

Departments merge to form new School of the Built Environment

The Department of Urban Planning is being merged with the Department of Architecture and Building Technology to form a new School of the Built Environment.

The new school, to be launched tomorrow, will be headed by Professor Saffa Riffat and consists of the Institute of Architecture, Institute of Building Technology and Institute of Urban Planning.

The aim of the school is to bring together architects, engineers and planners to carry out interdisciplinary teaching and research in innovative ways to meet the need of the construction industry for the 21st-century.

Meet the need

Academic staff of the three institutes will be based in the building currently occupied by the Department of Architecture and Building Technology — Wortley Hall — while the Urban Planning building, Paton House, will

become a centre for postgraduate studies.

“The merger of the two departments will allow more effective use of resources including secretarial staff, technicians, computer and workshop facilities,” said Professor Riffat.

“Students from the three disciplines will use the same studio space and will be encouraged to work on their design projects as part of a team involving architects, engineers and planners. This should allow better integration of architectural design, planning and services — a feature often lacking in many modern buildings.”

This month, the school launched a new MSc course in renewable energy and architecture, which encourages architects and engineers to work together to design buildings which use ‘environmentally-friendly’ technologies for heating, cooling and power generation.

In October next year, the school intends to launch an innovative degree, MA Eng, which will produce graduates with a dual qualification in architecture/building services engineering.



● Professor Saffa Riffat

Accreditation of the new degree will be sought from the RIBA/CIBSE. It is also intended to launch in the near future another interdisciplinary degree involving architecture and planning.

Campus welcomes World Games

The University was chosen as one of five venues this summer to host the 1997 World Games for people with cerebral palsy.

The event — known as the Robin Hood Games because of its association with Nottingham — attracted nearly 900 competitors from 37 countries to take part in nine different sports.

“To welcome elite athletes to the University is an honour and these athletes were elite in every sense of the word,” said Diane Hardwick of the Sports Centre. “Many of them already have their sights set on Sydney 2000 and several are already paralympic medallists in their own right.”

The University was selected as a venue for the boccia and swimming competitions, while other events — including athletics, football, powerlifting, canoe slalom and sprint, table tennis, bowls and cycling —



were held at other venues within the city.

The Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA) is one of the youngest international organisations for sports for the disabled, but has one of the largest memberships. It works alongside other disability sports federations to give an identity to people with cerebral palsy and provide greater opportunities to show that even those with a severe disability can compete at the highest levels.

Cerebral palsy is a condition of great

complexity. Brain damage, usually caused at or around birth, has many effects and lack of balance and co-ordination, communication difficulties and many other conditions may result.

Normal learning patterns in terms of movement and co-ordination are never experienced, consequently, participation in sport poses particular challenges.

Specific coaching techniques are required and,

for the purpose of competition, classification is necessary — allowing for groups of people with similar types of abilities to compete against one another.

“Taking place over nine days, the games took place in a wonderful atmosphere of friendly rivalry, team spirit and genuine joy and camaraderie shown by all teams as they celebrated one another’s triumphs and commiserated with each other in their disappointments,” said Diane.