

Hayward Gallery's Goya and Brassai shows are the practice's first venture into major public exhibition design. In the Goya galleries (one of which is pictured) the practice used muted shades to reflect the intensity and sobriety of the artist's monochromatic works.

Raynsford to uphold PPG3

Karen Glaser

Housing and planning minister Nick Raynsford has said his department is not afraid to turn down planning applications from public bodies if they conflict with design standards set out in the PPG3 housing planning guidelines.

Speaking at a Cabi and Local Government Association conference on the guidelines, which made high design standards a condition of planning permission for new housing last year, the minister said the DETR had recently called in an NHS development proposal on a greenfield site because it conflicted with PPG3 principles.

He was responding to concerns, expressed by councillor Ken Hudson of Preston Borough Council, that the NHS was planning to build a 1,000-unit

housing development on the periphery of the town.

"The NHS is threatening to undermine PPG3 in our borough," said Hudson. "Has the minister got sufficient guts to stand up to the MoD and the NHS which are constantly throwing satellite sites on to our towns? They are being forced on to our communities and do not fit in with PPG3," said Hudson.

In his keynote address, Raynsford urged the planning officers present to take housing design more seriously, lamenting the ubiquity of "standard, off-the-peg design with its anywhere-ville dreariness. We need good architecture that has been designed for a particular place."

"Over the years, the picture has been pretty dismal and people are fed up with unimaginative, poor-quality housing," he said. "PPG3 is a viable, well-

thought through document that has good design at its heart and should encourage house-builders and authorities to work together."

But Cabi commissioner Piers Gough said councillors were often to blame for anodyne housing schemes because they feared good design could be a vote loser.

Speaking to *BD*, he said: "Councillors are a problem because they mistakenly presume people will dislike innovative buildings, and so they are reluctant to give planning permission to design they presume the public won't like. I would urge them to be a little braver and to catch up with public opinion - they often lag behind it."

He also urged planners to be proactive and find schemes they admired if they were not satisfied with the quality of housing designs presented to them.

Corridor opens up

Masterplan will include shops, development, the new Agency Security Centre Europe's Park, a park that boasts a canal system around City Airport.

The projects will mark the opening of a corridor of development along the Royal Docks and into Silvertown, which Newham council sees as the far end of an "arc of opportunity" starting at Stratford.

Elsewhere in the arc, it proposed a canal system around Bow Creek.

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BDP's concept diagram for the regeneration of Hastings town centre. One of six practices invited to make a competitive bid for the study, BDP will work on the £105,000 commission - paid for by Seeda through single regeneration budget funding - until June. Its proposals will then be put to the council which may then consult residents.

EBS selects Hodson

Grimsby-based Hodson Design has beaten competition from 25 practices to design a headquarters for the Ecology Building Society (EBS) - which provides finance for properties promoting ecological principles.

"Sustainability is the key to this project, and we feel we have chosen architects who will not only devise a green building, but who will also create an inventive, high-quality design," said EBS board member Pam Parkinson.

The £500,000 scheme is due to start on site in August, with completion expected by March 2002.

RICS to tackle deaths

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has unveiled plans to tackle last year's 26% rise in deaths and accidents in the construction industry.

Addressing the government's health and safety construction summit, RICS vice-president, Chris Powell, said the institution planned to publish new guidance before the summer, and that a review of its qualifying examinations would highlight the issue. He also proposed fresh dialogue with the Health & Safety Executive.

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