

## DERBYSHIRE COMPANY PROFITS FROM TRAIN TO GAIN SUPPORT

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A Derbyshire architecture firm is benefiting from a boost in profits thanks to support and funding from Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council to help businesses succeed.

Architect Darryn Buttrill, 39, launched Bi Design Architecture in Repton in 1998. In order to develop his business further, expand and provide more support for his staff, he contacted Train to Gain Skills Broker Geraldine Wilson for help with sourcing relevant course and training to suit the business's needs. As a result he has seen a 50% increase in profit over the last two years.

Darryn has been enrolled on a mentoring programme since February 2006. One of his six employees has also completed an NVQ in Business Administration and another has recently enrolled on an HNC in Construction, both at Burton on Trent Technical College.

Darryn's mentoring scheme is a programme of 15 half-day sessions with a business professional who he can talk to about any issues he has, such as redundancies, staff recruitment and general business management. Thanks to additional support from Train to Gain, he was able to receive the training at a cost of only £250.

Darryn said: "Thanks to help from Geraldine and my mentor I now feel far more confident in how I run my business. Having someone to talk through any problems or queries makes all the difference, as you don't feel so isolated."

“Because of this, operationally the business is better managed, and the investment I have made in staff training and development has really paid off with higher retention and greater output. We have such a great team here and I really look forward to taking the business even further in the future.”

Geraldine Wilson, Skills Broker for Train to Gain, said: “It’s been great working with Darryn and his team, as he was really keen to make his business work a lot smarter and give his employees the chance to develop their skills, qualifications and future career prospects too.

“All companies can access Train to Gain services, although we’re particularly encouraging small and medium sized companies to contact us. Developing skills across the county is vital if we are to increase productivity, support advances in enterprise and innovation and improve our economic well being.”

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at [www.iwanttotrain.com](http://www.iwanttotrain.com) or visit [www.traintogain.gov.uk](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk)

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. Photographs of Darryn and Geraldine are available on request. Contact Gaby Hateley at GNN or download from [www.gnn.gov.uk](http://www.gnn.gov.uk)
2. Train to Gain is a service run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Train to Gain aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through: an organisational needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.
3. The brokerage service for Train to Gain in the East Midlands is provided under contract to the LSC, by East Midlands Business Ltd (EMB); a joint venture

partnership formed by Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Chambers of Commerce.

4. The government commissioned report into skills published by Lord Leitch in December 2006 called for a radical overhaul in adult training and warned that the UK's skill base was lower than many international competitors.
5. Bi Design Architecture is located at 79 High Street, Repton, Derbyshire, DE65 6GF, Tel: 01283 704 082, [www.bidesign-architecture.co.uk](http://www.bidesign-architecture.co.uk).

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY  
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