

# the architecture centre



## FEATURED PROJECT: Anglo-French Affordable Housing Research CLIENT: CABE



Proctor and Matthews Architects photo: Tim Crocker 04

The Centre was asked to develop and manage a design competition and deliver follow-up research for the Unite-Initiative, an Anglo-French Affordable Housing programme, on behalf of CABE and their French equivalent, DAPA, and The Housing Corporation. The aim of the programme was to find learning points and better practice from French and UK architects working together on live sites in and around London and Paris.

Partners for the UK sites were Warden Housing Association and Octavia Housing and Care. The judging panel was led by Ian Ritchie, CABE Emeritus Commissioner and Principal of Ian Ritchie Architects. Practices interested in identifying possible partners in France or the UK registered their details on-line via [www.unite-initiative.com](http://www.unite-initiative.com) where there was further background information.

Following the competition, the Centre led a research team including our academic partner Greenwich University. The information gathered is helping develop better practice by challenging technical misconceptions and to encouraging earlier engagement of prospective residents. Housing Association partners, Octavia Housing and Care, have won awards for the site developed as part of this programme. Results of the research are being disseminated to Housing Associations in France and the UK.

This work is part of the body of housing related activities that the Centre is engaged in to influence and support the quality of new housing developments in the South East.