

# NEWS UPDATE

ISSUE 2  
SEPTEMBER 2008

# innovative CRAFT

## PLEASE NOTE:

### TRANSPARENCIES: GLASS IN ARCHITECTURE

On Thursday this week – 4 September – we are hosting our first ever talk and discussion at Dovecot. *Transparencies: Glass in Architecture*, a discussion with between distinguished Swedish glass artist Ann Wolff, Jean-Marc Abcarius, and American born Berlin based architect, Christopher Burns. This has been organised in partnership with Northlands Creative Glass. It will start at 6pm.

We would be delighted to welcome you to this event.

*The Urbane living 2 project in Mulackstrasse 12, Berlin-Mitte. Photo: Ludger Paffrath and Hisao Suzuki. See 'Transparencies in Architecture', left.*



MANY thanks for subscribing to the IC mailing list. We aim to keep you up-to-date with our own, Dovecot, and other craft-related activities with intermittent newsletters such as these. We are also inviting occasional guest blogs to our website and are happy to consider suggestions for comment pieces for this via our enquiry form. If you hear of any particularly outstanding exhibitions/events or awards in the field, please do let us know about them. We are keen to exchange information about truly imaginative activity out there, wherever in the world.

IC now has an **office** adjacent to the Weaving Floor at Dovecot Studios at 10 Infirmity Street, Edinburgh. It's a very beautiful space, which some of you will have seen, in progress, at the opening on 2 August or subsequently. We may have had a rather damp International Festival season here in Edinburgh this August, but at IC:Innovative Craft we've been so busy that we've barely had time to notice.

An early **visitor** was the distinguished Viennese conductor HK Gruber; in Edinburgh to conduct the Opening Festival Concert, the *City of Mahagony* by Kurt Weill. His wife is a tapestry weaver and was keen to visit the studios. We have hopes that we can programme occasional concerts in these new spaces, and Herr Gruber was encouraging that this would work, despite the limitations of the swimming pool acoustics! It was delightful to have such a tangible demonstration on how cultural exchange at the highest level works in unexpected ways.

We've been **hosting visits** from all sorts of other interesting people, as well – notably Linda Fabiani, the Scottish Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture and a number of Cultural Attachés from various countries,

who have all shown great interest in the work of IC:Innovative Craft. This interest has, of course, been underwritten by the opportunity to see some of the extraordinary work produced by makers, both local and international, in the opening shows. Tangible objects of quality are fantastic ambassadors. Many thanks to Visiting Arts who hosted the Cultural Attaché visit. IC is very interested in international exchange and we are actively researching projects in Japan, Australia and the USA.

**Visitor numbers** to all the opening exhibitions have been good and the comments extremely encouraging (see the recent blog at [www.innovativecraft.co.uk](http://www.innovativecraft.co.uk)). Press interest in both building and exhibitions has been pleasing, with good coverage by Corinne Julius (despite her name being omitted!) in *Crafts* magazine, a 4-star review in *The Herald*, reviews and comments in *The Scotsman*, *The Evening News*, *The List*, *Scottish Homes and Interiors*, two articles in the anniversary edition of *Artwork* and a BBC Scotland news piece on the Dovecot building, as well as pieces in numerous other magazines and newspapers.

Our **website** is up and running, and we hope you've been enjoying the content. We're constantly ►



adding to the site, particularly by way of blogs and images. If you'd like to know when the site changes, why don't you click on the RSS feed button to get alerts? It's always easy to unsubscribe from this service, or from this news service, if you no longer wish to receive emails from us. Justin Reynolds has been working on this site with us. He is based in the Scottish Borders and has impressed us with his commitment to both quality and clarity. We highly recommend him to anybody looking to build a website.

Plans for **forthcoming events** are continuing apace. Please note the change of date for the Jerwood Contemporary Makers exhibition, which will now run from 14 November 2008 - 31 January 2009. This change is to allow for finishing work to be carried out on the downstairs gallery areas at Dovecot. The building will only be accessible by appointment from 28 September to 14 November. Meantime, we'll

announce other events, via the website, as they firm up.

On 5 September I will be driving North for 5.5 hours with two Museum colleagues to visit the annual Northlands Creative Glass conference at Lybster in Caithness. Among other speakers, the distinguished English ceramicist Philip Eglin will be giving a talk about his work. The programme ([www.northlandsglass.com/courses.html](http://www.northlandsglass.com/courses.html)) looks fascinating and it is well worth considering a visit to their annual conferences, despite the distance. There is a very good comfortable hotel in Lybster and the gatherings are always well planned to bring together international quality in Scotland.

We look forward to welcoming you to future events and keeping in touch.

**Amanda Game**  
Lead Director



*Above left: Linda Fabiani (left), Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, is shown work at Raising the Bar by Lead Director Amanda Game (right).*

*Left: The weaving floor at Dovecot.*

*Below: Guests begin to arrive on opening night at Raising the Bar.*

