Interrogating the Dynamics of Regulations in the Design of Housing

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Over the last few years in the UK there has been significant debate regarding how to regulate the design of new homes that has been characterised on one side by a desire to reduce regulation and on the other to retain or increase regulation. This paper reviews two areas, one where there is no regulation (daylight and sunlight) and the other where there is significant regulation (energy efficiency) and evaluates the impact on outcomes of both approaches.

The paper then uses Actor Network Theory to conceptualise the design process as a network of human and material-object 'actors' and illustrates through a case study approach in what ways regulations shape design decisions. This model is then used to reflect on the differences between the two regulatory approaches illustrating how the current discourse is overly simplistic before considering the characteristics of a more effective regulatory model.

Biography:

Simon (simon.bradbury@plymouth.ac.uk) is a registered architect and lecturer in architecture at Plymouth University. He has a background in both industry and government where he was instrumental in developing CABE's policy and strategy on housing standards. His research interests include investigating the socio-technical configurations of low energy housing, design process and regulation.