

Revision register				
rev	date issued	author	reviewed by	description of revision
A	01.08	RN	CR	
B	01.08	RN	WQ	

Edward Cullinan Architects' Statement of Corporate Social Responsibility

We have been practicing architecture in a socially responsible manner since Ted Cullinan set up the practice in 1965. This statement explains some of the dimensions of this business arrangement that is relatively rare for professional services, in terms of

- A statement of intent
- Our structure and our working method
- The work we do and the work we do not do
- Social economic and environmental sustainability
- Support for change in the industry and its professions
- Support for members' wider interests for the public good
- Environmental footprinting, both corporate and personal
- Implementation of our CSR policies

We adopted and have developed a culture of social responsibility as an integral part of our business which is the creation of beautiful and useful buildings, spaces and places; but we are acutely aware of the need to maintain a balance between the moral and the aesthetic.

Ethical Statement of Intent

Members and staff of Edward Cullinan Architects are committed to producing high quality architecture that fulfils the needs of the client, the user and those of the wider society. We strive to develop appropriate solutions, through our architecture and through education, that are respectful to society and to the world's resources. We welcome new experiences, challenges and approaches, building upon a broad base of experience. We endeavour at all times to conduct our business with integrity, competence and discretion. We enjoy diversity and aim to be an equal opportunities employer, promoting mutual respect and encouraging life long development.

Members and staff of Edward Cullinan Architects are obliged in the execution of their work and general conduct to respect one another, our clients, the users of our buildings and the general public regardless of their gender, race, ethnic origin, disability, age, nationality, national origin, sexuality, religion, marital status, or social economic background.

We believe in transparency in all that we do and have consistently shared our knowledge and experience with both the architectural and wider communities.

Our structure and our working method

We are organised as a limited liability company that works with a co-operative structure. Everybody spends a 12-month period of probation, with 4-monthly reviews; if, at the end of this period, there is a mutual desire to continue working together and sufficient work to expand the membership, they becomes an equal member/director of Edward Cullinan Architects, be they designer or support. The direction of the practice, people's responsibilities and share of the income are by agreement with the collective membership. There is an expectation that members will work 'each according to their ability' and that they will be appropriately rewarded. Age and experience demand that both responsibilities and rewards are not equal but rewards are confined so that no member earns more than three times any other.

As stated in our Ethical Statement of Intent, we aim to be an equal opportunities employer, with diversity in age, ethnic origin and background being a strength of the office, as is the relatively equal male to female ratio, presently 56/44 ratio of men/women.

The capital assets of the practice are held by an employee trust, which exists to support the practice so long as it exists. We established this formally in 1989; subsequently we learned that this was the original Arup model and was adopted by Make when it was set up in 2004.

The work we do and the work we do not do

Since the beginning of the practice, we have declined offers of work that were anti-social or environmentally harmful, including the nuclear industry. For many years we declined to work in private health and education but the progressive blurring of the public/private boundary has made this impractical. Invitations from overseas are examined on a case by case basis and the human rights' record of the particular country is evaluated against the UK record. We have worked on particular projects and/or taught in Canada, USA, Norway, Germany, France, Italy, Jordan, India, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Tanzania and South Africa.

Social, economic and environmental sustainability

Ever since Ted built his house in 1964 as a south-facing solar collector with a protective roof over-hang, we have been aware of the advantages of designing with and for the climate and have vigorously pursued new ideas as we became aware of them. Whereas for many years we have been designing environmentally responsible buildings, it used to be mainly in spite of our clients (e.g. the International HQ for RMC). However, now many of our clients, such as the University of Warwick, are asking us for environmental standards beyond those of the Building Regulations and we expect this to grow very rapidly.

The sustainability agenda has grown from a purely energy conscious focus to a triple bottom line of social, economic and environmental issues, encompassing energy, water, waste and bio-diversity.

Participation by the users and the general public is an important part of this wider agenda and we have long experience in this from Barnes Church (1978-84) and Lambeth Community Care Centre (1980-85) to the elaborate managed stakeholder engagement for the masterplan for Bristol Harbourside (2000-1).

We are always seeking to maximise community benefit from projects, whether through local employment in construction (Baldwin Terrace) or local materials (Downland Gridshell). On occasion, our projects have been aimed specifically at creating local employment such as the Archaeolink Visitor Centre, Aberdeenshire.

Support for change in the industry and its professions

We aim to support other professionals who wish to practise in a co-operative way in what can be a difficult process, changing from traditional partnership to shared ownership; we have offered our experience to a wide range of practices from small groups to larger practices such as Feilden Clegg before they became Feilden Clegg Bradley and now FCB Studios.

We support members who wish to lecture and teach in schools of architecture and other disciplines. Without detracting from lectures in other places, we determined in 2003 to support the Nottingham School of Architecture in particular; currently we provide a Visiting Professor, an External Examiner, a Professional Practice masterclass and a number of occasional studio critics.

We support members who wish to participate in industry bodies, especially when these are dedicated to transforming the industry into a more responsible one. Currently members participate in TRADA, Royal Academy, CABE, CIC, RIBA, NHBC and the Edge. In the past, members have participated in RedR, Architects and Engineers for Social Responsibility, an IStructE Sustainability Task Force and the Movement for Innovation (now Constructing Excellence).

We actively engage with sustainability groups such as the Good Homes Alliance and we participate in the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group. We are just engaging with a programme developed by Stephen

Hill with the Royal Society of Arts under the working title of (Construction) ‘Professions for a sustainable world.’

Support for members’ wider interests for the public good

We support members who wish to participate in relevant charities, including Architects for Humanity and Crisis Open Christmas (designing and making temporary accommodation for the homeless 2006 and 2007).



For a number of years, we gave a home to the Building Experiences Trust (for children) and we have supported a number of programmes working with local school children.

Environmental footprinting, both corporate and personal

We believe that it is essential that the environmental performance of buildings is measured. More recently we helped develop and members trialed the Edge Pledge which calculates our personal footprints:
(<http://www.at-the-edge.org.uk/edgepledge/edgepledge.htm>)

Members are invited to repeat their personal footprinting on an annual basis. In the meantime, the office has been measuring its own footprint and has taken part in the CIBSE 100-Days of Carbon Counting (2006, 2007) which saw an average yearly reduction in energy use of 4.5%.

We aim to be a less-paper office and have significantly reduced the amount of printing of drawings; all projects have their own ftp-site if there is not already a suitable project extranet or site managed by the client. All paper is recycled paper and paper and other waste is recycled where practical.

We have a weekly delivery of seasonal fruit from Abel and Cole; food for our shared office Friday Lunch is as seasonal as is practical and organic sandwiches for Wednesday CPD sessions are provided from Random, a local supplier who uses no throw-away packaging, and Benugo which is delivered buffet style to reduce packaging.

These activities are monitored by our Team Green, which also arranges CPD seminars and training in sustainability.

Implementation of our CSR

This CSR Statement was prepared in 2007 by Senior Member Robin Nicholson and validated by Practice Manager Colin Rice. Continuous encouragement is the responsibility of two of our management teams, Team Green and Team Zero and is the subject of one CPD session each year.

Robin Nicholson
Senior Member
June 2008