

# Architecture & Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

## Annual Review 2015

*Celebrating 10 years of A&DS*



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## Looking back, then moving forward

*Karen Anderson  
Chair, A&DS Board*

In 2015 A&DS marked its 10th birthday and our main focus was around a series of events under the banner of DECADE.

When A&DS was established in 2005, the built environment and its impact on Scotland's health and prosperity were not as widely understood as they are today. There was a buoyant development market and the challenges were different.

Today, in a changed economy, the challenges are an ageing population; a more fragmented, unequal society; housing and public services requiring significant development and investment; and internet-dominated retail and social networking. All of this is set against a backdrop of climate change, resource use, the economy and global security.

These challenges were discussed across the DECADE events, providing us with inspiring examples of best and innovative practice and opening our minds to new and developing technology and the power of collaboration. The discussions didn't shy away from economic and climate realities, but there was an overwhelming sense of optimism at every event – 'we can do it if we work differently' and 'we can do it together'.

The focus of all the thinking was firmly place-based. The overarching theme was learning from practice, how we can do things better in public and community investment.

To deliver better places in this economy, the Board believes that we must use our power to convene to broaden our work and support others to work together, more responsively and flexibly than in the past. Service providers, developers, building managers, commissioners, planners and designers all need to work 'out of the box', and move firmly away from singular, vested interests.

We need to focus efforts on what's best for the specific challenges of each place we build in, and for the people that live and work there.

It is the long-term and societal benefits of investment decisions that matter, not the interests of individual sectors. DECADE participants highlighted inspiring examples of place-specific, joint working practice that we will promote in the future.

I feel privileged to be part of an organisation that can convene, and is supported by, some of the most talented, insightful people working in Scotland. Thank you for your insights, energy and commitment.

Please stay with us, work with us over the next ten years, and challenge us if we don't deliver in supporting better practice in the future.

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*Build small, build beautiful - manufacturing treehouse by Echo Living. Image featuring in our DECADE event on Emerging Practice. Image: Sam Booth.*



## People make places

*Jim MacDonald  
Chief Executive, A&DS*

2015 was our 10th anniversary. To celebrate this milestone we delivered a programme of workshops, events and exhibitions to illustrate how design can improve people's lives. The emphasis was on making a difference, working collaboratively and using design as a means to deliver creative solutions.

As Scotland's champion for design, we believe the built environment is important to everyone. But don't just take our word for it. Increasingly, others recognise how important the quality of our environment is for our wellbeing. In 2015 we collaborated with colleagues from NHS Health Scotland and the Scottish Government to prepare a Place Standard for Scotland. So why would the NHS spend time and precious resources working on a placemaking tool?

The reason is simple – the places people live in have a direct bearing on their health. From the environmental quality of buildings to the ease with which people can move around the places they live in, the design of the built environment affects everyone. If you are lucky enough to live in a place which is well designed and offers accessible employment, services and amenities, you are much less likely to get ill. So in recognising this, the NHS understands how important it is that places are designed to support our health and wellbeing.

Another factor influencing well-being is the extent to which people feel they control their lives. Getting people involved in shaping the places they live in is a perfect way of doing this and we have spent time developing programmes to support this in 2015. By happy coincidence, engaging people who live in and use places also creates better outcomes as all good design starts with input from the experts – the people who live in and care about a place.

Looking ahead to the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in 2016, we will continue to focus on helping people and supporting them to create the best buildings and places.

To conclude, I want to thank our clients, funders and partners for their support and our dedicated staff, Board and Design Forum Panel members and pay tribute to their on-going commitment, creativity, passion and belief in the value of the work that we all do. Here's to the next ten years.

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*A community event at the Hayburn Playpark,  
Glasgow. Image: HPPA.*



## 2005 – 2015

*10 years of Architecture and Design Scotland*

Well-designed buildings and places make the best use of our resources and support people and communities to flourish. Our purpose is to promote this and highlight the value design adds to everyone's lives.

To do so we work to help people – whether by enabling them to get more involved in shaping the places they live in, or improving the design of the buildings they use.

Since 2005 we have championed the benefits of good design and sought to influence positive change in Scotland's built environment. We engage directly with development clients on a range of projects. We help people to get involved in shaping their places and to learn more about Scottish architecture and design.

In 2009 we were joined by colleagues from The Lighthouse bringing a wealth of expertise in broader public engagement with architecture and sustainability issues.

Through the past decade we've provided advice on a range of developments, notably healthcare buildings, schools and regeneration projects. We have helped to implement the policies of the Scottish Government, and while we are involved across a number of policy areas, our principal focus is on implementing Creating Places, Scotland's Policy for Architecture and Place, launched in 2013.

To mark our 10th anniversary we ran DECADE, a series of events examining key issues affecting our built environment. At the end of November we were able to host a celebration at the Scottish Parliament Garden Lobby, sponsored by Patricia Ferguson MSP, which brought together a range of individuals and organisations. We also used this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution made by our staff and board members.

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*Celebrating 10 years of A&DS at an event at the Scottish Parliament, November 2015.*  
Image: A&DS.



## DECADE programme

10 events to celebrate 10 years of A&DS

In considering how we might mark our first ten years as Scotland's design champion, we quickly realised that learning should be at its heart. Learning both from the legacy of the world-class buildings that have emerged and from the challenges that have arisen and, in some instances, deepened since then – challenges that need to be addressed if the aspirations we champion are to be realised.

For this reason, we lighted upon the idea of DECADE – a series of ten debates, each focusing on what we might have learned from the last ten years and how we could apply this knowledge to the next ten. The focus ranged from sustainable building to designing greenspace, and from building for wellbeing to engaging communities. The debates encompassed a broad range of interests and, we hope, touched the issues most relevant to designing places for and with people.

Across the series, we were entertained by lively presentations, enjoyed an outdoor event where the participants got to wear different hats, streamed one event via Periscope and explored participation and community regeneration. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of all of our speakers. Their willingness to participate in the events, provoke debate and contribute to the DECADE publication is a testament both to their passion for what they

do and their readiness to share this with others.

A&DS has come a long way in the last ten years, a period of remarkable change in Scotland – socially, economically and politically. We face the next ten years with the benefit of lessons learned, and in the knowledge that what we do matters to everyone in Scotland, and that creating well-designed places is about empowering communities, sustaining our economy and offering opportunities to everyone.

Our role in this is to champion the value that design can add and to use our skills and expertise to support those who deliver the buildings and places we rely on. It is something we believe in and something we look forward to developing over the next ten years.

**Reflections from all ten DECADE events have been published and are available on [www.ads.org.uk/decade](http://www.ads.org.uk/decade)**

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*DECADE: People make places event held in The Lighthouse, Glasgow, looking at community led regeneration.  
Image: A&DS.*



## Postcard from Craigmillar

*Regeneration lessons*

*Martin Crookston  
Board Member, A&DS*

The A&DS Board and staff met in June at Craigmillar's excellent White House – an imaginative and locally-run revival of this striking Art Deco road-house from the 1930s.

Part of the day was a look round the regeneration area itself, with staff from the city's development company EDI and a spontaneous contribution from a passing community councillor. For some it was a chance to revisit an area they had helped to plan over the last decade or so. Ten years on what seem to be some of the issues or even lessons?

- **Maintaining momentum:** an ambitious regeneration plan, looking to rebuild Craigmillar as a local centre and as a 'place of choice', needed sustained and self-reinforcing development: but the financial crisis hit three years in, private investment froze, government money slowed and the achievement, though still impressive, is way behind the timeline expected in 2004.
- **Flexibility:** that in turn implies that the strategy needed enough flexibility to be able to meet changed circumstances. The overall masterplan probably had it, but the plans for the town centre relied too much on 'big stuff' which has not arrived, and this part of the scheme has had to change a lot.
- **Think incremental:** there's a real tension here – masterplanners tend to conceive of things as a whole (they have to!) – but places are never built all in one go, and that's a very difficult balance to strike.
- **'Clear felling' or 'keyhole surgery'?** The strategy for Craigmillar involved a lot of demolition and it has been suggested that this was too radical. But this was some of the least popular housing in Edinburgh, with lots of empties, a history of piecemeal demolition and a dismal environment. Too incremental an approach might have risked complete area collapse.
- **Apartments in the mix or just houses?** Craigmillar's a suburb, and in much of suburban Britain the stock would be predominantly single-family homes. But this is Edinburgh, where tenements are lived in by all sorts of people all over the city – so the chosen balance (1/3rd:2/3rds) was not unreasonable or atypical. However, what's been built so far may well be too skewed to apartment living – mainly for funding reasons.
- **One community or several?** The area is marketed as 'Parc Craigmillar'; but as the 2004 Framework pointed out, residents see it as an area of several neighbourhoods: Niddrie Mains, Niddrie Marischal, Greendykes, and so on. Plans and planners need to respect that perceived reality.

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*Mews street setting in Woolmet Place,  
Greendykes, Edinburgh.  
Image: PARC Craigmillar Ltd.*



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Inverness - The Three Virtues.  
Image: Ewen Weatherspoon.

## The Place Standard

*Helping communities create places for health and wellbeing*

The purpose of the Place Standard – launched in December 2015 – is to support the delivery of high quality places in Scotland and to maximise the potential of the physical and social environment in supporting health, wellbeing and a high quality of life. It will do this by articulating what makes a good, sustainable place, and by setting a framework for processes which deliver places of high quality.

The project is a partnership between Scottish Government Architecture and Place, NHS Health Scotland, and Architecture and Design Scotland.

The environment that surrounds us has substantial influence over our health and wellbeing, and is part of the causal chain that leads to health inequalities. In recognition of the opportunities for action that this affords, **Good Places Better Health** (an initiative launched in 2008 as the Scottish Government's strategy on health and the environment) recommended a Scottish Neighbourhood Quality Standard.

In June 2013, the Scottish Government policy statement **Creating Places** called for the development of a Place Standard to deliver quality, sustainable places across Scotland. These parallel work streams and complementary goals were recognised and organised into a single project to create a Place Standard for Scotland.

At its core, the Place Standard is an assessment tool that involves bringing people together to evaluate the strengths and challenges that exist in a particular place, as a catalyst for action. It is underpinned by 14 themes that cover both the physical and social aspects of place that affect health and wellbeing.

The aim of the Place Standard is to:

- Deliver a framework for the assessment and improvement of new and existing places.
- Provide a framework for structured conversations, supporting public and private sectors and communities to work together to deliver high quality places.
- Maximise the contribution of place to reducing health inequalities across Scotland.
- Support strategic decision-making that influences liveability, quality of life and access to services.

During 2015 A&DS has supported extensive stakeholder consultation and piloting during the establishment of the Place Standard. Case studies will be developed to showcase how the Place Standard tool can positively impact on processes that affect the way we create, improve or invest in places throughout Scotland.

[www.placestandard.scot](http://www.placestandard.scot)



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Notre Dame Primary School, Glasgow,  
featured in the *Why Refurbish?* Guide.  
Image: Grzegorz Piechowicz.

## Why refurbish?

*New guidance on remade learning spaces*

In September 2015 A&DS published guidance to help local authorities improve their school estate by refurbishing existing buildings. The publication highlights the benefits of school refurbishments and how local authorities can achieve high quality results and innovative designs in the most cost-effective way.

Scotland has committed to transform its approach to learning – both in the curriculum and in the spaces supporting the curriculum. A programme of investment is transforming school condition and building schools for the future. But what about the learning spaces we already have? How do we re-imagine new possibilities for old learning places?

Refurbishment is a process of changing environments and re-shaping spaces, to connect modern learning needs with the opportunities of the existing building. Good refurbishment delivers the benefits of the new overlaid on the advantages of the old. It offers significant benefits around the issue of prevention: ensuring learning environments are of a high quality, and place: retaining accessible schools at the heart of communities.

**Why Refurbish?** identifies four key criteria to determine the viability of refurbishment for a school:

1. A clear statement of the education benefit of transforming this building.

2. There is structural value in extending the lifecycle of the building.
3. This is the right building in the right place to connect community need.
4. The resourcing of the project delivers value.

At the heart of these criteria is the process of imagining possibilities, creatively re-thinking the potential of the building and the grounds. Central to this is the process of participation, the act of engaging learners, teachers and local authority staff in conversations about need, desire and ambition.

**Why Refurbish?** complements the Scottish Government's £1.8 billion Schools for the Future programme and the Inspiring Learning Spaces Fund, all of which aims to ensure Scotland becomes a world leader in education.

Speaking at the launch of **Why Refurbish?** in 2015, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages, Dr Alasdair Allan said, 'We want to deliver a world class education for every child in Scotland and the space in which they learn has a key role to play. [...] this new guide will help them improve their existing buildings and create innovative and modern spaces for pupils and staff'.



## Place Challenge 2015

*Town centre living event, Arbroath*

Difficult economic conditions, increased competition and changing patterns of service provision are challenging the role of town centres. Rethinking town centres as places to live is one possible future.

At the end of October A&DS – with a range of partners – brought delegates from across Scotland to a two-day conference in Arbroath, Angus, to consider how to create town centres as living places that re-use existing spaces for housing, employment and services.

Speakers at the Place Challenge included Kristen Hubert, National Manager for the Empty Homes Partnership in Scotland who highlighted the opportunities that exist to rethink empty spaces to meet our housing needs and Alan McKeown, Strategic Director of the Communities Directory, Angus Council. The keynote speaker David Rudlin manages URBED (Urbanism Environment and Design) and in 2014 won the Wolfson Economic Prize for his work on the new garden city. He shared evidence and research on the potential of town centre living from across the UK and Europe.

The Place Challenge 2015 was based at Hospitalfield Arts in Arbroath and used the town as an exemplar site but the lessons learned are applicable to towns throughout Scotland.

The Place Challenge 2015 was organised by Architecture and Design Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Government, Angus Council, Historic Environment Scotland, The Development Trust Association Scotland, Scotland's Towns' Partnership and Improvement Service. The event was also supported by BIDS (Business Improvement Districts), Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, SURF (Scotland's Urban Regeneration Forum) and PAS (Planning Aid Scotland).

You can also read a special *Postcard from Arbroath* on page 30.

Learning and outcomes from the event will be published on [www.ads.org.uk](http://www.ads.org.uk) in 2016.

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*Delegates participating in the Place Challenge 2015 held at Hospitalfield Arts, Arbroath.*  
Image: A&DS.



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*Scotland + Venice exhibition re-presented  
 Scotland's contribution to the Venice  
 Architecture Biennale 2004-2014.  
 Image: Reuben Paris.*

## Scotland + Venice

*Reviewing Scotland's contribution 2004 – 2014*

This exhibition, held in February – March 2015 at The Lighthouse, re-presented and reviewed five diverse Scottish projects shown in Venice during the International Architecture Biennale since 2004.

In 2004 the **Landforms** exhibition presented developments in Scottish architecture since the establishment of Scotland's devolved government in 1999. In 2008 **A Gathering Place**, a large-scale timber staircase designed by Hoskins Architects, provided a temporary public forum for debate and discussion.

NVA's **To Have and to Hold** in 2010 enabled a high level of international engagement and influenced the decision-making process regarding the future of St Peter's Seminary in Cardross. This event marked a step change in developing a strong and distinctive Scottish presence and the many potential benefits of an engagement-based approach rather than exhibitions.

In 2012 with **Critical Dialogues** four Glasgow-based practices created a Scottish 'studio' in Venice and explored the social role of the architect and the creative boundaries of architecture.

In 2014 **Past + Future** saw four groups research modernity in Scotland and continue the event-based approach that is establishing itself as the hallmark of a distinctive Scottish presence in Venice.

Since 2010 a Scotland + Venice partnership between the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland and the British Council Scotland has overseen the curation of Scotland's involvement at the Biennale.

The Scotland + Venice exhibition was supported by a range of events including:

**Glasgow from Venice** featured Renato Bocchi, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design and Nicola Russolo, student, both from Iuav University of Venice.

**Landworks continues ... IDENTITY** featured Françoise Fromonot, founding member of Criticat, Tomas Degenaar and Joost Emmeri, Landscape Architects, Netherlands.

**Being There, the Fierce and Beautiful World** featured Toby Paterson, visual artist and Owen Hatherley, writer.

**Re-Casting Modernism Seminar** was chaired by Ranald MacInnes, Historic Environment Scotland, and featured speakers John Allan, Avanti Architects; Sylvia Grace Borda, artist; Angus Farquhar, Creative Director, NVA; Craig Wilson; Fiona McNeil, architect, Ian Springford, architect and Remo Pedreschi, Professor of Architectural Technology, ESALA.

Videos and publications available on [www.ads.org.uk](http://www.ads.org.uk)

# 2015 in review

highlights of our work



< Learning about materials during Doors Open Day at The Lighthouse.

## MyPlace Awards Exhibition 2015

From March – May A&DS hosted the Scottish Civic Trust's Annual My Place exhibition which celebrates Scotland's built environment and encourages community involvement.

The exhibition included the My Place photography competition for school aged children and the My Place awards which recognises best practice in community centred design – including naming a Civic Champion Award for individuals who make outstanding contributions to the civic movement.



## Ninewells Hospital Garden Room

In 2015 A&DS supported the design competition to create a bespoke Garden Room at the community garden at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee – a place for the enjoyment of patients, staff and visitors.

The winning 'Leaf Room' structure – by Jonathan Reeve and The Voigt Partnership Limited – will be built on the Ninewells Community Garden site using home-grown sustainable wood. The competition was organised by NHS Tayside, Ninewells Community Garden and Forestry Commission Scotland.

< Ninewell Garden Room design



## Design Forum recruits new panel members

Our Design Forum Panel members give their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. In 2015 we were joined by 12 new panel members allowing us to further expand our areas of expertise.

The new panel members are; Graeme Armet, Nick Bowen, Simon Carne, Scott Davidson, Nicola Garmory, Mike Harrison, Helen Huws, Eugene Mullan, Stephen O'Malley, Stephen Proctor, Sheena Raeburn and David Simister. In 2015 we organised our annual panel training event for all our panel members. See a full list of members on page 28.

## Best Use of Timber Awards – Exhibition

The Best Use of Timber Awards 2014 exhibition (February – June 2015) showcased the winner and shortlisted entries to the 2014 RIAS Awards scheme. The RIAS together with Forestry Commission Scotland and Wood for Good sponsor this annual award.

The Award is aimed at encouraging innovative and creative use of timber in new buildings in Scotland and to stimulate greater appreciation of home grown timber. An exhibition of the 2015 winning projects started in December 2015.

Arcardia Nursery, Malcolm Fraser Architects Winner in 2015. Image: Angus Bremner >



## Stalled Spaces Scotland

Stalled Spaces Scotland is a national Legacy 2014 programme commissioned by the Scottish Government and managed by A&DS to encourage and support communities to bring stalled spaces or derelict and vacant land back into temporary use.

Seven local authorities are running their own Stalled Spaces Scotland programmes with over 25 local projects either delivered or in the development stages.

In 2015 we continued to support the authorities and groups delivering

< Stalled Spaces Scotland event.

Stalled Spaces Scotland projects with workshops on funding, growing skills and digital/social media skills.

We also produced a range of supports, including brand and communications guides for community groups.



## Health Programme

Our health programme, with partners in Health Facilities Scotland, was involved around 40 separate support events over 24 projects ranging from mental health facilities, community hospitals, health and care centres, cancer centres and a women's hospital several of which are in remote areas of Scotland. Through this, A&DS engaged with nine of Scotland's 14 Health boards.

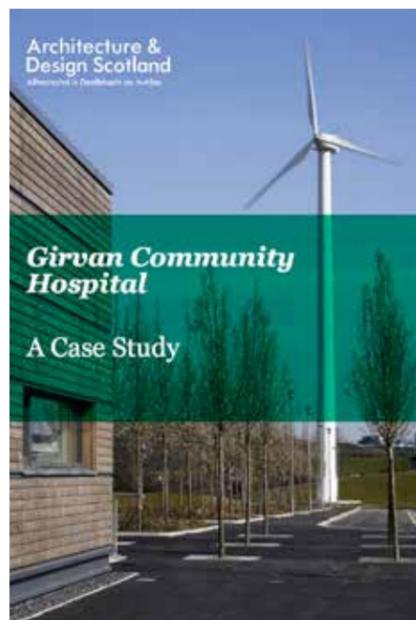
We helped boards assess the relative merits of competing designs in the procurement process and for emerging projects assisted stakeholders to set out and develop what they can achieve with their project through a series of

workshops on developing a Design Statement.

*'[The process] helped us understand how to articulate the human needs of the building and to see this was not incompatible with functional requirements.'*

We published studies on Dental Surgery Design, Stratheden Mental Health Units and Girvan Community Hospital with short features on 'Dignified Spaces' and 'Using the Outdoor Estate' with the Green Exercise Partnership aimed at developing NHS land for healthier activities.

*Cover of case study publication >*



## As Found: Lost Practice

As Found: Lost Practice – an exhibition curated by A&DS at The Lighthouse – presented a series of public information posters to identify the key motives and ideas that helped create a critical mass of new public schools during the post-war era. The posters communicate what these drivers were by setting out some of the lost ideas, practice and thinking that helped shape our built environment in support of the new spirit of the age.

Additional posters illustrate three examples of Scottish school buildings created by this lost practice.

*As Found: Lost Practice >*



## Urbanism

In 2015, the Urbanism programme supported seven engagements assisting eight projects in six local authorities focusing on development planning at the scale of Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas, Local Development Plan review and area frameworks through our 'Sustainable Placemaking' programme run jointly with Scottish Natural Heritage.

In addition, we supported 14 capacity building engagements, providing support to national conferences and national planning and design practitioner fora on graphics, supplementary planning guidance on design and the design approach advocated by

Scottish Planning Policy. Three of the engagements were specific workshop sessions with elected members and local leaders.

We provided six engagements on national consultation exercises, including SDP review and streamlining planning applications; engagement with Scottish Government on SPP/NPF projects; contributions to the Housing and Wellbeing Commission, the feeder workshops to the national Housing Event/Joint Housing Delivery Group and the RICS Commission on Housing on Place, Planning and Design issues.

## Design Forum in 2015

A&DS Design Forum was involved in 26 support engagements over 11 different projects across different scales and contexts.

This included two strategic mixed use development sites adjoining an international airport; a canal side urban regeneration area and a masterplan and design code for part of this area; a town expansion site with allocation for 1500 houses, primary school and industrial land; a 700 homes and mixed use expansion of a coastal village; another town expansion for up to 750 homes, a supermarket, retail, business and community uses, with supporting

transport infrastructure and a design code; an energy from waste facility, conversion of a high profile historic building; masterplan and building design for a conference and exhibition centre including hotels, offices, leisure and recreation uses and energy centre; and a major road infrastructure project.

Panel and staff supported project teams and local authorities across sites in South Ayrshire, Midlothian, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Moray, Argyll and Bute, and across Local Authority boundaries in infrastructure projects.

*'A&DS' input has been of great assistance and has, in our view, had a positive impact at a strategic level for the overall project, bringing together the major stakeholders towards a working partnership.'*

Project team feedback following engagement with Design Forum

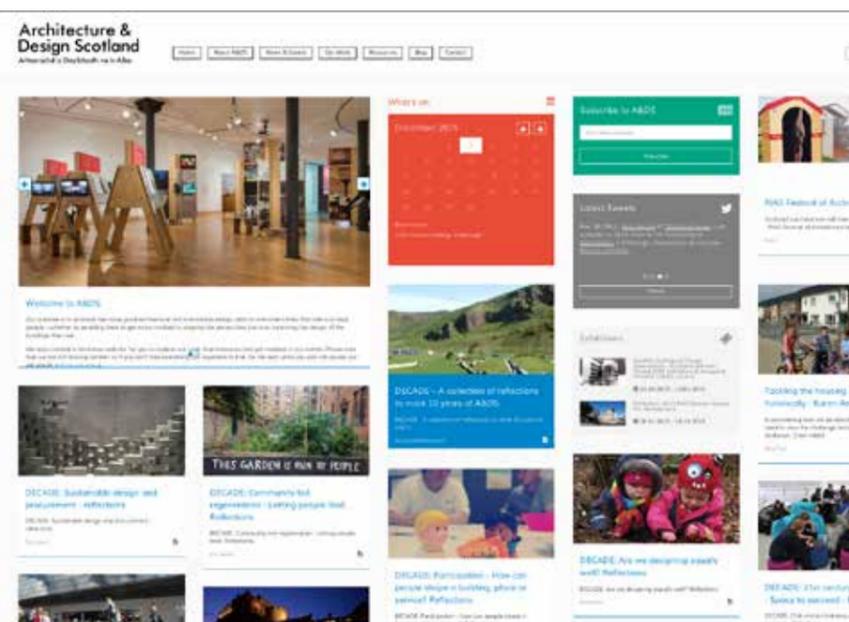
## New brand and website

In the year where A&DS celebrated 10 years we also launched a new logo and brand. Bright primary colours and a simple typographical logo presents a clear, simple and timeless image of A&DS.

Following extensive user research we re-launched our website in early September. The main development is to ensure that the site works as well across all devices and the site now features a blog, a scapbook and much, much more.

[www.ads.org.uk](http://www.ads.org.uk)

*< Screen-shot of A&DS website*



## Exhibitions on our Noticed Board

Our Noticed Board featured a broad range of contributions including **GIA Springburn Gardens** (March – April). **New Northern Frontiers** looked at the work of Lateral North (April – June). **MyParkScotland**, celebrated the diversity of Scotland's parks (June – September).

From September we welcomed **Chalk Talk** – a machine for evoking, gathering and recording stories about the built environment with SEDA's **Krystyna Johnston Award for sustainable design** rounding off 2015.



*Chalk Talk >*

## SUST programme

We hosted a CPD event for college construction tutors which helped in the development of further educational resources and workshop activities in the Materials Library.

CPDs on Traditional Construction have been developed in collaboration with the Scottish Traditional Building Forum. These took place in both Edinburgh and Glasgow. The well-attended events have informed professionals on subjects such as stone – selection, repair and cladding, traditional slate and lead roofing and sash and case windows. In 2015 we held 11 CPD events with over 230 bookings.

We continued to hold a number of workshops in the Materials Library which included three secondary school groups, 60 primary school pupils, nine further education college groups and three groups from universities. We have hosted bespoke workshops for self-build groups and we've held activities for families in conjunction with Glasgow's Doors Open Day.

We highlight a material of the month – both in the Materials Library as well as on the A&DS website.

CPD series delivered at The Lighthouse >



## Schools Programme

The schools programme continued to champion participation-driven learning environments, with the learner at the heart.

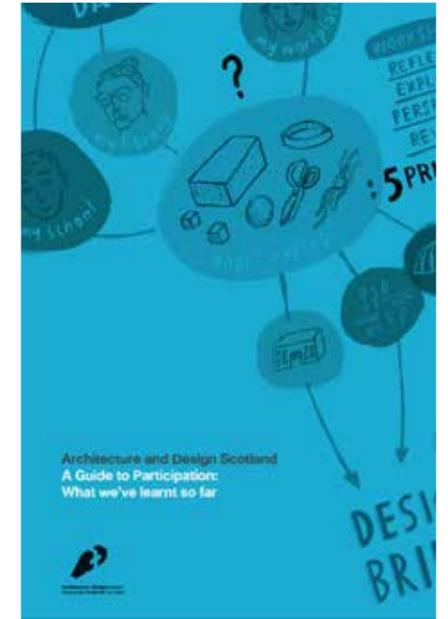
**A Guide to Participation – what we've learned so far**, was published in 2015.

In addition to launching **Why Refurbish?** (see page 17), the schools programme captured lessons learned on outdoor learning spaces, supported by a programme of CPD sessions.

The programme engaged with Scottish Government, Scottish

Futures Trust and local authority partners on lessons learned from the pilot phase of the **Schools for the Future** programme reviewed by the national programme board, and collaborated with local authority partners on learning place strategies, linking schools and colleges.

A Guide to Participation >



## Island: Eight houses for the Isle of Harris exhibition

Curated by the AE Foundation, and hosted by A&DS at The Lighthouse July – October, ISLAND was the culmination of a series of discussions and events which invited architects to imagine a house for real clients moving to the Isle of Harris. The designs were produced to provoke architects and the public to reimagine the modern solitary house in a landscape. The exhibition presented new and original designs from Angela Deuber, Pascal Flammer, Christ & Gantenbein, Neil Gillespie, Johannes Norlander, Raumbureau and Raphael Zuber.

^ Island Exhibition

## Scenic Routes winners

In 2015 a third instalment of the Scottish Scenic Routes competition was held, with winners chosen for sites within the Cairngorms National Park at the Devil's Elbow and Tomintoul adjacent to the AA93 and the A939 respectively.

The winners each receive a prize of £5000 and a mentoring package from a Cairngorms National Park Authority design team and the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre. The winning entrants are: Devil's Elbow – Daniel Smith and Philip Zochbauer, Tomintoul – Angus Ritchie and Daniel Tyler (Processcraft).

Scenic Routes >



**10**  
DECADE events

**43**  
DECADE speakers

**110**  
organisations involved  
with DECADE events series

**350**  
participants in DECADE events

## Retrofit Scotland

Since 2014 A&DS co-produces the Retrofit Scotland monthly newsletter. This also involves producing retrofit case studies for the A&DS and Retrofit Scotland websites. Working with A&DS Schools team we ensured their recent Remade Learning Places Case Studies were available to a wider audience through their inclusion on Retrofit Scotland.

We have supported and represented Retrofit Scotland at a number of events throughout the year, including at the launch of the Retrofit App.



## A&DS and RIAS Scottish Student Awards 2015

The awards – in their 13th year – recognise the talent of student architects and awarded in a number of categories. In 2015 the award ceremony was followed by the inaugural Andy MacMillan lecture in honour of Professor Andy MacMillan (1928-2014) to celebrate his legacy. The lecture was delivered by this year's guest judge Japanese architect Professor Hiroaki Kimura.

An exhibition of the awarded and shortlisted work was on display in the Lighthouse from July – September, before touring to architecture schools across Scotland.

< Image by Neal Whitaker one of the 2015 winners in the annual student awards.

# Our Board and Design Forum Panel

Formal meetings of the A&DS board were held six times in 2015. The board also contributed to a range of events including the Place Challenge and our DECADE series of events.

## Board Members

Karen Anderson, Chair, Graham Ross, Depute Chair, Andrew Burrell, Sandy Beattie, Martin Crookston, David Chisholm, Sue Evans, Graham Hill, Jonathan Hughes and Alan Sim.

## Design Forum Panel Members

The A&DS Design Forum panel consists of expert practitioners with a diverse range of professional skills and experience in the built environment. The panel members are:

Ewan Anderson, Graeme Armet, Andrew Bayne, Nick Bowen, Keith Brownlie, Karen Cadell, Simon Carne, Jim Chapman, Kevin Cooper, Scott Davidson, Gordon Fleming, Kenny Fraser, Nicola Garmory, Keith Gowenlock, Mark Greaves, Colin Hamilton, Mike Harrison, Alan Hooper, Gareth Hoskins, Helen Huws, Rod Kemsley, Roddy Langmuir, Lisa Mackenzie, Kevin McGeough, Suzanne McIntosh, Chris Morgan, Eugene Mullan, Morris Murray, Gordon Murray, Stephen O'Malley, Stephen Proctor, Sheena Raeburn, Chris Rankin, Peter Richardson, Ric Russell, David Simister, Roger Stephenson, Marc van Grieken and Lesley Woodbridge.



Karen Anderson, Chair



Graham Ross, Depute Chair



Andrew Burrell



Sandy Beattie



Martin Crookston



David Chisholm



Sue Evans



Graham Hill



Jonathan Hughes



Alan Sim

# Financial summary

Extract from the audited annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015

The total revenue for the year ended 31 March 2015 was £1,990,654.

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ending 31 March 2015.

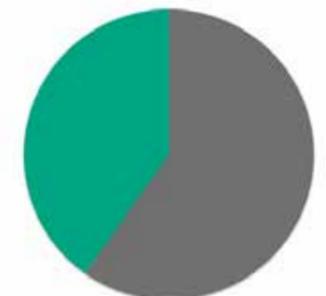
	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>
Revenue	1,990,654
Staff costs	(1,174,709)
Other expenditure	(804,748)
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<u>11,197</u>
Finance costs	-
<b>Surplus before tax</b>	<u>11,197</u>
Taxation	-
Surplus for the year	<u><u>11,197</u></u>

All of the activities of the company are classified as continuing. The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the result for the year set out to above. A full set of our audited annual accounts is available on [www.ads.org.uk](http://www.ads.org.uk).

## Expenditure

For year ended 31 March 2015:

- Staff costs: £1,174,709
- Other expenditure: £804,748



# Postcard from Arbroath

*Reflections on the town centre living event*

Place Challenge 2015 took place in Arbroath – a town of some 25,000 people on the coastal route from Dundee to Aberdeen.

It has a lot going for it: a compact centre around a characterful High Street curving sinuously from the (working) harbour right up to the 12<sup>th</sup> century Abbey, which sits right in the town not isolated outside it; pleasant housing areas conveniently close by; good rail and road links: a distinctive place set between the sea and the Angus countryside.

It is, though, surprisingly little known. It has name recognition all right – Arbroath Smokies, with their EU designation, and the Declaration of Arbroath (*"it is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom"*), 1320s ringing affirmation of Scottish independence. But as a place, few even among the many Scots at the event seemed to know it.

And of course it has, like most places, its own legacy of poor planning decisions that undermine its appeal and its potential strength: a dualled A92 which batters its way between the centre and the West Port/Station area, odd and overbearing flats with the telling nickname of 'the skinny blocks' and out-of-town retail sucking spending from the heart of the town. Yet the High Street – which has its share of vacancy, right enough – is in better shape than many of our towns

centres. It was one of the focus points for our town centre living event.

Most of the two days were spent at another of Arbroath's little-known gems: the wonderful Arts and Crafts cum Scottish Baronial house at Hospitalfield. Between 1843 and 1890, the artist Patrick Allan Fraser and his wife Elizabeth used a mediaeval monastery site to create an estate which they then left in trust as a place of learning for artists – and, for a while, the Place Challenge 2015 delegates.

The challenge for delegates was to understand what town centre living could mean, using Arbroath as a tool to bring learning back home.

Inspiring examples of practice from all over Scotland came from twelve visiting projects – including a scheme from nearby Kirriemuir, the imaginative and people-focussed social housing at Glengate Hall. We benefitted too from really positive and generous support from the team at Angus Council, with local background, site visits and exemplar projects.

One of the Place Challenge teams came up with the idea of a 'Food Town' approach. However, perhaps some work is needed; the restaurant your correspondent went to had run out of the famous smokies ...

*Martin Crookston*  
*Board Member, A&DS*

# Architecture & Design Scotland

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