Sustainable Urbanism

The Bartlett School of planning has been teaching sustainable urbanism for more than two decades. Courses specifically teaching sustainable development began in the early 1990’s, just after the Brundtland report was published. This specialist area was expanded over the years by Professor David Banister and Professor Sir Peter Hall and their research teams.

Sustainability research across the Bartlett as a whole grew from 1995 until present day. Now there are a range of specialist research centres focused in this area: the Energy Institute, the Resource Institute, and the Centre for Sustainable Heritage. A sample of the research of staff and doctoral students have been collated and can be viewed in our pop-up library.

In 2010, Matthew Carmona, Jo Williams, and Yvonne Rydin set up a new masters course in sustainable urbanism, designed to fuse the theoretical principles of sustainable development with practical urban design, policy-making and master-planning skills desperately needed by planners dealing with implementation. It was the first course of its kind in the UK, and has proved incredibly popular to a global audience.

Today we have students from all over the world training at the Bartlett to become specialists in sustainable urbanism. Their breadth of experience and knowledge brings a richness and depth to the programme. It has also established a two-way learning process whereby the concepts of the global north can be tested and questioned by young professionals from the global south and industrialising countries. Some of the output from these students is exhibited in this exhibition, together with a sample of work from other specialisms.

Finally, to celebrate the centenary year we have run a student competition to design a poster or short film which encapsulates the theme future sustainable cities. A panel of judges from industry, government and academia was convened to judge the work which is exhibited here. The prize for the best entry will be awarded at the show. In addition, we ask you the viewing public, to vote for the “people’s choice”.

Of all the exhibition entries you have seen in the exhibition which do you think best evokes the future sustainable city?