

# RIBA



Royal Institute  
of British Architects

---

## News release

13 June 2008  
for immediate release

### RIBA and Shelter launch Architect in the House 2008

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) East has announced that TV presenter and property expert Melissa Porter has launched Architect in the House, a fundraising initiative run by Shelter and the Royal Institute for British Architects (RIBA), offering the public the opportunity to create their dream home, while raising money for homeless people.

Melissa, best known for presenting TV shows such as 'I Own Britain's Best Home' and 'Put Your Money Where Your House Is', is supporting this year's campaign. She says architects can help homeowners unlock hidden potential with their properties.

Architect in the House is a unique opportunity for homeowners to discuss design changes to their home with a top RIBA architect. It's very simple: architects nationwide give up their time for free to offer hour-long consultations to the public, in return for a £40 suggested donation to Shelter.

From knocking down an interior wall, to adding a new floor or extension, a consultation with an architect can help make your dream home a reality, while raising funds to help Shelter's vital work with homeless and badly housed children.

Melissa has produced a handy guide, explaining how an architect can help you achieve your vision, including everything you need to know about signing up to the scheme from 2 June 2008 – it can be found at [www.architectinthehouse.org.uk](http://www.architectinthehouse.org.uk).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Melissa Porter says:

"Many people think architects are only for the rich and famous, but Architect in the House is a fantastic way to show how we can all benefit from their advice. Today's high property prices mean many people can't afford to move, but a little help from an architect could help you create more space, add value to your home and allow you to enjoy it for years to come".

Sunand Prasad, President of the RIBA said:

"We often know our homes need changes but how to start and what will it cost? It can be daunting to take the plunge and many of us simply never get around to it. This scheme is a great way to speak to a professional about design potential and discover what works best. And thanks to the architects generously giving up their time, Architect in the House is a great way for the profession to raise money to help people struggling to find a place to live.

Adam Sampson, Chief Executive of Shelter said:

"Many of us take pleasure in improving our homes, but sadly, 1 in 7 children across Britain are homeless or badly housed. Architect in the House is a great way for homeowners to get some expert advice on making the most of their property, while helping thousands in desperate housing need."

Notes to editors

Louise Todd, Regional Director, RIBA East, commented:

"We are appealing to both the public and to our architects across the Eastern Region to become involved in this valuable initiative which benefits home owners, architects and Shelter alike. Architects offering their design services are chartered members of the RIBA and have extensive skills and expertise with home improvements and extensions and many have won some very prestigious awards for their designs of private homes."

For further press information on Architect in the House, please contact: Carri Crook, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or [carri@carismacommunications.co.uk](mailto:carri@carismacommunications.co.uk)

# RIBA

or Mina Vadon in the RIBA press office on 020 7307 3761 or [mina.vadon@inst.riba.org](mailto:mina.vadon@inst.riba.org) or Vicky Smith in the Shelter press office on 020 7505 2162 or [vicky\\_smith@shelter.org.uk](mailto:vicky_smith@shelter.org.uk).

The public can sign up to the scheme from 1 June 2008 at [www.architectinthehouse.org.uk](http://www.architectinthehouse.org.uk)

The RIBA East region includes the counties of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Essex and Bedfordshire. Consultations with a local architect are subject to availability in your area.

One in seven - 1.6 million children overall - in Britain are growing up homeless, trapped in temporary accommodation, squalid or overcrowded housing. [Shelter estimate based on official statistics of children living in overcrowded, temporary or unfit housing across England, Scotland and Wales]

Ends

## Notes to the editor:

1. RIBA East consists of over 2000 registered architects and almost 400 registered practices.
2. For media enquiries please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or email [carri@carismacommunications.co.uk](mailto:carri@carismacommunications.co.uk).
3. For further information on the RIBA, please contact Louise Todd, Regional Director, RIBA East on 01223 566285 or email [louise.todd@inst.riba.org](mailto:louise.todd@inst.riba.org).