



South East
Centre for the
Built Environment

21 October 2005

Young People in the South East Encouraged to Consider Construction Careers

Young people in the South East of England were given an opportunity to experience the construction industry at work during National Construction Week 6th – 13th October.

Eight events were organised in the South East of England by the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE). Sponsored by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), the events were designed to encourage the area's young people to consider a career within construction and the wider built environment sector.

SECBE Chief Executive, Derek Rees commented,

"Construction is currently the UK's biggest industry employing over 2 million people and offering work in more than 700 different jobs. However, the sector is expanding and we will need 300,000 more people in the next five years. National Construction Week gave us an opportunity to promote the positive image of the industry and we were able to spread the activities throughout our region."

The events included

- A K'Nex competition for 120 pupils in Reading junior schools where small teams of children were asked to design and construct a working model. The models were judged by young engineers and prizes awarded to the winning team.

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- Forty schoolchildren visited SEEDA's flagship site, Chatham Maritime in Kent.
- Students studying architectural technology at Thames Valley University toured SEEDA's Woolston Riverside site in Southampton.
- Visitors and shoppers were treated to a "Women in Construction" craft skills demonstration at the Oracle Shopping Centre in Reading. A small team of women professionals and apprentices demonstrated window restoration and painting and decoration techniques, offering professional career advice.
- Groups of schoolchildren aged 14 and 15 years old from two schools visited the Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZED) in Surrey.

SECBE is a new consortium of business leaders that exists to inform regional policy and drive business-to-business learning and networking. People and skills are key to business performance and National Construction Week was high on the Agenda of SECBE's first Membership Event on the 20th of October.

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***Photo attached:
Reading's Women in Construction at the Oracle Shopping Centre***

More

Notes for Editors:

About SECBE

The South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) is a new consortium of business leaders that exists to inform regional policy and drive business-to-business learning and networking. We are not a “talking shop” - we take regional strategies and industry issues and develop action plans to improve business performance throughout the supply chain.

Owned and driven by its members, SECBE’s programmes of work are identified by its members and agreed by an elected Management Board in consultation with an advisory group of key stakeholders.

The South East Centre for the Built Environment’s business membership is for: Clients, Developers, Designers, Contractors and Suppliers

Member services include:

- ▶ Information & networking;
- ▶ Influence - Brokerage between the industry and strategic regional/local government bodies.
- ▶ Improvement – relevant business tools and services

For further information, please contact,

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