

Open House Green Sky Thinking

Summary of Activity in 2008:



Open House London (September)

- Open House showcased some of the **most innovative green buildings** in 2008, both new and retrofitted, in response to the wide interest in carbon-saving technologies, materials and designs. There were 105 eco-buildings/buildings with sustainable features
- **Green Building Guide:** In 2007 and 2008 Open House teamed up with the UK Green Building Council to produce an introductory guide to the latest technology, materials and designs that are making our buildings sustainable. It only scratches the surface of what is possible, but aims to inspire what could be achievable in homes, or place of work or learning
- Our sustainability poll of the public aimed to find out more about what people in London know about and want for a sustainable city. Sampling of results:
 - 81.3% of people surveyed thought green design is very important for London.
 - materials, water saving and insulation were the three elements of a building they recognised as being sustainable.
- The '**Sustainable Southwark**' guide, sponsored by the London Borough of Southwark, highlighted eco-exemplars in the borough to thousands of people, and took a look at some of the green initiatives currently underway on the south side of the Thames to help make a cleaner, greener city
- From 1 October 2008 public buildings around the UK were required to display their green credentials through new **Display Energy Certificates (DECs)**. This form of energy labelling is part of the government's drive to make all the UK's building stock more sustainable. In a campaign sponsored by Communities and Local Government, Open House London encouraged people to look out for DECs in the public buildings both during the event and into the future.

Green Sky Thinking Debate (July)

As part of the London Festival of Architecture, Open House and sponsors Atkins invited young design teams to take part in the 'Green Sky Thinking' debate on 16 July 2008.

This was a new take on the pecha kucha and provided an opportunity to throw around and discuss ideas, introduce fresh thinking on the sustainable city. Ideas were presented in a fast-paced event to a high profile audience, on the rooftop of One Bishops Square one of London's foremost exemplars of sustainable design for the workplace.

Green Sky Studios (September)

From 24 to 26 September 2008 architects in the capital invited visitors into their studios to reveal how they are helping to design a greener world, in Open House's new programme Green Sky Studios. This programme included displays of models, plans and drawings as well as demonstrations, in-house talks, Q and As, exhibitions and debates.

It was an opportunity to gain insights into the latest thinking about green design, as well as previews of new projects and even ideas still on the drawing board.

Education programmes: Open Up

Open Up aims to engage secondary school students with key pieces of contemporary London architecture and issues surrounding design and the built environment. The programme is aimed at state school students of Design and Technology and Art and Design in years 7-11 (11-16 year olds). The programme brings students into contact with key pieces of exemplary London architecture. Building explorations encourage young people to become 'architectives', to look for clues, learn design skills and see ways in which people use space. This direct experience leads on to creative workshops in the classroom.

In 2008 the aimed to build greater understanding and appreciation of sustainable design among young Londoners, by developing ideas for buildings with green roofs.