

PRESS RELEASE

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Design Quality in The Big Apple

The Design Quality Indicator (DQI) is being applied to US\$320 million worth of public building projects in New York City, by New York City's Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

These projects are being facilitated by Goran Lukic, who trained as a DQI facilitator in April this year. Goran is the first person from outside the UK on the CIC register of DQI facilitators.

Commissioner David Burney, head of the DDC, became aware of the DQI tool after he was contacted by Goran and his colleagues who thought the tool would help them involve stakeholders and deliver better design quality in their current projects. Initially the DDC is applying the tool to 35 projects from police stations, firehouses, libraries, clinics, and museums over the next year.

The use of the DQI tool in New York will build on the 700 projects which have, or are currently, using the tool in the UK.

Graham Watts, CIC Chief Executive said:

"Soon after we started developing the DQI in the late 1990's it became apparent that the work we were doing to create a methodology for measuring design quality was unique. Being web-based the tool is already available to users anywhere in the world and though we have never promoted it outside the UK it has been tentatively used by a small number of clients in Europe and elsewhere. We were delighted to receive Goran's application to train as a facilitator and that he and his colleagues are pioneering the process in the USA. Adoption by New York City represents a very exciting step for the DQI and we are looking forward to working with Goran and his colleagues to adapt the process to encompass American culture."

Commissioner David Burney said:

" "Design and Construction Excellence in Public Works" is a stated goal of the Bloomberg administration. But how do we define success in achieving that goal, when "design quality" can be a subjective value? The Construction Industry Council's "Design Quality Indicator" provides a sound methodology for measuring design quality. With DQI we will have a metric by which we can monitor our progress during design, and gather valuable feedback on our completed projects."

Goran Lukic, DQI facilitator said:

"The opportunity to be part of the DQI rollout into the United States is an honor for me. From the first time I became acquainted with the DQI, I understood the benefits that it could bring to our built

environment, and subsequently, society itself. That the DDC has chosen to trail blaze this new technology is a testament to New York City's foresight in the value of good design and a validation of the CIC's quality of product."

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Notes to the editor:

1. CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.
2. The New York City Department for Design and Construction, see www.ci.nyc.ny.us/ddc
3. The DQI is a web based toolkit to assess the inherent design quality of buildings. CIC launched the DQI in October 2003. See www.dqi.org.uk.
4. The DQI facilitators register is a register hosted by CIC of professionals trained in facilitating the DQI. See www.dqi.org.uk/facilitators

Contact the CIC Press Office on 020 7399 7400 or email press@cic.org.uk alternatively call William Hawkins, Policy and Operations Manager, Design Quality on 07834 197 546 or email whawkins@cic.org.uk