

HEALTHY BUILDINGS, HEALTHY PEOPLE

11TH FEBRUARY 2015, 17.30 FOR A 18.00 START, FOLLOWED BY NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS
CENTRAL HOUSE, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, WC1H 0NN. [MAP](#)

With much emphasis on energy efficiency, the performance gap and now the circular economy, it is essential that health and wellbeing remain at the centre of the push for improved resource efficiency, across the built environment. With staff costs amounting to 90% of most businesses operating costs; and because we spend so much time indoors, it is essential that the industry delivers healthy buildings.

The WGBC report *Health, Wellbeing and Productivity in Offices*, presents overwhelming evidence that office design significantly impacts the health, wellbeing and productivity of staff. Canada have introduced HEPD, which includes indoor air quality data for products, alongside the information in an Environmental Product Declaration and we will debate if this approach could be considered here.

Over the next 2 years, the EU is developing a framework with 9 core indicators, to assess the environmental performance of buildings. This area is covered as indoor comfort, so this will need defining and appropriate matrices developed. ASBP will be taking an active part in this process.

PROGRAMME

17.30 *Registration*

18.00 **Marcella Ucci, UKIEG and UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering**

Marcella will introduce the UK Indoor Environments Group (UKIEG) and then present the preliminary results of the 'Active Buildings' research project, carried out by researchers in Epidemiology & Public Health and Built Environment specialists at University College London (UCL). The study is funded by the National Institute of Health Research's School for Public Health Research ([NIHR SPHR](#)), and aims to examine the possible relationships between different features of the office environment and office workers' step count, sitting time and movement through the workplace. Physical activity levels in the British public are worryingly low and time spent sitting high. At least half of all people in the UK have desk-based office jobs, thus the workplace could hold a 'captive audience' for promotion of activity and breaks in sitting time. www.ukieg.org; www.activebuildings.co.uk www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/iede

18.20 **James Drinkwater, WGBC/ Chris Pottage, Skanska UK**

Chris and James will introduce their work as part of the team behind the WGBC report [Health, Wellbeing and Productivity in Offices](#), which presents overwhelming evidence that office design significantly impacts the health, wellbeing and productivity of staff. The report finds that a range of factors – from air quality and lighting, to views of nature and interior layout – can affect the health, satisfaction and job performance of office workers.

18.40 **Gary Newman, ASBP**

Gary will update us on his work with the Criteria Commission for [natureplus](#), the eco-label for construction products. We will also seek feedback on the launch of the new natureplus database, which offers free access to independently tested product *information* such as VOCs, alongside LCA data. Canada have introduced HEPD, which includes indoor air quality data for products, alongside the information in an EPD and we will discuss if this approach might work here.

19.00 **Discussion**

19.20 *Networking, refreshments kindly provided by UCL*



Marcella Ucci, UKIEG Chair and UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering

Marcella is a Lecturer in Environmental and Healthy Buildings at the *UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering*. She graduated in architecture from the University of Naples (Italy), and then obtained an MSc in 'Environmental Design and Engineering' and a PhD in indoor air quality and modelling - both from the Bartlett Graduate Studies, UCL. Her research focuses on the interactions and tensions between sustainable building design/operation and the needs of occupants in terms of comfort, health and wellbeing. Her expertise includes building monitoring and modelling, health impact of buildings (e.g. dust mites and active design), application of epidemiological methods to built environment studies, and operational aspect of buildings - especially occupant behaviour. Marcella Ucci is Chair of the UK Indoor Environments Group (UKIEG), a multidisciplinary group set up in 2003 to co-ordinate and provide a focus for UK activity concerned with indoor environments, health and well-being.



James Drinkwater - Senior Policy Advisor, World Green Building Council

James advises on European green building law and policy for the network of over 30 national Green Building Councils around Europe, coordinating their public policy work as well as the work of WorldGBC's global Policy Task Force. He has a Masters from the University of Cambridge, and a background in corporate and finance law. Previously an associate with the Environment and Climate Change practice of global law firm Linklaters LLP, he specialised in advising global corporations on UK and EU sustainable real estate law and policy, renewable energy projects and chemicals regulation. He also previously worked for the Royal Institute of British Architects, focusing on sustainable building policy and EU public procurement reform.



Chris Pottage - Bid Coordinator, Skanska & Technical Committee Coordinator, WGBC

Since completing an MSc in Climate Change and Sustainable Development at the end of 2013, Chris has spent the last 9 months on part-time secondment at the World Green Building Council in the delivery of a global report into the health, well-being, and productivity benefits of occupying green buildings. This has included project management of the Technical Committee, a cast of distinguished global industry specialists, and working particularly closely on the development of a framework for quantitative, and qualitative metrics for organisations to quantify these benefits and factor them into the bottom line business case for investment in green buildings. In his day job at Skanska, Chris has continued to lead bidding for Energy Performance Contracts.



Gary Newman - Executive Chair, ASBP

Gary is a construction engineer by training and early career. After completing a wood science masters, Gary became inspired by the technical potential of natural construction products, and now has over 15 years' experience in the development, manufacturing and marketing of natural fibre geotextiles and natural insulation products. Gary is Executive Chair of the ASBP, as well being Director of Plant Fibre Technology Ltd, a company focused on the technical development of bio-based materials.