

PRESS RELEASE

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CIC celebrates one year of the DQI online

CIC has celebrated one year of the DQI online with a BIFM Innovation Award nomination and its first AGM.

Graham Watts, CIC Chief Executive said:

“We are really pleased that the BIFM has recognised what the DQI can do for the users and the managers of buildings; feedback from completed buildings at the end of the project is essential if we are to make the much better buildings we need and deserve. Ratification of the tool by the Institute whose members are responsible for running buildings recognises the role the DQI is playing in capturing all the stakeholders’ views at the briefing stage.”

At the first DQI AGM, users of the toolkit reflected on the real value of the DQI, whilst newcomers gained a better understanding of what the DQI could do for them and their projects.

The story so far:

- 365 projects have registered with the DQI. This relates to over 400 individual assessments or workshops undertaken with the DQI.
- 2800 individuals have fed into these workshops, these people have all had a structured opportunity to provide their views on the building projects with which they are involved.
- More than 70% of these 2800 people are end users, facilities managers or visitors to the building. This shows that the DQI is delivering a key aim to involve as many people as possible in defining a value set for their building, and the DQI process is clearly helping this to be achieved.

Richard Simmons, CABE Chief Executive said:

“Enabling dialogue between designer and client is the true strength of the DQI – demystifying design, developing a common language and to agreeing shared project aims.”

The AGM also discussed the future of the DQI tool. The short term activities are:

- Following feedback from users improve the briefing version of the DQI toolkit to provide a better benchmark of design quality over the buildings life;
- Analyse the data collected by the tool to develop industry benchmarks on design quality;
- Developing a register of DQI facilitators, trained professionals who can help add value at the start of the project;

- In partnerships with the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) develop a variant of the DQI toolkit specific to the needs to schools (over 50% of projects registered with the DQI are schools); and
- In partnership with CABE Space to develop a DQI for green spaces – the GQI tool.

Sunand Prasad, one of the founding members of the DQI Management Board said:

“I hope that by 2010 use of the DQI will become a natural part of briefing and design development through all stages of a project. Additionally we will have accumulated a rich data resource about the projects which will yield valuable insights into what process improvements make for better outcomes for the design of buildings and places.”

For case studies and other resources visit www.dqi.org.uk or telephone the DQI team on 020 7399 7424

Ends

Notes to the editor

1. The development of the DQI has been led by the Construction Industry Council with sponsorship from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), Constructing Excellence and the Strategic Forum for Construction and with support from Office of Government Commerce (OGC). The DQI has been developed into an easy to use web tool for everyone involved in the procurement and use of buildings.
2. CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

For further details contact the Press Office at CIC press@cic.org.uk or telephone 020 7399 7407