

# SITE LAYOUT PLANNING FOR DAYLIGHT

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In urban areas, obstructions can restrict access to daylight

This Information Paper outlines revised BRE guidance on site layout planning<sup>[1]</sup> to achieve good daylighting, both within buildings and in the open spaces between them. It deals with daylight within new developments and in existing buildings nearby. It addresses the provision of daylight in dense urban areas and summarises some of the guidance on diffuse daylighting (ie light from the sky). It supersedes Information Paper IP 5/92, which is now withdrawn. A companion paper<sup>[2]</sup> deals with sunlight and solar energy. This Information Paper should be of interest to developers, architects and surveyors and their clients, and planning officials.

## INTRODUCTION

Daylight makes an interior look more attractive and interesting, as well as providing light to work or read by. However, access to natural light depends on the design of the external environment. Large obstructing buildings may make adequate interior daylighting impossible.

BRE Report BR 209, *Site layout planning for daylight and sunlight: a guide to good practice*<sup>[1]</sup>, deals with this issue. It has recently been completely revised to include additional guidance on dense urban environments and issues such as the effects of trees and balconies, and to tie in with other documents including the British Standard Code of Practice for Daylighting<sup>[3]</sup>, which has also recently been revised.

