



Jan 17, 2018 12:24 GMT

Architect's new book examines the importance of tourist visitor centres

Professor Ruth Conroy Dalton has critically analysed 20 award-winning contemporary visitor centres across the UK, including those at The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland; Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland; Stonehenge in Wiltshire and the newly-opened The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre in Northumberland.

Her book, *Designing for Heritage: Contemporary Visitor Centres*, focuses on the most architecturally significant examples of visitor centres to be designed and built throughout the UK in recent years.

Through a series of short essays and beautifully illustrated photographs and architectural drawings, the book examines the social role of visitor centres; their focus on visitors' needs and how architects work to develop a relationship between the centre and its surrounding landscape.

As a Professor of Building Usability and Visualisation, Ruth is particularly interested in how architectural design can place the user at its heart. Her research specialises in the relationship between the spatial design of buildings and environments and their effect on how people understand and interact in those spaces.

Speaking about her inspiration behind the book, Professor Dalton explained: "With tourists expecting higher levels of service, information and retail opportunities, visitor centres have become a vital component in providing access to heritage sites, historic buildings, landscapes of natural beauty and monuments.

"As a consequence, numerous architecturally renowned centres have been designed and built in recent years.

"It is perhaps no surprise that many have been featured in architectural awards, as they not only offer a 'jewel' of a project to architects, being small in scale but high in profile, but the buildings must also respond sympathetically to a rich physical and cultural context."

Designing for Heritage: Contemporary Visitor Centres is published by Lund Humphries and is [available to purchase on Amazon](#).

Northumbria is a research-rich, business-focused, professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. To find out more about our courses go to www.northumbria.ac.uk

If you have a media enquiry please contact our Media and Communications team at media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk or call 0191 227 4604.

Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences

andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk

07708 509436



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk

07377422415



James Fox

Press Contact

Student Communications Manager

james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk