

## CONSTRUCTION ECOLOGY FORUM – RECORD OF DEBATE

**DEBATE TOPIC:** **'THIS FORUM PROPOSES THAT IT IS IMMORAL TO PUT HEATING SYSTEMS IN NEW HOMES'**

**DATE:** **12 DECEMBER 2001**

**Chair:** Ashley Bateson

**Presenting the case for:** Andy Ford  
Chani Leahong  
Julian Williams

**Presenting the case against:** Brian Mark  
Kate Crawford  
Kevin Bishop

**Attendees:** Henrietta Lynch  
Ignacio  
Richard Shennan  
Hyvan Wong  
Hannah Blossom  
Kristian Dickinson  
Gwen Mark  
Chris Buckley  
Allan Homewood,  
Susie Woolett  
Peter Nissen  
Jay Upple.

No.	ITEM
	<b>MAIN ISSUES PRESENTED BY THE TEAM 'FOR' THE PROPOSAL :</b>
•	Avoiding the need for space heating in new homes would be a significant way of reducing future energy consumption (heating in the domestic sector accounts for 15% of anthropogenic CO <sub>2</sub> emissions)
•	Engineers should be aware of the dangers of global warming and make responsible decisions.
•	Many Housing Associations already accept that the main environmental design objective should be to maintain a comfortable condition and how this is achieved is up to the designer (i.e. promotes the principle of a well-insulated envelope).
•	Designers should consider the poor who cannot afford to spend money on heating bills by focusing design on super-insulated homes.

<b>No.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>A communal facility for warming and drying clothes should be provided as an alternative to providing the same mechanism to heating a whole house.</p> <p>Old people with a habit of being frugal often don't want to spend money on heating fuel and that is why there are a lot of deaths from hypothermia in Britain.</p>
	<p><b>MAIN ISSUES PRESENTED BY THE TEAM 'AGAINST' THE PROPOSAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't take 'big brother' approach to heating, if people want central heating – let them have it.</li> <li>• Don't take too many risks when designing – if you know it works then use it.</li> <li>• The appropriate use of controls allows building users to set their own criteria.</li> <li>• Radiators are very good for warming your socks and gloves as you will be particularly aware if you have children.</li> <li>• Even relatively energy efficient apartments designed to the new Building Regulations Part L have noteworthy heat losses, say 500W, which must be heated some way or other.</li> <li>• If you don't have heating there is a risk that people will die from hypothermia.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>THE VOTE:</b></p> <p>'for' the proposal: 9</p> <p>'against' the proposal: 7</p> <p>Interestingly a lot of people got 'converted' during the debate because a vote at the beginning showed that only 4 people were originally for the proposal.</p>