



**Architecture+DesignScotland**  
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

# Business Plan 2015/16

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Inn at John O'Groats, Winner of RIAS/Wood for Good Timber Awards 2014  
Photograph: Pip Rustage

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Cover Image: From Greyfriars Community Garden, Glasgow at the official announcement of the Stalled Spaces Scotland programme (2014).  
Photograph: Lenny Warren

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The Leg-A-See run during GREEN2014 was a creative and active way to get a new audience to engage with place and architecture.  
Photograph: A+DS

## Introduction

In 2014 we published our Corporate Strategy for 2014-17, setting out our objectives and how we hoped to meet these. This plan explains what we will do in 2015/16 to meet those objectives.

A+DS will continue to work in different ways to support those involved in commissioning, designing, adapting and using buildings and places. We will provide advice to funders, designers and local authorities on significant development proposals at a range of scales across Scotland, including specific support to the healthcare and schools sectors. We will deliver a programme throughout the country to promote architecture and sustainable design.

At the heart of our business remains a determination to ensure design plays a full part in how services are delivered and how we make the transition to a more prosperous, more equal and more engaged country. In this context, we have worked hard to focus our efforts on these issues and developed a programme that we believe will align well with those across the public sector as a whole. We therefore look forward to working with all of our partners this year to deliver this programme and help create the places we all aspire to.

“The role of A+DS is to support and promote Scottish Ministers’ policies and objectives for the built and natural environment. This role is intended to improve the quality of development in Scotland and promote excellence in the delivery of good architecture, successful places and efficient processes. This role requires A+DS to work with other key organisations to help to develop an effective focus on place, architecture and design across policies and working practices.”

Creating Places, 2013

# Context of our work

As a public body we are here to help people. Whether that is through enabling people to get more involved in shaping the places they live in or by improving the design of the buildings they use, the focus of our work is to improve people's lives.

In this way our work directly supports the aspiration of the Scottish Government to change the way we deliver services. This support for the reform of public services derives from our firm belief that making the best use of the assets we have, through a design-led approach, offers the best hope of creating truly sustainable places.

Well-designed buildings and places make the very best use of scarce resources, contribute to the development of a low-carbon economy and create the environments in which people can flourish.

## National Performance Framework

A+DS is accountable to Scottish Ministers in helping to deliver the Scottish Government's overarching purpose, objectives and outcomes. Our strategy explains what we will do to support these.

## Creating Places

Through our work we help to implement the policies of the Scottish Government. While we have an involvement across a range of policy areas, our principal focus is on implementing Creating Places, Scotland's policy for architecture and place, and all of our work supports this.

## The Government's Purpose

To focus Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

## Strategic Objectives

Wealthier &  
Fairer

Smarter

Healthier

Safer &  
Stronger

Greener

## National Outcomes

## Creating Places (2013)

Creating Places, Scotland's policy on architecture and place, supports the development of sustainable places and communities throughout Scotland. The role of A+DS is to support and promote the Scottish Ministers' policies and objectives for the built environment.

The responsibilities of A+DS are to fulfil this role by:

- Supporting the creation and renewal of sustainable buildings and places
- Improving skills and increasing understanding
- Providing advice
- Effective communications and advocacy
- Promoting excellence in the delivery of public buildings and places
- Researching and building evidence

# Corporate Strategy

Published in 2014 our Corporate Strategy sets out our purpose, approach and objectives. Over the next few pages we will illustrate the work we are undertaking in 2015/16 to deliver those objectives.

## Our Purpose:

Our purpose is to promote the value of good architecture and sustainable places.

## Our Approach:

Much of our success will continue to rely on the way we work and the partnerships we form in doing so. We will achieve our objectives by:

**Collaborating** with key partners to achieve good architecture and sustainable places.

**Supporting** practitioners to create the best buildings and most sustainable places.

**Influencing** funders, regulators and contractors to deliver the best buildings and most sustainable places.

**Inspiring** Scotland's people to value good architecture and sustainable places.

“Everyone responsible for Scotland's built and natural environment must recognise that architecture and places are not simply elements of the planning process – they are among the most important outcomes that the process exists to support, and their quality should be a priority.”

Creating Places, 2013

## Our Objectives:

Our objectives focus on what we do to support the Scottish Government's National Outcomes.

Over the next three years we want to:

1. Help create better buildings, streets and sustainable places in Scotland.
2. Encourage more people to get involved in making sustainable places.
3. Increase the understanding of architecture and design within the planning system.
4. Promote Scottish architecture and design nationally and internationally.
5. Provide leadership for our sector.
6. Deliver high-quality services which are continually improving.

## National Outcomes:

We live in **well-designed, sustainable places** where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

We value and enjoy our **built and natural environment** and protect it and enhance it for the future.

We reduce the **local and global environmental impact** of our consumption and production.

We have **strong, resilient and supportive communities** where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

Our **young people** are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

We live longer, **healthier** lives.

We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive **national identity**.

Our public services are **high-quality, continually improving**, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

# Our plan for 2015/16

We will achieve our objectives through a series of actions:

## 1. We will help create better buildings, streets and sustainable places in Scotland by:

- Providing advice to people and their projects, including design assessments for schools, health, local and nationally significant development projects.
- Publishing best practice guidance.
- Sharing exemplar case studies.
- Supporting clients to prepare better strategies and briefs, including supporting a network of public sector clients.
- Engaging in collaborative place based briefing on public asset investment.

## 2. We will encourage more people to get involved in making sustainable places by:

- Running participation events.
- Sharing new ways on creating places.
- Using examples to illustrate the value of good design.
- Leading the national roll-out of the Stalled Spaces Scotland initiative, a Legacy2014 programme.



**A Picture of Health: profiling our health programme's work of helping clients put design at the heart of their investment decisions.**



**Stalled Spaces Scotland Seminar: aimed at providing inspiration for those getting involved in renewing their places.**

# Our plan for 2015/16

## 3. We will increase the understanding of architecture and design in the planning system by:

- Supporting a forum for local authority design staff to share learning (LAUDF).
- Working with partners in NHS Scotland and Scottish Government to deliver a National Place Standards.
- Continuing involvement with a number of groups including; Scottish Government Sustainable Housing Strategy, 2020 Group, Retrofit Scotland, Building Standards Working Group, BRE and Key Agencies Group.
- Sharing knowledge and building capacity in local authorities relating to school buildings.



The Athletes' Village, Glasgow: A+DS has provided a number of opportunities for site visits and learning from the process of developing the project.

## 4. We will promote Scottish architecture and design nationally and internationally by:

- Curating and promoting a series of talks - DECADE - to mark the 10th birthday of Architecture and Design Scotland.
- Providing a programme of activity to engage a wider audience with architecture and design.
- Host exhibitions including the Scottish Civic Trust's My Place Awards and the Scottish Government's Scenic Routes.
- Use our Noticed Board to provide a pop-up space for temporary exhibitions.
- Supporting a range of awards to celebrate the best of Scottish architecture.



The Noticed Board: a space for short pop-up exhibitions on a wide range of architecture and design topics.

## Our plan for 2015/16

### 5. We will provide leadership for our sector by:

- Providing support for Local Design Review panels to build capacity in design at local level.
- Providing advice to Scottish Government on the means of developing design-led approaches to investment, briefing and procurement.
- Stimulating debate on key topics.
- Providing an annual meeting for Design Forum Panel members to share good practice.



### 6. We will deliver high-quality services which are continually improving by:

- Publishing our Annual Report of our ongoing activities and producing a bi-monthly e-newsletter.
- Publishing articles, publications and resources on our website and through social media.
- Investing in the development of our staff.



A key part of what we do is to promote architecture and design to a public audience through a programme of outreach activities. In 2015 we will take an international focus, while also celebrating 10 years of A+DS, as well as begin the preparations to mark the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in 2016.

## Our public programme

### 2015

#### Scotland and the world

As A+DS celebrates its 10th anniversary, our programme will consider what we have achieved in the preceding decade and look at Scottish design in an international context.

Decade: 10 years of Architecture and Design Scotland.

Scotland + Venice: a retrospective of Scotland's presence in Venice during the international architecture biennale.

Connect: Scottish Design in an international context.

### 2016

#### Year of innovation, architecture and design

In 2016 we will deliver a creative programme to engage the public and celebrate the contribution design makes to our lives.

Introduction to Architecture: engaging the public with architecture.

## Ongoing activities

Materials Library - allowing the public and professionals to get hands-on with sustainable materials.

Showcasing architecture and design awards including the A+DS/RIAS Student Awards, RIAS Timber Awards, Civic Trust Awards and more.

Noticed Board: providing a pop-up space for temporary exhibitions.

A variety of training events for professionals.

## Get involved

### Keep up to date with our work

You'll find the latest news and a wide range of resources available on our website. You can also sign up to join our mailing list allowing you to be the first to find out about events, opportunities and activities.

[www.ads.org.uk](http://www.ads.org.uk)  
@ArcDesSco

### Let us know what you think

If you have ideas and thoughts on architecture and design in Scotland or any feedback or queries about our work please let us know. Drop us an email or pick up the phone – we look forward to hearing from you!

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Design Skills Symposium 2014: bringing professionals from across the country together to work together on a design brief and learning new methods of collaboration.

Architecture and Design Scotland

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