

MINORITY PROFESSIONS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY

The National Association of Women in Property's new Chairman in its 20th Birthday Year is Cathy Stewart, winner of this year's **CBI** Retail and Property First Woman Award and a Director of Pascall+Watson, architects.

The year long birthday celebrations start in March 07 and include a new Award Scheme for outstanding second year female students studying a built environment degree course. Nine regional winners will receive £500, a summer work placement with a relevant employer, a mentor and membership of the Association. These regional winners then go head to head for the 'Best of the Best' to be announced at an 'Oscar' style event on 25th September 2007 at Claridges, London.

Cathy Stewart said "Our awards scheme are a natural development from our 'Education Roadshows' where our members visit schools to talk directly to girls about career opportunities in property and construction. Many students have no idea about the different careers open to them until they meet women who are actively involved in creating a built environment. The feedback from these events inspired our awards which will also contribute to raising awareness of a career in property and construction as well as rewarding talented students.

"The severe skills shortage is an acknowledged fact in our industry. Interestingly companies supporting our awards see it as an opportunity to talk directly to students about career openings in their particular organisation as well as supporting the Association.

"Attracting more women into the industry is not enough. Retention is key and our mentoring programme, open to members, is now making a contribution to this problem. Mentoring provides advice and experience at a very personal level from inspiring role models and is employers see it as an effective tool in their human resources service."

Women in Property started in 1987 when Elspeth Clements, an architect, met Michelle Foster, a chartered surveyor, at a property event and commented on the small number of women in the industry. From this chance meeting Women in Property was created and now holds 150 events a year, that is three a week, with a record 1500 members who uniquely represent all the professions in property and construction.

The Association provides members (who are still in the minority) with a dynamic forum for

- their professional development
- To exchange views
- network
- acquire knowledge and provide business opportunities.

Members include architects, surveyors, and other professionals. It encourages girls and women to go into the world of property and supports the retention of women in the industry through its unique mentoring programme.

The national sponsors of Women in Property 20th Birthday Year are Argent, HBOS, Cushman & Wakefield, Davis Langdon, Jones Lang LaSalle, Mace and Pascall+Watson, architects

Information on Women in Property can be seen at www.wipnet.org

Ends

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Editors' Notes

Women in Property has 1500 members in 12 branches in England, Scotland and Wales. It organises 150 events at national and regional level every year.

Pascall+Watson celebrated their 50th Birthday in 2006. They have continuously provided quality modern architecture to the transport and education sectors. Quoted as being the biggest aviation architects in the UK and the second largest transport architects in the world, they are currently rated 20 in the Building Top 100. Pascall+Watson now have over 200 staff in four regional offices located in London, Manchester, Limerick and Dublin. In 2003 they were shortlisted for Building Magazine's Best Architectural Practice and award 'Best Practice'.

