



CABE is now part of the Design Council

STANHOPE GATE ARCHITECTURE	
Project	
Received	01 AUG 2011
A.S.	

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Alireza Sagharchi, RIBA, FRSA
Chairman
Traditional Architecture Group
c/o 5 Stanhope Gate
London
W1K 1AH

Dear Mr Sagharchi,

I am writing in response to your letter to Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport regarding Paul Finch's comments on the Olympic site which featured in his recent column for The Architects' Journal (AJ).

As an independent charity promoting good design in the built environment, Design Council CABE (DC CABE) works to provide impartial support and advice for the public's benefit. Paul writes in a personal capacity for AJ and the views expressed in his column are his own and not those of DC CABE.

In my report to Government on the future of the Design Council I advocated a big tent approach to design, one which was inclusive of different styles and disciplines. Since merging with the Design Council, DC CABE has been working with a wide range of partners across the sector, including the Prince's Foundation and the Royal Institution of British Architects (RIBA), to develop new ways of working which will ensure that good design is delivered in the context of the new planning system and Localism agenda.

As you know, our Design Review service advises local decision makers – councillors, planners, clients and designers – on how to improve design quality. It is a process that seeks to improve the quality of architecture, planning, urban design, streets and public spaces.

Our Design Review Panels follow the recognised guidance 'Principles and Practice' developed by CABE, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), the RIBA and the Landscape Institute. Panel Members must therefore act independently, be

Design Council, 34 Bow Street, London WC2E 7DL United Kingdom.
Tel +44(0)20 7420 5200 Fax +44(0)20 7420 5300
Email info@designcouncil.org.uk www.designcouncil.org.uk

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accountable, accessible and objective. I hope you will also be reassured to hear that DC CABE does not advocate a single architectural style or aesthetic and we welcome the inclusion of this approach in the Government's draft of the National Planning Policy Framework published this week.

As I mentioned, we are working closely with people across the industry to ensure a high quality built environment is delivered to create prosperous places for people and businesses alike. I hope it will be possible for you to meet with our Chief Executive, David Kester, in the next few weeks to discuss this further and how we can work together in the future.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Temple".

Martin Temple CBE
Chair
Design Council

CC

Paul Finch OBE, Deputy Chair Design Council CABE

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government