ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

Ref: 098/10/SEC

Sustainable Architecture for a Better Europe

Annex to Request to European Parliament

Description and Sample Buildings

Final

Introduction

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)[1] was founded in 1990 in Treviso, Italy. To mark its 20th Anniversary, it is applying to the European Parliament for permission to hold an exhibition in its premises at the end of November 2010. It will consist of a selection of best examples of completed buildings from all corners of Europe that incorporate high design quality and a fully sustainable approach. It is intended that the best projects will receive an award from the ACE and the exhibition will be supported by the publication of a small catalogue.

In addition, the exhibition will move to the BOZAR cultural complex in Brussels for a period yet to be determined, where it will be open to the public.

This document is to be annexed to the application to the European Parliament for the use of an exhibition space within its buildings in Brussels and it briefly describes the concept behind the exhibition and shows some sample photographs of the type of projects that it is expected will be submitted for consideration by the ACE for inclusion in the exhibition. In addition a first, rough mock-up of a sample panel has been prepared in order to give an impression (and no more than an impression) of how each display panel might be structured.

Concept

The European Union has, for many years, recognised the importance of architecture in our society and it has referred to this fact in many official documents. The European Union has also placed the creation of a sustainable, eco-efficiency economy by 2020, high on the political agenda. In particular it has recently pointed to the enormous potential that energy efficiency of buildings can make to economic recovery and it has acted to bring this aspect to the forefront of several policies.

The ACE has, for its part, spent many years promoting the message that there is a strong need to have a quality, sustainable built environment in which the activities of society can take place. In its advocacy work it has pointed out that the sense of well-being and productivity is greatly enhanced when the built environment is of high quality and conceived in accordance with the principles of sustainability. It has also pointed out that achieving high-quality, sustainable architecture is not necessarily more costly, especially when having due regard to life cycle issues.

A tendency that the ACE has noted is that buildings that contain just one or two "green" technologies, such as photo-voltaic panels, rainwater collection or use of heat pumps, are often marketed as fully integrated examples of sustainable architecture. This is not the case when a technology is "clipped on" to an otherwise traditional building or where a piecemeal approach has been adopted.

[1] The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the European organisation representing the architectural profession at European level. Its headquarters and Secretariat are located in Brussels. Its growing membership consists of Member Organisations, which are the nationally representative regulatory and professional bodies of all European Union (EU) Member States, Accession States, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, it represents the interests of about 480,000 architects. The principal function of the ACE is to monitor developments at EU level, seeking to influence those areas of EU Policy and legislation that have an impact on architectural practice and on the overall quality and sustainability of the built environment. It is registered in the Commission Register for Interest Representatives with the reference 15914681331-83

For this and several other reasons, the ACE wishes to organise, in 2010, a call to its Member Organisations to submit examples of completed projects that display a truly holistic approach to sustainability so that it can mount an exhibition that will demonstrate to all who visit the exhibition, what a truly sustainable architecture can be like. It is intended, in principle, to categorise the projects submitted into the following groups:

1. Parliament and Government Buildings
2. Other Public Buildings
3. Individual Houses
4. Collective Housing
   a. Privately funded
   b. Publicly funded (Social Housing)
5. Commercial or Industrial Buildings

Furthermore, it is hoped that the ACE can award some prizes so that the exemplary buildings will stand out and demonstrate that sustainable architecture is already with us all over Europe and that it is contributing to a better quality of life for those that occupy them and for the communities in which they are located.

Content and Format of the Exhibition

As the call for projects has not yet been issued by the ACE, it is only possible for the ACE to give an overall description of what it intends to display in the Parliament buildings. In fact, negotiations are under way with the Higher Institute of Architecture, St. Luc in Brussels for the ACE Exhibition to be the subject of a three-week project for its fourth-year students.

The idea behind the project is to arrange an internal competition among the students in order to identify a dynamic and engaging layout for the proposed display panels. These panels will be free-standing and will each measure 200x90 cm. The Students will be briefed as to the expectations of the ACE and the winning layout will then be used by all students in preparing the panels for the exhibition.

It is expected that there will be about 34 panels in all, with one project per panel. In preparing the panels the students will be required to study the buildings and learn about the sustainability features that they contain. In this way, the ACE will be contributing to the necessary increase in knowledge in this field for the future generation of architects.

The panels themselves will be highly visual with high quality photographs as the main feature. They will also contain factual information about the location and type of project illustrated together with plans and drawings that explain the sustainability characteristics of the building. To give a rough idea of how the panels might appear, a mock-up is attached to this note.

Examples:
In order to better inform you of the type of project that is envisaged, here are two examples with some of the factual information included:

BDP Studio – winner of RIBA Award in 2009
11 Ducie Street, Manchester, UK

Architect:	BDP
Client:	BDP/Town Centre Securities
Structural engineer:	BDP
Services engineer:	BDP
Quantity surveyor:	AYH
Contractor:	Kier North West
Contract Value:	£10.3m
Date of occupation:	September 2008
Gross internal area:	3840 sq m

BDP have pulled off a commercially viable, high-quality office building in functional, aesthetic and environmental terms, providing themselves with an office/studio that extracts full advantage from the limited site. Each floor creates a strongly characterised and beautifully detailed flexible workplace.
However the remarkable feature of the building is its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, as Manchester's first **BREEAM Excellent** -rated office building. Maximum benefit is taken of the north light façade facing the canal basin, whilst a protective south (street side) a stainless steel clad hull shades the building from solar gain. It is naturally vented, with a very low energy requirement. The scheme represents a clear expression of its constructional materials, (wood, concrete, glass and steel) and is detailed to a very high standard.

Private House - Greece

Architect: Alexander Tombasis

This private house, built in a dramatic location in Greece exploits many features of good passive solar design. Its form and choice of building materials means that its energy efficiency is exceptionally high and it is especially conceived to permit passive cooling in the summertime without recourse to expensive and energy-hungry air conditioning units. This is achieved by the high thermal mass of the building combined with a double roof, linked to a solar chimney that permits cool breezes and air movement to cool the building. The house also incorporates water-saving technologies and high level of natural daylight to reduce the use of artificial lighting.

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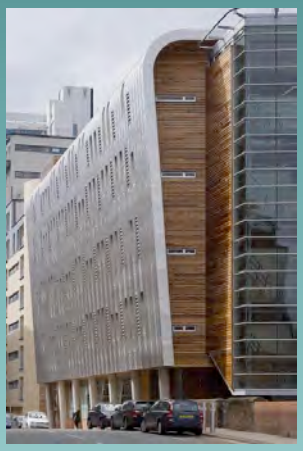
DUCIE STREET OFFICES
Manchester, UK



Project Team

Architect:	BDP
Client:	BDP/Town Centre Securities
Engineers:	BDP
QS:	AYH
Contractor:	Kier North West
Cost:	€13m
Completion:	September 2008
Floor area:	3840 sq m

Description of Project

BDP have pulled off a commercially viable, high-quality office building in functional, aesthetic and environmental terms, providing themselves with an office/studio that extracts full advantage from the limited site. Each floor creates a strongly characterised and beautifully detailed flexible workplace.

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The scheme represents a clear expression of its constructional materials, (wood, concrete, glass and steel) and is detailed to a very high standard.

Relevance in the EU Context

Descriptive text describing why the ACE selection committee has chosen to display this particular project together with a description of the particular aspects that are of relevance to the EU and to spreading awareness and knowledge about the way forward for sustainable architecture.

Space for further information, plans, additional photos etc.…