

SBID to lobby for suitable housing for injured servicemen

Society of British Interior
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SBID has partnered with Haig Housing Trust and Haig Homes in support of their 'Coming Home' campaign. SBID wants to ensure injured army personnel's existing homes are adapted with fit-for-purpose products and will consult with real users to influence future legislation. The partnership aims to provide evidence for research and development in product manufacture and to reduce adaptation costs.

Since 1929 Haig Homes has provided good quality housing to ex-Service personnel in housing need and now has 1,350 properties on estates throughout the UK. Haig set up Haig Housing Trust (HHT) in 2008 to provide more rapid and flexible forms of housing help to the Service community. HHT aims to give housing advice to at the earliest possible opportunity to prevent servicemen or their next-of-kin making costly housing mistakes.

The design of disabled equipment used in the home, from hand rails and grab handles to wheel chairs, derives mainly from hospital equipment, and is often unnecessarily clunky, obtrusive and unattractive. Feedback from HHT's disabled tenants and other disabled ex-Service personnel will provide SBID with the data to promote the design of more attractive adaptation equipment and more effectively lobby government.

Following a four year research and collaboration report with government quangos and councils, related organisations and of course end-users, SBID will provide and facilitate valuable feedback to manufacturers for improvement of disabled products, integration with construction companies Suitable Housing and Attractive Adaptations at Minimal Cost Offering support to ex-Service personnel who need it just got easier thanks to a new partnership designed to help them at home relating to adaptation and designers and architects working collaboratively to improve residential interiors for comfort and longevity.

By promoting the production of more elegant adaptive solutions it will enhance the well-being of inhabitants moving into adapted homes and provide more aesthetically pleasing adaptations for people's changing needs. The programme, in association with Hope for Heroes will help stakeholders achieve improvement at minimal financial investment.

The adjustment to the life and wellbeing of just one injured servicemen is a worthwhile cause, creating several is a mission. Together as a society we can achieve it.

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About SBID (Society of British Interior Design)

SBID is the standard-bearer organisation of the profession of interior design in Britain and represents members in practice, higher education and industry. The organisation supports the profession locally, nationally and internationally and is part of a global network of 50,000 designers who are professionally accredited.

SBID is the British organisation selected by the 16 nation members of the European Council of Interior Architects and the NCIDQ in the USA and Canada to represent their professional accreditation standards in Britain.

www.sbid.org

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Useful links

www.haighousingtrust.org.uk

www.coming-home.org.uk

www.sbid.org/about/hm-forces/haig-housing-trust