the south west region.

RESET Drinks has returned, with excellent presentations by Janet Cotterell from Cotterell, Thomas & Thomas, and Simon Dickens and Simon Catton from YouMeHeShe. And on Cityscape at Ecobuild, we launched the Integrated Habitats Design Competition 2011. Now in its 2nd year, this partnership project with Dusty Gedge of livingroofs.org and the ecologist and master-planner Gary Grant welcomes as Principal Sponsor the Victoria Business Improvement District, who are forging ahead on retrofitting ecosystem services to the capital. Some of the judges give their perspective on integrating biodiversity for ecosystem services in 'INTEGRATING HABITATS' pg 10.

As ever, RESET thanks all our members, partners, supporters and volunteers for collaborating to make our built environment a healthier, happier, more resilient place. Make sure you sign up to our mailing list to keep up to date with developments and we look forward to seeing you at a RESET event soon.

Front Cover

55 Broadway, Biodiverse roof Designed by Green Roof Consultancy
Winners of the Sustain Magazine Award for Biodiversity 2011

Luddite Joke Guide

Does the relentless advance of gadgets annoy you? Want to act but worried that the smashing up of mechanised looms doesn't cut it any more? Do you want, at the risk of betraying your cause, a new modern way to attack technology? Have you tried the age-old tool of humour?



Possible Responses:

Field tests produced these results. Which one best matches what you experienced?



A Sarcastic laugh

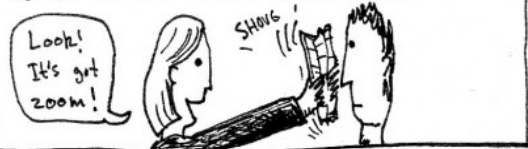


B Smack of head & grimace



C That's great, I'm twittering that! ... er...

IF IT WENT WELL, do this:



If this has given you a taste for more, build your own joke out of the following:

C App (Wear iPhone as comedy hat)

N App (link the concept of sleep to the iPhone somehow)

CL App (app to help you identify that weird rash you found down there)

FEATURES

'Emphasising biodiversity to improve the way we design, manage and refurbish our towns and cities'

www.ihdc.org.uk

INTEGRATED HABITATS DESIGN COMPETITION 2011 ...is now open!

INTEGRATING HABITATS...for the benefit of all

Words | Blanche Cameron

"Human needs and a healthy environment are not opposing claims that must be balanced; instead, they are inexorably linked by chains of cause and effect."

Jared Diamond

Biodiversity is life - and every aspect of our society depends on it for its existence, although these natural chains of cause and effect are not always clear to us. Recently, biodiversity and habitat loss due to natural resource extraction and pollution has meant our ecosystems are in decline. Planning policy promotes restoration of biodiversity through local, regional and national Biodiversity Action Plans, and the IHDC aims to support this process - for a number of reasons.

Designing habitats isn't just good for biodiversity - it is good for humans too. By prioritising ecological networks and habitats in our built environments - bringing soil, water, living things into our daily lives - we can manage water and energy more effectively

and make better decisions for our long term health and resilience.

Organised by RESET and the UK's independent advice organisation livingroofs.org, the IHDC produces British Isles specific exemplar projects that illustrate the ecosystem services approach. Last year the competition was supported by Natural England and Kier London and judges, chaired by Gary Grant, the ecologist and masterplanner, were impressed with the breadth of vision. In 2011, Principal Sponsors are the Victoria Business Improvement District, reflecting their own work to retrofit ecosystem services to the Victoria area of London.

The competition is open to anyone and entrants are encouraged to collaborate across conventional engineering, architecture, landscape, construction and ecological boundaries. We hope that the IHDC 2011 will provide an even broader forum for visionaries and innovators to design better, more sustainable and resilient habitats for all of us.

Awards 2011

1st Prize £2,000

2nd Prize £1,000

3rd Prize £750

Registration Period

21 March - 31 July 2011

Entry Period

1 May - 31 July 2011

Awards Ceremony & Exhibition

London, October 2011

Judges 2011

Gary Grant - Chair of Judges, international ecologist and masterplanner

Dusty Gedge - President of the European Federation of Green Roof Associations

Paul Shaffer - Water Management Specialist, CIRIA

Brian McDonald - Senior Specialist, Natural England

Martin Hunt - Head of Built Environment, Forum for the Future

Jean Venables - Former President, Institute for Civil Engineers

Phil Baarda - Scottish Natural Heritage

Alice Tree - Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Justin Bere - Director, Bere Architects

Lisa Hundt - Head of Biodiversity, The Bat Conservation Trust

Andy Simmonds - Director, Simmonds Mills Architects, CEO of the AECB

IHDC...meeting the brief!

Biodiversity

Entrants must show how their designs respond to local, regional and national Biodiversity Action Plans, to provide specific habitat types and support target species, as well as prioritising biodiversity generally.

Climate Change Adaptation

It is highly likely that within our lifetimes we will be living in an environment that is at least 2 degrees warmer. Designs should take a long-term approach that incorporates this possibility, with the changes in temperature, rainfall and sea levels, flash flooding, air quality and wind patterns that this implies.

Resource Depletion

As costs rise and access to fossil fuel based power reduces, entrants are asked to illustrate how designing for nature also supports better water and energy management in a development.

Innovative Approaches

Entrants are encouraged to interpret "innovation" in a broad sense. We are looking beyond the product-based or bolt-on approach to biodiversity, sustainability and climate change. Instead an approach that demonstrates an understanding of natural processes is required.

www.ihdc.org.uk

Connecting and Collaborating: IHDC Partners

The IHDC was initiated in 2010 - *the UN International Year of Biodiversity* - by RESET, **Dusty Gedge** and **Gary Grant**. Dusty is internationally recognised for his work as the UK's foremost living roofs advocate and policy instigator, director of livingroofs.org and President of the European Federation of Green Roof Associations. Gary Grant is an internationally renowned ecologist and masterplanner, director of the Green Roof Consultancy and is IHDC's Chair of Judges.

We are very lucky also to have judges **Paul Shaffer**, water management specialist at CIRIA, **Brian McDonald**, Senior Adviser at Natural England, **Jean Venables**, past president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, **Martin Hunt**, Head of Built Environment at Forum for the Future, **Justin Bere**, Director of Bere Architects, **Andy Simmonds** of Simmonds Mills Architects and CEO of the AECB, the sustainable buildings trust, and **Lisa Hundt**, Head of Biodiversity at the Bat Conservation Trust.

This year also sees collaboration with Welsh, Irish and Scottish partners, and we are delighted to welcome **Alice Tree** at SEPA and **Phil Baarda** from Scottish Natural Heritage to the panel. **Sustain**' Magazine are once again IHDC's principal media partners.

Principal Sponsors of IHDC 2011

This year, at the start of the UN Decade on Biodiversity, the IHDC Principal Sponsors are the **Victoria Business Improvement District**, who are investigating retrofitting ecosystem services to the Victoria area of London. 'A Green Infrastructure Audit of the Victoria Business Improvement District' is a ground breaking piece of research carried out by the Green Roof Consultancy and Land Use Consultants for VBID in 2010. This revolutionary report proposes the creation of over 25 hectares of green roofs, introducing more than 1 hectare of new green infrastructure in the form of rain gardens, green walls and tree planting, and enhancing a further 1.5 hectares, to integrate biodiversity and provide ecosystem services to the area.

For more information:
<http://www.insw1.com/Clean--Green-5632.html>
 or
 contact Scott Nixon, VBID Co-ordinator:
scott.nixon@insw1.com

Principal Sponsor 2011

The Victoria Business Improvement District

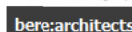
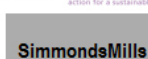
Victoria
 inSW1.com

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Organised by:



Judging Partners 2011:



Principal Media Partners 2011:





AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BANGLADESH

Words & Image | Nikki Linsell

“...without promoting owner involvement and responsibility in the housing process, shelter will always be a barrier to the development paradigm”.

View over Dhaka, Nilski Linsell 2011

After finally getting around to watching a recent BBC documentary on Haiti’s current reconstruction efforts, as fascinating as it was, one comment made by the Government Minister in charge of disaster reconstruction really struck a cord. I ad-lib, but in summary it went something like ‘If Haitians can’t help Haitians, then we need not continue’.

It is a perilous line we walk between supporting our neighbours in a time of crisis and beginning to cause more harm than good. As is now well documented (‘The Crisis Caravan: What’s Wrong with Humanitarian Aid?’ by Linda Polman, or the infamous ‘Dead Aid’ by ex World Banker Dambisa Moyo to name but a few) international humanitarian support can unintentionally exacerbate the very problem it is there to resolve. Within the shelter sector specifically, reconstruction support can potentially threaten to devalue the abilities and knowledge of existing local experts, along with

distorting local market commodities and developing the now well known condition of aid-dependency.

In partnership with Practical Action Bangladesh, the Self Help Promotion Network and funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development, RESET has been working on the empowerment and development of expertise for local, ecological solutions through education, training and knowledge sharing.

In January we hosted a symposium in Dhaka, bringing together a cross-section of rural housing experts. Importantly, this event included representatives from a wide range of backgrounds (from international NGO’s to local masons and headmasters from particularly vulnerable coastal villages) to create the opportunity to develop greater cross-communication and cooperation within all actors involved in rural housing for the

south west coastal region of Bangladesh. In John Turners seminal book, *Housing by People* (1976), he argues that without promoting owner involvement and responsibility in the housing process, shelter will always be a barrier to the development paradigm. It was the importance of this verb housing that was highlighted at the symposium. A house is a home. A home is a complex ecological web that cannot be simplified into a one solution fits all product and deserves an integrated response. And a response that has to be lead and developed by the very people it is there to serve.

Following on from this event, RESET's research continues. Next month proto-type vernacular construction and participatory film training will be taking place in the Cyclone Aila affected Satkhira region of Bangladesh conducted by our partners Practical Action and local organisation Dhara. Over the following year we will then test and monitor the design approaches, the construction itself and the dissemination process, to better understand how to enable householders to make more informed, realistic choices on how to develop affordable and resilient housing for the future.

For full project information and to listen to all the symposium presentations go to the Sheffield University Live Project developed 'RAFT Network' website: www.raft-network.net

Community planning discussions,
Practical Action Bangladesh, 2010

*In partnership with Practical Action Bangladesh, the Self Help Promotion Network and funded by UKaid, RESET has been working on **empowerment and development of local, ecological expertise through education, training and knowledge sharing.***



INTERVIEWS

INTEGRATING HABITATS

...meeting with the IHDC Judges

Words & Image | Zoe Barker

As part of the Integrated Habitats Design Competition 2011, we thought we would take some time to speak to members of the judging panel to reveal their thoughts on bringing ecosystem services to the built environment....

PAUL SHAFFER, ASSOCIATE, CIRIA

Paul is an expert in sustainable water and flood risk management at CIRIA and an IHDC judge. So when we asked him why he supported the IHDC, he replied that from his perspective, it is important to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach that provides multiple benefits. The IHDC demonstrates that when different disciplines begin to collaborate and share ideas, then designs are more integrated and it helps overcome a whole range of challenges.

When considering the principles of designing in the ecosystem serious approach, he emphasised the need to implement technologies that engage and interact with their surrounding environment, in terms of both the physical context and local community.

'It is important to adopt an inter-disciplinary approach that provides multiple benefits'

The approach and attitudes found in Portland, Oregon is a source of inspiration to many involved in the built environment. Paul highlights the work of Tom Liptan and the green streets and ecoroofs projects as well as initiatives to support Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) found in Australia as the driver behind many projects closer to home.

Paul believes that changing the current design process requires a shift in current approaches of designers, encouraging strategic, joined-up thinking with creative solutions delivered through collaboration.

BRIAN MCDONALD, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SPECIALIST, NATURAL ENGLAND

Brian is Natural England's green infrastructure specialist and has been involved in numerous sustainability, climate change adaptation and regeneration projects. He describes the integrated habitat approach as a critical inclusion to the development process: it aids the economic setting of a place through improving location and quality of life for those who invest and work there; the provision of green infrastructure and high quality open spaces produces more resilient places for longer term economic activity and social well-being.

'A critical issue of the 21st century is our re-connection with nature and how we might achieve this. The IHDC helps frame this challenge and allows people to express how they might address it.'

Looking to the past for inspiration, Brian emphasises the strong historical roots that reflect the importance of the ecosystem serious approach. The Victorians understood the importance of creating large open green spaces as a means of addressing public health and wider quality of life concerns. The Garden City movement and later, Abercrombie in the 1940s with the London Plan and creation of London's Green Belt established a good starting point for this approach and aided the relationship between people, nature and space.

In response to changing one aspect of the current design process, Brian comments that we need to pay greater attention to the underlying value of nature and understand that it can provide multiple benefits - this is what makes it such a compelling and integral approach which needs to be progressed. We need to overcome current structures that hinder the consideration of issues in a holistic way, and foster a multi-disciplinary approach that works across existing silos.

Case Studies: School SUDS

Some of the water management systems being used in schools are very encouraging, with rain-water harvesting, green roofs and attractive SUDS features being delivered. These systems provide the usual benefits of flood risk management, water quality and provide interesting surroundings for children, that are full of biodiversity.

**GARY GRANT, DIRECTOR,
GREEN ROOF CONSULTANCY**

Gary Grant is an independent ecologist and director of the Green Roof Consultancy. He has 30 years of experience in the field and has contributed to numerous pioneering projects, including the London Westfield living wall and London 2012 Olympic Park Biodiversity Action Plan.

He is a Co-instigator of the IHDC and is passionate about the integration of nature within the built environment. He believes that currently, there is a misconception that the conservation of biodiversity is not relevant to cities and the day-to-day life of the people who live in them.

Advocating an ecological perspective, it comes as no surprise that Gary believes the most important principle of good design is to look to nature and mimic natural features, recreating them within the built environment.

Gary believes that the biggest change required in the current design process is the widespread understanding and consideration of Biodiversity Action Plans, as well as information on the local environment, species and habitats. Nature is still seen as a bolt-on, resulting from the way in which people are trained and their perceptions of the built environment.

Currently people primarily care about the aesthetics of the built environment rather than its functional purpose. As Gary says...

“This is serious. We need to grow up and stop treating the environment like we’re choosing wallpaper.”

‘People are detached from nature and do not understand the integral role of biodiversity. We rely on ecosystem services and a restoration agenda must now be pursued.’

Green Roofs



Green Roof of Barclay's Bank, Canary Wharf
greenroofconsultancy.com

When implementing a green roof we should look at other types of stressed vegetation, such as that found on the sides of mountains and other upland environments.

MARTIN HUNT, HEAD OF
BUILT ENVIRONMENT, FORUM
FOR THE FUTURE

Martin outlines a number of aspects in the current design process that he feels need to change:

1 - Understand THE VALUE of biodiversity and promoting the connections between the natural and built environments.

2 - Engender a sense of ENTHUSIASM with regards to the implementation of biodiversity and ecosystem services within the built environment industries.

3 - To make sure that people are ENHANCING biodiversity rather than merely mitigating the adverse effects of development.

4 - To develop ways of measuring the benefits of biodiversity and to be able to DEMONSTRATE the real value of implementing ecosystem services in the built environment.

'There is a tendency to focus only on tangible impacts when considering issues in construction', says Martin. The prioritisation of aspects such as waste, energy and water often results in a situation where biodiversity is considered of less importance, if not excluded completely. Compounding this issue is the limited recognition of the multiple benefits offered by ecosystem services.

LISA HUNDT, BIODIVERSITY
OFFICER, BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

Lisa has worked for the Bat Conservation Trust since April 2008 following work in the public, private and charity sectors. She comments that as roosts in trees and caves have become scarce, many UK bats have adapted to share our built structures with us, in much the same way as swifts, swallows and house martins.

'The IHDC competition provides a unique opportunity to illustrate not only the importance of considering biodiversity within design and architecture, but how in doing so, exciting and innovative designs can result. The ethos of the competition embodies work I am most passionate about: improving the ecological richness and cultural value of landscapes within the built environment and I am proud to be involved.'

As a judge of the IHDC, we asked Lisa to outline her views on good ecological design, to which she responded: 'It is essential that good quality baseline information on biodiversity on site and what could be encouraged is collected and made available to architects and master planners at the draft design stage. This provides the opportunity to integrate biodiversity into the design from the outset, rather than add it on as an afterthought. A good working relationship between ecologists and the designers is key.'

Finally, we asked Lisa what she would change about the way in which built environment professionals currently design.

'I would make information on biodiversity such as ecological surveys an essential part of the initial design process and encourage designers and ecologists to work in partnership, rather than in parallel.'



DEVELOPMENTS

RESETEing ECOBUILD 2011

Words & Images | Blanche Cameron

To R: Clare Smith (RESET), Edward Mayer (Swift Conservation Trust), Peter Gillespie (Baker Shepherd Gillespie) and members of the public debate the issues of integrating biodiversity into our built environment.

RESET made a range of contributions to **Ecobuild** this year, with presence on the Biodiversity Pavilion, the Cityscape Theatres and on the Natural Materials stage.

Over two days setting up and three show days, RESETers, CAT GSE students past and present and students from Nottingham School of Architecture helped deliver several entertaining and informative activities. Rowland Keable, the UK's **rammed earth** expert of Ram Cast CIC, led a two day informal workshop to ram 5 tonnes of white Kent chalk into beautiful walls. This cement free construction method is truly low carbon and put some of the 'sustainable' construction techniques promoted at Ecobuild in the shade!

On the Biodiversity Pavilion, an image representing the **UN Millennium Ecosystem Services Assessment** set out the services provided for free by our ecosystems. A **habitat wall** was constructed from waste materials from Ecobuild to provide a backdrop to the 3-day **Biodiversity Surgeries**

supported by Natural England, meeting the experts and getting CPD accreditation for it. Speakers from the RSPB, the Bat Conservation Trust, Swift Conservation, GiGL, the Amphibian and Reptile Trust, the Mammal Society, the Woodlands Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, Thomson Ecology and Baker Shepherd Gillespie discussed approaches to integrating biodiversity into the built environment.

With partners Dusty Gedge of livingroofs.org and Gary Grant of the Green Roof Consultancy, RESET launched the **Integrated Habitats Design Competition 2011** on Cityscape (www.ihdc.org.uk). Principal Sponsors 2011 are the Victoria Business Improvement District, who produced a ground breaking report in 2010 on retrofitting ecosystem services and green infrastructure to the Victoria district of London. Winners from last year presented their projects and supporting organisations CIRIA and Natural England helped celebrate the start of a second year to produce inspiring and innovative designs that prioritise biodiversity in the built environment.

RESET Director Blanche Cameron spoke on Cityscape of the unfortunate but fundamental failure of current training to deliver truly ecological approaches to the built environment. She stated that *if we are to adapt our living environments to the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion and economic and social shocks, we need holistic natural solutions*, as promoted by RESET and at the Graduate School of the Environment at the Centre for Alternative Technology, where Blanche is a Senior Lecturer. However, *a greater paradigm shift is needed to put natural systems and processes at the heart of what we do, if we are really to make the changes necessary in the time available to us.* The RESET stand saw a lot of interest in RESET's collaborative manifesto project, **A Future of the World in 100 Objects**

(more on this soon!) and RESET upcoming training, which includes RIBA core curriculum courses on Ecosystem Services and Healthy Communities.

Thanks again to all the RESETers who helped out over the five days, to Rowland Keable for supplying terrible rammed earth jokes and transport, to Mabey Hire Services for lending us the formwork, to James Shead for constructing the boxes and habitat wall frames, to John Little and Dave Harper for terrible living roof jokes, to Natural England for their support for the accredited biodiversity training events during the show and to Dusty Gedge and Gary Grant for their ongoing collaboration with RESET to bring an ecosystem services approach to the way the built environment is designed, managed and improved.

Mabey Hire Services is a specialist manufacturer, supplier and contractor providing a comprehensive range of modular and proprietary temporary works equipment for ground support, formwork, falsework, refurbishment and various other systems.

Mabey Hire Services is proud to provide the formwork for Ram Cast's live rammed chalk demonstrations at Ecobuild 2011, delivered in association with RESET Development.

www.mabeyhireservices.com



RESEtting training

Words & Images | Blanche Cameron

The Persian idea that education is a 'long conversation' is something that has always struck home with RESET, as respect, mutual exchange and listening are all required for a really good conversation. RESET also reckons that a bit of practical hands-on stuff doesn't go amiss either... and since RESET's training is aimed at the ecological adaptation of the built environment, it needs to be fun, inclusive and inspiring – which is why we work collaboratively with the UK's innovators, connecting participants with experts for real knowledge you can apply through your own work.

In December at Oxford Brookes University, funded by Gateway to SusCon and thanks to Paola Sassi, 35 students and built environment professionals participated in RESET's two-day masterclass on **Living Roofs and Ecosystem Services**, with the transformational pioneers of urban ecology, Dusty Gedge, Gary Grant and John Little. Practical construction and a design workshop complemented the presentations and the enthusiasm of participants was evident.

We also held our second '**Introduction to UK Passivhaus**', courtesy of Eversheds and in association with the Passivhaus Trust. The UK's Passivhaus pioneers presented their work: John Williamson (JPW Construction), Mark Siddall (Devereux Architects), Justin Bere (Bere Architects), Robert Prewett (PrewettBizley) and Andy Simmonds (SimmondsMills). UCL PhD researcher and RESET trustee Henrietta Lynch also showed film of her interviews with built environment experts on the barriers and challenges to UK Passivhaus uptake. Turn out was good in spite of a major snowfall the night before!

January saw RESET interns Brigid Clarke, Hadas Even Tsur and Zoe Barker helping out with **Lewisham's conference: Delivering Successful Green Roofs: from Planning to Implementation**, as planners from all over London took part in the workshops and presentations organised by Lewisham Borough Council. Ecobuild in March was a whole learning event in itself! (see the article) and now RESET is preparing for its

first commission by the RIBA for **Core Curriculum training on Ecosystem Services and Healthy Communities**. These half day events will take place in Bristol, Swansea, Gatwick, Milton Keynes, Exeter and Reading May-December 2011, so keep an eye open for dates near you.

With an **Introduction to Photovoltaics** at the Brighton Permaculture Trust on April 19th, a bank holiday weekend with Rowland 'we're ramming' Keable on a **live rammed earth project** in Wiltshire May 27th - 29th, **Ecosystem Services masterclasses** at CIEF and elsewhere and **DIY Small Scale Green**

Roof Construction coming up, it should be an eventful spring. See RESET's Training Calendar on the website for more details - www.reset-development.org - and get in touch if you would like to propose some training yourself.

All our training is accredited for Continuing Professional Development and feedback from participants is very positive.

With the ever more urgent need to adapt our built environment ecologically, we are always looking for news ways to carry on the long conversation.

● Links

- **Livingroofs** Livingroofs.org
- **Green Roof Consultancy** www.greenroofconsultancy.co.uk
- **Grass Roof Company** www.grassroofcompany.co.uk
- **Brighton Permaculture Trust** www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk
- **Low Carbon Network** www.lowcarbon.co.uk
- **Ram Cast CIC** www.rammed-earth.info
- **Gateway to SusCon** www.suscon.uk.net
- **Eversheds** www.eversheds.com
- **Oxford Brookes University** www.brookes.ac.uk
- **RIBA** www.architecture.com



RESET latest drinks

...enhancing our green knowledge with a pint!

Each month RESET welcomes its new and old friends with a guest presentation on innovative ecological projects from the UK and around the world.

Last February we had a drink with Janet Cotterell, from Cotterell Thomas & Thomas LLP, while at the beginning of March we spent an evening with Simon Dickens and Simon Catton from YouMe-HeShe.

Simon Dickens explains their design approach for the Cutty Sark Pavilion.



Simon Catton takes RESETers on a tour of the Ashford expansion masterplan, using an ecosystem services approach.



Janet Cotterell gave us an inspiring discussion on PassivHaus application



To find out more about RESET upcoming drinks just go to our website:
www.reset-development.org/#/reset-drinks



RESET's New Office

RESET has now moved to our new office at Hoxton Square, in the heart of London courtesy of our host Training for Life.

Studio 8 4th Floor | 16 Hoxton Square
London N1 6NT,  Old Street

RESET Internships

...getting involved

Interested in gaining experience in the ecological adaptation of our build environment?

Then apply for the following internships:

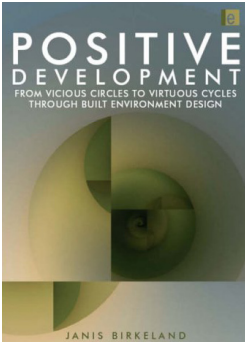
 **GRADUATE OFFICER**
April/ May 2011

 **CAMPAIGN & EVENT OFFICER**
May/ June/ July 2011

 **COMMUNICATION & MARKETING OFFICER**
May/ June/ July 2011

To find out more about our latest internships roles at RESET just go to our website:

www.reset-development.org/internships



Positive Development From Vicious Circles to Virtuous Cycles through Built Environment Design

By Dr Janis Birkeland
Earthscan, 2008

BOOK review

Words | Blanche Cameron

Our natural life support system is at risk. The planet's 'carrying capacity' or ability to support us all at our current rate of consumption and production is diminishing. As a species, we need to take responsibility for our home the planet and find ways to look after it better. Clearly this makes sense for us as a species – we are currently doing the equivalent of the Darwin Award winner: up in a tree with a saw cutting off the branch we're sitting on.

"Our systems of governance still reflect the industrial growth paradigm. They encourage the exploitation of land and natural resources. Power is ultimately derived from the control of natural resources".

Positive Development sets out genuinely useful approaches for anyone involved in the design, management and improvement of our environment, natural or built. Taking as its starting point the need to prioritise the design for biodiversity and ecological systems, she has produced clear and accessible routes to achieving positive, restorative development that genuinely supports nature and communities.

Birkeland critiques the 'business as usual' approach, stating that some companies have been "given blank cheques in exchange for resource exploitation" becoming powerful lobbies that can manipulate public values and opinions. We can see this in the new battle to control the exploitation of the Arctic for its mineral wealth, ignoring the vital role it already plays in regulating global climate and temperature, as well as being a resource for species on the verge of population collapse, such as fish stocks.

Dr Janis Birkeland proposes that those who traditionally have gained from the development sector now need to take on a new role, that of restorative or positive development – development which not only minimises negative impact, but which positively enhances and restores natural systems and resources. And that sound environmental management is in fact the key in preventing the abuse of power and the manipulation of fear and insecurity. And planners and planning law play a crucial role in this.

"Our current environmental and planning laws have been added on incrementally...in response to public 'noise'. However, ad-hoc laws do not constitute a system of eco-governance. To counteract the imbalance of power, the government system itself must be modernized to recognise the centrality of environmental ethics in attaining and preserving distributive justice."

This book offers tangible alternatives to the way we currently think about the built environment. And this is the most positive thing about Positive Development: she argues that it is possible to develop in such a way as to restore and increase the planet's services, and enhance nature's own stocks, at the same time as improving quality of life for all. The tenets of this lie in environmental and social justice – and make sense if we are finally to mature as a species and find ways of respecting our reliance on nature, the interconnectedness of all things and the need for good stewardship for a positive and long-term future.



UPCOMING

RESET Drinks - an evening with...

Jite Brume | Mapumundi Design

APRIL | Tuesday 5th | 19:00 - 21:30
The Apprentice, 16 Hoxton Square, LONDON

Alem Yirga | ARC International

MAY | Tuesday 10th | 19:00 - 21:30
The Apprentice, 16 Hoxton Square, LONDON

Submit your IHDC competition entry...

Registration now open

Registration Period

21 March - 31 July 2011

Entry Period

1st May - 31st July 2011

RESET upcoming training...

MARCH Friday 25th & Saturday 26th

Living Roofs & Ecosystems Services

Dusty Gedge, Gary Grant & Brodie McAllister

Eversheds London & Deptford Creekside Centre, as part of Climate Week 2011

APRIL Tuesday 19th

Introduction to Photovoltaics

Alex Saunders

Stanmer Park, Brighton in association with the Brighton
Permaculture Trust & Low Carbon Network

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th

Building with Straw Bales

Ian Brown

Stanmer Park, Brighton in association with the Brighton
Permaculture Trust & Low Carbon Network

MAY Friday 6th

Living Roofs & Ecosystem Service

Gary Grant & Dusty Gedge, London

Tuesday 24th

Green Infrastructure for Climate Change: Ecosystem Services for London

Gary Grant & Dusty Gedge

Morning Seminar, London, in association with CIEF

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