

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

David Lloyd Jones is a British architect based in London, who has for several years specialised in designing and building sustainable schools. Through his architectural practise, *Studio E Architects*, Lloyd Jones and his team have won several contracts and competitions.

During a recent international green architectural and design seminar,¹ he gave a lecture and workshop where he discussed at length some of his projects, the green motivation behind them, and the particular sustainable vision that went into them. He and *Studio E Architects* have been responsible for Newark Primary school, Inverclyde Academy, Upland Primary school, college boarding houses and technology centres, as well as 2 London Academies at Southwark and Hackney, amongst many others.

Lloyd Jones spoke passionately of his belief in planning ahead now for future generations as part of his motivation in working on school buildings. He sees education and sustainability as two key issues that are very closely linked, and are crucial for the sake of the future survival of humanity and our planet.

“In my experience, most sustainable building designs and projects are a blend of the local climate, the sustainable technology and materials that are available and affordable,² and the local culture – that is, who is going to be involved in the project and actually use the building once complete,” Lloyd Jones said in a short interview after his lecture: “All these elements come together in the site – where the exist-

ing school is, and what is actually on the site right now, be it existing buildings, run-down³ buildings, no buildings at all, a recreational field, or whatever.”

The first part of Lloyd Jones’ projects always starts with the wish to engage with the school and the local community. He asks them the same question: “what sort of school do you want?”, and then he

and his team engage everyone in working out together exactly the answer to this question. He said that the motivation behind this is to “engage and influence young minds”: when the children themselves see that they are invited to engage in a design and discussion process, they have a stake in the future, through their school and as part of the local community.

He spoke more about the joy of working with school children as they imagined the kind of school they would want to be in and learn within. At one of his projects, a primary school, the children repeatedly talked about an observatory to see the planets, and Lloyd Jones was able to design and build a unique stand alone classroom in a corner of the playground, that contains an observatory area.

(Adapted from *sustainablebuild.co.uk*)



GLOSSARY

- 1 a small group of advanced students in a college or graduate school engaged in original research or intensive study under the guidance of a professor
- 2 relatively low in price
- 3 dilapidated

READING COMPREHENSION

● Answer the following questions.

- ① Who is David Lloyd Jones?
- ② Where does he work?
- ④ What kind of buildings does he design?
- ⑤ Why does he think sustainability is so important in architecture?
- ⑥ What are sustainable buildings based on in his opinion?

ACTIVITIES



SYNONYMS

● Read the text again and find synonyms for the following words.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| ① Planners | | ⑤ Finished | |
| ② Speech | | ⑥ Desire | |
| ③ Topics | | ⑦ Kind | |
| ④ Mixture | | ⑧ To watch | |

WRITING

● Summarize the passage above.