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## **RIBA PRESIDENT VISITS CRC SMARTLIFE CENTRE**

**4 February 2010**

**The first woman president of RIBA, the Royal Institute of British Architects, toured Cambridge Regional College's internationally acclaimed SmartLIFE centre as part of a fact-finding visit to the region.**

Ruth Reed, a keen supporter of low carbon building, met principal Rick Dearing before talking to staff at the SmartLIFE centre and hearing more about its innovative work in modern methods of construction.

She then went on to a meeting of the Construction Industry Council East, held at the College, to talk to members.

Barrie Wicklen, CRC associate principal of sustainable development and a member of CIC, said Ruth had been very impressed with the work being done at the College.

"She had a tour of the premises focusing on the SmartLIFE centre and the innovative work we do in promoting modern methods of construction before going on the meeting, where we were able to exchange views at a very difficult time for the industry," he said.

David Adamson, chairman of the regional council, said CIC had long had close and productive discussions with successive RIBA presidents.

"CIC East is pleased that these discussions continue, and there was a useful dialogue on related topics during the CIC East executive committee meeting," he said.

The pioneering SmartLIFE centre, built as a showcase for sustainable development, houses an innovative training centre for sustainable systems and practices. It aims to deliver strategic solutions to sustainable growth by raising the skills level of the industry.

CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations in the construction industry.

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the Eastern Region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and around 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.