



Press release  
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## **OPEN HOUSE KICK STARTS ITS AUTUMN 'OPEN UP' EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR LONDON SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

This week, leading architecture education charity, Open House, launches its comprehensive Autumn term educational programme for secondary schools across London aimed at bringing architecture and the built environment into the classroom.

Targeted at young people between the ages of 11 and 18, Open Up, which is funded by the Ernest Cook Trust and Arts Council England, brings students in touch with key exemplary London architecture and allows them to work hands on with the architects and engineers involved in the projects. Each class of the 26 schools involved in Open Up takes part in a building exploration exercise visiting projects including the Peckham Library, Village Underground, Tate Modern, Idea Store and 1 Finsbury Circus.

Following the building explorations students are asked to respond to a pre-set project design brief in the classroom working through the design process to produce drawings and models to represent their ideas. Teachers are encouraged to engage with the design process, working with the built environment professionals, and discuss outcomes and issues raised from the building explorations.

Victoria Thornton, Director of Open House, who has been nurturing the educational role of the organisation's activities for nearly two decades, says: 'Education through architecture is integral to all of Open House's activities. Young people growing up in London rarely venture off their local patch, and it's essential that we broaden their horizons beyond this. Open Up is not just about showing off architectural triumphs to young people, but it's about empowering them to grasp the limitless potential of design, so that they can understand how good design can contribute towards an improved quality of their lives.

"We hope that through Open Up we will be able to demonstrate how architecture and the built environment can successfully be taught in the classroom and become part of the national curriculum."

Neil Pinder, Design and Technology teacher at Graveney School in South London says, "The Open Up scheme serves to inspire young people to open

their eyes and look at the built environment around them. As a result of Open House's educational programmes, Graveney now holds a Celebrating Architecture Awards ceremony each year where an exhibition of the students' work is presented and guest architectural speakers are invited. We are looking forward to what the Autumn Open Up programme will bring the students."

At the end of the Open Up programme all students are invited to enter their drawings and models into the Open Up competition which will be judged by a panel of experts. The winners will be announced at a special reception on 8 December 2009.

For more information on Open Up please visit:

<http://www.openhouse.org.uk/education/schools/openup.html>

### For more information



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### NOTE TO EDITORS:

#### Architecture practices involved in the programme:

Cazenove Architects, Nicholas Laurent LTd, Scampton & Pedder, Buschow Henley Architects, Allies and Morrison, Buro Happold, DLA, 3DReid, Matthew Springett Associates, Ash Sakula, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, Duggan Morris Architects, Cox Bulleid, Dixon Jones, Curl la Tourelle Architects, Sheppard Robson, Glowacka Rennie Architects, Quay2C Architects, AIR, Avanti, Forge, Black Architecture

#### The 27 schools involved in the programme:

Sir George Monoux College, The Norwood School, Wren Academy, Bishops Douglass School, Streatham & Clapham School, William Morris Sixth Form, Crest Girls Academy, John Kelly Girls Technology College, Heathcote School, Stoke Newington, Highshore, Cator Park, Langdon, Latymer Upper, Sydney Russell School, John Cass School, John Roan, Woolwich Polytechnic, Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, Alexandra Park School, Westminster Academy, James Allen's Girls School, Henrietta Barnett School, Willowfield School, St Pauls Way Community School, Wimbledon College, Graveney School

Open Up is part of the Open House's wider educational initiatives and events

programme which includes:

- Junior Open House 2009 – A first encounter with London’s architectural legacy for youngsters, 1000 primary school children taking part.
- My City Too! – A campaign to create a young people’s manifesto for the built environment – young people are invited to explore issues that affect the development of built environment in their area, working with professionals to create alternative design solutions that will create an environment to meet the needs of future generations.
- Learning by Design publication (England and London versions) - Funded by the DCSF and focusing on ‘BSF’ (Building Schools for the Future) bringing together ‘voices of participants’ to showcase the value of good design on stakeholders in school buildings. The publication is targeted at headteachers and policy makers.
- Education Fund – A fund for Design Professionals and Contractors working on school designs to support the work Open House does in the education sector, in return benefiting from the knowledge that Open House has to better the work that they do.
- EcoCity – A Summer Architecture Academy for 12-19 year old Londoners to further their knowledge about architecture and the built environment, set up in part as an extension to the Open Up programme. The first EcoCity Summer Architecture Academy was successfully run in August 2009.

### **About Open House**

Open House is an architecture education charity that works to raise awareness of good design in architecture and the built environment. Through a variety of initiatives, programmes and publications we address three main audiences – the general public through the annual Open House London event, children and young people through initiatives such as Junior Open House and Open Up and decision-makers such as councillors in local authorities with the London Exemplar programme. Visit [www.openhouse.org.uk](http://www.openhouse.org.uk) for information about our recent activities.