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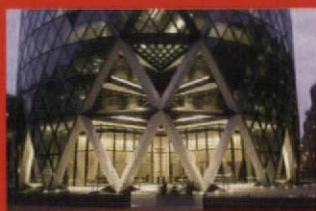


Ten new countries are due to join the EU on Saturday. Should UK architects be excited or afraid? Turn to
pages 14-19 for an overview of the likely opportunities and threats, detailed factual information on each
of the acceding countries, and case studies on British practices which are already exploring the
opportunities these countries have to offer.

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Swiss Re
opens its doors
» pages 6-8

“Councillors play to the gallery entirely for local ends just to make life as difficult as possible for developers”

Piers Gough accuses Camden councillors of whipping up public hostility towards his plans for a £10 million residential development in West Hampstead » page 10

aj news

Country houses face new threat

The future of country houses came under renewed threat last week from a High Court ruling, regardless of whether John Prescott performs a U-turn and decides to retain the PPG 7 clause this summer.

Campaigners are alarmed that the judgment – upholding an inspector's report that rejected a proposal by Batterton Tyack Associates because it was not in the mould of a Classical country house – has set a dangerous precedent.

Both legal observers and the project architect have warned that the decision could sound the death knell for any Modernist or non-Classical country house schemes.

They are concerned that planners and inspectors will use the case as an excuse to throw out any PPG 7 applications that 'don't have the formality and symmetry of a house such as Chatsworth'.

Batterton Tyack's scheme, for an Arts and Crafts-style home in the country, outside Shrewsbury, was rejected at an inquiry last year despite the inspector admitting its design and landscaping was exemplary – the two most important caveats of the PPG 7 clause.

However, the inspector decided that the scheme should be refused because it failed to meet his concept of a Classical country house.

The client's legal representative at the High Court, Lord Kingsland QC, said the reasons for the scheme's refusal were mistaken.

'As far as lacking the essential formality of a country house, the evidence is that style is irrelevant to whether a building meets the test of being truly outstanding in terms of its architecture.'

'There is no requirement in the guidance that it should be formal in style,' he told the court. 'Condemning the design because it lacks formality is contrary to all the evidence and perverse.'

And project architect Susan Casswell said she found the reasons 'galling'. 'I had been under the impression that we were certainly on the right track and that we were going to win this one. But the whole planning appeal was very negative from the start, and the reasons for refusal were quite extraordinary.'

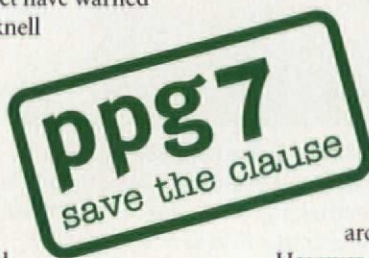
'The inspector said that the scheme lacked the formality of a country house and asked me why it didn't look like Chatsworth and why a Classical architect had not been employed,' Casswell added.

However, rejecting the appeal against the inspector's decision at the High Court last week, the judge said he 'did not consider that the inspector made an error of law'.

It is understood that both the client and Lord Kingsland are considering taking the case to the House of Lords.

A spokesman for the ODPM has denied that there are delays in the publication of the PPG 7 replacement, PPS 7. He insisted the document was important for the future of the rural economy and that the government is determined to ensure that it 'gets this one right'.

Ed Dorrell



Roche withdraws from RIBA race

Maverick council member Chris Roche has pulled out of the running for the RIBA presidency.

Writing to RIBA chief executive Richard Hastilow, Roche said: 'Having given this a good deal of thought, I have decided to withdraw from the race. I have two small children and I feel my commitments may not be compatible with the role of president.'

'Moreover, I accept my more radical proposals may be a little ahead of their time,' he added.

The east London-based sole practitioner courted controversy at the beginning of the year with proposals to hold a referendum on the RIBA's royal charter.

The remaining candidates are Ian Salisbury, Simon Foxell, Richard Saxon, Jack Pringle, Valerie Owen and Brian Godfrey.



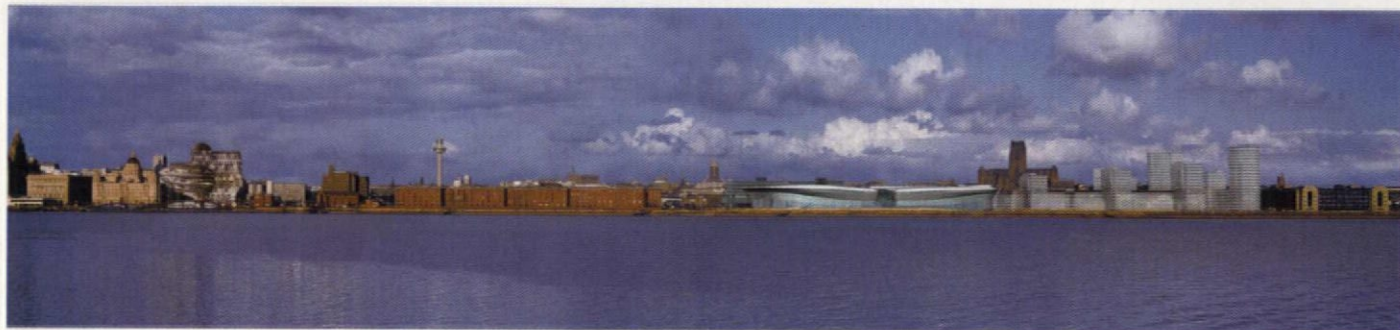
The Barbican Art Gallery reopens this week after a £1 million redesign by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris. The work reveals its 'transformation into an autonomous and flexible world-class arts venue,' a spokesman for the architect said. The two-storey gallery has been sealed off from both the library and foyer below to provide 140m² of new floor space. Key elements of the original architecture were restored. 'Subtle but key interventions respect the Modernist principles of this Grade II-listed building but leave a fundamentally improved space,' the spokesman added. Original concrete columns rising up through the gallery contrast with new flooring, a resin-bound quartz and mother-of-pearl aggregate.

“When Austria joined in 1995 virtually anyone who could wield a pencil was classed as an architect”

John Wright, chairman of the Architects' Council of Europe in Brussels and the RIBA European Affairs Committee, on the expansion of the EU » pages 14-19



Wilkinson Eyre joins Alsop in Liverpool waterfront renaissance



This latest panorama illustrates both the siting of Wilkinson Eyre Architects new competition-winning designs for the Kings Dock (right) and Alsop Architects' plans for the Fourth Grace (left) on Liverpool's waterfront. The Kings Dock proposal has responded to demand from local regeneration agencies for a 'major landmark' on the riverfront, with a 10,000-seat multipurpose arena and a conference centre boasting a 1,500-seat auditorium. The scheme – which sits within an EDAW masterplan for land next to the Albert Docks – will include an 8,000m² exhibition space, a multi-

storey car park and a new plaza. Wilkinson Eyre director Chris Wilkinson said: 'There's an opportunity to design truly world-class, landmark structures in what is an internationally recognised setting.' The site is just along the River Mersey from Alsop's proposed Fourth Grace, a mixed-use multicoloured pod known by locals as the 'Cloud'. Wilkinson Eyre's scheme is due for completion in time for the Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008. The new images form part of an exhibition run by Liverpool Vision called 'On The Waterfront'.

Dutch to join illustrious Hyde Park pavilion club

Dutch practice MVRDV is to join a select Hyde Park hall of fame by designing this year's Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, the AJ can reveal.

This year, instead of being a summer event, the pavilion will open at the beginning of winter because MVRDV's designs aim to 'redefine the concept'.

The Rotterdam-based outfit stole the show at Hanover's Expo 2000 with a blocky design on several floors, with external stairs wrapping around the building.

This project won widespread acclaim, picking up a nomination for the Mies van der Rohe Award, the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture.

MVRDV aims to turn heads in Hyde Park with a similarly dramatic expression, though it is unlikely to rival in size the 40m-high 'vertical landscape' that impressed Expo visitors.



MVRDV turned heads in Hanover

The firm refused to comment on the coup but it joins a high-profile club. Past Summer Pavilion designers have been Zaha Hadid (2000), Daniel Libeskind (2001), Toyo Ito (2002) and Oscar Niemeyer (2003).

MVRDV was set up in 1991 by Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs and Nathalie de Vries, and works from an old printing depot. The 2004 pavilion is likely to explore the issues of density, nature and artificiality that have obsessed the practice throughout its 13-year history.

The practice's 'design philosophy' focuses on 'diversity', inviting different disciplines to collaborate.

Maas is no stranger to Britain and teaches at the Architectural Association as well as European design and technical schools in Delft, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. He has written and edited books including *Farmax: Excursions on Density*, which explores ways of saving empty spaces from being overrun with low-level urban sprawl.

Meanwhile, his firm has won, or been nominated for, prizes for work including offices in the Netherlands, three porters' lodges and exhibition design.

The gallery will host talks and events in the temporary structure, which will include a cafe and bar area. Arup will engineer the design.

Jez Abbott

ARB misconduct case thrown out

An Edinburgh-based architect was cleared of professional misconduct last Friday after the ARB's Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) threw out the case against her.

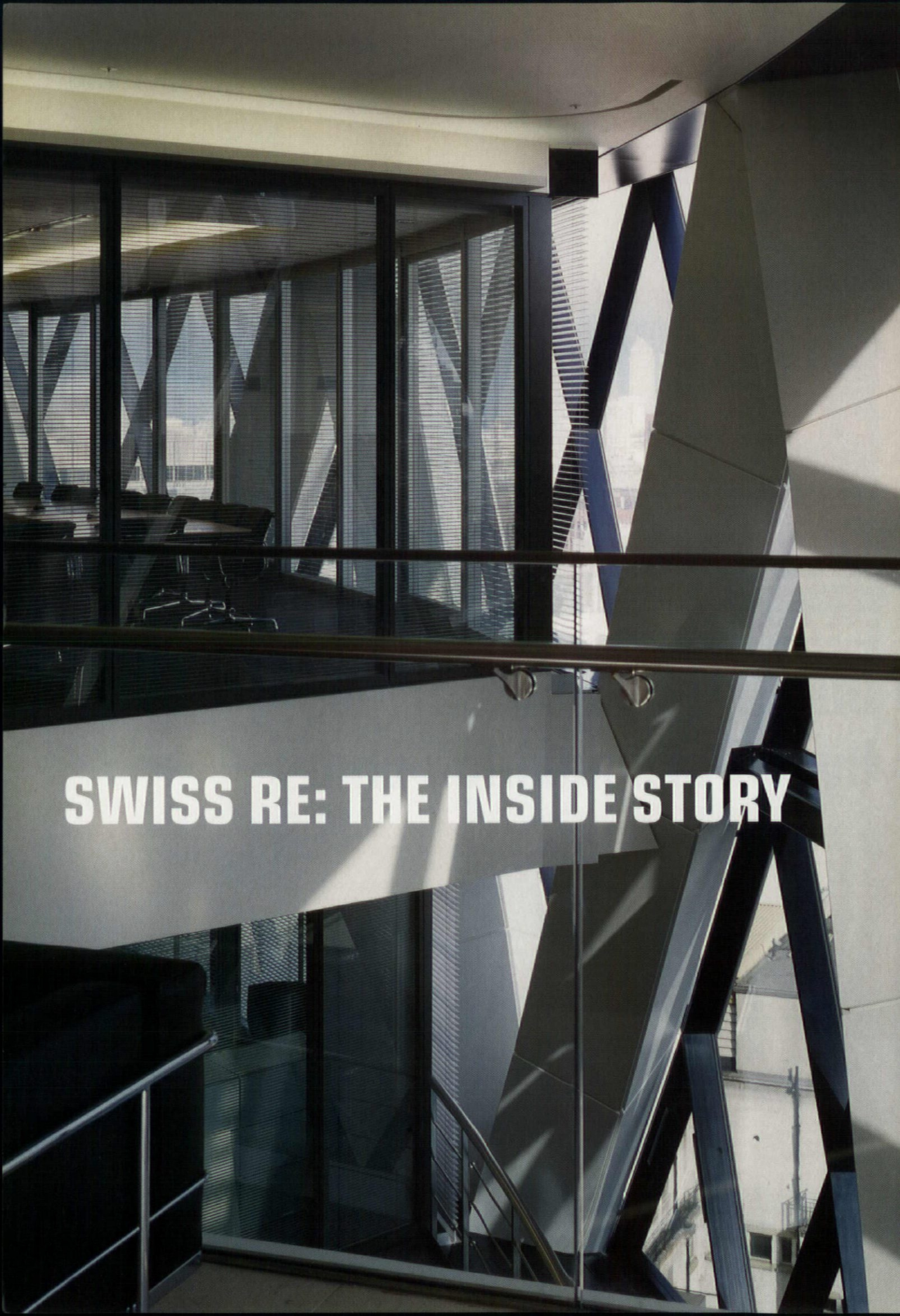
After hearing the evidence, the PCC decided that Lesley Robertson of Lesley E Robertson Architects had no case to answer.

She was charged with failing to provide drawings or documents that were fit for purpose, failing to work according to the Scottish Minor Works Contract and failing to carry out work with due care, skill and attention.

Robertson was first reported to the ARB last year by Antonino Falsone, who had employed her to oversee a domestic house extension in Edinburgh.

However, after the evidence was presented to the PCC in Glasgow last week, Robertson's lawyer successfully demanded that the case be thrown out.

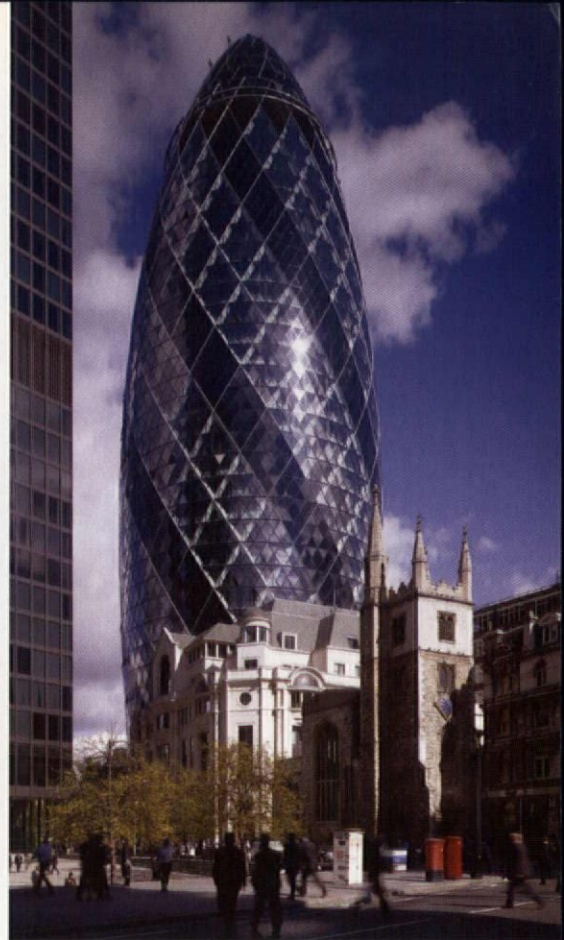
The ARB's Alan Peacock said he was unconcerned by the result as 'it proved the PCC's independence'.

A photograph of a modern office interior. In the foreground, a glass railing with metal handrails runs across the frame. Behind the railing, a large window looks out onto a cityscape. The window is divided into several panes by dark frames. The office space beyond the window is visible, showing desks and chairs. The lighting is bright, suggesting daytime. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional.

SWISS RE: THE INSIDE STORY



PETER COOK/VIEW



Above: an instant icon. Left: meeting room and balcony. Views are dramatic but the double-skin facade makes the outside seem distant

Swiss Re opened its doors to journalists this week, revealing the building's dramatic interior spaces, and showing how bennett interior design has risen to the challenge of fitting out Foster and Partners' iconic city landmark.

The building's radial organisation revolves around a central services and circulation core; an arrangement which takes full advantage of daylight and views but fails to provide the large office floors traditionally demanded by city clients. Spiralling lightwells divide each floor plate into six (almost) orthogonal areas with stepped internal balconies acting as break-out space.

bennett interior design has fitted out floors 2-15 for owner-occupier Swiss Re using a neutral palette of materials complemented by USM's Modular Furniture in steel blue and grey and keeping internal partitions to a height of 1,100mm so as not to obstruct the spectacular panoramic views.

For the AJ's expert verdict, turn the page.

CREDITS

ARCHITECT

Foster and Partners

INTERIOR DESIGNER

bennett interior design

M&E ENGINEER/CONSULTANT

Hilson Moran Partnership

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Arup

ACOUSTIC CONSULTANT

Sandy Brown Associates

LIGHTING DESIGN

Speirs and Major

+ Drawings and more images at ajplus.co.uk



Foster and Partners carried out the main lobby fit-out

THE VERDICT

Swiss Re is not quite the 'eco-tower' that Foster envisaged and lacks the thorough-going radicalism of the Frankfurt Commerzbank. Its fit-out is disappointing. Yet both externally (it is an instant, largely popular landmark) and internally it breaks new ground for the City in a way that only Norman Foster, perhaps, could achieve. Contrary to expectations – circular office towers rarely make practical sense – the (basically rectangular) floor plates are highly efficient. The lightwells that extend up the building and the double-skin facade contribute to an energy strategy that is, for London, extremely progressive – though the double-skin removes the sense of immediacy with the exterior. (Doubtless a boon for vertigo sufferers...) The restaurant and lounge at the top of the building are spectacular (though inaccessible to the public). Here is a project in which the visionary and the commercial meet head on, setting an example to which others (Rogers and British Land at the Leadenhall Tower, for instance) are responding with vigour.

KENNETH POWELL
ARCHITECTURE CRITIC

This is certainly a technically clever building in that it is a simple concept done in a complicated way – or maybe the other way around. Its form, developed from the computational fluid dynamics of air flow and engineering considerations – also, as Norman Foster said, resembling the Fibonacci series of a pine cone, or the unbuilt roof spire at the pre-fire St Paul's or Barnes Wallis' Wellington bomber – is intended to be a 'celebration of the people who work in the building rather than the services that supply it'. By regularising the floorplate to accommodate the seating arrangement – a difficulty created by the plan form in the first place – the result becomes simply a standard, competent modern office. The internal glazed screens necessary for compartmentation and air-flow are intrusive; their reflections are distracting and block off the original sense of spatial freedom. The feeling of openness is further undermined by expensive, clunky office partitioning. However, it is still a spectacular structure. Asked whether he was happy with the fit out, Foster said: 'I could do you a house but then the fit out will be your prerogative,' adding that he was pleased that he had 'been able to influence the concept in bringing light and views into the space.'

AUSTIN WILLIAMS
TECHNICAL EDITOR, THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

Curtain walling: MC Trame Facetted

Windows: Top hung concealed vents

Project: King's College Hospital, London

Architect: Nightingale Associates

Technal's MC Trame Horizontale facetted curtain walling has been used to create a striking curved façade for the north elevation of a new clinical building at King's College Hospital.

The system has produced a gentle curve, spanning four storeys, to give maximum daylight, space planning flexibility and to allow views across London from the upper floors. The curtain walling is glazed in smoke grey tinted glass to reduce glare and carries around 200 concealed windows for natural ventilation.

A distinctive aerofoil cap runs across the façade providing horizontal emphasis and forming an arrowhead return at the extreme ends of the glazed screen to add interest and accentuate the curve.



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Piers Gough slams Camden chiefs



CZWG's scheme for 72 flats on a triangular site along West Hampstead's Fortune Green Road will go to appeal

CZWG boss Piers Gough has hit out with fury at planners after Camden scuppered proposals for a £10 million project including flats and a fitness centre.

Gough said his scheme for a triangular site on West Hampstead's Fortune Green Road ground to a halt after planners dragged their heels for more than two years.

If the scheme ever gets off the ground, it will include 72 flats – 22 affordable – bounded by Hampstead Cemetery and Fortune Green Park. The project also includes 82 basement car-parking spaces.

CZWG eventually forced the hands of the planners by successfully demanding an inquiry for non-determination of the application. 'We did it out of sheer frustration,' said Gough, who described the planning ordeal as a 'ritual humiliation'.

Gough blamed narrow local interests of councillors, who roused public hostility to prevent the plans from property firm Sagar.

'Councillors whip everybody up to get thousands of signatures and the worst part of it is the planning officers won't stand up to them.'

'They play to the gallery entirely for local ends, knowing they will

probably lose on appeal, just to make life as difficult as possible for developers. It's crap and I'm fed up with it.'

Friends of Hampstead Cemetery urged the council to be as 'aggressive and as thorough' as needed to deal with the planning application.

Tory councillors complained that the four-storey development was too big, while Labour criticised the lack of affordable homes.

Gough claimed that he could trace the problems back to bad feelings over a CZWG application for a scheme of 10 houses two years ago: 'They turned it down and we went to appeal. The inspector didn't just say it was an unbalanced decision, he went into overdrive about how good the scheme was. It was a devastating denial of their decision.'

CZWG associate Luigi Beltrandi said an appeal for the Fortune Green Road scheme was due around September. A government inspector will be appointed and local residents may be invited to make presentations.

Jez Abbott

Former student to restore Louis Kahn's Yale University gallery



Kahn's showcase gallery was Yale University's first Modernist building

Louis Kahn's first major building – a showcase for Yale University Art Gallery – is set to be restored by one of the architect's former students.

The gallery's main block was designed when Kahn was a visiting critic at Yale's architecture school and opened in 1953.

It was the university's first Modernist building, and the brick, glass and concrete design boasted a windowless facade next to older buildings writhing in Gothic details.

The inside, however, has become cluttered with partitions – which will be removed –

while the windows and walls also need repairs.

New York's Polshek Partnership Architects aims to complete restoration by 2006, said founding partner James Polshek.

'I was a student of Louis Kahn's in 1954,' he said. 'The chance to restore this early masterpiece to the architect's original version is extraordinary.'

The building's restoration forms part of a wider ongoing masterplan for the university. Future work includes the relocation of a history-of-art block to a new building designed by Richard Meier.

Stakes high as gaming giant rivals Arup with second Salford stadium

ArupSport's £100 million stadium and casino plan for Salford is embroiled in a row after a developer took a gamble on a rival scheme on the same brownfield site.

The new plans – from Peel Holdings – come as ArupSport's application for the Salford City Reds rugby league team's 20,000-seat stadium (AJ 28.8.03) awaits a planning committee meeting in four weeks.

Red City Developments managing director Adam Thomas said the unveiling of rival plans, also including a 20,000-seat stadium and casino, was bizarre.

'It's our land and the council has signed the deal,' he said. 'I don't see what they think they will gain from it.' He warned that those behind the alternative may raise objections on the retail element in an effort to force a public inquiry.

But Thomas added that he was 'very confident' it would not go to public inquiry, pointing to a 'more controversial' scheme to move Wimbledon Football Club to Milton Keynes that was approved by the secretary of state in February. This was despite it being on a greenfield site and having a bigger retail element.

'The quality of the stadium is the key,' said Thomas. 'ArupSport's design integrates the casino and hotel. We have not bolted on elements as we've gone along. From day one we've worked on a seamless design.'



ArupSport's plans are yet to be given the green light

Peel Holdings, owner of the Trafford Centre, said it would submit an outline planning application with gaming giant MGM Mirage for the rival scheme.

The two firms are now in the process of developing plans for entertainment schemes worth more than £650 million in Glasgow, Manchester and Liverpool.

Salford council leader John Merry said the authority wanted the best for the rugby league side and felt the stadium was an 'iconic and dramatic statement' and it had to act as an 'honest broker between the two'.

The row comes after the government's recent Gaming Bill, which aims to ease restrictions on British casinos. ArupSport said it could not comment.

Jez Abbott

Monument threat causes MP uproar

Angry campaigners are rounding on conservation chiefs over threats to strip hundreds of historic Scottish monuments of their protected status.

Politicians, academics and historians fear a public consultation on 7,700 monuments – from castles to clay pits – could lead to many losing their standing as scheduled ancient monuments.

The Scottish Green Party and SNP led the attacks, with the Greens criticising the plan as an 'appalling betrayal of Scotland's heritage'. Less protection would be a gift to developers, who would build more houses, they added.

However, a Historic Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We are talking about bumps and lumps on the ground in the vast majority of cases. The few buildings tend to be industrial or wartime designs.'

She insisted there were no immediate plans to strip the monuments of status. The three-month Scottish Executive consultation ends in mid-June.

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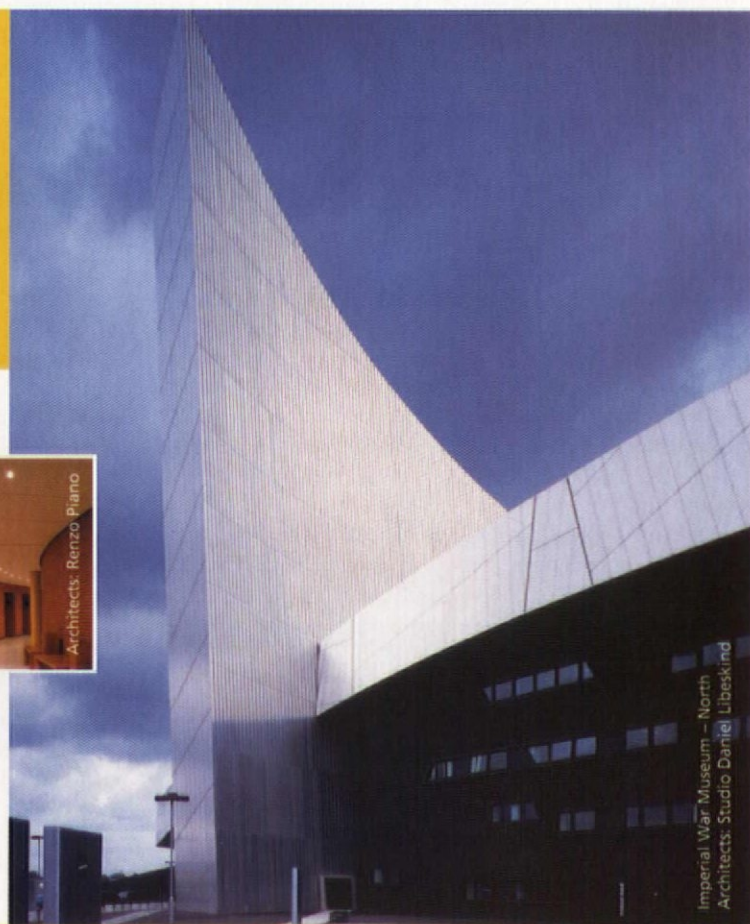
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Imperial War Museum – North
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Building with Conscience

Simon Hughes steps into Potters' Field stand off

The Liberal Democrats' London mayoral candidate, Simon Hughes, has joined the fight against Ian Ritchie's controversial plans for a group of small towers near Tower Bridge as they go to public inquiry.

The MP for Bermondsey stepped into the battle by holding a press conference yesterday, just one day before the seven-week inquiry into the Potters' Field scheme started.

In doing so he squared up to the man he wants to topple, Ken Livingstone, an avid supporter of the project.

Hughes is siding with locals and Southwark council in condemning Ritchie's plans for a cluster of mini towers – ranging from 12 to 19 storeys – on the sensitive site opposite the Tower of London.

The inquiry is set to be a flashpoint of resentment as English Heritage and the Historic Royal Palaces join forces with Southwark and Hughes to take on Ritchie and mayor Livingstone.

Livingstone weighed into the battle last year, saying he was 'extremely disappointed' with council planners for throwing out the application in September (AJ 11.9.03). A seething Ritchie, meanwhile, also attacked the council for bias.

However, council leader Nick Stanton said this week: 'This planning inquiry will throw open a

stark choice: should Potters' Fields be used to build flats that only a fraction of Londoners could afford? Or should it become the location for a world-class cultural attraction and two new primary schools?

'There is no doubt Southwark needs more affordable housing. But we also need investment, jobs and school places for our growing population – things that Berkeley Homes' proposed scheme simply will not provide,' he added.

Tooley Street and Tower Bridge Community Association has also swung into action, complaining that the glass and metal towers are too high and dense and would damage views of

Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. The group also insists the site should not be used for commercial residential development.

'For an area of outstanding historical, cultural and aesthetic significance the development proposed is entirely unsuited,' said a group spokesman. 'The outcome has far-reaching implications for the future of London's development and local communities must have a greater say in planning if 21st-century London is to be a world-class city.'

Neither Hughes nor Ritchie were available for comment.

Jez Abbott



Simon Hughes is to fight the plans

'Too little done to design out risk'

Builders are dying in site accidents because designers and architects are not doing enough to reduce risk, a new report has warned.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has found designers do too little to design out risk. Work at height continues to be the biggest cause of fatalities on building sites, accounting for two-fifths of all deaths.

'There is still a long way to go before we can say designers are making a real contribution to reducing the death toll and injury caused by falls from height,' said Joy Jones, the HSE's principal construction inspector.

'We are concerned some designers want to rely on harnesses to prevent people falling when it is much better to design out the need to work at height or, if needed, ensure it's done from a safe place with proper guardrails,' she added.

Between 1998 and 2003 some 429 people were killed on sites in the UK and almost half of those died after a high fall – averaging nearly one person a week.

The HSE is targeting designers with 18 guides – on issues ranging from refurbishment to roofs – available at www.hse.gov.uk/press/2003/e03234a.htm

Crossrail essential for Thames Gateway plans, says LDA

The London Development Agency (LDA) and its Thames Gateway partners have warned the government that its massive house-building exercise planned for the area will fail without the Crossrail project.

The authors of its latest report – *London Thames Gateway Development and Investment Framework* – claim that the east-west Underground rail link is essential if the planned regeneration is to succeed.

'To support the higher density development, we need to link the Thames Gateway's urban centres with each other and integrate them with London's core,' the report says.

'Transport for London has set out an ambitious programme of new transport development, including Crossrail from east to west.

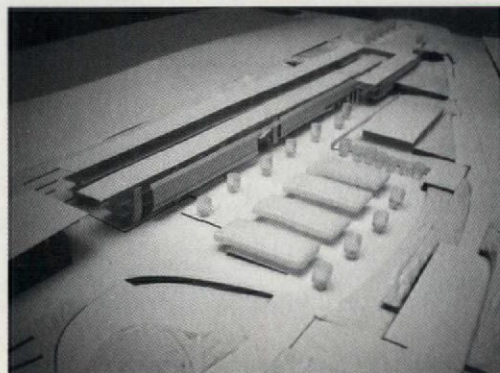
'Together with the extension of the Docklands Light Railway, these will be crucial in ensuring that new development in Thames Gateway is integrated, attractive and of a sustainable quality and density,' it adds.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport, however, refused to be drawn on the topic. 'We understand that Crossrail is very important,' he said. 'That is why we have commissioned a study on it.'

'We are considering it at the moment and will announce our thoughts on its conclusions when we are ready,' he added.

A spokesman for the LDA agreed that Crossrail was 'very important', insisting that the agency was lobbying the government to win its support.

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Durmus Inancly designed this thermal hotel and rehabilitation complex when a fourth-year student as a part of his BArch in architecture studies at Uludag University in Turkey. The project takes the atrium as its starting point, with an area of transparent cooling pipes. One of the challenges was the closeness to a major highway, an effect that Inancly minimised with the positioning and orientation of the buildings. The forms, however, are derived from the motion of cars.

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In short, we are doing the right thing and implementing national and local urban policy.

This is an open invitation for urban design ideas for two sites within the East End of Newcastle upon Tyne.

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For a copy of the design brief and all enquiries relating to this tender and further information please contact:

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Tel: 0191 277 7196

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EU EXPANSION

Opportunity or threat?

As of 1 May these 10 countries, many of which are former Soviet bloc satellites, will become full members of the European Union. What are the implications for the UK's architects? **Michael Hammond** reports

Employment

One immediate implication of the European Union (EU) expansion is that residents of the 10 acceding countries (AC10) will be able to work in the UK and vice versa. However, disparate training and qualifications can make this dangerous. Under a 'grandfather clause', anyone defined as an 'architect' in their member state is automatically recognised by the EU as an architect after 1 May. John Wright, chairman of the Architects' Council of Europe in Brussels and the RIBA European Affairs Committee, explains: 'A line is drawn in the sand and we have to accept what we get, but immediately after inclusion all new qualifications must be in-line with European guidelines. This issue was highlighted when Austria joined in 1995

and virtually anyone who could wield a pencil was classed as an architect.'

Many of the incoming states, however, influenced by strict 'technocrat' regimes, tend to be highly qualified and are probably more technically competent than in the UK. Even within Europe there is no compulsory standardisation in training but there is a gradual move towards the UK's model of five years' full-time plus two years' practice training. Germany and Austria have both adopted this structure.

Funding

The billions of euros heading for the AC10 states could present significant opportunities for UK architects, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, healthcare, education, housing

and government buildings. Wright points out that 'previous EU investment in Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Greece completely transformed those countries and Spain, for instance, has now shifted from a being a recipient to a contributor and the funding will instead flow into the AC10 countries.' He predicts that funding will be for similar projects.

The process of increasing stability and security since the demise of the Soviet Union has been slow but progressive and must be set to speed up. This is creating a sound basis for investment, a fact recognised by the international financial community. The climate is looking favourable for a period of sustained growth for those brave enough to head east.



New to the EU (clockwise from top left): the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Cyprus and Estonia

NEW EUROPE – STRONGER ECONOMY?



YES

According to the Foreign Office, an enlarged European Union will boost European stability, security, trade, jobs and prosperity. It estimates that the enlargement will add £1.75 billion to UK GDP and create more than 300,000 jobs across the EU. Since 1990, UK trade with the 10 new member states has increased by more than 400 per cent compared with a 43 per cent increase in our trade with the rest of the world.



NO

Global financial services firm UBS disagrees, arguing that the impact on existing EU members will be limited, since the economic size of the acceding countries is still relatively small. The main effect, it argues, will be on labour flows and competition in markets for goods and services. 'Fears that the labour market in western Europe may be destabilised are grossly exaggerated. Europe's problem of ageing will not be resolved by EU enlargement but rather exacerbated.

+ DO YOU THINK THE EXPANDED EU WILL BE GOOD FOR BRITISH ARCHITECTURE? REGISTER YOUR VOTE AT AJPLUS.CO.UK



THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Area: 78,866km²
Population: 10.3 million
Capital city: Prague (pop: 1.2 million)
Languages: Czech
GDP: US\$132.4 billion (£74.9 billion)
(purchasing power parity)
GDP per head: US\$12,900 (£7,300)
(purchasing power parity)
Annual growth: 2.5 per cent
Inflation: 3.8 per cent
Major industries: metallurgy, machinery, motor vehicles, glass, armaments
Major trading partners: Germany, Slovakia, Austria, France, UK

THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Area: 49,000km²
Population: 5.5 million
Capital city: Bratislava (pop: 428,000)
GDP: US\$27.8 billion (£15.7 billion)
Annual growth: 4.4 per cent (2002)
Inflation: 7.6 per cent (Feb 2003)
Major industries: metal and metal products, food and beverages, electricity, gas, coke, oil, nuclear fuel, chemicals and man-made fibres, machinery, paper and printing, earthenware and ceramics, transport vehicles, textiles, electrical and optical apparatus, rubber products
Major trading partners: Germany, Austria, Italy, Czech Republic

THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

Area: 316km²
Population: 397,000 (2001)
Capital city: Valletta
People: Maltese
Languages: Maltese, English
GDP: US\$7 billion (£3.9 billion)
GDP per head: US\$17,000 (£9,600)
Inflation: 1.46 per cent (March 2003)
Major industries: tourism, electronics, the Malta Freeport (duty-free container trans-shipment port), financial services, the Malta Drydocks
Major trading partners: UK, Italy, France, US, Germany, Benelux countries

THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Area: 20,273km²
Population: 2 million
Capital city: Ljubljana (pop: 330,000)
Languages: Slovene; in nationally mixed areas also Italian and Hungarian
GDP: US\$20 billion (£11.3 billion)
GDP per head: US\$11,025 (£6,240) (2002)
Annual growth: 2.5 per cent (2003)
Inflation: 5.5 per cent (2003)
Major industries: textiles, leather goods, wood and timber processing, chemical, rubber and plastics processing, metal processing, machinery production, electrical and optical instruments, the manufacture of motor vehicles and vessels
Major trading partners: Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Switzerland

THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

Area: 45,227km²
Population: 1.4 million (2002)
Capital City: Tallinn (pop: 411,600)
Languages: Estonian (the official language), Russian
GDP: US\$5.54 billion (2002)
GDP per head: US\$3,957 (2002)
Annual Growth: 5.8 per cent (2002)
Inflation: 5 per cent (2002)
Unemployment: 12.6 per cent (2002)
Major industries: timber, food processing, machine production
Major trading partners: Finland, Sweden, Germany

THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

Area: 93,030km²
Population: 9.92 million
Capital city: Budapest (pop: 1.7 million – 2001)
Languages: Hungarian (98.2 per cent)
GDP: \$65.8 billion (£37.2 billion) (2002)
GDP per head: \$6,477 (£3,660) (2002)
Annual Growth: 3 per cent (2003)
Unemployment: 6 per cent (2003)
Inflation: 9.2 per cent (2001)
Major industries: mining, metallurgy, construction materials, processed foods, textiles, chemicals, motor vehicles
Major trading partners: Germany, Austria, Italy, Russia, France, US, Netherlands, UK (2000 est)

THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Area: 65,200km²
Population: 3.6 million
Capital city: Vilnius (pop: 578,400)
Languages: Lithuanian (the state language), Russian
GDP: US\$29.2 billion (£16.5 billion) (purchasing power parity) (2002)
GDP per head: US\$8,400 (£4,700) (purchasing power parity) (2002)
Average annual income: US\$3,350 (£1,890) (World Bank, 2001)
Annual growth: 4.5 per cent (2002)
Inflation: 0.8 per cent (2002)
Unemployment: 12.4 per cent (2002)
Major industries: textiles, oil processing, timber and agricultural products
Major trading partners: Germany, Sweden, Denmark, UK

THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

Area: 64,100km²
Population: 2.38 million
Capital City: Riga (pop: 800,000)
People: 58 per cent Latvian, 29 per cent Russian, 9 per cent Belarusian, 4 per cent other
Languages: Latvian (state language), Russian
GDP: US\$20 billion (£11.3 billion) (2002)
GDP per head: US\$8,300 (£4,690) (2002)
Annual growth: 4.5 per cent (2002)
Inflation: 2 per cent (2002)
Major industries: timber, textiles, oil transit, food
Major trading partners: the EU, Russia

THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Area: 312,000km²
Population: 38.6 million
Capital city: Warsaw (pop: 1,932,500)
GDP: US\$176.3 billion (£99.7 billion) (2001)
GDP per head: US\$4,556 (£2,570) (2001)
Annual growth: 1.3 per cent (2002)
Inflation: 1.9 per cent (2002)
Unemployment: 17.3 per cent (June 2002)
Major industries: machine building, iron and steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages, textiles
Major trading partners: Germany, Italy, Russia, Netherlands, France, Ukraine, UK

THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

The northern part of the island refers to itself as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) but is not internationally recognised
Area: 9,250km² (3,355km² controlled by the TRNC)
Population: 754,064
Capital city: Nicosia (pop: 195,000)
People: Greek Cypriot (78 per cent), Turkish Cypriot (18 per cent), Maronites, Latins (4 per cent)
Languages: Greek, Turkish, English
GDP: US\$8.8 billion (£4.9 billion) (2000)
GDP per head: US\$13,900 (£7,860) (2000 est)
Annual growth: 5.1 per cent (2000)
Inflation: 4.1 per cent (2000)
Major industries: tourism, food, beverages, textiles, chemicals, metal products, wood products
Major trading partners: UK, US, Italy, Germany, Greece, Russia, Bulgaria



While many of us in the UK cannot even name the 10 acceding countries, a few pioneering UK practices have already set up camp in anticipation of a 'gold rush'



JESTICO + WHILES

Jestico + Whiles is very positive about the benefits of working in eastern Europe and has completed projects in Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. Associate architect James Dilly says: 'With the advancement of communication technology we are now able to utilise staff from the Prague office on UK projects.' Dilly also praised the competence of the local staff and suggested that there was no 'deficit' in technical ability. Citing a recently completed cinema project as an example (*pictured above and below*), he says: 'They just didn't have experience in this kind of contemporary building. But now they have.'



LEWIS & HICKEY

Lewis & Hickey has been operating in Prague since 1995, and after a bad experience with a local partner opened its own office. The Prague office was initially seen as a base for entry into other countries but the local market is so strong that most of its current projects now lie within the Czech Republic, such as the Mango retail store in Prague (*pictured above*). Projects cover a cross-section of work but partner Tim Hall points to the significant growth in the housing and industrial sectors. 'Typically the Czechs lived in very small, basic Soviet-style apartments,' Hall says, 'but now their standard of living is increasing they are moving to bigger, more traditional homes in estates.' In the early days the practice had its fingers burned with local developers but now clients are mostly international developers.

Maintaining a local staff contingent of about half has been vital to deal with the quirks of the Czech approval process – red tape still presents a problem with no fewer than nine 'hoops' instead of the UK's two-part system of planning and building regulations. At one time the practice employed a full-time chaser, taking bits of paper from desk to desk to have them stamped. Hall does not see any change to this in the short term.





EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS' ALLIANCE

Lyn Edwards of GMW has taken a different approach. He founded the European Architects' Alliance (EAA) – an innovative framework of European alliances across 30 offices in 12 countries employing more than 500 staff. Its method is to draw on local knowledge and experience, including language, legislation, customs and practice, process, contracts and supply. But significantly it adds a western, English-speaking component that can be a great comfort to international clients, including Tesco and Carrefour, which are rolling out programmes across Europe.

The EAA uses a system of affiliation that is based upon the European Economic Interest Group (EEIG) structure and only

becomes formalised legally when a contract is won. The process then defines which party takes the lead role. Risk is managed, with all projects having a risk management study and being protected by public indemnity (PI). Edwards forecasts growth in transportation, including airports (GMW is working on three airports), rail, roads and ferry ports. This will be further boosted by the enlarging network of embassies and their inter-European connections. This fusion of resources provides an excellent example of how collaboration can be achieved without going to the costly and potentially risky route of setting up dedicated overseas offices.

The retail development (pictured above) was designed by Murray Ó Laoire Architects within a riverfront masterplan in Bratislava by SOM.

Low-cost flights have made it viable to fly to a meeting in eastern Europe and return on the same day. But many problems still remain...

BUREAUCRACY

The harmonisation of building regulations within the EC is a slow process. It has apparently been working on this for some 20 years, but some say there is another 20 to go. Essentially the transition has been from national (British Standards) through international (International Organization of Standardization) to European (European Committee for Standardization). Whereas planning authorities in the UK typically form an umbrella for other departments, in eastern Europe these can be more autonomous and roads, water, drainage, fire, etc, often require individual applications. Although details vary from state to state, most UK practices agree that it would be impossible to operate without local staff.

POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

Most AC10 countries have seen increasing stability in recent years but uncertainty still remains. Watkins Gray, for example, was working on an MoD development on British territory in Cyprus but the project was put on hold pending last Saturday's vote on the island's reunification.

CLIMATE

Dramatic variations in climate can prove challenging to those used to working in the UK. The new states range from Mediterranean Cyprus in the south (35° N), with a maximum recorded temperature of 44° C, to Estonia in the north (59° N) where temperatures have dropped to -30° C. The average sunlight in Estonia during December is zero.



Going Dutch sees the Serpentine trendsetters return to form

Unpleasant though it is to eat humble pie in public, I have to admit that I may have been a little harsh on the choice of Oscar Niemeyer as the architect for last year's Serpentine Pavilion. Having accused the Serpentine of a) selecting an architect peculiarly unsuited to the task of designing a lightweight temporary pavilion, and b) undermining its forward-looking ethos by succumbing to a then-fashionable nostalgia for utopian Brutalism, *The Architects' Journal* found itself pointedly excluded from the list of architectural journalists invited on a press trip to Brasil to interview the great man himself.

I stand by my first point but stand corrected on the second. Despite being greeted with virtually universal acclaim, the 2003 pavilion was, to my mind, decidedly lumpen, lacking either the excitement or elegance of some of its predecessors. But as a cultural gesture it has outshone them all. The Serpentine has indeed lived up to its reputation as a maker, rather than a follower, of fashion by achieving the hitherto unimaginable feat of popularising Brazilian design. The latest issues of both *Elle Decoration* and *Living etc* proclaim Brazil as the design centre du jour, citing the pavilion as incontrovertible proof.

This year the Serpentine has returned to form, selecting a practice which seems tailor-made for the job. MVRDV offers just the right mix of youthful radicalism and international credibility, not to mention a track record in the tiny, the temporary and the wilfully avant-garde. With its habit of locating the humblest commissions within the broader cultural, political and social debate, it is also likely to raise rather more serious issues than which particular country is in or out of fashion.

This, after all, is the practice that gave us the multi-storey pigpen – not simply a piece of porcine fun, but as part of an ongoing research project into animal welfare, eradication of disease, quality of foodstuffs, and the way in which a small country such as the Netherlands can react to the impact of an increasing population on limited space. The 2004 pavilion promises to be the most interesting yet. And no, I am not angling for a trip to Rotterdam.

Isabel Allen



Menges' digital modelling analysis left some readers bewildered

Postagriculture? More poetry than science

Your article *Digital Fabricators* (AJ 15.4.04) raised some interesting questions about the use of advanced IT techniques in construction, but it also raised the familiar association of IT with mysteriousness and incomprehensibility.

The use of advanced IT in construction has been hampered in the past by unrealistic expectations being described in incomprehensible terms, hence my irritation on reading Achim Menges' 'Postagriculture' article. The author started out with an interesting description of the problems created by high-density population and low amounts of land for food production, and by the end of the second paragraph I had a grasp of the problem and I was interested enough to read on.

Bewilderment soon followed, which I put down to a tiring day and resolved to try again later. Bewilderment again! Am I losing it? Are the little grey cells losing their mettle? *Mais non, mon ami*, it was the author. He is guilty of a most terrible crime: the misuse of the English language. Anyone who wishes to retain their audience should avoid phrases like 'specific intra-systemic condition profiles and differential inter-systemic relations'. If terms like these are to be used, and the author wishes to

be taken seriously, they should be put into context and explained. I ploughed on but more of the same followed.

Perhaps the author should be invited to rewrite the article so we can judge the work properly, assuming criticism and review are the reason such articles are published. I was also puzzled that an article like this makes no reference to other people's work. Are we to suppose that the author's work has been born complete? A science magazine would not have published this article in its present form. A poetry magazine might.

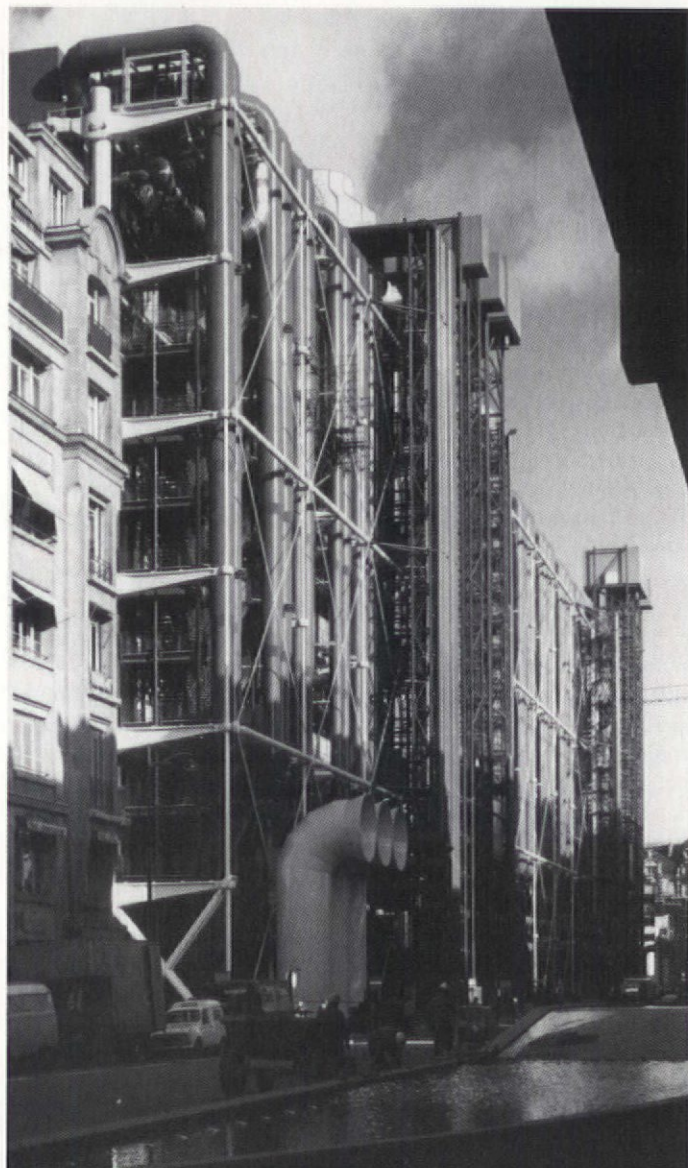
Rory Bergin, via email

Dorrell story simply magic, claims RIBA

I refer to a number of inaccuracies in Ed Dorrell's story, 'US members slam "flawed" RIBA' (AJ 22.4.04).

I checked with RIBA-USA's Debbie Bentley before its publication and she confirmed that she had not emailed or written to Dorrell, and that Dorrell had called her fishing for a story, and was clearly intent on 'RIBA bashing' rather than balanced reporting. She also told him it was old news and invited him to focus on something positive, such as covering the events of her chapter, which he declined to do.

I also told Dorrell that although he had received a copy of an earlier posting from Bentley to



Pompidou: careful thought, not afterthought

We take issue with the suggestion in Austin Williams' article 'At Your Service' (AJ 1.4.04) that the Pompidou's design 'legitimised the idea that services could be an architectural afterthought'. The building's design was the result of an innovative approach to a demanding brief, which called for large internal spaces unobstructed by columns or servicing, ensuring total internal flexibility. It was this requirement that prompted the decision to externalise all structural and servicing elements.

Given that the design team benefited from the expertise of the late Peter Rice and Tom Barker of Arup, two of the world's most gifted and innovative engineers, the suggestion that the servicing strategy lacked coherence is about as far from the truth as it could possibly be.

Richard Rogers,
Richard Rogers Partnership, London

our private RIBANet intranet conference, he had not received copies of three replies from members of staff at the RIBA, addressing the concerns raised – principally identifying the location, on our website, of publicity for RIBA activities in the US. Nor did he see the final posting from Debbie, which states: 'I have to stop complaining now because we're on the RIBA's frontpage.'

Dorrell indicates that I was unconcerned by the criticism, but neglects to put inverted commas round those words, no doubt not confident to attribute them to me – given that they were not said. Having explained the nature of our responses to Debbie Bentley's email, it was Dorrell who concluded that 'the criticism is unfounded'. I concurred with his summation to the extent that we had indeed promoted RIBA-USA events – they are featured on our website and in other publications.

However, the fact that I consider the criticism to be unfounded does not mean that I am not concerned. I am also concerned that a reporter can twist the facts to generate a story, as if by magic, from thin air.

Ian Pritchard, director, policy and international relations, RIBA

Keppie legacy not fit for RIAS retrospective

I was intrigued by your review of 'Keppie Design: 150 years of an architectural practice' (AJ 8.4.04).

Practice histories are indeed fascinating (Glasgow's parallel, Gillespie Kidd & Coia, would be as interesting, despite being rather shorter lived), but come on; where are the memorable works, valuable beyond a powerful practice's own vanity publishing? They are from Honeyman and Mackintosh, long ago. For the very phrase 'Keppie Design' is oxymoronic. Keppie had other inestimable qualities, but inspiring design skill was not among them. And the legacy of Keppie and his acolyte



Memorable? Honeyman & Keppie's Mercat Building, Glasgow

Henderson? Interesting that none of your photos shows work from the last 73 years.

John McKean, via email

Take note: fined architect made simple mistake

I refer to your article headed 'Bedford man who posed as architect fined £200 by court' (AJ 1.4.04). I did not use the title 'architect', but the acronym RIBA.

Having been a RIBA member for 34 years as student and associate, I was endeavouring to become a retired member of the institute. During the ensuing negotiations I inadvertently continued to have RIBA on my notepaper. How serious the magistrates considered my offence is reflected in their minimum judgment.

The interesting part is, since the publicity, I have been approached by four similarly geriatric architects using the acronym RIBA or FRIBA, none of whom is on the register at the ARB. All were wondering how they stood.

David M Lusty, Bedford

Correction

The photographer for our cover image of the Coliseum (AJ 8.4.04) was Grant Smith.

Please address letters to the editor at The Architects' Journal, 151 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4GB, fax 020 7505 6701, or email angela.newton@emap.com to arrive by 10am on the Monday before publication.



Phillip Singleton, the new head of Birmingham City Council's urban design unit, is on a mission to eradicate the mediocre and champion the city's creative future

The creative possibilities of structure and procedure

My work-related reading during the Easter holiday was selected highlights of AHMM's office procedures manual, a tome on the day-to-day running of a practice. There are four volumes: Employment; Health and Safety; Practice and Administration; and The Project Manual. It is the contents of the last volume that have been the subject of most effort in the past 15 years.

Current thinking is that it will be accessed via an office intranet and will provide a regular point of reference, record and template for all members of project teams, both architectural and administrative. It models the procedure for running each project in terms of our appointment and that of other consultants, liaising with clients and administering contracts. It offers a model for when you produce information and how you record it in drawings, specifications, reports, minutes and programmes. It outlines how to ask for information from others so that you can obtain it when and how you want – this is difficult in all cases but particularly in relation to planning and statutory authorities; the manual clarifies how you identify to all concerned these and other risks. It has models for running meetings, recording what you do and why you did it.

One section anticipates growing statute and the associated management of PII risk, so it remains 'Not Allocated'; and, of course, there is a lengthy section on 'CDM and Health and Safety'. It takes you through all the work stages (A to M), but emphasises that you must know what you are trying to achieve, and how to sort things out in the most appropriate and economical way; there is much talk of the dangers that occur when sledgehammers come into contact with nuts. Indeed, it is recognised that the entire document will only work if it is both fully utilised and regularly updated. The model is to be adapted and reconfigured to suit each particular project opportunity via the conditions of

engagement. As one of its key authors – an architect with 50-plus years' experience – states, these are not tablets of stone.

This document is required partly because our insurers need to know that we follow some identifiable process, but more importantly because businesses prone to the vagaries of cash flow need to manage the allocation of costly resources. Setting aside the all-consuming challenge of designing and delivering better architecture, the most difficult task in any office is managing the architectural resource. As you would therefore expect, of the 12 sections related to project procedures (and remember one is not allocated), four are given over to project administration, resourcing, finance control and programming. We should probably send a copy to our project managers and the (thankfully few) clients who query fee levels.

The manual's fundamental purpose is stated succinctly in the brief introduction: standard templates and set procedures, by removing uncertainty and time-wasting wheel reinvention, will free up time to concentrate on the design and delivery of architecture.

My other piece of holiday reading was *Bobby Fischer Goes To War*, David Edmonds and John Eidinow's excellent book on the Cold War confrontation, staged in Reykjavik, that resulted in the most extraordinary chess match of all time. I don't play chess but am intrigued by its complexity and the fact that the grandmasters – in this case Spassky and Fischer – recognise patterns and latent possibilities; what Arthur Koestler describes as 'a magnetic field of forces charged with energies'. This, of course, is useful when there are 318,979,584,000 possible variations in the first four moves!

There's a nice parallel between the classic openings of a chess game and a procedural manual: both offer empirical models that, by limiting choice, open up creative possibilities.

Imagine a stereotypical local government officer. Brown kipper tie? Second-hand corduroy suit? Small greying moustache? Egg stains on the lapels? Certainly this could be a caricature of most planners.

That's why meeting Phillip Singleton is such a pleasant surprise. Something of a dapper dresser, the new head of Birmingham City Council's urban design unit is also an almost-maniac enthusiast. Before we have even been directed to a table in the cafe-cum-restaurant at the top of Future Systems' Selfridges, Singleton has launched into a tirade of excitable babble. 'The importance of good design... this is such a fantastic city... what the AJ really needs to know is... do you like the building?... this job is so important because...'

Stop, stop, stop – please stop! Thankfully the waiter interrupts to take our order before I am drawn under the mass of guidance notes, planning papers and council documents that is being thrown in my direction with almost reckless abandon.

It is at this stage that I desperately try to add some formal structure to the interview – and learn some of Singleton's background – before it descends into anarchy. He was born in Birmingham and trained as an architect in Sheffield. He spent the early part of the '90s working for Associated Architects before setting up a small practice in 1995. There then followed a brief period as a sole practitioner.

Then in 2001 comes what Singleton describes as a defining moment. He was offered the first directorship of MADE (Midlands Architecture and the Designed Environment). 'This was a really interesting question for me at the time,' he says. 'I realised I was stepping away from the world of actually designing and would be on the advocating side of things. It was a big step.'

'But I did not regret it for a minute. My time at MADE was simply brilliant. Whether we were doing school projects or a summer school, I really enjoyed it. I fully expected to be there for at least five years but then the ad was placed for this job and I couldn't resist it.'

'It was a massive jump for me to make. Effectively I was leaving a two-person team run out of the RIBA's regional offices and joining an organisation with 52,000 employees and a turnover of £2.2 billion. It's just like a very big business.'

'I don't play chess but am intrigued by its complexity and the fact that the grandmasters recognise patterns and latent possibilities'



Single-minded vision

But Singleton has clearly settled in to his new role very quickly. He gives the impression of a man on a mission to put urban design at the heart of everything Birmingham City Council does. And, while he is at it, he is also very keen to ensure that private architects get the message as well.

'We look at hundreds and hundreds of planning applications. And I would like to show a few of them to all the architects that complain about planners,' he says mischievously. 'There is a paucity of quality, context and design standards in a very high proportion of the applications. Quite often there is no indication of the primary driver.

'It's like architects have forgotten what they learn at university. Honestly, there are so many that are tremendously mediocre.

'But what I want is to turn this into a positive. I want people to see us as a positive resource that they can come to and discuss the problems on their projects. I would also love to talk to clients before they embark on projects and find out what they are thinking.'

For all the talk, of which there is certainly

a lot, and the official documents, of which there are also masses, one never quite gets a feeling of what Singleton actually does. What do you do on a day-to-day basis?

'I am marinated in planning for most of the time,' he says with a smile. 'My job and the job of my team is to work as one of the primary consultees across all the sectors of the planning department. We are there to champion urban design in all buildings, including the most humble school or park.' Sounds like the kind of job suited to an individual with the energy and enthusiasm that Singleton oozes through every pore.

Throughout the interview Singleton exudes a passion for Birmingham that is quite unusual. It is the kind of excitement that one finds in a Scouser discussing Liverpool or a Geordie talking about Newcastle but is rarely found in a Brummie.

'We are on the global radar now. We do not have San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge or Liverpool's waterfront but we are getting there. We are a creative city that has, for example, managed to get Future Systems and Selfridges to work together

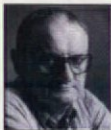
and produce this fantastic building. This building is a big leap for us.

'Perception-wise it has made a massive difference. It is in Japanese magazines and American newspapers. Everyone knows about it. University applications are up in both our universities and I have a hunch it is because of this building.'

Most interviews follow a fairly formal structure, lasting between half an hour and an hour. Not this one. A veritable roller-coaster, this discussion continues for well over an hour. The feeling that Singleton would have continued until the Selfridges security removed him at the end of the day was confirmed when I needed to go to catch a train back to London.

There was no pause in conversation as I stood up to leave and very little as I walked away from the cafe. I was left with the distinct impression that Singleton was still discussing the importance of urban design with the waiter when, half an hour later, my train passed the blue blob on its way out of Birmingham. It is pretty certain this is a man who enjoys his job.

Ed Dorrell



Countryside reactionaries play into the hands of the housing problem

Despite being deftly smothered by the Madrid terrorist attack, Gordon Brown's Budget and the resurgent war in Iraq, Kate Barker's report on the housing market still managed to strike fear into the hearts of England's leading reactionaries. Not enough to get a 1940s-style 'emergency factory-made' housing programme under way, perhaps, but something capable of pumping out 150,000 affordable dwellings in as much time as New Labour has left before it goes to the country again. Given the political will, something like that could have been done for a tiny fraction of the £40 billion the chancellor 'borrowed to invest' in his March Budget.

But never mind, prefabrication's moment will come. This time the very thought of system-building in the countryside had the aesthetes reaching for their 'eyesores' and 'inappropriates', 'appallings' and 'disgracefuls' with gusto. Writing in *The Times*, Simon Jenkins ('Britain for sale: apply Gordon Brown and Co') led the field by resurrecting the freedom-loving Nicholas Ridley (who 'let petrol stations and hypermarkets go wherever developers wanted them').

For Jenkins in particular, it seems things are often blindly simple and require no interference from any civil servant: 'If the housebuilders wanted cheaper homes they would stop building at a land-hungry 25 units per hectare and build instead at 50 units.' Ergo they should be overruled. For Camilla Cavendish, who wrote later in the same newspaper, the whole Barker business was unreal: 'Where private house building is concerned, it is questionable whether the term "housing shortage" has any meaning at all. London's streets are not yet teeming with homeless workers.'

She is right, of course, but only because she is telling just half of the story. The term 'housing shortage' has a great deal of meaning when people admit

that buying a house is about access to economic opportunity, whether at 25 units per hectare or 50 or 500. In a house-price economy there is no other currency than dwellings, and the fewer dwellings there are the more each one of them is worth.

It has been observed before that in reality the UK is a Post-Modern house-price economy with modern social, health, educational and heritage appendices – logically, therefore, nearly everybody in the country works in or for the housing market one way or another.

Simon Jenkins, applauding a 'demolition job' on the Barker Report written by Andrew Lilico of Europe Economics; Anne Spackman, property editor of the *Bricks and Mortar* supplement to *The Times*, quoting from the 'UK International Longevity Centre' and the Centre for Economics and Business Research in pursuit of such nuggets as the fortunes accumulated by the 'Golden Generation' of homeowners. Both of these commentators, like the burgeoning regiments of 'property consultants' reaching right down to the queues of DIY experts that form every morning outside B&Q, are working for the housing market as it is – not for an end to the housing problem as it might be.

All this means is that 50 years after the end of the pioneering prefabricated programme of 1945-47,

still no British politician will go cap-in-hand to the mobile home or motor industry and ask them to submit designs for a John Prewer Microflat-type dwelling suitable for volume production and road and air delivery with a pre-production order for 20 examples of the best three types. Given the example of the best of the post-war prefabricated dwellings, the vastly improved capacity for off-site precision construction, and well-handled publicity, it should be possible to move quickly to an output of 100,000 units per year and deflate the housing market once and for all.

'The thought of system-building in the countryside had the aesthetes reaching for their "eyesores", "inappropriates" and "appallings" with gusto'

Richard Ferraro

ECD Architects

When and where were you born?

1951, Kent, England

What is your favourite building and why?

The Harem at Topkapi Palace in Istanbul – a great antidote to modern architecture.

What is your favourite restaurant/meal?

The Grand Hotel, Overlau, Fiji.

Top of the menu: vegetables and fresh-caught fish, slow baked for two days in a hole in the ground, covered with tropical fruits and unknown plants and herbs.

What vehicle(s) do you own?

A new 'green as you can buy' Peugeot 307SW – very low pollution, very aerodynamic, boring as hell.

What is your favourite film?

Dr Strangelove.

What is your favourite book?

The Book: On The Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are by Alan Watts.

What is your favourite 'design classic'?

Citroen DS19.

What is the worst building you've ever seen and why?

The 1970s brick church and flats complex next to Warwick Avenue Tube Station in Maida Vale, London. One of the best sites to become available in London in the past 30 years but appallingly conceived and a wasted opportunity – what a mess.

Who or what is your biggest architectural influence and why?

Low energy/passive solar design and the drive for true sustainability. These disciplines require additional layers of thinking and resolution.

Who is the most talented architect you've worked with?

Dominic Michaelis.

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been?

Either a structural engineer or an anarchist.

What would your advice be to architectural students?

If you want to make money be a developer.

What would your motto be?

Towards a better tempered environment.

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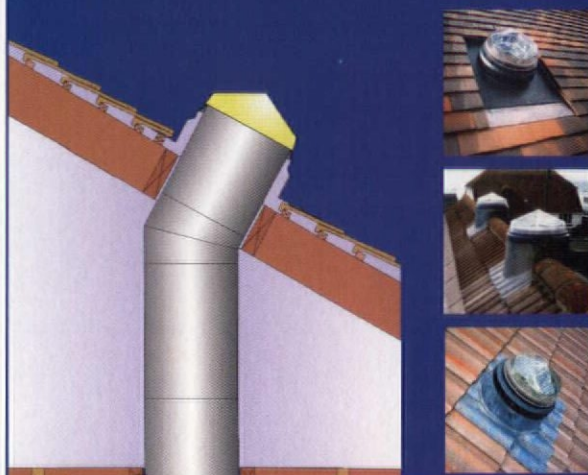
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Why be kept in the dark?

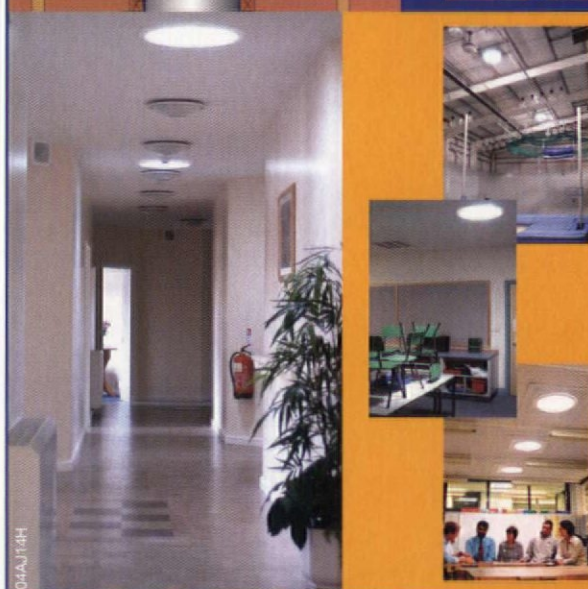
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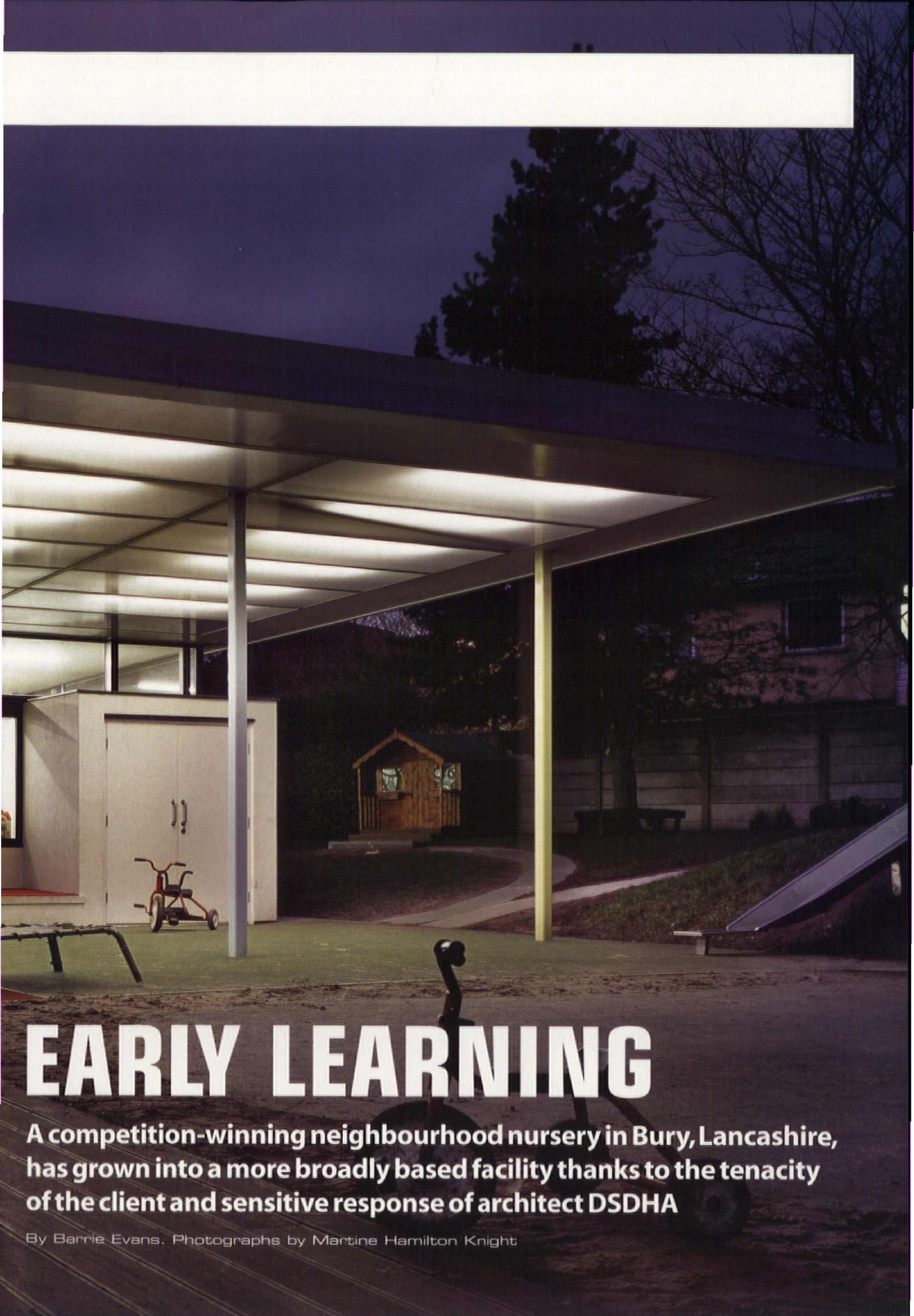
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EARLY LEARNING

A competition-winning neighbourhood nursery in Bury, Lancashire, has grown into a more broadly based facility thanks to the tenacity of the client and sensitive response of architect DSDHA

By Barrie Evans. Photographs by Martine Hamilton Knight

It is all a bit complicated but a mesh of recent government programmes is changing the face of early years childcare.

The Sure Start programme is intended as a piece of government joined-up thinking, in this case principally between the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to 'deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together early education, childcare and health and family support'. More than 500 local programmes are planned to be operational by 2004.

Somewhat joined to this are two other DfES programmes: the Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative (NNI); and Early Excellence Centres (EEC). Together with Sure Start, they are intended to provide more than 1,000 new facilities for pre-school children by the end of 2004. In particular, the NNI is focused on affordable childcare in the most socially disadvantaged areas of the country, with plans announced in 2001 to deliver 45,000 new childcare places by 2004 for the under-fives.

The EEC programme, set up in 1997, focuses on integrating early education, care and family support, and, particularly relevant to this project, is looking to make use of several neighbourhood nurseries in creating some of its centres, focused on training and the dissemination of best practice in an area. A good thing and also another pot of money to tap.

This project began as a NNI, with the DfES looking to stimulate new thinking in nurseries by organising a design competition with CABE. Three live projects were chosen: in Sheffield, won jointly by Panter Hudspith and Walters & Cohen; in Bexley, by Birds Portsmouth Russum; and in Bury, by DSDHA.

The Bury scheme was for the refurbishment and extension of the Hoyle Nursery School, now the Hoyle Early Years Centre. When the competition began, Hoyle had already been shifting for some time from straight nursery care for three to five year olds to include a borough-wide role focusing on children with special educational needs: learning difficulties; speech and communication difficulties; and autism. Its staff numbers

had grown in response but not its floorspace.

The competition also provided the opportunity to seek funding to expand by offering 10 places for under twos and their parents.

Hoyle's friendly but tenacious head, Clare Barker, had been active in talking to the various semi-detached (or semi-joined-up) parts of government to expand the brief and seek greater funding. What began as a nursery competition scheme with a budget of £300,000 has become both a neighbourhood nursery and a designated EEC, with a budget approaching £700,000. (It is still a tight budget, just with more to accommodate.)

While the winning scheme aimed to link and reorganise the two existing 1975 brick buildings on the site – a nursery space and parents' centre – what has emerged is much nearer to a rebuilding (abetted by a some freelance demolition by local youths), though the final result does take much the same footprint as the competition scheme.

Other key aspects of the design to remain from the competition include creating a new street frontage, raising the roof 800mm



Reception area, large enough to be a teaching space; small courtyard to right. Previous page: illuminated canopy for play and outdoor functions

above the existing walls with clerestory windows, so enlivening the spaces with daylight and giving the whole a coherence, and centring the building around a small courtyard garden (though the removable roof went for cost reasons, leaving an open court).

Fitting a building to its social, as well as physical, context is an important part of a project for DSDHA's directors Deborah Saunt and David Hills. Hoyle is located in an area of housing and industrial sheds only 200m from the M66 – indeed the poorest part of Hoyle's catchment lies beyond the motorway, a housing area without play spaces or shops. DSDHA undertook its own demographic research, exploring the extent of the area's high unemployment and low earnings, despite its proximity to more-prosperous Manchester, its health problems (Hoyle provides health screening among its services), and unearthed other statistics, such as that this is an area of 'high ITV viewing'. This enigmatic fact was interpreted by Barker as a measure of homes with no books or culture of literacy. In the existing buildings, the

entrance area had been organised with settees and books in a bid to counter this view.

It appears that DSDHA's informed and empathetic approach, recognising the existing positives like the settees and discussing with the client how to build on them – rather than the approach of telling the client they have problems that the architect can solve – attracted the client to the architect (Barker was on the competition judging panel, along with Nicholas Serota, Richard Rogers, early-years expert Margy Whalley and Sunand Prasad.)

With the client so influential and committed, there was no great risk that this project would be seen by the local community as the government hitting them with cash then running. And the services it provides are clearly needed. Even so, setting the tone was an important part of the design, particularly the approach, which needed to reconcile welcome with the security of children, parents and staff. The immediate locale has by now lost most traces of the older stone vernacular, though there is one derelict stone house nearby and



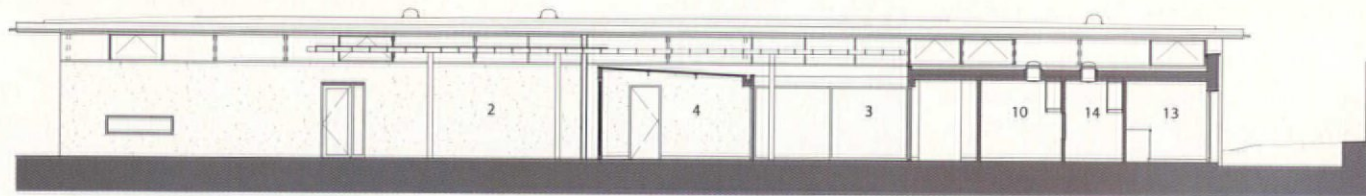
site plan



Baby (0-2 years) room at the south end of the building, with child-height window onto garden to the east



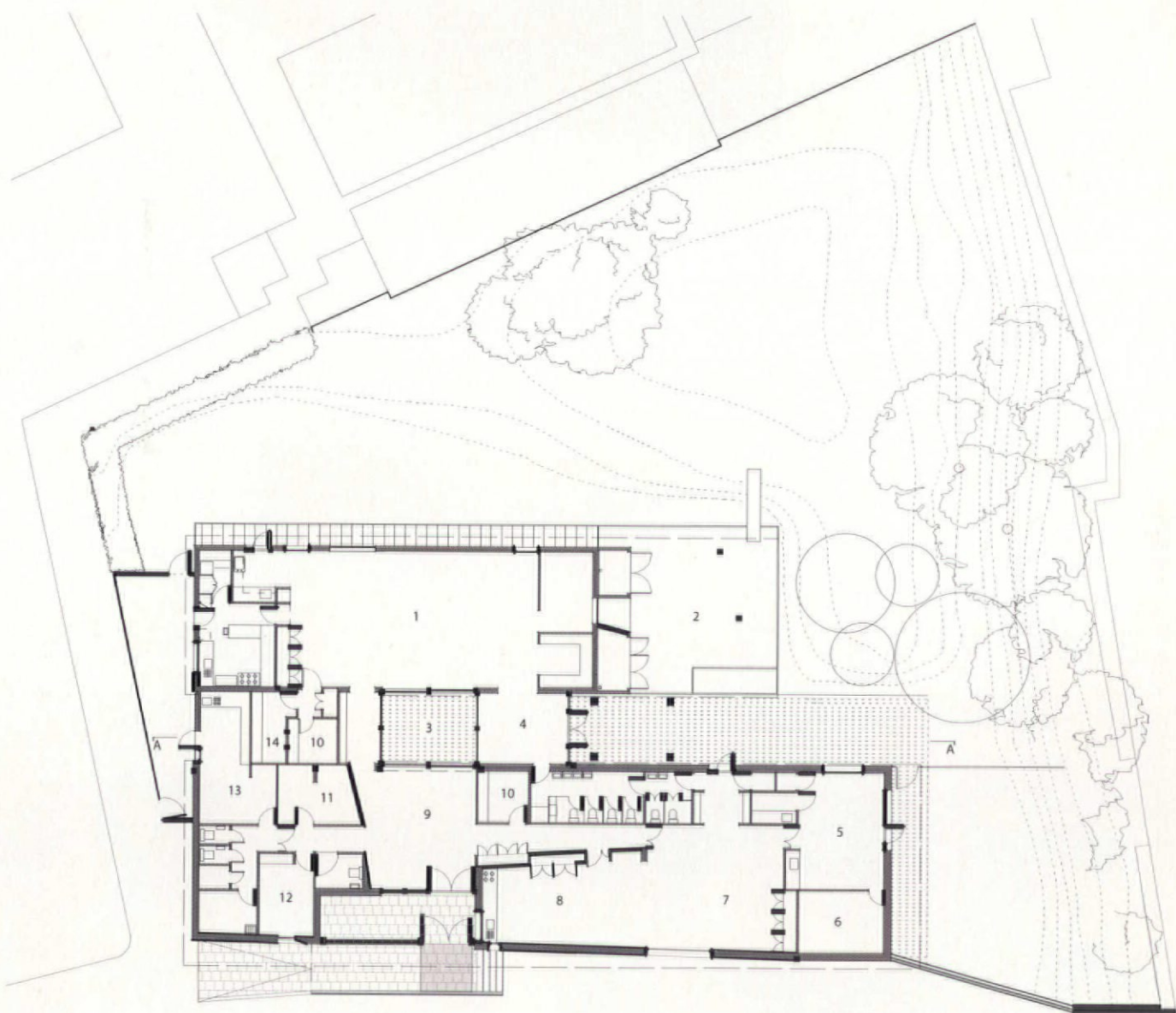
New wet area at the north end of the 3-5 years room. Light fittings are recessed into ceilings, leaving only tubes projecting



section aa

KEY

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 3-5 years room | 9 reception hall |
| 2 covered play area | 10 withdrawal room |
| 3 courtyard | 11 reception |
| 4 library | 12 head teacher's office |
| 5 baby room | 13 staff room |
| 6 baby sleep | 14 sen (special education needs) room |
| 7 2-3 years room | |
| 8 parents' room | |



ground floor plan

29 April 2004

the site had its own stone wall that DSDHA hoped to reuse for the front wall. In practice, stone had to be brought to site to create a textured, though solid-looking, face and to draw the eye away from the necessary security fencing on either side. To the north of the front, where there is equally substantial-looking render, this has been faced in rectangular galvanised mesh for growing plants and inhibiting graffiti.

This is a sophisticated looking building, not the Wendy house writ large of some nursery schools that eschews a primary-colour palette both outside and in. Partly this is about the particular needs of the children, especially the autistic, for a calming, structured environment, but it is also the architect's view that the building is not so much an extension of home as one of a child's first civic buildings. It has messages about the quality people should expect from a caring society, and even some small educational role in developing design literacy.

The entrance could have been somewhat forbidding, with the buggy store set between the external mesh gates and glass front doors (to save internal usable area), requiring these gates to be kept closed. To date the glass doors have allowed enough supervision from the front desk for the gates to be left open during the day. Once inside, everything apparently relaxes, though staff vigilance is still required.



Room for 3-5s with calm colour palette, organised to provide educational structure. Courtyard to right. Above: balancing security and welcome



COST SUMMARY

Data based on final account, for gross internal area

	Cost per m ² (£)	Percentage of total
SUBSTRUCTURE	110	6.5
SUPERSTRUCTURE		
Frame	151	9.0
Roof	193	11.5
Rooflights	20	1.2
External walls	95	5.6
Windows	90	5.3
External doors	59	3.5
Internal walls and partitions	66	3.9
Internal doors	39	2.3
Group element total	713	42.3
INTERNAL FINISHES		
Wall finishes	24	1.4
Floor finishes	56	3.3
Ceiling finishes	32	1.9
Group element total	110	6.5
FITTINGS AND FURNITURE	73	4.3
SERVICES		
Sanitary appliances	22	1.3
Disposal installations	12	0.7
Water installations	22	1.3
Space heating and air treatment	98	5.8
Electrical services	93	5.5
Protective installations	49	2.9
Builders' work in connection	7	0.4
Group element total	303	18.0
EXTERNAL WORKS	198	11.8
PRELIMINARIES AND INSURANCE	178	10.6
TOTAL	1,685	100

Cost data provided by Andrew Tindale-Paul, Stockdale

Clerestory windows and the central courtyard connect with the outside, while at eye level, of adult or child, the feel is more of a protective wall than of openings; an appropriate balance of transparency and enclosure. There is a window from the parents' area to the outside to reduce the chances of them feeling trapped in this 'institution'.

Where partitions meet the clerestory glazing, small Soane-inspired mirrors create apparent continuity of glazing. The floating ceiling plane is largely uncluttered, with most of the acoustic work done by the carpet.

From the entrance area you can see through the all-glazed central court and the three-fives playroom beyond to the surrounding garden. (This line of vision deliberately follows the route of an earlier path across the site.) The entrance area itself has been kept as large as possible by pinching circulation elsewhere and is frequently used as a class space.

The plan alone cannot quite communicate how hard the spaces have to work in this world of many small individuals, nor the ingenuity of staff in making this happen. One of the WCs may double as a withdrawal room. On a tight corridor wall outside the head's office, a waist-high mirror is used for one-to-one speech therapy, the teacher kneeling behind the child as they face the mirror.

In principle the organisation of this 410m² building is straightforward. The building's front faces west. To the north of the entrance is staff space. To its south is the two-threes playroom and next to it, through a folding partition, the parent/training room. These two areas combine for other uses, such as the

Christmas play and general parent meetings. Farthest south is the baby area.

To the east, the three-fives playroom occupies much the same area it did before but with better-equipped support spaces around it, better daylighting and views, and a route out through the new library/reading area to improved outdoor play spaces. A neat touch is that the large outdoor canopy (which DSDHA would have liked to have cantilevered) is translucent – corrugated polycarbonate above, flat below – and that the soffit can be illuminated for evening use. Overall, the straightforward plan zoning provides some flexibility for coping with the changes in educational agenda that flow continually from government.

This building is an excellent resource for the community, the result of the client's vision, the architect's sensitive response and the opportunity of a competition. What is worrying is the somewhat haphazard trajectory of the project. Did the go-ahead after the competition need to be delayed a year, with the DfES urging people to work at risk? More importantly, why did the client have to drive government towards a joined-up project? It has the joined-up theories but not, apparently, the delivery mechanisms that should unite its various early years programmes. Not quite a model project.

At least the architect has been well served by its immediate client, Clare Barker; the truism that you cannot have a good building without a good client is demonstrated once more. So much so that DSDHA is putting Barker forward for a RIBA client's award.

CREDITS

TENDER DATE

December 2002

START ON SITE DATE

January 2003

CONTRACT DURATION

40 weeks

GROSS INTERNAL FLOOR AREA

410m²

FORM OF CONTRACT

IFC/2 stage tender

TOTAL COST

£690,000

CLIENTS

Bury Education Services,

Hoyle Nursery School

ARCHITECT

DSDHA: Deborah Saunt,

David Hills, Claire

McDonald, Brent

Crittenden, Fred Collin

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Stockdale

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Price & Myers

SERVICES ENGINEER

Atelier Ten

MAIN CONTRACTOR

McGoff and Byrne

SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Roofing, roof canopy

subcontractor Metspec

Roofing Services; roof

canopy Twinfix; steel

framing F Ainscough &

Co; rooflights

Monodraught

(Suncatcher);

stonemason Darren

Jarrot; render Sto;

windows, external doors

Techinal; window/door

subcontractor

Securefront Systems;

pinboard Sundeal;

sliding/folding partition

Hufcor; cork linoleum

Forbo Nairn; floor

subcontractor AD Cragg &

Son; structural glass

library roof TA Anders &

Co; ironmongery Allgood,

Stanley; ironmongery

supply Cookson

Hardware Suppliers;

leather door pulls Hilmar

Products; sanitaryware

Armitage Shanks,

Twyford, Franke;

plumbing, heating

subcontractor Harrison

Smith Batley; electrical

John Dawson Electrical;

cctv Advance Security

Systems; fencing, gates

Bekaert Security Fencing;

fence/gate subcontractor

FareFence; hard

landscape Nova Sport

(Soft Pour), AstroTurf,

Marshalls Paving

WEBLINKS

Bury Education Services

www.bury.gov.uk

DSDHA

www.dsdha.co.uk

Price & Myers

www.pricemyers.com

Atelier Ten

www.atelierten.com

McGoff and Byrne

www.mcgooffandbyrne.co.uk

Wall of stone rubble and steel mesh screens

In plan the nursery is a single-storey pavilion with rooms set around a courtyard. The virtually flat roof has a 1.2m deep overhanging eaves with clerestory windows below, so that it appears to float over the walls.

The long facade which faces the street is designed to provide a secure barrier while giving controlled visual access at the entrance foyer, where a screen of galvanised steel mesh gives glimpses of courtyard and playground. To one side of the entrance the wall is made of coursed stone rubble, with low-level deep-set windows and a clerestory above.

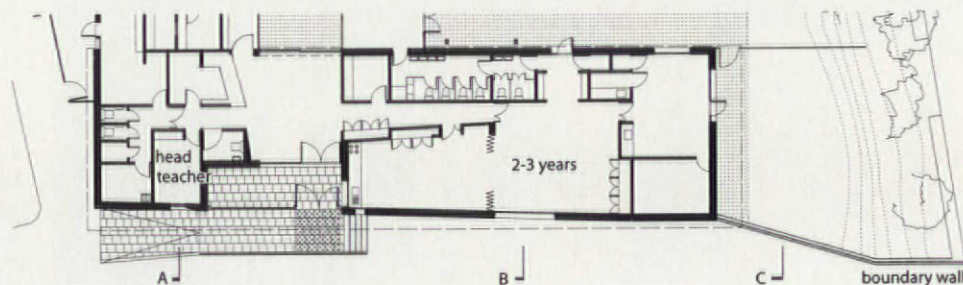
The stone wall extends beyond the building at a lower height, topped with a similar galvanised steel mesh screen, to become a boundary wall to the garden.

To the other side of the entrance, the wall is finished with acrylic render on blockwork overlaid with a steel mesh screen. A deep set-back below the eaves takes the place of a clerestory.

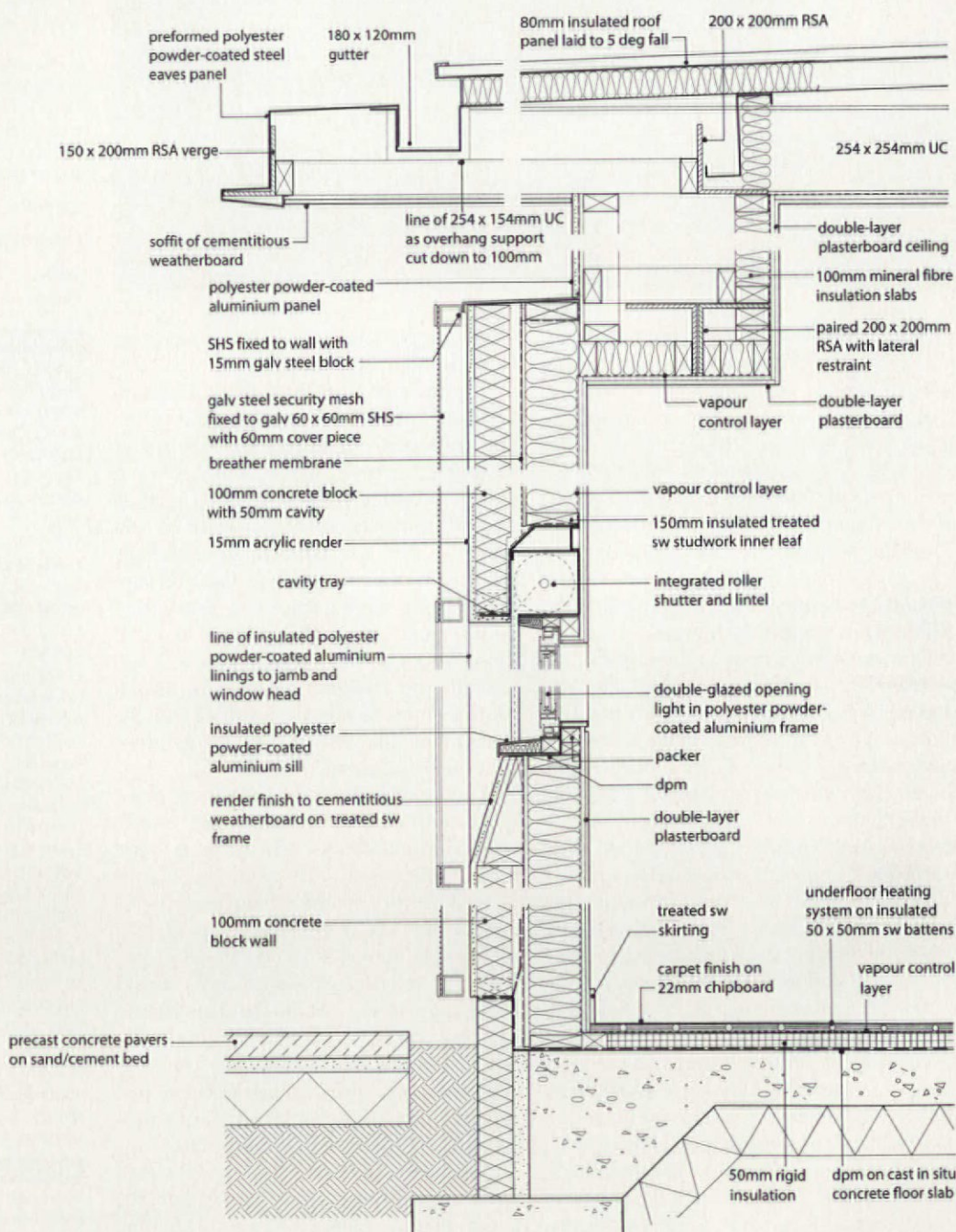
The steel frame structure supports a roof of insulated metal panels. The inner leaf to each wall is of treated timber studwork filled with insulation, with a breather membrane to the sheathing and a vapour control layer behind a double layer of plasterboard. The coursed rubble outer leaf was built to a closely specified mock-up to achieve sharp horizontal lines and a very flat frontage.

The windows were refined to minimise the amount of visible framing and are fitted with integrated lintels/roller shutters. The clerestory windows are set at the front of the façade – to avoid the possibility of use as a foothold – and the building is additionally protected from vandals on the roof by the deep overhanging eaves.

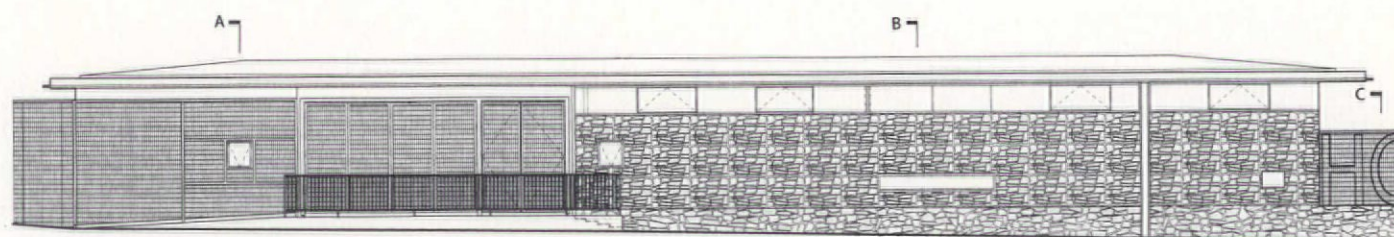
Susan Dawson



KEY PART PLAN



DETAIL SECTION A



KEY STREET ELEVATION

galv steel security mesh
fixed to galv 60 x 60mm
SHS with 60mm cover piece

SHS fixed to 60 x 60mm
galv steel fence post

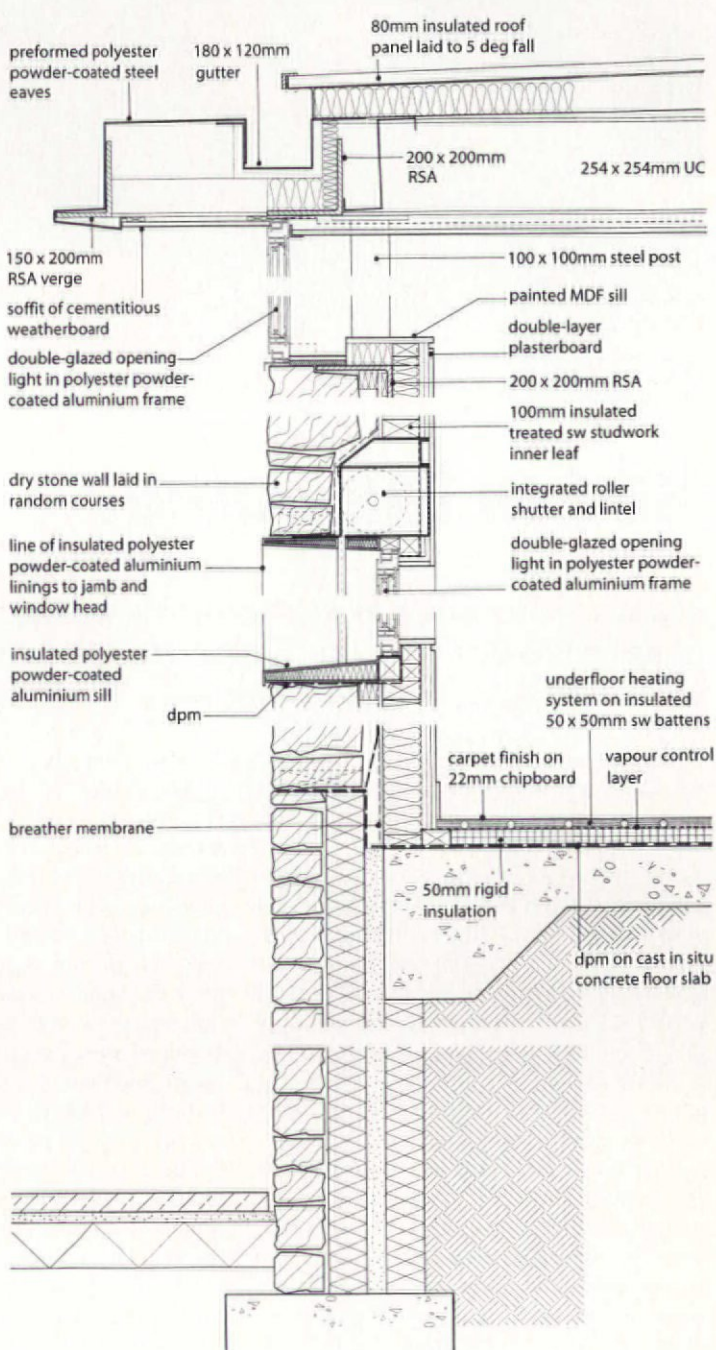
fence post bolted to
250 X 50mm PFC (parallel
flange channel)

recessed uplighter
set in concrete pavers

stone coping

dry stone wall

cast in situ concrete
retaining wall



DETAIL SECTION B

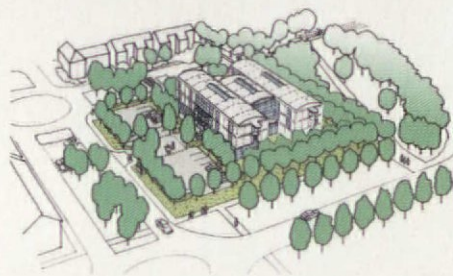
DETAIL SECTION C



Red is the colour

Mercer + Tan's new HQ for the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission is a distinguished addition to Milton Keynes

By Barrie Evans. Photographs by Mercer + Tan and Paul Meyler



Milton Keynes, designated in 1967, retains its new-town atmosphere. Its centre has grown and diversified in architectural style but remains extensive rather than intensive in layout, as we expect of town centres. Buildings still feel placed on their sites from above rather than a more integrated grain growing up. The view that Milton Keynes is something different, a particular form of garden city, continues to be countered by talk of building up the central zone to create more traditional urbanity, even of building apartments there to bring animation.

Beyond this central zone, better-than-the-average residential zones largely retain their architectural and functional uniformities, though with occasional (low-rise) use variation. Fishermead is one of these zones, only 15 minutes walk from the topographical centre of the town. Mercer + Tan's site is at a main gateway to Fishermead, the building perhaps too polite in keeping down to three storeys and surrounding itself with laurel hedges, but a welcome change of size for the

area and a step up in architectural quality.

The flatness of the facades is in marked contrast to much of Milton Keynes' brick vernacular, with western red cedar cladding above a floor (plinth) of glazing and more vandal-resistant fibre-cement sheeting. Partly this flatness is a formal choice by the architect, but also has the planned result of leaving none of the cedar under overhangs with the differential weathering that goes with that. Windows as well as cladding are sharply held to grid; in places, on-grid louvres mask both a bathroom window, providing privacy, and the adjacent air extract. The sheerness of the facades is counterpointed by set backs in the building's sides plus off-the-peg galvanised spiral stairs, a little tailored where they meet the building. At front and back, external metal frameworks provide shading and maintenance access, support the building-height glazing and at the front mark the entrance. (Security of students is a key issue so entry is restricted to the front, though there are paved courtyard spaces in the plan

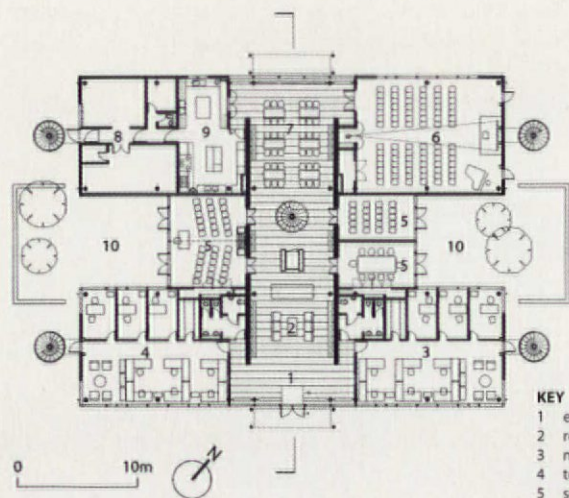
set-backs outside teaching spaces.)

Once through the secure entrance, the central hall is defined by two walls painted red on all faces, sculpturally freestanding. They neither meet the roof nor front and rear facades. On upper floors they define open-ended slots, which are corridors to study-bedrooms. On the ground floor, where they form part of teaching spaces, they retain their redness in these otherwise white-walled rooms like planes slicing through the building. These rooms' connection to the walls is set back from the walls' ends, maintaining their freestanding appearance. (Physically, there is enough structural connection for the walls to act as shearwalls to the in-situ concrete framing.)

On a grey day there was a strong pink to the red; it looks a much deeper colour in the shadows (it is not primary red, subtler than captured on the photographs). These colour shifts are orchestrated particularly by shadows cast by the information centre, which bridges part of the central hall, and by the

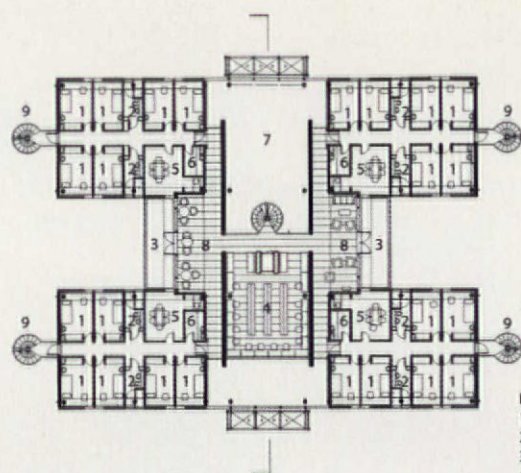


Central space looking towards the entrance. Everyone must use this spiral stair, helping to promote chance encounters for newcomers. Opposite page: the front entrance



ground floor plan

- KEY
- 1 entrance
 - 2 reception
 - 3 mission centre offices
 - 4 teaching staff offices
 - 5 seminar room
 - 6 lecture room
 - 7 dining
 - 8 plant
 - 9 kitchen
 - 10 courtyard



first floor plan

- KEY
- 1 student bedroom
 - 2 bathroom
 - 3 roof terrace
 - 4 library
 - 5 living room
 - 6 utility
 - 7 upper part dining
 - 8 common room
 - 9 escape stairs



variability of daylight from the full-height end-wall glazing and runs of rooflights in the three barrel vaults.

These vaults, running across the central hall, tie the H-plan together. In an earlier version of the design this central space was much more a conventional atrium running front to back. But the architect felt the other parts of the plan would then feel too like piecemeal attachments. This is, after all, not a large building at around 2,000m² spread over three floors.

The Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (COCM) wanted a coming-together space, which at the north end is used for communal dining, to bring together the varied building occupants. The COCM aims to reach out to individuals and to set up groups and churches among the Chinese diaspora; it estimates there are some one million Chinese in Europe (about 80 per cent in the catering trade). The building houses offices, teaching facilities and study bedrooms for those wanting to work in the COCM's ministry, receives many visitors and is a base for some staff who work abroad. It was to be more 'a large house' than an institutional HQ, and being funded by donations, value-for-money without ostentation.

While this is Mercer + Tan's first new building, not surprisingly Stuart Mercer and Rodney Tan are both experienced architects. They formerly worked for Arup Associates, for the last six and a half years at Hong Kong Airport. And the Arup articulation of elements is to be found here. As Stuart Mercer says, if you cut a section through an Arup building, there are no surprises. What you get is what you've seen already.

The exposed concrete ceilings (Omni-core), which act as permanent formwork, also have a heat stabilising role in a building almost entirely naturally ventilated; only the large lecture room has comfort cooling. In the central hall both end walls and rooflights have opening areas. But further duct space has been built in so that the building is more readily saleable in future, if needed.

The architect's approach followed

The heart of the building can be tranquil or busy. Top: the second floor plan is much as first floor



The Schüco Karting Challenge 2004

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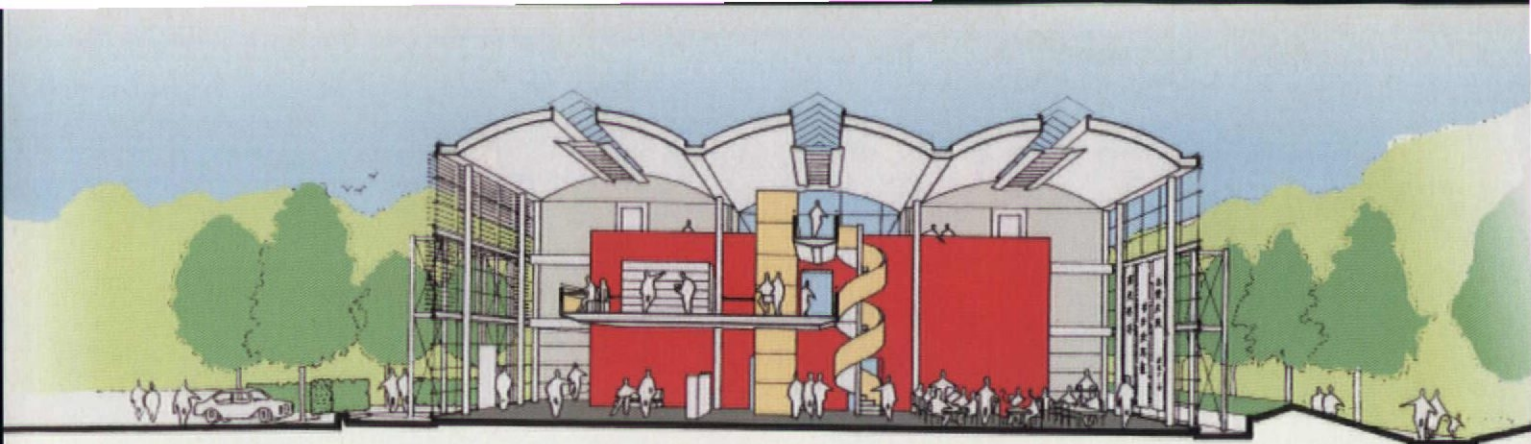
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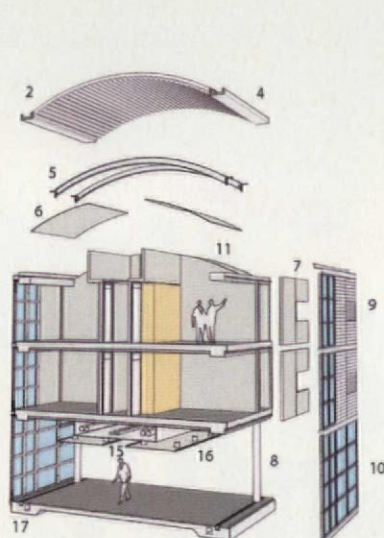
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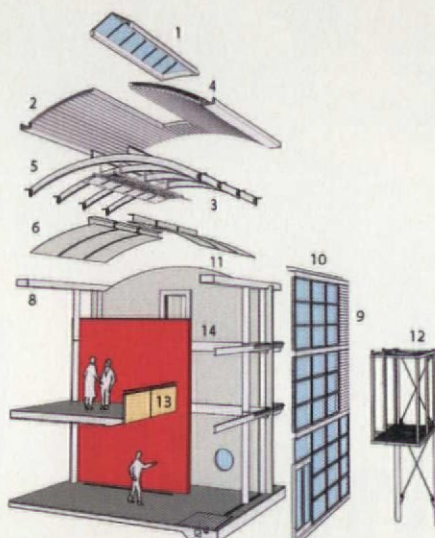
SCHÜCO
KART-CHALLENGE 2004



cross section



typical wing construction



central hall construction

KEY

- 1 anodised aluminium rooflight
- 2 composite profiled metal roof
- 3 light diffuser/service walkway
- 4 aluminium insulated gutter
- 5 curved steel roof beams
- 6 curved plasterboard ceiling
- 7 prefabricated wall panels
- 8 in situ concrete frame structure
- 9 cedar external wall cladding
- 10 unitised aluminium/timber glazing system
- 11 dry-lined internal partitions
- 12 entrance steel support frame
- 13 birch faced ply balustrade
- 14 rendered block screen wall
- 15 services bulkhead
- 16 open suspended ceiling panels
- 17 perimeter trench heating

throughout this building is one that demands a lot of attention to detailing and a contractor who understands such an architectural agenda of constructional honesty. For multi-million-pound airports, such understanding is expected of contractors. But here, despite extensive contractor interviews, finding small- to medium-sized contractors with such awareness proved problematic for the architect. For example, the architect was keen to maximise prefabrication of components and assemblies, yet despite all the detailing to facilitate this, the cedar was nailed on site. And the contractor found it hard to accept that small blow-holes in the in situ frame should not be patched. There has been quite a lot of learning on both sides as the architect came to terms with smaller project building in the UK. But the hard-won results are generally good. After the COCM's previous unsatisfactory premises, the team has been able to deliver a building that it feels at home in – a fitting celebration of its first 50 years.

WEBLINKS

Chinese Overseas Christian Mission
www.cocm.org.uk
 Mercer + Tan
www.mercertan.com
 Buro Happold
www.burohappold.com
 Hyland Edgar Driver
www.heduk.com
 EC Harris
www.echarris.com
 Crowthers
www.crowthers.clara.net
 Milton Keynes
www.mkweb.co.uk/futurecmk

COST SUMMARY

Data based on final account for gross external area

	Cost per m ² (£)	Percentage of total
SUBSTRUCTURE	66.16	4.56
SUPERSTRUCTURE		
Frame	58.02	4.00
Upper floors	45.80	3.16
Roof	78.88	5.44
Rooflights	20.36	1.40
Staircases	48.85	3.37
External walls	152.67	10.53
Windows	96.69	6.67
External doors	12.72	0.88
Internal walls and partitions	71.25	4.91
Internal doors	48.35	3.33
Group element total	633.59	43.68
INTERNAL FINISHES		
Wall finishes	40.71	2.81
Floor finishes	33.08	2.28
Ceiling finishes	22.90	1.58
Group element total	96.69	6.67
FITTINGS AND FURNITURE	20.36	1.4
SERVICES		
Sanitary appliances	15.27	1.05
Services equipment	22.90	1.58
Disposal installations	35.62	2.46
Water installations	30.03	2.07
Space heating and air treatment	63.61	4.39
Electrical services	122.14	8.42
Lift and conveyor installations	12.72	0.88
Protective installations	2.04	0.14
Communication installation	27.99	1.93
Builders' work in connection	7.63	0.53
Group element total	339.95	23.44
EXTERNAL WORKS	74.81	5.16
PRELIMINARIES/INSURANCE	218.83	15.09
TOTAL	1,450.04	100

Cost data provided by Ray Coppins, E C Harris

CREDITS

TENDER DATE

April 2001

START ON SITE DATE

December 2001

CONTRACT DURATION

42 weeks

HANDOVER DATE AFTER FIT-OUT

March 2003

GROSS EXTERNAL FLOOR AREA

1,965m²

PROCUREMENT

JCT Standard Form with Quantities (1998)

TOTAL COST

£285,000

CLIENT

Chinese Overseas Christian Mission

ARCHITECT

Mercer + Tan; Chi Ho Cheung, Tom Foulsham, Stuart Mercer, Rodney Tan

STRUCTURAL SERVICES ENGINEER

Buro Happold

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Hyland Edgar Driver

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

EC Harris

ACOUSTIC CONSULTANT

ACS Consultants

PLANNING SUPERVISOR

Crowthers

MAIN CONTRACTOR

SDC Builders

SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Structural concrete frame Febrey; precast concrete floor Hanson Birchwood; structural steelwork Rutland Engineering; mechanical Triumph Services; electrical IDS Electrical; prefabricated wall panels Arm Building; windows Velfac; western red cedar cladding Vincent Timber; cementitious wall cladding Cembrit Blunn; roof cladding Plannja; rooflights Vitral UK; steel gantry and lighting diffusers Steel Construction; staircases and balustrade Spiral Construction; disabled platform lift Gartec; banners Solarblades; catering equipment Shine Food Machinery; soft landscaping A&F Landscapes

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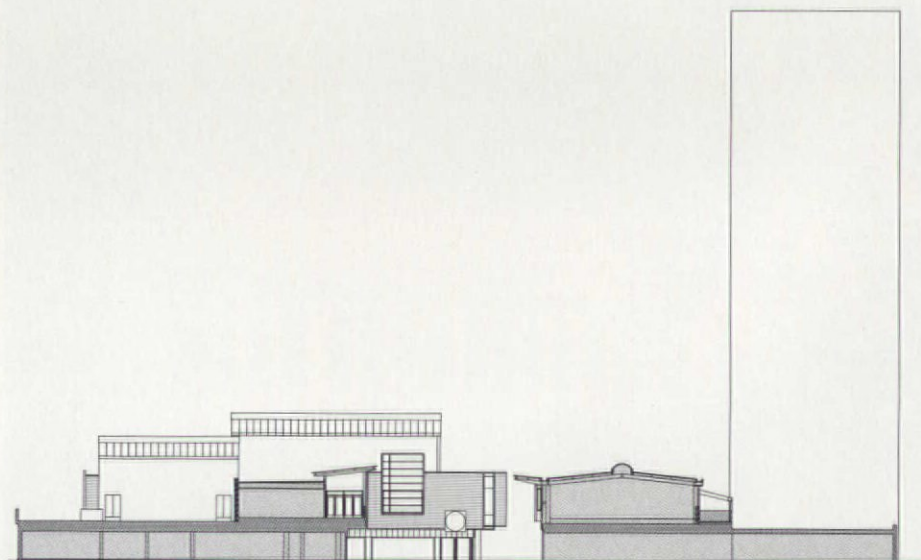


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BUILDINGS THAT GO BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

Turning over a new Leith

CDA has refurbished and extended a 1960s shopping precinct in Leith, outside Edinburgh, giving the run-down area a lift, all on a very tight budget

By Barrie Evans. Photographs by Paul Zanne

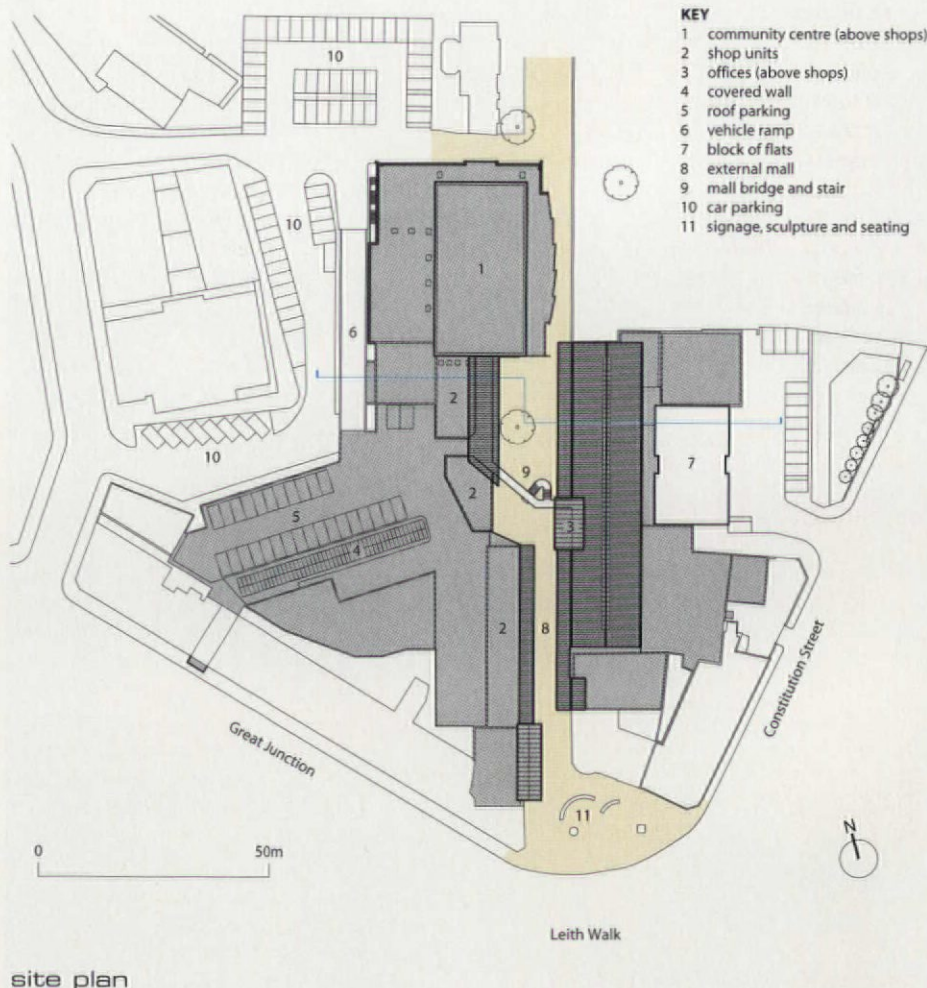


mall - cross section looking north

The regeneration of Leith is patchy. The new apartments we featured recently (AJ 12.2.04) at Ronaldson's Wharf sit in a water-side area with bars and restaurants in new trendy Leith. Improvement in other parts is less certain. Newkirkgate is a largely uncovered shopping precinct in old Leith, opened in 1968. Rental growth has not been enough to finance the regular upgrading needed to keep pace with contemporary retail developments. Ron Moir of CDA described the overall feel of the development as 'tired' and a 'hostile environment'. It was unsafe after dark. Units were empty (a few still are).

Allied London Properties bought Newkirkgate in 1998, aiming to bring it up to date and in the process also to create new floorspace. An open-roofed mall runs roughly south to north from the end of Leith Walk, with a smaller, covered mall branching off to an adjacent street (called Great Junction). The retail units were largely single storey, of typical low-budget '60s construction, with concrete canopies. A block of flats was part of the scheme and there were several bridges and access routes through the precinct. At the north end was a two-storey community centre, part of which bridged over the pedestrian access from housing beyond, creating an unattractive tunnel and blocking views to the nearby South Leith parish church.

City of Edinburgh Council agreed to the temporary closure of the community centre and substantial rebuilding. The centre is now located at first-floor level, wrapping round and part-masking the bulk of the existing sports hall (maintenance still needed) and



KEY

- 1 community centre (above shops)
- 2 shop units
- 3 offices (above shops)
- 4 covered wall
- 5 roof parking
- 6 vehicle ramp
- 7 block of flats
- 8 external mall
- 9 mall bridge and stair
- 10 car parking
- 11 signage, sculpture and seating



New bridge with walkway to the community centre. To the right of supermarket, bridging buildings have been removed to open the view to the north. Below: Phil Johnson's sculpture marking the main entrance to Newkirkgate

opening up views to the church from its cafe windows and for shoppers in the mall generally. Some access points (pend) were closed and built up to increase retail floorspace; more floorspace came from some building along the mall at first-floor level.

Apart from the new northerly pedestrian access toward the church, the other remaining access points to the scheme were also addressed. At the busy road junction to the south, which is the main Newkirkgate entrance, its renewed presence is signalled by a tall conical sculpture commissioned by CDA from artist blacksmith Phil Johnson (plus related seating). On Great Junction the covered mall's entrance has a new pair of gates, also by Johnson.

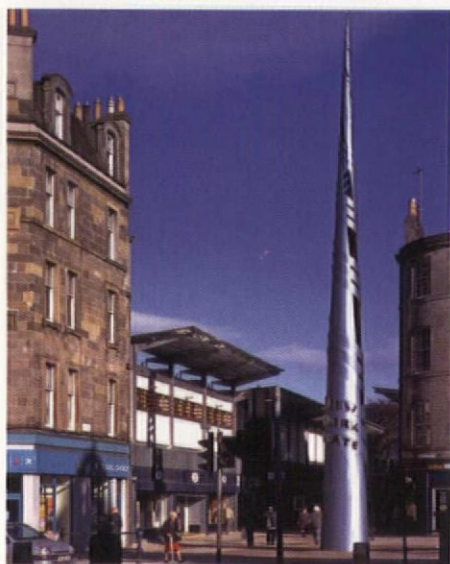
The dark ground-floor canopies and

bridges were cleared away. A new bridge now spans from the lift on the east side of the open mall to a new raised walkway on the west that leads to the first-floor community centre. The more energetic can use the new stairs halfway along the bridge.

Both bridge and walkway are in galvanised steel, a key part of the simple but robust palette CDA has employed. Cladding framing to retail units on both floors is now in the same galvanised steel with, on the ground floor, use of green granite column casings and spandrels. There is render too, with a dark blue brick plinth and, at first-floor level, out of harm's way, the palette is softened with horizontal cedar boarding against the render. The malls are repaved.

New canopies at first-floor level reshape the space, give some shelter and, through uplighting their soffits, provide night-time illumination without lamp posts. The covered mall is also upgraded, including a new roof vault and lighting.

There are now 12,000m² of retail space following an overall project spend of about £4 million, all carried out with the existing retail tenants in occupation. There is a new quality, clarity and lightness, a more civic feel. However, with Lidl as anchor tenant and a few budget-type units as well as some of the more-usual high-street names such as Boots and Woolworth, this is not gentrification. Rather it is an upgrading that should help give confidence in the future of this area more widely. With the budget stretched in so many directions this could never be a Stirling Prize scheme, but CDA has provided a very appropriate architectural service.



CREDITS

TENDER DATE

June 2001

START ON SITE DATE

August 2001

CONTRACT DURATION

59 weeks

GROSS INTERNAL FLOOR AREA

5,160m²

FORM OF CONTRACT

Scottish Building Contract, Contractor's Design Portion, Sectional Completion Addition with Quantities (January 2000 Revision)

TOTAL COST

£4,000,000

DEVELOPER

Allied London Properties

ARCHITECT

CDA: Mark Allan, Gareth Thompson, Adrian Shilliday, John Milne

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Les Alexander Associates

SERVICES ENGINEER (SCHEME DESIGN)

KJ Tait

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Mackenzie Partnership

SCULPTOR

P Johnson & Company

MAIN CONTRACTOR

Mowlem

SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Demolition CMI; structural steel Bone Steel; M&E Vaughan Engineering Group; joinery Firside; curtain walling and windows Northern Tectonics; shopfronts Beattie Architectural Aluminium; roller doors Advanced Roller Doors; steel stairs Peter Marshall; lift Kone; stone cladding McFarlane Masonry; roof cladding Nelson Cladding; single ply roofing Durastic; structural glazing Gray & Dick; metalwork Tom Young; rooflights East Anglia Rooflights; floor screed IFT; artist blacksmith Ratho Byres Forge

WEBLINKS

Allied London Properties

www.allied-london-properties.com

CDA

www.cda-group.co.uk

KJ Tait

www.kjtait.co.uk

Mackenzie Partnership

www.mackenzieuk.com

P Johnson & Company

www.rathobyresforge.co.uk

Mowlem

www.mowlem.co.uk

Construction futures

Our quarterly survey examines the dramatic impact that recent government interventions may have on the construction industry

BY PAUL MOORE

Building tender prices nationally are forecast to rise by 3.7 per cent in the year to the first quarter of 2005 and by a further 3.7 per cent the following year. The rises will come as a result of an expected 3.2 per cent increase in construction growth this year, with further increases of 1.8 per cent in 2005 and 2.7 per cent in 2006.

Despite the fall in commercial office activity, contractors in London are still busy and tender prices are expected to rise by 4.1 per cent in the next year, with an increase of 3.9 per cent in the year to first quarter 2006.

For much of the rest of the UK, the cutback in activity in the commercial offices sector looks likely to continue and the industrial sector will struggle. However, spending on infrastructure will rise and the substantial injection of government funds into health and education should see workload in the public non-housing sector increase by 13 per cent this year and by a further 6 per cent in 2005 and 2006.

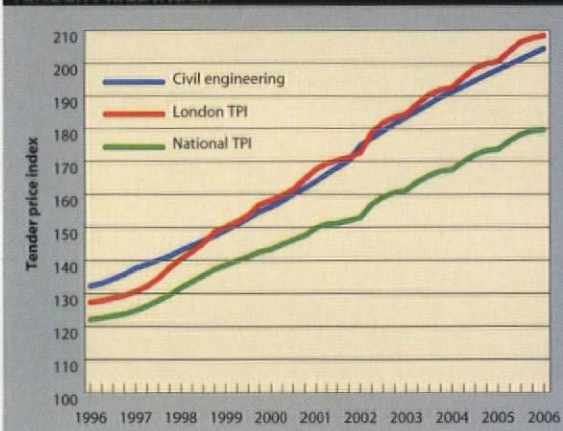
Unlike much of the past decade, the increase in workload is likely to take place away from south-east England, and more active market conditions in Scotland and north-west England will inevitably lead to substantial hikes in tender prices in these regions.

Rail, water and roads all have some catching up to do after last year's poor figures, but civil engineering tender prices are forecast to rise by at least 4 per cent in the next year and by a further 3.2 per cent in the year to the first quarter of 2006. With a shortage of some specialist skills, these figures could be exceeded in some local areas of demand.

After the Budget

Last month's Budget coincided with the publication of the Barker Report on housing and the Lyons Report on government services. The combined effect of these two reports is expected to increase workload in the medium term and radically affect the profile of

TENDER PRICE INDEX



'More active markets in Scotland and north-west England will lead to substantial tender price hikes'

Survey highlights

- Construction output in the fourth quarter of 2003 was 2 per cent higher than the previous quarter and 6 per cent higher than the fourth quarter of 2002.
- Construction output is forecast to increase by 3.2 per cent this year, by 1.8 per cent in 2005 and by 2.7 per cent in 2006.
- Skilled labour costs rose by 2.7 per cent in the past three months and by 8.2 per cent since March 2003.
- Materials prices rose by 2.9 per cent in the year to March 2004.
- Private commercial sector work will continue to fall, down by 6 per cent this year and by a further 5 per cent in 2005, with no change in 2006.
- Infrastructure output is set to rise by 6 per cent this year, by 6 per cent in 2005 and by 4 per cent in 2006.
- Investment in health and education will boost public non-housing sector output, with rises of 13 per cent this year and 6 per cent in 2005 and 2006.
- Tender prices are forecast to rise nationally by 3.7 per cent in the next year and by 3.4 per cent in the year to the first quarter of 2006.
- Tender prices in London are set to rise by 4.1 per cent in the next year and by 3.9 per cent during the following year.
- Civils tender prices are set to rise by up to 4 per cent in the next year with a further 3.2 per cent rise in the year to the first quarter of 2006.
- Underlying rate of retail price inflation is expected to run at 1.7 per cent this year, 1.9 per cent in 2005, and thereafter to average 2 per cent through to the end of 2008.
- Economic growth in the UK is set to rise by 3.1 per cent this year, 2.6 per cent in 2005 and then run at an average of 2.4 per cent through to the end of 2008.

the construction industry in the next 10 years. The Budget commitment to invest in public services in the form of primary and acute health, and new and modernised education facilities is likely to provide a major boost to many previously declining regions and cities.

The reforms suggested in the Barker Report could substantially increase the provision of affordable housing by at least 17,000 units per year for the next 10 years, although speeding up delivery could be constrained by the availability of land and speed of the planning.

If 27,000 government jobs are taken out of London and the South East, as recommended by the Lyons Report, demand for office space in the capital will inevitably suffer, although the relocation could act as a catalyst to reinvigorate many local and regional economies.

Input costs

Contractors' input costs rose by 5.2 per cent in the year to March 2004 and by 1.7 per cent in the past three months. In the year to March 2004, labour rates increased by an average of 8.2 per cent while materials' prices were 2.9 per cent higher than a year ago.

The relative slowdown in price rises in London – just 4 per cent during the year – has been balanced by a boom in activity in the North West, where site labour rates have increased by 10 per cent in the past year.

Reinforcement prices rose by 8.1 per cent in the past three months but structural steel prices, which had been expected to show a substantial rise, have not moved in the past year. However, a number of contractors have warned of future rises in structural steel prices and substantial hikes, of the order of 15-25 per cent, are being talked up in the next six months.

Another cost that will affect the price of many construction projects in England and Wales results from the EU Landfill Directive. The directive will dramatically reduce the hazardous disposal capacity in England and Wales after July 2004, resulting in a significant increase in remediation costs. The 200 current hazardous landfill sites in the UK are expected to fall to a maximum of 12, with no sites in Wales and only limited capacity in

the south of England. The resultant increased travelling and higher operating expenses are likely to more than double tipping costs.

Civil engineering

A fall in infrastructure workload in 2003 should correct itself in the first quarter of this year as the annual rush to get contracts awarded before the end of the fiscal year ensues.

Workload overall across all sectors is improving with renewed vigour; the Highways Agency has received a significant injection of funds and the water sector is moving into the peak year of its five-year periodic cycle.

Optimism still prevails and the infrastructure sector is forecast to show some of the highest rates of growth in the next three years, with increases in output of 6 per cent in 2004 and 2005, and a further 4 per cent in 2006. Growth of demand combined with shortages of resources means that prices are forecast to rise by at least 4 per cent in 2004, slowing to 3.2 per cent by the first quarter of 2006.

Construction activity

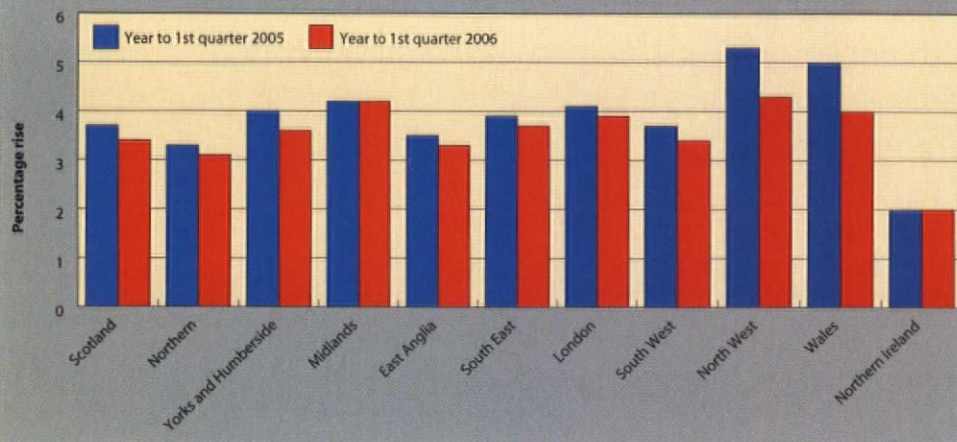
The latest Budget pronouncements should ensure continued growth in the public sector, where capital spending in the fourth quarter of 2003 was 27 per cent higher than a year earlier; the sector increased by 20 per cent during 2003 as a whole.

The slowdown in workload in commercial offices resulted in a drop of 6 per cent in the private commercial sector during 2003. A sector that has seen substantial growth is private housing, where activity rose by 18 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2003 compared with the same period in 2002, and by 12.5 per cent during 2003 as a whole. Continued activity in the high-quality residential sector has buoyed up workload in London, and there is now a return to inner-city living in a number of cities across the country.

Tender prices

A continued steady increase in workload is forecast to produce building tender price rises of 3.7 per cent in the year to first quarter 2005, with a further 3.7 per cent increase in the following year. Contractors in Lon-

REGIONAL TENDER PRICE FORECAST



'Workload overall across all sectors is improving with renewed vigour... the infrastructure sector is forecast to show some of the highest rates of growth in the next three years'

don remain busy, despite the fall in commercial offices, with high-profile, high-value schemes such as London Bridge, Battersea Power Station and the new Arsenal stadium providing workload. Tender prices in London are expected to rise by 4.1 per cent in the next year, with a further increase of 3.9 per cent in the year to the first quarter of 2006.

The North West has seen a tremendous upswing of workload, with both Manchester and Liverpool seeing substantial investment in inner-city private residential schemes, while Liverpool's 'City of Culture' status has seen a sea change in the approach by developers.

Across the Pennines, Yorkshire, while not showing the same conditions as the North West, is seeing some strong growth in residential schemes. The perception is that some contractors are sitting on comfortable order books, and there can be some difficulty in putting together tender lists for medium-sized schemes.

Macro-economic factors

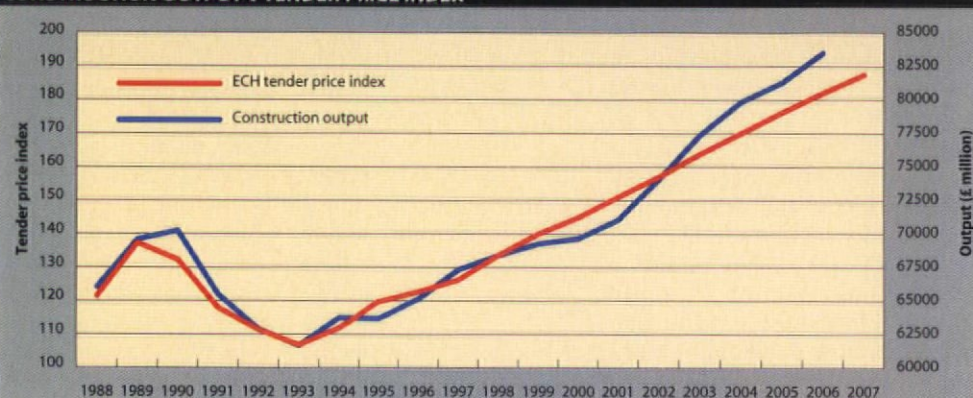
So, the chancellor was right about economic growth and most observers were wrong. The chancellor's forecast of growth in the March Budget of 3-3.5 per cent in 2004 and 2005, slowing to 2.5-3 per cent in 2006, should therefore be taken seriously, although the figures are more optimistic than the view of the City.

Public-sector finances are expected to fund increases of 7 per cent a year in the National Health Service until 2007/08, while education will get a similarly generous settlement.

House prices rose by 18.5 per cent in the year to March, according to the Halifax. The ratio between house prices and earnings is now at the top of its post-war range; if interest rates rise higher than the current 4 per cent there is a danger that Britain's housing bubble could burst with severe consequences for the rest of the economy.

Paul Moore is head of the cost research department at EC Harris. Tel 020 7391 2586

CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT v TENDER PRICE INDEX



The appliance of compliance

With detailed submissions to be required for future planning consent, outline planning permissions remain in name only

BY BRIAN WATERS

Hard to know where to start this month. Planning seems to have made it to the broadsheet front pages most weeks lately, and the soap opera that is the House of Lords ratifying the Planning Bill keeps springing surprises.

Despite the fact that the planning profession seems to be in denial – at least if you read its house magazine, *Planning* – design really has emerged the winner as a new material consideration, even though it is increasingly being wrapped in something called a 'design code'.

Witness the government's about-turn on outline planning applications. These were slated to be abolished by the new planning act, but amendments were tabled in the Lords at the end of March removing the offending clauses, with details promised in a new General Permitted Development Order, following consultation.

Ministerial concern was that developers were providing too little information so that authorities found themselves granting outline consents while unable to predict the character of the final scheme. Client lobbyists such as the British Property Federation and the RICS objected, claiming that outline permission was important in obtaining development finance.

In future, outline applications will have to include sufficient information to meet the requirements of an environmental impact assessment and will have to describe massing, layout, relationship to public space, density, height, access routes, landscape strategy, mix of use and response to context. It is hard to see how this can be achieved without a pretty full design, especially when, as is usually the case, the developer wants to maximise the site's development potential. There may be scope for negotiation since, according to planning minister Keith Hill, 'the level of information required should be

'Despite the fact that the planning profession seems to be in denial, design really has emerged the winner as a new material consideration'

appropriate to the complexity of the scheme'.

Green or Brown

Planning featured large in Gordon Brown's budget statement too, largely thanks to Kate Barker's report on housing'. Barker is a member of the independent committee set up by Brown to decide interest rates, and she recognises the need for planning (for housing at any rate) to respond to signals from the economy – that's house prices to you and me.

In her interim report she expressed horror at the extent of anti-development feeling that her research threw up, so now she proposes the means to counter the Nimby tendency reflected in local planning committees. The pressure is on to have a demand-led policy for the release of housing land and, as John Prescott had shown, this will be a top-down business. It will be supported by the provision of local incentives such as the retention by the council for the first three years of the additional council tax generated by new housing.

A new disincentive is also mooted, a development tax – the Planning Gain Supplement (PGS) – heralded for next year, to be levied when planning permissions are granted. This is where economic theory and practice part company. As many an architect will know only too well, the grant of a permission does not make the client instantly cash-rich. The moment to levy a development tax is at the start of development when the funding (and the developer's optimism) are in place. This is still not the equitable moment since the profit is earned not by the permission but by the risk taker, and can only be assessed at completion of sales and lettings of the development. Any earlier levy adds hugely to the developers' risk and so to the disincentive to build.

In fact, Barker says: 'Using taxation as a means to increase the supply

of land directly is unlikely to be successful, mainly because the role of the planning system in changing the value of sites reduces the effectiveness of price signals, and would create concerns about the fairness of the tax regime... However... the government should actively pursue measures to share in windfall gains that accrue to landowners (upon the grant of planning permission).'

Tax at source

As Crispin Kelly pointedly argued (AJ 25.3.04), the equity of a PGS is dubious, a landowner being liable to 40 per cent capital gains tax on disposal already. Perhaps the chancellor should focus on the large number of offshore developers and simply ensure they pay their whack. Be sure that as a result of the extended consultation period for the Barker report and all the rest, no development land tax will emerge, which is timed solely to bite when a planning permission is granted. If it were, the supply of land for housing would dry up waiting for the next lot to take power.

These are just some of the potentially conflicting propositions that are now launched upon a consultation process. Why conflicting? A couple of examples – the review of the Section 106 'planning gain' process and of proposed 'tariffs' has to be reconciled with the Planning Gain Supplement. Even if both were to coexist, the cost of one would have to be offset against the other. And would the money lost to councils by scaling back Section 106 agreements 'to cover the direct impact of development and contributions to social housing only', as Barker says, just go to the Treasury rather than the community? Or is that a silly question?

If the PGS is introduced as announced, the last thing a developer will want is an outline planning permission, so it would have been a bit of a waste of their lordships' breath retaining them.

Brian Waters is principal of the Brianot Waters Cohen Partnership, www.bwcp.co.uk

Footnotes

1. www.barkerreview.org.uk – emails to consultation@barkerreview.org.uk

Burning Issues

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Master the art of mediation to successfully resolve disputes

A few years ago I attended a residential mediation course with CEDR, the Centre for Dispute Resolution. It was, to use a neutral term, a memorable event and various images from that frenetic week have stuck. Although those in attendance were mostly lawyers, there was a smattering of other disciplines, including construction professionals, a psychiatrist and four Queen's Bench Masters. Masters deal with the interlocutory stages of High Court actions, giving directions, deciding contested applications and making orders to bring the case on for trial. They occupy a corridor of the High Court, known unsurprisingly enough as 'the Masters' Corridor' which runs from a large gathering area, known for some reason as 'the Bear Garden'. Queen's Bench Masters have a prompt, no-nonsense approach to their prolific workload. They are an idiosyncratic group who, when taking luncheon together at the same table in Hall in the Temple, would not look out of place in a scene from *Gormenghast*. The question is, of course, what were they doing on the CEDR mediation course?

It turned out that a new initiative was emerging to encourage parties to High Court litigation to agree to mediation. As one Master pointed out: 'If we are going to stay proceedings for mediation, we ought to know what it is about.' During the course, the Masters excelled themselves, being well equipped to assimilate the complex facts of a dispute upon a first reading, they played the roles assigned to them with gusto during the day and then saw off all contenders on the claret front in the evenings. As with most lawyers with a lifetime's experience of rights and evidence based dispute resolution, they found it easier to give a judgment on liability than to broker a mediated settlement. So the fears of some were allayed – no, the Queen's Bench Masters would not be offering a mediation service.

At the time, mediation was a relatively new addition to the dispute resolution tool kit. Although the courts were keen to encourage parties to mediate, and would judge those who had unreasonably refused, harshly, particularly

on the question of costs, they had no power to order parties to try to compromise their dispute in this way. Since then, mediation has grown in stature and its reputation, and its enviable success rate, has spread. Even in sizeable construction disputes, parties frequently agree that trial preparation should include a slot for mediation. The statistics show that in most cases, the parties will clinch a deal, either close to midnight on the day or shortly thereafter.

Mediation has been welcomed by those responsible for reducing the bill to the taxpayer for the administration of justice. A successful mediation means one less trial for a judge to try. As a result, mediation pilot schemes are springing up in various courts across the country. One has recently commenced in Central London County Court where the Court can now require the parties to attend a mediation appointment or to give good reasons why not. The order is made by the Court at its own initiative in suitable cases, which appears to be all cases other than small claims, cases concerning children or claims for an injunction. Although the parties are invited to agree to this procedure, if they don't, the court may still order the mediation to go ahead. The proceedings are then stayed for two months while the court fixes the date, time and venue. The mediator's fees are charged by the court and paid by the parties in advance, failing which the case is referred back to the judge for an explanation.

A similar pilot scheme is already in operation in Bournemouth County Court. It is free to the parties and the unpaid external mediators process up to seven mediations a day, each one scheduled for a maximum of only 45 minutes. Even so, the success rate is high. More such schemes are to be expected as the Court of Appeal is due give judgment in two cases concerning the courts' inherent powers to stay disputes for mediation.

Yes, it seems that the Queen's Bench Masters may be offering mediation services yet.

Kim Franklin

'A successful mediation means one less trial for a judge to try. As a result, pilot schemes are springing up across the country'

Sowing the seeds: a cynic's view about CPD

One of the nice things about not being in thrall to the RIBA or ARCUK is that you don't have to do CPD (continuous professional development). Don't get me wrong, the need for architects to keep abreast of things is obvious enough, even if at least one distinguished architect used to rumble away to the effect that his clients heard he was having to update his knowledge on a regular basis they would wonder about his general competence. However, you do get a tad cynical when you learn that the RIBA will let construction-related suppliers and manufacturers run a CPD programme providing their competitors haven't taken up the available slots – and on payment of a neat sum of dosh. Three grand it was several years ago when I dreamed up this wizard scheme... Apparently, the fee is for sending architects off to see if the programme is credible. I was reminded of all this when Rentokill's PR person rang up to suggest that I take a look at www.plants-in-buildings.com.

This is a nice enough site, with the exception that the designer asserts his/her 'individuality' by doing diagonals everywhere. Just like you did in third form art when you imagined it was the latest thing. And the text can't be resized. And you have to scroll down to see the bottom of pages. In 'A to Z of plants' I tried to find 'camellia' by clicking '[C]'. I gave up after a while because the list goes on the Latin name. Then the 'Why plants?' section. This turned out to be a very, very long stretch of text with illustrations to break up the serious monotony. And then the 'expert area' including the RIBA-approved CPD online learning. Being a not very nice person, I clicked my way through the first module to the quiz at the end where there were just two multiple choice questions: one involving percentages; the other Latin names. Multiple choice, of course. That means you do not have the tedium of remembering Latin plant names, just recognising them. Even I could probably do that.

sutherland.lyall@btinternet.com

London

Indoor Type: Michael Samuels 29 April-28 May. An exhibition at the AA, 36 Bedford Sq, WC1 (020 7887 4145).

Schools for the Future: Exemplar Designs 3-24 May. An exhibition at the RIBA, 66 Portland Place, W1. Details 020 7580 5533.

From Functionalism to the Future: C F Møller Architects Until 10 May. An exhibition at the RIBA, 66 Portland Place, W1. Details 020 7850 5533.

Building for People: The Real Value of Construction Wednesday 12 May, 15.30. The BRE Annual Conference at the Science Museum. Details www.bre.co.uk/conference

Lesley Foxcroft Until 15 May. An exhibition at Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering St, W1. Details 020 7629 7578.

Fred Manson: Smashing China Wednesday 19 May, 18.30. A UDG lecture at The Gallery, 77 Cowcross St, EC1. Details 020 7250 0892.

Will Alsop Thursday 20 May, 19.15. A lecture at the Design Museum, Shad Thames, SE1. Details 020 7940 8783.

Antoni Malinowski Until 22 May. Paintings by an artist known for his architectural collaborations. At Gimpel Fils, 30 Davies St, W1. Details 020 7493 2488.

Building Cities for Community & Identity 13-17 June. The 40th International Making Cities Livable Conference at the University of London Notre Dame Centre. Details www.livablecities.org

Archigram Until 4 July. An exhibition at the Design Museum, Shad Thames, SE1. Details 0870 833 9955.

East

Timber Frame Repairs 5-7 May. A three-day course at Cressing Temple, Essex. Details 01245 437672.

Attila Csorgo Until 9 May. An art-meets-science exhibition at Kettle's Yard, Castle St, Cambridge. Details 01223 352124.

Architects' Legal Update Conference 18-19 May. A Workplace Law Training course at Cambridge. Details 0870 777 8881.

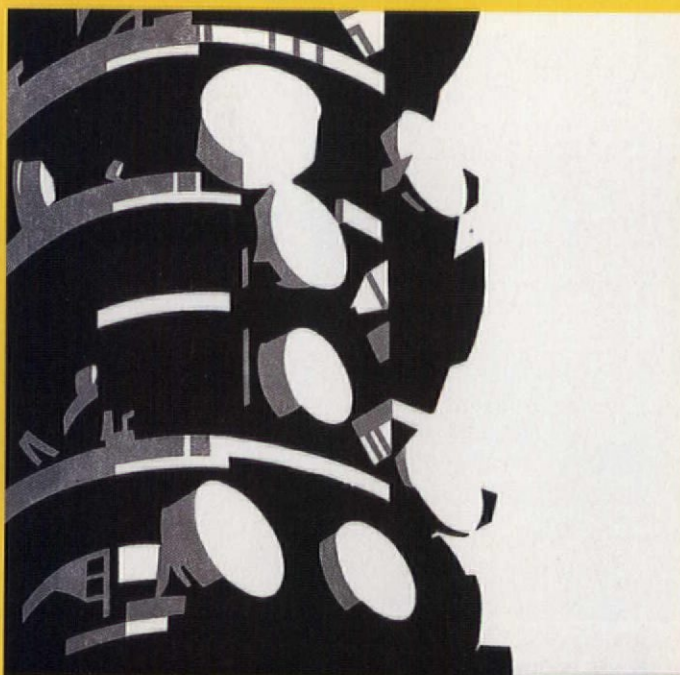
East Midlands

Hooked on Books: The Library of Sir John Soane 30 April-30 August. An exhibition at the Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park, Nottingham. Details 0115 846 7777.

Paper Sundays, 14.00-18.00, until 6 June. Works on paper by four artists at Fermynwoods, nr Brigstock, Kettering. Details 01536 373469.

North

Fantasy Architecture 30 April-3 July. An exhibition at the Northern Gallery



CUT TO FIT

Paul Catherall's limited-edition architectural linocuts feature such familiar landmarks as Tate Modern, the Brooklyn Bridge, the BT Tower (see above) and Brighton's West Pier – somewhat more intact in Catherall's version than it is today. At Clapham Art Gallery, 61 Venn St, SW4 until 29 May (020 7720 0955).

for Contemporary Art, City Library, Sunderland. Details 0191 514 1235.

North West

Richard Saxon Thursday 29 April, 19.30.

A lecture at St George's Church, Friargate, Preston. Details Doug Chadwick 01254 59835.

Eric Parry Thursday 6 May, 19.30. A lecture at the Grosvenor Museum, Grosvenor St, Chester. Details Mark Kyffin 0161 236 5667.

Blasting the Future: Vorticism in Britain 1910-1920 7 May-25 July. An exhibition at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Rd, Manchester. Details 0161 275 7450.

BCO Annual Conference 20-21 May. At Manchester International Conference Centre. Details 01722 339811.

Architecture and Ideology; Best Studio 3 (Arkheion) Until 29 May. Two exhibitions at CUBE, 113 Portland St, Manchester (0161 237 5525).

South

Mike Nelson 8 May-4 July. An architectural installation at Modern Art Oxford, 30 Pembroke St, Oxford. Details 01865 722733.

Immaterial: Brancusi, Gabo, Moholy-Nagy Until 23 May. An exhibition at Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton Civic Centre. Details 023 8083 2153.

South East

Giuseppe Penone: The Imprint of Drawing Until 9 May. An exhibition at Milton Keynes Gallery, 900

Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes. Details 01908 676 900.

RIBA CPD Event: Essential Legal Update (Building Regs, DDA) Thursday 13 May, 16.00. At Le Meridien Hotel, Gatwick. Details 01892 515878.

Oak and Iron Friday 14 May. At the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, near Chichester. Details 01243 811464.

Dungeness Until 16 May. Photographs by Nigel Green at Rye Art Gallery, Ockman Lane, Rye. Details 01797 222433.

Wessex

Domestic (F)utility Until 3 May. A group exhibition at the New Art Centre, Roche Court, East Winterslow, near Salisbury. Details 01980 862244.

Successful Development of Brownfield & Contaminated Land Tuesday 11 May. A Construction Study Centre event at the Avon Gorge Hotel, Clifton, Bristol. Details 0121 434 3337.

West Midlands

The DDA – in Action Thursday 6 May. A Construction Study Centre course at a Birmingham venue. Details 0121 434 3337.

Making Construction Contracts Work

Monday 10 May. A Construction Study Centre course at Birmingham. Details 0121 434 3337.

Elizabeth Magill Until 23 May. An exhibition at the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham. Details 0121 248 0708.

RIBA CPD Event: Problems in Architectural Practice Thursday 27 May, 14.00. A seminar at Birmingham. Details 0121 233 2321.

Yorkshire

Eduardo Chillida Until 4 May. An exhibition at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield. Details 01924 830302.

Cathy Hawley (muf) Thursday 6 May, 18.00. A lecture at the Arts Tower, University of Sheffield. Details www.suas.org

With Hidden Noise 8 May-8 August. An exhibition at the Henry Moore Institute, 74 the Headrow, Leeds. Details 0113 234 3158.

Working with the CDM Regulations Monday 10 May. A Construction Study Centre course at Harrogate. Details 0121 434 3337.

Scotland

RIAS Convention 2004 6-7 May. At Aberdeen, with speakers including Peter Cook, Colin Fournier, Benedetta Tagliabue and Richard Weston. Details 0131 229 7545.

C J Lim Until 7 May. An exhibition at Glasgow School of Art, Renfrew St, Glasgow. Details 0141 353 4525.

Field Trip Until 2 July. An exhibition at The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow. Details 0141 221 6362.

Wales

The John Hinde Butlin's Photographs 1 May-13 June. At Ffotogallery, Turner House Gallery, Plymouth Rd, Penarth. Details 029 2070 8870

Urban Legacies 6-7 May. A two-day conference on the role of artists & architects in shaping the public realm. At Cardiff. Details Gordon Dalton 02920 193004.

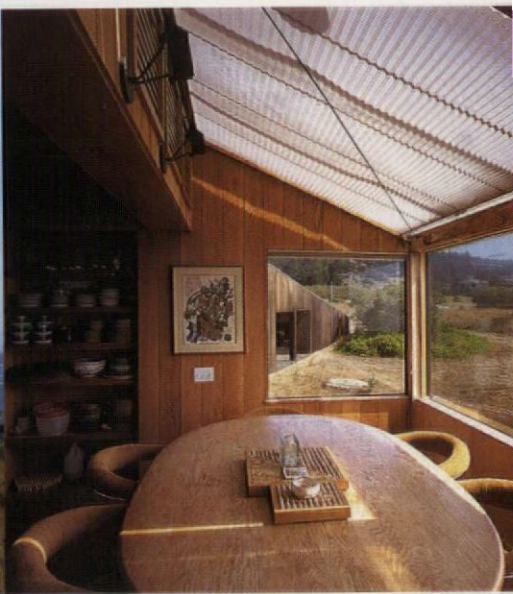
International

Giancarlo De Carlo Until 14 June. At the Pompidou Centre, Paris. Details www.centrepompidou.fr

Content: Rem Koolhaas – OMA – AMO Until 29 August. An exhibition at the Kunsthall, Rotterdam. Details www.kunsthall.nl

Jørn Utzon Until 29 August. An exhibition at the Louisiana Museum, Humelbaek. Details www.louisiana.dk

Information for inclusion should be sent to Andrew Mead at The Architects' Journal at least two weeks before publication.



Beside the seaside

RICHARD WESTON

The Sea Ranch

By Donlyn Lyndon and Jim Alinder. Princeton Architectural Press, 2004. 304pp. £40

Internationally, the Sea Ranch has become synonymous with the cluster of 10 condominium units designed by Moore Lyndon Turnbull Whitaker (MLTW) for a spectacular cliff-top site in northern California in 1964. Type the words into Google, however, and you will be confronted with a clamour of estate agents' sites, inviting you to rent or buy a property there.

The Sea Ranch we know and love is, in fact, merely the eponymous architectural flagship for an ambitious project by an Hawaii-based developer that now constitutes some 1,600 houses spread over 1,620 hectares and 16 kilometres of rugged, windswept coastline. From the outset it was intended to offer a unique example of landscape development, and to that end the brightest Californian landscape architect, Lawrence Halprin, was appointed along with a range of specialist consultants to delight any ecologically minded designer – geologists, climatologists, foresters and engineers.

Halprin's vision of the place was influenced by his experience of an Israeli kibbutz, but what emerged was a collection of individual dwellings with minimal communal facilities. Typically, he did not produce a masterplan, but a series of evocative, freehand sketches that laid down the principles – roads following hedgerows at right angles to the coast, 50 per cent of land to remain in common ownership, rigorous

control of private gardens – to guide development and preserve the landscape quality. Two of these drawings are well-known, but here, at last, they are reproduced – along with others previously unseen – in colour and at a size to be savoured: combined with an essay by Halprin, they enable his contribution to be recognised.

As architects, the developers chose the established Bay Area figure of Joseph Esherick to design six model 'Hedgerow Houses' and a retail building, and the then unknown MLTW for the condominium. Like Esherick, all but Turnbull were teaching at Berkeley, and although the two practices worked independently, they arrived at strikingly similar conclusions. In response to the land and climate, roofs were to be monopitches with clipped eaves, and walls clad with vertical redwood boarding; 'place-making', not form-making, was the shared aim.

Behind this quasi-vernacular vocabulary lay considerable reserves of architectural skill; something Lyndon alludes to by reminding us that 'the muscular structure of Kahn's architecture' can be heard 'whispering in the background'. Made famous by MLTW's condominium, the formal language was to be imitated worldwide; it also became the default setting for the entire development, creating a monotony to which this otherwise splendid book also falls prey at times.

Like most anthologies, Lyndon's account of the Sea Ranch's architectural highlights is essentially a celebration, best sampled and savoured rather than read at a single sitting. As such, it offers numerous, less familiar, delights: MLTW's two swimming/tennis facilities, the heavily modelled contours of the first reminiscent of an Indian step-well; Moore's snaking Miglio House; Lyndon and Turnbull's own houses; and several things by Esherick.

Among the less well-known designers, Obie Bowman impresses as the most distinctive. His Clayton House, ranged around a circular entrance/garden court, brings Lutyens to mind, while the earlier Brunsell House (pictured) – familiar from books on 'green' building – incorporates now commonplace environmental strategies, such as thermal mass and site-hugging geometry, into a complex, formally ambitious whole.

Despite its high environmental aspirations, the Sea Ranch nearly fell prey to a second wave of activism in the 1970s that sought to ban all such coastal developments. Despite these objections, it was the first world-class project to respond convincingly to the environmental agenda that was beginning – in the wake of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* – to command public attention. Its later development may not have fully lived up to the standards set at the outset (Lyndon argues it has), but it remains a unique achievement, ripe for re-evaluation. The publication of this comprehensive, beautifully designed and photographed record could hardly be more timely.

Richard Weston is professor of architecture at Cardiff University

The great escape

COLIN DAVIES

The City, Seen as a Garden of Ideas

By Peter Cook. Monacelli Press, 2003. 240pp. £30

The title is apt. These are visions of the city as a garden – as something to be enjoyed, something that grows and changes, a place to escape to, separate from the 'real world'. It makes little difference whether the cities are imaginary (Plug-in City, Instant City, Layer City, Arcadia City) or real (Oslo, London, Los Angeles, Tokyo); they all seem somehow removed – places of contemplation, rather than places in which to live.

Cook writes about the real cities and draws the imaginary ones, but the writing and the drawing share certain characteristics: vagueness, and a preference for the overview rather than the close-up. Not that he can't be sharply observant when something takes his fancy: a description of street kiosks in Tel Aviv, for example, including the dead flies in the windows, or a cluster of photographs of mobile urban contraptions – an ice cream van, a funicular railway, a maintenance cradle.

You will search in vain, however, for any real people in these cities, or much evidence of the things that real people do, like work and sleep, or shop and watch television. But then, of course, people don't usually do these things in gardens. And there can be nothing

nasty in a garden either. Cook's cities suffer no poverty, no crime, no racial tension, no Saturday-night binge drinking. In the writing, as in the drawings, people, if they appear at all, are paper cut-outs, there merely to enliven the scene.

The only real people in Cook's world are other architects – friends, collaborators and rivals – to which he is unfailingly generous. He mostly sees the best in other people's work and is never jealous. Perhaps that's what makes him such a good teacher. A less attractive aspect of this generosity is an embarrassing tendency to name-drop.

Writing about the recently completed Kunsthau in Graz, which he designed with Colin Fournier, Cook says: 'We knew that Gunter Domenig, Volker Giencke, Klaus Kada and the rest were watching us. We could not mimic their mannerisms but we could give a long, low wink and a long, low gurgle from within the cocoon, knowing that our building is more somnambulant than theirs.' So his audience is not clients or users or passers-by but other architects. He lives in the world of architecture and one sometimes wonders if he has any idea just how small that world really is.

Cook talks about far-flung cities as if they were personal friends, turning name-dropping into place-dropping. He rarely criticises them and when he does, strangely, he picks on the most unreal and garden-like cities, the cities everyone else loves, like Venice and Prague. He also dislikes Jerusalem for being 'irritating' and for having 'a collection of architecture that is (when viewed objectively) rather poor'.

Most of the visionary projects are located somewhere real and they usually respond to some physical quality of that place: the craginess of Oslo, for example, or the soggy of the Suffolk coast. His visions are not alternatives – not utopias in the manner of Le Corbusier or Hilberseimer; rather, they are extensions and accretions, realisations of existing possibilities.

So when, in the last chapter of the book, Cook tackles a place like Houston, even though he is obviously disturbed by the city's spatial discontinuity and total reliance on the car, his response is to propose a super-Houston – a vast and absolutely regular grid of streets for automated cars, serving isolated, inward-looking and (no doubt) electronically fortified mansions. Then, as if horrified by his own creation, he drapes a 10-mile-long, free-form, glass-roofed multi-purpose structure called the Liner along one edge – in other words, a garden to escape to. *Colin Davies is a professor at London Metropolitan University*



An aerial view of the Liner in Cook's proposal for Houston, seen in a computer projection by Nicola Haines

News from abroad

CLAIRE BOWERMAN

The Ruins of the Most Beautiful Monuments of Greece

By Julien-David Le Roy. Translated by David Britt. Getty Publications, 2004. 550pp. £45

Julien-David Le Roy put quite a few noses out of joint with his 1758 publication, *Les ruines des plus beaux monuments de la Grèce*. British architects James Stuart and Nicolas Revett had aimed to produce the first fully illustrated survey of ancient Greek buildings, but Le Roy took their idea and beat them to it. And so it was the Frenchman who was to reveal the splendour of Classical Greek architecture to a wide European audience.

While their Roman counterparts had been on view to visitors for centuries, it was only with the gradual opening up of the Ottoman Empire to visitors from Europe, in the late-17th and early 18th centuries, that intrepid travellers could explore for themselves the sites of Greek antiquity. Early voyagers arrived just in time to make engravings of the Parthenon while it was still intact (and being used as a munitions store) before the inevitable happened, and a stray Venetian shot caused a devastating explosion. But such illustrations were of varying quality, and few drawings were

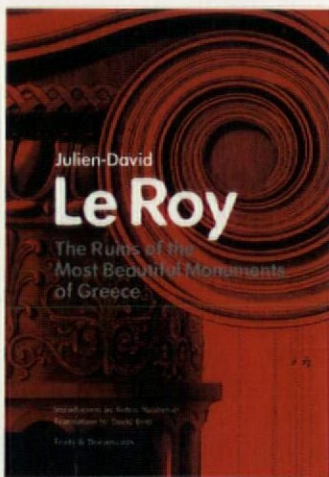
based on any systematic measurement of the buildings concerned.

With Stuart and Revett delayed in their journey south, the young architect Le Roy was able to make sketches that were of far greater quality and rigour than those that had previously existed, and to rush them into print, along with his prose descriptions

of the virtues of Greek architecture (claiming that the Doric and Ionic orders, for example, had been debased by the Romans who adapted them).

His work was an instant bestseller, helping to create a vogue for all things Greek, and prompting others to leap to the defence of the Roman style, most famously Piranesi in his spirited *Della magnificenza ed architettura de' romani* (Concerning Roman architecture and magnificence).

At one point Piranesi even surrounds Le Roy's engraving of a capital from the Erechtheion in Athens with an elaborate array of more complex Roman variants, as if to hound out Le Roy's claim that the Roman work is 'defective'.



Also disgruntled by their rival's success, Stuart and Revett repurposed their own work, *The Antiquities of Athens*, in order to highlight the supposed inadequacies of Le Roy's survey, criticising him in particular for historical inaccuracies and errors of measurement in his drawings of the monuments. In the English-speaking world, some of this mud has stuck, with the result that Le Roy's work has not had the attention it deserves.

This first English translation of the 1770 second edition should help to remedy that situation. Lavishly illustrated, and with a thorough introduction by art historian Robin Middleton, it makes clear Le Roy's importance in his time, and the influence he had on succeeding generations of architects and artists. His work demonstrated the fact that there was more than one culture with a good claim to be taken as a model for European buildings. And his writing and illustrations show signs of a new sensibility, resulting in a new way of seeing ancient architectural forms.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Le Roy does not represent the monuments of Greece as they would have stood in their ideal glory, but rather emphasises their very decay, clearly finding an appeal in the spectacle of ruin itself. Add the fact that it shows us architectural forms that, in many cases, no longer exist outside of these early illustrations, and we have a volume that is of great historical interest, as well as being a real treat for the eye.

Clare Bowerman is a London-based writer and editor

The Earth: An Intimate History

By Richard Fortey. HarperCollins, 2004. 501pp. £25

Richard Fortey's book begins and ends amid the 'scrambled geology' of Italy: 'We think of churches floored with slabs of *ammonitico rosso* – a stone both warmly red and mottled with a subtlety no industrial process could duplicate, with every now and again the spiral ghost of the ammonite fossil that gave it its name,' he writes. In between come excursions to the Alps, Hawaii, Newfoundland, and many other sites of geological significance, as Fortey explains the effects of plate tectonics, which keep the Earth in a constant state of change. But what distinguishes the book, as the quotation above might imply, is Fortey's ability to convey the characteristics of different stones – whether in their natural state or worked – and the territory in which they are found; his writing is exact, vivid and evocative. At its heart is an appreciation of those places where architecture directly reflects the local geology and buildings harmonise with the landscape. *The Earth: An Intimate History* would sit neatly on a bookshelf beside Richard Weston's recent *Materials: Form and Architecture* (AJ 23.10.03) or Alec Clifton-Taylor's classic study of the links between geology and architecture, *The Pattern of English Building*. Pictured is a mosaic floor at the Casa del Fauno, Pompeii.



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people & practices

RG&P, the architectural design practice, has appointed **Mitch Dale** as a new director to head its quantity surveying and project management division.

Broadway Malyan has announced the appointment of **Neil Tomlinson** as associate director for retail.

Architect **Bowman Riley** has become a limited company. **Darren Bush** and **Matthew Jones** have become associate directors, and **David Hodgson** has been appointed associate along with **Marlon Cooray**.

Cube Design has appointed **Stuart Latham** as associate director at its Hampshire offices.

Peter Black has joined **tp bennett** as a director of its specialist interior division, **bennett interior design (bid)**.

Bradford-based practice **Waller & Partners** has appointed **Andrew Croxall** and **Phillip Veitch** as directors.

The **Derek Lovejoy Scotland** team of directors and staff have joined **EDAW**.

Peter Brett Associates is opening a new office in the South West at **Lynx House**, Pynes Hill, Exeter, Devon EX2 5JL.

Mackay and Partners LLP has moved to 28 St John's Lane, Clerkenwell, London EC1M 4BU.

Jonathan Bailey Associates has promoted **Michael McGeedy** to vice-president and UK office director, **Sean Kirton** to vice-president and design director and **Rick Shands** to senior associate. **Alex Newman-Burke** takes on the role of studio manager.

● Send details of changes and appointments to Anna Robertson, *The Architects' Journal*, 151 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4GB, or email anna.robertson@emap.com

architects

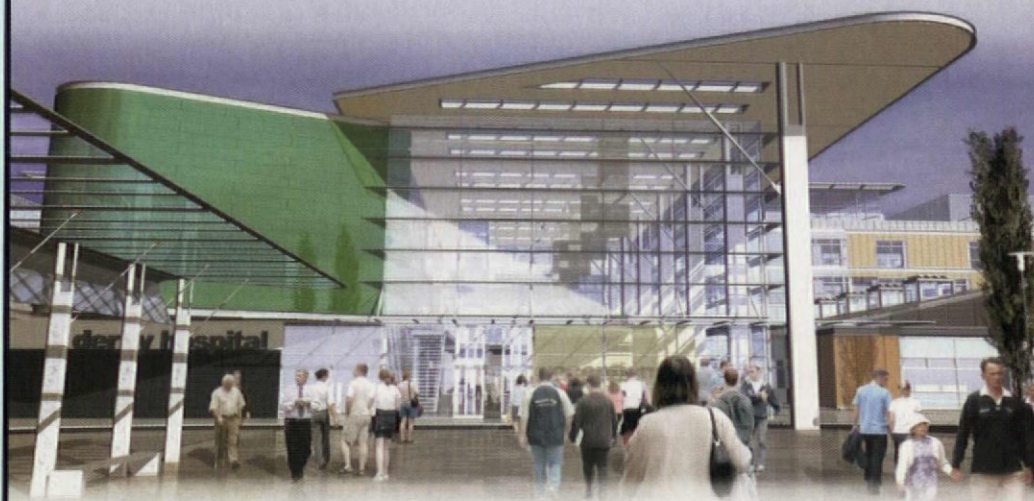
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Following recent successes in the healthcare sector we are looking to recruit experienced specialist healthcare architects to our teams across the UK. You will have at least two years' experience with excellent eye for detail and a good understanding of clinical planning. More senior applicants should have well developed management skills with a proven ability to work within teams or run £ multi-million projects.

Due to our increasing workload throughout our architectural practice, we also require commercial architects to assist on design, including feasibility and details designs for both public and private sector commissions. You should have at least two years' experience but above this candidates are considered at all levels, more senior applicants should be Part III qualified and have proven management skills.

Applications with CV and covering letter, or queries, to sara.kelly@capita.co.uk quoting ref AJ04/04.

www.capitaproperty.co.uk



We are currently acting as architect and health planner on this £333m scheme to remodel and redevelop the existing Derby City General Hospital. Completion is scheduled for 2008.

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Opportunities are available for self-motivated newly qualified architects to work with project partners on a range of commissions including housing, commercial and healthcare sectors



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ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN required to join and help develop a small and extremely busy practice in London SE1.

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Recruitment enquiries

Charlie Connor
Tel: 020 7505 6737
Email: charlie.connor@emap.com

Laurie Shenoda
Tel: 0207 505 6803
Email: laurie.shenoda@emap.com

Deadlines

Bookings/copy 5pm Monday
Artwork 12 noon Tuesday
Cancellations 12pm Monday

Recruitment advertisements in the AJ can be found on our internet recruitment service
www.careersinconstruction.com



South Somerset is a large District subject to considerable development pressure. Set in varied, high quality landscape between the Somerset Levels and Moors, the Blackdown Hills and the Dorset and Wiltshire Downs, the area has an outstanding environment containing historic market towns, 85 conservation areas, 4500 listed buildings, nationally renowned parks and gardens and the growing regional centre of Yeovil.

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Ref: 553

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You will act as a mentor to the development control service to improve design understanding and awareness, and negotiate on all aspects of design, from broad master planning and layouts down to the level of architectural details. As part of a small, professional and multi-disciplined team, you will provide rapid, clear, practical design advice on architectural and urban and village design, landscape architecture, and natural and built environment conservation.

With good written and graphic skills and a practical understanding of the way development can be improved through good design, you must be flexible, self-motivated and able to manage a wide caseload under pressure. You should be a member of an appropriate professional body and have proven experience in a design advisory capacity.

For an informal discussion, please contact Adron Duckworth on (01935) 462652.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from Human Resources, South Somerset District Council, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT. Tel. (01935) 462153 (24 hour answerphone) or look on our website under vacancies. Closing date: 14 May 2004.



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To £40,000 + Benefits — Birmingham

With at least 5 years' PQE in order to be the named Architect for the practice registration, you will be a highly valued addition to this multi-disciplined engineering consultancy. Essential skills are AutoCAD, gaining new instructions and a proven job running ability within an industrial bias. If you are ambitiously seeking an excellent career opportunity — get in touch!

Simon Brady t. 020 8603 1818 e. sbrady@bbt.co.uk Ref: SBRA0102

Senior Architectural Technicians

To £35,000 + Benefits — Surrey

Our client has successfully diversified into the design disciplines and seek a number of Senior Technicians with proven residential and commercial experience. You will have comprehensive knowledge of current building regulations and possess effective people management skills. Producing construction drawings utilising AutoCAD is preferred but not essential.

Simon Brady t. 020 8603 1818 e. sbrady@bbt.co.uk Ref: SBRA0103

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	HOUSING ARCHITECTS / TECHNICIANS Manchester, Oxford, London, Kent, Midlands, Suffolk
	RETAIL ARCHITECTS London, Hants, Manchester, Birmingham, Essex, Milton Keynes
To £35k	PART III ARCHITECTS Manchester, Mids, Norfolk, Oxford, Berks, Beds, Surrey, London, Kent
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	PART II ARCHITECTS ASSISTANTS Norfolk, Cambs, Oxford, Berks, Hants, London, Bucks
	ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIANS London, Manchester, Yorkshire, Midlands, Herts, Cambs, Beds
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Project Architect Central London £to35k

This is a rare opportunity to join a well-respected practice with a range of different commissions. It is anticipated you will have at least 3 years post part III experience, and have worked on a number of contract types. You will have held your current position at least 2 years, have fluent Cad skills (any system) and an excellent academic record. The practice enjoys a pleasant studio space and encourages individuals to explore their potential with regular career reviews. Generous package, which offers pension, health cover, subscriptions and profit related bonuses.

Cad Technician Central London £35K/20phr

This medium-sized practice has recently won a major new commission, and is therefore looking to strengthen their team with an experienced cad technician. Ideally you will be HNC/ONC qualified with at least 3 years experience, preferably gained on steel framed buildings with some knowledge of high-tech cladding. Autocad skills are essential, and some experience of retail or transport work is preferred. The practice will consider either a permanent or contract appointment, depending on the successful individual's preference.

We have ongoing requirements for a range of staff, from Project Architects to Cad Technologists. To discuss your options in the strictest confidence, please contact:

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MH0404-90 - Snr Arch Technician - London - £35,000

Large Multidiscipline practice has a number of fantastic opportunities for Senior Architectural Technicians. You will be afforded the chance to run your own packages or take a senior role on a technical basis depending on your ambitions. The works are mainly in the Healthcare and Governmental sectors and provide interesting challenges at every turn. Our client is looking for you to have excellent AutoCAD skills and an in depth knowledge of UK Building Regs. You will also be responsible for junior technicians depending on the size of the jobs and therefore you should be comfortable taking a lead and providing direction.

MH0404-56 - Architect - Bucks - £34,000

Are you running projects from start to finish? This well established local practice requires an Architect to take jobs from conception to completion. Working in the commercial, education and residential sectors you will be offered the opportunity to run projects, manage teams and work closely with clients. Our client operates on AutoCAD and knowledge of this software is essential. Beyond that our client is looking for you to provide individual design solutions, be self motivated and able to deal with contractual issues.

MH0404-54 - Part 2 - Bucks / Oxon - £28,000

Busy Architectural practice requires an RIBA Part 2 qualified Assistant Architect to work on a broad range of Residential developments. Our client's projects vary from small one offs to large multi unit developments and they require you to contribute both technically and design wise. Estate layout experience would be a benefit. AutoCAD ability and UK Building Regs knowledge is essential. If you are looking to take on major responsibilities and develop as an architect then this position is for you.

CONTRACT VACANCIES

CGR0404-163 - Senior Arch Technician - Canterbury - 16ph

Are you currently being offered job running opportunities? This multi-discipline practice with a strong Architectural background requires a Senior Architectural Technician to help run a challenging project on the Kent coast. You will have 5-10 years experience and good AutoCAD knowledge. On going contract with the potential to go permanent if you so wish.

CGR0404-35 - Architectural Technologist - East Sussex £15ph

Looking for a new challenge in an imaginative Architectural Practice? Ideally HNC qualified with a minimum 5 years experience. You must be technically competent with a good knowledge of Building Regulations. ArchiCAD knowledge would be beneficial although training would be provided. Long term contract and interesting media projects.

AD0404-142 - Architectural Technician - London - £19ph

An excellent Technician is required to work on various retail projects for this well respected City practice. Suitable candidates will have a minimum of 10 years PQE and have a good construction background. AutoCAD proficiency is essential as is experience of running projects from conception to completion.

AD0404-141 - Vectorworks Technician - London - £18ph

Is working for a prestige practice based in Central London what you are looking for? Can you demonstrate a sound understanding of the construction process, coupled with excellent Vectorworks skills? Offering a long contract on commercial and retail projects, this practice specialises in fit-out work.

AD0404-61 - Architect (RIBA III) - Oxford - £20ph

If an environment where you have access to award winning projects and the opportunity to run a project appeals, then this multi-discipline practice will want to hear from you. This is an urgent need for a contract Architect (RIBA III) to be based in Oxford. It is an ongoing contract with every possibility of being permanent eventually. 40-45 hours per week and excellent rates.

AD0404-143	AutoCAD Technician London	£13ph
AD0404-82	Architectural Technician London	£17ph
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CGR0404-168	Arch Technician (Vectorworks) London	£14ph
CGR0404-170	CAD Technician Surrey	£14ph
CGR0404-169	CAD Technician London	£14ph
CGR0404-194	Senior Arch Technician Kent	£16ph
CGR0404-134	Architectural Technician East Sussex	£15ph

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Email: aj@consensusshr.co.uk

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON Bartlett School of Graduate Studies Lectureship in Housing

In September 2004, the Housing Futures research group at the Bartlett School of Graduate Studies, UCL, will launch an innovative interdisciplinary postgraduate Masters programme in Housing Futures. This radical new course will combine the study of design precedent with the evaluation of innovative UK housing projects, policies, methods and practices and relevant international comparisons worldwide. The course will promote the role that good design plays in producing better housing by bringing together all the stakeholders in the housing process - architects, planners, urban designers, developers, house builders, components manufacturers, registered social landlords, facilities managers and end users - in an inter-disciplinary learning environment where ideas will be shared, allowing mutual understanding and esteem to be developed and fostered.

UCL is seeking to appoint a qualified professional from one or more of these disciplines to lead the development and delivery of this innovative interdisciplinary programme. The ideal candidate will be an experienced academic or practitioner with a design background, a postgraduate qualification, relevant experience in the field of housing studies and proven leadership and team-working skills.

This full-time post is available from July 2004. Salary will be within the range Lecturer A or B, £23,259 - £32,794 per annum including London Allowance (pay review pending), according to qualifications and experience.

Details of the job description, other information, and a downloadable UCL application form can be found on www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/jobs.htm. Applications, which must be posted, not emailed, and should include the completed UCL standard application form, a personal statement, a CV including 2 referees and a daytime telephone number, should be sent to Professor Julianne Hanson, The Bartlett School of Graduate Studies (Torrington Place site), University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Short-listed candidates are expected to be called for interview late May/early June 2004.

The closing date for applications is **21st May 2004**.

UCL Taking Action For Equality



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London, North & Home Counties:
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Project Architects Central London

Born from the Arts and Crafts movement of the 1920's. This international Design Practice has grown into one of the UK's leading and respected practices. With interests in the Public sector, Business space, Mixed use, Education, Transport, Hospitality, Residential and Industrial developments.

Due to continued planned growth they are seeking to talk to talented Project Architects who wish to progress their careers, working on a variety of projects within the Leisure, Hospitality and Residential sectors.

The role will be as Project Architect responsible for working directly with the client, design team and contractors.

It is envisaged that a minimum of 3-5 years post qualification will be required with a thorough understanding of the design process and the ability to manage from concept to completion.

These posts offer an excellent opportunity for Architects to work in a stimulating environment and contribute their vision and talents.

In return you can look forward to a competitive benefits package and broad scope for your career development. Ref: 2067

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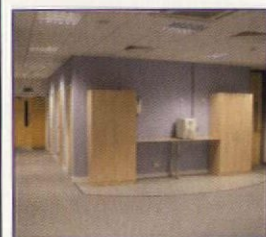
Charlie Connor
Tel: 020 7505 6737
Email: charlie.connor@emap.com

Laurie Shenoda
Tel: 0207 505 6803
Email: laurie.shenoda@emap.com

Deadlines

Bookings/copy 5pm Monday
Artwork 12 noon Tuesday
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Structural engineering consultancy seeks experienced

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One of France's largest architectural practices is seeking architects to work across its current range of projects in Healthcare, Urbanism, Retail, Industry and the public sector. You should have some post-qualification experience, preferably in hospital design, and be fluent in the use of CAD. A good grasp of the French language is also desirable. Our offices are situated in a city which is acknowledged as a centre for research, with high-quality schooling at all levels, within an hour of an international airport (Lyon St Exupery) and close to some of the finest skiing in the world. All contribute to a high quality of life. Quality in design is also a constant preoccupation and we look to recruit architects who share our enthusiasm and aspiration.

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The Welsh School of Architecture enjoys an established reputation as a research-led school (5A) with an excellent teaching performance.

The School has provided a professional education for architects for over eighty years, attracting undergraduate and graduate students from across the world and has research links with departments of architecture in many countries.

You will be expected to take a lead in undergraduate teaching. You should have an established research profile, preferably in architectural history and theory or architectural practice, although other areas would be considered.

Previous applicants need not re-apply.

Salary: £35251 - £39958 per annum

For an application pack and details of all our vacancies, visit www.cardiff.ac.uk/jobs Alternatively email vacancies@cardiff.ac.uk or telephone + 44 (0) 29 2087 4017 quoting vacancy number 169.

Closing Date: 21 May 2004

Central London Vacancy

Architectural CAD Technician
Vac Ref 0404-40

Permanent £30K

This client is seeking keen and self motivated candidates to work within a team environment producing information for major clients. Successful candidates will have a sound knowledge of UK construction practices and regulations supported by being MBAT qualified. All candidates need to be CAD literate ideally in Archi-CAD although they are prepared to cross train suitable applicants from other packages.

Nottingham Vacancy

Senior Technician / Architect
Vac Ref 0404-58

Permanent £30K

This client is one of the top 3 practices in Nottingham and work in a wide variety of sectors including large scale Flats/Apartments, Retail Developments and Warehouse units. Although they will consider any project, the bulk of their work is in the range of £0.5m - £3m. They are now seeking a Senior Technician / Architect to join them on a permanent basis. Ideally you will have Vector Works experience, but the client is happy to cross train the right applicant. A driving license is also a pre-requisite.

Leeds Vacancy

Senior Technician / Architect
Vac Ref 0404-56

Permanent £30K

This small house builder / developer is seeking a senior Architectural Technician or architect to head a small in house architectural department. The candidate will have to have full knowledge of UK construction and building regulations along with some knowledge in planning. Architectural management experience would be advantageous along with a very ambitious and professional attitude to work. This is an outstanding opportunity for the right candidate.

Warwickshire Vacancy

Architectural Technician
Vac Ref 0404-55

Permanent £25K

This large commercial client is seeking an architectural Cad Technician with 1-2 years experience of working with and detailing Construction Drawings. They are ideally seeking a keen person who enjoys office based detailing work, to work with designs of high quality prestige car showrooms and other commercial projects. AutoCAD literacy is essential along with a keen desire to succeed and progress within their technical career.

Northampton Vacancy

Senior Architectural Technician
Vac Ref 0404-54

Permanent £26K

My client, a small/medium sized practice, is seeking a Senior Architectural Technician with at least 3 years post qualification experience gained in any sector. Their workload is mainly Industrial and Commercial projects, but they also cover residential and interiors work. They would be particularly interested in applications from older Technicians. You will have the AutoCAD skills, coupled with the ability to run jobs and lead small teams. This is a great opportunity to join a thriving practice and carve your own niche.

Reading Vacancy

Quality Assurance (Architectural)
Vac Ref 0404-53

Permanent £28K

This client is one of the largest Town Planning, Architectural, Master planning and Environment practices in the UK. The Practice Support Service provides day to day support to the group covering our Business Management System (Quality Assurance to ISO 9001), technical support/research, intranet and legal matters etc. In the first instance you would be responsible for the day to day running of the Business Management System but have an expanding brief to become involved with other Support Service activities. We ideally see that this post would interest a person with a planning/architectural background and experience of administering quality assurance procedures. A proactive and inquisitive approach is essential.

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Senior Architect : Social Housing

Curt la Tourette Architects is a medium sized practice specialising in architecture for education, community buildings and social housing.

We have a position for a Senior Architect to take a lead role in our housing team. The right candidate will have an opportunity to influence design decisions and become a leading member of the practice.

We offer a stimulating and open working environment and career potential. Candidates should have excellent design, technical, CAD, presentation and communication skills and a wide experience in housing.

Please apply in writing or by e-mail to Deirdre Palmer
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deirdre.palmer@cltarchitects.co.uk

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Architects / Technicians
Vac Ref 0404-44

Permanent £25-30K

This large expanding practice in South Manchester is currently looking to recruit up to 5 architects and 2 technologists to play a key role in the following projects:

1. PFI Leisure Centers in Derbyshire - Senior Project architect to lead 3 projects from Financial close in late May 04
2. Social Housing / Care homes - Technical architect to provide support to Project architects on a number of Care home and urban regeneration projects throughout the NW
3. Public Sector Education and Leisure Centers - Project Architect to join team working on smaller scale education projects in the NW [up to £5m] and a raft of Leisure Centre refurbishments throughout the UK
4. Mixed Use (hotel/residential/retail) - Project Architect to lead £4m mixed use Town Centre scheme in Chelmsford Essex which has received planning approval [together with Technologist]
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Part II Architectural Assistant Bournemouth

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The remuneration package will include a Company car, contributory pension scheme, and profit and share schemes. With Regional offices across the UK the Company offers exceptional career prospects.

If you think you have the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the challenge please write or e-mail to:

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John Shelbourn, Design Director

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Architectural Technician Birmingham £33,000

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Part II Architect Birmingham £26,000

Market leading national multidisciplinary consultancy now seek an ambitious team player. You must be part II qualified and possess excellent AutoCAD skills. RefASH220403.

Architectural Technician Birmingham £29,000

This design led, high profile organisation whose portfolio covers MOD and Healthcare projects require a driven and skilled individual. Excellent AutoCAD skills and a full understanding of Building regulations are essential. RefASH220404.

Contract Positions

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Architectural Technician	Birmingham	£22hr
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Architect - London

Our Client has an immediate requirement for a qualified Architect (RIBA) with at least 10 years post qualification experience to work in their Education Department covering School and College buildings.

Although this is a Project Running Architects position dealing with the Documentation and Contract Administration on these schemes, there will still be some Conceptual Works or Design aspects involved and you will therefore be expected to be fully conversant with VECTORWORKS or AutoCAD LT software packages.

Candidates should ideally have previous experience on Public Buildings, Educational Facilities and/or Local Authority Schemes in general.
This is a contract hourly paid position.

Vectorworks Technician

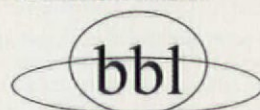
A North London based Local Authority Client has an immediate need for an experienced Vectorworks CAD Operator to provide Technical Support to their Architects team.

What the Client effectively needs is an Architectural Assistant / Technician / Technologist, with VectorWorks experience. Someone with a sound grounding in building construction and a good working knowledge of the Building Regulations. They would need someone with 5 - 10 years experience, who can work with minimal supervision. Experience with NBS would also be useful. The candidate would be required to provide technical support to their senior architects - mainly CAD support on Scheme Design and Production Information.

This is a contract hourly paid position

For further details on these or the many other Temporary and Permanent appointments we have available, contact: **Mike Newton** or log on to our website at www.bbirecruitment.com

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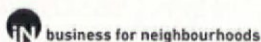
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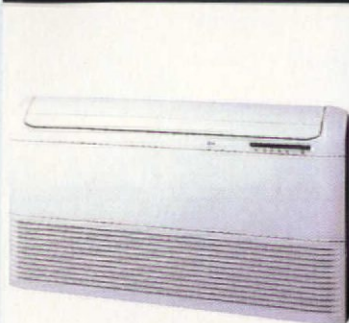
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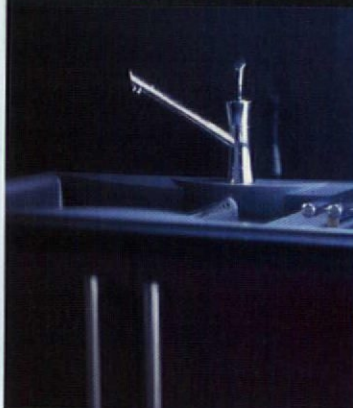
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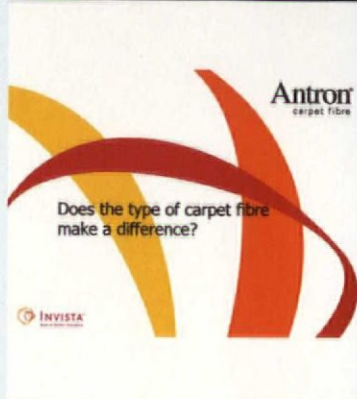
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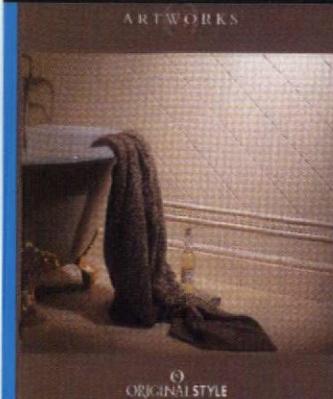
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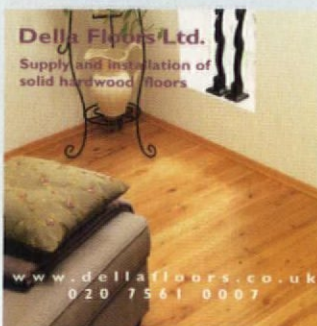
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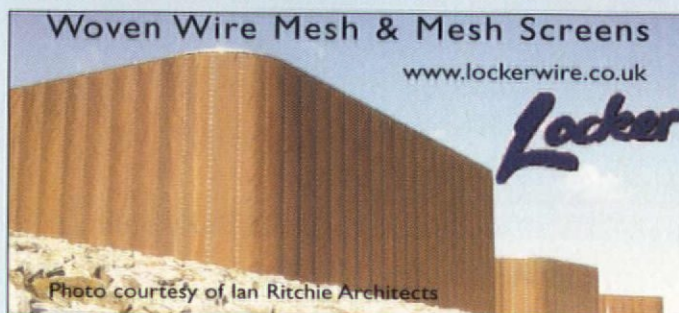
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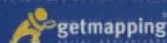
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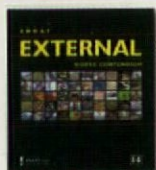
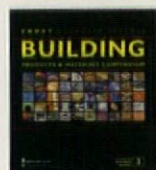
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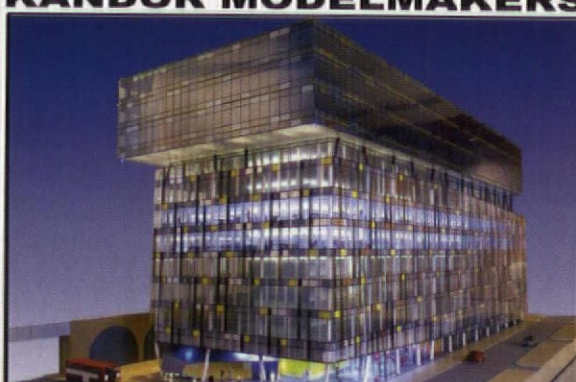
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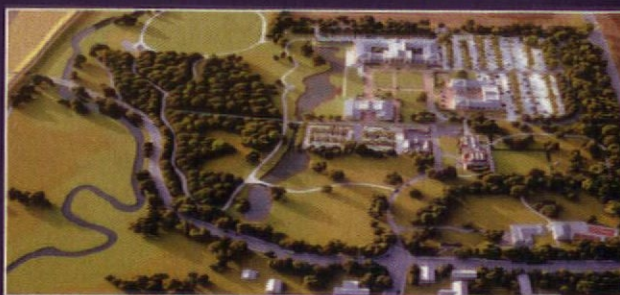
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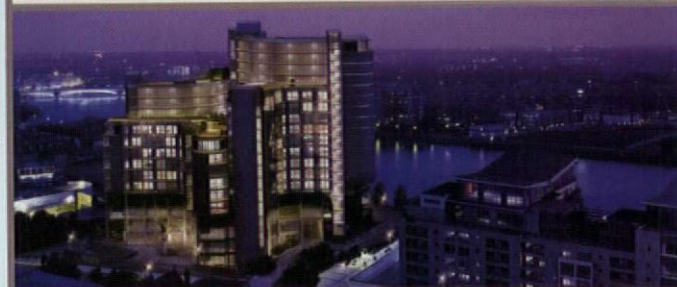
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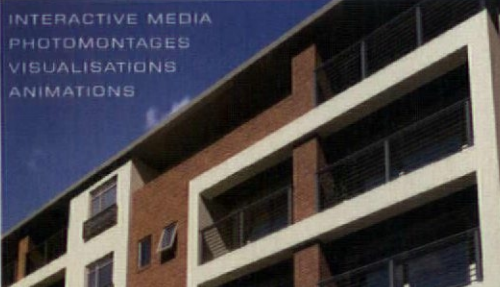
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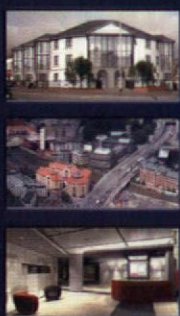
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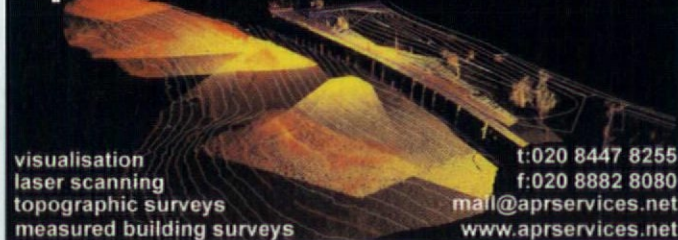
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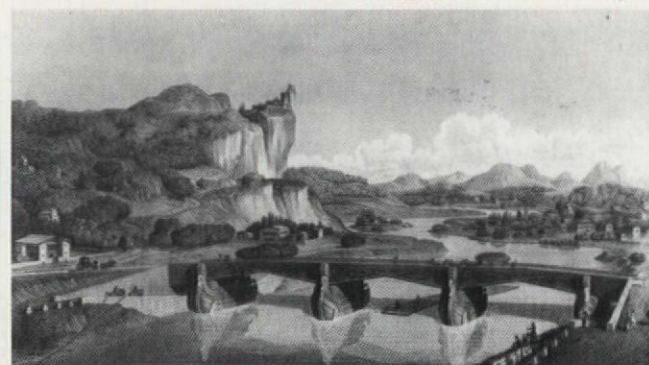
Europe awaits

With the great debate over Europe hotting up, and with 10 extra countries about to join the EU, whither architecture in the brave new superstate? The first thing to be said is that getting architectural policies onto the Brussels table is a difficult exercise. Five years ago, a Resolution on Architectural Policies was promoted by the Architects' Council of Europe; to date, not a single recommendation has been adopted! However, the imperturbable and urbane secretary-general of the council, **Alain Sagne**, isn't giving up the battle. He told the recent European Forum for Architectural Policies meeting in Dublin that opportunities now existed to push for better architecture policies across Europe, not least because of the accession of new member states; the adoption of revised public procurement directives into national law in each member state; and the forthcoming Commission on the urban environment. You have to stick in there, with or without referenda.

Committee heaven

How does the Architects' Council of Europe go about its business? It has representatives on it from the professional institutes and registration bodies across Europe (**John Wright** from the Association of Consultant Architects is a big noise in the organisation). It has two general assembly meetings a year, at which its policies are defined, approved and re-examined as appropriate. It has an executive board which meets six times a year, two permanent committees and several task forces. And it represents 350,000 architects, presumably with a lot more to come. It might still be a good lever with which to crank design quality into PFI procedures, particularly if that form of procurement starts to spread. In the meantime, ACE is hard at work on a programme for the 'European Festival of Architecture', and on lobbying Brussels to lead by example in the commissioning of high-quality EU buildings.

the ones that got away



Astragal's 'The Ones That Got Away' competition features schemes that, for better or worse, stayed on the drawing board. Can you identify this project and its architect? Post your entry, to arrive by first thing Tuesday morning, to AJ Astragal, 151 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4GB, or fax 020 7505 6701. The first correct entry out of the hat wins a bottle of champagne. The never-built scheme in last week's competition (AJ 22.4.04) had you all stumped. In fact, it was **Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Public Hall (1890)**.

Good examples

Plenty of people are doing brilliant work across Europe, as the Dublin conference heard, not least in Ireland itself: five buildings are up for RIBA awards this year, including **Bucholz McEvoy's** Limerick County Council offices. The quasi-client for the building, director of planning services **David O'Connor**, spelled out what makes good buildings: 'Vision and trust'. Another speaker, the city architect of Jyväskylä, **Ilkka Halinen**, showed some highly promising work in his area commissioned from **Peter Zumthor**, who is designing a 200-apartment project, doubtless conscious of the fact that **Alvar Aalto** did a number of neighbouring buildings. Halinen has an interesting conservation dilemma: dealing with a place where the earliest buildings are only a few decades old.

Royal fillet

Smithfield, the London meat market, is providing the architectural cause behind which the **Prince of Wales** can celebrate his 20 years of architectural influence since his notorious speech at Hampton Court in 1984. Well, not the market itself, but a range of buildings on its edge, running along Farringdon

Road. A replacement scheme by KPF and its world president, **Lee Polisano**, has aroused Princely ire. Prince's Foundation staff have been seen being filmed there opposing the development. The City of London, which is supporting the proposals, is quietly livid about the intervention, and fears damaging delay. The AJ is trying to do its part to think about the future of the whole area – by running a charette during the London Architecture Biennale in June to consider how it might change in the future. The list of those taking part so far might give Charles the vapours: **Will Alsop**, **Foreign Office Architects**, **Zaha Hadid** and **Rafael Viñoly**!

Client focus

Forthcoming conferences are focusing on the world of clients. The RIBA conference in July is examining the subject (in city of the moment Dublin). Before that, the Royal Society of Architects in Wales has its spring school event on client-architect relations on April 30 – in the agreeable environs of Portmeirion. Developer-architect **Roger Zogolovitch**, appropriately enough, is chairing the event. I bumped into Roger inspecting new suits the other day, which is good news for **Sammy**, his personal tailor. He does the detailed alterations to Zog

specifications. It's attention to detail which makes a real client; and after all, what is a suit if it is not a volumetric envelope incorporating insulation, cladding and decoration?

Plant life

Astragal tries to put a spring in your step – in a metaphorical way. There may be a literal way too: *Metro* newspaper's herbalist correspondent **Dee Atkinson** advises readers struggling to throw off spring colds to take a herbal formula called Withania Compound. Ingredients include echinacea withania, liquorice, lemon balm and, wait for it, astragalus. Google tells us that it is a native of northern China and that roots from plants four to seven years old are beneficial. The common name, in case you were wondering, is *Huang qi*.

Money talks

I discuss the *Sunday Times*' 1000 Rich List' with famed developer **Gerald Ronson**, who is less than impressed by its accuracy (he is in at a mere £245 million). He tells me he reckons he knows 25 per cent of the people on the list, of whom 75 per cent would be delighted if they were worth half what the ST says; and 25 per cent who are worth an awful lot more. I did like the entry for the **Queen**, only worth £250 million – until you take into account her art collection. Apparently it is worth £10 billion! Gerald, incidentally, says a start on his Heron Tower scheme is likely in 2006, now that the tenants in the existing block have taken space over at the More London project.

Born to join

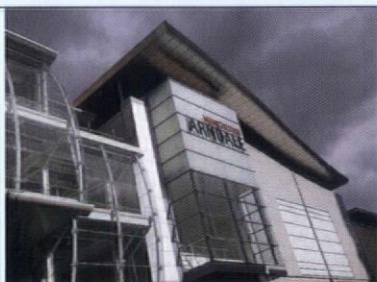
The AJ's publisher, Emap Construct, is now the proud owner of the **Interbuild** exhibition, where many AJ readers visited the Architecture Pavilion this week. Emap has bought out the remaining 50 per cent interest in the joint venture with the Montgomery Group, which founded the show. Strangely enough, Interbuild and the AJ were launched in the same year: 1895. Sometimes it takes more than a century to cement a relationship...

astragal

CORUS BUILDING SYSTEMS

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 201

Prudential's Manchester Arndale – the largest shopping mall in Manchester city centre – is the first project to feature the new stainless-steel Kalzip material. Having originally specified a traditional fully supported stainless-steel standing-seam



system for the delicately waved feature roof above the Brown Court entrance off Market Street, the architect, Chapman Taylor, consulted with approved Teamkal contractor Red Architectural, who recommended the new stainless-steel Kalzip system instead.

HANSENGROUP

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 202

Producing steel doors for every situation, AccentHansen supplies all market sectors and applications from its recently modernised Manchester factory. Its Technical Advisory



Service can assist specifiers with tabulating, quantifying and costing their doorset and ironmongery requirements. Computer-aided equipment allows the development of standard designs to suit individual requirements. For literature or guidance on a specific project, call AccentHansen on 0161 284 4100 or e-mail sales@accenthansen.co.uk

ARMSTRONG

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 203

Bedford Hospital is among the first in the country to implement a new direct patient record access system using Armstrong's wireless data connection. The i-ceilings wireless



system has been positioned throughout the hospital, in ward areas, intensive care units, and the accident and emergency department. This enables doctors to roam the hospital with personal hand-held computers or notebooks and access patient information freely.

BEKAERT

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 204

Minotaur is the name of a distinctive stone maze that has been built at Kielder Castle, situated at the northern end of Kielder Water in Northumberland. A creation by architect Nick



Coombe and artist Shona Kitchen, this contemporary maze is now open to the public at Kielder Castle Forest Park Visitor Centre, with admission free of charge. The maze has been fashioned using gabions – semi-rigid welded mesh cages designed for structural and aesthetic applications – from Sheffield-based Gabion Solutions, part of Bekaert Fencing.

WILSONART INTERNATIONAL

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 205

Wilsonart, the North East-based laminate and worktop manufacturer, has completed a highly successful trading period. With increased sales, higher profitability and the recent completion of a



major investment in the company's transport fleet, confidence is high at the company's Shildon headquarters. The transport fleet has benefitted from a significant investment programme, which has seen the delivery of six new tractor units from Volvo, and 20 44ft curtain-walled trailers manufactured by DonBur.

SIKA

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 206

Westgate House, an office building located at Westgate, Halifax, was recently re-roofed using Trocal S, one of the single-ply roofing membranes from market leader Sika. The problem in the re-roofing was that the client required a cost-effective, watertight solution and specified that the re-roofing should not disrupt day-to-day business. The solution from the Trocal team and specialist contractor QM Roofing of Dewsbury was to overlay Trocal S on top of the failed roof to waterproof the structure without stripping off the existing roof.



LIGNACITE

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 207

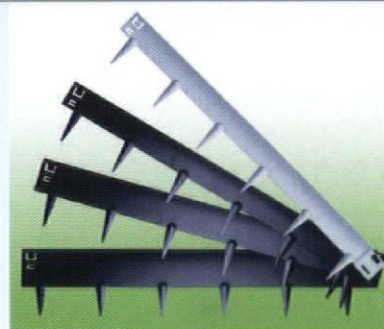
Architect Barnsley Hewett and Mallinson specified polished jade architectural facing masonry from Lignacite for the new secondary school, Walsall Academy, in the West Midlands. Lignacite architectural facing masonry was specified for its robustness, acoustic properties and vandal-resistant qualities. The project demonstrates an inspiring contrast in textures and colours. Alternate bands of polished jade blocks and sandstone bricks are set-off by tinted windows and silver columns, creating this striking and unique building.



EVEREDGE

AJ ENQUIRY NO: 208

Permanent lawn-edging system EverEdge has reached a milestone in its life, as half a million metres of the flexible steel edging have been sold – over 1,000 times the height of the world's tallest building. The Petronas Twin Towers in Malaysia are 452m tall. Half a million metres (311 miles) is equivalent to more than 1,000 times this height, and is just over the distance from Birmingham to Edinburgh.



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