

Monday 6 December 2010

Guardian MD Tim Brooks named new Chair of Open-City

Open-City, the leading architecture and advocacy organisation, today announced that Tim Brooks, Managing Director of Guardian News & Media Limited, will be the new Chair of its Board of Trustees.

Tim Brooks takes over from former Chair Jane Priestman, who will remain on the Board of Trustees.

He joins Open-City at an exciting time for the independent and not-for-profit organisation. In March 2010, it changed its name from Open House to reflect the increasing scope of its work across London, which includes education, research, design advice and guidance, training and campaigns.

As a long standing champion of good design at local level, Open-City has developed close links with communities and councillors in every London Borough. This collaborative experience is set to be in strong demand as the Government seeks to increase the participation and influence of local people in the planning process.

Victoria Thornton, Founding Director of Open-City said:

“I am delighted that Tim will be joining the Board of Trustees as chair and his wealth of expertise will be invaluable in developing the next phase of the Open-City organisation.

To be able to attract someone of Tim’s calibre and professional standing is a real coup for Open-City and all our team are looking forward to working with him.”

Tim Brooks said:

“Open-City does great work, helping both public bodies and private enterprises and citizens. At a time when the public realm faces significant change and new pressures, I am very pleased to be able to give my time and experience to help Open-City continue to thrive in the future, as it has done for nearly 20 years now.”

Tim Brooks has been Managing Director of Guardian News & Media, publisher of the Guardian, The Observer, and guardian.co.uk, since September 2006. He is also a director of parent company Guardian Media Group, a Council member and former Chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, and a director of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Tim began his career in magazine journalism, and prior to joining the Guardian, worked in senior managerial positions at Emap plc and IPC Media, including directorships of companies in Australia, the US and France, and stewardship of major media brands including The Architects' Journal, Marie Claire, and Ideal Home

Tim is a parent governor of Sir John Lawes School, Harpenden, and an Arsenal season-ticket holder.

At Open-City, Tim Brooks will chair a Board of Trustees that now includes Edwin Heathcote, FT Architecture Critic, Eva Jiricna CBE, Director Jiricna Architects, Fred Manson Hon OBE, Regeneration

Expert, Helen Newman, Partner, Olswang LLP, Jane Priestman OBE and The Rt Hon. Nick Raynsford MP, Former Housing Minister.

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Notes to Editors

About Open-City

Open-City is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that aims to be at the centre of creating better places. It champions excellence in design quality and advocates for an inclusive and informed approach to the development of London.

With a basis of experience, expertise and research built up over a decade and a half, Open-City encourages dialogue, debate and learning about how architecture and public space affects our daily lives, and to give people the tools and language to enable people to discover and understand how they can make informed decisions and really influence change in the built environment.

They are the only organisation that actively involves such a variety of stakeholders across London, connecting up those that plan, design and build the city to those that live and work in the city, both through their own action research and in their advocacy, education and engagement programmes.

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