

From the Course Director

More than a year has passed since the last IDBE Newsletter. As announced in Spring 2016, recruitment to the course was suspended with no new students taken on that year; corresponding with my planned retirement at the end of September 2017 – in fact, today is my last day as Director! The suspension was followed by a period of considerable uncertainty about the future of the course.

The good news is that IDBE is continuing under new management. It is being offered by the Cambridge institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), and will run alongside CISL's Masters in Sustainability Leadership.

CISL was formerly the Cambridge Programme for Industry and originally hosted the course from its inception in 1994 through to 2005, so IDBE is returning to its roots.

Fortunately IDBE's well-established structure of residential weeks, its mix of workshops, seminars, and lectures, its studio projects and its written assignments are continuing unchanged. The course continues to focus on educating future leaders in the built environment, with a syllabus that covers:

- environmental issues like global climate change, energy efficiency, eco-building, zero-carbon, biodiversity, embodied carbon and the circular economy
- social issues such as the impact of the built environment on health, productivity and well-being;
- urban design issues such as civic pride, sense of place, and projects that support neighbourly behaviour;
- technical innovations such as off-site construction, intelligent buildings, smart cities and urban futures;
- buildings and places as cultural artefacts and how to protect, conserve and retrofit them; and
- project process innovations such as performance indicators, co-location, BIM, cost-led procurement and open-book working.

Keeping in touch with IDBE

This is the last issue of the IDBE newsletter in its present form. CISL has its own mailing system and if you wish to be kept informed about the course, please email Becky Stanley (Becky.Stanley@cisl.cam.ac.uk)

Course Administrator

And talking of Becky, I must offer my sincerest thanks to her. As Course Administrator since 2004, her appointment pre-dates my own in 2006. She has contributed hugely to IDBE's success, and CISL fully recognise their good fortune in that she will continue in post under their management of the course.

Welcome to new students – Cohort 23

A big welcome to those who started this month.



Cohort 23 at Wolfson College

Their first week included lectures from Fiona Adshead, Will Day, and Emily Shuckburgh about global challenges like climate change, environmental pollution, population growth, urbanisation and human well-being.

The studio design task was for a pedestrian footbridge over the River Cam serving the newly opened Cambridge North railway station. Four teams tackled the project, each producing a scale model of their concept.



One team's proposals



Large scale section

Cohort 21 – Graduation Day

Congratulations to members of Cohort 21 who graduated this year.



Some of the members of Cohort 21 on their graduation day in July 2017, photographed at Wolfson College.

Cohort 22

Through 2016 and 2017 the main priority of the course team has been to ensure that the cohort recruited in 2015 enjoyed the same top quality experience of the previous 21 cohorts in their residential weeks in December 2016, and April and July 2017.

December 2016

The theme was *Innovation in Process and Product*. We visited the BRE Innovation Park, and there were lectures from Alan Blackwell, Rick Mitchell, Michael Stacey, Adrian Campbell, Michael Ramage and Jennifer Schooling.

The studio project was to devise a zero-carbon house, and the students worked in three mixed-discipline teams to slightly different briefs.



Cohort 22, December 2016: zero carbon homes

April 2017

The theme of the April week was *Climate Change: Sustainability and Resilience*. Speakers included Andre Cabrera, Judith Plummer, Susan Snaddon, Anthony Haynes, Keith Clarke, Christina Georgiadou, Andrew Rabanek, Charles Ainger and Simon Smith, and university lecturers Chris Burgoyne, Alan Short, and Youngsook Heo. The studio project involved student teams preparing 5-minute videos aimed at influencing the retail sector to improve their environmental credentials.

July 2017

The final residential week for Cohort 22 was on *Urban Design Futures*. Shortly before the week, the Council for Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat had issued a student competition brief for a tall building in a location of the designer's choice, and this became the studio design project, with an option to enter the competition – although in the event they decided against doing so. Whereas they mostly work in small teams, for this final week, they formed just one single team of 14.

Of course, all the students wanted to discuss the Grenfell Tower fire which had occurred only shortly before. After a considerable debate, they bravely decided to use the site of Grenfell Tower for their tall building proposal.

They discussed and debated the ethical, professional, social and political issues raised by the fire, and established a set of aspirations for their proposals. These included ideas about new growth rising from the ashes, symbolised by six towers representing flowers.

To encourage social mixing, a pathway through the development takes pedestrians on a ramp that curves round the towers giving access to the apartments. At the final review, the ideas were presented to reviewers Doug Kelbaugh and Ziona Strelitz, as well as the External Examiner to the course Professor Jacqui Glass.



Proposals for the Grenfell Tower site



The thinking behind the model



Final dinner at Christ's College for Cohort 22

Their remaining task is to complete their theses by the end of October. **Good luck!**