



PRESS RELEASE

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More information from Jon Whowell,
Policy Advisor Communications
East Midlands Regional Assembly
Tel 01664 502551, Mobile 07887 635749
E-mail jon.whowell@emra.gov.uk

Regional Assembly launches sustainable building design competition

The East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) has launched, working in partnership with key players today (26th April 2005) a major sustainable building design competition to promote better buildings that will meet the needs of our communities now and in the future.

John Freeman, who is Chairing the judges and is Chair of EMRA Policy Board, said "We have made some real strides forward in new innovative buildings in the region; buildings that conserve energy, water, use local materials and look better in the urban or rural landscape. These buildings are recognised as flagships. However the time for flagships is over - we want every new building to be better for the local community and designed and delivered at a cost that the market can bear. We have seen this happen in Sherwood Energy Village and we know it can be done." Our distinguished panel of Judges includes Paul King from the WWF, Sarah Wiigglesworth a noted architect of sustainable buildings, together with key regional stakeholders and I look forward to working with them on this important project."

Stan Crawford chair of the competition steering Group and MD of Sherwood Energy Village said "We are keen to see sustainable and environmentally friendly buildings everywhere in the East Midlands Region and that is why we are very pleased to be working with partners, including Sherwood Energy Village, Regeneration East Midlands and East Midlands Centre for the Built Environment (EMCBE) and EMRA, to promote this through an innovative design competition. Our competition provides an avenue for a number of design teams in the East Midlands to bid for the opportunity to build a centre for sustainable construction. I hope that the entire development and construction industry takes a keen interest."

Julian Marsh the Chair of Opun and a practicing architect said, 'The focus of concern in architecture is changing, moving to respond to fluctuating global climatic conditions and a potential energy crisis. This competition presents an opportunity to develop practical design skills that will help engage with this concern and contribute ideas for the design of a centre which will train people to build for the inevitable changes.'

Entries can come from all architectural practices and design teams in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire and also from student design teams from the Region's universities. Not only are there cash prizes of £2500 to each of the best 4 entries and £500 to each of the best 2 entries in the student category but there is the opportunity to be short listed to win the contract to implement the design of the Sustainable Construction Centre of Excellence at Sherwood Energy Village, Ollerton.

The competition is free to enter and is facilitated by Opun, the Architecture and Built Environment Centre for the East Midlands. The competition brief is available from

www.emra.gov.uk/competition/ and further information is available from Opun on 0870 2404459. The closing date for registration is 31st May 2005 and the awards will be made in December 2005. (Full programme in notes below).

ENDS please see attached notes

NOTES

Key Principles

The competition will incorporate the four principles of sustainable design and construction, as developed by the East Midlands Regional Assembly:

- Putting people and a healthy environment as priority
- Promoting and supporting a more sustainable lifestyle
- Using all resources efficiently and appropriately
- Enhancing a community's ability to generate and retain wealth

Professional Development Programme

- Participate in a professional development programme (free of charge to entrants) to increase knowledge of sustainable design principles and practices and improve the chances of a successful competition entry
- Possible additional support to entrants in the form of design advice / mentorship provided by universities and other designated experts in the region

Benefit for the Region

- Improved building design throughout the region

Notes on Competition

The Vision

The East Midlands vision is to be recognised as a region with a high quality of life and sustainable communities that thrives because of its vibrant economy, rich cultural and environmental diversity and the way it creatively addresses social inequalities, manages its resources and contributes to a safer and more inclusive society.

The quality of our built environment is key to delivering this vision. Where we live and work has a profound effect on our quality of life. The settled areas across the East Midlands form a durable pattern of development that changes slowly over time. The decisions made today will live with us for many years.

Over the next 20 to 50 years the region will experience changes in our climate; these are directly linked to our past emissions from fossil fuels and our changes in land use. We cannot avoid these changes and we need to be sure that buildings built today can function well in a new climate. We also need to ensure that our new buildings reduce our carbon emissions, so that we can keep climate change within manageable limits.

The region has a wealth of nationally recognised low energy building projects, such as the Queens Building in Leicester (picture) and the Inland Revenue Building in Nottingham. These flagship designs have been the subject of case studies and reports. Yet sustainable design is delivered in few buildings, it is seen as too expensive, too technologically difficult.

The East Midlands Regional Assembly believes that sustainable buildings can and must be delivered at a price the market can bear. The time for flagship projects is past. Every project must embrace sustainable principles. Thus the East Midlands Assembly, together with our regional partners is championing sustainable design to:

- ♥ **Put people and a healthy environment as priority;**
- ♥ **Promote and supporting a more sustainable lifestyle;**
- ♥ **Use all resources efficiently and appropriately; and**
- ♥ **Enhance a community's ability to generate and retain wealth.**

The Competition

The East Midlands Regional Assembly and Sherwood Energy Village invite teams to engage in a unique design competition with linked training opportunities aimed at improving sustainable design and development skills within the region and securing a project team to develop designs for a Sustainable Construction Centre of Excellence.

The benefits of the competition are:

- ♥ Prizes of £2,500 for four short listed teams, with two separate student prizes of £500
- ♥ Competition shortlisted practices put forward for competitive interview to design the multi-million pound SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE.
- ♥ Access to targeted training on the specific challenges, risks and opportunities for the delivery of such projects
- ♥ Building capacity within your team to respond to future projects

The competition is open to all design teams, with a presence in the region, from the smaller practices to the large national practices. Teams must include an architect, but are encouraged to be strongly cross-discipline.

We hope that teams that haven't previously had involvement with a sustainable building will enter and use the opportunity to learn about some of the risks and opportunities that exist in this area.

The competition entries will be managed by Opun, the Architecture and Built Environment Centre for the East Midlands.

Timescale

Registration and availability of brief: April-May 2005

Stage One Training Courses: June & July 2005

Stage Two Competition Scheme Submission: Monday October 31st 2005

Shortlisted Schemes Announced: Wednesday 30th November 2005

Exhibition: December 2005.

Award Ceremony: December 2005.

Stages and Awards

Stages:

The competition will be run in three stages:

Stage One: Site Visit, Training and Advice

Stage Two: The Ideas Competition

Stage Three: Competitive Interview and Fee Bid for design teams to carry the project forward, invited from the shortlisted Winners

There will be two streams of eligible entrants to the competition:

Stream One – open to all registering eligible design teams

Stream Two – open to all registering eligible students

Awards:

Prizes at Stage Two

Stream One: Four prizes of £2,500 and invitation to competitive interview

Stream Two: Two prizes of £500 with an expectation that any scheme highlighted by the judges as of higher or equivalent merit to those in Stream One could be put forward for Competitive interview if supported by a suitable professional team.

How to enter

The Competition details and registration form are available on:

www.emra.org.uk/competition

For More Information contact:

Opun, The Architecture and Built Environment Centre for the East Midlands,
Unit 8, Provident Works
Newdigate Street
Nottingham
NG7 4FD

Telephone: 0870 2404459

Fax: 0870 2402141

Email: sharris@regenerationem.co.uk

LIST OF DESIGN COMPETITION PARTNERS

East Midlands Regional Assembly	Sherwood Energy Village
Opun (Regeneration East Midlands)	Marsh:Grochowski Architects
INREB Faraday Partnership	Environment Agency
The Countryside Agency	English Nature
Beacon Energy	Environmental Industries Forum
East Midlands Centre for constructing the Built Environment	Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
East Midlands Development Agency	Energy Institute
Government Office for the East Midlands	

The Assembly

- 1 The East Midlands Regional Assembly is one of eight in England outside of London. It was launched in 1999 and comprises 111 Members, with 2/3 being representatives of all

the regions Local Authorities including the Peak National Park, and 1/3 nominations from the wider social, environmental and business community.

- 2 The Regional Assembly has three main roles:
Scrutiny of the East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*)
Co-ordination and integration of regional policies
Acting as the regional planning body
- 3 The Regional Assembly has three Regional Boards that focus on key issues of East Midlands' life: Regional Scrutiny Board, Regional Planning Board and Regional Policy Board. These boards are supported by the Housing, Environment, Transport, Public Health and Promoting Sustainable Development groups.

MEDIA INFORMATION FROM

Jon Whowell, Policy Advisor Communications East Midlands Regional Assembly

DDI 01664 502 551 Tel 01664 502555, Mobile 07887 635749, E-mail jon.whowell@emra.gov.uk

Website www.emra.gov.uk