

Working for Design South East

We are currently hiring:

Design Advisor – Grade 1

Design Advisor – Grade 2

Training Manager

Why are we hiring?

We are building a network of support for local authorities, developers and designers across London and the South East of England. Unprecedented housing growth is creating new issues for our cities, towns and villages; densification of traditional centres, urban extensions into the greenbelt, new garden villages. That is where DSE comes in. We provide cost-effective, accessible expertise to bring practical solutions to design challenges. As more and more hard-pressed local authorities get to know how our help can transform the way they deal with design in the planning system, we need to grow our team.

Who are we?

We are an independent charity dedicated to improving the quality of design in the built environment. We have a small staff team of design professionals and project managers. We work in a highly mobile way with two hubs in London and Kent but mainly out in the field, building relationships with local authorities, facilitating advice services and learning events.

We are the fastest-growing design advice organisation in the country, working with planning authorities, design professionals, land owners, developers and local communities. We work in London, the South East and the East of England. We are constantly evolving the ways we advise and support local authorities, developers and designers. We do not compete directly with consultancy firms as we provide a different type of advice; accessible, bite-size, often acting as a 'clients friend' at the early stage of projects.

We work with a network of around 200 leading experts from various built environment disciplines who form our expert panel. They are a fascinating group often the top designers and thinkers in their fields. We harness their energy and goodwill and direct it to the knotty problems of growth and place-making that many communities are facing. Our work encompasses the full range of development projects from complex, high density mixed-use schemes, to new settlements, public buildings and single private houses.

More information can be found at designsoutheast.org

To deal with today's design challenges we offer a range of design services;

Design review

Design review is currently the biggest part of our work. Our main design review panel reviews new developments throughout London, the South East and the East of England. We see all types of schemes including complex high-density mixed-use urban developments, lower density urban extensions, new settlements and single private houses. Our design reviews can also cover some unusual buildings like lifeboat stations, war memorials and football stadiums. We also manage a number of

local panels including panels for Brighton and Hove, the London boroughs of Kingston and Sutton, and a number of authorities in Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Essex.

Design support

Design support includes one-to-one advice on smaller schemes and policy for local authorities, managing architectural competitions, developing design guides, assessing housing schemes against the Building for Life 12 standard.

Workshops and charrettes

An important part of our work is facilitating events that bring together stakeholders and communities to jointly plan the future of a site, district, town or city. These are hands-on events which use interactive exercises, mapping and sketching to analyse places and build a consensus about how they could be improved. Charrettes and workshops will result in a report which might inform planning policy, community action plans or the beginnings of a neighbourhood plan.

Training and networking

We are commissioned by local authorities throughout London and the South East to provide in-house training on design-related issues for elected members and officers. These can include brief sessions with councillors before a planning committee, half-day design training events for up to 50 people and study tours to look at exemplary developments.

Kent Design is a unique programme of CPD and networking events which we manage on behalf of the Kent Planning Officers group. Through Kent Design we offer an extensive programme of masterclasses, conferences, round tables, study tours and networking events. Kent Design now has a strong private sector membership which means most of our events involve professionals from different sectors and disciplines. Other groups of local authorities are keen to adopt the Kent Design model and we will be rolling out new CPD programmes over then next year.

What is the job like?

Your workload will be varied. No two days will be the same and you will engage with some of the most exciting, intriguing and challenging projects in the country. You will be working at the interface between public and private sectors and helping us improve the quality of the built environment through the practical application of evidence, knowledge and best practice. Sometimes you will be working with other staff team members, sometimes with expert panel members, sometimes on your own. You will be supported by the management and admin teams but will need to act on your own initiative and be self-servicing.