

<p>Institution: University of Kent</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: C16 Architecture and the Built Environment</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Kent School of Architecture (KSA) is a new school, founded in 2005. Impact, including public engagement, has been at the heart of the School's vision from the start. The growth of the School, from 3 to 12 active research staff and in the new field of sustainable environmental design, has led us to identify the following user groups / beneficiaries / audiences for both our research centres:</p> <p>Reach: local and national amenity societies; professional bodies nationally; architectural and engineering practitioners; communities in mid and east Kent, especially where there is a potential for audience development; access to influence over the design of different building types in the light of new research into climate change (open spaces, residential spaces, institutional and public buildings, transportation buildings, historic spaces, etc); readerships of both professional and large circulation general readership publications; viewers and listeners; reference book compilers, especially to authoritative guides and encyclopaedias; advertised public events. <i>Relevant impact types:</i> on creativity, culture and society; on the environment; on practitioners and professionals.</p> <p>Significance: decisions by, for example, county and district planning committees making submissions on the historical significance of buildings; design guidelines for professional bodies; the development of courses for practitioner education; actions by developers / builders; executive decisions by national amenity societies, e.g. regarding alterations to historic buildings; impact on local economies and property managers through new building design / remodelling / construction; high profile peer-review articles relating to the environment and sustainable design, where some subsequent political or professional influence is possible or likely. <i>Relevant impact types:</i> economic, commercial & organisational; on the environment; on practitioners and professionals.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Since the launch of KSA as a research department in 2007, the natural strengths of our research base have been developed into a strategic approach to impact. With the foundation in 2011 of the Centre for Architecture and Sustainable Environment (CASE), our research centre for sustainable design, we have developed new routes to impact alongside those already associated with the Centre for Research in European Architecture (CREAte - history and theory of architecture / urban design). KSA is also developing research by practising architects within the School, and this too already forms a key aspect of our long-term strategy. Researchers discuss impact opportunities at regular briefings with the director of research (DoR) and include proposals in their annual Individual Research Plans. Thus all staff quickly become familiar with new ideas for maximising impact. KSA researchers increasingly receive invitations from public groups to speak about their research.</p> <p>CREAte and CASE initiate proposals for maximising impact. The University puts impact at the heart of its vision: its Public Engagement with Research Strategy and Research and Impact Strategy incorporate specific schemes. Faculty and the School Research Committee advise on and financially support proposals, the former through its KIASH public engagement fund (by up to £2,000 per impact project).</p> <p>Brittain-Catlin, the current DoR, has a remit to encourage impact activity. He has a strong long-term personal record of impact in the field of amenity societies and planning authorities (Case Study 1: <i>Re-evaluating historic buildings for conservation and public appreciation</i>). He recently initiated a national project to expand and enhance the impact (in REF terms, and generally) of academic architectural historians through joint activity with the Twentieth Century Society (C20S) of which he is a trustee. Over the current period KSA has placed an emphasis on activities within amenity societies because these offer organised and publicised access to large non-academic audiences, at the same time carrying authority among decision-makers in both the public and private sectors; this in turn influences decisions about re-evaluating, listing and altering historic buildings. Of the 20th Century British Architects series, to which both Brittain-Catlin and Adler have contributed during this period, English Heritage's Designation Director has written (11.10.13) of his 'firm belief that the books in this series ... clearly contribute to the delivery of protection through listing, through informing planning decisions, and by engaging owners and their agents in better appreciating their property. We have directly drawn on these titles in preparing listing</p>

recommendations for DCMS, and they contribute directly into our thematic assessment approach'. **Brittain-Catlin** is a member of the Victorian Society's buildings subcommittee which makes recommendations to local planning authorities. Both this and the C20S have access to the national press and a strong record of campaigning: contributions by academics regarding specific buildings are invaluable to them. Societies which are not specifically architectural, such as neighbourhood amenity groups, have also benefitted from academic research. At the London City Farm, **Haney** led an undergraduate design project for the farm inspired by recent research into the history of urban agriculture; he gave a brief illustrated talk to a general local audience on his research, lectured (11.2011) in a series on landscape and gardens, and ran a walking tour of German sites (7.2011), the latter both run by the C20S. **Fontana-Giusti's** project 'Walking in Motion', derived from her 'Urban Strolling as a Measure of Quality', engaged Canterbury residents in an interactive event in Canterbury, and inspired the Chinese organisation [Shanghai Flaneur](#) to offer [an innovative approach to their city](#). Her *Foucault for Architects* (2013) is aimed at a professional audience. KSA encourages research staff to apply for prizes and to turn book launches into events. The launch of **Guerci's** *Palazzo Mancini* was celebrated prominently in Rome in 2012 and was widely reported locally, an event aided by his contributions as British correspondent of *Il Giornale dell'Architettura*. **Haney's** book *When Modern was Green* won several prizes, including one of the first European Garden Book Prizes (2011), and was widely reviewed in the European professional press; his lecture at Dumbarton Oaks reached [an audience of landscape architecture professionals](#).

Two **CREAtE** researchers (**Brittain-Catlin, Guerci**) are regular writers for professional and general readership magazines. The *Architectural Review* published letters and articles about **Brittain-Catlin's** work on [Pugin](#) and the gothic revival over three months (July-September 2012). This type of coverage operates as a form of audience development – making it more likely that new ideas will change basic paradigms in Victorian architectural history. **Adler's** book *Maguire & Murray* has provided an authoritative source for a recent new guide to London churches (*Anglican Church-Building In London 1946-2012*, by Michael Yelton and John Salmon, Spire Books, 2013). Like **Haney**, and **Brittain-Catlin**, he has directed a C20S tour based on his research at KSA. **Adler's** forthcoming book chapter on Heinrich Tessenow's eurhythmic dance school at Dresden led to his being invited as keynote speaker at a [Docomomo-UK public event in London](#) (9.2013).

Research already carried out through **CASE** will also influence refurbishment strategies to improve the environmental quality and reduce energy consumption. Significant projects underway include **Schoenefeldt's** work on the analysis and performance of the Palace of Westminster's historic ventilation system. In January 2013 **Schoenefeldt** submitted a report to the House of Commons Commission, based on research conducted at KSA from 2011, outlining the potential of revitalising the historic system. Richard Ware, programme director of the Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal Programme, and Adam Watrobski, its architect, have expressed interest in the practical implications of this research; he has now been invited by the Palace's Lead Mechanical Engineer to discuss future design solutions. Furthermore, his work on the environmental performance of glasshouses of the nineteenth century attracted wide interest and he has delivered talks at the Institution of Structural Engineers (2011) and Institute of Civil Engineers (2011).

Nikolopoulou's work has led to a report to London City Airport. This focused on the conditions in the airport and the conflicts between the thermal environments required for different user groups, and how the needs of staff and passengers can influence energy consumption and satisfaction in the space. Building performance evaluation has also been the focus of another project by **Nikolopoulou**, which reviewed the School of Arts building at the University of Kent campus, along with the University's Estates Department. The lessons learned not only improved the thermal conditions and energy consumption of the building, but also influenced the procurement process and selection of environmental systems for the University's future building stock.

KSA has always aimed to engage the local community in everything it does, including running design projects in direct collaboration with local institutions: examples include Thanet District Council in Margate, and Longfield Academy in north-west Kent, the latter a pioneer project later analysed, written up and published by the School (with architect Dylan Haughton) and presented at workshops as part of an RIBA initiative entitled the National Schools Ideas Project. This project in itself constituted a secondary field of research for **Brittain-Catlin**, who directed it for KSA in 2009. KSA believes that its potential for impact in the region is augmented by maintaining a strong level of involvement with local professional and other audiences, also through further local PGR

involvement. They are thus more likely to respond to initiatives that derive purely from research.

c. Strategy and plans

Our strategy is to make a **quantifiable impact on each of the audiences listed in Section a. (context) above** over the next REF period and beyond. We will continue to see collaboration with amenity and local or national interest groups, as well as professional bodies, as an important vehicle for impact. A specific new direction which KSA supports is that of giving professional advice on a consultancy basis in relation to historic buildings, for example when an application for altering a listed building is made by a developer. An initial case was taken on by **Brittain-Catlin** (see Case Study 1). **Smith's** Case Study project (*Petit Bayle*) has also generated impact and our awareness of the ways in which this has been achieved give us the tools to ensure that the public benefits of his subsequent related projects – already forming his next research project – will be maximised.

Initiatives are already underway in order to achieve our strategy, and future mechanisms will be guided by their development. We are monitoring impact opportunities through discussions on each live project at regular research centre meetings in order to maximise their potential, and are identifying different routes to impact, such as via professional organisations and guidelines; public authorities; general audiences; and media opportunities. A *key strategic area* will be environmental design. CIBSE is an international professional engineering association representing practitioners working on building services and the indoor environment (membership 18,500+, in over 90 countries). It publishes guidelines with recommendations and will determine future standards used in the design of indoor environments. **Nikolopoulou** has been leading author for two chapters for their revised 'Guide A: Environmental Design' (2013), including 'Chapter 1: Thermal Comfort' (co-authored with Humphreys and Nicol); for the first time CIBSE have included guidelines on outdoor comfort following Nikolopoulou's previous work on the topic. She is also leading author for 'Chapter 8: Health Issues'. **Watkins** is likewise contributing 'Chapter 2: External design data' to this Guide, with his work on urban heat islands. The advice allows engineers to quantify the adjustments designers must make in natural ventilation or mechanical cooling to allow for the warmer conditions within an urban heat island. We will monitor professional impacts flowing from publication. **Schoenefeldt's** work is relevant to professional bodies. His research on sustainable design education in UK schools of architecture, funded by the HEA, will lead to RIBA-accredited CPD training for architectural practitioners in the SE. KSA has delivered courses on 'Tutoring integrated environmental design in studio'. **Schoenefeldt's** latest project on the Passivhaus involves collaboration between different industry representatives and the Passivhaus Trust to investigate the technical, cultural, economic and educational challenges of adopting the Passivhaus standard in the UK. Findings will be relevant to the local community and national economy. CASE members will continue to get involved with the evaluation of real buildings, helping to provide methodical guidelines for practitioners on design strategies and environmental systems that work effectively without compromising the energy consumption of buildings or their occupants' well-being. KSA projects funded by EPSRC, TSB and industry will also contribute towards this objective.

KSA gives strategic importance to practising architects carrying out research in the School: impact will emerge not only through the economic and social consequences of building, but also where buildings, their research processes and details influence decision-makers across the construction professions. To encourage this, KSA already invites practising architects in the South East to research centre events. Following the success of the 2012 conference 'New Directions in Gothic Revival Studies Worldwide', KSA sees open conferences, in which amenity society members and other interested amateurs can join academic lectures and discussions, as a valuable tool for increasing impact. We aim to hold at least one such conference or exhibition every two years.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two submitted case studies demonstrate the effect of KSA's support in terms of time and funding for amenity-society related activity; for interaction with developers of historic buildings; and for maximising the impact of research into building design. **Brittain-Catlin's** case study establishes a model for how researchers in the field of history and theory of architecture has worked, with School and Faculty support through conferences, study leave and effective time planning, to ensure historic buildings are re-evaluated by owners and authorities. The second case study refers to the professional and economic impact of environmental design by **Smith**, whose research impact is supported at KSA by both by expert advice and by a responsive teaching schedule.