

PRESS RELEASE

"UNATTACHED REJOIN THE FRAY"

Former Unattached members of the Architects' Council of the United Kingdom (ARCUK), the predecessor to today's Architects' Registration Board (ARB), have recently regrouped to reassess and support the interests of registered architects who are not members of the RIBA.

Currently about a third of the profession (about 9,000 architects) are not members of the RIBA, but their views and interests are not represented on the Board.

The group supports the continued registration of Architects by the ARB as the competent authority under the Architects' Registration Act and would deplore any attempts to undermine this.

In early discussions, participants of the new Unattached group have expressed dissatisfaction with the approach taken by some RIBA members of the ARB. We are strongly opposed to the attempt by a group of RIBA members to form an anti-ARB slate in the current elections.

The media emphasis on differences between RIBA and ARB is very damaging. When unattached architects were represented on ARCUK Council they were able to help establish a period of relative harmony.

In the forthcoming ARB election, the group is supporting former Unattached councillor Tom Woolley in his campaign for a seat on the Board. Tom Woolley is Professor of Architecture at Queen's University Belfast. He is keen to see stronger influence by the educational community on ARB and will also try to safeguard the interests of rank and file RIBA members who support continued registration.

Tom Woolley does some architectural work in the Irish Republic where the Government has recently introduced a bill into parliament which will lead to the registration of architects and this is supported by the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland.

Speaking for the Unattached group, Donald Wahlberg said, 'we would strongly encourage the thousands of unattached architects to vote in the election, as we know from past experience that a good turn-out would be likely to ensure that an unattached representative could be elected'.

The Unattached group is planning to widen its contacts with other unattached architects, who can communicate support and obtain more information by contacting the group on unattachedarchitects@hotmail.co.uk.

Tom Woolley can be contacted at 028 90 975466(Queens University direct line)

