

## Regeneration Theme for 2011 Lecture

The Cornwall Architectural Trust's Annual Lecture, now in its 28th year, has become one of the county's most valued and significant events. It takes place each November before an invited audience of leading figures in construction, design and procurement. Over the years it has attracted as its guest speakers some of Britain's most influential designers, engineers and architects.

This year the lecture is to take place on 18 November at Truro College's Fal Lecture Theatre and is to be delivered by Jonathan Falkingham, architect and co-founder of Urban Splash, a leading development company at the forefront of imaginative thinking in the field of regeneration. Founded in 1993, most of the company's projects have been undertaken in the UK's northern cities. More recently they have carried out the widely acclaimed restoration of the art deco Midland Hotel, Morecambe, and Plymouth's Royal William Victualling Yard.

"We are delighted that Jonathan Falkingham has accepted the Trust's invitation," remarked RIBA Branch Chairman Tim Hancock. "Cornwall has been undergoing a massive programme of regeneration and Jonathan's insights in this field will be particularly relevant."

The Cornwall Architectural Trust is a small charity which provides travelling scholarships and prizes to students of architecture, pooling its donations with sister charities in Plymouth and Exeter. The Trust has been aptly described as "the charitable and learned society arm of the Cornwall Branch of the Royal Institute of British Architects."

The annual lecture came about as a result of the Festival of Architecture in the early 1980s (readers may recall the opening salvo of this event, the Prince of Wales's "carbuncle" speech) when public awareness and interest in architecture and the built environment was blossoming. The idea of harnessing this interest by holding an annual lecture, delivered by "cutting edge" speakers, came from Mike and Inette Austin-Smith of Camelford. Prior to their retirement, they had established their reputation having founded Austin-Smith:Lord, one of the most successful and influential post-war architectural practices. Their concept was that the audience would embrace a broad range of those interested in design and innovative thinking, whether academics, patrons or construction industry professionals. They envisaged that architects would only make up 50% of the audience. Past speakers have included product and industrial designers as well as engineers, academics and architects. One feature they all

have in common, however, is that they have been at the forefront of thinking in their respective disciplines. The 2010 speaker, for example, was Terence Woodgate, whose state-of-the-art minimalist furniture designs are held in permanent collections in Barcelona's Museu de les Arts Decoratives and London's V & A.

The lecture has also, from time to time, provided the platform for making the Cornwall Architectural Trust Award for outstanding services to architecture in Cornwall. Past awards have gone to the RNLI Shoreworks division for its unequalled record in design awards and to individuals such as George Vaughan-Ellis for his research and publication of the work of Victorian architect Henry Rice.

A list of speakers, as well as award recipients, is included on the Trust's website ([www.cornwallarchitecturaltrust.org](http://www.cornwallarchitecturaltrust.org)).

This highly successful event could not have been possible without the generous sponsorship from contractor Kier Western and the dedicated support from the taskforce of volunteers who help organise the lecture.

Ends.

Joe Poynton, June 2011

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