



Architecture & Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

*Architecture and Design Scotland:
Business Plan 2017/18*



Our vision

We live in a Scotland where a well-designed built environment supports sustainable, resilient communities which meet the needs of all.

To realise our vision, we have identified a set of outcomes to work towards. These support the national outcomes set out by the Scottish Government to ensure that what we do will make a positive contribution to the lives of Scotland's people.

Over the next three years, we will work to ensure that more people in Scotland:

- are involved in decisions that affect their places
- benefit from well-designed buildings, places and spaces
- see how good design adds value to their lives.



Delivering our vision

The nature of the built environment is broad and the potential scope of our work reflects this. To focus our work, we have therefore identified a set of issues we want to tackle.

In deciding on these, we have listened carefully to our stakeholders and reflected on their views and been guided by the priorities of the Scottish Government, notably the reform of the planning system, the delivery of affordable housing, provision for early years and the regeneration of our town centres.

In each of our focus areas we will deliver a mix of advice, capacity building and outreach as we work to promote the value of good design. Within this we will pay particular attention to promoting Scotland on the international stage, building on our successful presence during the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design at the Venice Biennale and the Arctic Circle Forum in Reykjavik.

The delivery of inclusive growth through more and better housing

Why? Because providing advice on housing developments, exploring new approaches to planning and delivery and sharing good practice from across the country will enable us to support the Joint Housing Delivery Plan, create better designed places and help meet the government's target of creating 50,000 new affordable homes by 2020.

Creating better schools, hospitals and other public investment

Why? Because working with users to inform design briefs for new schools, hospitals and other public buildings and promoting how this collaborative approach works, empowers people in decision-making, supports design-led procurement and improves the way we deliver public services.

Improving the design quality of infrastructure and public space

Why? Because supporting the implementation of Designing Streets and Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking will encourage more effective engagement with communities in creating places. We will deliver projects that help meet social and environmental needs; improve health and wellbeing; increase walking and cycling; facilitate climate change adaptation; encourage urban biodiversity and underline the benefits of preventative expenditure.

Increasing the emphasis on community empowerment

Why? Because by working with communities to shape their places, we can support community empowerment, help create sustainable places designed around people and promote a stronger sense of local identity. As part of this work we will underline the key importance of stewardship at all levels, as looking after what we have and building a sense of shared ownership of the built environment is critical for a more sustainable future.

***Putting design,
innovation and place
at the heart of delivery***

Focus

We will

The delivery of inclusive growth through more and better housing

Contribute to implementing the Scottish Government's Joint Housing Delivery Plan

Prioritise housing-based development proposals through our advisory work

Support local authorities in the preparation of effective spatial strategies

Creating better schools, hospitals and other public investment

Work with users to inform design briefs for new education, healthcare and other public buildings

Support the creation of spaces to deliver services for children in their early years

Develop place-based approaches to asset management, service planning and spatial planning

Improving the design quality of infrastructure and public space

Work with funders, practitioners and regulators to deliver well-designed streets, infrastructure and spaces

Support community initiatives using design to engage residents and users in the future of their streets

Support the implementation of Designing Streets by promoting best practice examples from Scotland

Increasing the emphasis on community empowerment

Provide opportunities for the public to engage with design, architecture and place

Connect communities across Scotland with opportunities to shape their places through a range of work

Use lessons from Stalled Spaces to inspire communities to take control of their own environments

our work

To achieve our objectives our work in 2017/18 will include a broad range of activities to help create a well-designed built environment for all.

Design Advice

At the heart of what A&DS does is to provide advice. We do this to achieve our vision of a well-designed built environment. We promote good practice to support those tasked with creating our spaces.

Design Advice: Public Sector

We will provide advice to help improve the quality of proposals commissioned by public sector especially in the delivery of public housing, city deal projects, town centre living and local authority led regeneration. We will support infrastructure developments in transport and in higher and further education.



Design Advice for better schools, hospitals and other public investment. Our aim is to give advice which maximises the benefits of the investment for the whole communities. We will continue to provide design advice to healthcare and learning spaces, ensuring the best possible design outcomes for the users.

Design Advice for Housing To support the Scottish Government's ambition to create an additional 50,000 homes, housing is one of our four major focus areas in our new Corporate Strategy. We will increase our focus on housing advice, both to private sector developers, and to local authorities and others involved in developing our homes.

Stalled Spaces Scotland Following its launch in 2014 our Stalled Spaces Scotland programme has reached seven local authorities across Scotland and supported 50 community based projects. In 2017/18 we will share the learning from this project at a special event to celebrate the programme's success. We will also publish a toolkit to support communities across the country in taking on their own projects in the future.

Case studies A key part of our work is to share the learning from what we do to build capacity with others working in the built environment sector. We will publish a series of case studies illustrating lessons learned and highlighting good practice on themes including health buildings, sustainability, design advice and schools. These will be published and promoted mainly through our digital channels.

**Material Considerations:
A Library of Sustainable
Building Materials** We showcase sustainable, traditional and emerging low carbon building products, to promote and encourage innovation in construction. The library gives access to a wide range of Scottish building materials. In 2017/18 we will reach beyond our physical space at The Lighthouse with a digital resource, and we continue to share our learning through a range of events and collaborations.

Town Centre Living advice
To help support Scotland's town centres and to increase the level of town centre living we will work in partnership with local authorities and investors to increase attractiveness of town centres as places to live. Our work will bring together communities, developers and local authorities to enhance the quality of our town centres.

Scotland + Venice 2018 We will work with the Scotland + Venice Partnership and the Year of Young People in 2018 to curate Scotland's contribution to the world's most prestigious architecture event - the Architecture Biennale, Venice. Responding to the theme of 'Freespace' our ambition is to bring together an engaging and interactive contribution which puts young people at the centre of its creative process.

Simplified Planning Zones
Our work supports the Scottish Government's work on Simplified Planning Zones, and we will work with Dumfries and Galloway Council to run a pilot programme, as well as undertake research, to explore the potential of this approach and its impact on creating new homes.



our work

The A&DS and RIAS Scottish Architecture Student Awards

2017 An annual award to celebrate the best work of Scotland's architecture students. In 2017 we will revamp the award approach and, in addition to the Andy MacMillan Memorial Lecture, we will hear fast-paced presentations by the shortlisted students. The awards will be showcased in a touring exhibition.

The Place Standard This is an award-winning way to evaluate what makes a good place. It was developed by Scottish Government, NHS Health Scotland and Architecture and Design Scotland. The tool allows users to consider the physical and social aspects of a place. In 2017 we will continue to work in partnership to promote the Place Standard, including events with communities, international organisations and at the CityLink Festival in Copenhagen (September 2017).

Project Helpful We will continue to grow our use of our social media channels, ensuring that the content we provide is helpful to our audiences, attractively presented and relevant to their needs, allowing us to promote the learning from our advice.

Local Authority Urban

Design Forum: By organising a series of events and briefings on a range of topics we will continue to support network of practitioners within local authorities. This network allows them to learn from each other, while providing us with vital feedback on the issues facing design professionals in local authorities.



Public Sector Clients Forum

We will organise events and briefing materials to support those in the public sector tasked with procuring public buildings. We will share our experience and act as a convener for a space where 'clients' from the public sector can share experience, learning and ideas from across the public sector.

Exhibitions and Awards:

We will curate and display a range of exhibitions including the winning entries in the Timber Awards, which showcases the best innovation in timber in Scotland. We will also work in partnerships to share the best in architecture and design including collaborating with the University of Strathclyde through the Critical Path series of exhibition and events and other opportunities as they arise.



Local Design Review: To help support the design quality of developments across the country we will support a growing network of local design review panels. We aim to support this network to increase community engagement with design and provide training and briefing as necessary.



Supporting better learning

spaces: We will continue to support those involved in creating learning spaces across the country. We provide a range of ways to achieve briefing that is led by the learner, leading to co-production of spaces and innovation in design approach. We will support Scotland's first Education Buildings Conference in November 2017, and will produce a range of briefing materials as part of this major event.

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