

Free Evening Expert Lecture

# Making a difference

Transforming early years practice



**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

*Light Refreshments available from 5.30pm*

Lecture 6pm-7pm - Rowan Williams Court, Medway Campus

## Mark Dudek

**Early Years Architecture and Design: children don't notice, so why bother?**

Since 1997, over 3500 new state funded children's centres have opened. These buildings provide appropriate, child centred environments for children aged 0-5 years. They are, or should be, 'learning environments'. Architect and writer Mark Dudek, who has designed numerous nurseries and Sure Start Children's Centres over a 20 year career, is now embarking on a 3 year research project, which is intended to advance our understanding of how children use space and what exactly constitutes a learning environment in its truest sense. Little systematic comparative evaluation of these buildings has been undertaken to underpin the design of future children's centres from an architectural and from a user perspective. The presentation will be illustrated by the author's projects, evaluating what can be learned when re-visiting them after their first 10 years in use.

**SHOWCASING QUALITY PRACTICE IN THE EARLY YEARS SECTOR**

## Mark Dudek

Mark Dudek's career combines building and research both as a specialist consultant and as an award winning design architect in the area of school and pre-school environments. He runs his own architectural practice in London and is a Research Fellow at the School of Architecture, University of Sheffield.



This balance has enabled Mark to both explore new ideas and to test those ideas across a range of settings. Design work over the past 20 years has included public and private sector education projects (as a principal architect-director) with a total contract value of over £100 million. He has been commissioned to design landmark innovation projects such as a Classroom of the Future at Yewlands Secondary School, Sheffield and has completed numerous Nurseries and Children's Centres in the UK, Ireland and the USA.

Mark has written and broadcast on many aspects of school and pre-school architecture. The second edition of *Kindergarten Architecture* was published in September 2000 and is still in-print. Other publications include *Spaces for Young Children* published by the National Early Years Network (2001, second edition published October 2012), *Architecture of Schools – the New Learning Environments* published by the Architectural Press, and *Spaces for Children*, an edited collection of essays on children's urban culture. His book for publishers Birkhauser entitled *Schools and Kindergartens – a Design Manual* features over 70 international case studies and is in 4 languages including Chinese. His most recent is *Nurseries* which was published by Routledge last month.

He has lectured all over the world including a recent series of AIA talks in Michigan USA. Mark has been a keynote speaker at conferences organised by the University of California, at Berkeley, the Government of Luxembourg and the University of Delft, ND. In the UK he has addressed conferences at the Tate Gallery, the ICA, The Daycare Trust, National Day Nurseries Association, The Regional Childcare Working Group, South West Ireland, NIPPA (promoting quality child-care in Northern Ireland), and the Scottish Executive amongst many others. Mark is a CAFE Enabler and sits on a number of related advisory committees. He is an RIBA Client Design Advisor and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

For further information and to book a place, please contact Frances Matthews at:  
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