

SURVEYOR

EAST MIDLANDS

Summer 2014

LOUISE BROOKE-SMITH takes office p4 **HELP RICS MATRICS** inspire the next generation p8 **THE POLITICAL ROAD** to 2015 p12 **SCOTTISH** Independence: p13



CALLING THE CONSTRUCTION COACH

Personal development is more than just a buzz word. Maria Willis speaks to Surveyor on the transition from quantity surveyor to professional coach, risk manager and project manager.

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Update from the Board

Jennifer Welch



RICS East Midlands Awards are always a highlight in our calendar and this year was no exception. The regional grand final was a wonderful showcase of the region's top talent.

The East Midlands Awards received the highest number of entries we've seen for three years, giving another positive indication of economic recovery in the region. Our shortlist saw some of the region's finest new landmarks battle it out for the top prizes in commercial property, residential property, design & innovation, regeneration, building conservation, community benefit and leisure & tourism, with the category winners fighting for the prestigious 'Project of the Year' award. 2014 saw the inclusion of an infrastructure category for the first time. Details of the winners can be found on page 10.

In addition to the excellent projects, huge thanks go to our judging panel for their fastidious analysis of these schemes. Our minds are now fixed on the National Grand Final, where the winners of the regional commercial property, community benefit, regeneration and design and innovation categories will join our 'Project of the Year' to compete for the national property awards. We hope to see as many regional champions as possible at this glittering ceremony at the Savoy Hotel in London; details of how to reserve your place are outlined inside and I very much look forward to meeting more of you there.

The spring has seen a number of exciting events aimed at helping members to make the most of their membership. The Regional Assembly in March allowed members to meet the East Midlands Regional Board as well as receive updates from local professional groups. Similarly, on 28 April we were delighted to receive a visit from RICS President Michael Newey, who went to Nottingham Trent University to meet with students and local members. As always, if you have any queries or want to more about the services RICS offer in the region do not hesitate to get in touch with the regional office.

Jennifer Welch

Director of RICS North & Midlands

E: jwelch@rics.org or T: 01636 677184

Success at the East Midlands Awards



Jennifer Welch at the East Midlands Awards



Ann Priest, James Lacey, Richard Clayton, Phil Hollis, Ceri Davies, James Hayter, Paul Lawton, Steve Swift, Craig Hession and guest enjoying the East Midlands Awards

East Midlands Regional Assembly a success

Over 100 property experts from across the East Midlands met in Nottingham on 19 March to discuss the future of property markets as part of the East Midlands Regional Assembly. The forum brought together local experts and senior industry figures as part of a nationwide review of RICS' housing policy. With around 100 property professionals in attendance, alongside RICS UK

Residential Director Andrew Bulmer and fellow senior RICS executive team members, the event will ensure that the East Midlands continues to shape the debate around such an important issue. RICS President Michael Newey said: "I firmly believe that regional input to our policies is essential and I want every member to have the opportunity to contribute."

RICS president visits Nottingham

On April 27, RICS President Michael Newey visited Nottingham Trent University (NTU) to meet with students and academics from the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment. The visit also included a tour of Nottingham Trent University's new £60 million Student's Union, winner of Project of the Year at the RICS East Midlands Awards 2014. After meeting key local RICS members, Newey made a presentation to students before taking a tour of the New Byron Building, which was also shortlisted for both the 'Commercial Project of the Year' and the 'Tourism and Leisure' categories at the RICS East Midlands Awards 2014. Following the visit, he commented

"Excellent day in Nottingham meeting students, academics and RICS Members talking about standards and (the) future demands of the profession."



Hays sponsors RICS matrices East Midlands Ball 2014

On 13 June, the region's young professionals gathered at The East Midlands Conference Centre for a fantastic evening at the East Midlands matrices ball. This black tie, interprofessional networking event was the first of its kind, bringing together matrices members from Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. There was a great atmosphere on the night, which included a networking drinks

reception, three course dinner and amazing music throughout the evening from a fantastic live band, Formosa. Sponsored by Hays, this new event provided a great opportunity to maintain and meet new friends, colleagues and clients and firmly put the East Midlands matrices ball back on the map! The East Midlands Conference Centre is also home to the Orchard Hotel, winner of the RICS East Midlands Tourism & Leisure Award 2013.



NIP for lunch in Scunthorpe

The 3 June saw Scunthorpe hold the latest of the region's networking interprofessional lunches, hosted by Gary Thompson, Chair of Scunthorpe & Grimsby Local Association. Helping both RICS members and non-members to forge new business links, expand their contacts, strengthen existing relationships and meet RICS staff in the area, the meeting was a great success. To meet like-minded professionals in your part of the region, contact your nearest RICS office or visit the networking page under the training and events section of www.rics.org

Leading experts join first RICS and Sika Knowledge Day



On 13 June RICS in association with Sika presented its inaugural Knowledge Day at three venues across the North and Midlands. This inspiring event featured 15 leading speakers giving updates on everything from building regulation to risk management. Highlights of the day included 'Repair, refurbishment & Corrosion Control of Reinforced Concrete', from Ronnie Turner, Regional Manager North at Sika, 'New Rules of Measurement 3', by Andy Green MRICS, Director at Faithful+Gould and NRM3 Technical Author, and the launch of the RICS' Infrastructure Information Service. James Fiske, Director of Delivery and Operations for BCIS at RICS, spoke to members about this exciting new initiative, which has been developed over the past 18 months with the help of a steering group comprising representatives of clients, contractors and consultants. It provides, for the first time, a single source of costs, trends and benchmark data in a coherent service offering for the sector.

National News

Louise Brooke-Smith becomes RICS President

On Monday 30 June, Louise Brooke-Smith took office as RICS President 2014-2015. Her election as the first female president of the 118,000-strong organisation in its 145-year history is the culmination of a long association with RICS. After some years with the Junior Organisation (Matrics) at both a local and national level, Louise was a member of the West Midlands Regional Board between 1992 and 2013. She has sat on a wide range of policy and practice panels, and represented RICS on the National Planning Forum between 1989 and 2002 where she held the position of Vice Chair. Currently, Louise is appointed to the DCLG Independent Examiner's Panel for Neighbourhood Plans and is also a commissioner for the RICS Disaster Management Commission. She regularly represents RICS at UN Habitat, UNOCHA and the World Economic Forum (WEF).



In addition to her involvement with RICS, Louise is Managing Director of Brooke Smith Planning, a long-established planning and development consultancy based in Birmingham, UK. With affiliated offices in London and Leeds, the Practice offers professional advice on town planning, land use and development matters to public and private sector clients across the country. As an urban land economist and town planner, Louise has significant experience in land use planning policy and the development industry in the UK and overseas. She is well versed in both the legal and commercial aspects of planning and development systems and is an experienced expert witness at public inquiries and examinations in public. She has expertise in infrastructure projects, heritage, biodiversity and renewable energy issues and regularly advises on enforcement matters.

In her year as President-Elect, Louise has been heavily involved with RICS' 'Surveying the Future' campaign. Commenting on the vital role of women in the property profession, she said:

"When I was a student in Sheffield in the mid 1980s, I was one of only a small handful of women out of 120 on the combined course. We still have a long way to go before we reach the levels seen in some other professions such as law, where men and women are practising in almost equal numbers... But more important than all of those [obstacles] are aspiration and a refusal to accept barriers – real or perceived."

Market confidence rises on commercial property

Demand for commercial property has risen at an unprecedented rate, the latest RICS commercial market survey has found. In the first quarter of the year, 52 percent more surveyors reported higher demand for space, marking six solid quarters of demand growth. Demand rose in all regions outside of London, proving that the recovery is no longer limited to the capital. Office and industrial space continues to be snapped up, with 30 percent of surveyors reporting a fall in availability of office space, while expectations for rising rents have hit the highest level since before the financial crisis.

Simon Rubinsohn, RICS Chief Economist, commented:

"Demand from occupiers for commercial space is continuing to strengthen and offers further proof that the recovery is gathering traction. Although the central London market remains particularly hot, it is encouraging that demand is now also rebounding away from the capital."



Simon Rubinsohn

RICS gives planning evidence to Parliament

David Henry, RICS member and Chair of the RICS Planning Policy Panel, has appeared before the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee to give evidence on the Operation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

David provided evidence to the committee alongside the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Local Government Association. The committee is conducting an inquiry into the operation of the NPPF in its first two years and wanted to hear about the impact of the framework on planning for housing, town centres and energy infrastructure. RICS evidence focused on areas including incentivising the duty to co-operate, building weight through the planning process, the importance of up-to-date

five-year plans and the need for the NPPF to bed down and not have fundamental changes.

Select committees consist of MPs from across the political parties, checking and reporting on areas ranging from the work of government departments to economic affairs. The results of these inquiries are public and often require a response from the government. Select committee reports can be influential in setting and refreshing government policy - watch David's evidence online at bit.ly/1qlsluG



Charity Property Help celebrates fifth anniversary

Charity Property Help, the RICS-supported service that helps charities with advice on property issues, has celebrated its fifth anniversary having helped well over 500 organisations. Established in May 2009, Charity Property Help provides an hour's free consultation with one of RICS' qualified member firms. So far, 291 RICS-registered firms across the UK have signed up to provide help and advice. In the past year alone, Charity Property Help and RICS members have come to the aid of 127 charities.

James Knights, Customer Services Manager for RICS and Charity Property

Help, said: *"It's great that RICS member firms have been so generous with their time and advice. To have helped over 500 charities across the UK, especially in these difficult times, is a real credit to our members."*



Policy update

Region feeds into RICS policy updates

RICS continues to update its policy positions in the run up to the General Election in 2015.

While the profession is a broad church and its views on all property markets are valued at the highest level of government, one of the hottest topics at the moment is supply in the housing sector.

The RICS last published its views on residential policy in June 2012. Since that time, market and economic circumstances have changed dramatically.

The political focus on housing is now acute, not only because of the scale of the housing deficit, but because Government Ministers are using house building and construction to drive the recovery.

Moreover, all the political parties are making housing central to their debates ahead of the General Election next May. The big themes will be housing supply, the private rented and lettings sector, empty properties, the changing needs of an ageing population and the challenge of rural housing.

It is generally agreed in the industry that we need to build around 240,000 new homes per year and we continue to fall well short of

that with the current market restrictions and available funding and resources.

RICS held feedback sessions for members across the North and Midlands earlier this year in Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Nottingham. The views expressed have been collated and will feed into the housing policy update.

The subjects brought up in these sessions included the definition of an affordable home; the capacity of recession-hit builders; the role of public sector assets; building the right homes in the right places; investing in deprived areas; bringing empty homes back into use; regionalising Help to Buy; revitalising town centres; buy-to-let and buy-to-keep-empty; attracting institutional investment into the private rented sector; incentives to green existing stock; planning delays; brownfield first; land availability and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

The consultation on the updated policy will continue. Please monitor RICS communications, for example the regular member e-news, for details of how you can take part.

Call for more ambitious approach to garden cities

RICS welcomed publication of the Government's garden cities prospectus and the request by government for local authorities to come forward and bid. Jeremy Blackburn, RICS Head of UK Policy, said: "The institution has long called for an investors' prospectus for garden cities. However, sustainable community growth needs to happen across the whole of the UK and we need a more ambitious approach than 15,000 new homes at a time if supply is going to meet demand."



Jeremy Blackburn

Select committee hears member views on NPPF

RICS was called to give oral evidence in June for the consultation on the Operation of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), organised by the House of Commons Select Committee for Communities and Local Government.

This followed on from the submission of a 3,000-word written document that was compiled after a call for views issued through the RICS member e-news and

major input from members of the RICS Planning Policy Panel, RICS Head of UK Policy, Jeremy Blackburn, and RICS Associate Director of the Land Professional Group, Tony Mulhall.

David Henry, who is a planning director with Savills and chair of the Planning Policy Panel, represented the institution at the oral sessions.

New research tackles land supply issues



A new RICS-sponsored research report entitled 'Mechanisms to Increase Housing Land Supply in England and Wales' is now available on the website. This builds on a previous review on bringing land forward for housing in other countries to identify the relevant comparable instruments in England and Wales and the barriers and constraints on using these mechanisms more successfully.

Keeping a toe in the water

The Royal Assent of the Water Act was passed in May, which means businesses, charities and public sector customers have the freedom to switch water supplier from 2017. It also saw the final approval of the controversial FloodRE scheme, replacing the Statement of Principles between government and the Association of British Insurers, to provide flood insurance for households from 2015. RICS will be monitoring the market on flood insurance to ensure there are no market distortions and ensure that those in the

rented sector are able to access affordable insurance.



CONSTRUCTION COACH: BUI

Social savvy **Maria Willis** has built a career around her passion for personal development. Now a professional business coach, risk manager and project manager, we spoke to Maria about her path through the construction industry.

“Coaching is a personal passion. I have always been interested in personal development and have been lucky enough to experience the benefits of effective coaching first hand.”

Tell us about yourself. How did you get into this profession, and what made you want to become a quantity surveyor? How did this lead into project management, coaching and risk management, and how do you juggle these different ‘hats’?

I have always loved to build. At school my favourite subject was woodwork and I was one of only two girls who studied it to GCSE standard. When I left school I had aspirations to be a joiner or a cabinet maker, but when it came to further education I signed up to a two year Diploma in Building Studies.

As part of the course we were required to complete a two week work experience placement, which I undertook in Sir Robert McAlpine’s QS department. At the time they were building the Nissan car factory and it was then that I became hooked on the industry and on becoming a quantity surveyor.

After graduating in 1998 I started working for Gardiner and Theobald in London, where I achieved chartered status. I joined Gleeds in 2003 as a Senior Quantity Surveyor and three years later I transferred into project management as my remit grew. I was later asked if I wanted to train as a risk workshop facilitator in our web-based risk management toolkit, which led me to become a qualified Risk Manager.

Coaching is a personal passion. I have always been interested in personal development and have been lucky enough to experience the benefits of effective coaching first hand. I was inspired to train professionally as a coach on a flight out to LA when I happened to get talking to an actor who was flying out for an audition. We started talking about the achievement of personal goals and objectives, which helped me to consider my own. I booked onto a coaching course as soon as I got back to the UK!

It can be a challenge juggling lots of hats, but I enjoy the variety. I work on some interesting schemes in both project and risk management, which helps promote my continued personal development, but find seeing the difference coaching can make to people’s confidence and performance levels most rewarding.

What project are you most proud of?

Over the years I’ve developed a great working relationship with the University of Nottingham.

One project in particular which springs to mind is the University’s recently completed ‘New Theatre’ scheme. We demolished the existing archaeology and classics building to expose the theatre, which is the only student-run theatre in the country. We demolished the storey above, put a new roof on, re-modelled and re-clad the building to create a standalone structure. The timescales were incredibly tight, as was the budget. The complex demolition also presented a high element of risk, but everyone pulled together to make it happen. Working with the students was great fun, their enthusiasm was infectious! As a project team we went back to see a performance last year which was a truly special experience.

What does a typical day for you involve?

There is no typical day in this job; it varies from week to week. At the moment I am working on a retail roll-out programme for Vodafone. The project is incredibly fast paced, which is driven by the retail environment. I love it because it requires lots of site visits and stakeholder engagement, which I find helps you to truly understand client drivers. When I’m not out on site, you’ll find me in the office catching up on paperwork and calls – that’s the only downside to being out on site so much!

At the moment, women represent just 13% of chartered surveyors. What do you feel would help to encourage more women into the profession?

Quite simply, I think we need to get better at advocating the industry as a career path for women. I have recently become a committee member of the East Midlands Construction Industry Council, in addition to my role as an RICS Regional Board Member, and will be looking to get out to schools and colleges in the future to raise awareness and promote the profession. I also write a personal blog every week called ‘Construction Coach’ through which I’ve started engaging with young women in construction, sharing advice and encouragement.

What challenges have you faced as a female surveyor (or indeed, generally as a female professional working at a senior level)?

When I first went to college in the late 1980s I was teased by my peers for being one of only two girls on the course. Times have changed a lot since then

LDING A FUTURE IN SURVEYING

"My advice to someone considering a career as a chartered surveyor is to go for it. It's a great profession with some really good people."

and I have to say I have never felt unequal to any of my peers throughout my career. You do get the odd 'old school' site manager who calls you 'love', but that doesn't happen very often. I have to say, the worst thing about working in the industry is the site toilets and I did have to withhold a valuation payment once until they had put some soap into the ladies! Contractors, if you are reading this, we would greatly appreciate an improvement!

As well as having a background in quantity surveying, you are a qualified Personal and Business Coach. What made you choose this avenue, and how has coaching changed the way you perceive the sector?

Coaching has definitely changed the way I work. Like everyone, I do get stressed and feel under pressure, but having tools and techniques to deal with it makes a big difference. I think our industry can be tough and we can have tendency to bang our fists on the table at times – I've also witnessed blame culture in my time – so bringing a coaching approach into people management can really help improve employee engagement and productivity.

The RICS 'Skip Score' recently indicated that the East Midlands was among the top five most active regions for construction in the UK. What do you see as the challenges in construction at the moment?

As the economy starts to pick up I think it's a good time for companies to take stock of where they are now, what their vision and values should be moving forward and whether or not they have the right people in place to deliver on these objectives. Of course, with this comes risks around staff retention, so it is important for companies to prioritise employee engagement to attract and retain their staff.

How has being a RICS member affected you? What would you like to see from the organisation in the future?

It's presented me with great personal development opportunities. I'm really enjoying being a RICS regional board member and we've got some great plans in place for the next couple of years. We really want to focus on member engagement, making sure we are listening to member's key concerns and also attracting more people into the profession.

I'm passionate about learning and I've found the



RICS' training and development framework to be an accessible and valuable way of keeping my cost management expertise up-to-date. The most significant example of this was getting chartered status; it undeniably opens doors in terms of career development and is a great way of differentiating yourself to employers as you start to establish your career.

In the future, it would be great to see more collaboration between the RICS and industry employers to help prepare and support staff through the process of gaining chartered status.

What would your advice be to someone considering a career as a chartered surveyor? Similarly, what would your advice be to someone who was thinking about moving into mentoring or coaching?

My advice to someone considering a career as a chartered surveyor is to go for it. It's a great profession with some really good people. There are interesting times ahead with BIM coming into play and the cultural changes that are likely ensue. It's a good time to get on board.

As for coaching or mentoring, I would definitely advocate it. There are a lot of people who left the profession in the recession and also older members who are now looking to retire, so we need more great mentors to support those coming through the ranks. **S**

RICS matrices

Regional Update

The East Midlands has continued to raise funds for the RICS matrices Chairman's Challenge 2013/2014. All of the money from this worthwhile endeavour goes to Children with Cancer, while each milestone reached on the way to the £5000 target commits Chair Nigel Sellars to another pre-determined challenge. Challenges faced by Nigel so far include hosting a meeting in a bath of ice, taking part in his own 'Bush-Tucker Challenge', and running a half marathon in fancy dress.

RICS matrices Nottingham raised £86 for the Chairman's challenge with their quiz night at the beginning of the year, and continued their efforts by holding a charity champagne raffle at their student and new member's reception on the 29 May at Dogma in Nottingham.

RICS matrices Derby had a really successful BIM event back in December and have been working hard towards the latest matrices initiative of connecting with schools and colleges to raise the profile of matrices and surveying.

RICS matrices Leicester, Northamptonshire and Rutland have had a string of success with local events and as such are launching a new RICS matrices Leicester group specifically for the county, while the existing group will cover Northamptonshire and Rutland.

RICS matrices committees:

In July, RICS matrices Committee Chairs for 2014-2015 will take office. To get in touch with your local RICS matrices Chair, please contact Ben Hamilton at bhamilton@rics.org or Graham Brooks gbrooks@rics.org in the first instance.

Highlighting the Opportunities

A career in surveying isn't always the first choice among students, largely due to stereotypes about careers in the industry and a lack of awareness of the diverse range of opportunities that are available. RICS matrices, the professional arm of the institution comprising students, graduates and professionals in the first ten years of their career, acts to foster new lifeblood into the industry. RICS matrices works hard to inspire the next generation of surveying professionals and raise awareness by undertaking visits to a range of schools across the UK and attending careers fairs.

Since August 2013, 61 schools have been visited and 50 careers fairs attended by RICS matrices members.

Newly qualified members and those enrolled onto the APC help motivate students from the ages of 12 – 18 years old by sharing their experiences and the types of projects they are working on. In the world of a chartered surveyor, no two days are the same. With projects ranging from working on the Olympics and valuing auction properties on 'Homes under the Hammer', to using surveying technology to develop computer games, the key message is that there really is something for every student irrespective of academic performance.

When surveyors visit schools, they don't just come armed with their enthusiasm for the profession. Innovative teaching tools and ideas to inspire and motivate students are essential to getting the message across – the most memorable being a chap who borrowed his senior partner's Ferrari for several hours, pulling up during the students' lunch break to impress! His opening line of "surveying gets you the wheels and thrills of your life!" may have been corny but the students were definitely keen to hear more!

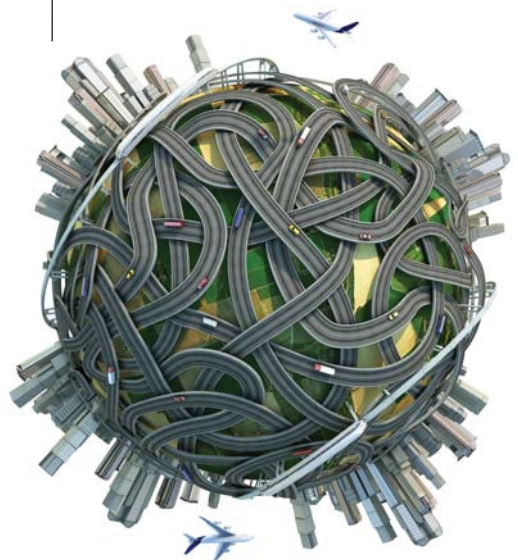
Following the visits undertaken by RICS matrices members, further contact is made with careers advisors and teachers to gain feedback and gauge levels of



enthusiasm and interest. RICS matrices feels it is equally important that those involved in careers guidance are well informed and enthusiastic about the possibilities that the profession offers. By engaging teachers and careers advisors, RICS matrices can ensure that its message reaches not just the students they meet on their initial visit, but also future groups of pupils as they progress through the school.

RICS matrices is always looking for more volunteers to undertake this vital careers work and can sometimes provide presentation training for anyone who is interested in getting involved. The more schools, colleges and universities visited, the bigger the impact on the future of our profession.

Interested? Get in touch at matrices@rics.org





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RICS EAST MIDLANDS AWARDS 2014

Nottingham Trent University's New Byron scheme crowned Project of the Year

Pictured: Project of the Year - Nottingham Trent University's New Byron scheme

The winners of the eight individual categories were:

Building Conservation:

College Court Hotel and Conference Centre, University of Leicester, Leicester

Commercial Property:

New Byron, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham

Community Benefit:

Mansfield Public Transport Interchange (Mansfield Bus Station), Mansfield

Design through Innovation:

Green View Barn, Nottinghamshire

Infrastructure:

Vision West, Nottinghamshire College,

Nottinghamshire

Regeneration:

Dock, Leicester

Residential Property:

Greenwich Gardens ExtraCare, Derby

Tourism and Leisure:

New Byron, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham

Twenty-four of the region's most successful property projects went head to head last night at the RICS East Midlands Awards 2014, held at the Leicester Marriott Hotel, with regional winners across eight categories. The Project of the Year went to Nottingham Trent University's Student Union, 'New Byron', a £60 million addition to the city campus.

This prestigious annual contest celebrates inspirational initiatives in land, property and construction. This year, the event was hosted by Emma Jesson, ITV Weather Presenter, who proved a huge hit with the audience of over 200 property professionals in the East Midlands.

All of the projects presented at the awards were of the highest standard, and the winning projects beat off some tough competition.

In addition to winning the Commercial Property and Tourism and Leisure awards, Nottingham Trent University's New Byron scheme, was also named Project of the Year. This award is presented to the scheme felt by the 17-strong panel of judges to represent the most outstanding example of the region's property expertise.

Offering a combination of exceptional student facilities and modern student accommodation, Nottingham Trent University's New Byron scheme is part of a wider initiative to transform the city campus into a vibrant new University Quarter. The development provides student union accommodation, a café and lounge, venue space, a student bar, a sports hall, exercise and fitness studios, retail space and 559 student rooms, supported by an FM suite, and 146 cycle spaces.

The student union is at the heart of the university and this development clearly defines this space as a centrepiece for the campus. The design responded to a brief that called for two contrasting uses; private student accommodation and public student facilities. The judges were impressed with the innovative design that has been used in order to integrate these two differing uses – notably, providing a vertical separation between public and private spaces. The student facilities at ground level have been designed to draw people in from the busy thoroughfares around the site, while the student residential blocks placed above include rooftop terrace gardens to offer a private and dynamic space for meeting, relaxing and studying.

Commenting on the Project of the Year, Paul Collins, Chair of the RICS East Midlands Awards judging panel, said:

"This new building, which became operational in September 2013, replaces the outdated student



union but on a scale beyond recognition. The New Byron Building is a real reflection of what the RICS awards are all about. Outstanding regeneration of the existing student union site provides a super-hub of social and commercial activity for the students, while the innovative design of the project fits perfectly with the surrounding university buildings."

Commenting on their winning streak, Alan Williams, Head of Trading Services at Nottingham Trent Student's Union, tweeted:

"Proud to collect an award for best commercial development for our new Student's Union at the RICS Awards."

A number of Highly Commended certificates were also awarded by the judges to projects that particularly impressed. These included:

Building Conservation: St Mary's Church, Nottingham

Commercial Property: Dock, Leicester

Community Benefit: Open Door Health and Community Centre, Grimsby

Design through Innovation: Lincoln Castle New Heritage Skills Centre, Lincoln

Infrastructure: Mansfield Public Transport Interchange (Mansfield Bus Station)

Regeneration: Broomfield Hall, Derby College, Derby

Tourism & Leisure: Sleaford Leisure Centre, Lincolnshire

Residential property: Mansfield Public Transport Interchange (Mansfield Bus Station), Mansfield

Winners in four of the categories (Building Conservation, Community Benefit, Design through Innovation and Regeneration) will now compete in the national RICS Awards Grand Final, held at The Savoy, London, on the 17 October. **S**

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY INSPIRED AT SCHOOLS EVENT

Class Of Your Own (COYO)

"When we set up Class Of Your Own a few years ago, it was in the belief that young people should have access to the same tools they would use when they leave school"

At the end of March a packed out lecture hall at RICS HQ saw the construction industry wowed by the presentations of three schools as part of the 'Big Launch' of Class of Your Own (COYO).

The event, aimed to raise the profile of Class of Your Own and the Design Engineer Construct!® qualification, attracted over 100 senior leaders across industry.

Delegates at the event said they were "inspired", "humbled" and "blown away" by the presentations delivered by Clacton Coastal Academy, Graveney and Compton schools, who took the audience through their ideas and work in designing eco-classrooms.

The programme Design Engineer Construct!® offers a qualification equivalent to level 2 at GCSE level and is now on performance tables and the scheme aims to permanently embed the built environment into the national curriculum. It offers a new and innovative project based approach to learning that is both challenging and rewarding with learners developing knowledge and skills by undertaking a sustainable building project and, through the complimentary workshops, have guaranteed face to face engagement with industry professionals. There are many opportunities for cross curricular learning including explicit opportunities for Maths, English and Science as well as for other aspects of the wider curriculum



such as Citizenship and PHSE through the embedding of a wide range of employability skills. RICS EMEA Director Mark Walley opened proceedings with a speech about the importance of social mobility and careers in the built environment, and was followed by the government's Chief Construction Adviser, Peter Hansford.

Mr Hansford outlined his thoughts on the future of the construction industry – emphasising the opportunities and skills required for the next generation.

Clacton Coastal Academy, Graveney and Compton Schools then took to the stage and delivered their presentations – covering everything from sustainability, building design and community consultation utilising tools such as Revit and Google SketchUp. Their projects also demonstrated cross-functional teamwork, with each pupil taking on the role of a different built environment professional including a surveyor, architect, project manager and sustainability officer. Alison Watson, founder of Class of Your Own, concluded the day with an impactful plea to industry to get involved, support teachers and pro-actively support the scheme by "adopting a school" in their local area.

"When we set up Class Of Your Own a few years ago, it was in the belief that young people should have access to the same tools they would use when they leave school, and that, through project based study, the subjects of design, engineering and construction could not only offer an insight to exciting career opportunities, but also help them to recognise ways to address sustainability issues by looking at the way they live their lives and the buildings they inhabit." – Alison Watson, Class of your Own

RICS has adopted Clacton Coastal Academy and will be urging industry to follow suit. So far over 80 schools have indicated that they would like to run the scheme but need sponsors.

RICS will continue to support Clacton Coastal Academy but will also facilitate and "match make" these schools with firms across the UK to support COYO. 

To find out more and get involved visit www.designengineerconstruct.com

PROPERTY IN POLITICS - THE POLITICAL ROAD TO 2015

Over recent months RICS has been listening to members, firms and industry partners from across the country- drawing on the breadth of expertise available- in order to set our campaigning priorities for 2015.

“Acting in the public interest, RICS is using Property in Politics to define our influencing campaign and raise the political profile of RICS.”

As we head towards the election in 2015 RICS wants to produce a focused and innovative set of proposals for all political parties, in order to achieve a sustainable and vibrant land, property and construction sector. Property, which encompasses housing, construction, infrastructure and planning and development, has a distinct role to play increasing economic growth and building better communities. As such, RICS believes that Property has a key role to play in delivering a strong economic recovery that benefits all. For each of the four areas RICS will have three clear asks for the political parties to take into the general election that will drive growth in the sector, support the industry, and build a better society.

Acting in the public interest, RICS is using Property in Politics to define our influencing campaign and raise the political profile of RICS. Through Property in Politics we will demonstrate how RICS is uniquely positioned - covering the entire spectrum of land, property and construction – and will seek to draw from across our membership solutions to drive economic growth and help create a better society.

Property in Politics isn't just about supporting a specific sector but emphasising that - beyond being a driver for growth - housing, construction, infrastructure and planning & development have an impact across the country on communities, families and wider society. The residential property market is about building homes in the right place, at the right time and at the right price; construction is about jobs, skills innovation and new opportunities; infrastructure is about improving connectivity



between our economic centres; and planning and development is about delivery - giving people and businesses the control to shape the future of their communities.

Whilst four topic areas and three asks for each is a tall order to achieve, the clarity and focus it will drive in our influencing of the next potential Government will ensure RICS is involved, is heard and is effective. We can also drive forward the message that from land markets to housing supply, and from construction skills to infrastructure delivery, RICS' expertise, professional standards and market insight make us the go to profession for land, property and construction.

By joining us and supporting Property in Politics you will:

- Help to place property led growth at the heart of politics
- Ensure that the issues effecting your profession are taken into account
- Build the profile and influence of your professional status and expertise
- Be part of a collective voice that works towards the long term growth of the sector

Through the insight of individual members, firms and industry partners we can ensure Property in Politics represents your profession, your expertise and is your campaign.

To learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved please visit www.rics.org/propertyinpolitics. You can also keep up to date with progress of the campaign by joining the discussion on twitter via #PropertyinPolitics and on RICS LinkedIn groups.





THE IMPLICATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE

Land, property and construction in an independent Scotland

Regardless of the outcome, RICS Scotland will continue to advise the Scottish Government on issues relating to land, property and construction with the public interest at the heart of any recommendations.

On 18 September 2014, Scottish residents will go to their polling stations to decide whether Scotland should remain part of the UK.

RICS Scotland has been involved in the debate and has deduced its own preliminary thoughts on the potential implications for: land, property and construction.

KEY ESSENTIALS - WHAT WE KNOW

- The Question: Should Scotland be an independent country?
- The Date: Thursday 18 September 2014
- The Voters: All residents of Scotland (if registered to vote), including 16 and 17 year olds
- The proposed Scottish Independence Day: 24 March 2016

IMPACT BY SECTOR

Land

Rural legislation and policy are already significantly devolved to the Scottish Parliament. Two particularly large rural issues affected by the independence debate are CAP reforms and energy policy.

Scotland's position in the UK and Europe will have a sizable effect on CAP allocations, as well as access to current markets.

In its White Paper, Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland, the Scottish Government has intimated that an independent Scotland would be nuclear free. Whilst the Scottish Government has, creditably, set high renewable energy targets, would these be able to fill the void left in a nuclear-free Scotland?

Property

The Scottish Parliament already has a significant level of legislative and policy levers over the property sector. In regard to housing, it is likely that non-property related matters, such as immigration and welfare, will have greatest effect on the housing funding pot.

At this stage, it is hard to ascertain how mortgages will be affected. In the end, it may simply come down to Scotland's future currency.

Commercially, there is a view that the referendum debate has caused some uncertainty. Even in the event of a yes vote, the transition period (from 19 September 2014 to 24 March 2016), during which the Scottish and UK Government's will negotiate the "Independence Package", is unlikely to alleviate uncertainty.

It is hard to ascertain the level of investor interest in Scottish commercial properties over the last few years and, if it has been lower, whether

this has been caused by the recent recession or the referendum. However, the commercial market in Scotland has not been stagnant, with an evident amount of investor and occupier appetite.

Additionally, a 'new' investment arena could entice a certain type of investor.

Finally, no matter what the outcome, there will be a role for the forthcoming Land and Building Transaction Tax (a replacement for SDLT). However, we will not know the bands and thresholds until September 2014.

Construction

The SNP track record on construction and infrastructure is laudable, which is one of the reasons these arenas continue to be attractive in Scotland.

However, as with property, a lot of policy and legislative levers that affect construction and infrastructure are already devolved. Additionally, under the provisions of the Scotland Act (2012), the Scottish Parliament will have additional borrowing powers from 2015. With Scotland already having a coherent Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP), could Scotland maintain infrastructure spending levels following the loss of the Barnett block grant? Will there be a knock on effect on potential cross-border projects, such as the A(M)1 and HS2?

There are two certainties. Firstly, indigenous and external construction firms and investors will have to adapt to cater for any outcome. Secondly, the largest factors affecting construction and infrastructure are currency and confidence.

At this stage, it is hard to deduce with any real clarity the full fiscal risks and opportunities resulting from this debate.

WHERE ARE RICS IN THIS?

As part of its Royal Charter, RICS has an obligation to bear in mind the public interest, as well as the interests of its members, when developing policy and engaging with stakeholders. This puts RICS in a unique position to provide a balanced and apolitical perspective.

Taking our responsibilities into account, RICS will remain neutral on this debate, and will not advocate any campaign over the other.

Regardless of the outcome, RICS Scotland will continue to advise the Scottish Government on issues relating to land, property and construction with the public interest at the heart of any recommendations. **S**

Hew Edgar, RICS Scotland Policy Manager

What's on in my area?

For CPD Series bookings please contact conferences on: **E: conferences@rics.org T: 0207 695 1600**

For all other event enquiries please contact the East Midlands office on **E: eastmidlands@rics.org**

At the time of going to print, venues and times for many of this year's events were still being confirmed.

JULY

SUMMER BBQ WITH RICS MATRICS DERBYSHIRE

3 July

Pitcher & Piano, Derby

18.00 onwards

Chairman James Baker and his local committee invite you to their last event of the RICS year. Hold up a chilled glass



RICS MATRICS LN&R & LJLD JOINT NETWORKING

4 July

Everards Brewery, Leicester

18.00 onwards

RICS matrices LN&R Chair Mark Davies hosts the annual visit to the famous Leicestershire Brewery.

NORTHANTS & MK GENERAL PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL GROUP CPD

8 July

Venue TBC

1730 - 1900

Topics will include dynamics in the lending sector, what to look for in company accounts, other accountancy related issues and the use of SPVs in property transactions.

RICS MATRICS LN&R EVERARDS BREWERY TOUR

11 July

Curvside Bistro, 42 Haliford St, Leicester

Time TBC



RICS MATRICS LN&R TEXAS SCRAMBLE GOLF

25 July

Rothley Park Golf Club, Leicester

1300 onwards

Join professionals from across the region and beyond as they compete in a game of Texas Scramble golf.



BRAUNCEWELL QUARRY VISIT

29 July

Brauncewell Quarry, Sleaford

1600 - 1800

Lincolnshire Local Association invites you to a tour and presentation provided by Tom Dickinson Director of Brauncewell Quarry near Sleaford.

SEPTEMBER

RDHC 2014, RATING - VALUATION FIRST AND FOREMOST

18 September

Holywell Park, Loughborough

0930 - 1630

The RICS Rating Diploma Holders' Section is proud to present its annual conference for 2014 covering a range of areas within rating and valuation, including property valuation.

EAST MIDLANDS AWARDS 2015 LAUNCH EVENT

24 September

College Court, Leicester

1200 - 1500

Join us for this exciting launch event to start the search for the winners of the RICS East Midlands Awards 2015.

OCTOBER

RICS AWARDS GRAND FINAL

17 October

RICS east Midlands are delighted to invite you to the RICS Awards Grand Final, held at a glittering black-tie ceremony at the Savoy Hotel in London on 17 October.

Here, the winners of the Building Conservation, Community Benefit, Regeneration and Design through Innovation categories

will battle it out for the national top prizes.

Nominations in each category span a range of companies and projects, from small schemes achieved by the vision of one person, to globally recognised developments with significant budgets.

For more information about the event, please contact Tina Reid at tina.reid@rics.org



SAVE THE DATE:

- 24 September, Nottingham Commercial Property Professional Groups CPD Presentation Topics and location TBC
- 30 September, Northants & MK General Practice Professional Groups CPD Topics and location TBC
- 29 October, Northants & MK General Practice Professional Groups CPD Topics and location TBC
- 16 December, Northants & MK General Practice Professional Groups CPD Topics and location TBC

To contact the editor:
Justine Wallis, jwallis@rics.org
The Kiln, Mather Road
Newark NG24 1FB
For advertising contact:
Charlotte Turner
charlotte@sundaypublishing.com
+44 (0)20 7871 5734

RICS Contact centre
for general enquiries:
+44 (0)870 333 1600

RICS Switchboard:
+44 (0)20 7222 7000



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japanese knotweed



By GroundSure

Hopefully you might not have encountered Japanese Knotweed yet, but if you have you are probably aware of its deadly effects on commercial property development. Fortunately Environmental Intelligence provider GroundSure has launched a groundbreaking report to help you spot the evidence earlier in the planning process and reduce risks and costs for your clients.



deadlier than it looks...

What is Japanese Knotweed?

Japanese Knotweed, or *Fallopia Japonica* as it is scientifically known, was brought into Europe in the early 19th century and became popular as an ornamental plant. Little did the importers know the future damage it would cause. It is a highly invasive, destructive plant species that can dramatically impact asset values and lending. Indeed the Centre for Environmental Studies estimates around £1.6 Billion is spent every year in the process of its removal.

The GroundSure Japanese Knotweed Report

Previously buyers have had to wait until the site valuation process to reveal the existence of Japanese Knotweed. Now you can advise your client earlier in the planning process by commissioning a Groundsure Japanese Knotweed report.

The report uses innovative remote sensing technology to identify Japanese Knotweed on and adjacent to commercial property sites. It allows surveyors, developers and commercial conveyancers to highlight lending risks to clients and potential management costs ahead of making any purchase decisions.

To order a Japanese Knotweed report for your site please visit our website ordermaps.groundsure.com

Key features of the Japanese Knotweed report

- Uses remote sensing technology to identify the existence of Japanese Knotweed
- Ordnance Survey Streetview location map
- Site boundary polygon with 50m radius buffer

- Returns polygon areas of detected Japanese Knotweed stands greater than 5 sqm
- Provides indicative buffers showing potential coverage of root system
- Detailed quality check by GroundSure environmental consultants

Plus unique support from leading Japanese Knotweed treatment specialists Phlorum:

- Provision of Japanese Treatment options tailored to available timescales and budgets
- Free follow up plant verification service

Benefits

The GroundSure Japanese Knotweed report is the only cost-effective way to understand the risk of Japanese Knotweed ahead of site valuation.

Specific benefits include:

- Access to unique data insight and expertise
- Allows you and your clients to make informed decisions
- More accurate surveys and property valuation
- Identifies possible nuisance impacts from neighbourhood properties
- Ongoing support from leading treatment experts

Buy now

The GroundSure Japanese Knotweed report is available from £65 and could be with you in 48 hours.

Visit www.map.groundsure.com, email info.map@groundsure.com or call 0800 028 0000





'It's a well kept secret that mediation has many benefits, both from a personal and professional business point of view'

Robert Martell,
DipArb, FRICS, FCI Arb,
RICS Accredited Mediator

Qualify to be a **mediator**

These intensive courses will prepare you to mediate the most complex of disputes to the highest of standards.

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- Assist you in appreciating and anticipating the complexities, pitfalls and opportunities of mediation
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- Build a high level of knowledge, skill and experience

Highly practical, this course will help you to develop real-world professional skills as a mediator.

Contact RICS to find out more:
t 024 7686 8584 e drstraining@rics.org

rics.org/ricsmediationtraining