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EDITORIAL

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LIKE LAMBS TO SLAUGHTER, WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE EGANESQUE ZEALOTS

By Isabel Allen

This week David Chipperfield identified the key difference between working in Europe and the UK as being that 'here you are not really expected to debate ideas'. So have we managed to completely obliterate architectural practice as a critical endeavour?

We have been bullied into believing that the survival of the profession is dependent on our ability to get to grips with critical-path analysis, value engineering, supply-chain management *et al.* In other words, the only way to protect ourselves from predatory project managers is to emulate their example as best we can. Like lambs to the slaughter, we have followed the Eganesque zealots in their quest to create a culture which emphasises delivery and implementation over the intellectual and creative aspects of design.

There are those who make a triumph out of adversity. Rab Bennetts ingeniously PFI-proofs his buildings by designing them in such a way that it is impossible to cost out individual elements without abandoning the entire design. You could, for example, have replaced the beautiful concrete table structure at the heart of Brighton Library with something rather cheaper, but you would have lost the building's environmental control system in the process. Others have fought against the odds by implementing a strategy of 'design by stealth'. Avanti, along with every other reputable practice struggling to deliver decent buildings in the social housing and healthcare sectors, has developed an approach to detailing which allows for the inevitable rough and tumble of design and build.

But the architects who flourish under the pressure of this siege mentality are few and far between. Others, like Richard MacCormac, are forced to watch or walk away as their work is systematically undermined. We have let ourselves forget that real value is not delivered through endless compromise, but by knowing when it's worth putting up a fight.

CONTRIBUTORS



Sue Dawson, who produces this week's Working Detail on the Lock on pages 34-35, is an architect based in Lancashire and the AJ's working details editor



Clare Wright, who assesses the Lock on pages 25-33, was design manager at Circle 33 Housing Trust before forming Wright & Wright Architects



Alan Stanton, who is featured in this week's Sketchbook on page 58, is a partner in Stanton Williams. Both partners have just been made Royal Designers for Industry



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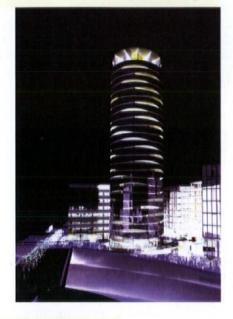
DAILY NEWS / WWW.AJPLUS.CO.UK

MAKE GETS GO-AHEAD FOR LEEDS TOWER

MAKE has cleared the first hurdle in its bid to build a 24-storey residential tower on the Leeds International Swimming Pool site, within a Carey Jones masterplan. Developer HBG Properties was given the initial go-ahead for the 'iconic' \pounds 160m scheme by Leeds City Council's executive board on Wednesday.

CABE IN GUARDED WELCOME FOR GEHRY'S HOVE PLANS

CABE's Design Review Committee has issued a guarded welcome to Frank Gehry's 'quirky' overall designs for the King Alfred development in Hove, although it has expressed concern over the project's lower residential blocks. The committee has also praised the building as something 'entirely new' for Brighton and Hove – and for being of the same ilk as the Royal Pavilion when it was built.



NORTHERN IRELAND COSTS SOAR

The value of one of Northern Ireland's highest-profile PFI schemes has suddenly shot up by more than $\pounds 50$ million. The province's new police training college, to be built on a 109ha site near Cookstown, Co Tyrone, will now cost $\pounds 134$ million, not the $\pounds 80$ million predicted last year. The cost changes have come even before the team behind the project has appointed an architect to work up the proposals.

BOTTA PLANS FIRST MOSQUE

Swiss architect Mario Botta has announced he is to design his first mosque. The religious specialist has previously been known for his work on churches and synagogues. Botta spoke to the AJ on Tuesday when he was in London to publicise his new exhibition at the RIBA, 'Architecture of the Sacred: Prayers in Stone'. For a full interview with Botta, visit www.ajplus.co.uk tomorrow morning (25.11.05).

KINETIC GETS VICTORY

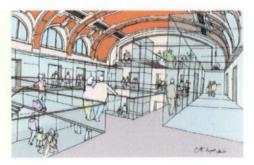
Birmingham-based Kinetic-AIU has won an international invited competition to design a masterplan for the Warwick Bar area of the second city. The practice saw off the likes of AZHAR architecture, DSDH, Fat, S333, Jeppe Aagaard Andersen and Sarah Wigglesworth.

ENGLISH HERITAGE FIGHTS BACK OVER CHISWICK HOUSE

English Heritage (EH) has hit back at attacks on its plans for the 'regeneration' of Chiswick House in west London. The quango has faced heavy opposition to proposals that will see 'major improvements' to the historic grounds and a renovation of Britain's oldest Palladian house. EH claims it simply wants to improve access to the building.

PERTH CITY HALL BACK IN TUNE

John Lyall Architects' client, Wharfside Regeneration, has won a competition organised by Perth & Kinross Council for the adaptation and re-use of Perth City Hall, Scotland. The listed building, dating from 1908, became redundant this year with the completion of the city's new symphony hall.



These stories and more appeared in full at www.ajplus.co.uk/news this week

TASKFORCE MEMBER IN RIOT WARNING

A leading member of the reconvened Urban Task Force has warned that Britain's cities are on a 'knife-edge' that could lead to the wholesale rioting seen in France over recent weeks. LSE professor of social policy Anne Power, speaking at the launch of the second Urban Task Force report on Tuesday, claimed that the ethnic polarisation seen in some of Britain's inner cities has caused the rise of extreme community tension.

S&P IN THE SWIM WITH CORBY POOL PROJECT

S&P Architects, the practice working with Zaha Hadid on the 2012 London Olympic Aquatic Centre, has won a competition to design Corby's new swimming pool. Hailed as a 'flagship project' as part of the Parkland Gateway Regeneration programme, the \pounds 9.9 million scheme will create a 25m-long, eight-lane competition pool on the edge of the Northamptonshire town.



BUS GARAGE FINDS CHAMPION

A former Desert Rat has vowed to take on the Duke of Westminster's developer, Grosvenor, in a bid to save the much-loved Modernist bus garage in Preston. Hailed as a 'stunning example of 1960s co-ordinated transport planning' by the Twentieth Century Society, the bus station will be pulled down under current proposals to regenerate the centre of the Lancashire city.



LEGAL BATTLE COSTS RISE

A legal battle between the now-defunct MAK Architects and developer Winterdome is expected to cost at least \pounds 120,000. A leading legal cost expert has claimed that the price of the action, over alleged negligence by the architect, will extend into six figures when it kicks off on 20 February 2006.

ARCHITECT SENT TO QUAKE ZONE

Recently formed charity Architects for Aid has sent Sam Price, from London-based practice UV Architects, to an earthquakehit area of northern Pakistan. The architect will join with the recovery and relief assessment project set up to help the survivors of the 8 October disaster.

EH MOVES TO BLOCK CITY TOWER SCHEME

English Heritage is objecting in the strongest terms to KPF's plans for the DIFA tower on Bishopsgate in London, it has emerged. The conservation quango has demanded that the Corporation of London reject the scheme, citing views from Tower Bridge, the Tower of London and St James' Park.

BEIJING IN FASHION

Broadway Malyan has completed this schematic proposal for a new 70,000m² retail fashion park in Beijing. The scheme provides three integrated retail environments selling Chinese, Asian and international brands. The space incorporates a fashion school, exhibition centre, museum, conference facilities and a five-star hotel.

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NEWS

MODERNIST HOUSE FAILS TO FIND FAVOUR

Hudson Architects has lost a planning appeal for this country house – the first Modernist scheme to be submitted under the terms of the PPS7 clause. Elvendon House in Goring-on-Thames, south Oxfordshire, would have been almost entirely buried under a sloping valley side and was praised by CABE for being 'well considered in functional and topographical form'. However, the planning inspector rejected the scheme, claiming the house did not 'significantly enhance' its immediate setting and would harm the character of the surrounding area of outstanding natural beauty.

CROSSRAIL MOVE SAVES BARBICAN

By Richard Waite

Crossrail has made a dramatic U-turn over proposals for a major tunnel under the Barbican in a bid to save the 1960s towers from sinking.

The AJ has learned that the firm, which is charged with delivering the cross-London rail link, has dropped plans to use a sprayed-concrete tunnelling method, alleged to be the controversial New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM), on part of the route beneath the Grade II-listed estate.

Experts warned that the method, which was linked to both the 1994 Heathrow Express cave-in and the Barcelona Metro collapse earlier this year, could threaten the Barbican centre's structural stability (AJ 17.03.05).

However, the original plans have been changed following discussions between Crossrail and the Corporation of London, which was particularly worried about plans to excavate a 'cavernous' crossover tunnel.

It is understood that the parties have now agreed that the main track-crossover tunnel is to be constructed with a horizontal piped arch technique and will be shifted towards Liverpool Street station. As a result, the cavern will lie below the Barbican's lakes and parkland rather than beneath the heavy residential units.

Joe Weiss, the Corporation's strategic transportation director, admitted he was pleased with the proposed amendments.

'The environmental statement revealed an alarming proposal to use the NATM. The Crossrail team had probably rushed in at first.'

He added: 'The plan is now to drill horizontal, intersecting

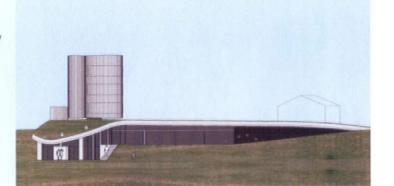
piles in the shape of an arch. It's a very robust construction and you can take earth out without it falling down.'

Another bonus is that there will no longer be a need for a massive, 24-hour concrete factory in nearby Aldersgate, because the new method will rely on pre-cast piles rather than sprayed concrete.

Weiss said: 'This would have risen three storeys high outside homes and the issue caused a deep local interest.'

The move has met with a guarded response from Richard Morrison, head of the Barbican Association residents' subcommittee on Crossrail, who said: 'It is good news, although we will have to see if the new plans raise any other issues.'

Morrison is expecting an undertaking from the company to confirm the changes shortly.





TASK FORCE DELIVERS ITS VERDICT

By Rob Sharp

Not so much a report as a 'report card'. That's the summary of the second coming of the Urban Task Force, charged with the task of 'sorting out' Britain's cities.

What's not clear is what grade to award the government for its pursuit of inner-city design excellence. The report seems to award a 'B' for achievement and a 'C' for effort. It's come some way since 1999, but it could try harder.

'The difference between when Labour came to power and now is the sea-change in investment in inner cities,' says task force member Ricky Burdett, 'not encouraging suburban sprawl.'

Yet the government is far from perfect. 'The biggest deal at the moment is the quality of design,' task force chairman Richard Rogers tells the AJ. 'We're still well below the standards we wished to reach [the first time the task force convened] and the best examples in Europe.'

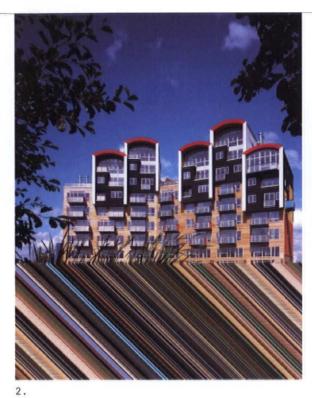
And Burdett agrees: 'There's a deeper issue about UK policy makers and their diffidence toward design,' he says.

One of the key problems in achieving these lofty design exemplars seems to be the bureaucracy suffocating their delivery. While the task force called for delivery authorities to spearhead housing growth, it seems the government overcompensated – with authorities and acronyms coming out of its ears.

The reason for this is a concentration on the short-term benefits of attracting business to city centres, rather than the long-term benefits of good planning. This is reflected in the demographic of delivery authorities up and down the country. Burdett – for one – questions the lack of designfocused management at English Partnerships, which is somewhat laughable, considering that it seems to be a standard-bearer for central government's wish for cheap, well-designed housing. '[These authorities'] jobs are to promote business, not to create, beautiful, sustainable, integrated environments,' says Burdett.

Rogers called on the Olympic Delivery Authority and Thames Gateway regeneration partnerships to work 'shoulder to shoulder' with designers, as happened in Barcelona in the run up to the 1992 Olympics.

Like Rogers, Burdett sees Europe as the example to follow. 'There's something





3.

 Despite being of high density, Appleton in Warrington was slammed by the task force for lacking good transport links and 'a sense of place'
 & 3. The Greenwich Millennium Village was heralded by the task force as an example of good design

THE URBAN TASK FORCE

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1999

- CABE is now an established champion of design quality;
- There are encouraging examples of good design,
- such as the Millennium Village in Greenwich; • Transport investment has increased;
- · mansport investment has increased,
- Congestion charging has gone some way
- to civilising congested roads.

CHALLENGES TODAY

- The need for more houses is overtaking the need for good houses;
- Decision-making structures still fail to prioritise design;

• Design quality is not a key objective for public bodies with built-environment responsibility;

- Design advice to ministers, mayors, local authority leaders and cabinets is too limited;
- Design briefs are poorly written and structured;

• Masterplanners are separated from other design teams in the development process – which leads to fragmented environments;

 Community groups are excluded from decision-making processes.

intrinsically different between how a Dutch planner and an English planner view the world. Design is much more ingrained in their DNA,' he claims. While Rogers scoffs at such a generalisation, he agrees there's a problem.'It's a lack of land issue – over there they value what they have much more than we do. I don't know if it's endemic. But there's a real problem with the UK system.'

It was apparent at the launch of the report that disagreements between the task force members ran fairly deep. They were split over how the government should tackle the 'fundamental problem' of urban renaissance – or design on a wider scale. While Rogers believes densities should be ratcheted up to prevent urban sprawl, senior planning academic Peter Hall believes lower densities are the solution to house families, with higher densities for single- and twoperson accommodation. 'I don't think builders would respond to calls for higher densities, and the targets set by the Barker Review [on housing delivery] would be compromised,' he tells the AJ.

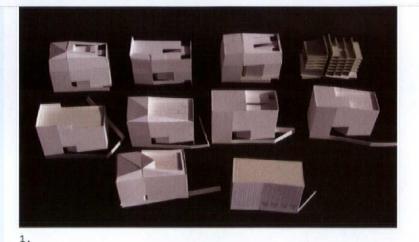
Hall sits as a planner should on the panel – as a mediator between the architects and the public – and his answer to improving Britain's grades is,

to say the least, pragmatic. 'Flick through the Saturday supplements and look at the property advertised,' he says. 'This is what people want – Edwardian suburban housing. Architects now need to produce a new vernacular without compromising their standards.' Let's hope the government is listening.

NEWS IN PICTURES

DRDH TASTES VICTORY IN GERMANY

This scheme, by young London-based practice DRDH Architects, has won a competition in Hamburg. The firm saw off competition from Austria's Love Architecture; Onix, from Holland, and four Hamburg practices. The competition - which targeted up-and-coming offices - was based around a three-day design workshop. The scheme will nestle within the HafenCity masterplan, which features projects by a wide range of international stars, including Benedetta Tagliabue, Herzog & De Meuron, David Chipperfield and Philippe Starck. DRDH's designs focus on simplicity and reference the traditional waterside architecture that surrounds the site. This approach is reflected in the form of the building, that subtly changes angles - both in the facade and the roof - in response to the way the light changes throughout the day. The winning designs will be worked up before being approved by a residents' co-op that has a 60 per cent share in the development. By Ed Dorrell





1. Concept models

 First-floor apartment block plan
 The angles of the facade and roof respond to the way the light changes throughout the day

3.



ASTRAGAL

'He is possessed of a gravely ambiguous demeanour that might belong to a burly end-of-pier straight-man'

Jay Merrick on Tony Fretton. Independent, 16.11.05

'I heard someone ask at a conference "How can we design housing to cope with large-scale immigration?" That must be the most dangerous thing we can ask' Ricky Burdett. Financial Times. 19.11.05

'The big difference between working in Britain and Europe is that here you are not really expected to debate ideas'

David Chipperfield. Guardian, 21.11.05



TAKING A SHOT AT NORMAN

Astragal went east last week to The Yard on Old Street for the opening of the Architecture Foundation show, 'I Shot Norman Foster'. The photography exhibition featured work by Richard Wentworth, Jemima Stehli, Olivia Beasley, Poppy de Villeneuve, Chris Steele-Perkins and Norbert Schoemer. reinterpreting some of Foster's most famous buildings. Veteran journos Eddie Heathcote and Ken Powell were among those admiring the snaps on display. Also gracing the occasion was the great man himself, Norman Foster, who descended on the event wearing a fetching black polo-neck and salmon-pink suit - the less said about that, the better. 'What a terrific idea,' his lordship said of the show, 'and what a diversity of images

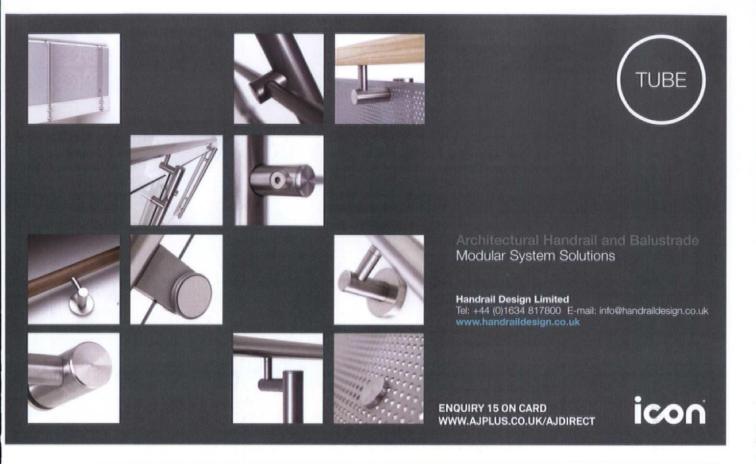
featured'. When one hack attempted to pin him down, Norm went on to brush off his loss at this year's Stirling Prize with typical ambiguity. 'It was great to be shortlisted for once,' he murmured, before leaving mid-sentence to talk to someone more interesting.

A STICK TO BEAT BILL WITH At the recent Chartered Institute of Building Engineers

conference, hundreds of besuited engineers met to discuss the implications of the dreaded Part L. The RIBA's sustainability guru **Bill Gethin** seemingly felt as if he had to prove he was no pushover. Speaking of his approach to environmental enforceability – rather than his slimline appearance – he made the announcement: 'I am a stick man'. Presumably as opposed to being a 'carrot man'. With that personal declaration out of the way, and feeling that he was among friends, he confided: 'I'm a fascist at heart.' At the end of his speech, he got a rousing round of applause, but no salutes.

THE WOOD AT WAR

It may be 60 years since the end of the Second World War, but that is as nothing in the life of a tree. Furniture maker Luke Hughes made this point during a talk at the RIBA last week. Hughes has been having some trouble with trees - specifically, some being felled that witnessed Ukraine's intense Battle of Kursk. Despite investment in the most modern saws, the Polish mills that process the timber are suffering constant shutdowns due to shrapnel embedded in the wood.



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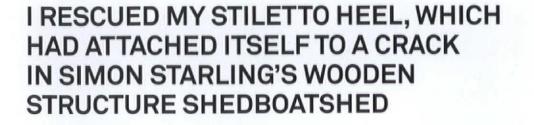
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OPINION / HOLLY PORTER



If the only thing that makes life possible is permanent, intolerable uncertainty then this year's Turner prize show was a good example. Last year I was un-inspired and this year it's great. But then, I've always been addicted. I love the Turner Prize and I go every year for three reasons: for the spectacle of the event itself; for a curiosity to see the work and for the ideals behind the exhibition.

It's got it all, if not always in the work then in the public that views it. To an architect. it's a spectacle like no other. I'm fascinated by the electric interaction between the public, the gallery space and the art on display. I remember being really excited at my first Turner Prize when I was six - and this year was no exception. After rescuing my stiletto, which had attached itself to a crack in Simon Starling's wooden structure Shedboatshed (Mobile Architecture No.2), I was swept through the exhibition along with the rest of the British public - all united in their curiosity of creative endeavour. In a way, it's the great exhibition of our time - and because of that I always think it's sad that it's not free to enter.

I like the fact that it was named in memory of a painter who wanted to set up a prize Interestingly, this year they really were. Almost all the artists showed a curious, yet intelligent, restraint in their use of single media. In his subtle use of the moving image, Darren Almond - with an incredible lightness of touch - records a portrait of his widowed grandmother. Gillian Carnegie's journeys through the qualities and textures of paint are best shown in her Black Square paintings, which looked almost edible in their depiction of woodland scenes, vigorously but delicately created in tar-like black oils. Meanwhile, Starling creates a sharp adaptation of objets trouvés through his Shedboatshed and other pieces. It is almost as if there is a return to a Ruskinian zeal for artistic and creative specialism and an emphasis on the processes of production. Perhaps there are some parallels with contemporary young architects, who, faced with a construction industry where the parameters for technological innovations are expanding by the day, need to specialise in their skills in order to achieve clarity in their work.

for young aspiring artists.

From the Turner Prize's inception in 1984, the question has always been on what criteria the honour is awarded. But it's exactly this debate, encouraging the public to think over the intangible act of creativity for creativity's sake, that holds the value of the prize for me, not who wins or why they win. As Oliver Holmes once said: 'Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." To create, in our increasingly consumerist society, an event where four people's creative vision, ideas and work in one gallery can raise a public debate that the whole country interacts and engages with is, for me, a formidable achievement and the reason I will continue to go.

Holly Porter works for Kohn Pedersen Fox in London. Email: ajcolumnists@emap.com



The Swiss have always preferred to keep things out of sight.

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This natural Swiss desire for clean and clutter-free design has been the inspiration behind Duofix, Geberit's support system for wall-hung sanitaryware.

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LETTERS

WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM BROADCASTING HOUSE

Now that Sheppard Robson has been appointed to replace Richard MacCormac on Broadcasting House (ajplus 04.11.05), it's appropriate to learn from this sorry affair, which has seen a master architect replaced on such an important commission at its midway stage.

Surely the time is now right for us to consider the process used in the US, where there is a marriage at the beginning of major projects between the design architect and the architect of record (a much more elegant title than executive architect).

If this approach had been adopted at the BBC, then MacCormac could have retained his involvement throughout the project as design architect, while Sheppard Robson would have taken on the executive role as the architect of record, responsible for the project's implementation and delivery.

When this relationship works effectively, as it does across the US, each architect retains ownership of their particular element of the scheme and the divorce between architect and client that we've seen at the BBC is avoided.

John McAslan, John McAslan + Partners

BRITISH ARCHITECTS DO THEIR BIT FOR CHARITY

The quote from Shigeru Ban from the *Guardian* (AJ 03.11.05) that damned architects in comparison with solicitors and accountants for not putting their shoulders sufficiently into charity work seems to have been plucked from a long interview to imply that UK architects are just as uncaring.

In France, where Ban has a studio at present, there is a healthy tradition of solicitors 'doing their bit', but in the UK it is architects who are well represented. In organisations such as Business in the Community around 20 per cent of the member companies offering professional help are architectural firms.

At PCPT we have won a Business Charter Award and have also been working for 15 years across the West Midlands, with community initiatives in such areas as Aston, Walsall, Bordesley Green and as far away as Hereford, trying to make a difference and providing skills and good advice where and when it counts.

So, what about a bit of positive publicity for the profession?

David Mahony, PCPT Architects

MURRAY'S ROLE IN BOW COMMON CHURCH

I am writing to make one small but important correction to the appreciative obituary of my former partner Keith Murray (AJ 10.11.05) – important for the sake of historical accuracy, since the Bow Common church is Grade II*–listed. Fr. Gresham Kirkby did not appoint Keith as architect for St Paul's church.

Keith was a designer, silversmith and sculptor, not an architect; he introduced me to Fr. Kirkby, who appointed me on the strength of a radical church design I had produced four years earlier when a student at the AA School.

The arrangement was that I would design the building and Keith would create some $\pounds 8,000$ -worth of glass mosaics (a vast commission in 1956) due to be paid for by the War Damage Commission in lieu of stained glass.

Keith and I worked very closely on the project and by the time it was building and another church commission had arrived (in 1959) decided to start a joint practice. The mosaics were eventually done by Charles Lutyens.

Incidentally, the whole AJ staff at the time knew the progress of all this as a daily running saga, because to keep body and soul together while designing the church, I worked for four years as the AJ's buildings editor. *Robert Maguire, by email*

MINIMUM IMPACT? WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT?

I was enthralled to read about Laurie Chetwood's Andes house (AJ 10.11.05), and even more delighted to read that the dwelling 'impacts only minimally on the environment'.

What a pity to discover that it has a garage for six cars! Colin Anderson, by email



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LETTERS

PARDEY'S WORK IS PRETTY, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST?

How does John Pardey do it (AJ 17.11.05)? Most of us spend an entire lifetime searching for the ideal client – the imaginative, creative couple with disposable income to spare. Yet Pardey seems to have a steady stream of them knocking at his door. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that, unlike the rest of us, everything he produces ends up in the AJ. How about giving the rest of us a chance?

Pardey's houses may be beautiful, but they can hardly be said to be representative of British architecture. Might I suggest that the AJ devotes a lavish feature to some gritty social housing or, better still, a deeply flawed, highly compromised private dwelling which is pretty mediocre and done on the cheap, but which represents a triumph when compared to the pitiful aspirations of the client. I'm sure you would have plenty of material to choose from. *Tom Edwards, by email*

NEW AUTOCAD HAS GOT ME ON A GO-SLOW

Having used AutoCAD for some 11 years now, I would consider myself to be super quick. So, having installed our new AutoCAD 2006, I was disappointed to find myself working more slowly and being frustrated by the unnecessary changes. The package now seems to run more slowly, is full of unnecessary visual enhancements which do nothing but irritate your eyes, and also seems to have omitted some of the most useful aspects of the previous release.

We have become familiar with tailoring the package to our needs over the past few releases, so why re-invent the wheel? I now need to spend time re-learning some fundamental aspects of the program rather than getting on with progressing projects.

If AutoDesk wants to continue to supersede its products and demand the additional fees that this entails then it should at least develop the product so that it genuinely makes life easier for us end-users.

Gareth Hickman, by email

CORRECTION

In AJ 17.11.05, muf architecture art was referred to as Modern Urban Fabric. The practice has asked us to point out that it does not operate under this name.

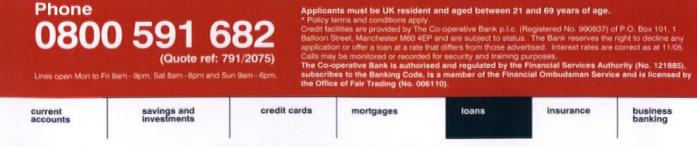
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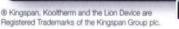
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ENQUIRY 23 ON CARD WWW.AJPLUS.CO.UK/AJDIRECT

MBLC/ THE LOCK



BUILDING STUDY

IF THIS BUILDING IS A LIFE ACCESSORY, THEN MAYBE IT FITS THE BILL VERY WELL. IT IS CERTAINLY MORE ZIGGY STARDUST THAN TOVE JANSSON

By Clare Wright. Photography by Ioana Marinescu

MBLC is an established Manchester-based firm of architects and urban designers. Key projects include the Zion Arts Centre in Hulme; a headquarters building for Siemens; the Millennium Powerhouse multi-functional community centre in Moss Side; and the Royal Northern College of Music. The Lock is one of numerous housing projects that range from social housing through to luxury homes.

This building reflects many current trends and preoccupations and, precisely for that reason, raised more questions than answers in my mind about what living in our cities means and should mean. This building is for a certain type of living, represented by form rather than function, image rather than substance and glamour rather than instincts.

Set in the centre of Manchester amid a gritty buzz of development, it forms a wedge-shaped residential block fronting Whitworth Street and backing onto the Rochdale Canal. The site is densely packed, with 155 apartments on nine floors, above two floors of car parking and retail units. There are a variety of unit sizes, mostly small but with glamorous duplexes on the top. While more conventional neighbouring developments seem to comprise a single depth of dwelling looking onto the street to the front and the canal to the rear, this accommodation is arranged in two strips, facing across an atrium which is packed with architectural drama.

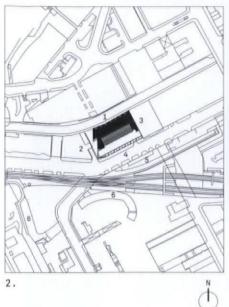
Like most English cities, Manchester does not have a tradition of inner-city apartment living. In this development, I was struck by an analogy with European cities – say Paris or Barcelona – with dense planning around a lightwell on the inside of the building. But the well here is not actually like the European ones that have their backyards and private spaces in which you glimpse drying, washing and slivers of other people's lives. Here it is the heart of the building and the primary circulation and, with access walkways running centrally down the atrium on each floor, it is very much the public domain. If, at some level, most of us need a degree of communal and separate living with delineated defensible space, does this new model meet these primitive and fundamental requirements? Few of the flats are occupied yet, so it has not been put to the test.

The flats are arranged with living rooms looking out onto the street and the canal, and bedrooms facing the atrium. In some of the latter, windows are of obscured glass blocks with small inset opening lights. These have a strange, ghostly, underwater feel, which might be attractive with a hangover and are preferable to others, that have full-height windows, some of which are two metres from the main circulation route and some of which abut it and the entranceways to dwellings. I was reminded of a student trip to Barcelona, when, chatting to my partner from the en suite bathroom, I found to my embarrassment that a friend could hear us all too clearly. Inhabitants will learn about this and presumably make adjustments for this intensity of habitation. Does this matter?

On one side of the atrium, the wall slopes from floor to ceiling, as do others in other parts of the building. This creates spatial drama and dynamics. On the other side of that wall are



1. The canal elevation: the terracotta cladding is topped by two zinc-clad upper floors





KE) ROCHDALE CANAL BARCLAY HOUSE THE RITZ WHITWORTH STREET WEST OXFORD ROAD STATION

RIVER MEDLOCK

4

the bedrooms which are barely large enough to hold the necessary furniture. Presumably triangles of empty space will sit behind wardrobes and chests of drawers. Is this balance of form and function valid? Overall, does this building reflect the unacceptable face of developers' greed and a lack of understanding of fundamental human requirements, or is it a novel and imaginative response to market demands for struggling urbanites, who mostly live at work and want a crash pad with suite attached?

If this building is a life accessory, maybe it fits the bill very well. It is certainly more Ziggy Stardust than Tove Jansson. The atrium has a 50mm-deep, 2m-wide strip of water running the length of the ground floor, reflecting low-level red fluorescent strips opposite piles of white stones, in which mounds covered in crumpled tinfoil (temporarily for a film set) were set, soon to be replaced with sedum. One is minded of an unearthly life - stone, water and vegetation, lit with coloured fluorescents in purple, pink and green. It is strangely, but not unpleasantly, calm, artificial and quite un-natural, although this alters a bit on the upper floors.

The cross walls of the flats are loadbearing, hence the ease with which partitions can be arranged non-orthogonally for the tapered section and other areas. The lightwell is spanned at roof level by curved steel beams, which carry a glazed canopy and from which the walkways are hung by means of delicate 40mmdiameter rods. This is the only part of the building of which Ruskin would have approved - but then this is now and that was then. The atrium is not sealed at the top and the end wall above the

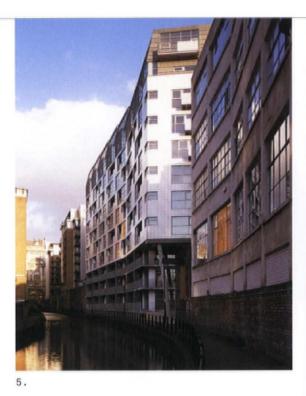
entrance is open to the air, enclosed by utilitarian galvanised-steel panels holding an industrial steel mesh through which, on the upper floors, a hazy view of the city may be seen. At these upper levels, there is a pleasant sensation of contrast when stepping out of the lift, from the closed artificial interior to contact with the elements - at this time of year feeling a cold breeze and sunlight.

Generally, however, there is dislocation between inside and outside. The interior has a set-like quality. Walls are white-painted plasterboard; balustrades are flat grey or milky glass; lighting is concealed fluorescents or downlighters; floors are laminated-timber boarding and most balconies are only large enough for two. Perhaps this truly reflects current aspirations for internal comfort.

In contrast to the starkness of the interior, a wide array of materials, forms and colours are liberally expressed on the outside of the building, much of which is undoubtedly photogenic and, incidentally, different on each elevation.

The building has a tripartite order. Onto the canal, the lowest four floors of apartments are set back 1,200mm or so for privacy from the slightly lower but abutting towpath and the gridded steel panels are used as balustrades again. Windows to the middle range of flats are grey, powder-coated, steel-framed, punched holes, mostly full height, in terracotta cladding. The top two floors are zinc clad, with grids of fenestration. This building jostles with strident big-gun neighbours along the canal.

The entrance is on the gable, defined by sloping concrete columns and a cantilever. The base to the entrance ramp and a





6.

freestanding portico at the top of the stair are faced with stone cladding. The entrance is further accentuated by a bright yellow panel at the top of the steel-gridded balustrade of steps and ramp. The building steps out to a point as it turns the corner, in a monolithic slab of white render, which is then curved back to the terracotta cladding on the facade of the main thoroughfare.

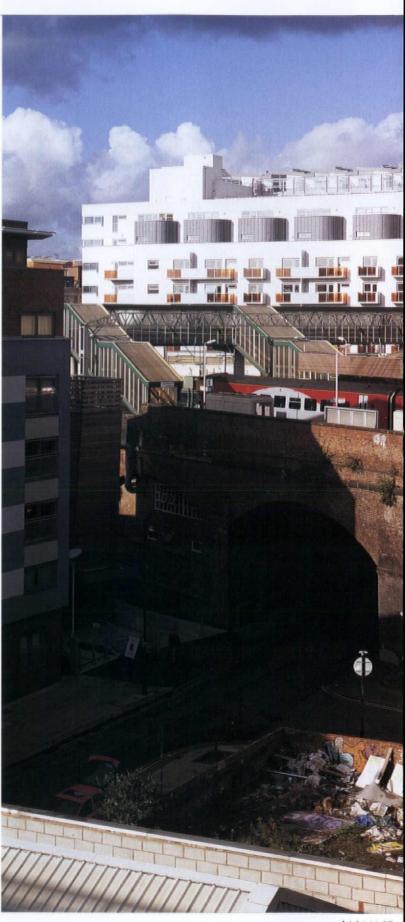
On this facade, the as-yet empty retail units form the base, with a regular distribution of hole-in-wall windows above, with vivid orange glazed panels to balconies and the top two floors set back. The architect chose the white terracotta and orange of the balconies to reflect Mancunian building traditions. The orange glass represents brickwork and the tiles reflect the local building practice, well represented by the two-storey, early 20th-century Ritz building nestling next door. This is faced in faience, in broken bond, finely detailed around windows with implied lintels. This elevation lies to the uninformed eye about how it is built. Its new neighbour reflects current construction practice. The different elements, produced by different subcontractors, separated for manufacture as packages, can be clearly seen. The terracotta is hung in a straight bond, which says 'this is not loadbearing masonry, it is cladding'. It tells an aspect of the truth.

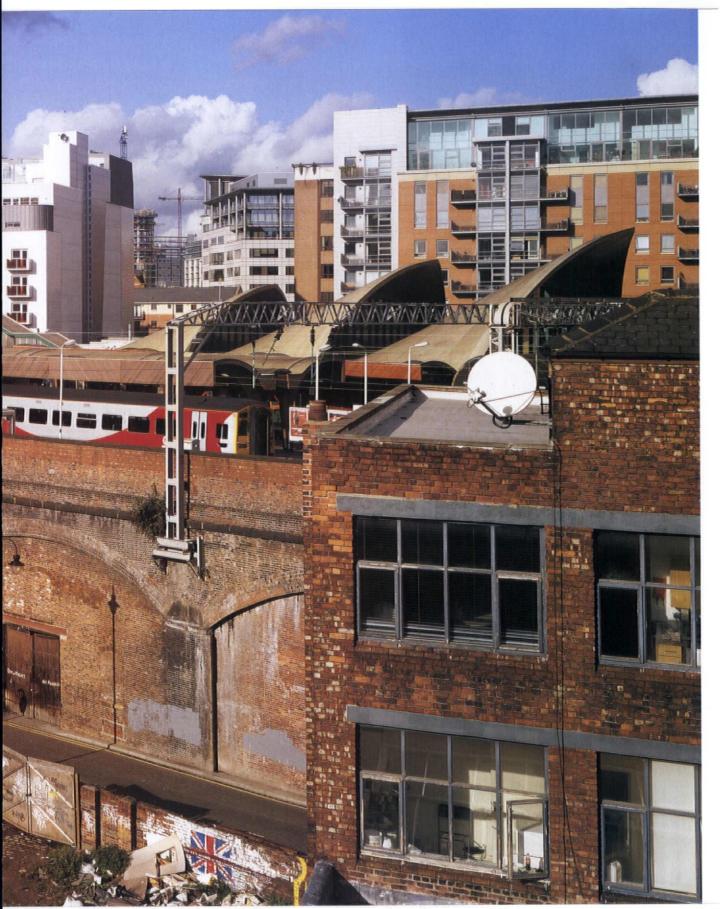
Reflecting on this and the parts of the building I liked best – the expressed roof structure, with natural light and the steel mesh and balustrading with clearly visible fixings – I wondered what makes some reality false and some falseness true. Because perhaps sometimes it is better if your eyes deceive you.

2. Site plan

The entrance is defined by sloping concrete columns and a cantilever
 Living rooms look out onto the street and canal
 The Lock competes with the big-gun buildings along the canal
 The street elevation, with the early-20th-century Ritz building nestling next door

7. The Lock is set in the middle of central Manchester, amid a gritty buzz of development





AJ 24.11.05

STRUCTURE

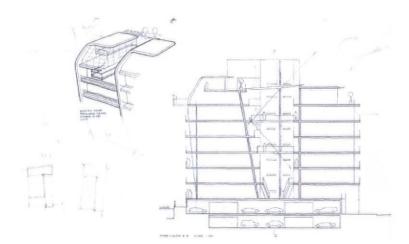
Groups of 600mm-diameter bored castin situ concrete piles into rock sockets sustain the building loads and provide the solution to the difficult conditions on this former hydraulic power station site, with certain piles placed to avoid obstructions in the ground. A hard/soft secant-piled retaining wall, along the canal, provides a practical solution to the elevated position of the canal and deals with leakage experienced during construction. The two parallel blocks of accommodation consist of cellular in situ reinforced concrete about the central atrium. A system of full-storeyheight-deep beams form the party walls at 6.5m centres, dictating the structural grid and demarcating apartments. The floor plates consist of 225mm-deep one-way spanning slabs and form linked diaphragms, transmitting the lateral loads to the in situ lift cores at either end. Vertical loads within the loadbearing walls arch onto doublestorey-height columns, enabling efficient car parking within the basement and groundfloor storeys. Access to the apartments is by way of suspended precast concrete walkways. The systems of tension-rod assemblies and socket connections are hung from plated feature beams, exposed to such an extent that they make a major contribution to the visual aspect of the atrium. A detail at the interface between the frame and the walkway facilitates lateral movements and allowed for construction tolerances. A key feature in this space is the series of fabricated roof beams spanning 10m across the atrium between adjacent blocks, with welded teardrop plates for the walkway hanging systems' pin connection, and providing primary support for the atrium glazing. The facades give a strong frontage, with cantilevered galvanised steelwork balconies fixed to the main structure through cast-in fixings. The main gable has 11m-high inclined cast-in situ concrete columns supporting an end bay of eight storeys. Paul McKay and Sandy Porter, Woolgar Hunter



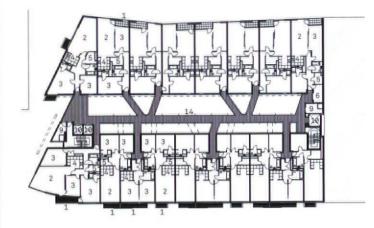
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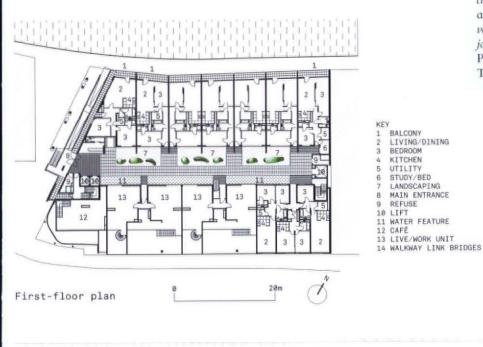
 Exposed roof structure and suspended walkways; the only part of the building of which Ruskin would have approved?
 The atrium is the heart of the building and main circulation space



Sketch



Fifth-floor plan



Credits

Architect

MBLC: George Mills, Mike Hitchmough, Steve Bradshaw, Ian Hicklin, Bryn Mainwaring, Mark Serventi, Oliver Schultz, Mandy Tsang, Debbie Harrington, Galli Wu, Tom Sheehan Structural engineer Woolgar Hunter M&E consultant Buro Happold Fire engineering Buro Happold Quantity surveyor Thomas and Adamson Landscape architect Landscape Projects Acoustic consultant **BDP** Acoustics Main contractor Mowlem Subcontractors and suppliers

Joinery A & M Joinery; windows and curtain walling Anaco; steelwork Aspinalls; insulated render Astley; M&E installations Balfour Kilpatrick; fire-resisting glazing Baydale; zinc cladding and insulated cladding Carlton Building Services; underfloor heating Devi; glass blocks Luxcrete; dry lining Mansells; roofing Monoroof; lift installation Otis; rainscreen Richmond Cladding; stone cladding and paving Stone Central; roof membrane Alwitro ICB; plastenwork British Gypsum; cladding Creaton; insulation and cladding Kingspan; bricks Lancashire Brick and Tile; kitchens Moores Kitchens; roof vents Passivent; profiled roofing Plannja; joinery Powell Hardware; fireboards Promot; insulation Rockwool; carpets Tarket: render Weber SBD

WORKING DETAILS / THE LOCK

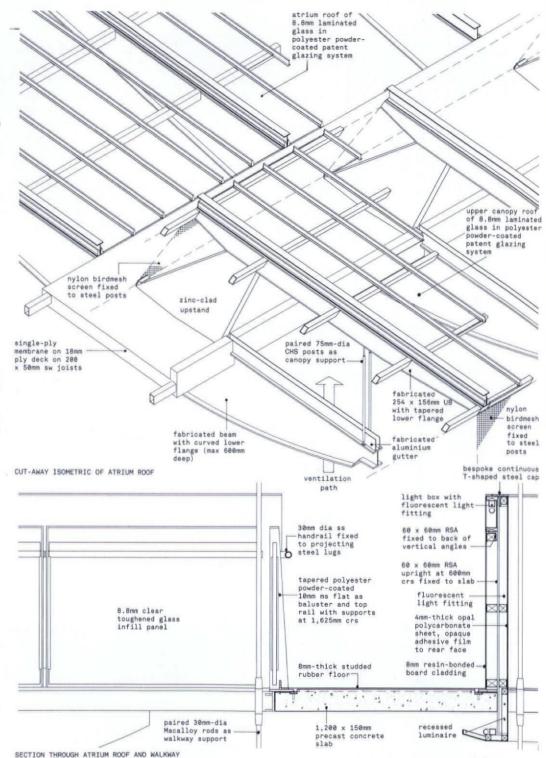
A GLAZED ATRIUM ROOF WITH SUSPENDED WALKWAYS

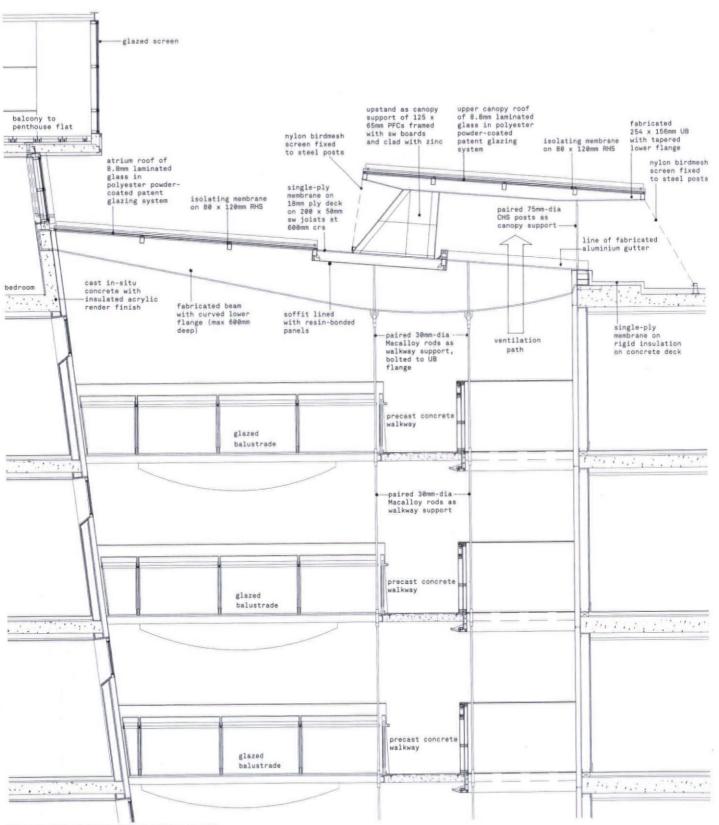
The building has 11 floors of apartments on each side of a central atrium. The construction is of cast-in situ concrete, with exterior walls clad with a rainscreen of white tiles and atrium walls clad with an insulated acrylic render system.

The atrium is naturally lit and ventilated. The glazed roof - 8.8mm laminated glass panes in a polyester powder-coated patent glazing system - is at two levels: the lower level rests on a series of fabricated beams with curved lower flanges that span between the atrium walls. The upper level rests on a series of fabricated 254 x 156mm UBs with tapered lower flanges, supported by zinc-clad upstands set on a strip of roof and paired 75mm-diameter CHS posts. The upper level shelters a continuous air space; it acts as a ventilation chimney for exhaust warm air from the atrium. It is screened bu nulon birdmesh.

On each floor a suspended walkway runs the length of the atrium, with six short spur walkways leading off to give access to apartments. The walkway layout gives privacy to atrium-facing bedrooms.

The walkways have pre-cast concrete floors and are suspended from the fabricated beams by paired 30mmdiameter Macalloy rods. On one side is a solid balustrade with concealed lighting clad with opal polycarbonate; on the other side is a glazed balustrade supported by tapered steel flats. *Susan Dawson*





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TECHNICAL & PRACTICE



HIDDEN IN CODE

By Austin Williams

'Look,' said the man from the ministry, 'we've announced that the document is going to come into force in April 2006, and that's what's going to happen.' He couldn't see what my problem was, so I felt obliged to spell it out. 'At the moment,' I said, 'you haven't completed the steering group stage, but let's assume that you go out to consultation by December, say, for three months. That takes us to the beginning of March 2006; so you have just one month to get it analysed, assessed, published and approved for April 2006?'

'Exactly,' said the apparatchik.'I have every faith that is what is going to happen.' Sometimes I despair. This feeling was not helped by the fact that he couldn't tell me what's in the document as 'that's confidential at present'.

Our chat was about the Code for Sustainable Building, a voluntary scheme being developed by the government in order to promote more sustainable building practices. It is being drawn up by a range of industry players, from the CEO of Barratt Homes to the director of Stanhope and the CEO of the Thames Housing Association. Some people have suggested that the involvement of big developers will act as a break to 'innovative' sustainable practices but, given the fact that other steering group members include Robert Napier, CEO of WWF UK, and Walter Menzies of the Sustainable Development Commission, there are sufficient sustainability fundamentalists to keep even the most hardened eco-fanatics happy.

So what is the Code for Sustainable Building? Well, no-one knows for sure, but it will be mandatory for new residential developments receiving government funding. It will go beyond the Building Regulations' 'conservation of fuel and power' and cover the conservation of water, minerals, material resources and 'much higher sustainability standards'. This all ties in with the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD), which also comes into force in April 2006, that stipulates that when existing buildings over 1,000m² undergo 'major renovation' their energy efficiency should be upgraded 'in so far as is feasible'.

The EPBD spells out major renovation as 'where the total cost of the renovation related to the building shell and/or energy installation such as heating, hot-water supply, air conditioning, ventilation and lighting is higher than 25 per cent of the value of the building, excluding the value of the land on which the building is situated, or those where more than 25 per cent of the building shell undergoes renovation.'

As outlined in the AJ (04.11.04), the Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act has the power to amend Building Regulations and, for example, provides the secretary of state with powers to make Building Regulations that make provision in respect of 'recycling facilities (including facilities for composting)', regardless of whether they are stipulated in the Approved Documents. With this level of authority, and with a vague performancespecification brief at their disposal, architects should be wary of sustainability consultants offering to clarify matters for them. This is a recipe for an extension of environmental criteria for design that goes way beyond Part L. Eco-gurus bearing gifts of 'sustainability compliance' will have a field day.

At the moment, it is intended that the code replace BREEAM and Eco Homes but there are suggestions that there be a SAP equivalent for water consumption and that there be a minimum percentage of virgin and reclaimed timber. Unsurprisingly, it is the unelected, supremely biased WWF that will undoubtedly dominate the agenda.



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ENQUIRY 26 ON CARD WWW.AJPLUS.CO.UK/AJDIRECT



TECHNICAL & PRACTICE

STAFF CAN STILL BE SUBJECTED TO OVER 20 HOURS AT OVER 28°C

By Austin Williams

The new Approved Document Part L2A:2006 (ADL2A) covers new buildings other than dwellings. If you are constructing a building comprising many dwellings, Part L1A applies but L2A will apply to the heated communal areas or shops under dwellings. Residential homes however, do not qualify as 'domestic', hence L2 will apply.

The five central criteria for ADL2A compliance are: • The CO2 emissions from the as-built building must be less than the Target Emission Rate (TER). The ODPM creates a needless complication in describing this lesser figure in Approved Document Part L1 as the DER (Domestic Emission Rate), meaning L2 has to be known as the BER (Building Emission Rate). It follows a similar calculation path to L1 (see AJ 27.10.05), based on: TER = Cnotional x (1 - improvement factor) x (1 - LZCbenchmark) where LZC means a low- and zero-carbon emission energy source which is read off from Table 1; the improvement factor is similarly read off and relates to the required energy efficiency in buildings of a given type. Note that there is an extraneous and wilfully confusing letter 'l' in the calculation on page 4. This is an error. · U-value standards, air-permeability rates, controlled services etc have been given substantial limiting - or minimum - values that need to be met. U-values remain and are spelled out for areaweighted averages as well as for an individual element. For curtain walling, for example, it recommends the limiting U-value be applied to glazed areas and opaque panels separately. For CO2 emissions, if you can make the case that the design will have high internal gains, then U-value limiting figures can be relaxed.

As well as meeting the criteria laid out in 21 clauses in L2A, you must also meet the design limits set out in L1 (here described confusingly as L1(a)(i) and L1 (b)).

These design-limit conditions are:

• Minimising solar gain while making sure to limit the amount of compensating electric lighting. For all the talk of improving conditions, it is still deemed acceptable to subject staff to over 20 hours at over 28°C. Even though this is per annum, in this country theoretically this could occur in one week. The impact of CO₂ emissions from air conditioning is factored into the equations and is intended to be a strong incentive towards natural ventilation. The fact that air conditioning was invented to keep people cool is lost somewhat in this approach.

• The emissions rates of the built structures must meet, or exceed, the pre-built calculation assumptions. These results must be verifiable. Be aware that even though Part L2 cites various documents, it often increases (improves) the criteria beyond those permitted in those documents. Ductwork leakage testing is a case in point (page 14).

 A logbook, including operational data and maintenance instructions, must be handed over. Usefully, it suggests that an electronic copy would aid the updating of this information due to any subsequent alterations improving the condition of the building.



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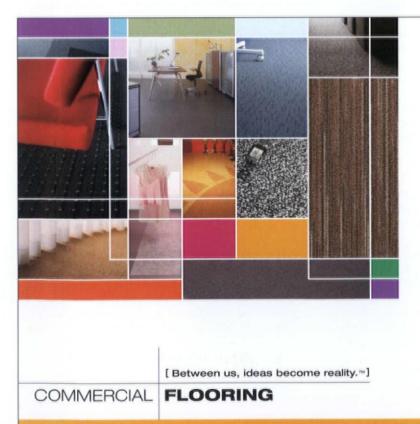
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CONFERENCE REPORT

ALL THE THEORY IN THE WORLD IS OF NO USE IF YOU CAN'T GET THE COLOURS YOU WANT

By Ruth Slavid

A local authority architect wants to paint classrooms in a bright red to stimulate pupils but the client is worried this could lead to unruly behaviour. It may sound like a theoretical problem, but it was a real issue raised by an audience member at the AJ's recent conference on Colour in Design. As an indicator of how seriously these issues are now considered, the question could not have been asked in a better place. Angela Wright, director of Colour Effects, responded that red would be more suitable for a gymnasium, since it stimulates physical energy. Blue is an intellectual stimulant and yellow an emotional stimulant. Using strong colours will inject energy, whereas lighter tones are likely to soothe.

In her presentation, Wright, who has worked hard to establish a scientific basis for theories of colour, exploded some myths. It is not true, she said, that response to colour is determined by culture, age and gender – this applies only to our conditioned, conscious response. And there are no universally attractive colours, she said – just universally attractive combinations.

For architects trying to work imaginatively with colour, however, all the theory in the world is of no use if they can't actually get hold of the colours that they want.

Tim Makower, project director for Allies & Morrison on its Bankside 123 project, discussed the use of coloured external fins in the design. These coloured metal panels form a counterpoint to the smooth terracotta cladding. Originally, the architect was thinking of a purplish two-tone colour for the fins but then it hit reality and discovered that its only choice of colours was green or blue. It settled on blue and is confident the effect will be interesting. But Makower is disappointed the selection is so limited. 'Construction of buildings is still a cottage industry – there is almost no choice,' he said. 'If I can have it on a car, why can't I have it on a building?'

With interiors there is no such restriction, since paint can of course come in any colour you can think of, plus some that you can't. Nevertheless, it can be used in very depressing ways. Hilary Dalke, director of CROMO and the Colour Design Research Centre at Kingston University, has been looking at the application of colour research to healthcare environments. She stressed the importance of this, since many long-term residents experience only three environments – their bedroom, a day room and the linking space. Choice of colours for these can therefore be key.

Curiously, Dalke found that when residents are asked to select their own colours their selections are decidedly anaemic. There are distinct differences between men and women, with men preferring green and women liking red/blue – not good news for elderly men in homes, who are always outnumbered by women. Oddly, respondents claimed to hate a home that had bright colours in the corridor, although the people there were far more alert than in other establishments – proof, perhaps, that our responses to colour really are instinctive and not willed. *Sponsored by:*



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NEVER MIND THE B*****S

Some of my AJ colleagues were a bit negative about the anonymous architectural blog at http:// b2architecture. blogspot.com

Call me irresponsible but I guite liked the flavour of B*****s to Architecture. which bills itself as 'irreverent opinion on (mainly UK) architecture and architects.' I'm not sure why it needs the asterisks. This is anonymous. irreverent and also the Web - most of us would be comfortable with the word spelled out. Whatever, this is a blog, one architect's occasionally rough-hewn, occasionally insightful view of his/her professional world. Its mild truculence is surely a reaction to the reality that running a site on your own is a time-consuming, thankless and lonely business. We journalists have a whole battery of editors, sub-editors, knowledgeable colleagues and layout people who protect you from us. But the blogger, especially the anonymous blogger, has no one. Think of this site as a web version of the sort of insider conversations you hear after work in 100 architectural pubs around the country. It seems to have been going since August, although I fear the lures of the opposite sex, drink and other less licit pleasures may prove more attractive in the months to come. sutherland.lyall@btinternet.com

LETTER OF INTENT

An oral contract, so the saying goes, is not worth the paper it is written on. While this may not be entirely true, it is certainly the case that failing to take the trouble to record your agreement in writing does make it difficult to prove what has been agreed, if there is some doubt about it later, *writes Kim Franklin*. And there usually is.

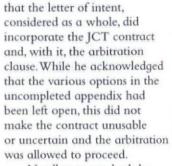
Most people fail to write down the terms of their agreement because they are not entirely clear about them at the time. The problems involved in reducing an agreement to writing are particularly exaggerated in multi-faceted construction contracts with extensive, sometimes burdensome, documentation. Besides which, hope springs eternal, triumphing, as always, over experience.

Who wants to get bogged down in the paperwork when there is a project to be built? A common solution to the 'enthusiasm versus caution' problem is the Letter of Intent. This is a half-way-house, designed to confirm the parties' intention to enter into a formal contract, when they can get round to it.

What happens when work starts but the contract is not executed is a familiar theme to those of us brought in to sort out the ensuing muddle. The recent case of *Hackwood v Areen Design Services (ADS)* demonstrates the point. Hackwood wanted to carry out extensive renovation works to Hackwood House, a Grade II-listed property near Basingstoke in Hampshire. It engaged contractor ADS on the understanding that it would enter into the JCT Standard Form With Contractors' Design. Rather than delay the project, which had already been held back by the foot-and-mouth epidemic, it agreed a letter of intent.

ADS carried out work to the value of $f_{.13.2}$ million over the next 65 weeks but the ICT contract was never executed. After practical completion, ADS took a claim for an extension of time and variations totalling $f_{.4}$ million to adjudication. Hackwood, which agreed that the ICT contract had been incorporated, successfully resisted the claim. Undeterred, ADS referred its claim to arbitration. Hackwood then changed tack and denied that the JCT terms had been incorporated. Without the JCT terms, it argued, there could be no arbitration agreement, and therefore no arbitration.

Hackwood asked the Technology and Construction Court to find that the arbitration was a nullity. The case was heard by Mr Justice Field, one of the five High Court Judges recently allocated by Mr Justice Rupert Jackson (dubbed 'the Jackson Five') to try TCC cases. The judge found



Needless to say, had the parties executed the contract as intended, they would have been spared this unnecessary trip to court. What's more, had they gone to arbitration in the first place, ADS would have saved itself the costs of the adjudication.

Kim Franklin is a barrister and chartered arbitrator at Crown Office Chambers in London. Visit www.crownofficechambers.com









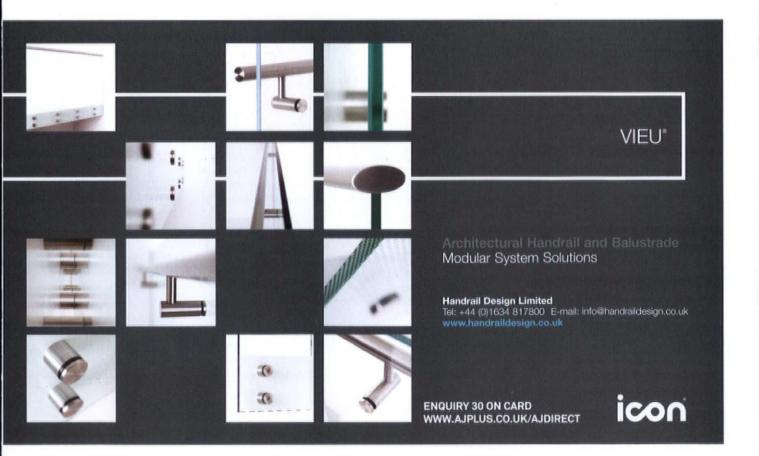


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REVIEW



1.



BOOK

By Alan Powers

Modern House Three By Raul Barreneche. Phaidon, 2005. £39.95

> 2. Sarah Wigglesworth's Straw Bale House

'This book concerns the individual villa type of house,' wrote FRS Yorke at the beginning of The Modern House (1934). His prediction that 'for some time to come the majority of people will continue to want to live in detached or semidetached houses' has remained true, and Modern House Three is concerned with the same type of house that Yorke illustrated over 70 years ago.

The similarities don't end there. Not only do people like, in their dreams at least, to inhabit such houses, but architects like to design them and a certain kind of public likes to look at glossy pictures of them without an overload of information.

Assuming that such aspects of a project as difficult clients, cost, over-runs and planning battles - not to mention the

client's taste in furniture and decoration - can't be mentioned, there's not much left to say. Yorke believed he was writing primarily for other architects and included basic technical information, costs, plans and a few construction details. Barreneche provides one drawing (sometimes a plan, sometimes a section) per project, which is useful, although the pictures are what matters. These are, of course, glamorous, with only two ghostly human presences featured.

The narrative on each project tells us something about the client's lifestyle and the architect's CV, before taking a walk around. Examples are grouped in three sections, although most could qualify for another one. The geographical spread is worldwide, with several of the most interesting

houses coming from China - such as Father's House on Jade Mountain by MADA, with its walls of local pebbles and window shutters of woven bamboo - but there is nothing as yet from former Communist Eastern Europe.

There are two Brits: Sarah Wigglesworth's Straw Bale House; and David Adjaye's Dirty House. Since there is less opportunity in this country to build spectacular modern beach or mountain holiday homes, we have little to offer in the category that fills about half of the book. Even before the Modern Movement, this type of house was the perfect site for experiment, where the daily constraints of living don't apply.

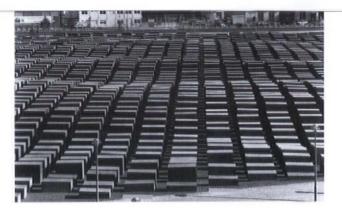
The myth that books like this foster is that they depict the normality of the future. Some aspects of these houses might

be adopted as common practice but they are mostly unadventurous in respect of energy saving or plan form. The most ingenious device is the long glass table in the shared living space of 'C House and Y House', Tokyo, by Power Unit Studio. The floor level steps up twice beneath the table top, offering different sitting styles in an elegant visual conceit.

The appearance of Pierre Bourdieu in the bibliography indicates an authorial agenda so hidden as to be almost invisible, but it is clear that, above all, these houses confer status and that the book celebrates this fact. Among the status factors in Modern architecture has always been the apparent possession of private space, which allows the house to seem open to the world and confers a mystical

1. John Heiduk's Wall House





BOOK

Peter Smithson: Conversations With Students Princeton Architectural Press, 2005. 100pp. £12.50

power on the dweller; transparency as an indicator of wealth – which in cash terms is more costly than ever in a crowded world.

Turning the pages of Barreneche's book, it would appear that the Modern house has scarcely evolved at all. There is little on show that, barring a few fashionable twists, had not already been imagined by the 1930s. Only a posthumous project by John Heiduk at Groningen, designed in 1973, reminds us of three decades of Post-Modernism, now airbrushed out of history as painlessly as the clutter and mess of everuday living. Alan Powers is an architectural historian

'Metal buildings demand a tremendous amount of resources and energy to make them; and although you get minimum weight with fabric, that minimum weight costs you a lot. That's why Buckminster Fuller was a banana.'

So says Peter Smithson in one of the 'conversations' with American students recorded in this book. Topics range from such Smithson staples as 'emptiness' and 'conglomerate order' to Mies, the Eames, Paul Rudolph and Some Like It Hot. Though Smithson's comments have the sense of being longmeditated, he resists playing the sage, at times opting even for self-deprecation - 'only one person in 25 million likes it', he says of his Building 6 East at Bath. This engaging little book has more substance than it might seem.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

By Andrew Mead

'Perhaps in his pursuit of silence, as opposed to the polemics and pyrotechnics of his other buildings, Peter Eisenman has at last made a real contribution to the art of architecture,' wrote Peter Davey of the Holocaust Memorial Berlin in *The Architectural Review* (July 2005).

On a recent sunny Saturday it was a source of multiple and conflicting impressions. From some angles, with the autumn trees of the Tiergarten a colourful backdrop, the memorial seemed surprisingly benign: a reading reinforced by the fact that children find it a perfect place for hide-and-seek, so it becomes a giant playground. Another strong impression is that a Minimalist artist has really struck lucky with site and budget; its grid of 2,400 dark-grey concrete blocks could just be a huge sculptural installation. But you can't help thinking also of a cemetery: the blocks at the edge of the memorial look much like chest tombs and some are slightly angled, as if settling into the earth as old tombs do.

Then, as you walk towards the centre, the ground dips and undulates and the blocks rise in height, like an interrupted wall lowering over the narrow alleys. The concrete is both smooth and sharp: the surfaces inviting your touch, the edges ready to draw blood. Though the memorial is not a labyrinth (its many axes run uninterrupted), the Tiergarten foliage can seem far away.

This ambiguous monument, whose 'meaning' is only anchored (if then) by the exhibits in the information centre below, is now the subject of a beautifully produced book – *Holocaust Memorial Berlin* (Lars Muller, $\pounds 27.50$). The concrete blocks are tailor-made for Hélène Binet's black-and-white photography, while colour images, all inhabited, give a sense of the varied response to this resonant work.

An exhibition by Ori Gersht at London's Photographers' Gallery from 2 December explores similar terrain to Eisenman, in images made deep in a Ukrainian forest which saw horrors in the Second World War, but the accompanying show by David Spero is very different in tone, featuring 'low-environmental-impact settlements' throughout Britain (www.photonet.org.uk).

For forthcoming events visit www.ajplus.co.uk/diary



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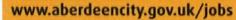
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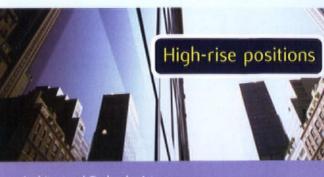
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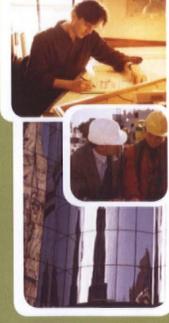
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Please apply, with CV, by email to: post@ttgarchitects.co.uk or write to: lain Whittington ttg architects, 28/30 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TE

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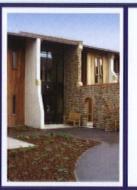
For an informal chat about your options please call Jane Gamblin.

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A Community of Professionals

Sprunt are seeking a talented architectural assistant to join our well established multi-disciplinary company specialising in inner city regeneration.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT: A17/111105

£26,000 - £29,000 pa - Central London

Qualified architectural assistant interested in education, housing and health design. Experience of full working drawings/details and previous use of ADB NHS Activities Database essential.

The successful candidate will receive the training and the experience required for Part III as part of our graduate training programme.

Sprunt is an equal opportunities employer. We never forget our people are our future and that their knowledge, talent and initiative are our greatest assets. For an information pack and application details, please e-mail jobs@sprunt.net, quoting the relevant job title and reference.

Closing Date: 22 December 2005

Sprunt The Quadrangle, **180 Wardour Street** London W1F 8FY T +44 (0)20 7287 1153 www.sprunt.net





Croudace Homes, award winning developer of new homes for over 50 years, seeks an architectural Technician/Designer to strengthen our Engineering and Design Department at our Head Office in Caterham.

This wide ranging and varied role encompasses the preparation and submission of planning applications and the working detail design for small and large scale residential developments.

You should be results driven and enthusiastic, wishing to join a team intent upon adding to their achievements in a challenging business environment.

have a knowledge of the latest version of AutoCad.

Please send your full CV to: Brenda Millar, Personnel Department, Croudace Homes Ltd, Croudace House, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6XQ, or email brenda.millar@croudace.co.uk





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adrem recuitment Ltd. 41-42 Foley Street, London WIW 7TS T: 020 7436 1616 E: adminsolutions@adrem.uk.com



Busy Practice requires an Architect and a Technologist to its Bedford Office. ioin Applicants should be talented and motivated with experience in Housing Design and an interest in sustainability.

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We require either an architect or an architectural technologist with at least five years post qualification experience. The ideal candidate will have good design, technical and job running skills and a flair for residential design. Experience of AutoCAD is essential. The ability to prepare full working drawing packages, specifications and to take projects through to completion will be important.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT/ TRAINEE ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGIST

Candidates should have completed a course in Architecture or Architectural Technology and have good technical ability and an interest in residential design, as well as experience in the use of AutoCAD.

The positions are permanent and salary is negotiable depending on experience. Please apply in writing /e-mail with CV and A4 examples of work to:

> Eugene Doherty, CG Fry and Son Ltd, Litton Cheney, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9AW e-mail: eugene@cgfry.co.uk Website:www.cgfry.co.uk

MANCHESTER 1824

School of Environment and Development Readership/ Senior Lectureship in Architectural Studies £38,685 - £43,850 p.a.

Lectureships in Architectural Studies £24,352 - £36,959 p.a. Ref: HUM/298/05

Following a review of Architecture as part of the process of establishing the University of Manchester in 2004, the University decided to make a major investment in the University of Manchester Architectural Research Centre (UMARC), located within the School of Environment and Development within the Faculty of Humanities. UMARC will draw upon a wide range of interdisciplinary research and teaching interests within the School, the Faculty of Humanities, the University and the Faculty of Art and Design at the neighbouring Manchester Metropolitan University (through the joint Manchester School of Architecture).

Professor Simon Guy has been appointed as Head of UMARC and the School of Environment and Development (SED) now seeks to make appointments of a Reader/Senior Lecturer and two Lecturers in Architecture. You will assist Professor Guy to establish an international research profile in interdisciplinary architectural research at the University of Manchester, expanding research activity, enhancing research grant income, developing postgraduate teaching and increasing the number of postgraduate research students. These positions are open in disciplinary terms to established researchers with international reputations in any field of architectural research.

Starting dates as soon as mutually convenient.

Informal enquiries about the post may be made to Professor Simon Guy on +44(o) 161 275 0315; e-mail: simon.guy@manchester.ac.uk

The activities of the component parts of the School are described on the School of Environment and Development website at www.sed.manchester.ac.uk

Closing date: 6 January 2006.

The University will actively foster a culture of inclusion and diversity and will seek to achieve true equality of opportunity for all members of its community. Combining the strengths of UMIST and The Victoria University of Manchester

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Experienced technically-orientated architects (min 3 years+ experience) or technologists with appetite and enthusiasm for working on substantial historic building refurbishments and modification required immediately to join this thriving Practice. Candidates with fluency in Autocad and competency in all aspects of running a project are sought to be part of our friendly dedicated team at our new riverside central London studio.

Please apply with CV and examples of recent work to: Paul Rynsard, Feilden+Mawson LLP, 36 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EB londonjobs@feildenandmawson.com

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Urban Design Senior Planning Officer Grade JE9: £34,090 - £40,960 inclusive of London Weighting

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A vacancy has arisen for a Senior Planning Officer with considerable urban design experience to work in a multi-disciplinary area team dealing with development proposals and project work in the eastern half of the City. You would be responsible for leading on urban design and conservation matters in the team and would be expected to promote high-quality design and the protection of historic environment in the Square Mile. You can expect to handle major and complex proposals by internationally renowned architects.

The postholder will also be expected to take joint responsibility for allocating and monitoring the work of the team with particular reference to urban design matters.

A qualification in Town Planning, Architecture, Urban Design or Conservation is required with at least five years' experience in urban design and development control.

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For an informal discussion about the post please contact: David Stothard, Development Manager (East), on 020 7332 1238.

For an application pack please contact the Central Service Unit on 020 7332 3978 (24hr answerphone) or email csu@corpoflondon.gov.uk quoting reference number PLN022.

Closing date for completed application forms is 19 December 2005.

Interviews week commencing 9 January 2006.



The Corporation is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. A no smoking policy is in operation.



Barnsley Hewett & Mallinson Chartered Architects

We are currently recruiting Architects to help with our increasing Educational workload. Candidates should be technically competent and have good communication skills. All candidates should have a minimum of 1 year's UK office experience. AutoCAD experience preferable but not essential.



We are looking for qualified Architects with up to 3 years' post-graduate experience as well as Part 2 RIBA Architects Please write to

Mr S W Leech, Barnsley Hewett & Mallinson, Chartered Architects, 1 White Hart Lane, London. SW13 0RA. or e-mail recruitment@bhmarchitects.com

The University of Manchester

Email: laura.tilling@emap.com

ARCHITECTURAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MANCHESTER

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This well established, national practice are seeking experienced job runners, either Architects or Technicians for their Manchester city centre office. With a varied and diverse range of projects, they have something to interest everyone. A well run and organised practice, they can offer real career opportunities for talented professionals.

For this and a range of other opportunities please visit our new website at WWW.CHAMBERLAINASSOCIATES.CO.UK

To discuss this and a wide choice of other vacancies, please call Andy Chamberlain on 01925 423644



T. 01925 423644 F. 01925 423645

FDArchitecture

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We are a small, ambitious, design-led practice in central London, Projects are varied, although a large percentage of current commissions are Private residential projects and High-end retail work.

Due to rapidly expanding workload of exciting projects we are looking for qualified Architects with good design, technical and job running skills to take a key role in the development of the practice. Applicants should have a minimum of 5 years post part iii experience.

Good career prospects and attractive salaries will be offered to the right candidates.

Please send fully illustrated cv to: Hans van Riemsdiik. FDArchitecture,

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TENDERS

Foot bridge Rochester competition Riverside

Architects and designers are invited to take part in an exciting opportunity to design two 30m span footbridges. The bridges will be dramatic features for the planned waterfront development in Rochester, Kent.

Competition entrants will need to produce

- e following: Detailed design for the first bridge Concept design for the second bridge
- The competition is being conducted in 2 stages.

Stage 1 submission: Expressions of interest 12th December 2005

Stage 2: A shortlist of three+ entrants will be invited to develop their ideas. Each team will receive a £4,000 honorarium.

Further Details

Purtner Details please contact Sarah Brown at The Kent Architecture Centre, sarah.brown@kentarchitecture.co.uk Telephone 01634 401 166



At North Tyneside we give you the freedom that lets your natural talents shine through, and now we're giving you even more scope to shine. This is a time of positive change as we transform the way in which we provide essential public services, starting with an overhauled structure and a clearer focus on the customer.

ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION & HOUSING

Design & Partnering

Architect (2 Posts)

£25,437 - £27,411/£27,411 - £29,958 pa, 37 hpw, Permanent Ref: DE609/05

We are a progressive design practice embracing a Partnering approach. Our challenging and interesting workload includes education, leisure, public buildings, offices, retail, environmental works and regeneration. All projects are commissioned through the North Tyneside Partnering Agreement which has Demonstration Status with M4i and received a Construction Best Practice award in 2003.

You must demonstrate design flair, combined with excellent job running/project management skills and CAD proficiency in REVIT and AutoCAD 2006. You will have excellent 3D CAD presentational skills. Good health and safety knowledge and awareness is essential.

You will be responsible for projects from inception to completion and for ensuring that the multi-diciplined project team meets its targets. Preference will be given to experience in Education, Leisure or Regeneration sectors. You should be ARB registered with a minimum of 3 years' post qualification experience. RIBA membership is preferred but not essential. This post requires an enchanced disclosure.

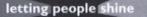
Application forms available in standard format, large print, Braille and audio tape, can be obtained by telephone (0191) 200 5000 between 7.30am - 8pm and (0191) 219 2366 between 8pm - 7.30am, Minicom (0191) 219 2440 or apply online at www.sectorl.net or www.northtyneside.gov.uk. Please quote reference number.

3

Closing date: 9th December 2005.

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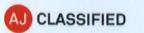
Young Covent Garden based practice is looking for an enthusiastic and capable

PART I/II STUDENT

with an interest in conservation work to be involved in a variety of projects. AutoCAD experience preferred.

Please apply in writting with CV and A4 work samples to include hand drawn and CAD samples to

Ptolemy Dean Architects Ltd 5 Dryden Street London, WC2E 9NB TEL: 020 7829 8380



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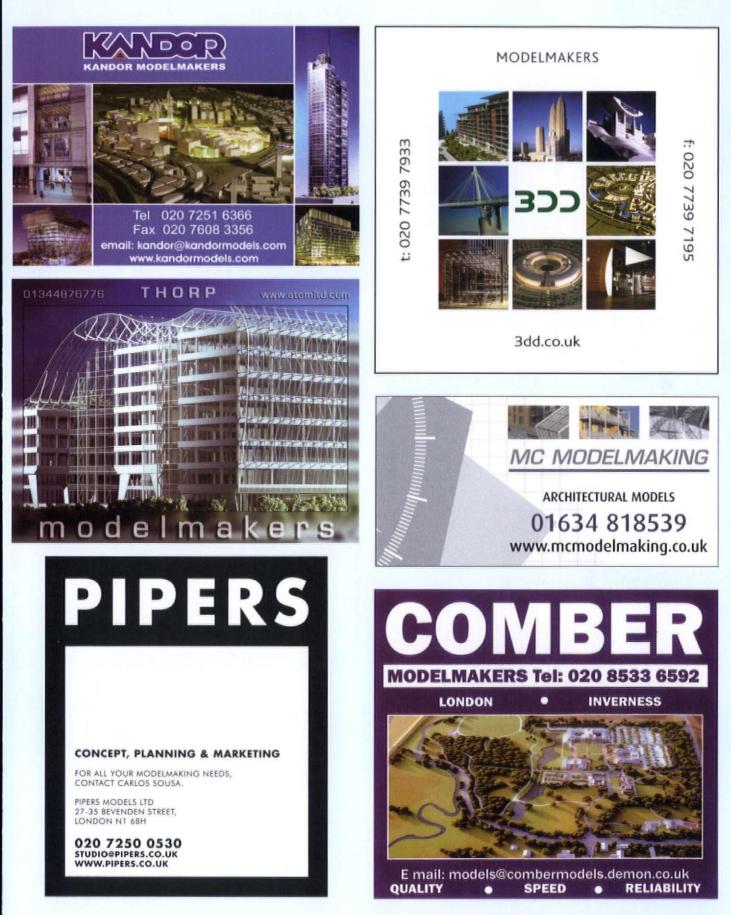
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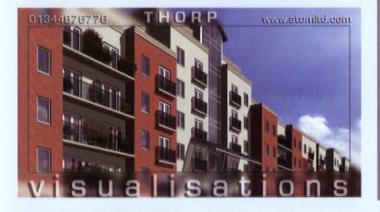




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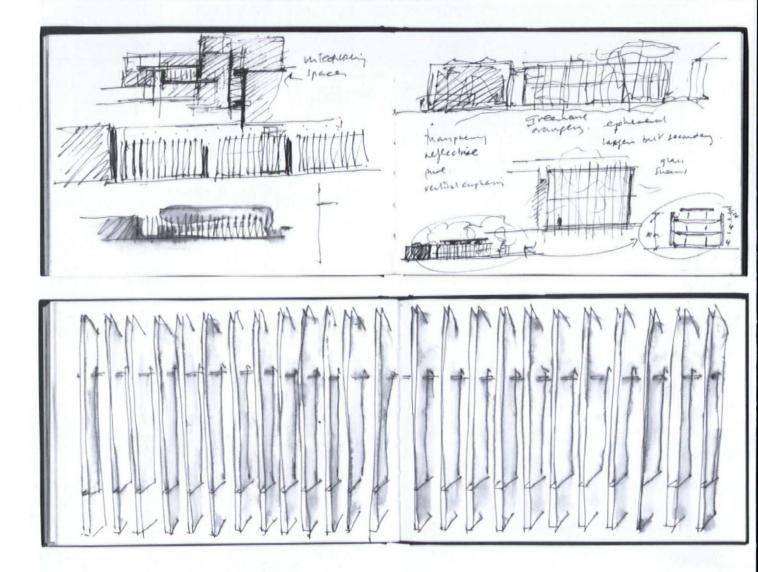
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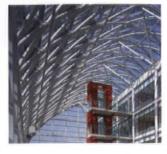


Early concept sketches for a new building for Salisbury District Council. By Alan Stanton of Stanton Williams PRODUCTS

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KEIM MINERAL PAINTS



AJ ENQUIRY 201

Keim Mineral Paints' Concretal Lasur was specified for overall harmonisation of the concrete for Evelina Children's Hospital. The Concretal Lasur system is a low-pigmentation colour stain available in a range of shades and is ideal for unifying the colour and texture of concrete while retaining its look.

CORUS COLORCOAT



ASH & LACY



AJ ENQUIRY 202

The new West Stand at Leyton Orient's Matchroom Stadium on Brisbane Road is now complete. Colorcoat HPS200 from Corus has been used in three colours - Albatross, White and Merlin - for the roof and wall cladding. Colorcoat Celestia in Sirius was also specified for the main elevation of the ground.

VELFAC



AJ ENQUIRY 203

Velfac now provides a service for domestic or small commercial projects. Each window is made to order to customer specifications for design, colour and size, allowing you the freedom of your imagination. Our display can be seen in our Kettering showroom. Call 01223 897100 or visit www.velfac.co.uk



SILL LIGHTING



AJ ENQUIRY 205

Power-projectors and powerfloodlights from Sill Lighting have been used to light Portsmouth Harbour's Spinnaker Tower. Sill fittings were chosen to provide lighting on the landward side of the tower. Sill achieved the effect using only 12 fittings and a maximum lamp wattage of 400W.

SWS



ARMOURCOAT



AJ ENQUIRY 204

Ash & Lacy has teamed up with Cambridge-based surfacetreatment technology specialist Keronite to create a new finish for its Ashtech rainscreen cladding system which could open up significant market opportunities in areas that are subject to particularly harsh environmental conditions.

AJ ENQUIRY 206

The high-performance range of timber windows and doors from Scandinavian Window Systems was chosen by sustainable house builder Gusto Homes. All windows and doors are made with laminated Swedish Redwood from sustainable sources for maximum strength and stability.

AJ ENQUIRY 208

Armourcoat Surface Finishes has announced the introduction of new colour palettes for the entire Selector range of polished plaster finishes. The new range of colours has been developed in consultation with architects and designers to create a harmonised spectrum of textures, colours and effects.

TROAX



AJ ENQUIRY 207

Industrial safety and partitioning specialist Troax has built and installed a custom-designed wire mesh enclosure as part of an overall project to relocate and expand an existing partsstorage facility at the Honda UK plant in Swindon. Troax used its Scimitar range of modular partitioning for security.

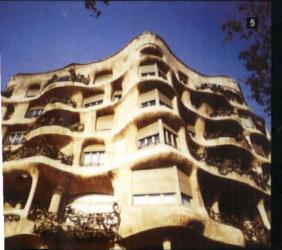




What do they have in common?









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



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