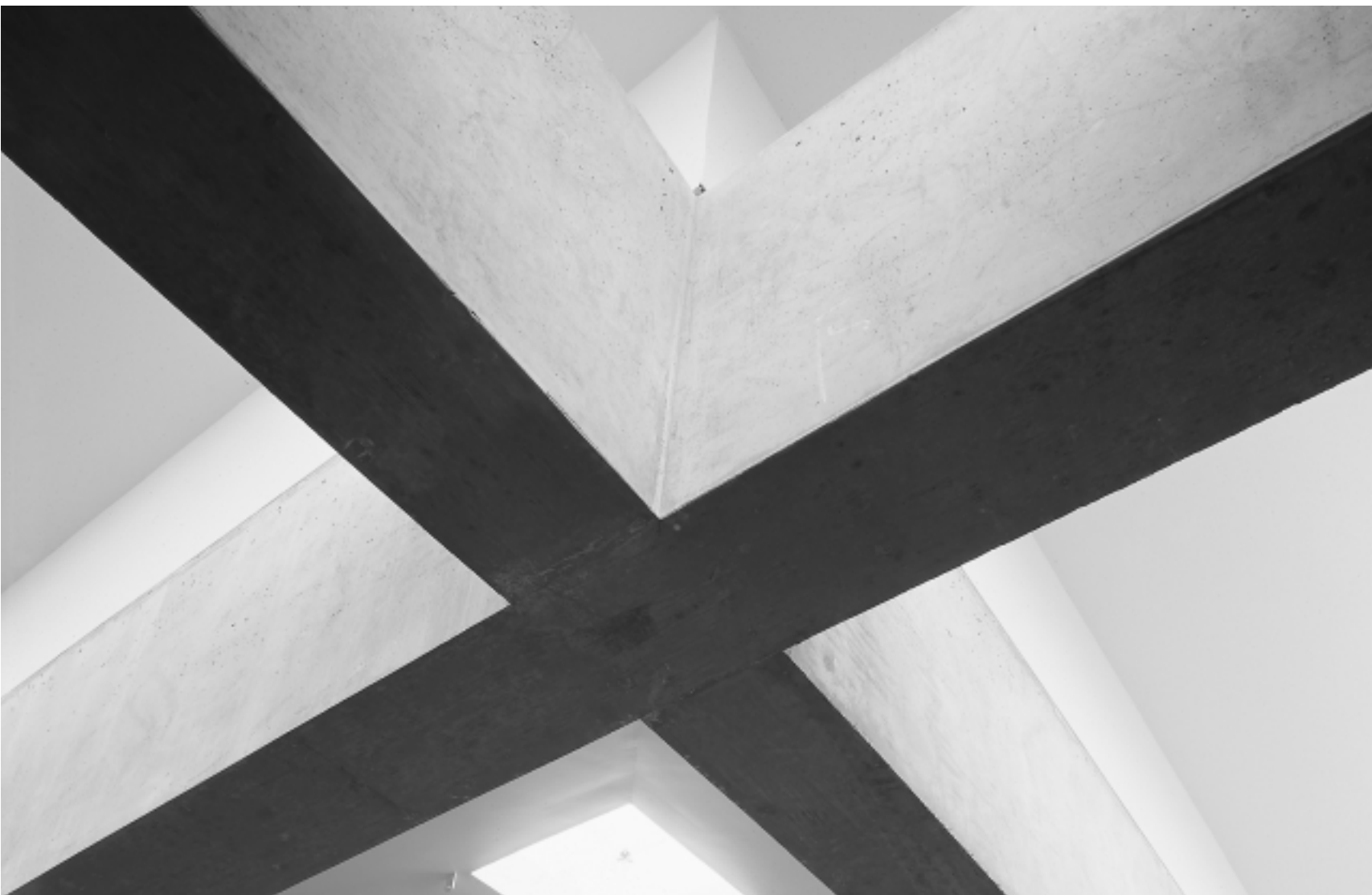


A POLICY ON ARCHITECTURE FOR SCOTLAND



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Making it work together

ONE OF THE MAIN TASKS OF THE EXECUTIVE IS TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE NOT ONLY THROUGH BETTER SERVICES AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY BUT ALSO THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES LIVE AND WORK.



Buildings form a fundamental part of our physical environment and the quality of our buildings – of our architecture – has a vital role to play in bringing about the improvements we seek.

This document sets out the principles that underpin the Executive's commitment to the promotion of good architecture and good building design and the actions we intend to take to encourage improvements in the quality of our buildings. We recognise that the improvements we seek will not be achieved easily or in the short term. We also recognise that we will need to work in partnership with others if we are to meet the objectives of policy. But we believe that these objectives are both worthwhile and necessary if we are to realise the potential of good architecture to meet the social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges we face now and will face in the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Allan Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line that tapers at both ends, serving as a decorative underline.

ALLAN WILSON, MSP
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SPORT, THE ARTS AND CULTURE



02

The Executive's commitment to develop a national policy on architecture marked the start of a process. The publication of the framework document, *The Development of a Policy on Architecture for Scotland*, and the subsequent public consultation and report on the consultation were the first steps in that process. The framework document established the context for policy development and set out why the Executive has an interest in the quality of buildings and the built environment and the importance of building to its social, cultural, environmental and economic objectives. The document also set out the issues policy might address and the range of objectives and actions

policy might embrace. What was set out in the framework document was strongly endorsed in the public consultation and there was broad support for the sentiments expressed.

We intend, therefore, to adhere to the general objectives and aspirations set out in the framework document and it will remain the reference point for policy development and implementation.

A further outcome of the public consultation was that it suggested an agenda and a set of priorities for policy development. Following the consultation, discussions were held with key policy areas, agencies and interest

groups in order to explore where the opportunities might lie, and what needs to be done, to take the process forward. As a consequence of these discussions, a number of collaborative initiatives – on the promotion of architecture, on education, on construction procurement and on urban design – have already been put in place. This document marks the next stage in the process of policy development and implementation. It re-asserts the key principles that underpin the Executive's commitment to a policy on architecture and sets out the principles, objectives and actions that will form the basis for the forward programme.



03

The Executive has made a commitment to a policy on architecture because we believe that a concern for the quality of the built environment in our cities, towns and rural areas is a necessary responsibility of government. We believe that it is a responsibility of government for three principal reasons. Firstly, because the quality of the built environment is important to the furtherance and delivery of our broader social and economic policy objectives; secondly, because a concern for the quality of new building is part of our responsibility for the maintenance and continuity of our built heritage; and thirdly, because the promotion of architecture is part of our responsibility for the promotion of national culture.

We believe that:-

- our ability to meet social policy objectives for a decent, fair and inclusive society is dependent on the quality of the built environments we make and sustain;
- the quality of our architecture, and of our urban and rural places, is a reflection of our cultural aspirations and is vital to the perception of Scotland as a place of imagination, creativity and innovation;
- what we build now has a key role to play both in conserving and extending that which is of value in our built heritage and in achieving our objectives for a sustainable future; and
- well-designed and efficient buildings represent a sound investment, help to stimulate local economies, promote regeneration and are important for economic competitiveness.



04

Our intention in policy is to seek improvements in the quality of Scotland's buildings, both public and private, and in the quality of our built environments. We believe that the key to achieving this lies in a recognition of the importance and value of good design.

We believe that the commissioning of building brings with it responsibilities – responsibilities not only to the users of buildings, but also to the communities in which buildings are set and to future generations. These responsibilities of building set a challenging agenda for those who commission and make our buildings and require the resolution of a complex, and often conflicting, set of objectives and constraints. It is the purpose of design to find creative solutions to these challenges of building that imaginatively and fully reconcile the complexities involved.

We believe, therefore, that design is an integral part of the process of building and should not be marginalised or considered an option.

We recognise, however, that whilst design is a key activity, it cannot succeed in isolation. The possibility of achieving design quality is intrinsic in all of the decisions that are made in the procurement and construction process. We believe, then, that the pursuit of quality is a collective responsibility and requires all those involved in the commissioning and making of buildings to subscribe.

We believe that:-

- the processes and skills of design must be properly recognised and accommodated in procurement and construction practice if we are to achieve the quality in our buildings we seek;
- design is a specialist skill but it is not an exclusive activity and depends on a meaningful and sustained dialogue between designers and clients, users and communities; and
- good design adds value and represents a sound and necessary investment in Scotland's people, our communities and our future.



05

The quality of our buildings and of our built environments is affected by, and affects, a wide range of interests across the community and we recognise that our objectives for policy will not be met without the involvement, commitment and co-operation of these interests.

We believe, then, that the implementation of policy must be based on a partnership approach. We will seek to build partnerships not only with those who directly commission and construct buildings but also with those agencies and organisations who either directly or on the margins, have an interest in the quality of the built environment for the furtherance of their own aims and objectives. We will work with these interests to develop procedures and initiatives which explicitly acknowledge the value and benefits of good building design and provide the contexts in which good architecture is given the opportunity to emerge.

We believe that the opportunity to contribute through partnership must also extend to those who are directly affected by decisions which impact on the built environment. We will, then, seek to provide greater opportunity for users and communities to engage in matters affecting the design and development of local built environments.



o6

Set out below are our objectives for policy and the actions we intend to take to put them into effect. We will seek to implement the objectives of policy in two ways. Firstly, we will continue to advocate the importance of architecture to our social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives and, secondly, we will seek to effect changes on the ground and to deliver better buildings. We will continue to promote the value of good building design, to foster an understanding of its benefits and to celebrate and promote the achievements of Scottish architecture. We will also work to effect improvements in the design of publicly-funded buildings, to seek improvements in development control practice and policy and to support community initiatives.

We recognise that architecture and the built environment are complex subject areas and that our objectives for policy and a strategy for its implementation will need to evolve through time.

We will, therefore, periodically review our objectives and priorities and assess the effectiveness of actions taken.

07



Our objectives in policy will be:-

- 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;
- to foster excellence in design, acknowledge and celebrate achievement in the field of architecture and the built environment, and promote Scottish architecture at home and abroad;
- to encourage greater interest and community involvement in matters affecting local built environments;
- 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 and sustainable development; and
- to ensure that the planning and building standards systems and their associated processes both promote and facilitate design quality in development.



o8

To meet our objective:-

➤ 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;

we will:-

➤ provide grant to The Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Architecture, Design and the City, for a three-year national programme of activities, events and initiatives in support of architecture;

➤ provide support for the development of an online, virtual architecture centre as a national resource for information, communication and outreach;

➤ work, in collaboration with Learning and Teaching Scotland, to foster an awareness and enjoyment of architecture through the schools curricula;

➤ provide guidance to schools on the potential of information relating to architecture and the built environment to inform subject areas and support the National Priorities for education;

➤ work to deliver, through the National Grid for Learning, online interactive teaching resource material on architecture and the built environment;

➤ encourage the development of life-long learning opportunities to provide an understanding of both the processes and products of building design;

➤ encourage the development of targeted design awareness programmes for key client groups amongst commissioning bodies;

➤ work through Historic Scotland and with other bodies to promote the use of the built heritage as an educational resource; and

➤ work through Historic Scotland to commission and publish research on matters relating to building conservation and traditional materials.

09



To meet our objective:-

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

we will:-

➤ establish a new national award for exemplary achievement in the field of architecture;

➤ establish an annual award for student designers;

➤ encourage the use of well-managed design competitions for major proposals of national or local significance;

➤ commission the publication of a bi-annual review of Scottish architecture and urban and landscape design;

➤ through Historic Scotland, promote the imaginative re-use of old buildings and develop the skills necessary for their conservation, repair and maintenance;

➤ work with VisitScotland and through Historic Scotland to develop online tourist itineraries focusing on architecture;

➤ work with Scottish Enterprise to promote architecture within the national creative industries strategy;

➤ provide support for the RSA “Art in Architecture” scheme to encourage and promote collaborations between artists and architects;

➤ work with the British Council and Scottish Trade International to develop opportunities for the promotion of Scottish architecture abroad;

➤ build on The Lighthouse’s role in the Réseau Art Nouveau Network and European Route of Modernism to develop international links and promote Scottish architecture;

➤ sponsor European Heritage Days to facilitate public access to buildings of architectural interest; and

➤ work with the European Architectural Policies Forum to develop joint European initiatives to promote architecture.



To meet our objective:-

➤ to encourage greater interest and community involvement in matters affecting local built environments;

we will:-

- work with community groups and community interests to develop a network of activity relating to architecture and the built environment at local level;
- establish a partnership fund to support, by way of grant, local community initiatives and events;
- promote community-based design activity in the context of social inclusion partnerships;
- encourage local cultural organisations and venues to include architecture in their programmes;
- encourage the schools of architecture to engage with local communities in their teaching programmes; and
- work to enable local authorities, civic societies and special interest groups to promote architecture at a local level.

11



To meet our 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 and sustainable development;

we will:-

➤ 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;

➤ work in partnership with local authorities to promote and advocate the benefits of good design in construction projects;

➤ work to develop policies on design with those public agencies and organisations that directly or indirectly fund construction projects or have an interest in the quality of the built environment for the furtherance of their policy aims;

➤ develop and publish methodologies for post-project and post-occupancy evaluations for public sector projects;

➤ work to promote an annual award for best publicly-funded building; and

➤ encourage the development and use of design-quality indicators in publicly-funded projects.



12

To meet our objective:-

➤ to ensure that the planning and building standards systems and their associated processes both promote and facilitate design quality in development;

we will:-

➤ work to ensure that design quality is accorded greater significance as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications;

➤ work to promote and implement the Executive's policy on design quality in urban and rural development;

➤ encourage the development and use of design briefs and design strategies in support of development plans;

➤ encourage the schools of planning and architecture to work collaboratively and strengthen the teaching of urban design in order to ensure that appropriate professional skills are available in the planning process;

➤ review the status, organisation and remit appropriate for a national design review body to provide independent advice on development proposals;

➤ establish a forum in the Executive to co-ordinate policy and liaison on building and urban and rural design matters; and

➤ work to ensure that the statutory building standards reflect, and are supportive of, the processes of design.

- o1 **Allan Wilson, MSP**
Deputy Minister for Sport, the Arts and Culture
Photography: Paul Watt, Creative
- o2 **Dance Base, National Centre for Dance, Edinburgh**
Architect: Malcolm Fraser Architects
Client: Dance Base
Contractor: HBG
Photography: Andrew Lee
- o3 **Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh**
Architects: EMBT/RMJM
Client: Scottish Parliament Corporate Body
Contractor: Bovis Lend Lease
Photography: Andrew Lee
- o4 **Spire Park, Roystonhill, Glasgow**
Landscape Architect: Loci Design
Client: Royston Road Project
Contractor: The Wise Group
Photography: Andrew Lee
- o5 **Museum of Scottish Country Life, Kittinghside, East Kilbride**
Architect: Page and Park Architects
Client: National Trust for Scotland
and National Museums of Scotland
Contractor: Skanska Construction
Photography: Shannon Toft
- o6 **Glasgow Science Centre, Pacific Quay**
Architect: Building Design Partnership
Client: Glasgow Science Centre Charitable Trust
Contractor: Carillion Building
Photography: Dougie Barnett
- o7 **WHALE, Community Arts Centre, Wester Hailes, Edinburgh**
Architect: Zoo Architects
Client: Wester Hailes Arts and Leisure
for Education (WHALE)
Contractor: Peter Walker Construction
Photography: Andrew Lee
- o8 **Straw Bale Office**
Architect: Gaia Architects
Client: Raymond Young
Contractor: Charles Dobb
Photography: Andrew Lee
- o9 **Harmeny School, Balerno**
Architect: Richard Murphy Architects
Client: Harmeny Education Trust
Contractor: Mowlem
Photography: David Churchill
- o10 **Cedar House, Logiealmond, Perth**
Architect: Mark Walker
Client: Walker Family
Contractor: B & B Builders
Photography: Andrew Lee
- o11 **Housing at Cuithir, Isle of Barra**
Architect: Benjamin Tindall Architects
Client: Barra and Vatersay Housing Association
Contractor: Peter Nicholson Builders
Photography: Benjamin Tindall Architects
- o12 **HM Prison Edinburgh Families and Visitors Centre**
Architect: Gareth Hoskins Architects
Client: The Onward Trust in conjunction
with HM Prison Edinburgh
Contractor: Peter Walker Construction
Photography: Keith Hunter

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