



New exhibition reveals the future of London

Digital Cities: London's Future

The Building Centre

21 November 2008 – 24 January 2009

A new exhibition in London co-curated by Sir Terry Farrell and The Building Centre, reveals how our cities are being transformed by the new digital technologies available to designers, architects and planners. Sir Terry Farrell, one of the world's foremost architect / urban planners, will also open the exhibition on 20 November.

The exhibition, **Digital Cities: London's Future** will examine how digital technology helps us understand and improve the planning and experience of our city: looking at the impact of movement in cities; how communication and information technologies inform a person's experience of a place; how people interpret cities with the use of technology; how digital mapping influences the design and planning of cities and how new software is taking the design of buildings within their urban context, far beyond what can be achieved by human analysis.

The exhibition and its associated lectures and conference will also be an opportunity for debating some of the 'big brother' issues associated with all this potentially intrusive information gathering.

The entirely multi-media exhibition will showcase a number of research and commercial projects that use technology to plan and design cities.

Amongst the projects featured will be pedestrian movement studies which help form new proposals. Space Syntax's new ideas for a crossing at Elephant and Castle, and before and after animations of Oxford Street by Intelligent Space working with Atkins both illustrate how congestion can be eased at junctions by changing the sequence and direction of movement.

The Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) - the research centre at University College London - will show how 'Second Life' (the internet-based computer game) can be used as a public consultation tool for planning departments.

Architectural practices like Aedas reveal evolutionary modelling software that will allow us to see the impact a building has on its surroundings before it is built. This is especially important when considering the impact of a tall building on London's historic urban fabric or important view. In a similar vein the

incredibly detailed London City Model by GMJ Designs allows architects to receive instant feedback on how their design will impact the Capital's skyline.

In his essay *Digital Cities*, published to coincide with the exhibition, Sir Terry Farrell said: "With over half the world's six billion people inhabiting cities, city planning in its widest social, economic and environmental sense has to take a very centre stage position. With such tools the very humanity of our cities can be improved with much more confidence."

Sir Terry added: "I am delighted to have been given this opportunity by the Building Centre to curate this fascinating exhibition. Whilst all the exhibitors demonstrate some exciting and powerful new tools, enthusiasm for the future of this new technology has to be tempered by care, wisdom and responsibility in its use."

Andrew Scoones, The Building Centre, comments: "The exhibition will allow both industry professionals and the public to understand the inner workings of the city and how this will affect their everyday lives in days to come."

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Notes to editors

Digital Cities: London's Future, 21 November 2008 – 24 January 2009

Venue: Main gallery, The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1

Opening times: Mon – Fri, 9am – 6pm and Saturday, 10am – 5pm.

Admission free. Nearest tube: Tottenham Court Road or Goodge Street

Telephone: 020 7692 4000 Further details: www.buildingcentre.co.uk

The exhibition is part of the joint Building Centre / New London Architecture education programme and has been curated by The Building Centre and Sir Terry Farrell

The Building Centre is an independent forum where all sectors working in built environment can come together to share best practice in planning, design and technology. It hosts a number of industry organisations to further these aims. It is a place that the public can visit learn about the industry and join the debate – www.buildingcentre.co.uk

Intelligent Homes & Workplaces, Launchpad Gallery, 20 Nov -31Jan 2009

The exhibition will feature the very best automatic and remote control living systems for the home and office. The related conference will consider the applications of smart home technologies: **From Smart Homes to Connected Communities**, 24 November, 10.00 – 17.00 Sponsored by CEDIA.

For further information, images or to arrange an interview with Sir Terry Farrell please contact Dominique Owen at Caro Communications on 020 7336 8488 or dominique@carocommunications.com