



Network

News

October 2008

Latest News About The AECB Web Site.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the forum discussions on the AECB.net website.

For those of you who haven't used the website or forum yet, you are missing out on a very powerful way to network with other members, find or announce events and jobs or discuss technical details. Go online today and see what is happening - www.aecb.net/forum.

Once you have either read everything (!) or at least marked it all as read, then a board with a new posting will show each time you look at the forum. You can also request email notification of any board or topic you would like to watch.

Once registered you can also check and update your details in Members area - My account from the menu on the left of any page.

Meanwhile we are burning the midnight oil to complete the membership listing section which was previewed at this year's conference.

If you would like to help test this feature before the official release then please email Nick at nickgrant@aecb.net

The web team, Tom, Chris and Nick

CarbonLite

Building regulations are, of course, fabulously transparent and easy to understand. Not. The government's current muddling about with buyer packs, which offered the opportunity to introduce a new energy-rating system, has not improved matters, so the Association for Environment-Conscious Building, small and polite organisation that it is, is slightly tentative about introducing its own ideas to the chaos.

But the fact that our buildings now account for 50% of the UK's total carbon emissions (not including air travel) means that something has to be done. So the AECB has come up with a voluntary sustainable building programme, called CarbonLite ("carbon literate" design), which it would love to see adopted ("compulsive would be marvellous, but not very likely, we think," it says) by the government. It has set bronze, silver, gold and platinum standards for energy-conscious design and implementation: point-winners are measures such as high levels of insulation, advanced windows that have only 15% of the leakage of typical single-glazing, passive solar design, use of compact fluorescent light bulbs, and on-site renewables to generate heat and light.

A gold-standard house, in fact, will emit only 4kg CO₂/m² a year, compared to the 73kg/m² leaked by the average house today. Will builders sign up to it? Will the government take this brave and forward-looking step? What do you think?

Source: The Guardian

Open Letter From Passive Solar Architect Edward Mazria.

Rick Fedrizzi

President, CEO & Founding Chairman

U.S. Green Building Council

1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 508

Washington, DC 20036

Dear Rick,

Rapidly accelerating climate change, which is now fuelling dangerous regional and global events, requires immediate and effective action if we are to avert a global catastrophe.

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration illustrates that buildings are responsible for almost half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions annually; globally the percentage is even greater. Currently the most widely-recognized certifier of green buildings -- LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) -- requires relatively little in building fossil-fuel energy consumption reductions to attain certification. While the USGBC is moving to correct this, it will be too little, too late.

Because the USGBC has taken a leadership role in advancing green building design, it is imperative that LEED-certified buildings be models of energy efficiency. It has been 10 months since the American Institute of Architects (AIA) called on its 78,000 members to implement an immediate 50% reduction in fossil fuel energy consumption for all new and renovated buildings. It has been 4 months since the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted Resolution #50 and "The 2030 Challenge" calling for an immediate 50% reduction in fossil fuel energy consumption for all buildings in all cities. The EPA (Target Finder) has already defined the 50% energy reduction benchmark for commercial buildings. Clearly, it is time for the USGBC to immediately establish a 50% fossil-fuel building energy consumption minimum for LEED certification.

Therefore, we ask the USGBC to implement the following without delay: that the fossil-fuel building energy consumption reduction standard required for all new LEED-certified buildings and major renovations be increased to:

- Certification: 50%*
- Silver: 65%*
- Gold: 80%*
- Platinum: Carbon Neutral (no fossil fuel greenhouse gas emitting energy consumption to operate).

*percentage below the average for each building type as established by the AIA and EPA's Target Finder

In addition, we ask that ASHRAE Standard 189-P, now under development by the USGBC and ASHRAE, establish a baseline of half (50%)* the fossil-fuel energy consumption of the average for each building type (as defined by the AIA and EPA's Target Finder). We also ask that ASHRAE 189-P be fast-tracked and issued within 4 to 6 months. It is essential that this standard be completed and adopted as soon as possible. We simply do not have the luxury of time on our side.

*We understand a 30% energy consumption reduction is currently being discussed.

Credible scientists give us at best 10 years to be well on our way toward global greenhouse gas emissions reductions in order to avert catastrophic climate change (see: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/14834318/>). There are hundreds of coal-fired power plants in the U.S. currently on the drawing boards. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the energy produced by these plants will go to operate buildings. Mayors are forming coalitions to stop the building of these coal plants (see: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=2380650>). Resolution #50 is their hope for eliminating the need for these plants - we must give them the tools necessary to implement this Resolution.

Although we will certainly be affected, the global warming crisis is not really about us, it is about our children and grandchildren, and the planet we leave them. We call on you to lead, you who have both the opportunity and responsibility to make a real difference.

Sincerely,

Edward Mazria, AIA

Architecture 2030

Mazria Odems Dzurec

607 Cerrillos Road

Suite G

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

tel: 505 988 5309 x12

website: www.architecture2030.org

email: mazria@mazria.com

Call For The Creation Of A European Public Authorities Forum On Waste Electrical And Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

At the occasion of a conference on the subject held in Nantes (F) on 6th and 7th September 2006, the managers of ACR+ (Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management) have launched a call for interest with the view to create a WEEE Public Authorities Forum.

This forum will aim to gather all public authorities concerned with the management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Europe and to:

- compare the various national, regional and local systems applying the producer responsibility principle;
- clarify the key elements of the public-private partnerships to be developed in the field of WEEE management, especially regarding their financing;
- follow the European work regarding the implementation and revision of Directive WEEE;
- advocate the role of public authorities as protectors of the general interest.

To know more about ACR+ that has already published a first guide on WEEE management, www.acrplus.org.

The Ashden Awards For Sustainable Energy – Call For Papers

UK's leading sustainable energy awards is now calling for entries for 2007 – over £140,000 prize money on offer for best sustainable energy solutions – closing date for entries 21 November 2006.

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy are now looking for entries from inspirational and innovative schemes from anywhere in the UK which generate renewable energy, or reduce energy demand, at a local level and scale. The Ashden Awards are open to schemes within the UK which can boast significant CO2 savings through the provision of renewable energy technologies or energy efficiency measures at the local level. These schemes must be highly replicable to ensure maximum impact in the battle against climate change. Successful applicants must also demonstrate that their scheme is delivering social and economic benefits to the local communities they serve.

The Awards reward achievements that have been operational for at least one year and provide funding for future developments. In 2007 we will be offering the main UK awards in three categories, with first prizes of up to £30,000 each and second prizes of up to £10,000. The categories are:

- Renewable Energy Award for projects or programmes that generate renewable electricity and/or heat at a local level. It can include schemes which feed electricity from a local source into the grid.
- Energy Efficiency Award for projects or programmes that have succeeded in increasing the efficiency of energy use, or have reduced demand, at a local level.
- Energy Business Award - this NEW award is for successful businesses that are making innovative renewable energy and/or energy efficiency products and services more accessible to the public and are in operation at the local level.
- There is also a special award, launched in 2006, for schools that are making sustainable energy a key and on-going part of their practice and culture, including improving energy efficiency, utilizing renewable energy within the school premises and involving the pupils in the promotion and use of sustainable energy.

The aim of the Ashden Awards is to promote the widespread use of local, sustainable energy as a tool for tackling the causes of climate change and providing social and economic benefits to communities across the UK. To this end, Ashden Award winners are promoted to the media and practitioners and experts in the field as leading examples of sustainable energy in action at the local level. This is achieved through a successful publicity campaign, the production and dissemination of short films on Award winners work and a series of high level seminars and workshops. The Awards will be presented at a VIP ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London in June 2007.

For more information on the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy, including downloadable application forms and information on past winners please visit www.ashdenawards.org or contact: Danielle Jones on 0207 410 0330; email: info@ashdenawards.org.

New Solar Panels At The Greenhouse, Norwich

Global Warming is the key concern on everyone's lips at the moment, largely caused by our burning fossil fuels. The Greenhouse in Norwich has just taken a major step to reduce its reliance on them by installing new photovoltaic (PV) panels in its courtyard. They generate electricity using the energy of sunshine, and so help reduce the fossil fuel – gas, coal, and oil – that are burnt in power stations. The new PVs will be

formally launched by Dr Mick Kelly of UEA at 11.00am on Friday 13 October 2006, together with other invited guests including some of the people who have been involved with the design, installation and funding.

The installation consists of two rows of panels, each containing 65 cells. The toughened glass was manufactured by Romag, and the solar panels made and installed by Sundog. The glazing bars were made by local conservatory company Mortons, whilst Martin and Dave of ESTS (Unit 8, Guardian Road Industrial Estate, Norwich) provided enthusiastic and invaluable help with design and fabrication of the supporting structures.

At best – in full sunlight, in mid-summer – the new photovoltaic panels will generate electricity at a rate of about 4.0kW per day, but even under much less favourable conditions are still effective, albeit at a lower rate. During sunny days at the start of September they were averaging around 2.1kW per day. Grant funding for 50% of the cost of the PV panels themselves came from the Department for Trade & Industry via the Energy Savings Trust. A number of other bodies also made grants, including the Helen Roll, Courtyard Farm, Paul Bassham, Lord Couzens-Hardy and Cobb Charitable Trusts, together with the Ipswich & Norwich Coop, and much fundraising over several years by the Friends of the Greenhouse.

The new installation not only generates electricity – and reduces the Greenhouse's electricity bills – but also provides shelter for people using the courtyard café in spring and autumn. In addition it helps to collect more rainwater, which The Greenhouse uses for flushing its toilets, and so helps to reduce the demand on our valuable water resources.

For more information visit www.greenhousetrust.co.uk

Architects Respond To Global Environmental Crisis

The Royal Institute of British Architects-USA (The RIBA-USA) has initiated an International Competition "Building A Sustainable World: Life in the Balance" to bring architects, designers, engineers, city planners and others together in a response to our Global Environmental Crisis.

The competition is being sponsored by Autodesk, who also underwrote the recently aired PBS documentary Design E:2 narrated by Brad Pitt, and Gibbs Smith as the publishing company. Over \$20,000.00 in prizes are being offered.

China has also taken a pro-active role in the competition. China National Enterprises, Association for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, The Ministry of Commerce, P.R. China are promoting "Building A Sustainable World" and are the representatives for the Asian community participating in the competition.

Esteemed judges include President Elect for the RIBA - Sunand Prasad, President Elect for The American Institute of Architects - RK Stewart, Thom Mayne, Ken Yeang (featured in DesignE:2), Phil Bernstein - Autodesk, and others to be announced shortly.

For more information visit www.riba-usa.org/Competitions/index.htm

European Parliament Moves To Protect The Public From Toxic Medical Devices

Brussels, 4th October 2006: The European Parliament has recognized the need to eliminate toxic chemicals in relation to medical devices. The committee for Environment, Public Health and Safety has supported a ban on the use of chemicals which can cause cancer, mutation, and reproductive problems in medical devices.

One of the chemicals of particular concern is DEHP - a member of a family of chemicals called phthalates that cause a spectrum of negative health effects in animal studies, including reproductive disorders and birth defects. DEHP is widely used as a softener in PVC plastic medical devices.

In the case of DEHP-containing medical devices, there are alternatives that have been assessed as safe already available on the market, and a number of hospitals across Europe have begun to use them. For example, in Austria, the Glanzing Children's Clinic in Vienna has almost completely stopped using DEHP-containing medical devices in neonatal units.

In the Czech Republic, the Na Homolce and Faculty Hospitals in Olomouc have also started using DEHP/PVC-free alternatives for neonates and dialysis patients. But alternative DEHP/PVC-free products do not have to be labelled as such, which can make them difficult for hospital purchasing managers to find.

The majority of companies already offer both DEHP-containing as well as DEHP-free devices. However some manufacturers refuse to actively market the alternatives because of the larger profit margin they make on the PVC/DEHP containing products, which have the advantage of having been longer on the market.

UK Homes Should Beat Scandinavian Eco-Standards - Yvette Cooper

New UK homes should be built to Scandinavian standards and better them within ten years, Housing and Planning Minister Yvette Cooper has said.

Speaking after a visit to environmentally friendly and sustainably designed housing developments in the Netherlands and Scandinavia with stakeholders from the house building, regeneration and environmental sectors, the minister said developers need to increase standards to meet the challenges of climate change. She wants to use ideas and techniques already being developed and adopted in other European countries to deliver substantial cuts in carbon emissions from new homes. She is also challenging UK companies to plan and innovate now to beat designs and standards from Scandinavia and the Netherlands within ten years.

The second phase of the Design for Manufacture competition will be launched by the end of the year, challenging builders to develop environmentally friendly, low carbon housing developments. The competition will involve private and public sites for low and zero carbon developments. European companies will be invited to join the competition to increase innovation. Source The Department for Communities and Local Government.

Students Lobby Ministers To Replace Downing Street With A New Eco-HQ

Three government ministers on September 26th viewed Manchester school students' proposals for an environmentally friendly replacement to No.10 Downing Street. The students have declared that the current No. 10 Downing Street is unsustainable – a drain on energy and resources – and will be lobbying the Prime Minister and senior politicians to listen to their ideas for its replacement by parking a lorry containing an exhibition of their designs directly outside the Labour Party conference.

A panic room, an underwater cabinet room and an organic farm feature in the students' innovative proposals for a new eco-home and office for the Prime Minister. Ministers Alan Johnson, David Lammy and the David Miliband met the students outside Manchester Town Hall to view their innovative ideas. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the ICE have instigated The Green Wing project, working with a group of Year 11 students from Cedar Mount High School, a successful inner-city comprehensive in East Manchester.

The students were invited by RIBA and the ICE to take part in this unique project to design an environmentally friendly Prime Minister's office and residence on Duck Island in St James's Park. The resulting design gives politicians and the public a real insight into what young people believe represents a suitable contemporary and sustainable residence for the Prime Minister. Speaking about The Green Wing project, RIBA President Jack Pringle said: "This is the first time a major party conference has been held in Manchester so we wanted to do something really special bringing together education, design and sustainability.

The project covers a range of subjects including design, science, geography and citizenship.

Is It OK . . . To Have A Conservatory?

If the domestic must-have of the 1970s was the fitted kitchen, today it is surely the conservatory. More than 200,000 are built each year, and this figure shows no sign of shrinking. You can buy one at DIY stores as easily as a bag of compost and rarely need planning permission. A conservatory gives you an extra room, a sense of the outdoors when it is too chilly for the real al fresco, and a bijoux winter home for your begonias. Not bad for the price of a family car.

But at what cost to the environment? Most conservatories are made of PVC or wood, and there is fierce debate about which version is the most sustainable. Wood is a renewable resource, whereas PVC comes from oil, produces hazardous waste and gobbles energy in manufacture. It is also difficult to recycle, although progress is being made on this. Nevertheless, a report last year for World Wildlife Fund concluded that wood was the more sustainable.

The British Plastics Federation, however, disputes this, claiming that the study "verges on junk science". It points to other reports that seem to plump for plastic-framed windows and says you have to take into account that wood needs painting every so often, which has an impact on the environment. PVC, on the other hand, will last for many years.

This debate, however, distracts from an issue of much more environmental concern: the amount of energy we use in heating - and, more recently, cooling - our conservatories. The construction of a building, in this case a home, causes pollution and produces CO₂, but a more significant impact comes from the actual running of it, according to Professor Geoff Levermore, a building energy expert and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cooking, watching TV, keeping warm and so on at home accounts for 28% of the UK's CO₂ output.

Theoretically, a conservatory can help to reduce our domestic emissions. This is because, in cold weather, it acts as a buffer zone between inside and out, helping to keep the house warm and cutting energy requirements. This principle is taken further in buildings that use "passive solar heating": in winter, a south-facing "conservatory" area not only acts as a draught excluder, but traps the sun's heat, so warming up the interior of the home. For it to work properly, the main part of the house must be separated by doors from the glazed section, and a system of vents and screens is needed so that the building does not overheat in summer.

However, in practice, most conservatories are contributing disproportionate emissions to the atmosphere. These little glass boxes can turn a thermally efficient home into an energy-leaking nightmare. This is not the building's fault, but our own. Conservatories were intended to be used when the temperature permitted, typically between spring and autumn. That is why they are supposed to be separated from the rest of the house by exterior-grade doors, so they would not cool the home in winter. In reality, we want to use them all year round, which means heating them in cold weather.

Glass is a notoriously poor insulator. According to the Building Research Establishment, even good double-glazing loses around seven times more heat than a modern wall. In other words, a heated conservatory is also warming an awful lot of sky. It seems crazy at a time of melting polar ice caps, but the current popularity of outdoor heaters suggests that a lot of people could not care less.

And it is getting worse. According to two studies by the Bartlett School at University College London, domestic conservatories are now being heated more than ever before. In the first study in 1991, when just 50,000 were built a year, researchers found that 91% of people used heating in their conservatory, and about half of them did it regularly. The latest findings, to be published in the new year, suggest a more depressing trend, with a greater number heating them for a longer period. The study also identifies a new fashion: air-conditioning units to keep them cool in summer.

This situation is unacceptable, says Levermore. "If people use a conservatory in the way it is intended, then fair enough. But they don't - it's a cheap way of getting an extra room."

But what is to be done? Tighten up planning and building regulations, as Levermore suggests? At the moment, most conservatories can be built as permitted development, and only need planning permission in conservation, heritage or other environmentally sensitive areas. Some small conservatories are even exempt from building regulations, so theoretically you could build one with single-glazing.

Making it harder to get a conservatory might deter some people, but would it break bad habits among the rest? How could you legislate against heating conservatories in winter and switching on the air-con in summer? As we get stuck into autumn, it is one for the politicians to ponder, but as climate scientists keep reminding us, they should pull their fingers out. Those people in glass houses might not be throwing stones this winter, but a lot of them will be turning up the heating.

Source: Dominic Murphy's guide to a good life, The Guardian, Tuesday October 3, 2006

UK Warns Of Huge Cost Of Not Tackling Climate Change

The United Kingdom is about to publish a report warning that climate change will cost the world trillions of dollars - far more than the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The report was prepared by Nicholas Stern, a former World Bank economist. He presented his findings to a private meeting of environment and finance ministers from 20 industrialised and emerging economies in Mexico this week. In a statement summarising Stern's analysis, the UK treasury said: "Action is urgent — the earlier we start, the greater the chance we will have of limiting the risks of dangerous climate change."

Margaret Beckett, Britain's foreign minister, told delegates in Mexico that Stern's report would show "that it is sound economic sense to respond to climate change and economic nonsense not to. Our task as governments is to build the biggest public-private partnership ever conceived. We must give investors the certainty they are seeking that investment in low carbon today will yield growing returns." She said it was a myth that "effective action on climate kills growth", and added that if the correct choices were made now, the agenda for tackling climate change would show itself to be an opportunity not a sacrifice. Beckett cited action being taken in Brazil, China and India as leading examples of attempts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Yesterday, the UK Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research revealed a new study that indicates nearly one-third of the world's land surface could be at risk of extreme drought by the end of the century. Based on drought records for the second half of the 20th century, the findings will be published by the Journal of Hydrometeorology at the end of this month.

The Mexico meeting was a follow-up to the 'Gleneagles Dialogue' on climate change that began at the G8 summit in Scotland in 2005. Ministers at the Mexico meeting were expected to discuss a framework for tackling climate change after the Kyoto Protocol's remit ends in 2012, but the outcomes of the meeting have not yet been announced.

Activist organisation Friends of the Earth has expressed disappointment that the meeting was not open to civil society.

Source: SciDev.Net 4 October 2006

Greenpeace Take Government To Court

Greenpeace on Thursday began a legal challenge to the government's bid to push ahead with a new nuclear power programme. The government said in its energy review in July it was vital to renew the country's

ageing nuclear power stations both to combat global warming from burning fossil fuels and to reduce rising dependence on imported energy supplies.

But environmentalists reject nuclear power as too expensive and too dangerous, and on Thursday Greenpeace, citing numerous supporting statements, set out to prove the process by which the government arrived at its conclusions was flawed. No comment was immediately available on Thursday from the Department of Trade and Industry which ran the review.

At the outset of what they hope will result in a full judicial review, Greenpeace lodged papers with the High Court in London arguing that the government ignored adverse advice and failed to carry out a full public consultation. If they are ultimately successful, the government will be forced to put aside its conclusions and go back over the review process which, although dubbed a public consultation actually gave the public little opportunity to hear the arguments.

But time is short, nuclear power plants supply some 20 percent of Britain's electricity, but most of the elderly plants are due to close within a decade and the last one is set for closure by 2025. In the past, public planning enquiries about plans to build nuclear power stations have taken years. In a bid to shorten the process, the government is considering pre-approval of nuclear power plant designs and limiting the scope of public inquiries to purely local issues.

Source Reuters October 5th.

BBC Documentary Set To Follow People Going Green: Do You Want To Be Part Of It?

Keo Films is developing a documentary series for BBC2 about families and couples who are changing their lives completely by 'going green'. This could mean building a dream eco house from scratch, converting a current home, or starting a new eco business. They are looking to follow the many, varied and inspirational ways people have of going green: wind power, solar power, geodesic domes, water harvesting, compost heating – the more inventive the better.

The series aims to show how making changes to one's own life can impact on hugely important environmental issues in the world, and hopes to do this by following real people's stories in an engaging, sensitive way. Keo is looking particularly to speak to families or couples who are planning to make big changes to their lives. At this early stage they are trying to talk to as many people as possible, to get a sense of their experiences, so are urging anyone who fits this profile to get in touch. If this is you please call James on 0207 490 8602 or email james@keofilms.com.

All conversations are in confidence and calling will not oblige people to take part in the documentary.

Events

The I-Count Event, Stop Climate Chaos, Trafalgar Square 1-3pm, Saturday 4 November.

Make a bigger bang than Bonfire night. Let the government know you care by packing out Trafalgar Square. By joining the thousands in the Square on Saturday November 4 you will be making your voice count. Whether you care about the environment, global poverty, wildlife or just you and your family, climate change has become the greatest challenge we face. But together we can stop climate chaos.

With entertainment, film, performance, music, and speakers it'll be one of the biggest events of the year. Help deliver some ear bending political noise at a time when there's some serious political stuff going on.

The event takes place on the eve of critical international climate talks in Nairobi, Kenya, where we will be pushing the UK government to show real leadership. And just over a week later we are hoping the Queen will announce the introduction of a climate change bill. This could make year-on-year cuts in carbon dioxide - which is the main cause of climate change - the law.

So be there - in the Square. Bring friends or family. The day is yours - make it the one event that counts. For up to date information visit www.icount.org.uk.

Courses

Specification And Use Of Natural Building Materials, Genesis Project, Taunton, 2nd November 2006

This CPD event is one of a series of nine one-day seminars designed to reflect the learning and experiences, both project specific and wider, of those involved with the design and construction of the

Genesis Sustainable Construction Resource Centre in Taunton, Somerset (www.genesisproject.com). The programme was devised by The Genesis Project and Dorset Centre for Rural Skills as part of their continued working relationship beyond the Genesis build. All nine seminars, by virtue of relating to a common build, can be attended as individual 'stand-alone' events or are equally well suited to a 'mix and match' approach for those looking for a wider understanding of sustainable construction materials and techniques.

As part of the collaborative working relationship that now exists between Genesis and The Eden Project, this CPD programme includes a presentation from members of the Eden team on metals stewardship that reflects the need for an FSC/PEFC approach to metals.

Date: 2 November 2006 Genesis £99 + vat (incl. locally sourced lunch). For more information visit www.genesisproject.com email lmw@somerset.ac.uk or ring 01823 252934.

Low Impact Living Initiative (LILI) Courses

Residential Weekend Course: wind & solar electricity.

Location: Low-impact Living Initiative, Redfield Community, Buckinghamshire

Date: November 10-12 2006

Cost: high-waged £180 / waged £150 / unwaged £120. All food and accommodation included - plus free beers, wine, tea and biscuits!

For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlinewindandsolar.htm

Residential Weekend Course: how to make biodiesel?

Location: Low-impact Living Initiative, Redfield Community, Buckinghamshire

Date: November 17-19 2006

Cost: high-waged £180 / waged £150 / unwaged £120. All food and accommodation included - plus free beers, wine, tea and biscuits!

For more details, see: www.lowimpact.org/courseoutlinebiodiesel.htm

2007 course schedule is on the website now!! Visit www.lowimpact.org

Books

Strategies For Sustainable Architecture, A New Book By Paola Sassi

Filling a gap in existing literature on sustainable design, this new guide introduces and illustrates sustainable design principles through detailed case studies of sustainable buildings in Europe, North America and Australia. The guide will provide the reader with a deeper understanding of the design issues involved in delivering sustainable buildings, giving detailed descriptions of the process of integrating principles into practice.

Approximately one hundred case studies of sixty buildings, ranging from small dwellings to large commercial buildings, demonstrate best current practice. The sections of the book are divided into design issues relating to sustainable development, including site and ecology, community and culture, health, materials, energy and water. With over 400 illustrations, this highly visual guide will be an invaluable reference to all those concerned with architecture and sustainability issues.

Available from Amazon or direct from:

Paola Sassi, Lecturer in Architecture, Welsh School of Architecture, Bute Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3AP. For more information visit www.cardiff.ac.uk/archi/school/staff/Sassi.html, email sassip@cardiff.ac.uk, or phone 029 2087 5981

If you have any news, events or courses you would like to publicise in Network then please email details to network@aecb.net, phone 0845 456 1290, or post to Chris Lord-Smith, y Graig, Llidiart-y-Waen, Llanidloes, SY18 6JT.