

## 1.2 Healthy design creative safety (RIBA & HSE RR925)

### Main Messages

This collaboratively researched and developed report between the HSE and the RIBA has captured all the key drivers and blockers to create health and safety amongst architectural designers and students and academics. Its wider acceptance and understanding is essential for future safe architectural design.

### Summary of Findings

- This research has found evidence of innovative and creative ways of teaching health and safety. It has also revealed that such good practice often addresses health and safety in indirect ways and knowledge is rarely shared between institutions, resulting in variability of approach and delivery of the subject.
- Health and safety is an appropriate subject to cover in undergraduate schools of architecture. There is an academic imperative to the subject and it is not just something that should be dealt with in practice. Many interviewees recognised the need for the subject to be creatively addressed.
- 'Health and safety' is sometimes perceived negatively by students and staff. This is largely due to a misconception that the subject is purely concerned with applying a set of rules in practice.



### Recommendations

- At undergraduate level students need to understand the principles of health and safety thinking, rather than the details of legislation. Students need to understand that as designers they are partially responsible for the safety of others, both during construction and in use.
- A consideration of 'buildability, maintainability and usability' at all stages of the design process is likely to be more engaging and better understood than using the term 'health and safety'.



- Visits to construction sites play an important role in contextualising the students' understanding of health and safety issues. The potential exists for architecture schools to form partnerships with major contractors in order to make site visits more viable. University Estates Departments can also potentially help with this.
- Health and safety strategy should be integrated into design projects where possible, rather than being an abstracted subject.
- University schools of architecture should review the teaching that is given across the undergraduate years to ensure that there is a coherent strategy for teaching health and safety concepts across the degree programme and beyond.

The RIBA and the HSE in conjunction with the Construction Industry Council are endeavoring to embed these recommendations into all UK schools of architecture to develop these skills at the grass roots of the profession. This book assists with the process of understanding a proportionate and practicable approach to education and practice.

