

Design Review in a Client Organisation: A reflective practitioner perspective

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Design review is intended to improve the quality of the built environment by providing project teams with independent expert advice at key development stages. As the process becomes increasingly localised limited guidance exists that is directly relevant to local authorities, developing organisations and community groups implementing review as a self-initiated component of their development process.

This paper critically explores a unique design review service situated within a large client-organisation operating in the housing sector. Founding the interdisciplinary practitioner panel was conceived as a means of creating a formative environment where project teams could access independent expertise and apply design processes to add value to residential developments. A reflective account from the perspective of the practitioner responsible for operating between the panel, project teams and senior stakeholders is presented to explore the impact of intersecting power dynamics on the formation, actions and efficacy of review as a collective design process.

Biography:

Dhruv Adam Sookhoo is a chartered architect and planner. As Head of Design at Home Group he supports effective design management to champion better residential design quality across a national development programme. He is visiting lecturer at Newcastle University, where his doctoral research explores inter-professional attitudes of architects and planners.
