

SEDA ASSEMBLY 07 May 2022

Greyfriars Charteris Centre, Edinburgh 2-5.30pm



Record of discussions and actions

Attendees on Line

Rosanna Rabaeijis
Sebastian Toombs

Jim Johnson
Natasha Houchin

Michelle Hipwell
John Gilbert

Attendees on Person

Catherine Cosgrove - Chair
David Seel – Director
David Somervell
Sandy Halliday
Steven Dijkstra Downie
Peter Ranson
Alex Liddell
Jon Newey
James Simpson

Nick Dominney – Director
James Erskine
Sam Foster
Jan Foster – Director
Sophie Cooke
Jonathan Lynn
Lynn Hill
Richard Atkins
Chris Stewart – Director

Wendy Hebard
Hamish Neilson
Lisa Young
Rory O’Riordan
Joanne McLelland
Ethan Lewes
Paul Jennings

2.00 Welcome and Introduction – Why are we here? Sandy Halliday, Past Chair SEDA

Things are always changing and SEDA should be prepared to look at itself every so often and think about its what it does, how and who with... our priorities, our role and our community. The last time this happened was around 1999 - “Whither SEDA” hosted by Jed & Gill Pemberton in Abbey St. Bathans and it proved be productive and affirming. I hope that today will be too.

My own perception is that prior to COVID SEDA was thriving and interconnected and active – although I always consider us too building /built environment based – the links to food and fashion and other areas seemed to be strengthening. We have always been a people-to-people organisation and, as a result, I personally don’t feel that we have fared brilliantly in the COVID period. There has been a lot of new activity around environmental issues and a lot of that has been on line – not an area where SEDA is necessarily at its strongest. That said, the SEDA Land and SEDA Solar activities have had a powerful effect and provided continuity. Membership is high but the core of **active** people in SEDA has shrunk considerably and this brings different pressures...

Today is an opportunity to continue what should be an ongoing conversation about what SEDA is for and how we best achieve our objectives... to encourage greater participation, to consider our demographic and to emerge stronger and more able to meet our individual and collective priorities.

Ctd...

Following COP 26 we committed to taking action on a range of subjects related to mitigating climate change and, of course, our origins in ecological design mean that we retain a commitment to biodiversity, pollution avoidance, health, well-being and meeting the needs of communities. It is important that we continue to stay at the forefront of thinking – across all disciplines – and align our actions accordingly to best support those pursuing ecological design in agriculture, engineering, architecture, fashion, IT, the creative arts, education, sport, habitat and the rest. For us to have relevant impact we need to decide where to focus our time and energy, but also how to do this in ways that have a real impact and add value and enjoyment to our busy lives.

2.15 SEDA now – how we work and what we do.

Catherine Cosgrove – Chair

SEDA are a members' organisation and we can only operate with the support of our membership. Our annual income is made up mostly of our membership fees and from the events that we run. If we are to become a bigger organisation with more members and more influence then we have to think about the types of events that we run.

One of the reasons we are here is to ask the membership for their input on where we are going and what subjects we should concentrate on? There are lots of potential topics and actions that we could consider but that might spread our resources too thinly. Alternatively we could pick three or four subjects that we concentrate on for the next few years and align all our work around them. We are keen to team up with other organisations that share our goals and working together we might have a bigger impact.

While we have had discussions about these subjects within the SEDA Directors we wanted the wider SEDA membership to become involved in the conversation. This event is the start of this process and we hope that you'll all contribute.

2.30 Thinking space:

What are the three most important topics SEDA should be addressing?

Grouped around core issues

- Climate Change & Net Zero
- Education – this could split don into more groups Manual Trades/ Professional/Arch/Other disciplines/ Clients etc....
- Planning and Land Use/Biodiversity
- Retrofit
- Health & Wellbeing
- Materials
- Degrowth/alternative economics

Also

- Policy
- Culture

Ctd...

What organisations should SEDA be working with?

ACAN	Local Authorities
AECB	Local Community Groups
Architects Declare	Minister for the built environment
Architecture Schools	Minister for planning
ASPB	New Economics Foundation
Possibly one representative from larger architectural practices	British Association of Landscape Industries
A&DS	CAT
ASHS	Childrens' Parliament
Biodiversity Alliance	CIBSE and other non-arch building professionals
British Association of Landscape Industries	Commonweal
CAT	Community Councils or Associations of CC – e.g. EACC
Childrens' Parliament	Councils
CIBSE and other non-arch building professionals	Nourish Scotland
Commonweal	NRFC
Community Councils or Associations of CC – e.g. EACC	Political Parties
Councils	Professional Bodies
ConFor	Public Health Bodies
Design Orgs	PUT
EAA	QSi, Scotland
ECAN	Reforestation Scotland
Energy Institute	Renovation and New Build
Engineering Policy Group Scotland	Resurgence
Estate Agents	Retrofit Academy
Extinction Rebellion	RIAS and all its chapters
Fashion	RIBA
Fibres: The Home of Wood Fibre	RICS, Scotland
Insulation	RTPI Scotland
Findhorn Foundation	Rural Housing Scotland
Foreign SEDA Orgs	Science Communities
Friends of the Earth	Scottish Land Commission
GHA	Scottish Timber Trade Association
Greenpeace	Society of Garden Designers
Green Registry	Soil Association
Government Quangos	SME Contractors
Heads of related departments, Scottish Government	SRUC
Building regs	Surfers against Sewage
Healthy Materials Lab	Third Sector – Shelter / those promoting equality / diversity
Historic Environment Scotland	Transition Scotland/
House builders	Edinburgh/Dunbar/Towns etc.
Housing Associations	Transport Scotland
Institution of Engineers in Scotland	UK and Scottish Govt
Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Scotland	University and Colleges, F & HE
James Hutton Institute	Women in Property
Landscape Institute	Youth organisations e.g. Youth Link and
Landworkers Alliance	Young Scot
	Zero Waste Scotland

What do you GET from SEDA?

Meet like-minded people and network
Learn Things I didn't know
Support people who share our principles and goals
Bring unlikely people and ideas together
Changing minds – values, Knowledge sharing
Awareness raising of ecological design
Reaching out to the wider Community
Interesting people
Being Inspired

What do you WANT from SEDA?

Help with Projects
More engagement with Legislation
Events and Guidance
More Inspiring Events
Being more influential
Expand Knowledge of Members
Set up a group of like minded individuals
More social Media
Wider Reach
More Social Events

What Does SEDA do well?

Not Give Up
Offer Expertise
Networking
Holism
Joining Dots
Attract Passionate people
Have Fun
New Ideas
Leading the field
Leading the Way
Promote the best in building design and construction
Share Knowledge
 Sust Refurb Book
 Low Toxic materials
Green Drinks – fun, good informal chat
Lectures
Discuss Issues
Produce Guidance
Lead thinking on sustainability and Ethics
Convey a positive message
Introduce us to topics and contacts
Events/CPD
Magazine
Guidance
Gives Hope - Communicates that technical solutions to Climate change are available now and that we just need political will
Linking interested people
Engage technically with mentors
Social Media?
Disseminating information

Sharing information
Tech Guidance
Networking
Writes well about Green Design; Show & Tell
Events Like Show and Tell
Land Conversations
Advice on Green building
E.g. Airtightness
Keeping Sonic (!) membership for a long time
Bring together people with real world experience of doing things that work
Magazine
Regular events
Magazine
Pre-Covid Building Visits
Magazine is great
Design Guides and showing information through mainly focussed on buildings and energy (and Land) for now.
SEDA Solar
SEDA Land
EcoMax Lectures
Advice through magazine and events
Gives Support

What Does SEDA NOT do Well?

On Line presence
Spread its voice widely
Publicise SEDA in Scottish An National /UK Press (or not enough)
Communication
Brand Identity
Effective Communications
Influence
Go Beyond the world of Architecture
Engage Young People
Get message heard at high level to get widespread support and rapid action: we tend to be talking amongst ourselves too much
Outreach
Recruit Young People
Promotion of Public Profile
Influence enough People
Reach the Unconverted
Raise Awareness wide enough
PR
PR: Promote expertise well and widely
Social Media
Outreach member contact
Engage influence govt
Website and online presence
Stay open to widest range of ecological design issues/subjects
We are fairly narrow in our current range of interests
Promote ourselves
Communicate to the General Public

Ctd...

3.10 Break into groups to discuss core topics and suggest activities that will address it

Education

Attendees:- On Line, Rosanna Rabaeijis, Sebastian Toombs, Jim Johnson, Natasha Houchin, Michelle Hipwell, John Gilbert, plus David Seel

Be better at getting our point across

- a. Better Communication
- b. Training for SEDA
- c. What audiences do we target
- d. More publications
- e. Who inside/outside SEDA has expertise and work together
- f. Funding to share knowledge/provide training
- g. ~Expand KJ Awards to Landscape / M&E etc
- h. Spread training to clients and contractors
- i. Get a director of communications

Planning

Attendees:- Lynn Hill, Hamish Neilsen, Wendy Hebbard and others

Planning Enforcement – What information collecting

What is SEDA capacity to do things – who works on projects

Ensure adequate high quality greenspace in all developments

Support groups that work on enforcement - e.g. Planning /RTPI/ building Control/ Politicians

Get SEDA on Scottish Govt Advisory Committees

Work with Community Groups - They support Local Enforcement

Could we get genera SEDA members to write short Blog , Article, Thought piece (200-300 words) That Shares ideas and experience

Get more young people involved.

Build political impetus with arguments focused on benefits, backed up with good practice evidence. Clearly show long-term benefits.

There are already some strong lobbying organisations, such as RSPB, Soil Association etc.

Lots of guidance already exists, e.g. Biodiversity British Standard, WWF Biodiversity Credits.

Retrofit

Steven Dijkstra Downie, David Somervell, Jonathan Lynn and others

Link up with other organisations

Produce 1 page Leaflet on lots of relevant subjects - Good for Quick Learning – distribution

Unequal VAT rates between newbuild and refurb

Demolition rates for existing buildings?

Ctd...

Climate and Net Zero

Catherine Cosgrove, Richard Atkins, Rory O' Riordan and others

Work with other groups to affect the supply chain. There are lots of organisations talking about this issue: how do they connect to maximise positive impact?

Support Local Material Use

Create a database of materials

Info Pack on Community heating

Campaign around 100 small companies to Upscale

Close down all new build in favour of affordable retrofit

Health

Jan Foster and Paul Jennings

Gather stats on Health and Wellbeing

Working Group of 6 sample groups

2 x deprived areas in Glasgow / Edinburgh/ non-deprived

Compare

Fuel / Food

Q's to sample housing condition

Cooking Skills

Support shops with decent food supply - work with Nourish Scotland

Materials & Construction

James Simpson, Alex Liddell and others

Subcommittee for sustainable design

Which ? Materials - Traffic light/ Local/Low impact / Identifier A-F

Publications

Education

Specifiers

Trustees etc

Professional Design Input

Materials Passport

Whole building passport

Make the A&DS materials Library more active

Compare cost of living re design and health

Use existing mapping exercises

Degrowth

Names:

Sam Foster, Chris Stewart, Joanne McClelland and Ethan Lewes

Need to create a place (virtual) where people can find out what degrowth is.

Produce simple, brief document (e.g. A4) on principle and benefits

Promote to consumers and clients (e.g. of building projects)

Collaborate with other organisations promoting these principles to refine and share document

What do you want from SEDA?

More examples of real initiatives that work
An online forum for questions and answers
CPD on sustainable construction
A film club
A book club
A supper club
Engaging more professional/ experts from other disciplines
No Fossil Fuel Heating
Discussion Debate Action
Share our Knowledge
Knowledge, Connections, Inspiration, Collective Action
Embarrass the Unjust and Unethical Focus
Construction Maintenance/Improvement
Minimize demolition
Pull more weight
Make change
Fun times making a beneficial difference
Regular rather than ad-hoc events
Access to members expertise
Better on-line presence to inform and explain
More guidance – policymakers contact
Information and Impact
Explanation of a wider range of ecological design aspects
Folk Work Place / agro ecology / how much is enough / Human ecology /
Economic alternatives
Development and mentoring for the RIAS Accreditation scheme in Sustainable
Architecture
Network of people to share ideas and knowledge with
Support with detailing buildings sustainably
Ideas to convince clients to use natural materials
Does cost info exist on natural materials?
Direction
Knowledge
Community
Network
Sharing ideas and knowledge
Examples of great design of buildings and landscape
Schemes we can be proud about
Interesting opportunities for retired folk
Pre-arranged in person meet ups like this
A wider broader voice where we can integrate with lots of different spheres
Influence the mainstream
Better cross linking and information sharing
(a between mentors (b) the wider tech community] (c) the public
Practical pilot projects – road tests
For all built environment folk to consider it essential to be a SEDA member because
we are the leading organization in the field of climate change
To be more influential to raise its profile
It already punches above its weight but Scotland needs what SEDA can give
Personally I enjoy meeting up with the members socially.

Ctd...

Issues

Promote Green Buildings
Save Energy
Obtain Political Support
Share Knowledge of how to specify materials/fire ratings, condensation etc.
Maximise emerging criteria
No Building on greenfield land
Recycle
Promote natural materials
Embodied carbon
VAT
Grant Loans

Educate Builders
Construction - Plastics/Cement
Chemicals
Enthusing Colleagues
Improve Knowledge and Practice
Training and Upskilling Industry
Training different disciplines
Manual Trades
Liaise with other like minded groups
Recruitment
Integrative design
Influence policy makers and organisations

Best Of

CPD x 9
Green Drinks
Show and Tell x 5
Visits x 2

Design Guides x 5
EcoMax x 6
SEDA Land Conversations x 6

SEDA

20.05.2022

Compiled by Sandy Halliday with contributions from Catherine Cosgrove and David Seel