

Regeneration and affordable housing schemes highlighted in London Planning Awards shortlist

This year's London Planning Awards shortlist celebrates the reinvigoration of some of the capital's most deprived areas.

Shortlisted developments King's Cross and Brent Cross will address two of the capital's longest-standing challenges, transforming large areas of London with mixed-use (business, homes and leisure development). Together, the schemes will provide another 10,000 homes for the capital.

A new category, 'Excellence in Affordable Housing Delivery', showcases the best social housing schemes, setting high standards across London.

The awards, run jointly by the Mayor of London, London First and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), were established to recognise outstanding achievements in planning by individuals and organisations that have made a special contribution towards London's future.

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, said: 'London is a growing city, and good planning is essential for all the capital's needs from iconic new office buildings to housing for our most vulnerable citizens. We need planners with vision to create world class neighbourhoods in which to live, work and visit so that London remains a world class city. I am delighted to see that many of this year's entries do just that. The new affordable housing category recognises a particular

challenge facing 21st century London, yet all of the entries are painting a new future for our capital.'

The award categories, finalists and sponsors are as follows:

Best Conceptual Project

(sponsored by Berwin Leighton Paisner)

- Haringey Council - The Tottenham Hale Urban Centre Masterplan (SPD), Haringey Council

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Cardinal Place, EPR Architects

- Kings Cross Central, Argent (King's Cross) Ltd
- The Oxford, Regent and Bond Street Action Plan, Gillespies LLP
- Brent Cross Cricklewood - a New Town Centre, The Brent Cross Cricklewood Development Partners
- One Gallions, Crest Nicholson, BioRegional Quintain Estates & Dev plc
- Section 106 Strategy, London Borough of Southwark

Best Built Project

(sponsored by CB Richard Ellis)

- Cardinal Place, EPR Architects Ltd
- White Hart Lane Sixth Form Centre Haringey, London Borough of Haringey
- New Street Square EC4, Land Securities

Best Personal Contribution to London

(sponsored by GVA Grimley)

- Brian Waters nominated by Andrew Rogers Planning
- Bob West nominated by CB Richard Ellis

Best Community-based Planning Initiative

(sponsored by Land Securities)

- Somerset Court, St. Mary & St. Pancras School, Unite Group Plc & London Diocesan Bd
- Spa Fields, London Borough of Islington and EC1 New Deal for Communities

Best New Public Space

(sponsored by Lovells)

- Monument Yard, City of London Corporation
- Queen Street Central Plaza, City of London Corporation
- Bishops Square, Hammerson PLC

Excellence in Affordable Housing Delivery

(sponsored by The Housing Corporation)

- Rubicon, London & Quadrant Housing Trust
- Crossways, Tower Hamlets, Swan Housing Group
- Timber Wharf, JLP

The awards will be presented at City Hall on 15 January 2008, with an introduction by the Mayor of London.



Spa Fields, London Borough of Islington



LONDON
PLANNING
AWARDS
2007

Planning goes global at London seminar

Planners from across the world look at development and planning issues around the globe.

The event was held in association with the RTPi International Development Network, Planning Institute of Australia UK Branch and the New Zealand Planning Institute UK Branch.

Delegates heard presentations from Rynd Smith, the RTPi's Head of Policy & Practice, on what the UK can learn from the reform of the Australian planning system, and from Ian Haywood, Principal of the Ian Haywood Partnership, on what British planning can offer the developing world.

Professor Harry Dimitriou of UCL also provided delegates with an insight into

current research on Mega Transport Projects around the world, before Sue Percy, the RTPi's Director of Education & Lifelong Learning, gave a short presentation on the RTPi's new Associate Membership class, which is likely to appeal to planners from overseas. The evening concluded with a drinks reception sponsored by Anders Elite, a specialist town planning recruitment firm with offices in the UK and Australia.

Meeta Kaur, RTPi London chair, said: 'We were delighted to run this event in association with our colleagues at the International Development Network, PIA

UK Branch and NZPI UK Branch. The speakers' presentations covered a wide range of topics and their international experience provided a new perspective on current planning issues.

We hope that planners from overseas will take advantage of the new RTPi Associate Membership class, which provides an excellent opportunity to join the world's largest professional institute for planners with members from over 90 countries.

We'd also like to thank Anders Elite for sponsoring the event.'

St Pancras takes shape

London Region organised two visits during the summer to St Pancras to see how the station is being prepared for international Eurostar trains later in the year. Brian Whiteley reports.

For accountants . . .

It took £1.7bn to build the surface part of the St Pancras – Ebbsfleet Eurostar link and £5.8bn for the 20% of the route which is in tunnel. The spoil from this tunnelled section between King's Cross and Barking was used to raise the Stratford City & Olympics site levels by around 7m.

For flat hunters . . .

You are too late but there'll be a hotel...

St Pancras Chambers now comprises 65 apartments nearly all are sold already – plus a new 5* Marriott Hotel which is due to open in 2008/9 extra rooms for this are under construction.

For train spotters . . .

Midland Mainline has 4 platforms in the station extension & Eurostar 6 platforms in the main Barlow shed (originally built in the 1860's) which has had to be extended northwards to take the latter's longer trains. The Eurostar platforms are kept separate by a glass dividing wall and effectively are part of France as passengers on them will already have passed through passport control.

New lines also feed into St Pancras for

a Kent high speed service and a new sub-surface Thameslink station will be open in early December 2007. The "Javelin" trains from St Pancras to Stratford for the Olympics are scheduled to do the journey in 7 minutes (one high-speed test run by Eurostar has completed the trip in around 2 minutes).

For how to get there . . .

There will be two separate entrances to link in with the Tube at King's Cross one on the Euston Road frontage and one from under the platforms Kent domestic. Taxis will be provided with ranks on both sides of the train shed.

For customers waiting for their delayed service (Oh ye of little faith! Ed) . . .

The idea is that passengers are held at the lower ground floor level beneath the platforms until they are about to board their train – i.e. there will be very limited shopping or catering facilities on the platforms themselves unlike at Waterloo. The main retailing and catering area will instead be on the ground floor. The aim is to create a shopping area there with high quality (we were told "Marylebone High Street-type") outlets plus three

restaurants together with what is claimed will be the longest champagne bar in Europe.

For aesthetes . . .

The original train shed roof now has a large central glass area so that the station is much better lit by daylight than in the past. Brickwork everywhere has been cleaned and decorative tilework restored. The original large station clock is not being renovated, a new replica is being built which will dominate the view from the platforms, suspended above them at the St Pancras Chambers end of the train shed. Two new statues are being erected in the station – one will commemorate Sir John Betjeman, one of the original campaigners who saved the station from redevelopment during the 1960's.

For when to book your tickets . . .

Eurostar services are due to start running from St Pancras on 14th November 2007.

Brian Whiteley is with the Development Planning Group at London Borough of Waltham Forest



Audio advice for the blind and partially sighted on town planning

... and how to get involved in it.

Planning Aid for London (PAL) is committed to ensuring that as many Londoners as possible get involved in making decisions about how their streets, neighbourhoods, town centres, Boroughs and even London as a whole are planned, designed and managed. There are 359,000 registered as blind or partially sighted in the UK. Of this 22,315 are registered as blind with Councils in Greater London. The RNIB estimates a further 750,000 people across the UK are eligible to register. The number of blind and partially sighted people is expected to rise sharply as a result of the UK's aging population (82% of visually impaired are 65 or over) and the growing incidence of diabetes.

In our 25 years experience, very few blind or partially sighted people really get

involved in planning and regeneration. They are clearly, along with those who have other reading problems, as "hard to reach group". Such groups are rarely involved in the framing of planning policies or in developments which would have a major impact upon their quality of life e.g. housing estate improvements, town centre redevelopments, various schemes of traffic management such as Home Zones, pedestrianisation, etc. to that extent the final product is much less sustainable and inclusive than it might be.

With very limited funding from Awards for all (London) we have recently produced a unique and remarkable CD on "Town planning, what it is and how to get involved in it" which we hope will start to change this situation. It

has been produced with the invaluable co-operation of the London Branch of the National Federation of the Blind, the voices of whose members are included throughout. They speak in revealing, often dramatic, terms of what it is like to live, work and get about our increasingly crowded city. The disc lasts just under an hour and comprises 9 separate tracks, which can be listened to selectively, or as a whole.

For more information about this, please contact Michael Parkes or Adam Brown at the Planning Aid for London offices. Tel number 020 7427 4900 or email info@planningaidforlondon.org.uk



Spot the Building!

The winner of the 'Spot the Building Competition' in the last London Calling was Mark Tombs of Tribal MJP who spotted the picture as being of the Great Court at the British Museum. Congratulations to Mark who wins a £10 gift voucher. Thanks to all those who entered. Another pic for this issue, as ever there is a £10 voucher on offer to the first name pulled out of the hat! Answers please, by 30th November 2007, to jon.barker@atkinsglobal.com

Good luck!



Interview: Mark Tewdwr-Jones

In the second of our series of interviews with leading figures in planning in London, Richard Lemon talks to Mark Tewdwr-Jones, professor of spatial planning and governance at UCL's Bartlett School of Planning

'I used to be quite shy,' insists Mark Tewdwr-Jones, sipping on a pint of real ale in a Holborn pub. 'But now you can't shut me up.' And so it proves as the Bartlett's professor of spatial planning and governance describes his academic career, his interest in film and what spatial planning means in practice.

After beginning his career at South Hams District Council, Tewdwr-Jones took up a bursary to begin work on a PhD examining the role of central Government in local plan making. His research led him to the conclusion that central Government intervention and advice was excessive, but he was surprised to find that planners in local authorities were not unhappy with this. 'It was easier, you might say, to do what you're told,' he says.

Tewdwr-Jones believes that central Government has recognised that effective top-down planning is not possible and insists that it must be a two-way process. He welcomes the emphasis placed on setting a vision based on local distinctiveness and a clear evidence base in the new LDF system. I suggest to him that this is a more intellectually challenging task. 'Yes,' he says. 'It has to be. Planning is not simply an administrative process.'

Within a year of beginning his PhD Tewdwr-Jones had been offered a lectureship at University of Wales, Cardiff (now Cardiff University), and although he had intended to eventually return to planning practice it soon became clear that his career lay in academia. After several years in Cardiff, Tewdwr-Jones headed to Aberdeen, attracted by the opportunities for planning in Scotland presented by

devolution. He was also excited by the chance to teach and research planning in a department which taught both planning and surveying, giving him a private sector perspective which he thought he was lacking. 'It blew away some of my perceptions of what planning was about, and challenged my view of planning and my politics,' he says.

His interest in devolution played a part in Tewdwr-Jones's next move, to the Bartlett at UCL, with the Mayor of London having only recently been elected for the first time. 'I was also impressed by the legacy of the Bartlett,' Tewdwr-Jones says, citing Abercrombie, Holford, Glass, Llewelyn Davies and Hall.

He puts his rapid promotion, to reader at Aberdeen and then to professor at the Bartlett, down to his public outputs, but thinks his frankness also played a part. 'Few people are prepared to put their head above the parapet and campaign or give strong opinions about places. I do not shy away,' he insists. As if to make the point, and without prompting, he emphasises that planners need to recognise not only their achievements but also their failures. 'The public and communities are faced with these realities [of good and poor planning] on a day-to-day basis. We need to understand where people's suspicions about planning have come from if we are to persuade them of its value today.'

After joining the Bartlett, and despite an unwavering commitment to his teaching and research, Tewdwr-Jones decided he needed 'fresh air', leading him to enrol in a part time Masters course in film history. But even as he

pursued his interest in film he found himself focussing on the representation of places in cinema and television. 'There's no escape from planning,' he laughs.

We turn to discuss recent research for the RTPI on effective practice in spatial planning, undertaken by Tewdwr-Jones and Deloitte, and led by Janice Morphet, an Honorary Professor at the Bartlett. 'We didn't know if we would find any effective practice,' Tewdwr-Jones says. 'But it was a chance to examine whether the aims of the 2004 [Planning and Compulsory Purchase] Act were being realised.'

Tewdwr-Jones's role was to define spatial planning, and he concedes that ten academics would provide ten different views. 'It has multiple meanings,' he says. 'It's both an approach and a way of thinking. It's an awakening of a change in the approach of planning. Planning is not in its own little box.' He pauses. 'Spatial planning is a way of thinking, an ethic. Planning is more than development control.'

Pushed for a more practical explanation of spatial planning, Tewdwr-Jones suggests it is about planners being increasingly innovative and making links with other organisations. 'The role of a spatial planner is that of a choreographer between those actors that need to deliver tomorrow's places,' he says, but stresses that local planning authorities have become isolated in recent years, with chief executives not recognising the wider role that planning departments can perform. Yet Tewdwr-Jones is reluctant to lay the blame solely at the feet of local authority chief executives. 'It's partly the fault of

planners,' he says. 'They had forgotten how to respond.'

Encouragingly, the research team found that attitudes are changing, with spatial planning being embraced, and Tewdwr-Jones says there are many examples of good practice. He praises the London Plan for setting a spatial vision, and commends London Borough of Tower Hamlets, noting the work they have done in linking planning with health. He also cites the example of the West Midlands Fire Service and the Regional Planning Body, noting that new networks and processes were put in place to ensure that the fire service's strategic decisions on the opening and closing of fire stations reflected planned growth in new housing. 'People say, "Is that it? Is that spatial planning?" It sounds simple, but these small issues can frustrate larger objectives.'

Whilst Tewdwr-Jones's academic analysis of spatial planning is illuminating, perhaps his most telling comment is in relation to his role and that of the Bartlett in training the next

generation of planners. 'We need to produce people who are not planning practitioners, but who are trained and skilled to understand planning and the meaning of place,' he insists. Discuss, in not less than 5,000 words.

CAREER DETAILS

Age: 38

Family: Partner

Education: BSc (Hons) Town Planning Studies, University of Wales College, Cardiff; Diploma in Town Planning, University of Wales College, Cardiff; PhD Planning and Politics, University of Wales, Cardiff; MA Film History, Birkbeck College

Career: 1990-92 Planning Assistant, South Hams District Council; 1992-99 Lecturer, Department of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University; 1999-2001, Senior Lecturer/Reader, Department of Land Economy, University of Aberdeen; 2001-present, Reader/Professor, Bartlett School of Planning, UCL

Other roles: Director of Research, Bartlett School of Planning, UCL; member of RTPI General Assembly, RTPI Research & Knowledge Committee and RTPI London; expert panel adviser to London Borough of Islington on preparation of Local Development Framework

Interests: Film, photography (especially of urban environments), music (classical, opera), racing dodgem cars, supporting Bristol City FC, swearing at TV weather presenters, lamenting at the demise of the Routemaster, playing space hockey at the Trocadero, upsetting the neighbours by listening to Shostakovich very loudly, getting a kick walking across Waterloo Bridge



Calling all mentors!

Interested in assisting in the professional development of a new generation of Planners?

We're waiting to hear from you . . .

All Licentiates working towards Chartered Membership should have access to the support of a mentor. For some, this may not be possible to arrange. The RTPI is therefore seeking Chartered Members to be added to our database of mentor volunteers, to be paired with a Licentiate.

Why become a mentor?

Perhaps you already have some experience of acting as a mentor to a friend or colleague, formally or informally?

Volunteering to mentor a Licentiate working towards the APC is a great way to develop this experience. It is an opportunity to help shape, through the new generation of planners, the face of the profession in the future, contributing

to the way in which standards are maintained.

As a mentor you can benefit from:

- Free training on www.planningmatters.co.uk. Initial mentor training will take only an hour and a half to complete, and can be accessed online at any time;
- Future central and regional training and networking opportunities;
- A two-way process: the opportunity to learn directly from the Licentiate and to share experiences;
- An excellent opportunity to develop your management and coaching skills, and to contribute to your Continuing Professional Development.

What does mentoring involve?

APC mentors will:

- Support, guide and encourage the Licentiate in preparing for election to Chartered membership through the APC;
- Provide support and advice on professional and professionally related matters;
- Offer advice and guidance on Professional Development Planning, maintaining a reflective log book, and meeting the competency requirements of the APC;
- Guide Licentiates towards becoming more critically reflective of their own practice and progress.

Interested?

To find out more, or to receive a registration form, please contact apc@rtpi.org.uk or visit www.rtpi.org.uk.

We have moved!

Please note that the RTPI London region office has moved, along with Planning Aid for London, with whom we are co-located, to:

**RTPI London c/o Planning Aid for London
The Planning Aid Resource Centre, Unit 3.01
Whitechapel Technology Centre
65-75 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1DU**

**phone, fax and e-mail contact details remain the same
(Telephone: 020 7426 0680 Fax: 020 7247 8005 e-mail: london@rtpi.org.uk)**

RTPI London Events

RTPI London have an overflowing agenda for the rest of the year, starting with:

- **Tests of Soundness – 5 November 2007, venue tbc, 2pm – 4.30pm**

We are running this successful event again as it was oversubscribed last time. What lessons have been learnt so far from the examinations into the new style development plan documents? What have been the experiences of speakers from the Planning Inspectorate, local authority and legal profession? What can you do to ensure a 'sound' plan at examination?

A seminar led by Keith Holland (Planning Inspector Manager, Planning Inspectorate and William Upton (Barrister, Chambers of Stephen Hockman QC, 6 Pump Court). Third speaker to be confirmed

- **Joint Housing Event – 9 November 2007, CBI Conference Centre**

MORE AFFORDABLE? MORE SUSTAINABLE? – 240,000 new homes per year . . . How realistic? Organised jointly by the London Branches of: Chartered Institute of Housing : Royal Town Planning Institute : ROOMatRTPI : Royal Institute of British Architects : Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors : Chartered Institute of Building

- **Young Planners Event – 14 November 2007 at South Bank University**

Full details to follow, please look on the website www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_london

- **Planning Together – 26 November 2007 at City of London, 2pm – 4.30pm**

What lessons have been learnt from integration of Local Development Frameworks and Sustainable Community Strategies? How should these two local strategies work together and what are the advantages of doing so? What is the experience of a planning department responsible for both and what is the London experience of Planning Together?

A seminar led by Marilyn Taylor (Marilyn Taylor Associates), Paul Rowley (Head of Community and Strategic Planning, Horsham DC) and a Speaker from the Government Office for London.

- **RTPI London AGM – 27 November 2007, venue to be confirmed**

More details will follow, please look on the website www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_london

All events are open to those who work or study in planning and related built environment professions.

To find out more information and costs of events please contact Lucy Barton, RTPI London Regional Coordinator, on london@rtpi.org.uk or call on 020 7426 0680. Alternatively, please visit our website www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_london

Plan ahead with Judd Farris

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Retail Planning Manager - Client Side

... LONDON - up to £65k + benefits

A major retailer currently seeks a Planning Manager to provide expert planning and transportation advice across the business on all aspects of town planning policy and legislation. You will advise on planning issues for the development programmes and pipeline for the delivery of new selling space and store refurbishments.

On the strategic side, you will be able to identify new floor space opportunities through planning decisions and Government policy and track, analyse and evaluate current and emerging planning and transportation policy to exploit opportunities.

Our client is looking ideally for an RTPI qualified Planner with at least 5 years relevant experience dealing with major retail clients. You will also be commercially focused and have the ability to demonstrate experience and understanding of the implications of town planning and related legislation on the business.

Ref. NAR/23275

Retail Planner

... LONDON - £neg + excellent benefits

How would you like to work for a dynamic and successful partnership providing advice to major blue chip developers and landowners on the most exciting and high profile developments in and around London?

Our client is looking for a retail planner to work on one of their largest new instructions. Ideally, you will have at least 4 years experience (MRTPI) within the private sector and also within retail. This role will centre on retail designations and overseeing the policy/strategic side of things.

A highly competitive salary is on offer to the successful candidate together with a great bonus package.

This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who may have reached a senior position within their current company and looking for that next step up.

Ref. NAR/22881



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Representative on RTPI English Planning Policy Forum and London Planning & Development Forum

Brian Whiteley, London Borough of Waltham Forest

Deputy Representative on RTPI English Planning Policy Forum

Alex Lessware, Communities & Local Government

University Planning Schools Liaison Officer & Deputy Young Planners Representative

Paul Miner, Campaign to Protect Rural England

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