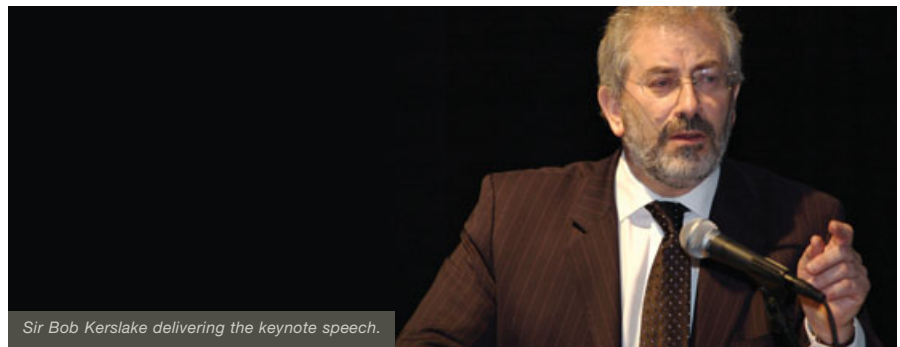


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## Design Awards 2009



Sir Bob Kerslake delivering the keynote speech.

Last month TSY and DDQ held the first ever Design Awards to celebrate the high standard of design in South Yorkshire.

Nominees and guests from across the four local authorities attended an Awards ceremony at The Civic, Barnsley, where Sir Bob Kerslake of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) delivered the keynote speech.

Sir Bob emphasised the importance of the work done by DDQ, commenting that a key lesson learnt during his time at Sheffield Council was the importance of having the

same ambitions for design standards in deprived neighbourhoods, as those held in more affluent areas.

The Awards were an opportunity to showcase the work of both local authorities and developers who have been raising the bar in social housing throughout the region. The evening gave recognition to their hard work and helped highlight the exemplary schemes that are creating a quality benchmark.

### AWARD WINNERS

**Best Completed Housing Project**  
Henley Rise, Rotherham

**Best Housing Project in the Pipeline**  
Shirecliffe, Sheffield

**Best Developer operating in the Transform South Yorkshire area**  
Southey Owlerton Area Regeneration

**Best Public Sector Practitioner making an outstanding individual contribution to design quality in the Transform South Yorkshire area**  
Beverley Alderton-Sambrook

**Best Environmental Improvement Project**  
Cookson Park, Sheffield



# The Panel Session



The expert panel, from left to right: TSY Chair Mike Gahagan, John Slaughter of the Home Builders Federation, Councillor Bob McCann, TSY/DDQ Enabler Alex Ely, Editor of First Time Buyer magazine Sarah Garrett, CABE enabler Paul Lavelle, Design For Homes Director David Birkbeck and TSY Chair Mike Gahagan.

One of the highlights of the evening was the panel discussion. In a break from the standard awards format delegates were treated to a discussion on 'Achieving Design Quality During the Credit Crunch'.

The debate provided a unique opportunity for experts from the fields of housing, planning and architecture to discuss the effects of the financial downturn and ways of dealing with them. The panel featured a series of high profile figures from across the industry including Sir Bob Kerslake, John Slaughter from the Home Builders Federation, Sheffield City Councillor Bob McCann, TSY/DDQ Enabler Alex Ely, editor of First Time Buyer Magazine Sarah Garrett, CABE enabler Paul Lavelle, Design for Homes Director David Birkbeck and TSY Chair Mike Gahagan.

One of the key issues discussed was the detrimental effect that short-term

planning is having on the housing market. Sir Bob Kerslake described how in some areas there is an excess of low quality city centre flats, saying that at times this has been partially due to the absence of a long-term stake that characterises some of these developments. Alex Ely's remark "*We're at risk of short-term thinking leading to long-term costs*", echoed the same point.

When asked about what influence the market has on design quality, Sarah Garrett argued that young people and first time buyers do see design as paramount when buying homes, and are open to new and innovative ideas. Also arguing this point was Alex Ely, who commented

that people are becoming increasingly design aware, but house-builders are protective of their brands, and the offer is still not there. However, David Birkbeck of Design for Homes argued that the lack of choice is a consequence of most people wanting the same thing.

The discussion ended with a look to the future. The panel agreed that the policy and planning surrounding energy efficiency regulations is in need of simplification in order that they can be implemented more widely. In addition, calls were made for greater attention to be paid to the methods used in countries such as Germany, and the need to replicate these ideas on existing house stock.

## A New Partnership

**DDQ has joined forces with the 4x4 debate forum. Established 8 years ago by Ian Tod of Allen Tod Architecture, 4x4 Making Places is a not for profit company sponsored by a number of organisations such as Yorkshire Forward's Integreat.**

4x4 is held over 4 weeks each March, and aims to explore, inform and develop skills and cooperation to support quality, promote environmental excellence, good practice and the highest standards in place making.

The series will bring together a mix of speakers from the region, the UK and Europe, who will go on to provide the keynote speeches at DDQ's quarterly forums.

In addition, a selection of TSY Enablers will also attend the 4x4 debates to add their skills and expertise to the forum.

Through it's involvement with the Regional Development Agency, Transform South Yorkshire, and the DDQ programme will have the opportunity to extend their work beyond the subregion, raising design standards on a larger scale.

**The dates of the next series are Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March 2010 from 6pm – 8pm. To learn more about 4x4 visit [www.makingplaces.com](http://www.makingplaces.com). The content of the series will be announced in the coming weeks.**

# Spotlight on Winner of the Best Developer Awards - SOAR

**SOAR (Southey Owlerton Area Regeneration) is a community led regeneration partnership and registered charity. It secures funding and contracts to provide projects which benefit the residents of Southey Owlerton and contributes to the wider regeneration of the area. Here Sarah Larssen of SOAR shares her thoughts.**

SOAR has led a variety of neighbourhood development projects including the neighbourhood strategies process, two community hub buildings, a managed workspace, a library learning centre and Public Square, and a community land trust model to deliver long-term affordable and sustainable housing led by local people.

All of SOAR's projects are the result of successful partnership working with the community, public sector agencies and design teams. Throughout all the developments good quality design has been at the forefront in order to change perceptions of the area, raise local people's aspirations and attract inward investment.

The Hubs are one of a series of neighbourhood centres that help to deliver the wider regeneration strategy of SOAR. They are part of a broader package of measures including Decent Homes investment, new housing plans, the redevelopment of green spaces and streetscene improvements. Taken together this package of investment has the potential to secure a transformational change for the neighbourhoods.



Drawn from previous experience in both the Hub projects (Shirecliffe & Longley), where SOAR have supported the neighbourhood forums and the community to become 'expert clients', SOAR & DDQ are now coming together in a pioneering new Community Land Trust development model for housing. The project at Margeston Crescent is to start in December with the appointment of a DDQ enabler team, who will work with the client supporting the following activities:

### **Awareness Raising/Community Engagement/Partnership Building**

Raising awareness of the opportunity SOAR has to offer and engaging the community and wider stakeholders. Identifying a framework for selection of self-builders and participants for the first development.

### **Developing Design Codes/ Development Model**

Creating the principles of a development through a series of facilitated workshops on existing development briefs and constraints, and personal and collective aspirations.

### **Co-design Workshops with the Community & Design Team**

Assisting and enabling the design of the dwellings, within the framework of design codes. Potentially using the TSY/DDQ "Pattern Book" of housing as a basis.

Winning the Best Developer award was an excellent achievement for SOAR confirming our belief that a grassroots approach to regeneration and place making has the potential to bring about long-term change.

## DDQ and Hallam Research into Code for Sustainable Homes

DDQ is undertaking a joint research project with Sheffield Hallam University to explore how house-builders are responding to The Code for Sustainable Homes. Introduced in 2006, The Code acts as a single national standard for assessing the environmental benefits of newly built dwellings. The Code supports the government target that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016. Although it's not currently a national regulatory requirement, there are an increasing number

of local planning authorities who require Code levels for planning permission.

The research with Hallam University builds on previous DDQ research, including Zero Carbon and Sustainable Refurbishment, that will help TSY support the house-building sector and respond to stricter environmental standards. As part of this research, we are investigating the views of developers operating across the subregion. We are keen to hear your

thoughts and reactions to The Code - have you introduced different technologies, processes or ways of working? Are you working with new partners? Does The Code present your company with any particular challenges and what support you would like to see offered? Finally, we would like to hear your views about the 2016 Zero Carbon Housing Target and how achievable it is.

To offer your views please contact [Wendy.Bussey@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.Bussey@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Delivering Design Quality Skills Training 2010

TSY have created the DDQ Skills Training Programme 2010. This is a free programme, which will provide practitioners from the private sector, RSLs and local authorities with training that meets all levels of expertise.

TSY will be using an Enabler team including Mæ, Paul Drew and Matrix. This team works at the leading edge of urban design and architecture in the UK, masterplanning policy development and guidance, and writing leading texts such as Building for Life's 'Delivering Excellent Places to Live' and DCLG/CABE's 'Design Codes Practice Guide'.

The programme's approach will be practical, and aims to give professionals the tools they need

to continue developing their design skills when they leave the session. The case study is at the heart of our teaching approach – it brings the theory alive.

January will see the start of the DDQ Skills Training Programme with the initial Foundation Level. We seek to enrol committed practitioners and as places will be limited, potential candidates will be required to go through a selection process. The venue for all the events (except the study tour) will be The Source at Meadowhall, 300 Meadowhall Way, Sheffield S9 1EA.

## Sign Up

To sign up to any of these training sessions, please fill out our Online Application Form available at

[www.ddq.org.uk/skillstraining\\_register.html](http://www.ddq.org.uk/skillstraining_register.html)

The deadline for registering for the Foundation Series is **18th December 2009**. Successful candidates will be notified on **4th January 2009** for Series 1.

The deadline for registering for the Building Quality Partnerships Series and the Masterclasses is **29th January 2010**. Successful candidates will be notified on the week commencing **15th February 2010**.

For further information please contact Louise Dawes on 0114 273 5780, or via email at

[louise.dawes@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:louise.dawes@sheffield.gov.uk)

**All levels training will be free of charge.**

### 1 - The Foundation Series

For those with little or no design experience. Involves a series of workshops on the principles of good design.

### 2 - Partnership Series

For those who are experienced and work in the areas of design, regeneration and sustainability. Will help strengthen the relationships of those involved in residential developments.

### 3 - Masterclass Series

For senior professionals and leading figures in the industry including executives, directors and Local Authority Members. The series

concentrates on honing their skills and broadening their perspectives on design and sustainability.

## Workshops

### Workshop 1

Creating Successful Places  
12th January 2010

### Workshop 2

Residential Design Quality  
9th February 2010

### Workshop 3

Achieving Sustainable Development  
9th March 2010

### Workshop 4

Working Together: Understanding Roles and Constraints  
20th April 2010

### Workshop 5

Successful Procurement Methods  
18th May 2010

## Workshop 6

Partnership Working to Achieve Design Excellence  
15th June 2010

## Masterclass 1

### Proposal A – Study Day

Joined-Up Sustainability Reducing Our Carbon Footprint  
23rd March 2010

### Proposal B – Study Tour

A Model of Environmental and Social Sustainability (study visit abroad may require a small fee)  
27th April 2010

## Masterclass 2

### Proposal C – Study Day

Designing for Cars and People  
25th May 2010



**DDQ and TSY would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Right to left:

Louise Dawes: DDQ-Programme Support Officer

Ruth Rovira-Wilde: DDQ Manager

Peter O'Brien: TSY Planning & Design Advisor

## Delivering Design Quality

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This bulletin is intended to provide a brief overview of the work of DDQ, with regular updates on a range of aspects of the project. If you would like to know more about how DDQ works, or would like to recommend anyone to us, please contact Ruth Rovira-Wilde on 0114 273 5144 or by email [ruth.rovira@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.rovira@sheffield.gov.uk)