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Written by Howard Fletcher.

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CABE is the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space. As a public body, we encourage policymakers to create places that work for people. We help local planners apply national design policy and advise developers and architects, persuading them to put people's needs first. We show public sector clients how to commission buildings that meet the needs of their users. And we seek to inspire the public to demand more from their buildings and spaces. Advising, influencing and inspiring, we work to create well-designed, welcoming places.

This annual review sets out CABE's progress in its work during the year 2005/06. A report of our financial statements for the same year has been produced to accompany this review. If you need a copy of that report, please do contact us.

CABE
1 Kemble Street
London WC2B 4AN
T 020 7070 6700
F 020 7070 6777
E enquiries@cabe.org.uk
www.cabe.org.uk

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Foreword

Making an impact

In the last few years, we have witnessed a transformation of the built environment in this country. Change is all around us, some of it inspirational. Our job at CABE is to make the best the norm. And, in so doing, we aim to have a positive, lasting impact on people's lives.

Although we're known as the government's design champion, we're not just interested in aesthetics. Beauty, however you define it, is one element of a great built environment. But the utility of the end product also matters. Good design is about making sure that this product — a building, a park, a neighbourhood or even a city — makes life better for anyone who comes into contact with it.

So how do you achieve good design in the built environment? There is no simple answer. But CABE has developed a number of ways to help make it happen. We may ask one of our enablers – design experts who work for CABE in the field – to work with a local council, offering practical, expert advice. Our enabler will encourage the project team to raise their sights, and give the client team confidence to reject lowest common denominator solutions. Or we may offer advice through our design review panel. Using a cast of experienced professionals to examine development proposals, we pull no punches in the argument to ensure that quality does not come second to speed or cost.

Whichever way we work, CABE always looks at places through the eyes of a user. These are the people who'll enjoy, or suffer, the quality long after the professionals have moved on. And it's through this public lens that you can best discern the value of our work. The design of new hospitals and healthcare buildings that CABE has advised on will directly affect the quality of care offered to 20 million patients nationwide. And the procurement of new schools that we have supported will impact on the performance of 130,000 pupils each year.

There is still a massive challenge ahead of us. In many places, bad design surrounds us. But this report describes projects through which architects, planners, residents and politicians have come together and shown how good design can transform the world we live in.

John Sorrell CBE

Chair, CABE

Facing the challenge: John Sorrell at CABE's London headquarters





Chief executive's report

Raising our game

CABE is now more than six years old and many of the projects we've advised are taking shape on the ground. These range from the Gulbenkian prize-nominated Lincoln Collection to a tough regeneration project in north Sheffield. You should also get a sense in this report of the change in culture and skills which has taken place since 1999 across the construction and regeneration sectors. The quality of places is still frustratingly inconsistent, but it is becoming much harder to sideline good design in the development process.

2005 was the year that climate change finally moved centre stage for the media at least, and stayed there. But the truth is that only a learning society can become a sustainable society. People change because they have learned to see themselves and the world in a different way. CABE promotes high standards in architecture and the built environment by improving, influencing and inspiring people and projects. We will need all three strategies if sustainability is going to be properly recognised as intrinsic to great design.

During the year, our design review service looked at 319 significant proposals. These ranged from the abject – the initial Cape Hill Brewery plan within the Birmingham-Sandwell housing market renewal pathfinder area failed both as urban design and architecture – through to the very tall – the DIFA tower proposal in the City of London.

Part of our work to influence design quality also involves understanding the pressures that drive it down. In 2005, our audit of housing schemes in the north of England revealed that only 6 per cent could be described as good. So, with major volume housebuilders, we have begun a very positive dialogue exploring the value of investment in design, through a series of tailored urban design workshops.

Low-quality design is often due to low aspirations. In the past this was dismally apparent in the healthcare sector, so our campaign, 'Designed with care', has targeted clients and contractors and showcased inspiring healthcare buildings that are leading the way. 'Parkforce', organised by CABE Space, proved our most high-profile inspirational campaign. Through this initiative, we are pressing the case for on-site staff in parks. Park rangers from New York City toured England to talk about the transformation achieved in that city's Central Park through a multi-skilled parkforce.

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are an opportunity to showcase the best in British architecture and landscape design and leave an important legacy for east London. We seconded our deputy chief executive to the Olympics team during the year to provide expert design advice. As with the wider public building programme, it is imperative that we focus on quality as much as the cost and speed of delivery, and in this respect the next 18 months of the Olympic programme will prove absolutely critical. The London games will be an outstanding event only if people look back on the games and their legacy as having a lasting benefit for the UK and especially for east London.

We believe the same level of aspiration is needed for the Thames Gateway, that network of cities, towns and villages around the Thames estuary. Each is different and individual, but they all share a common belief that, however great their past was, the future will be better. We are determined that the work we are doing to define a vision and identity for the region will help the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership to deliver that great future.

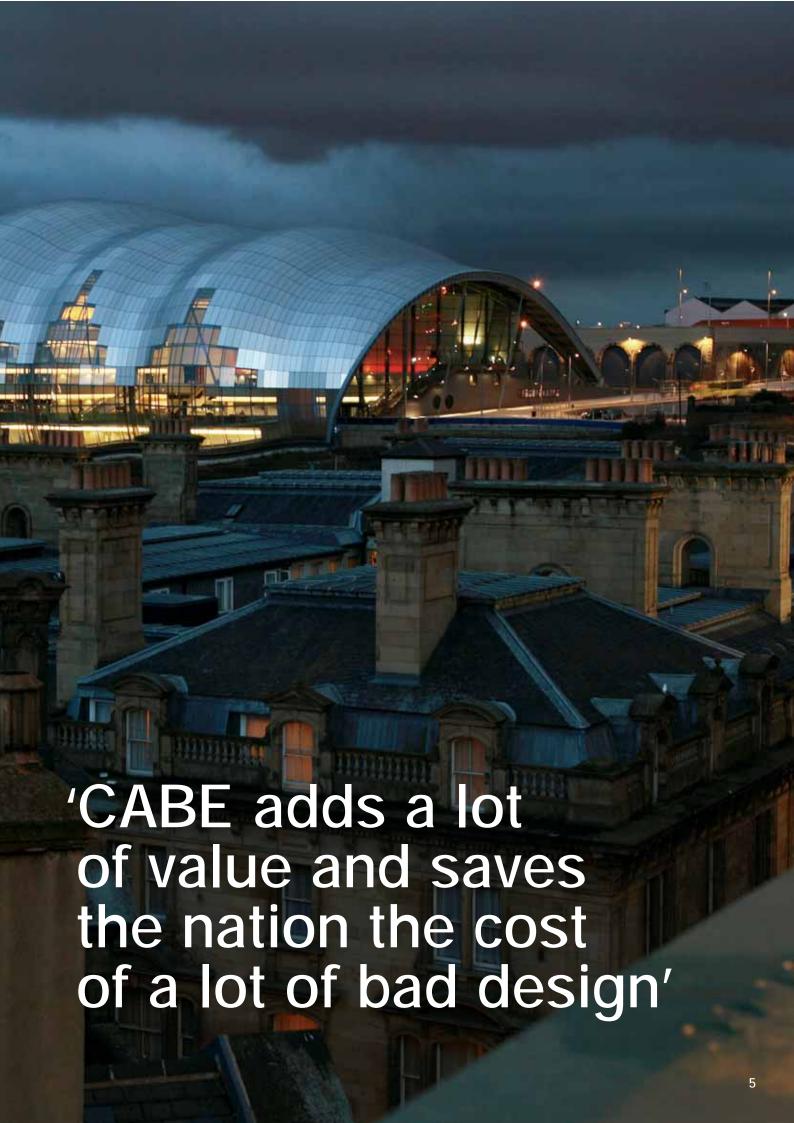
CABE has an amazingly talented team of staff, advisors and commissioners. We are making strong progress in putting good design back at the heart of development and regeneration. We know we can never do it alone. We have many allies and supporters. I would like to thank them and the team here for their hard work and commitment.

CABE costs a tiny fraction of the value of the schemes we see at design review. We add a lot of value and save the cost of a lot of bad design. We can do this only because so many people give us their time and expertise to make places better for others. We fully appreciate their contribution to this vital task.

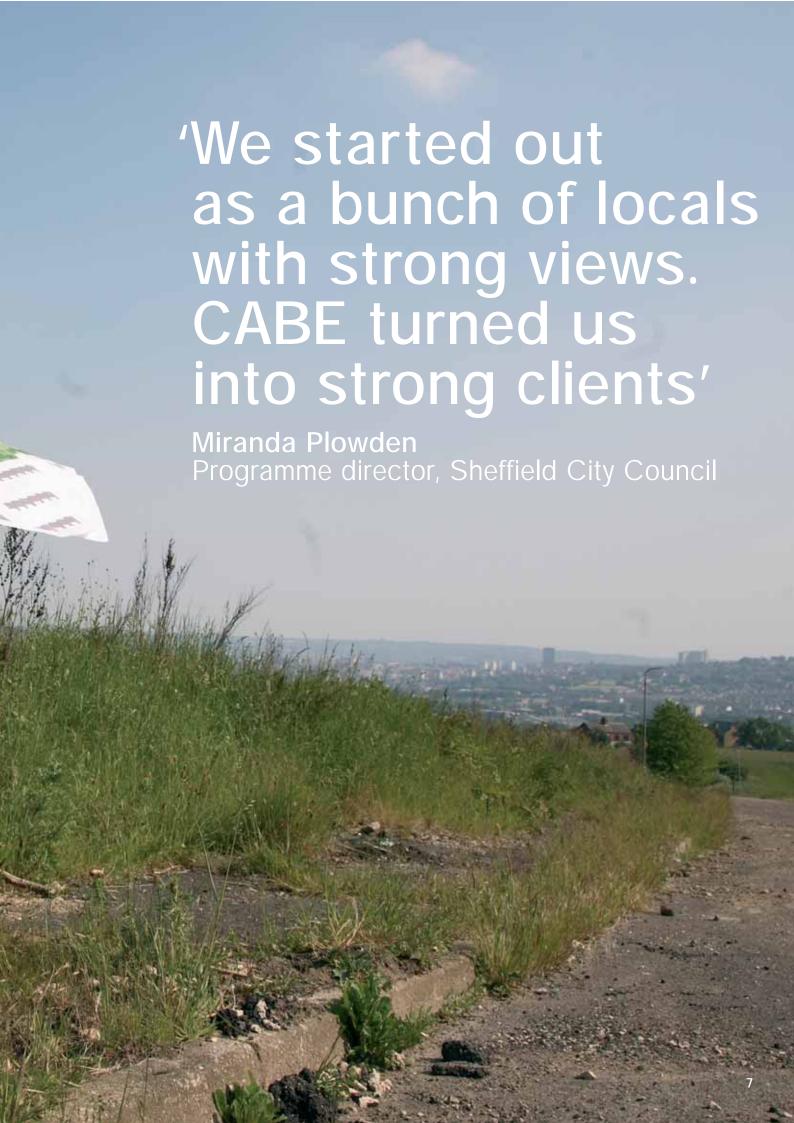
Dr Richard Simmons Chief executive

Urban renewal: the Sage, Gateshead - focus for spectacular physical and cultural regeneration



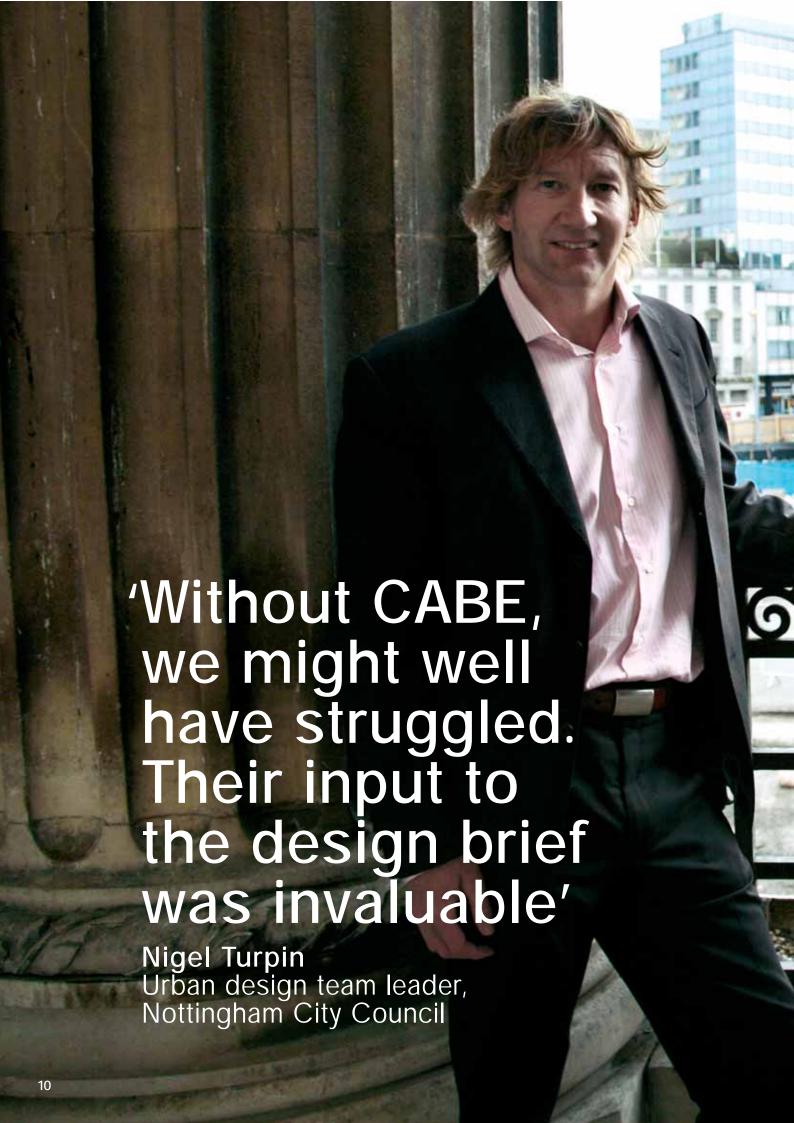














Design champions

Raising the profile of championship design

Look back over the last 10 years — what's changed in our built environment? We have had massive investment: over £84 billion (yes, billion) into nearly 800 public/private partnership projects; a widely acclaimed urban renaissance in eight core cities; and individual examples of great new buildings and spaces across the country.

The problem is that good design is often still dependent on an individual. Someone who shows the kind of leadership that you need to create a building or a place that is functional, beautiful and inclusive. That is why 'design champions' are so important, and why they have remained a core focus of CABE's work.

Design champions now exist in almost every sector. By the end of the 2005/06 year, two thirds of local authorities had appointed a design champion, alongside 78 per cent of primary care trusts and 93 per cent of acute hospital trusts. At cabinet level, the culture secretary, Tessa Jowell, became the government's design champion. And for the first time, six of the 11 major volume housebuilders appointed one, too.

So who are they and how do they work? Take Beatrice Fraenkel, for example. She's the urban design champion for Liverpool City Council. Beatrice began her working life as an industrial design engineer, before becoming chair of South Liverpool Primary Care Trust. Her approach is not to campaign as much as persuade other people to recognise the value of investing in design.

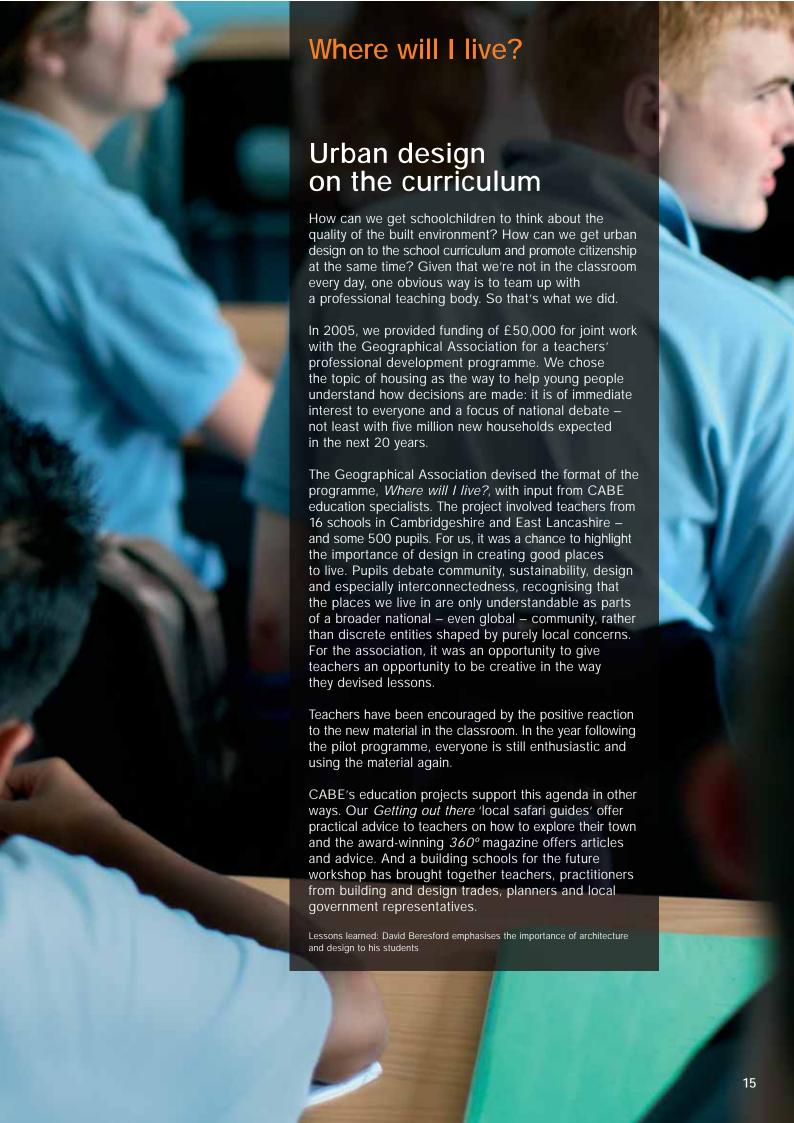
She persuaded the American healthcare design guru Roger Ulrich to talk to people delivering healthcare buildings in Liverpool. She then brought in CABE's enabling team to run a special training session about designing community health buildings for the people involved in the city's 'LIFT' health project. She helped to galvanise the council to invest £16 million in the public spaces of the run-down Ropewalks district of Liverpool, an investment which is transforming the area's property market. It's this kind of leadership that we need if good design is to improve people's quality of life.

Championship form: Beatrice Fraenkel surveys Liverpool's Ropewalks development









Caroline Chisholm School, Northampton

Laying the foundations for schools for the future

Northampton's Caroline Chisholm School shows what can be achieved through commitment and careful collaboration. This 'centre for learning' embraces inclusive education, a community hub and lifelong learning. It also acts as an exemplar design for architects, planners and educators as they deploy the £5.1 billion that's been allocated to the government's building schools for the future programme.

So, what actually happened at the Caroline Chisholm School to make it a success? For a start, there was a healthy degree of collaboration between the head teacher, the governors and the local authority. CABE's first task was to encourage the client team to work closely with the school community during the planning stages of the project. They set out to deliver a 50-place nursery, a 210-place primary school and a 1,460-place secondary school with a 260-place sixth form – alongside a public learning resource centre, two cafes and extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities. There was real ambition behind this project.

CABE worked closely with local authority officials to create a brief for a building that could change over time. Teachers need a space that is flexible enough to adapt to different teaching methods. At Caroline Chisholm, the whole campus now provides an open environment and individual blocks can be used as out-of-hours community facilities. The central areas of the teaching blocks can be used in different ways, including breakout areas, space for lockers and a lecture theatre. The public shares the library with the school.

The school opened in September 2004. Over the next 13 years, the government plans to rebuild or refurbish 3,700 schools. It is a massive undertaking. We believe that, by working with the local authorities who will be commissioning these buildings, CABE is making a real difference to the day-to-day lives of young people, their teachers, their families and their communities.

Work and play: children at Caroline Chisholm benefit from their 'centre for learning' environment





Children and Young People's Centre, Lewisham

Creating a patient-centred healthcare facility

If you believe that architecture reflects back to us the way we think about society and ourselves, then the design of the new children and young people's health centre in Lewisham, south-east London, is an encouraging sign of the times. The artificial barriers between healthcare and social care are finally breaking down. This new building embraces child health, mental health, special educational needs and social care services – all under one roof.

Over the course of a year, CABE worked with the client team of the local primary care trust to help deliver the new facility. The trust had already decided that it wanted to run a design competition and we provided specialist advice from our enablers, talking through the therapeutic value of great healthcare buildings, helping the client to formulate a brief, and sitting on the judging panel.

The panel was impressed by the confident, efficient designs of van Heyningen and Haward Architects, who were duly appointed. Their design is disarmingly simple, featuring a garden courtyard visible from the corridors skirting the building's inside face. There is good natural light and the ground floor extends elegantly into the garden, forming a grass-roofed terrace.

The building was set to open in late 2006 at a cost of £13.3m. While the effectiveness of the design will only be proved over time, we're sure that the centre will show what can be achieved when a committed client works through a well-managed process, and retains a constant focus on quality, as well as speed and cost.

This project illustrates one dimension of CABE's health strategy. During 2005, we launched our 'Designed with care' campaign to showcase the best-designed neighbourhood healthcare facilities in Britain. And we have argued passionately that government should recognise the central role of the built environment in tackling public health issues. It's the combination of great buildings like the Lewisham centre and high-quality streets and parks that will serve the NHS and public best.

Health centred: project partner Meryl Townley on site at the new Lewisham centre





'I can't fault CABE's input. Their support helped us retain the quality throughout the process'

Meryl Townley
Project partner,
van Heyningen and Haward Architects

About CABE

CABE, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, is a statutory body set up in 1999. It is sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with additional funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

CABE's principle purpose is to demonstrate the ability of great architecture and design to transform people's quality of life. Through practical advice and public campaigns, we seek to raise the aspirations, capacity and performance of everyone involved in creating and maintaining buildings and public space across England.

We believe that well-designed homes, streets, parks, workplaces, schools and hospitals are the fundamental right of everyone. We use our skills and resources to work for a higher quality of life for people and communities, with particular concern for those living in deprived areas. We do this by making the case for change, gathering hard evidence, providing education opportunities and through direct help on individual programmes and projects.

Organisation

CABE consists of 16 commissioners, appointed by the secretary of state for culture, media and sport.

CABE's services include:

Design review – offering advice, through our expert design review panel, on the design of selected development projects that will have a large strategic impact on an area

Enabling – providing support and advice to clients during the early stages of projects, through our staff and panel of professional enablers

Learning and development – providing opportunities for individuals, groups and places to become more informed, raise their aspirations and to participate in change; includes our regional team

Policy, **communications and research** – providing the argument and evidence to support the case for the best in architecture and design

CABE Space – aiming to bring excellence to the design and management of public spaces in our towns and cities.



Imagining. Inspiring. Influencing. CABE's when, what, where and who of 2005/06.

2005

April

The passage of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act puts CABE on a formal statutory footing.

CABE picks up two Geographical Association awards for 360° magazine and the Making places better website.

CABE announces the winners of a unique Anglo-French architectural competition to design affordable housing. Homes are being built on both sides of the channel.

As a result of CABE's review of Willow Place, Corby, an area action plan was commissioned to integrate new shopping development into a better connected, pedestrian-friendly town centre.

May

A CABE Space report argues for good design and management, not heavy-handed security, as the best approach to combating anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces.

Business is advised to take more account of the links between good workplace design and improved business at the launch of a CABE report at the refurbished HM Treasury headquarters.

Philosopher Alain de Botton rehearses his thinking on architecture and beauty at a lecture hosted by CABE.

June

Selina Mason is appointed director of architecture and design review, succeeding founding director of design review Peter Stewart.

CABE's second urban design summer school brings together key agencies involved in the regeneration of East Lancashire to debate the future vision for the region.

CABE publishes forward thinking on the concept of 'physical capital' by three authors including former Downing Street head of strategy Geoff Mulgan.

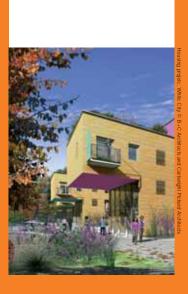
July

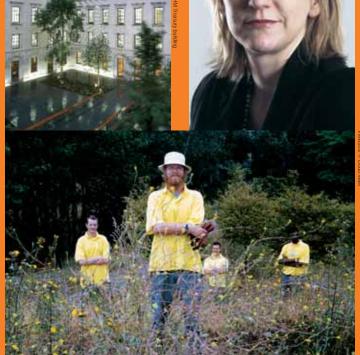
Black and ethnic minority professionals face greater career barriers than their white counterparts, CABE reveals in a new report.

A strong vision for public space and a strategic approach to delivery are vital to the success of the housing market renewal and housing growth areas, CABE Space argues in *Start with the park*.

CABE announces six new awards for artists' regeneration projects through the PROJECT initiative, run in partnership with Arts and Business – bringing the total awarded in the year to £220,000.

CABE's *Making places* booklet offers young people an inviting summary of careers in the built environment.







August

CABE extends its role as a champion of 'inclusive design', taking on responsibility for support of the government's advisory body on the built environment needs of disabled people.

Design review supports the new scheme for the Royal Arsenal development in Woolwich, south London, after the original proposals and design team were replaced following earlier CABE criticism.

September

After five years at premises on London's Waterloo, CABE moves to new headquarters in Covent Garden.

CABE is given a key role in the build-up to the 2012 London Olympics after seconding its deputy chief executive, Joanna Averley, to the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Every urban park in England should have dedicated staff on site during daylight hours, argues CABE Space as it launches the Parkforce campaign.

October

Park rangers from New York City begin a week-long tour across the country to explain how a multi-skilled parkforce can help turn neglected parks back into successful, vibrant community spaces.

Brighton's new PFI-funded public library beats 14 other schemes to scoop the 2005 Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award. The £8 million library demonstrates how PFI projects can succeed when the client champions design quality.

CABE publishes two guides to improving school design under the building schools for the future programme, one using the 'design quality indicator' tool for schools.

November

CABE's audit of new housing built in the north of England finds that 94 per cent of new schemes by the 10 largest volume housebuilders fail to measure up on design quality.

Frank Gehry's bold Brighton and Hove scheme receives qualified support from CABE: the design review panel needs to see more affordable housing included before it can give full support.

CABE calls for a common vision for the Thames Gateway growth area. Chair John Sorrell stresses his determination to see successful development in the Gateway, and promises to work with stakeholders to establish an identity for the area.













2006

December

CABE welcomes the recognition in chancellor Gordon Brown's pre-budget statement that we need to be creating well-designed, sustainable communities – not just building more houses.

Badly located and poorly designed workplaces are not only bad for employees and the environment – they are also bad for business, says CABE in a new report produced with the British Council Offices and the British Property Federation.

CABE Space contributes to new research behind the Department for Transport's *Manual for streets*.

January

CABE announces almost £1.9 million for the national network of architecture and built environment centres over the next two years. The programme promotes and advances education, participation and design quality.

CABE names the design champions of 2005 in its annual *Festive five* awards, which recognise new thinking and extraordinary motivation in the public and private sectors.

Deputy prime minister John Prescott attends CABE's first major conference and praises the organisation for its work in helping to promote great design in the built environment.

February

Too few local authorities know how much they are spending or what they get for their money when investing in parks and green spaces, new research from CABE Space reveals.

CABE launches *Designed* with care, a campaign to raise design standards in neighbourhood healthcare buildings.

Up to 300 new homes in England will be built by some of Europe's best young architectural talent, after CABE announces the winners of Europan, a competition encouraging architects to address social and economic change in towns and cities.

CABE launches its new website, www.cabe.org.uk, and user visits and publication orders soar.

March

Minister for culture
David Lammy
announces four new
CABE commissioners:
Joyce Bridges, MJ Long,
Deyan Sudjic and
Lorna Walker.

Six of Britain's biggest housebuilders appoint design champions at board level to ensure design issues play a central role in business strategy and planning.

The government announces £300 million for 85 infrastructure areas to support new housing in growth areas, with money earmarked for design advice from CABE.

Design review comments on the Bath Western Riverside residential proposal, admiring the developer's commitment to provide high-quality public realm and internal spaces.

Culture secretary Tessa Jowell urges MPs to champion high-quality design.









Performance against targets 2005/06

The following targets formed part of CABE's funding agreements with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The ODPM has since been renamed the Department for Communities and Local Government.

1 Members of CABE education network.

Target: 1,500

Performance: 1,372

Target: To consolidate the architecture and built environment centre (ABEC) network at around its current size (16 ABECs + ABEC posts = 19) and improve the quality and reach of its activities by offering a regional funding round that prioritises the engagement of local communities and young people

Performance: The architecture centres continued to provide an exciting and diverse programme of work, ranging from exhibitions and public consultations to out reach work and public art schemes. CABE made a total grant of £1.86 million to 18 centres across England, plus the architecture centre network, for work to April 2008

Target: 50,000 high-quality engagements by young people with buildings and spaces by 31 March 2008

Performance: Proposals agreed about how to deliver 50,000 visits for young people to remarkable buildings and public spaces

Increase in use of design champions by public bodies.

Target: 73 per cent

Performance: 70 per cent

5 Use of advisory panels by public bodies.

Target: 25 per cent

Performance: 23 per cent

6 Increase in use of Green Flag criteria by local authorities as a tool in the management of their green spaces.

Target: 73 per cent

Performance: 69 per cent

Increase in the number of digital library case studies championing high-quality architecture and urban design and disseminating best practice.

Target: 230 case studies

Performance: 233 case studies

8 Entries to the Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award from key sectors.

Target: 40 DCMS-sector buildings 30 Health/education buildings

Performance: 18 DCMS-sector buildings 49 Health/education buildings

Performance against this target is dependent on the volume of schemes being developed in the sectors concerned as well as the number of voluntary entries.

1,061

schemes were submitted to CABE for design review

9 Number of design review cases of strategic importance.

Target: 350 cases, of which 5 per cent are from DCMS sectors

Performance: 319 cases, of which 20 per cent were from DCMS sectors

10 Number of schemes submitted to design review.

Target: 1,000

Performance: 1,061 submissions

11 Increasing the openness of design review.

Target: CABE to open up design review

Performance: Two new publications and a DVD launched in summer 2006 to increase the transparency of the design review process

60

applications were made for the Building for Life standard

12 Media coverage.

Target: 260 national + 480 regional/local mentions

Performance: 270 national + 620

regional/local mentions

Average number of weekly visits to the CABE website.

Target: 24,000 user sessions per week

Performance: 24,024 user sessions per week

Total website visits to web pages dedicated to the *Home buyer's guide.*

Target: 65,000

Performance: 84,490

Twenty per cent of total CABE national media coverage to be related to housing.

Target: 20 per cent

Performance: 32 per cent

16 Deliver a minimum of six training sessions aimed at senior managers and board members from the 15 major volume housebuilders.

Target: 6 training sessions

Performance: 6 training sessions

Number of applications for a Building for Life standard.

Target: 25 applications

Performance: 60 applications

18 Evidence-based research projects related to areas of ODPM policy.

Target: 5 published, 3 commissioned

Performance: 8 published, 5 commissioned

19 Design reviews.

Target: 350 schemes

Performance: 319 schemes

Percentage of new ODPM-funded projects in HMR and housing growth areas.

Target: 80 per cent

Performance: 85 per cent

21 To build successful relations and strengthen partnership working with a broad range of delivery partners at local, regional and national level.

Target: To be measured by one-off postal survey of a specific partnership group to be agreed during 2005/06. Survey satisfaction baseline from 03/04: 89 per cent

Performance: This will be part of the larger stakeholder review in Q4 05/06 and Q1 06/07

22 Decrease in number of complaints received.

Target: 14

Performance: 19

The majority of these complaints were of a minor nature and rectifiable.

Target: Increased levels of public awareness about CABE in pilot areas

Performance: CABE conducted extensive research into how its regional pilot programmes (RPPs) are working. 83 per cent of respondants said RPPs added value over and above CABE's other work. 88 per cent said RPPs were valuable or very valuable (none said they were not valuable). 70 per cent felt local ownership had been achieved

Performance against targets 2005/06

Training sessions provided across all target audiences at a minimum of 97 per cent satisfaction.

Target: 2,000 training sessions @ 97 per cent satisfaction

Performance: 2,038 training sessions

@ 100 per cent satisfaction

2,038

was the number of training sessions we ran at 100 per cent satisfaction

To help raise standards of delivery across the sector, by supporting ODPM in developing its 'How to...' guides and academies, and by increasing the use/uptake of CABE Space's best practice guidance/advice.

Target: Uptake of CABE Space guides to be measured by a survey of a sample group

Performance: This will be a part of the larger stakeholder review in Q4 and Q1 2006/07

To give local authorities one-to-one advice about strategies and projects (including improvements to the public realm, individual green space projects and recipients of safer stronger communities funding) to help them deliver better spaces for their communities.

Target: 75 projects supported

Performance: 75 projects supported

To increase public awareness and demand-led improvements to public and green space through the use of targeted campaigns.

Target: One successful campaign

Performance: 123 councils signed up to the Parkforce campaign, which received record levels of media coverage for a CABE campaign

123

councils signed up for Parkforce, which received record levels of media coverage

To build an evidence base that demonstrates the value of good quality green and public space by completing and publishing research projects.

Target: 2 studies completed and published 1 study commissioned

Performance: 1 study completed and published, 3 studies commissioned

To commission and publish policy papers to generate debate and feed into policy making on public space issues.

Target: Two policy papers published

Performance: Two papers in development

Agency and its shadow bodies in establishing its approach to design, and in delivering a superbly designed Olympic Games in 2012 that demonstrates the best of architecture and design and which will leave a legacy of buildings and public spaces that are sustainable, inclusive and of the highest design quality.

Target: Senior-level CABE secondment to the ODA

Performance: CABE service level agreement with ODA, allowing the agency to access CABE's advice.

CABE becomes a statutory body

The passage of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act in April 2005 put CABE on a statutory footing. The Act came into force on 1 January 2006, when CABE ceased to be a company limited by guarantee. CABE's statutory functions are the promotion of education and high standards in, and understanding and appreciation of, architecture and the design, management and maintenance of the built environment, including public spaces. CABE may provide, or assist in the provision of, public works, services and amenities. We can provide advice and develop and review projects – whether or not we are requested to do so. This remit applies across England, but CABE can work anywhere it thinks appropriate. However Scotland and Wales, under their devolved governments, have their own design advisors, Architecture and Design Scotland and the Design Commission for Wales, with whom CABE frequently works in partnership.

CABE is concerned with architecture, design and people's quality of life. We champion well-designed buildings and public space. Our aim is to influence and inspire the decision-makers, so they choose good design. We run public campaigns and we provide expert, practical advice. We work with planners, designers, clients and architects, offering them guidance on projects that will shape all our lives. Fundamentally, we work on behalf of the public. They, after all, are the people left behind after the planners and architects have moved on.

1 Kemble Street London WC2B 4AN T 020 7070 6700 F 020 7070 6777 E enquiries@cabe.org.uk www.cabe.org.uk

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

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