

G A L E & S N O W D E N
A R C H I T E C T S & E N G I N E E R S

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Directors: D Gale L Millyard I Snowden



Introduction to Gale & Snowden Architects & Engineers

Gale & Snowden Architects Ltd are an award winning practice that integrates ecology, building physics and landscape design with elegant functional architecture.

This approach involves an in-house fully integrated design team of building and landscape professionals who specialise in ecological design including: architects, planners, building physicists, mechanical and renewable engineers, landscape architects, species specialists, biologists and permaculture designers.

Our fully integrated approach allows us to provide specialist and efficient, low environmental impact design services for our clients that produce simple, passive and elegant design solutions that are cost effective as well as innovative.

Gale & Snowden are unique in that we have undertaken exclusively low environmental impact design since 1992 and as a result we have a wealth of experience and a quality portfolio of buildings demonstrating healthy, passive design and very low energy buildings that are practical to run and work properly.

We pride ourselves on our professional, user friendly approach and actively encourage client and building user participation at all design and construction stages.

The practice is a Chartered RIBA Practice with efficient and robust quality management control processes and procedures to ensure we continue to provide a consistent high quality services to our clients delivering projects on time and to budget. We aim to exceed our clients expectations in all that we do.

Following construction, projects are monitored to ensure that they perform as designed and we continue our involvement with the client and building users to ensure the best possible service has been delivered and the buildings are operating optimally.

Gale & Snowden have undertaken a range of projects including schools and colleges, community projects, arts centres and public buildings, as well as commercial buildings and various scales of domestic buildings projects.

As an integrated low environmental impact design team, Gale & Snowden provide the following services:

- Full RIBA architects design and management services for all RIBA Workstages
- Full ACE Mechanical Engineering services for all RIBA Workstages
- Computer modelling using IES software for buildings and landscaping, e.g. thermal, summer overheating, daylight, etc.
- Integrated renewable energy design services
- Permaculture and ecological landscape design
- Building Regulations Part L compliance and supporting documentation
- Building energy monitoring
- Building analysis and trouble shooting
- Research and Development



Design Philosophy

Gale & Snowden design is informed by our concern with the importance of creating structures and landscapes that are energy efficient, healthy and ecologically sustainable: never before have such considerations been so important for the future.

We seek to create buildings that rest harmoniously with nature rather than fighting against it. Our designs are sympathetic with people's needs, and mindful of the wider ecology. So the buildings we create consume the least possible energy, cause the lowest levels of pollution, and make the lightest possible environmental footprint.

We employ a practical and imaginative approach to the need for light, space and air in simple structures, bounded by natural materials such as wood and slate. The resultant

buildings feel comfortable and healthy to be in, uplifting and inspirational. Their efficiency means low energy and water bills as well as frugal carbon emissions and low environmental impact.

Materials are chosen for their low embodied energy, are derived from sustainably managed or recycled sources, are non-toxic and are produced as locally as possible.

Attention to detail and the incorporation of passive design features such as passive solar gain, ventilation, breathing and heating systems all characterise our creative approach.

The practice is also trained in permaculture design, fostering the integration of buildings and landscape, people and their environs, to provide ecologically sustainable systems.



Our Approach

Since our formation in 1992, Gale and Snowden have become leaders in low environmental impact design, consistently accepting only those briefs that meet the principles of sustainable architecture. We are recognised, and are award winners, for our innovation and quality of output.

We pride ourselves on the excellence of our working relationships with clients. Our services are, as you would expect, tailor-made for each individual project to achieve high calibre architecture within the budget we've agreed at the outset.

The practice has an office in Bideford and Exeter and undertakes work throughout the region and nationally.

Working with the client

For successful design, it is essential that the client's needs are clearly understood. At the inception, we encourage a full and candid discussion between architect and client. That continues subsequently with the design team and contractor to ensure complete clarity around the brief and to check that all feasible options have been sufficiently considered.

With an initial brief established, we will suggest a number of design alternatives for review with the client, allowing the brief to be tested against criteria such as cost, site conditions and planning issues.

Design options will then be evolved until a definitive solution has been identified. As the project goes forward, more detailed designs will be produced, all with the client's close involvement.

That close collaboration continues throughout the design and building process and includes extensive post-construction support, including guidance on achieving low environmental impact through to buildings maintenance and cleaning.

Partnering

Although we are fully experienced in running projects with a variety of building contractors, Gale & Snowden prefer, where possible, a partnering basis. This means that the client, contractor and design team work together from the outset. We have successfully used partnering contracts, including PPC 2000, on a number of our projects.

Design team

Gale & Snowden have developed a network of key professionals including quantity surveyors, structural engineers, services engineers and lighting and other specialists. Working whenever we can with largely the same group of professionals over time helps ensure not only that our own team keeps abreast of all relevant environmental design matters but also that best value can be achieved for the client.

Craftspeople

With clients' interests in mind, we have also established quality working relationships with teams of well-proven craftsmen and women such as cabinetmakers, joiners, heating installers and electricians.



Key environmental principles in our designs

Design features that we at Gale & Snowden incorporate into our architecture aim to achieve maximum savings in energy and water running costs and include:

Energy efficiency

- Making the most of natural daylight, through rooflights and windows to give buildings a light and airy feel as well as being primarily day lit.
- Buildings are super-insulated, and triple-glazed timber windows are specified to minimise heat loss.
- Thermal mass is incorporated in the internal walls and floor to reduce fluctuations in internal temperature, and new buildings are orientated where possible to benefit from passive solar gain.
- Buildings are designed to require minimum space heating. All new buildings will require no space heating for most of the time apart from exceptionally cold periods. Energy-efficient boilers are specified and renewable energy sources such as solar, coppiced timber and ground-source heat pumps are adopted wherever appropriate.

- Energy-efficient lighting and appliances are also specified. In public buildings, infra-red person sensors in the main areas and WCs with daylight-override controls are recommended.
- Passive ventilation systems are specified where possible for energy-efficient ventilation of kitchens and bathrooms, further reducing energy consumption.

Water efficiency

- We adopt appliances with low water consumption such as 3/6 litre dual flush WCs, pressure reduction valves, low consumption showers and taps.
- Rainwater collection from the roof, for use in WCs and external watering further reduces the demand for and cost of water supply.

Low maintenance

- We specify natural, durable, and low maintenance finishes. In new buildings, exteriors are clad in untreated green oak, which requires minimal aftercare.



Healthy buildings & environments

Gale & Snowden Architects design buildings in accordance with good practice to achieve healthy environments through the careful selection of non-toxic materials and through healthy design principles such as:

- Specification of hard floor surfaces throughout (tiles, marmoleum, timber) to avoid dustmites.
- Energy efficiency and adequate and natural ventilation to ensure thermal comfort.
- Adequate provision of daylight.
- Organic paints, stains and waxes throughout.
- Minimum use of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).
- Avoiding the use of PVC by careful product selection.
- A 'breathing' construction so that vapour migrates through the fabric in a controlled way, achieved by careful specification.
- Minimising the building's environmental impact by the adoption of sustainable materials featuring low-embodied energy, and derived from the most locally available and sustainable sources.

External landscape

Where possible, our designs will enhance the landscape by:

- Hedge planting, including native species, around the site perimeter to enhance wildlife.
- Micro-climate design including windbreaks to shelter the site
- Enhancing and creating new water features to provide grey and black water treatment and additional wildlife habitat.
- Forest garden and permaculture planting techniques, featuring trees and shrubs that are largely native to the area, as well as decorative and fruiting. Planting should be mainly perennial or self-seeding.
- Reinforcement of existing wildlife habitats and creation of new ones.



Awards

Oak Meadow Sustainable Housing, Devon

- 2009 Civic Trust Awards, Mention
- 2007 Housing Corporation, an example of how social housing “could and should look”
- 2006 Barnstaple & District Civic Society, Highly Commended
- 2005 National HomeBuilder Design Award winner ‘Best Social Housing Development’; The Architects Journal/Mail on Sunday
- 2005 Building Magazine Sustainability Award winner
- 2005 West Country Publications New Living New Homes Winner for Best Sustainable Construction and Best 2 Bedroom Home
- 2005 Arnold Sayers Award for Housing Design, Commendation
- 2004 Devon Environmental Business Initiative winner sustainable construction award
- 2002 Green Apple, National Champion

Upton Sustainable Urban Extension, Northampton

- 2007 BREEAM EcoHomes Award for Plots 1-19, Block 6, Site B
- 2007 CABA Building for life award, Silver Standard
- 2007 Top Sustainability Community, East Midlands Branch Royal Town Planning Institute

Bluecoat Infant School & Early Years Centre, Devon

- 2006 Barnstaple & District Civic Society, winner Herbert Dyer Memorial Shield

Woolery Sports and Community Hall, Devon

- 2008 Devon Environmental Business Initiative. Winner Carbon Reduction Category
- 2008 SW England Green Energy Awards, Runner up, Best small energy scheme
- 2003 Civic Trust Vital Villages Special Award
- 2003 Devon Environmental Business Initiative Sustainable Construction, runner up

Trelowarren Sustainable Development, Cornwall

- 2008 Times Travel Green Spaces; Winner Best Place to stay in Britain 2008
- 2007 Cornwall Business, Winner Best Diversification
- 2006 Green Apple for Eco Tourism, Gold, Winner
- 2006 First Choice Responsible Tourism, Highly Commended, Best for Innovation and Technology
- 2006 SW England Green Energy Awards, Highly Commended, Best Renewable Energy Scheme
- 2005 CoaST Ambassador for Sustainable Tourism
- 2004 Business in the Community, Big Tick for Restoration of the Great Office
- 2004 Cornwall Tourism, finalist self catering establishment of the year
- 2003 Green Apple, National Champion
- 2003 Cornwall Tourism, Green tourism initiative of the year



Services

Architecture and Mechanical Engineering

- Full RIBA architects design and management services for all RIBA Workstages
- Full ACE Mechanical Engineering services for all RIBA Workstages
- Computer modelling using IES software for buildings and landscaping, e.g. thermal, summer overheating, daylight, etc.
- Integrated renewable energy design services
- Permaculture and ecological landscape design
- Building Regulations Part L compliance and supporting documentation
- Building analysis and trouble shooting
- Research and development
- Historical and listed building work

BREEAM for offices and EcoHomes

As members of the Environmental Assessment Consortium we provide advice and formal BREEAM assessments.

Carbon Trust Consultancy Services

As consultants for the Carbon Trust, we can provide the following services:

- Opportunities Assessments – identification of energy uses and recommendations for energy saving measures

- Detailed Survey – developing energy saving opportunities
- Design Advice – encouraging use of low carbon design methods for new and refurbishment of buildings

Display design

Exhibitions, public galleries and individual display design

Ecological design reports

An appraisal of sites, designs, building materials and energy efficiency measures

Energy advice

To clients and tenants, involving on site training, the preparation of booklets and user guides and the monitoring of installations

Permaculture design

Integration of buildings and landscape to create ecologically sustainable systems.

Planning consultancy

Planning consultancy work including planning applications and planning appeals

Research and consultancy

Including energy efficiency guides, good practice guides, and expert advice regarding certain aspects of sustainable design.



Key Personnel

The practice was formed in 1992 by David Gale and Ian Snowden. The Gale & Snowden mission is the same today as at formation: to create buildings and landscapes that are ecologically sustainable and beautiful in design.

Gale & Snowden employ and recruit highly skilled professional staff. The practice employs 5 qualified architects, 3 trainee architects and a senior mechanical engineer. Our support staff of 2 are highly skilled and include a qualified accountant and an experienced office administrator.

There is a stimulating and supportive office environment able to harness the intelligence, enthusiasm and skill of staff for the benefit to our client's projects.

The principal staff comprise:

David Gale (Director)

BA(Hons), Dip Arch (Cant) ARB RIBA

David has overall responsibility for client liaison and delivery of projects. David has considerable input at all stages of projects and maintains high level client liaison throughout projects. David proactively resolves problems within a partnering ethos with the client and contractors to ensure that the success of the project is secured. David is the Director in charge of CPD and human resources. David has been asked to carry out numerous talks and seminars and TV features as a result of his experience in sustainable design and his involvement with our multi-award winning Oak Meadow. David's particular skills include:

- Registered Carbon Trust Design Advice Consultant
- BRE and BRECSU consultant on energy efficiency research and dissemination
- BREEAM for Offices trained assessor

- Permaculture designer
- Civic Trust Award Assessor 2004 and 2005
- Key note speaker on sustainable construction at national events such as BRE 'Sustainable Refurbishment' conferences throughout the UK
- RIBA/BRE Competitions Assessor – Zero CO₂ housing
- Part time lecturer in ecological design at the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture
- David received the RIBA President's Silver Medal and the RIBA South East design award in 1990.

Ian Snowden (Director)

BSc (Hons), Dip Arch (Abdn) ARB RIBA

Ian established the practice with David Gale in 1992. Ian's key role in the practice is technical quality management throughout all RIBA workstages for all projects and to provide technical support throughout the practice.

Ian is a working director and is involved in all stages of key projects, quality control and project management. Ian ensures that the attention to detail is maintained at all times throughout the work in the practice, which is essential in delivering passive design strategies and beautiful architecture.

- Permaculture Designer
- Part time tutor/visiting tutor at Robert Gordon University Aberdeen, Edinburgh University and Plymouth University
- Advisor to the North Devon District Council's 'sustainability forum'
- Ian received an award in the Gordon District Council competition in 1991 for the design of a visitor's centre at the foot of Bennachie.



Lawrence Millyard (Director)

BA (Hons) Dip Arch (Southwest) ARB RIBA

Lawrence is the Director in charge of Health & Safety and he is the Director of the Exeter office. Lawrence has extensive in designing and delivering projects of varying size and type.

Prior to joining Gale & Snowden in 1998 Lawrence worked for a number of large architectural practices in the Bristol area. He concentrated on large scale multi-storey projects and has specialised in managing projects on site. He was the contractor's site based architect for the Connaught Group on the Legoland development at Windsor, where he completed seven projects.

Later, with PSA, his projects included office developments for Sun-Life Equity & Law at Bristol and a Naval refit development for Type-23 frigates at Devonport, Plymouth. Lawrence is an Ecohomes Trained Assessor.

Allyson Vernon (Senior Architect)

BA (Hons) Dip Arch (Cant) ARB RIBA

Allyson is a BREEAM for Offices Trained Assessor.

Before she joined Gale & Snowden in 1998, Allyson's experience was mainly in the education and commercial sectors. She worked with MacCormac Jamieson Prichard Architects in London for five years on high specification residential facilities for students at a number of Oxford and Cambridge colleges and on fast-track refurbishment projects for the London School of Economics. She has won several design awards and has worked on a number of successful competitions.

She worked with a pioneering digital electronics development company in London and Hampshire, converting and conserving several historic buildings to provide highly serviced research and development premises. She was also employed as clerk of works for Construction Resources, the UK's first ecological building centre.

Allyson received the RIBA president's silver medal with highly commended in 1990.

Tomas Gartner (Architect)

ARB RIBA

Tomas joined Gale & Snowden in 2007. Tomas is a licensed Code for Sustainable Homes Assessor (BRE) and Passivhaus Designer

Ian Farnfield (Graduate Architectural Assistant)

Ian joined in November 2008

Jonathan Barattini (Graduate Architectural Assistant)

Jonathan joined in September 2009

Ben Wilson (Jnr Architectural Technician)

Ben joined Gale & Snowden in 2005

Jason Fitzsimmons (Senior Mechanical Engineer) BSc (Hons) Energy & Engineering Studies

Jason joined the practice in July 2008 and is a low carbon energy assessor, BREEAM for offices trained assessor and has worked for a number of large building services engineering firms as a senior Mechanical Engineer.

Maria Gale (Practice Manager)

BA(Hons) MSc Environmental Technology (Imperial College)
Chartered Accountant (Price Waterhouse)

Maria also contributes to the practice's environmental consultancy work.

Jane Creese (Office Administrator)

Jane joined Gale & Snowden in February 2008.



