About the TOOLKIT
The Building in Context toolkit has been developed by EH, CABE and the Kent Architecture Centre. It grew out of the publication ‘Building in Context’ published by EH and CABE in 2003. The purpose of the publication was to stimulate a high standard of design when development takes place in historically sensitive contexts. The founding principle is that all successful design solutions depend on allowing time for a thorough site analysis and character appraisal of context. Building in Context TOOLKIT training aims to help those making decisions reach effective and balanced design decisions.

It is proven to be useful in communicating issues of development in complex situations; helping convey the depth of expertise required in adopting a holistic approach to site development and reduced ‘silo mentality’. Through the analysis of a case study, wider design issues than ‘how it looks’ are explored.

Each workshop consists of a presentation looking at the key issues covered in Building in Context, followed by local and regional case studies, a practical, hands-on drawing activity, and an opportunity to discuss the complex issues associated with successfully incorporating contemporary design in sensitive locations.

The Building in Context Toolkit Programme aims to:
- Enable wider understanding of the principles of developing appropriate contemporary design in historic areas to a range of professional and community groups.
- Enable those involved in making decisions affecting historic areas in their attainment of a more effective, balanced and efficient service resulting in improvement of those decisions affecting the quality of the historic environment for future generations.
- Promote sustainable new development that doesn’t sacrifice what future generations will value for the sake of short-term and often illusory gains so that we use already developed areas in the most efficient way, while making them more attractive places in which to live and work and conserving our cultural heritage.

South West Design Review Panel
The Bristol Event featured a showcase of the work of the SWDPR, all delegates for the South West events received the guidance brochure.

For Information about the
South West Design Review Panel
contact Panel Manager Timothy Callett
0117 9295555
dp@architecturecentre.co.uk

www.building-in-context.org

About the Speakers
SS Great Britain
David Mellor Alec French Architects
Architect for the SS Great Britain
www.alexfrench.co.uk

Great Western Dockyard
Alastair Brooks Bristol City Council
Alastair has extensive knowledge of both proposals and the wider regeneration of Bristol Harbourside

Andrew Vines English Heritage
Regional Director for the South West
Through his direct involvement in the project Andrew was able to present the key issues of the site and the proposal for the Great Western Dockyard

David Stuart Historic Areas Advisor English Heritage
Presented the sub-regional English Heritage toolkit input and planning framework

Cllr Doug Hollings Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Doug presented his personal insight and experience as to the challenges of being a design and historic environment champion

Gillian Feanyough Director
Architecture Centre Bristol
Gillian presented the introduction to the South West Design Panel, its role in promoting design quality and the mechanisms for using the service and the plans to expand it. John Peverly panelist on the South West Design Review Panel was available to answer questions.

Tanya Griffiths Director
Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall.
Tanya presented the six principles and facilitated the workshop.

Additional information and was provided by Gary Millner of Stride Treglawn Architects with kind permission of the client Linden Homes
www.strideinsham.co.uk
SS Great Britain, Bristol

Completed 2005, the first phase of the development features the first iron screw propelled ocean going ship (1843), designed by Brunel, which is now resting in its Listed original dry dock. It required extensive preservation and restoration and new visitor facilities.

A glass plate was inserted at water-line level to allow the dehumidification essential to the ship’s preservation, & the adjacent dockyard buildings restored as an interpretation centre and new way onto the ship. The ship’s interior has been extensively restored and the site has been made as Accessible as possible within the limits of its historic fabric.

It is winner of a Civic Trust Award & C/T Special Award for Accessibility; and of the Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the Year.

There was a positive reaction in the workshop to the approach of the reuse of existing buildings both modest and industrial and where new elements were introduced e.g. the access stair to the dry dock this had been a considerate intervention and did not detract from the ship.

The main body of the workshop following the site visits and presentations focussed on exploring the massing, key views, hierarchy of streets and connections public spaces mix of building types, materials and the setting of the ship.

The groups were asked to consider the first instance what they considered to be 3 points that should be design considerations when looking at a successful heritage visitor attraction in any town or city centre. The consensus was that good access, visibility and legibility within the contest were important factors. For the site itself there was strong support for the idea of a footbridge connection linking the two sides of the Harbourside redevelopment to further enhance access.

The regeneration project at the Great Western Dockyard aims in Phase Two to:

- Generate sufficient land value that will be invested to create an endowment that can allow the SS Great Britain Trust to become sustainable in the long term.
- Restore and enhance the remaining half of Great Western Dockyard as the sustainable and authentic setting for the SS Great Britain.
- Create the accommodation for a new public education facility.

This is designed to fit the aspirations for the proposed Brunel Centre and partnership with the University of Bristol.

Brunel Centre - Educational and Reception – 1,085 m² (GIA)

Residential Accommodation – 7,315 m² (net internal), 10,020 m² (gross internal)

The residential mix comprises 91 no x 1 bed, 2 no x 2½ bed, 42 no x 2 bed, 10 no x studio.

Of this residential accommodation 8 units will be shared equity affordable units equating to 5.5% of the accommodation.

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To Design and Historic Environment champions:

Organising Your Building in Context TOOLKIT training event

We hope you enjoyed this event that showcased for Design and Historic Environment Champions the Building in Context TOOLKIT and a leading designer.

The TOOLKIT is a travelling training package that is available to authorities across England that can be tailored to meet specific local requirements. As Champion for your authority you may wish to organise one in your own workplace.

For more information on holding a BiC TOOLKIT training event please contact Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall ct Tanya Griffiths 07791 138012 Email tanya.griffiths@acdandc.org.uk

Architecture Centre Bristol ct Gillian Fearnough 0117 922 1540 Email gillian.fearnough@architecturecentre.co.uk

The Table below shows how the BiC Toolkit team can put together an event tailored for your particular requirements:

The Building in Context TOOLKIT

1. Event build-up
2. Event
3. Post-event

EVENT
Visual display
• Seminar
• Workshop
• Walkabout/study tour

Post event feedback
• Questionnaire
• Report

Post event response

Typical materials provided in facilitator pack to tailor to suit the event

Establish topical site, issue and audience

Develop event, background, establish no-go areas

Designer’s case study matched to site issues, audience and availability

Invite other speakers where required, audience, pre-event questionnaire, venue and catering

From Building in Context, pg 37