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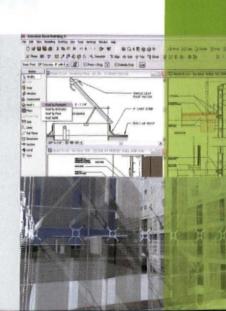
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THE £60K HOME CATCHES THE ATTENTION OF THE HOUSE-HUNTING VOTER

By Isabel Allen

Speaking at the National HomeBuilder Awards last Friday, Peter Wright, editor of the Mail on Sunday, said: 'The good news is that John Prescott has announced that we are going to be building a lot more homes. The bad news is that they are going to be built for a little less than the cost of an after-dinner speech by Cherie Blair.' Funnily enough, he didn't see fit to leaven his witticism with the recommended smallprint: that the figure of $\mathcal{L}60,000$ is intended to cover the construction cost alone; that it does not represent development costs, much less the recommended sale price, and that it is exclusive of land costs and VAT.

And who can blame him? The government has made a decision not to publish a realistic sum, but to bandy about a price tag that captures the attention of the house-hunting electorate. A glance at the HomeBuilder Design Awards judges' report, enclosed with this issue of the AJ, offers a quick reality check. Using lightweight steel-frame construction, Redrow Homes and

architect Tom Freake have managed to provide dwellings – albeit one-bedroom flats – which retail for £54,995. The floorplan, which has helpfully been included, is a cursory reminder of just how little space that actually buys. Apart from the underground parking spaces in Munkenbeck + Marshall's Gainsborough Studios, which sell for £25,000, none of the other properties can be bought for less than £60,000.

The winner of the Innovative Technology Category, Urban Splash's MoHo in Castlefield, uses the modular construction that is heralded as the key to the mass provision of brave new (affordable) housing. Its one-bedroom flats sell for £139,000. Stripped of the costs of land, administration and profit, this would probably comply with the government's target price. Try telling that to the *Mail on Sunday*. For all its many footnotes and provisos, the government has nurtured an expectation that it knows it cannot meet.

CONTRIBUTORS



Robert Thorne is a historian at Alan Baxter & Associates, and has written widely on architectural and engineering history. He reviews the Frei Otto exhibition (pages 50-51).



John Pardey, who wrote this week's Building Study, is a practising architect based in the New Forest. He is also the author of Utzon Logbook: Two Houses on Majorca.

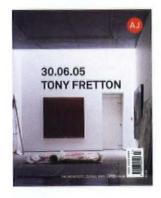


Dennis Gilbert arrived in London in the 1980s and is one of the founders of picture library VIEW. He photographed Tony Fretton's Clerkenwell house on pages 25-37.

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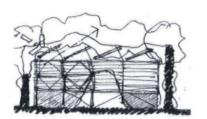
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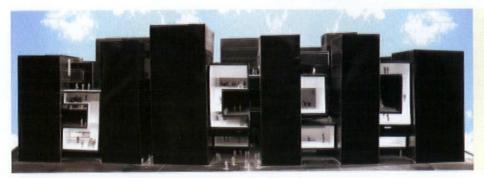
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STUDENT AWARD WINNERS REVEALED

The six prize-winning submissions at the international Archiprix student awards in Glasgow were announced last Friday (24 June). Winners at the biennial Archiprix International – the world's largest graduate architecture competition – included this scheme, the Continuum Body of Urban Memory, by Japan's Kiyoaki Takeda.

PRESCOTT PUTS KIBOSH ON TUBE REFIT

John Prescott has sounded the death knell for Jestico + Whiles' controversial plans to redevelop Camden Tube station. The deputy prime minister has backed an inspector's report in favour of Camden council's decision to reject the scheme. If the project, which was supported by London Underground, had been given the green light, both the famous Electric Ballroom and the neighbouring Camden Market would have been demolished.

ROW OVER BOB 'SLUR'

The makers of hit children's television programme Bob the Builder have come under fire after portraying architects as 'evil'. The protests follow a recent episode in which architect Mr Adams unveiled plans to build a massive Manhattan-style development in Bob's favourite beauty spot - Sunflower Valley.

DEVELOPER IN SMITHFIELD LISTING IMBROGLIO

Thornfield Properties, the developer behind a controversial scheme in the historic Smithfield Market area of London, has left itself facing further delays by applying for immunity from listing. English Heritage and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will now have to reassess the buildings.

FARRELL ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF NEGLECTING THAMES GATEWAY DESIGN

Terry Farrell has issued a stark warning about the Thames Gateway, accusing the government of being too committed to economic arguments and neglecting good design. Speaking at a public design review of his proposals for a new National Park in the Thames Gateway area, Farrell questioned the attitude of Westminster decision–makers and the strength of CABE's opinions about the massive development.



ZAHA UNVEILS OLYMPIC PLANS AND AWAITS DECISION

This new image of London's proposed Olympic Aquatic Centre by Zaha Hadid was unveiled on Monday (27 June) – nine days before the International Olympic Committee decides who will stage the 2012 games. The International Olympic Committee is to make a decision on Wednesday (6 July). For in-depth architectural coverage, visit www.ajplus.co.uk/news

RECORD BIDS IN CONTEST

The competition to design the new visitor centre at Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland has attracted an astonishing 800 expressions of interest. The international contest is believed to have received more entries than any other UK competition in recent history. It is understood that at least 480 of those architects now intend to submit designs for the facility.

FOSTER SCHEME RECEIVES ORCHESTRAL BOOST IN AVERY FISHER HALL SAGA

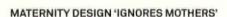
The on-off Avery Fisher Hall saga in Manhattan has taken another twist, after the board of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra voted to proceed with Foster and Partners' £150 million redesign. The future of the scheme, to create a new auditorium, stage and public facilities, was thrown into doubt two years ago because of a financial crisis (AJ 19.06.03).

REGENERATION FLAWED

Disputes over levels of infrastructure are hampering delivery of sustainable communities, research by the British Urban Regeneration Association has shown. The new study blames disagreements at both local and regional level for delaying the implementation of the programme, especially in the south-east.

BAKER IN TOWER DEBATE

Former Tory environment secretary Kenneth Baker. now a Lord, yesterday (29 June) launched a debate in the House of Lords to discuss John Prescott's decision to give Broadway Malyan's proposed Vauxhall Tower the go-ahead, despite an inspector's report recommending refusal. 'I just want to bring this awful decision to the attention of the Great British public,' he said.



Architects are ignoring women's needs when designing maternity units, a hard-hitting report has claimed. The study by the National Childbirth Trust blames a lack of space and poor 'clinical environments' for making birth difficult and more uncomfortable for mothers.



WICKHAM AIDS TREES

Architectural maverick Julyan Wickham has staged a one-man 'sit in' to stop a 120-year-old plane tree being cut down in west London. The architect's protests last Thursday (23 June) stopped workmen from Westminster City Council 'destroying' the tree in Paddington Green Park, which he claimed the council wanted to chop down.

ASIA REBUILD 'LACKING'

The boss of international charity Architecture for Humanity has reported that 'very little has been done' in the effort to rebuild the communities ravaged by the Boxing Day tsunami. Founder Cameron Sinclair, a New York-based British architect, has just returned from a trip to south-east Asia to assess the work carried out to date. Last Sunday (26 June) marked six months since the mammoth tsunami struck.

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All AJ subscribers are now able to view a special news service accessed online. All of the biggest architectural news stories will be delivered to your inbox in the form of a daily email newsletter and can also be seen at www.ajplus.co.uk. And every week in the pages of the AJ the news team will analyse all the biggest stories and all the most important events. You will have received a letter from AJ editor Isabel Allen outlining this new subscription package and delivering your password to the new website.



LEEDS' EGYPTIAN MILL TO GET £180 MILLION REFIT

The famous Grade I-listed Temple Works, an Egyptian-style former flax mill in Leeds, is to be revamped as part of a £180 million regeneration project. Masterminded by David Lock Associates, the scheme in Holbeck will create a 'vibrant cultural, retail and leisure destination' containing office developments and almost 1,000 apartments.

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Levitt Bernstein has scooped the inaugural AJ Award for Housing Design. The award was launched to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National HomeBuilder Design Awards. The practice's entries included Bermondsey Spa (pictured), designed under the recent ODPM and GLA initiatives for high-density developments in inner London. All the winning projects are published in the judges' report with this week's AJ.

PAWSON FACES WRIT

By Ed Dorrell

John Pawson is locked in a legal dispute with one of Britain's leading contemporary gallery owners, it has emerged.

Anne Faggionato, owner of the eponymous Mayfair gallery, is suing London-based Pawson for £200,000.

The famous Minimalist is now facing a court battle over the work he carried out for Faggionato on her flat in 1999. She is accusing him of negligence and breach of contract over advice and work at her property.

Faggionato's gallery

– one of the capital's leading
commercial art spaces – has
displayed work by Francis
Bacon, Damien Hirst and
Edgar Degas, among others.

The dispute between the pair relates to the wooden flooring that Pawson specified as part of the fit-out on her

apartment. It is understood that the floor fails to meet acoustic standards set down in the Building Regulations and now needs to be replaced.

Faggionato appears determined to force Pawson – or his professional indemnity insurers – to cough up for the cost of the work.

The floor was part of an interior job that Pawson carried out on a set of former 1960s Gas Board laboratories, called the Piper Building, in south-west London.

The fit-out was featured in a book by architecture critic Deyan Sudjic, *John Pawson Works*, published in 2000.

Pawson's scheme took two of the units in the labs – which together form a very large L-shaped plan – and fitted them out in his practice's typical Minimalist style. Bizarrely, Pawson admitted to the AJ this week that the floor had broken leasehold regulations regarding acoustics.

'The floor is very large and is a lot of our work. In fact, it is most of the flat,' he said. 'It turned out that it falls a couple of decibels below the Building Regulations and the neighbours downstairs weren't happy.'

He continued: 'Also, it breaks the leasehold rules about acoustics – but then everyone else in the block did that as well. Of course, it now turns out that it would have been much easier to have used a carpet.

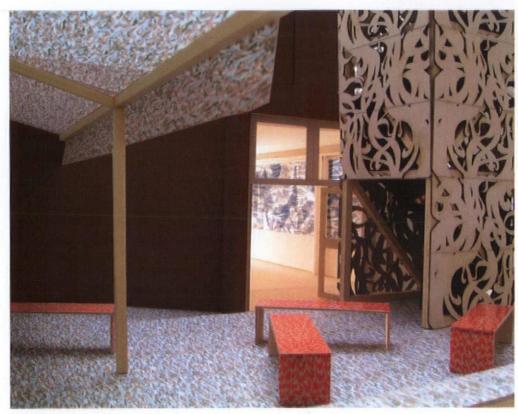
'We have to put our hands up and admit that what we did was not perfect,' Pawson added.

The writ, which has just become available from the Royal Courts of Justice, was issued for Faggionato by her solicitor Magrath & Co.

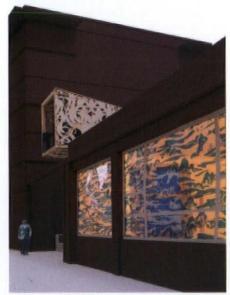
NEWS IN PICTURES

AF SERIES BEGINS

Up-and-coming practice 6a Architects has been chosen to design a new summer house for the Architecture Foundation's gallery in Old Street, east London. Drawn up in collaboration with fashion design duo Eley Kishimoto, the 6.3m-tall Hairywood tower will be the first of the foundation's year-long series of installations at The Yard gallery. The temporary structure, which will officially open on 14 July, will create a new entrance to the courtyard, and visitors to the gallery will be able to 'watch the world go by' from a small public space at the top. Inspired by Jacques Tati's 1953 film Les Vacances de M. Hulot, the structure will be clad in laser-cut plywood and, at night, will be lit from within. During the day the 'Rapunzel's hair' pattern will allow dappled light into the interior. Elias Redstone, the gallery's curator, said: 'While it's up, the tower will add something fantastic to Old Street. It's a beacon on an otherwise indistinct patch of London - a marker for the Architecture Foundation.' After its two-month stay, the tower will be dismantled and sold. The foundation is understood to be in talks with a number of interested parties to buy the structure. By Richard Waite



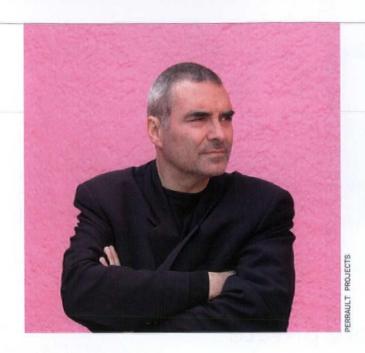
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 The small public space can accommodate visitors
 The tower will be a 'beacon' in Old Street

2.





DOMINIQUE PERRAULT

By Ed Dorrell

Dominique Perrault won a competition last week to design a pavilion for Priory Park in Reigate, Surrey – his office's first scheme on this side of the Channel

Congratulations, you've finally picked up a commission in the UK. For me, this is really great news because I've tried three or four times to build in London or Britain in the past few years, and I'm very glad to have finally won a commission. To be building in London is great — everything is perfect. I'm also excited at working close to engineers such as Arup and Buro Happold.

Did you already know Priory Park before you drew up your proposals?

I visited the site alone and in secret. My schedule is very busy, so I didn't have time to get involved with any special meetings. I simply went there on my own. What do you make of architecture over here? Do you know much about the British scene?
I'm very interested in what's happening in the UK at the moment, such as in the work of Norman Foster and Richard Rogers. But I'm also interested in the more avant-garde, such as Peter Cook and Future Systems. I also have some very good friends in Britain, like David Chipperfield and Alejandro [Zaero Polo] from Foreign Office Architects.

Do you know Alejandro because of a connection with Rem Koolhaas? No. We met when we were both working in Barcelona.

I'm pleased that you brought up Barcelona. You're one of the mayor's architecture advisers there. What does that involve?

This is a very interesting role. The mayor [Joan Clos] is in his second term and he has what we call his 'special club' for architectural advisers.
For example, Richard Rogers is involved as well. This is not about designing actual buildings; it's more about advising on the urban development approach. We also look at projects in development, such as the massive airport plans, and we advise on those.

I interviewed Jean Nouvel recently and asked him whether he thought being a Frenchman had a particular influence on his design ethos. He said not. Do you agree? The French culture gives a brilliant approach at the start of a project, which I think is the consequence of our history - it's direct and fast. But it would be good if we could merge with other cultures after the start. For example, I've worked with Arup a lot, and the British approach is very good; and the same goes for Germans. I'm sure different cultures do give special values to the way people work.

One of the daft questions we nearly always ask interviewees is whether they have a favourite building in the world? Do you?

This is an impossible question to answer because the standard of modern international architects and their buildings is going up all the time. For instance, I look at Rem [Koolhaas] and Frank Gehry and I'm very excited.

We also ask architects if they have a favourite city.

My answer would have to be Moscow. It's very violent, but it's also very interesting. I'm fascinated by its mix of history — such as the Soviet architecture — and the modern development. It really has energy. It's not my favourite place for relaxing, but the excitement is amazing. That's why I like it.

For a longer version of this interview, visit ajplus.co.uk/interviews

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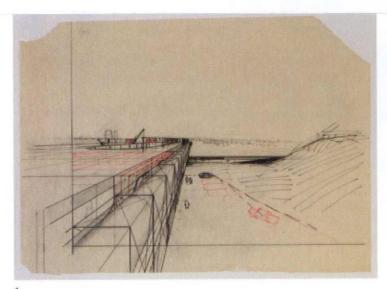
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THE ELUSIVE MR PRICE

By Sutherland Lyall

Experienced arts editors tell their reviewers to concentrate on the book or exhibition at hand and not compare it with the book or show the reviewer feels could or should have been written or mounted instead. But the temptation to do so over the little Cedric Price show at the Design Museum is strong.

The exhibition has been curated by Sophie McKinlay and Howard Shubert and co-organised with Phyllis Lambert's Canadian Centre for Architecture, to which Price sold his architectural papers and drawings a year or so before he died in 2003. So, not entirely surprisingly, what we have is not the fantastically colourful celebration of his old mates, Archigram, which

was displayed recently at the same museum, but an exercise in museology.

The drawings are all displayed neatly on walls and on a series of plywood tables in the little back gallery on the second floor. It has a black box in the middle with two of the black leather seats Price designed for the 1962 Robert Fraser Gallery. A 1979 video lecture by Monica Pidgeon featuring Cedric speaking in unexpectedly la-di-da tones is projected. Bereft of the habitual cigar/whisky rasp and devoid of sardonic asides, these neatly modulated tones were presumably intended to gull nice middle-class audiences into accommodating his extraordinary propositions.





- 1. Potteries Thinkbelt, Staffordshire, 1964
- 2. Magnet, circa 1994
- 3. Detail of exhibition
- 4. South Bank conceptual sketch, circa 1985
- 5. The Thing, South Bank, circa 1995





5.

4.

Come to think of it, rather a lot of what he had to say would still be outrageous now. Imagine how solemn, grey university dons today might react to the idea of running their regular lectures in moving railway carriages through a 100 square mile Staffordshire campus, like the Potteries Thinkbelt.

Price cultivated an air of preternatural secretiveness and mystery. He would send people photocopies of pages from books and articles vaguely illustrating a topic on which they had touched in conversation the day before – but without ever explaining or following up. He could be monumentally dismissive and charming – though people

could never be entirely sure which. He would hint at projects but refuse to reveal more than a clue about them. It is mentioned only briefly in the show that there was a 1976 Generator project for a client in Florida – which even people close to Price really don't understand yet, and which Price eventually suggested the client should abandon.

He would sit in the White Room, the fourth floor of his office overlooking the Building Centre, and, later, his friend Ron Herron's new Imagination building, watching who came and went – as you would discover inadvertently days later. When Price was up there and not to be disturbed, the White Room became 'East

Grinstead'. Secretaries could truthfully explain to callers that Mr Price was in 'East Grinstead' and unavailable to talk to them.

In a dry but very moving memoir in the Guardian recently, Will Alsop, who worked for him for four years, mused: 'Towards the end of his life, Price was more relaxed. The notion of doing nothing, of observing – which so many people have forgotten – is something that I think he understood... [We] have no idea what Cedric was doing in "East Grinstead". Maybe he was just looking out the window, doing nothing.'

The difficulty with the Design Museum show is that its flat, understated presentation may possibly be exactly the

way Cedric would have wanted it. It's just the sort of covenant he would have put on the sale of his drawings. But he didn't build a lot, so the oeuvre may be complete, but it is not at all extensive; maybe 10 projects in 40 years. You worry most that the casual visitor will come away with the impression that Price did indeed do more or less nothing. Of all that lot - Archigram, Reyner Banham, David Allford and Frank Newby - Price surely needs the greatest explication. So, although it's nice to see the familiar drawings again, you sense that, in death, Price eludes description, as he had in life. Cedric Price - Doubt, Delight and Change is at the Design Museum, London, from 25 June to 9 October

THE COST OF ADVICE

By Clive Walker

It's good to talk. But it certainly isn't cheap — as more and more architects are discovering when seeking pre-application advice from London planners.

Councils across the capital have suddenly decided to charge architects and developers who, sensibly, choose to have a chat with local authority planners before sending in a full application.

For example, this week Hammersmith and Fulham council confirmed that it plans to charge a fee for consultations on 'large schemes'. In reality, that actually means any retail, commercial or industrial development over 1,000m², or housing schemes over 10 units.

Barnet too has jumped on the gravy train by slapping a £500 tariff on advice. Meanwhile, in Camden architects can now expect to pay £1,000 for a team to run an eye over their rough designs. The list goes on all the way back to Westminster – which started the trend.

So, does this advice tax actually represent genuine value for money? Camden, unsurprisingly, insists that it does. Specifically, the fee buys a meeting with key people

relevant to a planning application, followed up with a letter spelling out what – if anything – has to be done to get a scheme passed.

In addition, says Camden council, architects get guidance on how planning policies may impact on a proposal. Advice is also given on which local groups or organisations may need to be consulted during the design process.

That's all right, then.
Well, not quite. Architects
are not getting a premium
deluxe service for their money
– despite the high price tag. In
fact, the paid-for advice is little
different from when it was free.

It is not surprising, therefore, that small practices in particular are railing against fee charges. Foster Lomas, for example is adamant that the tariff does not represent value for money and, at the very least, should be means-tested.

The practice recently paid Barnet £500 in order to get pre-application advice on a sustainable housing scheme, only for planners to reject the project as a non-runner. After a total rethink, the project returned to Barnet's planners – who then demanded £100

an hour for time spent studying the revised designs.

'Councils like Barnet are putting a price tag on dialogue with architects who are trying to work with government policies,' says Will Foster, partner at Foster Lomas. 'They argue that the fee creates a structure for consultation and that planners' time has to be accounted for. I've had better value for money through a few faxes with designers.'

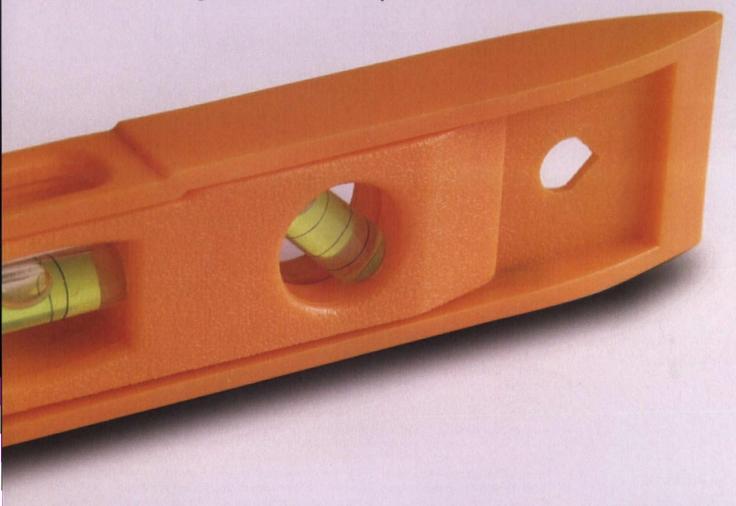
And BWCP boss Brian Waters is also frustrated by the charges. He believes the fee should buy a pledge that no additional objections to a scheme will be made once pre-application advice is given.

He argues: 'The tariff' should buy reliable advice that only falls short of committing the council to any binding decision. It should also be a collective decision, not the view of just one planner.'

Waters condemns pre-application fees as yet another step along the road to the wholesale privatisation of planning departments. But, if that's the case, should architects now be given the right to choose the authority or agency that processes their application?

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'It's like a holiday, because there is no bureaucracy. It was very free'

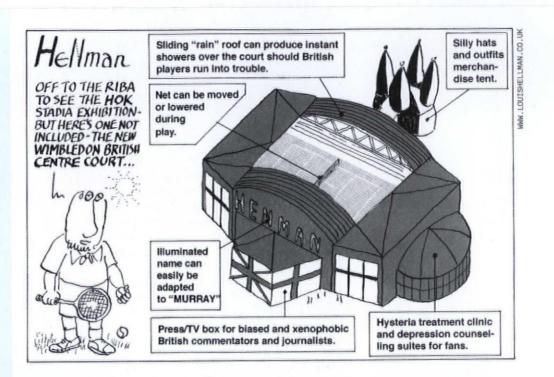
Álvaro Siza on co-designing this year's Serpentine Pavilion. Guardian, 27.06.05

'While MVRDV set themselves a mountain to climb, this looks like it could have been assembled from a flat-pack — given years' worth of Sunday afternoons'

Steve Rose on this year's Serpentine Pavilion. *Guardian*, 27.06.05

'Ascending the Gherkin in a high-speed lift, you feel like Woody Allen acting the role of a sperm in Everything You Wanted To Know About Sex'

Robert Maycock. Independent, 28.06.05



PARTY STARTER

The AI's bash at the V&A to celebrate the opening of the 40 Under 40 exhibition was really something - the canapés alone made it one of the parties of the year. Joining the young winners were some of the older mob, including the unlikely quartet of Colin Amery, Robin Nicholson, Will Alsop and Julyan Wickham. What really made the party was some outstanding booze. Astragal recommends that if you want to hold a party to attract younger architects, free mojitos are an excellent starting point.

HILLMAN IMP

A highlight of Architecture Week was the series of late-night reviews hosted by the AJ's Austin Williams at Alan Baxter's offices. The first looked at sustainability. Work by Duncan Baker-Brown and Pascale Scheurer was critted by experts, including darling of the militant Green fringe Mayer Hillman. He launched an attack on the architectural establishment for talking up the sustainability agenda and doing nothing about it — and used rather base terms. 'Norman Foster and Richard Rogers are f***ing hypocrites,' he told a somewhat surprised audience.

TATE YOUR SEATS

Last week Jacques Herzog and Rowan Moore kicked off discussions at Tate Modern about the role of architecture today. Herzog believes theory is long dead. Even Corb's writings are valueless, he told the huge crowd. The event was a sell-out, and latecomers had difficulty finding seats. Luckily, a distinguished-looking man

helped them to their places

- Tate supremo and Herzog client Nicholas Serota. Now that's a hands-on approach.

SMELL THE COFFEE

Which two UK architects could be accused of being hopelessly right-wing and conservative? Neither Adam Caruso nor Richard Murphy seem obvious candidates. But this was the accusation they both suffered when speaking at Archiprix - the international student awards in Glasgow. Caruso and Murphy argued that it's important to respect context and history, and that innovation is overrated. This upset audience member Aaron Betsky, director of the Netherlands Architecture Institute, so much that he accused them of ignoring the real world, with 'Starbucks on every high street'.

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THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE COULD RETURN TO WHAT IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF WILLIAM II – A PATCHWORK OF WOODLAND AND HEATH

It seems farming is currently a hot topic in the media. Radio programmes and newspapers have brought into question the very future of farming as an industry in England.

I have no idea whether or not farming will disappear, but I was surprised to discover that it was a debate at all. For the first time, I realised that when we refer to farming as an industry it could be seen as yet another casualty of the transition towards a post-industrial society.

What would be the implications for the landscape if farming did become extinct?

It's certain that farmers would start to use their land in other ways. As the familiar tilled divisions broke down and reverted to a more natural evolution towards deciduous woodland, the opportunity for picnics would increase dramatically. Charging £,1 per head per picnic might become a familiar procedure, thereby privatising the traditional rural idyll. The increased cover of vegetation would also provide greater invisibility for clandestine hunts.

For sure, there would be a restoration of the flora and fauna which, together with an increase in diverse tree cover, would be beneficial to the environment. Streams and rivers would not be polluted by fertilisation and crop spraying. The downside would be that we would be condemned to the constant importing of out-of-season foreign fruit and veg — which is happening anyway — and all the pollution of the transport that brings.

Apart from the above, what other changes might occur at a social level?

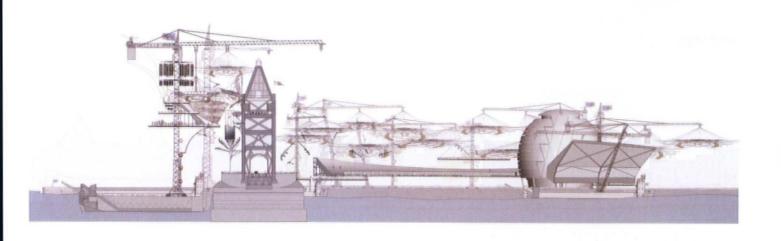
When technological advances removed hay bales and haystacks from our landscape in favour of the roll, the visual nostalgic links to idyllic days of youth on the farm were immediately replaced by a stunning modern image of studded fields casting long shadows in the evening sunshine. Clearance of hedges was followed by their replanting.

All these images give rise to the idealised notion of a particularly 'English' countryside and the concept of the farmer as custodian of our heritage. Our countryside could return to what it was in the days of William II: a patchwork of woodland and heath.

Ultimately, this would turn the 86 per cent of the country that is not urban into a regeneration wonderland, which would be a stark contrast to the ever-increasing density of the urban centres. It would take some time for farming to cease, and by then the 20th-century model of suburbia for living would already have given way to its 21st-century substitute, with new remote spots of high density (the new village), which would exist in a context of the new wilderness.

In time, the typical English landscape would become rolling woodland interspersed with dreaming towers recalling a new romantic vision. There will be much work for the architect, the gardener and guerrilla farmers.

From seat 11a, flight number BA705 from Vienna. Email: ajcolumnists@emap.com



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Sophie Goldhill designed this project, entitled 'A Great British Olympics', in her second year at the Royal College of Art. The project readdresses the traditional 'chocolate box' images of famous London landmarks, pushing them into the new millennium by bringing the games back into the heart of the city. So shooting is held at the Tower of London, cycling encircles the GLA and high diving takes place from Tower Bridge. The masterplan uses the River Thames as 'a string of pearls' to connect the 54 Olympic and Paralympic events. The masterplan is divided into seven zones that relate to bridge crossings. These are clustered around famous London landmarks, which are temporarily used by this parasitic architecture to house different sporting events. This scheme looks specifically at the most eastern of these zones: 'The Tower Zone'. A series of temporary structures clip on to the existing landmarks, amplifying meaning.



LETTERS

MORE HELP FOR THOSE ON VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

Holly Porter's piece (AJ 16.05.05) about young architects finding their feet strikes a chord. The RIBA's Young Practitioners Panel needs much more backing to be able to support new architects through the discovery of real life. Generation for Collaboration (at www.g4cbeonline.co.uk) helps young professionals across the industry, and opens eyes, and doors, to the unconfined world of the built environment. There is so much they don't tell you at architecture school these days. Richard Saxon CBE, chairman, Be

PATHFINDER JUGGERNAUT THREATENS COMMUNITIES

The brief summary of the Pathfinder programme (AJ 23.06.05) is welcome, but misses several pertinent points. Pathfinder is a top-down scheme, not based on communities' desires and aspirations, but on research into housing conditions by academics with little regard for those who occupy the threatened areas. Much of the consultation of the affected communities appears to be little more than a sham. Reports of public meetings are of shouting matches, not the happy picture of partnership painted for the politicians.

The threat to heritage is vast. The 'northern way' calls for up to 400,000 pre-1919 houses to be demolished. Ministers seem unable to stick to their guns on the figures, only citing the number that will be pulled down by 2006. These are not the slum buildings of the 1930s clearances, but well-built properties. Many of those classified as unfit have been so on the basis of 10-minute external inspections.

With the loss of these historic buildings comes the loss of communities. The threat of clearance causes some people to cut their losses in the face of derisory compensation. Once forced out, their only option is to buy a more expensive house elsewhere. This is immoral. Those who stay face a long and hard fight for their homes. Their spirit should be applauded and built on, not bulldozed by a multi-billion-pound policy that appears out of control. Adam Wilkinson, secretary, SAVE Britain's Heritage

PRAISE FOR GOING BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Regarding David Wild's In Practice shot (AJ 23.06.05) — at last, an office with a proper drawing board, and not a computer in sight. Graham Brown, Bristol

FEARS UNFOUNDED FOR SCOTLAND'S DESIGN REVIEW

Architecture and Design Scotland's (A&DS) consideration about the confidentiality of pre-application discussions under Freedom of Information rules is not threatening its future (AJ 23.06.05). A&DS has a wider remit than design review and will develop its enabling, advocacy, research and communication roles shortly.

A&DS' aim is to see good-quality outcomes, and we will not shrink from offering robust comment and advice. We welcome feedback on our work, and we will continue to encourage early confidential discussions to enable free and frank exchanges.

One significant difference between A&DS and its predecessor body is enshrined in SPP 20, which states: 'The development industry, as well as decision makers on planning applications and appeals, must demonstrate what account has been taken of the views of A&DS.' This may have made the sector more alert, and improved the quality of public debate. Sebastian Tombs, chief executive, Architecture and Design Scotland

FLYING TO THE DEFENCE OF PARLIAMENT'S PIGEONS

It is unusual but encouraging to find someone speaking out on behalf of the much-maligned city pigeon (Letters, AJ 26.05.05). Quite apart from Darwin's interest in the domestic pigeon, as your reader notes, the pigeon/dove has a long and ancient association with man. No other bird has had such close links with him nor been as useful to him in so many ways, whether as a symbol, sacrifice, source of food or messenger. Nevertheless, the city birds pose a problem all over the world. This is being addressed in the UK by the Pigeon Control Advisory Service, which has successfully advised local authorities on humane solutions to the problem. Dr Jean Hansell, via email

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CERTIFIERS ARE BEING APPROVED IN THEIR DROVES

The statement that 'the first wave of the new breed of approved certifiers has yet to take place', in the article about the newly launched Scottish certification scheme (AJ 02.06.05), is incorrect.

Structural Engineers Registration was appointed by the Scottish Buildings Standards Agency in November 2004 to run a scheme for Approved Certifiers of Design (Building Structures) and Approved Bodies for Certification of Design (Building Structures). The scheme, established as a result of a joint initiative by the Institution of Structural Engineers and the Institution of Civil Engineers, started to accept applications in December 2004, and, by 1 May 2005, 198 approved certifiers and 78 approved bodies were on the registers. To date, 269 approved certifiers and 130 approved bodies have been registered.

Dr Keith J Eaton, chief executive, Institution of Structural Engineers

IS THE NEW AJ TOO BIG AND BEAUTIFUL...

This new version of the AJ troubles me, for both sentimental and practical reasons. Having been a subscriber since 1954, three years after graduating from the Bartlett and earning just about enough in my new job in Dublin to support my family, run aVW car and pay the annual subscription to the architectural press, I have kept the faith through all its developmental changes over 50 years.

I usually depart from my live/work home in Hackney every Friday afternoon for a coastal weekend, returning on Monday morning, and always slip my AJ into my weekend shoulder bag. But now, notwithstanding the high-quality paper, printing, writing and colour production, it's too heavy!

The earlier, slim publication was ideal for reading in the tube and mainline trains, but now... the resistance of the binding to one-hand support and page-turning in the issue of 09.06.05 was bad enough, but that of the issue of 16.06.05 seriously obstructed the whole reading process. As for tearing out pages that need to be filed for future reference – the whole thing is far too beautiful! Louis A Roch, by email

... GOING DOWN THE TOILET ...

Out of curiosity – did the designers who did the AJ redesign also do the Thrislington cubicles adverts?

Mario Sua Kay, by email

... OR POSSIBLY MISSING SOMETHING?

I've got a great idea for you: what about an architecture section? John Bennett, by email

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF IN THE £60K HOUSE

It is easy to draw parallels between the current drive to produce mass housing at £60K a shot and the post-war mass-housebuilding project in Britain: the government looks to architects to try to design lots of cheap houses in order to turn around a perceived shortage in the housing stock; architects agree that modular construction is the answer.

What is worrying now is the speed with which architects have rushed, once again, to their drawing boards to produce the designs to answer the same brief, while architects and architecture still haven't fully recovered from the terrible reputation that they gained the last time they did that.

Craig Douglas, Douglas & King Architecture Design Development

For more thoughts on the £60K house, and to add your views, visit www.ajplus.co.uk/forum

CORRECTION

Charles Thomson entered the 1985 40 Under 40 with Alistair Hay and Dan O'Neil – and not Ian Hay and Dan Bone as stated in AJ 16.06.05. Apologies.

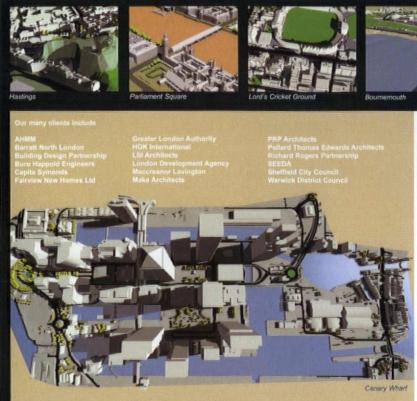
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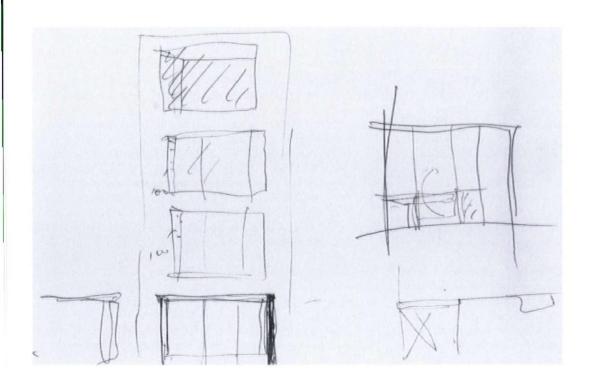




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TONY FRETTON



AN OLD BOXER'S FACE, RAVISHED BY TIME AND EXPERIENCE, HOLDS ANOTHER KIND OF RAW, HONEST BEAUTY

By John Pardey. Photography by Dennis Gilbert

Tony Fretton's architecture explores ordinary technologies and everyday materials. He is beginning to win work abroad, including an embassy in Warsaw and housing in the Netherlands, but is very much a London architect. This Clerkenwell house is one of many urban projects, including the Lisson Gallery in Marylebone and the Red House in Chelsea.

Architecture is undoubtedly an urban profession, yet the transition in the last century from a rural vernacular as a living tradition to the cosmopolitan demands of the city has left a memory of building and materials that some architects have returned to as an inspiration. Perhaps Álvaro Siza stands as the master of this 'modern vernacular' in his use of tactile materials and ordinary technologies; no need to build spaceships, blobs, geometric mind games or ambiguous surfaces that appease the media-led fame game — Siza's work eschews the showy in favour of habitable space that acts as a container for daily experience.

In the UK, the Smithsons led the post-Brutalist drive towards the 'ordinary', with a return to the expressive potential of structure, construction and services in the '60s. One branch split away to produce High-Tech architecture and another led to Tony Fretton, who has become the high priest of a particularly London school of architects that includes Caruso St John, Sergison Bates, Mark Pimlott and Houlton Taylor, and that makes architecture concerned primarily with habitable space wrapped up with no fuss and an interest in the ordinary that, through the use of the everyday and raw materials, produces a pure form of building.

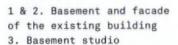
Fretton's commitment to art (the need to represent) and the need to express ideas in building save him from stylistic constraints. Rather, he neatly occupies a space somewhere between art and work, between a formal economy and functional space. His working methods seem quite traditional - scratchy line concept sketches, white card models - but the process of team working within his own office and with his clients is emphasised as a fundamental part of the design process. As a London architect, he has produced a consistent body of street 'infill' projects, such as the Lisson Gallery in Marylebone, the Red House in Chelsea and the Clerkenwell House. Yet he has also delved into the vernacular with his ArtSway gallery in the New Forest, Faith House in Dorset and work at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield. These projects show the same concern for everyday materials, habitation and light that avoids mere style - the London projects showing a more formal concern for context, with the rural projects exploring an architecture that plays with traditional forms in an abstracted way.

Fretton has worked consistently within a circle of contemporary artists and musicians and is now, like many of the most talented architects in the UK who have stayed in the country without sufficient work or recognition, beginning to find more work abroad, with his first large-scale housing project in the Netherlands and a new embassy in Warsaw.

Fretton is one of the most influential architects working in the UK today – not mainstream, but certainly an architect's architect. He deserves more work here.







4. Ground-floor living space



3.

ARTISTS' HOUSE AND STUDIOS, CLERKENWELL

This slender, four-storey house stood as a late-18th century clock-maker's workplace until it suffered bomb damage during the Blitz and was patched up and extended to the rear with a tin-roofed workshop. The current owners — both artists, a husband and wife team with a toddler — sought the help of Fretton, an old friend, to convert and extend the property on a tight budget into a living/working home. The end result, both client and architect are at pains to point out, was a collaboration, and both seem delighted with the result, as a working home and as a piece of almost non-design. This is an object lesson in restraint, pragmatism and subtlety.

From the street, just a stone's throw from the pell-mell of Farringdon and all the trendy new cafes and bars that have sprung up there, a hush descends – cars don't seem to venture into this quarter. It is very easy to look straight past the house, for it seems to melt into the street of ordered yet all slightly different facades. But, once noticed, it has quite an attraction that rewards the eye, slowly revealing its delicate nuances. Peter Buchanan once wrote in an article concerning the then emergence of a new group of architects in northern Spain, that 'some songs become more haunting the softer they are sung... and, as jazz musicians and gypsy singers know, these tunes may be yet more moving if not stated in their entirety, but only sketched in their essentials – and some of these even only implied by a slur or inflection'. This building murmurs its tune.

Yet most of what you see was there already: the shopfront on the ground floor and the large openings to the upper storeys. But Fretton and his clients have, with a few deft strokes, created magic. The new German-engineered, powder-coated aluminium composite windows (timber internally) set a sure rhythm. The opaque glazing is slightly recessed, suggesting 'shopfront', but masking a new living space at street level. The attic storey sets a well-mannered line with the adjacent parapets using a thin strip of masonry.

Entering the house there is an immediate reminder of the Dutch canal house, with a steep and battered timber staircase rising immediately up from the front door from a tight threshold - the staircase is original and has not been dressed up or tamed. To the side, a large room fills the ground floor behind the opaque glazing to the street. It seems guite a sudden move to walk into this room, a mere metre from the pavement, and find a rudimentary kitchen that consists of a run of low-level cupboards along one wall and a few tall white cupboards on another. A large table offers the suggestion of dining, but more of work - only a small sofa really represents any sign of domesticity. Sliding doors issue out on to a split-level terrace that is cocooned from the outside world yet embraces the tree canopy of the small park beyond - the upper-level terrace ends with slanted roof glazing above a studio below, and the end enclosing wall retains a dissonant gabled parapet that, while expressing the former tin-roof line, upsets the cubic clarity of the contained spaces.





4.

On the first floor the stairs open into the middle of another open room, with tall doors opening out across the rear terraces, and a more domestic aura ensues. This room contains only a double bed placed at the far end and awaits more seating near the balconied doors that will create a sitting space. But a blank pair of doors to a solid wall open, surprisingly and delightfully, into a shallow bathroom that occupies the entire frontage of the house on to the street - this room, which is flooded with light from the large window, protected only by white roller blinds, offers not only a clever acoustic buffer at night, but can also allow the entire floor to be lit and cross-ventilated during the day from both front and back. Finishes are simple - white-painted plaster to walls and ceilings, grey rubber to the existing floors. Radiators, lights and even a downpipe are all exposed, celebrated even, against a backdrop of space and light that provides the setting for everyday life in the house.

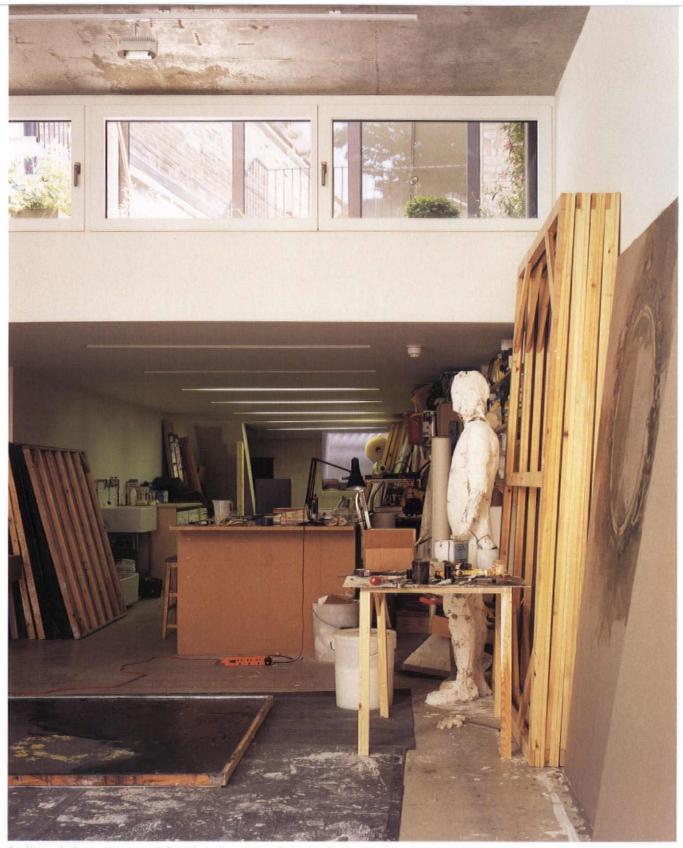
The stair climbs again and this time arrives at the back of the building (the choreography of arriving at a different part of each floor is a theme that Fretton often employs by the use of straight flight stairs, demonstrated in both the Lisson Gallery and the Red House) and this second floor provides two bedrooms, planned around a central bathroom. Switching back to another short run of staircase, arriving again at the rear of the building, there is the attic floor, a single space with plywood floor panels that forms one studio. This calm space has large windows front and back that peer out across two segments of the city.

The house sandwiches life between art, as the second studio occupies the lower-ground floor, so that the three living spaces are bordered top and bottom by studios. The lower studio is 20m long (the house is only just over 4m wide) and it is here that Fretton's intervention is apparent, for the split-level terraces at ground-floor now reveal the logic of flooding the far end of the basement studio space with natural light, the split section allowing a fairfaced concrete roof to hover as a plane between rooflighting. A single blank door provides a pressure-valve – like the rabbit hole in Alice in Wonderland – that opens into the small park beyond.

From the front, the house sits quietly but surely in the street, tall and elegant in a dark red-brown livery with nicely proportioned fenestration that culminates in an implied attic storey. From a small park to the back, the house sits up from its rear extension that contains the lower studio and terraces, while above, the back wall rises with neat new windows beneath exposed steel lintels, set within a patched brick facade that, like an old boxer's face, ravished by time and experience, holds another kind of raw, honest beauty.

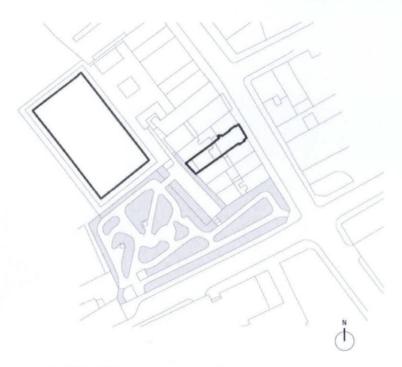


5. Top-floor studio space

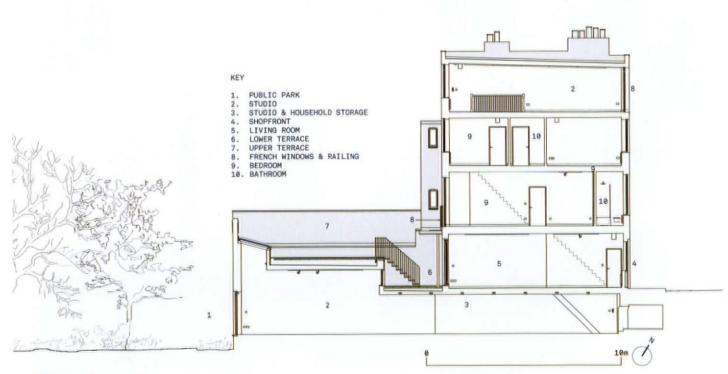


6. New windows at ground level bring natural light into the basement studio

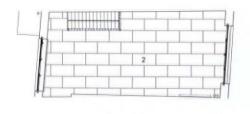
AJ 30.06.05



7. Site plan



8. Section AA

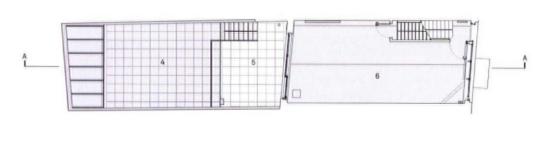


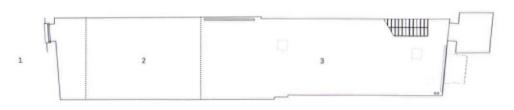


KEY

- 1. PUBLIC PARK
 2. STUDIO
 3. STUDIO & HOUSEHOLD STORAGE
 4. UPPER TERRACE
 5. LOWER TERRACE
 6. LIVING ROOM
 7. BEDROOM
 8. BOILER ROOM
 9. BATHROOM









9. Floorplans







12

10.

11.

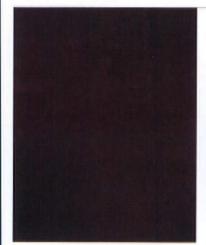
A STORY OF THREE FACADES

Tony Fretton entered the architectural elite with the 9H Gallery exhibition (and accompanying book) Reality and Project: Four British Architects in 1990. This showed the card model of the new Lisson Gallery in Marylebone that was completed two years later. The facade, perhaps inadvertently, helped to launch the current fashion for 'shuffly windows' (hardly a building in London lately avoids this trend for things sliding around on each floor, purposefully reinforcing the free facade's liberty to avoid gravity). But the design presents a purely sophisticated, four-storey frontage that not only picks up on the rhythm of the street, but adds a hint of abstraction - the shift towards relationships of one part to the other within the composition; the solid upper floors above the open lower; the subtle planar shifts within a 'flat' facade. This apparently white facade of impeccably balanced elements reveals itself as a series of Mondrian-esque non-whites. The Lisson Gallery is a very significant post-war London building that has already proved to be very influential.

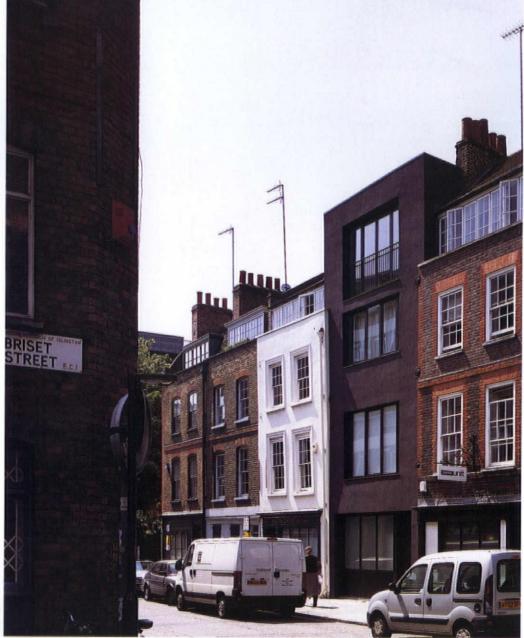
In Fretton's more recent, well-heeled Red House of 2001, the same concerns with making alignments and connections to its neighbours are employed in a well-mannered frontage that recalls Adolf Loos' Tristan Tzara and Moller Houses, which both presented a basically symmetrical facade with central bays – one inverted the other projecting – with stripped down planar facades above expressed bases. The Red House even repeats the twin entrances of the Tzara House (with one entrance into a service apartment,

the other into the house itself), with frosted glass screens that are identical; enigmatic perhaps, but paired around a central, stone-clad garage door. This seems to deny both entrance and the prominence of the car. Again, Fretton uses colour, this time a French red limestone, to clad the building – which creates a mini-palazzo that makes for a vastly increased sense of self-esteem and, in a Chelsea street, this is maybe not too surprising. But, in the context of Fretton's usual restraint, this turns the volume up so loud that the subtlety of the design is compromised by grandiloquence. Perhaps the richness of material, although beautiful, is just too strong for what is a otherwise a sophisticated composition.

In Clerkenwell no such ostentation exists and the delicately reworked facade again echoes Loos. This time it appears as if it were a slice of the garden elevation of the Steiner House, while the wide window apertures are given the rhythm that recalls the Moller House garden facade, with tall vertical mullions, here flanked by very narrow solid panels that open up for trickle ventilation. But the insistent melody that plays in the back of the mind is not the harmony of the street that this all fits into so well, but the surface – a terracotta Sto render that the artist/clients have overpainted with a dirty-coloured, translucent mineral paint. The result is the most extraordinary dull iridescence, a burnt-umber colour that throbs with hints of orange or red and London grime – a Rothko-like depth and resonance. This authenticity of material combines with a mysterious, enigmatic quality that is quite haunting.



13.



14.

10. Fretton's Lisson Gallery helped to launch the current fashion for 'shuffly windows'
11. Red House 2001 - a departure from Fretton's usual restraint
12. Steiner House, Vienna. Built by Adolf Loos in 1910
13 & 14. The dull iridescence of the facade throbs with a Rothko-like intensity

Costs

Data based on final account, for gross internal area

PREPARATION

Strip out and structural repairs £188.00/m² General strip out and decommissioning. Extensive brickwork stitching and crack repairs. General strengthening work and steelwork repairs

SUBSTRUCTURE

Substructure and basement £107.40/m²
Tanking, damp-proofing and reinforced concrete
power-floated basement slab. Drainage alterations.
Lining basement walls

SUPERSTRUCTURE

£96.10/m2 Roof, rooflights New rear extension roof slab with exposed concrete soffit. Rooflights to rear studio. Single-ply membrane to studio and main roof £26.90/m2 Staircases Refurbish existing timber stairs. New access stair to studio roof External walls, windows, doors FET timber anodised aluminium/timber composite double glazing to elevations. New single-storey shop front with integral front door. Sto render to front and part rear. New brickwork and part repointing £102.90/m2 Internal walls, partitions, doors Timber stud partitions, solid core flush doors. Insulated Gyproc

INTERNAL FINISHES

lining to existing walls

Wall finishes

Skim coat plaster and making-good existing
Floor finishes

E74.40/m²

Levelling existing floors. Tongue-and-grooved plywood
boarding. Linoleum

Ceiling finishes

E41.30/m²

Glasroc ceiling linings and skim coat plaster

FITTINGS AND FURNISHINGS

Furniture £4.00/m²
Bathroom furniture, cabinets etc

SERVICES

Space heating, water supply, disposal, sanitary appliances, service equipment £127.70/m² LPHW heating. New water supply and disposal.

New utilities supplies Electrical, protective services, lighting, communications installations £70.20/m² Lighting and power throughout. Front door video entry system

PRELIMINARIES AND INSURANCES

Preliminaries £76.40/m²

Cost summary

Cost data provided by Brendan Hennessy Associates

Cost per m2 Percentage
(£) of total

Preparation	100.00	15.79
Substructure	107,40	9.02
Roof, rooflights	96.10	8.07
Staircases	26.90	2.26
External walls, windows, doors	238.40	20.02
Internal walls, partitions	74.80	6.28
Internal doors	28.10	2.36
GROUP ELEMENT TOTAL	464.30	38.99
Wall finishes	36.80	3.09
Floor finishes	74.40	6.25

Floor finishes 74.40 6.25
Ceiling finishes 41.30 3.47
GROUP ELEMENT TOTAL 152.50 12.81

Space heating, water supply, disposal, sanitary appliances, service equipment 127.70 10.72

Fittings and furnishings

4.00

0.35

Electrical, protective services,
lighting, communications
installation 70.20 5.90
GROUP ELEMENT TOTAL 197.90 16.62

Preliminaries and insurances 76.40 6.42

TOTAL 1,190.50 100.00



15. View of the split-level roof terrace: a secluded urban retreat

Credits

Tender date June 2003 Start on site July 2003 (contract duration 26 weeks) Gross internal floor area 242m² Form of Contract Single-stage contract with JCT intermediate form Total cost £290,000 Architect Tony Fretton Architects: Tony Fretton, Jim McKinney, Matt Barton, Karin Hepp, Simon Jones, David Owen Structural engineer Price & Myers Cost consultant/quantity surveyor Brendan Hennessy Associates Main contractor Famella Subcontractors and suppliers

Render Sto Render; render paint Keim Mineral Paint; glazing, skylights
Standard Patent Glazing Company, Luxcrete; windows FET; access panels
Howe Green, ACO; iromwork Hargreaves, Thomas Dudley; floor finishes
WISA Board, Forbo (linoleum); ironmongery Ize; joinery Famella; ventilation
Ventaxia, Waterloo; radiators MHS, Hudevad; sanitaryware Ceramica
Flaminia, Duravit, Kaldwei, Armitage Shanks; taps Vola, Pegler, Armitage
Shanks; electrical MEM, Newey & Eyre; entryphone Entryphone
London; lighting ERCO, Thorn, Concord, Newey & Eyre









Entries are now invited for the Cityscape Architectural Review Awards. 'Design for an Emerging World'.

The awards will recognise and promote excellence in Architecture and Design from the emerging world, namely, the Gulf states, the Middle East, Africa, South America and Central, South and East Asia.

• The Categories

- Community (including religious and public buildings) sponsored by PAVAK
- Leisure/Hotels sponsored by
- Residential sponsored by
- Nesidential sponsored by

• Transport sponsored by OJOTUN

There will also be Special Awards decided by the judges:

The Environmental Award - for the one completed scheme which delivers best on environmental issues. sponsored by

The Islamic Architecture Award - for the future project or built scheme which shows particular empathy and understanding for Islamic culture and context.

Outstanding Contribution - the judges will choose a person who, in their view, has made a highly significant contribution to architecture and the built environment in the developing world.

The Jury

Paul Finch (Editor of The Architectural Review), George Ferguson (President of the RIBA), Martin Giesen, Ali Shuaibi (Saudi Arabia), Ken Yeang (Malaysia) and Raj Rewal (India).

Entry Details

For a full entry form including details of eligibility and evaluation criteria email tara.ryan@emap.com or visit www.cityscape-online.com

Submission requirements

Candidates should submit two A2 boards with an entry form for each entry by 31 July 2005 to:
Cityscape Architectural Review Awards
IIR Exhibitions. PO Box 21743, Dubai UAE

www.cityscape-online.com





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RESIDENT TOURIST

By Austin Williams

The BBC, via BBCi, has just launched a competition to build a 'Picture of Britain', where people are encouraged to submit photos to its website. This slightly random exercise results in the entries being divided into several groups, from 'rural' to 'human', and the resultant hotchpotch is intended to give, literally, a snapshot of the UK. It all looks like an attempt at inclusive broadcasting – what they call 'engagement.'

However, this idea is being used to greater effect on a much smaller scale by researcher Astrid Kirchner. Austrian-born Kirchner has lived in London for three years and wants us all to explore the city a bit more. Her sense of wonder at the city seems relatively undimmed, even though she has progressed from being a visitor to a resident.

She wants to recreate that sense of wonder and adventure that comes from being in a city for the first time: 'a sense of excitement that disappears as we become more blasé about our place in the city.'

One of her ambitions for the project is to understand the shift that happens when we stop being tourists and become complacent. 'Suddenly,' she says, 'we stop sitting in churches or gazing at rivers. Instead, these become the things that we do only when we're on holiday. I want to recreate the tourist way of seeing.'

London is the chosen city for her project 'Living in a Tubemap', which examines our relationship with London, premised on Harry Beck's graphic representation of the city: the London Underground map. This map distorts the actual urban geography and also creates romantic and dystopian perceptions in all of us. While letter-writers are often 'disgusted of Tunbridge Wells', who cannot be wary of Brixton, intrigued by Theudon Bois or curious about Mudchute?

Kirchner wants you to go out with a camera to a station of your choice – any station, but preferably one you haven't been to before – and be on holiday. Emerging from an unknown tube station at the end of a line is still one of those curiously nervous moments; stepping into uncharted territory for the first time.

Unlike today's more insidious transport ideas, Kirchner doesn't want this project to discourage people from travelling further afield. She is open about the benefits of social mobility generally, but she does want people to see things differently; to 'go to places they've never been to before', and 'to reconnect with London - exploring the reasons and the excitement of why they came to the city in the first place'. 'Living in a Tubemap,' she says, 'poses a challenge to our routine lives in the city.'

Kirchner's personal favourites have been Harrow on the Hill ('really lovely'); while Stonebridge Park was 'not somewhere I'd recommend – but the Hindu Temple was a revelation.' Epping turned out to be 'a little village in the middle of nowhere'.

Unlike the BBC project, 'Living in a Tubemap' is an open-source website where individuals' photographs can be uploaded with observations. This could become a useful architectural resource. Unflattering comments are as welcome as positive ones, but Kirchner hopes the postings will spark a debate, rather than the views of an individual being the final word on an area.

From this simple yet illuminating idea, Kirchner is pulling together an exhibition in London later this year to translate the virtual experience into a tangible one. Eventually, with friends in Vienna already creating a twin site, Kirchner hopes this idea will go global. For more information or to join in, go to www.tubemap.org or email: astridkirchner@yahoo.com

XM IS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE – THE BEAUTY IS NOT JUST SKIN-DEEP

User Train

Assistants Tools

— Marketon Tools

By Joe Croser

Dig yet close.

Did you know that MicroStation users tend to get three or four new versions with cool new features and functions every year? I bet you didn't, unless, of course, you are an existing user. Bentley Systems delivers these swanky new versions via its subscription-based online software delivery and support channel, Select. When a new version becomes available, Bentley users and administrators receive electronic notification and can then download the version at their own discretion.

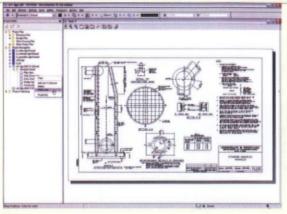
One startling example of some cool new technology that was launched quietly in a recent Select release of MicroStation was the ability for users to embed three-dimensional models in any PDF document. Furthermore, the embedded 3D model is not simply a static 3D view of a model, but a real and dynamic 3D model that can be manipulated live within the PDF. This blows wide open the accessibility of 3D CAD models to anyone who knows how to read a PDF in Adobe's ubiquitous Acrobat application. So, with Bentley regularly releasing such powerful version updates without any pomp or ceremony, my pulse naturally rises the moment the company gets excited about the advent of an all-new release and actually starts talking about it.

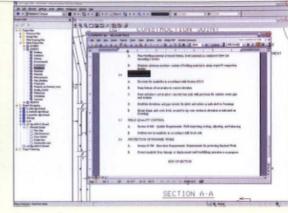
Initially codenamed Mozart, and now set to be released as the V8 XM Edition, the latest version of the MicroStation V8 generation of products presents the largest visual update seen since the launch of the V8 Generation back in 2001. Built around an entirely new GUI (that's graphical user interface to the more TLA-challenged of us), MicroStation XM (V8 XM Edition is just

too much of a mouthful to use all of the time) provides new ways to access the new features as well as the old ones. Like all versions before it, if you feel exposed in the face of change you can elect to use XM with the old GUI – just as you have in the past. However, I would wager that you won't want to after you've seen your colleagues with the fresher, younger-looking model.

That said, XM is much more than just a pretty face; the beauty is not just skin-deep. Bentley Systems' chief technology officer Keith Bentley says XM delivers the users' desire for a CAD tool that '... hides the complexity they don't need while choosing appropriate defaults for the tools they do need.' This complexity has been neatly packaged by the development team with a streamlined task-based interface, which Bentley refers to as XM's 'power with simplicity'. This is a dichotomy often aimed for and seldom achieved in computer software development.

While power and simplicity are an integral part of XM, they are often the opposite of what is achievable with many other CAD tools. Indeed. Bentley suggests that at the heart of XM there is a deeper marriage of power and beauty. By leveraging Microsoft's DirectX graphics technology, Bentley has been able to rewrite the graphics subsystem in MicroStation, making the manipulation of models much faster and smoother. This is true even when the models used are larger than those previously developed in MicroStation V8 2004 edition, and when they are rendered with more sophistication than was previously achievable through the old system.





3.

4.

- The complexity has been managed and presented very well; and...
- 2. ... customisation is very simple
- Project Explorer allows users to open CAD and Office documents within MicroStation and attach hyperlinks...
- 4. ... a great step forward in integration

This new way to display the graphical elements on screen is 'D agnostic'. This means that whether the data is 2D or 3D, MicroStation XM users can display elements with a degree of transparency. It also allows them to manipulate the display priority of elements by level (or layer), enabling all of the data on one level to be drawn in front of or behind the data on another level. Other visual enhancements to the new GUI include colour gradient fills for creating presentation drawings that have a greater impact.

I mentioned earlier that there is a new GUI and that it includes new ways to access new features. One is the new keyboard position-mapping functionality to toolsets that allows a tool to be selected and used with just a couple of key-strokes, rather than by using a series of mouse clicks. This will be welcomed by sufferers of RSI (repetitive strain injury) and by fans of AutoCAD's keyboard shortcuts, which some believe make drafting much faster. Context-sensitive right-click menus are now also more widely available than before.

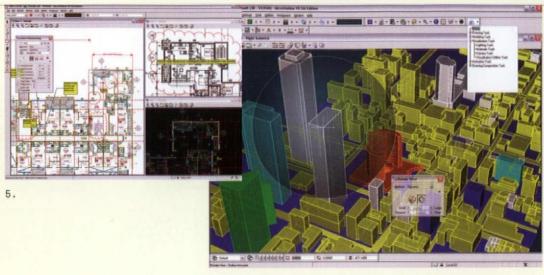
Another new concept is 'task modelling' – a different way for users or CAD managers to customise toolbars within MicroStation, based on specific tasks. The theory is that you can configure a visualisation task on screen with rendering and view-manipulation tools, or a drawing composition task with text, annotation and dimension tools, or even a review-and-comment task with simple cloud and note tools. The benefit is that the screen remains uncluttered by multiple toolbars that are simply not being used, thus leaving a larger viewing area for the important stuff

- the data. However, a friend and colleague told me that he is unconvinced. He felt that it was gimmicky and that it would soon frustrate people who need to use many tools at once, as they would be constantly switching from one task to another. While I see his point, I think that the ability to give nervous or casual and infrequent users a limited tool set based on their needs will help them to gain confidence in a CAD environment. This should raise competence levels across the board, which can only be a good thing. I also think that the task modelling can be used to add greater rigour to the corporate CAD standard, preventing people using a particular tool in the wrong context or wrong environment. But, as I mentioned above, if users want to stay within their current comfort zones, they can elect to reject the task-modelling interface.

I have arranged the changes Bentley has made to XM under four headings, each representing an area of the architectural design and business process. They are:

- modelling graphics performance, surface modelling, mesh modelling;
- design collaboration element templates, project explorer, PDF referencing;
- · design review visualisation, animation, Bentley Navigator; and
- drawing production drawing, set hyperlinks and bookmarks, PDF plans and specifications.

Under the 'design collaboration' heading, there are some significant additions to MicroStation XM, including element templates for greater CAD-standard compliance and the Project



6

This system has closer integration with PDFs

6. Rotation of visualisations is simple

Explorer, which enables users to open CAD and Office documents within MicroStation XM and attach hyperlinks to the drawing elements from locations within the Office document. An example of this would be to open a drawing illustrating an office floor layout and then open the specification and link the various areas of work to the headings in the Microsoft Word specification. These links are then carried through to the PDF plot file and remain active when a reviewer is accessing the drawing. This is really neat and a true reflection of the power of integrating with open industry-standard file formats from software giants such as Adobe and Microsoft.

But the aspect that excites me the most is the ability to now attach a PDF as a reference file. This concept truly closes the loop opened by Bentley and Adobe a couple of years ago when they announced their collective intention to make PDF the standard digital drawing wrapper in the AEC market. I am a huge fan of the PDF due to its familiarity for any computer user. The ability to reference a drawing with its comments and annotations back into the originating MicroStation CAD file environment for making key revisions and updates is a fabulous new feature.

In design review there are improvements to the speed and quality of rendering large complex models and, of course, XM, like previous versions, has the impressive particle-tracing capabilities for photo-realistic rendering.

This new graphics power does, however, come at a price; your current computer may struggle under the load and all the

performance gains made available in XM may not be realisable on older computers with ordinary graphics cards. To extract the most from your machine you really need a Direct-X compatible graphics card and you will also need to get rid of any Windows 9.x operating system you may still be running, as it will no longer be supported under MicroStation XM.

Following the launch of MicroStation XM, there will be new XM versions of Bentley's other software tools, including PowerDraft, ProjectWise – the project-information management environment – and the numerous industry-specific 'vertical' applications. The MicroStation XM launch is planned for autumn, with other applications following closely behind. And thanks to Select, the upgrades will cost existing users absolutely nothing. Now that will be quite a Christmas present.

Joe Croser can be contacted at joe@croser.net



POLICY CHANGES

By Brian Waters

Last November the government issued the first of a number of consultation papers on changes foreshadowed in the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. 1 Responses were published with the promise of implementation this summer.

It includes new powers to inhibit the use of repeat applications – those used to reduce opposition to schemes. The powers are not intended to prevent the submission of a similar application altered in order to address objections to the previous application. Respondents wanted greater clarity and guidance as to how to interpret the concepts of 'similar' applications and 'significant change'.

There was little comment on the proposal to delay the implementation of powers relating to 'twin-tracking'.

In Section 51 of the Act, there is a provision that planning permission and listed building and conservation area consents will normally be granted on condition that works begin within three years. It makes corresponding changes to time periods in relation to outline planning permission and reserved matters. The provision also removes the ability to extend a planning permission or consent by an application to vary a condition.

The removal of this power would require that a new application be judged against current planning considerations - should work not have started on the project within the time limit of the original permission. This was supported by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), which stated: 'We consider it is right for local planning authorities to be able to consider the principle of a permission in all its respects and should not be hamstrung from doing this by what is really a device that was never intended to be used in this way.'

However, other respondents disagreed. One stated: 'This proviso is often relied upon by developers in the development process as flexibility if further time is needed to assemble land or finances... (The proposed) revision is solely a tool to force developers to commence development. Many sites will be left in a poorer state than if the developer had not been forced to commence.'

There was concern that there is insufficient guidance in Section 56 of the TCPA for councils as to what 'starting' means. The House Builders Federation fears a 'severe impact to the development industry'. It argued that: '[The proposal would remove] the long-term certainty of the acceptability of the established land use on the site and the ability to borrow money against that asset. Without this, the ability for developers to borrow money against land and thus the funding of the majority of the development industry will be lost.'

The new Act says there must be a speedier submission

of information necessary for a planning application to be determined. A statutory consultee – for consultation specified in the General Development Procedure Order – must respond within 21 days.

A further paper was issued in March, which covers:

- · local development orders;
- outline planning permission, reserved matters and design and access statements;
- electronic payment of planning fees;
- decision periods for major applications; and
- · validity.

The consultation period has just closed. The revised guidelines will be released in a few months.

Brian Waters is principal of the Boisot Waters Cohen Partnership.

Visit www.bwcp.co.uk

REFERENCE

 See www.odpm.gov.uk/ stellent/groups/odpm_ planning/documents/pdf/ odpm_plan_pdf_033057.pdf

A WORD FOR EVERY OCCASION

The whole concept of computer passwords is impeccable as a theory but complete rubbish in real life. How many of you use the same passwords for everything? Exactly. And why? Because, unless you keep a very long list of all the passwords you might possibly need, there is no conceivable way you could keep them all in your head. Oh, and if you do keep that list handy, chances are that a password thief will find it all too easily as well. Especially if you've Blu-Tacked the list on your screen or even in a 'secret' password-guarded file in your computer's memory.

So what do you do?
There are some basic tips.
One of the most useful is not to use words you could find in a dictionary. Apparently, it takes current code-cracking software mere seconds to run an entire dictionary past a gateway, and only a little longer to check out words that have been displaced one or more places in the alphabet, or words that have had numbers and capitalisations inserted.

Creating strong and memorable passwords is actually quite easy, as Fred Langa describes at www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=164303537. But how do you remember them all?I wish I knew. sutherland.lyall@btinternet.com

A MATTER OF FACT

In construction litigation a lot of emphasis is placed on expert evidence, but there usually has to be evidence of fact too, writes Sue Lindsey. Why a building fails may be a matter of opinion, but what was agreed was to be built in the first place is a matter of fact. Yet there can be overlaps. Who does the judge believe if an expert and a factual witness contradict each other? You might be tempted to think the answer is the expert, who is there to assist the court and is supposed to be impartial. But that is not necessarily right, as the Court of Appeal recently held in Armstrong & Connor v First York Bus Company (17 January 2005).

Mr Armstrong and
Ms Connor were driving in
their Ford Fiesta through York.
While stopped at traffic lights,
a bus tried to pass them on the
nearside. Unfortunately, the
lack of space led to an accident,
and Armstrong and Connor
brought claims for injuries
sustained to their backs. They
both said their car was jolted
by the impact of the bus, and
that had caused the injuries.

However, there was a single expert, Mr Childs, a 'forensic motor vehicle engineer'. His evidence was that the damage to the car was so slight that the impact had been insufficient to even have moved the stationary car on its own springs, still less to have moved the car on its wheels. The claimants made no

attempt to call any engineering evidence to contradict this.

Without movement of the car, the injuries claimed for could not have been caused by the accident. The defendant therefore alleged that the claimants were lying, and the claim was a dishonest one. The two versions of events were irreconcilable; either the car had moved, or it had not.

The trial judge heard the claimants' evidence in court, and said: 'Not one jot of evidence, not one shred, seriously undermined... my confidence in their veracity and straightforwardness.' But he was also faced with Mr Childs' evidence, which he found to be 'logical and consistent'. If he accepted that, it followed that the claimants were dishonest.

In the event, the judge decided in favour of the claimants, because of his clear, unequivocal impression of their honesty. He therefore concluded that there must be an error in Mr Childs' evidence.

At the defendant's appeal, the court held that there was no principle of law that an expert's evidence had to be accepted to the extent that a judge was compelled to find that palpably honest witnesses had come to court to deceive him. Nor, in rejecting the expert's evidence, did the judge have to give technical reasons for doing so.

Citing an earlier case, Lord Justice Brooke said: 'We do not have trial by expert in this country; we have trial by judge.'

While expert evidence can be crucial, we have to remember that it is the judge who decides a case on the basis of all the evidence that he or she receives.

Sue Lindsey is a barrister at Crown Office Chambers. Visit www.crownofficechambers.com

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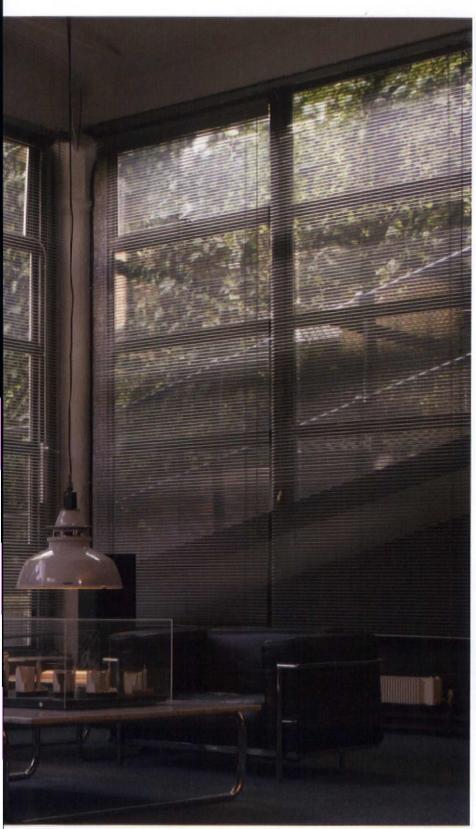
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IN PRACTICE / LORENZO APICELLA



46 AJ 30.06.05



This photograph was taken in our main meeting room at Pentagram. I had just returned from a holiday in California and the morning light in the room made for a gentle return to the routines of the office. That day it included a meeting with a potential new client and I was discussing what material to show them with my coordinator, Claire Parkinson. This is my favourite room to bring clients to. It is light and its generous proportions are typical of the studio as a whole, and it feels as good today as it did when I first saw it 20 years ago. Originally a tram shed, the building's conversion was the work of Theo Crosby, one of the original Pentagram partners. It has hardly changed since, despite the almost seasonal transformation of the streets of Notting Hill around us. We like it that way and, thankfully, so do our clients.

Lorenzo Apicella of Pentagram was photographed by Tim Soar at 12.19pm on 7 September 2004 in west London Inmarsat London EC1











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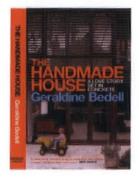


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REVIEW



BOOK

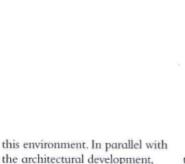
By Nigel Woolner

The Handmade House: A Love Story Set in Concrete By Geraldine Bedell. Viking, 2005. £16.99

In this era of TV's Grand Designs, this book should be required reading for anyone thinking of building the perfect family house that will, with the skill of an architect, liberate them both physically and spiritually from their cluttered previous existence.

Having failed to secure a red-brick Edwardian house, Geraldine Bedell and her husband (plus four children) purchase a small backland site in Islington at £150,000 over the asking price, and from then on money, or rather the lack of it, is a running theme.

Through a friend they meet and appoint Azman Owens as their architect, and, as the design for a minimalist glass box embracing the garden gradually emerges, so does the subtle power of the architect to influence how the clients should change their lives to respond to



thrown at them to resolve.

Like the architect, the builder, Varbud, was selected purely on recommendation, and then a price and programme were negotiated. Inevitably, the estimate was far in excess of the clients' funds and could have been significantly reduced by getting rid of the immaculate fairfaced concrete walls that the architect had by now convinced the clients were essential.

nasty issues such as neighbours'

rights of way over the access

lane arise, all of which need

further non-existent moneu

Eventually the building work proceeds, including these walls, and the passion with which the client, architect and builder debate concrete delivery, shuttering and surface finish proves to be riveting.





The skill of the architect to subtly bring the client along with the minimalist design concept is impressive, and the book demonstrates the very personal nature of the architect/client relationship in domestic projects. The one thing that went exactly according to plan was planning consent, with Islington council throwing out local petty objections in support of an excellent piece of modern architecture. Construction was fraught with the usual dramas - bad weather, incorrectly built work and client angst at the apparent small size of their future home as the walls rise.

Practical completion is, of course, delayed many times, but in the end the family move in and settle into their new surroundings with surprisingly few problems and a sense of great liberation (Bedell having surreptitiously discarded much of their previous life in plastic bags). In the end, redemption comes through the power of architecture to transform human experience.

The spectre of bankruptcy remains a constant throughout the project, only miraculously avoided at the last by much refinancing, last-minute cheques and brinkmanship with bank managers. It takes the Bedell family over a year after completion of the house to begin to get straight financially – but after three years of building, £540,000 eventually comes to feel like a bargain.

This is a moving modern Honeywood File with a happy ending, and a gripping read for any architect or client contemplating a 'grand design'. Nigel Woolner is a director of Chapman Taylor





2.

EXHIBITION

By Robert Thorne

Frei Otto: Lightweight Construction, Natural Design At the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, until 28 August 1

 Japanese Pavilion at Hanover Expo, 2000 (with Shigeru Ban)

2. German Pavilion at Montreal Expo, 1967 (with Rolf Gutbrod and Fritz Leonhardt)

Munich is a city that has always rated architecture highly, all the more so now that there is space dedicated to architecture at the Pinakothek der Moderne. Administratively, the architectural galleries are run bu the Technical University of Munich, but in no sense do they feel cut off or separate. Located directly next to the entrance rotunda, they are the most prominent and probably the most visited part of the building. Never mind that the gallery spaces are not that suitable or exciting; their size and location reflect the esteem in which architecture is held.

Munich is not Frei Otto's home town, but it is entirely appropriate that this year's major exhibition in the galleries is dedicated to his work. Few people will have the chance to visit his projects in Saudi Arabia, and his pavilion at the Montreal Expo was demolished 30 years ago - but there in Munich for all to see are the Olympic Stadium (1972) and the Aviary at the zoo (1980). True, the stadium has partly lost out to Herzog & de Meuron's Allianz Arena, which better suits the way football is now commercially packaged, but it still possesses an utterly daring freedom of form. And the birds still seem to be content with their huge, diaphanous steel-mesh enclosure.

It is not just local pride that makes this an exceptional exhibition. Otto is an ideal subject because he has always worked with sketches and models, relying on intuition and the lessons of the natural world, rather than computer analysis. Indeed, his earlier projects predated the arrival

of modern computers, which only began to be introduced (slightly against his wishes) in the design of the Olympic Stadium roofs.

Many of Otto's most famous models are on show, including the suspension model to establish the double curvature of the grid shell for Mannheim Bundesgartenschau (1975), as well as countless explorations for unfinished projects. The sketches examine every conceivable link between natural construction and manmade membranes, nets and pneumatic forms, always more of a sculptural than an engineering character.

The most surprising exhibit, because it is less well-known to admirers of his work, is the eco-houses project in Berlin (1991). There, he helped evolve the idea of a partially self-build

construction in which the infrastructure and skeleton frame were provided, but individual residents installed the rest of their homes. The parallels with his more famous projects – the quest for adaptability and the avoidance of monumentality – are obvious.

There are two things that are difficult to convey through an exhibition, especially one dedicated to a living hero. One is the exchange and tension between different designers on a project – static exhibits give a false impression of peace and harmony. The other is the difficult of introducing a historical perspective on events that are still so fresh and recent.

This is where the catalogue for this exhibition comes into its own − Frei Otto: Complete Works (Birkhauser, €73); an astonishingly weighty but





BOOK

The Architecture of Rasem Badran By James Steele. Thames & Hudson, 2005. 256pp. £36

creative production in which euloqu is interwoven with detailed assessment. The editor, Winfried Nerdinger. contributes an introduction presenting Otto's lightweight structures - simple, adaptable and modest - as a reaction against the monumental formalism of the Third Reich. an attempt to create a new spirit in German architecture. Ironically, the exhibition is taking place only yards from the Führer's one-time headquarters, so this historical slant is an acknowledgement of yet another aspect of Munich's architectural past. Robert Thorne is a historian with Alan Baxter & Associates

Rasem Badran is not well known in the West, but he is seen as the natural heir of Hassan Fathy, writes Sutherland Luall. According to James Steele, Badran has found 'an appropriate, non-Western language, based on relevant religious, social and cultural precedents, with which to demarcate authentically a divergent identitu'. So does this just make him a traditionalist? Yes and no. The exterior of the Quasr al-Hukm complex (above) could be by a distant fan of Kahn; then you see the stripped Classical forms of the hypostyle hall in his Abdul Aziz mosque. But what you worry more about is a preoccupation with architecture belonging to a particular pressure group and region, and the implication that you should temporarily suspend your critical faculties.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

By Andrew Mead

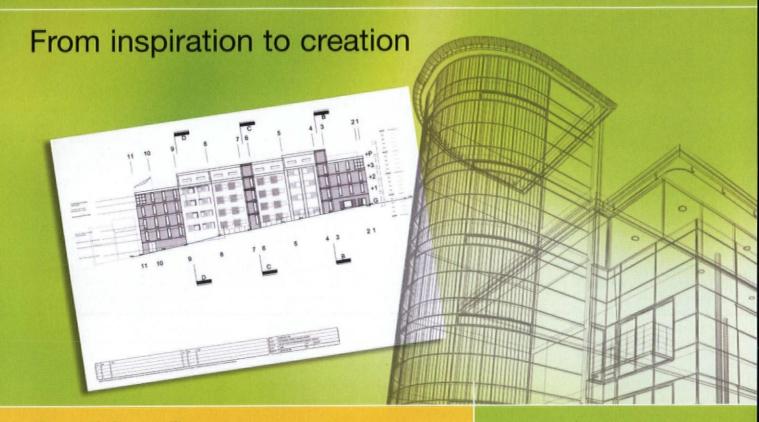
In his evocative book *In Ruins* (AJ 13.09.01), Christopher Woodward explores the special appeal that ruined buildings can have, especially when they haven't been spruced up too much by archaeologists, and nature is still at work. But though Woodward draws on a wide range of examples, he stops short of the 20th century. There's no mention of Duiker's Hilversum Sanatorium, for instance – one wing of which is a leaf-smothered skeleton – or of a still more recent ruin, Gillespie Kidd & Coia's Cardross Seminary.

The trashed interior of Cardross (above) appears in Dan Dubowitz's Wastelands – an exhibition of photographs at Fermynwoods Contemporary Art, near Brigstock, Northants, until 10 July (www.fermynwoods.co.uk). That the idealism behind such buildings has been thwarted so swiftly is disconcerting. It makes them much more uncomfortable to contemplate than, say, the remnants of an abbey that succumbed to the Reformation, or a derelict factory from the Industrial Revolution. An example of the latter, the Murray Mills complex at Ancoats, is also in the show.

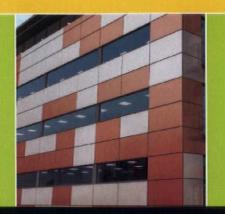
A beautifully illustrated book from publisher Flammarion, Michel Makarius' Ruins (£40), takes a panoramic view of the topic. It begins with the Renaissance rediscovery of antiquity (the monuments of Rome especially) and the varied connotations of ruins in paintings of the period. It ends with such 20th-century connoisseurs of the ruinous as the photographers Bernd and Hilla Becher – their dogged inventory of old industrial structures – and the artist Gordon Matta-Clark, who took a chainsaw to buildings due for demolition, cut through walls and ceilings, and made cellular space Baroque.

Makarius concludes that the ruin can be a spur to imagining the future, not just lamenting the past. Given that argument, it's strange there's no mention of Louis Kahn but another ruin-haunted architect, Soane, does get a look in, with JM Gandy's extraordinary drawing of the Bank of England in ruins. There is still time to see the Soane Museum's current exhibition, Wright to Gehry: Drawings from the Collection of Barbara Pine, which continues until 27 August (AJ 05.05.05). For forthcoming events visit www.ajplus.co.uk/diary

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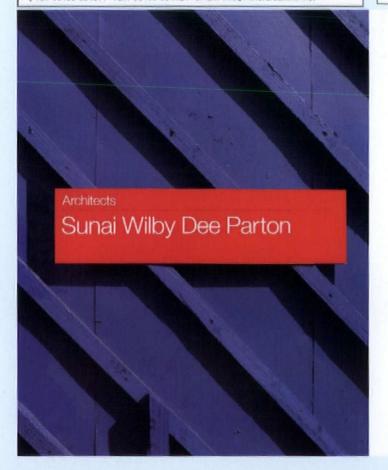
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Further information on the RCI can be obtained from www.rcisurvey.co.uk, or by contacting Dr Emma Parry at emma.parry@cranfield.ac.uk or on 01234 754 408







Head of Planning & Development

Please Quote Ref: B6980AJ

LJMU is one of the largest contemporary universities in the UK with a student and staff community of 25,000 people. The University occupies over 30 different buildings in Liverpool, including listed properties, as well as a number of satellite campus sites outside the city centre. The University has just begun an ambitious period of development, which will change the shape of the property portfolio to include major new flagship buildings and a rationalisation of the existing estate. We are looking for a creative and energetic individual with the flair and confidence to assess, guide and deliver the strategic development of a

major diverse estate. You must be able to clearly demonstrate experience, ability, commitment and achievement in delivering property strategies at senior level. If you are a graduate with professional qualifications in a property related discipline and have at least five years' experience at a senior level then this is an ideal opportunity for you.

Closing date: 12 July 2005.

Further particulars/application forms are available from and applications to: Personnel, Liverpool John Moores University, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5UX. Tel: 0151 231 3166 or 0151 231 3518 (24 hour answerphone).

www.livjm.ac.uk/about/vacancies/

Email: jobs@livjm.ac.uk

JMU is committed to achieving equality of opportunity.



ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (Salary: 28k)

A great opportunity for enthusiastic RIBA part 2 candidates to join our Architectural team on a long-term basis. Our office is based in Chelsea-London and is a well established practice doing commercial and residential schemes. The position offers personal development and is ideal for a candidate anticipating his/her Part 3.

At least 2 years work experience is required. AutoCAD is essential and strong design and organisational skills are necessary. Photoshop and Indesign will be an advantage.

To apply for this position please send your CV to Box No. 3211, 151 Rosebery Avenue, London ECIR 4GB

Closing date for receipt of applicants: 29th July 2005

McDONALD ARCHITECTS

Busy, friendly practice urgently looking for highly motivated architects to work on an interesting and varied range of projects. Applicants must have some post Part II experience and be Autocad proficient.

Post or email CV to: McDonald Architects United House, North Road London N7 9DP mail@mcdonaldarchitects.co.uk

SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN

Required by

MORRISH BUILDERS of Poole, Dorset www.morrish-builders.co.uk

Due to expansion this well respected regional Housebuilder and Commercial Property Developer requires a Senior Architectural Technician for it's Planning and Design Department. You will be experienced in the production of detailed construction drawings for housing developments and be fully conversant with current Building

Amongst many other interesting projects is "Poundbury", The Prince of Wales's acclaimed urban village extension to the Town of Dorchester. Excellent remuneration. Whole Family Health Care.

Apply: Philip Storey, Planning & Design Manager, Morrish Builders Unit 5, Upton Industrial Estate, Upton, Poole, Dorset BH16 5SL Email: developments@morrish-builders.co.uk

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We have just moved into our new purpose built studios in North London

The posts offer a great opportunity to be involved from inception through to completion on every aspect of the design and construction process.

Applicants should ideally be North London based and be able to demonstrate exceptional presentation skills with 3D CAD abilities and an understanding of building regulations

Please reply in writing or by email with CV plus A4 examples of your work

Alan Crawford Crawford Partnership The Studio, 1a Muswell Hill London N10 3TH

info@crawfordpartnership.co.uk www.crawfordpartnership.co.uk



Architects, Technologists and Part 1 & Part 2 Architectural Assistants required to join our busy Bedford Office to work on housing projects. An interest in sustainable

design and construction would be an advantage.

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PART II ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT

required for busy London practice with a broad variety of work in the residential sector, from funky contemporary houses to large developments of flats. Good experience leading to Part III is guaranteed and course fees paid. Year out students also required.

Preference will be given to students who can demonstrate good technical experience from previous offices.

Send or fax your CV with examples of your work to:

Paul Brookes Architects The Works, 28 Barnes Avenue, London SW13 9AB T. 020 8563 0181 F. 020 8563 0763

020 7836 0090 folio@foliopersonnel.com



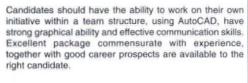
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Department of Technical Services

In House Consultancy Team

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Salary Grade F (up to £19,656) plus essential car user allowance/lease car

The Council is seeking to appoint a technical assistant who will work within the architectural and building team to undertake projects on an individual basis and provide technical support to the team. The work of the team is largely associated with building and project design, buildings maintenance and estates management.

Applications are therefore invited from individuals who are qualified to BTEC Ordinary in Building/RIBA Part 1 or equivalent with appropriate experience. Candidates will be required to demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of building construction and be competent in the production of drawings including the use of

Please contact the Engineering Manager Adrian Cozens on (01768) 212448 for a general discussion about the vacancy.

For an Application Form:

- · visit our web site on www.eden.gov.uk
- email <u>human.resources@eden.gov.uk</u>
- · apply in writing to Human Resources, Town Hall, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QF. telephone (01768) 212268, fax (01768) 890470
- · CV's will not be considered.

Closing date for applications is Friday 15 July 2005.

This is a re-advertisement, previous applicants need not apply.







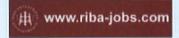
The Council aims to be an equal opportunities employer and operates a policy regarding smoking. As users of the disability symbol, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the vacancy. Canvassing of Members or Senior Officers of the Council will disqualify.



















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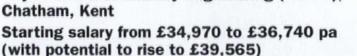
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As a Senior Burnham Lecturer, you will deliver tuition in contract management and quantity surveying related subjects to courses up to post degree level. You will be responsible to the Chief Instructor for organising, administering and instructing on department designed courses to meet military and BTEC training objectives to HNC/D level. Specific responsibility for delivering project management training package to Professional Engineering Trainees (MSc level). Act as the Royal Engineers' subject matter expert on all contractual and quantity surveying matters. Line Manager for one Burnham Lecturer.

QUALIFICATIONS: Chartered status with an appropriate degree and wide practical experience. Ability to instruct, tutor and assess students up to HNC/D level and, to a lesser extent, MSc level, in relation to general building, civil engineering and building services disciplines. Computer literacy, teaching experience, willingness to lead and work as part of a team, deliver results and be personally effective are all essential pre-requisites. You must be willing to attend in-house development courses as appropriate.

Applicants must state all academic qualifications on the application form.

The starting salary will be determined according to qualifications and experience. Salary progression is incremental. Burnham Lecturers have the option to join the Teachers Pension Scheme. You will receive 30 days annual leave, plus 10.5 days public and privilege holidays per year. A vast range of development training is available and actively encouraged.

FURTHER INFORMATION: The RSME is, as part of the Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA), pursuing a 'Partnering' arrangement with a private sector organisation as part of the Government's Public/Private Partnership initiative. As a result, and depending on tour length, it is possible (but not certain) that you may ultimately be transferred into the employment of the successful Private Sector Partner.

This post is a Non-Reserved post open to UK nationals and all nationals outside the UK who meet the Civil Service Nationality requirements (this includes Commonwealth and EEA national). Applicants should have been resident in the UK for at least five years.

We actively encourage online applications. By applying at www.mod.uk you can be sure that your application has been received on time. If you are unable to apply online please contact: Beverley Shakespeare, Army Civilian HR Services on 01980 615243. When applying you should specify on the application form which post you are interested in by quoting ACHRS SBL (Contracts). Application forms must be completed by 29th July 2005.

We are an equal opportunities employer and are fully committed to equal opportunities policies. The Ministry of Defence positively welcomes applications from suitably qualified individuals, irrespective of race, origin, sex or disability.



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KT1 4DA Email: admin@mbparchitects.com

Visit: www.mbparchitects.com







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John Hallam Associates

Architect

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CAD knowledge advantageous but not essential as training will be given.

Please forward full CV to: Mr J. Hallam, John Hallam Associates, Suite 10, Monks Dene, New Street, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 5LN

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COMPETETION



ROYAL COMMISSION FOR THE EXHIBITION OF 1851

Fellowship in the Built Environment

After the successful award of early Fellowships for research into 'Landscape and Modernity', 'Urban Issues' and, more recently, into 'Human Habitation', 'Transport and the Built Environment' and 'Housing for the 21st Century', the Commission now intends to make a further, similar award.

Continuing their theme of important matters for study within the context of the Built Environment, the Commissioners have selected as the subject for this year's competition

The Sustainability of Cities

broad, holistic approach is encouraged, and entries will accordingly be accepted not only from individuals but also from formal or informal partnerships.

Candidates should be UK or Commonwealth citizens, carrying out research over a 2 year period, culminating in either a personal mark of distinction (e.g. PhD) or a milestone or work of significance. Projects that aim to inform the wider community are particularly encouraged. In all cases, candidates are asked to identify a mentor who can contribute to, and make expert and objective commentary on the candidate's work, and who will ensure linkage and promulgation of the work to the appropriate peer group.

The value of the award is £30,000 pa for each of two years.

There are no application forms, but in the first instance candidates are asked to forward five copies of an application of no more than four pages of A4, to include a CV and an outline brief of the subject to be studied. Lavishly produced or illustrated submissions are not required.

Based on these applications a short list will be selected and these candidates will be invited to provide a further, more comprehensive written submission before being interviewed.

Key dates are as follows:

Closing date for initial applications Short list promulgated Closing date for further submissions Interviews and final selection

Thursday 28 July 2005 mid-September 2005 mid-November 2005 late November 2005

The Selection Committee will be:

Mr Alan Baxter Lord Linley Mrs Joanna Kennedy OBE Mr Ian Ritchie CBE

Engineer and Chairman of the Committee

Civil Engineer Architect

Entries should be sent to:

The Secretary, Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, Room 453, Sherfield Building, Imperial College, London SW7 2AZ

To Arrive By: 28th July 2005

Telephone enquires may also be made to Malcolm Shirley on 020-7594-8790, Fax: 020-7594-8794, or e-mail: royalcom1851@imperial.ac.uk
This information is also carried on our Website: www.royalcommission1851.org.uk "Everything within the city connects this, too, may be a source of inspiration" Peter Ackroyd

POLLARD THOMAS EDWARDS is looking for inspired architects

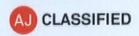
Please send your CV to

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Contact John or Melanie on 020 8341 2222 or visit www.acorn-homes.co.uk/myspace

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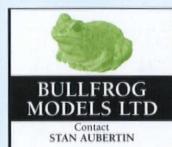
BUSINESS INFORMATION



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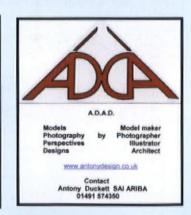
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20b Tower Workshops 58 Riley Road, London SE1 3DG Telephone: 020 7394 7866 Facsimile: 020 7394 6798

Small Bristol practice, owner close to retirement, with varied workload of residential, church and leisure projects with good potential, would like to hear from others interested in acquisition.

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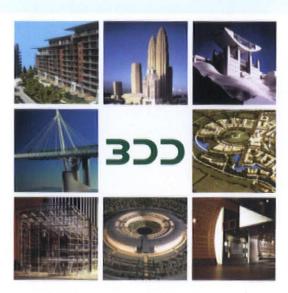
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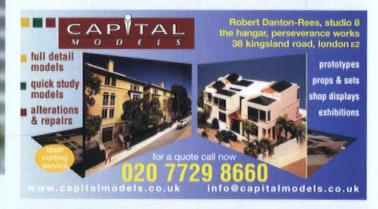
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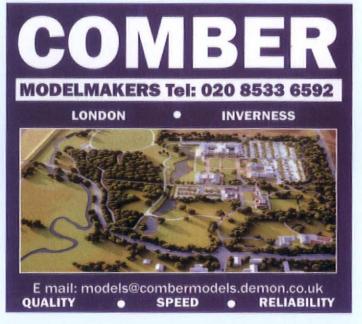
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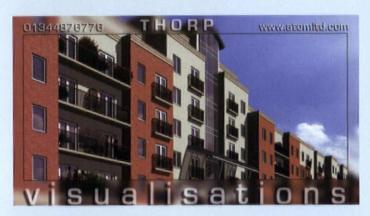




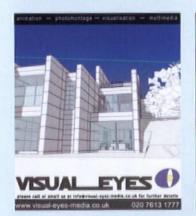


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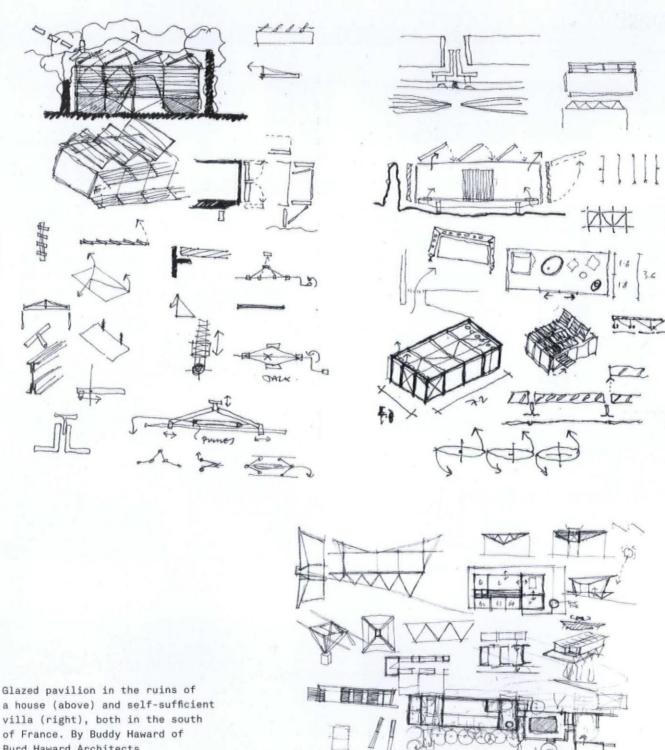








SKETCHBOOK / BUDDY HAWARD



a house (above) and self-sufficient villa (right), both in the south of France. By Buddy Haward of **Burd Haward Architects**



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Readers may also obtain information about these products by filling in the enquiry numbers on an AJ enquiry card.

Advertisers wishing to promote their products on these pages should contact Gemma Cook on 020 7505 6816

MARLEY ROOFING



AJ ENQUIRY 201

With the slate look increasingly being specified to create an authentic roofing effect, Marley Roofing has launched a revised Interlocking Slates brochure, which showcases its range of interlocking slates and demonstrates how they can be combined with the economic and functional benefits of concrete.

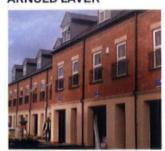
STOAKES



AJ ENQUIRY 202

Top-quality curtain walling with laminated timber mullions and transoms is now supplied and installed by Stoakes Systems. This is the Seufert Niklaus system, which uses sustainable timber to create stunning facades that have low U-values, large spans and that 'warmth of wood' internal feel.

ARNOLD LAVER



AJ ENQUIRY 203

Arnold Laver Timber World in Leeds is supplying the new Churchfields housing development at Cudworth, near Barnsley, with its specially engineered Silent Floor System, which is guaranteed to be 'squeak free' and won't warp, shrink or split like conventional timber alternatives.

KEIM MINERAL PAINTS



AJ ENQUIRY 204

Keim Mineral Paints' Universal Render was specified for new social housing at Cornes Close in Ashford. Universal Render was chosen as it is eco-friendly, easy to use and provides a quality rendered finish that requires no extra treatment – saving costs both on construction and throughout its life.

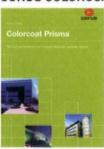
KAWNEER



AJ ENQUIRY 205

Kawneer, the UK's leading manufacturer and supplier of architectural aluminium systems, has launched the AA 100 curtain wall system, combining greater flexibility of design and outstanding performance with its unique dry-jointed system for multiple facade applications.

CORUS COLORCOAT



AJ ENQUIRY 206

Colorcoat Prisma offers a technically and aesthetically superior pre-finished steel product over PVDF (Pvf2), supported by the Confidex Guarantee, only available from Corus. It is available in a range of colours. For a new brochure telephone 01244 892434, or visit www.colorcoat-online.com

UNO



AJ ENQUIRY 207

The unique Uno is a new generation of plug, designed and developed by fixings expert Rawlplug. As its name suggests, Uno is the only plug designed to fix securely into any material – from concrete and brick to block or sheet metal. It features a unique zigzag design, offering a confident fixing solution.

CATNIC



AJ ENQUIRY 208

Tuffslate, part of the Catnic
Litetile range, was used to reroof
the Grade II-listed Shambles
building in Stockton-on-Tees.
Tuffslate tiles are manufactured
from galvanised steel and
finished in an agate colour
– to emulate a durable natural
slate finish –and require
minimal maintenance.



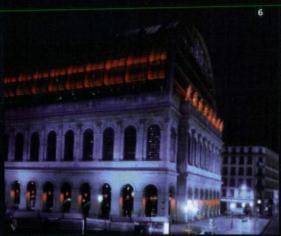


What do they have in common?









- 1 Teatre Nacional de Catalunya -Spain-Ricardo Bofill
- 2 Centre Georges Pompidou -France Renzo Piano
- 3 The Sage Gateshead UK -Foster & Partners
- 4 Putrajaya Internation Convention Centre -Malaysia-Hijjas Kasturi
- 5 La Pedrera -Spain-Antonio Gaudí
- 6 Opera de Lyon -France-Jean Nouvel



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