

At Capita Architecture we see Sustainable Design as part of our core business, it is not an add on, but an embedded and integrated approach to design.

"We provide an integrated response appropriate to the clients needs, location, social and economic context."

The above statement provides the key to how we approach design. We use it as a definition of sustainable design but it is, of course, a definition of **good design**. We seek to give clients only **what they need**.

To deliver this does impact on the way we work. The fundamental approach is to ensure we **understand the brief** and our **clients aspirations**. The process requires all the significant work which affects the outcome to be done in **in the early stages of the design**. The main principles must be embedded from the outset or we risk resorting to bolt-on accessories, which either get "bolted-off" during value engineering, or become "**eco-bling**", fashionable accessorizing which can often have a negative impact by the time embedded energy costs are accrued.

Our strategy for delivering sustainable design:

- Develop a **Project Specific Brief** at inception
- Develop **Sector Benchmarks** and appropriate targets for each project
- Monitor Brief through **Sustainable Design Reviews**
- Provide design teams with tools and assists to make **early design decisions**
- **Front load** the expertise in design projects
- Set out our design process in bids
- Capture **current** expertise and experience
- Use **Research & Development**

