

Specifying recycled: understanding UK architects' and designers' practices and experience

Anne Chick and Paul Micklethwaite, Faculty of Art, Design and Music, Kingston University, Knights Park Campus, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2QJ, UK

This paper introduces findings from the Recycling by Design Research Project (Phase I) (see note 1¹). The importance of developing new markets for recycle in the UK is first established. Selected research findings are then presented from a questionnaire survey response obtained from 539 architects and 142 designers, and follow-up interviews conducted with 20 of those respondents. These findings identified that UK architects and designers do not currently specify recycled products and materials, and that there are a range of obstacles to their doing so. A concluding discussion briefly examines the UK Government's current position on addressing such obstacles.

© 2003 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: architectural design, design practice, ecodesign, environmental impact, materials specification

The Recycling by Design Research Project initially identified architects and designers as key 'users' of recycled products and materials: professionals whose role involves the constant selection of materials and products, and whose actions then influence the purchasing decisions of a broad group of other stakeholders, including their clients or suppliers (retailers, product manufacturers, printers and building contractors). The Recycling by Design Research Project has sought to identify the extent to which UK architects and designers currently use recycled products and materials, what inhibits them in doing so, and how they might be encouraged.

Phase I of the Recycling by Design Research Project sought to fulfil these aims through (i) delivery of a programme of primary research (see below), and (ii) dissemination of the best available information on recycled products and materials, their manufacturers and suppliers, and the issues surrounding their specification and use.



1 Cabinet Office, Performance and Innovation Unit *Resource Productivity: Making More with Less* Cabinet Office, London, UK (2001)

2 DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) *e-Digest Statistics about: waste and recycling* <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/index.htm> (web page published 10 September 2003)

3 Von Weizsacker, E, Lovins, A and Lovins, L *Factor Four* Earthscan, London, UK (1997)

4 Chick, A *Graphic Designers Greenbook* Graphis, New York, USA (1992)

5 European Commission *EU Focus on Waste Management* Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Brussels, Luxembourg (1999)

6 Girling, R 'The wasting disease: the national trash can is running over' *Sunday Times Magazine* 10 March (2002) 16–23

7 Elliott, P, Briggs, D, Morris, S, de Hoogh, C, Hurt, C, Kold Jensen, T, Maitland, I, Richardson, S, Wakefield, J and Jarup, L 'Risks of adverse birth outcomes in populations living near landfill sites' *British Medical Journal* Vol 323 (2001) 363–368

8 Yamey, G 'Reviews: website of the week—landfill sites' *British Medical Journal* Vol 323 (2001) 406 (<http://www.bmj.com>)

9 European Commission 'Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on landfill of waste' *Official Journal of the European Communities* L182, Vol 42, 16 July (1999) 1–19 <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj> (web page accessed 2 October 2003)

10 HM Customs and Excise *Notice LFT1: A General Guide to Landfill Tax* (February 2000) <http://www.hmce.gov.uk/forms/notices/lft1.htm> (web page accessed 2 October 2003)

11 HM Customs and Excise *Aggregates Levy Question and Answer Briefing* HM Customs and Excise <http://www.hmce.gov.uk/business/othertaxes/agg-levyqanda.htm> (web page accessed 2 October 2003)

12 DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) *e-Digest of Environmental Statistics* <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm> (web page published 16 September 2003)

The completed Phase I research programme investigated architects' and designers' specification of recycled products and materials, the obstacles they encounter in seeking to do so, and the availability of useful information. The specification practices of designers have been neglected by previous research. The focus here, on *recycled* products and materials, excludes the use of products and materials recovered from the waste stream and simply *reused* without further reprocessing. Multiple methods were used in this sequential research programme:

Part 1—Questionnaire survey of designers and architects

Part 2—Interviews with key questionnaire respondents

Part 3—Focus group with 'producers'.

This paper introduces selected findings obtained from architects and designers in Parts 1 and 2 of the research programme.

I Research context: UK waste strategy

'Waste policy is arguably the next biggest environmental challenge facing the UK after climate change'¹

'Waste' is defined here as:

'The wide ranging term encompassing most unwanted materials, defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Waste includes any scrap material, effluent or unwanted surplus substance or article that requires to be disposed of because it is broken, worn out, contaminated or otherwise spoiled. Explosives and radioactive wastes are excluded.'²

Changes in the way the UK manages waste and resources are central to achieving 'one of the pillars of sustainable development—reducing the flows of resources in industrialised countries'.³ A principal focus of environmental issues concerning waste by the media, activists and politicians has been the UK's heavy reliance on disposing of waste into landfill when compared with other European Member States.^{4–8} This situation cannot continue; the UK Government has international legal obligations under the EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) to cut all wastes to landfill.⁹ The UK landfill tax, introduced in 1996,¹⁰ and the new aggregates levy are also influencing waste management practices by encouraging greater diversion of waste from landfill and providing an incentive for more recycling.¹¹

The most recent available figures indicate that annual waste arisings in the UK amount to 434 million tonnes.¹² A selected breakdown of this total is given in [Table 1](#).

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات