

# Creating new schools

## Don't just spend the money!

**Ministers have announced plans for a level of expenditure on school buildings unprecedented since the Victorians created a school system. TEN's Martin Rogers insists that we must invest it, not waste it**

Capital investment in school buildings is due to exceed £5 billion in 2005-06. There will be a particular emphasis on the renewal of secondary schools, with the aim of achieving facilities "of 21st Century standard" for every secondary pupil within 10 to 15 years from 2005-06. (See DfES consultation paper *Building schools for the future*, February 2003, and TEN Policy Briefing 11/03.)

This is a very ambitious aim, but a very exciting opportunity. Success will depend on making the very most of the expertise, vision, commitment, skills and energy of all those involved – and on involving and engaging all those who will use these new facilities, whether for learning or teaching; leisure or work.

We should try to emulate the Victorians, and set our successors in the 22nd Century the challenge of matching our achievement.

The temptation must be avoided to cut corners either to make sure the money gets spent on time or (paradoxically) to economise and spread it further. Both will lead to deficiencies for which we will not, in future, be thanked.

This pamphlet draws together some ideas, describes some exciting current developments and points the way to further information that will be helpful to those lucky enough to be facing the challenge of creating a new school – whether from scratch or by refurbishing existing buildings.

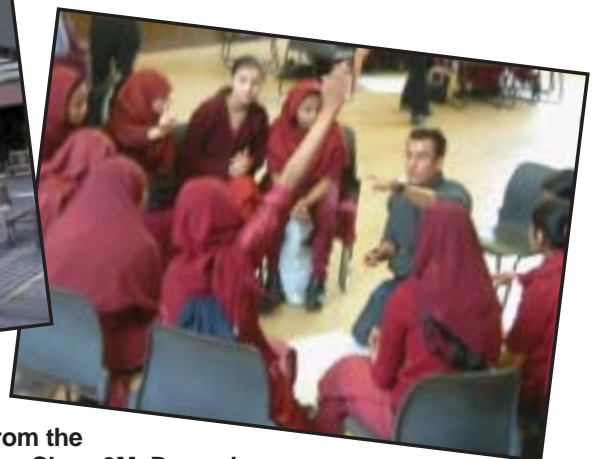
Inside you will find key points for LEAs; invaluable tips for headteachers, drawing on a colleague's experience; news of approaches, including a webgame, to draw pupils into the design and decision-making process; ideas for inspiring positive responses, for evaluating success, for influencing behaviour and for making the most flexible use of the spaces being created – all drawn from current and developing practice.

Few of us get more than one chance to create (or recreate) a school with which we're involved, so we need help to make the most of the opportunity – without being marginalised! We hope the pamphlet will help to raise awareness of what is possible, and what can be achieved – and will help ensure that we create a valuable investment for the next generation, and not a costly inheritance.









Main picture: Virtual Dream Courtyard - from the Mulberry School student design workshop, Class 9M, December 2002. Left: the finished design. Above: one of the existing courtyards. Right: a series of workshops led each stage of the project.













