

Press Release: 16th November 2010

UCL's Bartlett School of Architecture joins up with Open-City

Architecture students and primary school pupil intergenerational design workshop

Date: Wednesday 1st December

Time: 10am - 12.30pm

Venue: Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, Wates House, 22 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0QB

On the 1st December winners of **Open-City's 2010 Architecture in Schools Eco-School Design Competition**, Weston Park Primary School, Haringey - beating off 250 entries from schools across London, will have the opportunity to learn new, sophisticated design techniques with the support of UCL's Bartlett School of Architecture students.

For the first time Bartlett School of Architecture has partnered with the architecture education and advocacy charity, *Open-City*, to pioneer an intergenerational design workshop where primary school pupils collaborate with students of architecture to translate their designs into a dynamic final scale model.

Frosso Pimenides, Director of BSc Year 1 Architecture at UCL's Bartlett School of Architecture, and judge of the Architecture in Schools: Primary Eco-School Design competition, says, *'I am delighted my students have the opportunity to work with such inquisitive minds. We invited these winning pupils to the Bartlett as we were struck by how powerful, sensitive, and environmentally responsive their school design was. We are very excited to be developing the partnership with Open-City further.'*

The architecture students value this rare opportunity to develop their skills in working with the next generation, who will ultimately be inheriting the effects of their design decisions. Mark Martines, Kate Slattery and Patrick O'Callaghan, current students at the Bartlett and keen participants in the Open-City schools programme explain, *'It's been very helpful for our own development to communicate architectural ideas at various levels: Inspiring young people and in turn being inspired by their fresh ideas.'*

This three month Architecture in Schools programme brings together Open-City's educators, teachers, architectural students and renowned London-based architectural practices to inspire and unlock architecture for 1000 primary school pupils a year. During the programme pupils are taken for a 'behind the scenes' exploration of exemplary architecture as a catalyst to produce their own designs for an eco-friendly school, and developing these through an in-school workshop with their partner architect, architecture student and Open-City educator. The annual Architecture in Schools programme culminates with a design competition. Pre-programme training is provided by Open-City educators to teachers, architects and architecture students to provide the best possible experience and learning for the pupils and to cement the didactic relationships and in-depth learning it introduces.

Open-City's Founding Director, Victoria Thornton comments that *"now more than ever we are seeing architecture students and the newly qualified participating in our educational programmes in order to actively engage with the local community"*.

Notes to Editors:

Images and Further Information

Should you wish to attend or obtain a copy of images of the Open-City and Bartlett intergenerational

workshop, Architecture in Schools: Primary programme, or would like further information on our Education programmes, including Summer Architecture Academy, Architecture in Schools: Secondary or Archikids, please visit www.open-city.org.uk/education or e-mail fmacdonald@open-city.org.uk

Links:

<http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/programmes/year1/year1.htm>

<http://open-city.org.uk/index.html>

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About Open-City

Open-City is an architecture education organisation committed to raising the standard of London's built environment by opening people's eyes and minds to good design through dialogue, learning and direct experience of excellent spaces and places. There are three distinct strands advocacy, education and public engagement with major programmes including: Architecture in Schools, Summer Architecture Academy; London Exemplar for Planning Councillors; Open House London and Art in the Open.