

## **NEWS RELEASE**

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 for immediate release



From left to right:

The Green Energy Machine at Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' Open Practice;

The Eco Townhouse - David Urwin Commendation 2006 for 'The Most Efficient & Sustainable Building', designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects;

An exemplar of sustainable design - The new Eco Studio Building at Cambridge University's Department of Architecture, designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects and Mole Architects.

## **AWARD WINNING ECO ARCHITECTS OPEN PRACTICE FOR ARCHITECTURE WEEK WITH GREEN ENERGY MACHINE**

Cambridge-based Freeland Rees Roberts Architects are opening their doors to the public on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June from 14.00 -17.00 to celebrate Architecture Week (15 – 24 June) and the promotion of green technology to reduce carbon emissions. As part of their open practice, the team will display sustainable techniques they have used to reduce the environmental impact of buildings they have designed. This includes an award-winning Eco Townhouse in Cambridge and the new sustainable studio building for Cambridge University's Department of Architecture. Members of the public will have the opportunity to talk to and see the staff at work as well as explore the 'Green Energy Machine', an eco bus which will showcase examples of renewable energy technologies.

Architecture Week (AW07) is a 10 day national celebration of the built environment that provides an opportunity for people of all ages to engage with local architecture and encourages them to take a greater interest in their environment. It is hoped that this year's theme, 'How green is our space?', will make people question how they use their surroundings, how they travel, what they consume and what the consequences are. Buildings contribute around 50% of the UK's carbon emissions, with houses making up 25% of that, so we have good reason to draw attention to our buildings and consider their spatial, social and environment impact.

Architecture Week, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, is organised by the Arts Council England, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architecture Centre Network. A diverse programme of national and regional public events will celebrate the best in contemporary architecture and explore its impact on the environment between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2007.

Tristan Rees Roberts, Director of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, said: “Every one of us can play an important part in reducing carbon emissions and green measures are within the scope of anyone that is considering undertaking building work. As designers, we use our understanding of the environment to make better decisions and advise on these issues in the early stages. Often this may involve technology, but also just simple things that will create the right living and working environment without adding thousands to build costs”.

Mr Rees Roberts concluded: “Managing our natural resources, such as rainwater harvesting and waste recycling are discussed also in the early stages. Renewable energy, such as solar power and ground source heat pumps must also form an essential part of designing a sustainable building or home for the future. We try whenever possible to use natural materials that are selected from sustainable sources. There is now a common awareness of issues such as tropical deforestation and 'Sick Building Syndrome' concerning indoor pollution and allergies. Products such as sheepswool or recycled newspaper for insulation have low-embodied energy and are safer for users as well as the environment.”

A printed Regional Events Guide will soon be available at Tourist Information Centres and other public organisations across the East of England whilst the AW07 website will remain a constantly updated source of information on new events as they are confirmed. The Open Practice can be viewed on [www.architectureweek.org.uk](http://www.architectureweek.org.uk) by clicking on 'Region Guides' and then 'East'.

Freeland Rees Roberts Architects practice is based at 25 City Road, Cambridge, CB1 1DP. For further event information contact Tania Gomez-Duran, Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, 01223 366555 or email [info@frrarchitects.co.uk](mailto:info@frrarchitects.co.uk). [www.frrarchitects.co.uk](http://www.frrarchitects.co.uk).

This event is for children and families. It is free and booking is not required. Disabled car parking may not be provided because of the Green Energy Machine. Please provide prior notice.

**-Ends-**

### **Notes to the Editor**

1. For images of schemes designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, interviews or photo/film opportunities, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications email [carri@carismacommunications.co.uk](mailto:carri@carismacommunications.co.uk) or telephone 01842 811313 or mobile: 07704 920 350.

2. Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' 10 key areas of expertise include: Education: Colleges & Schools; Local Authority; Sports; Extensions; Ecclesiastical; Residential; Libraries; Commercial; Conservation and Domestic.