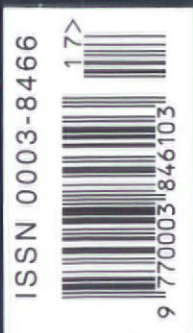




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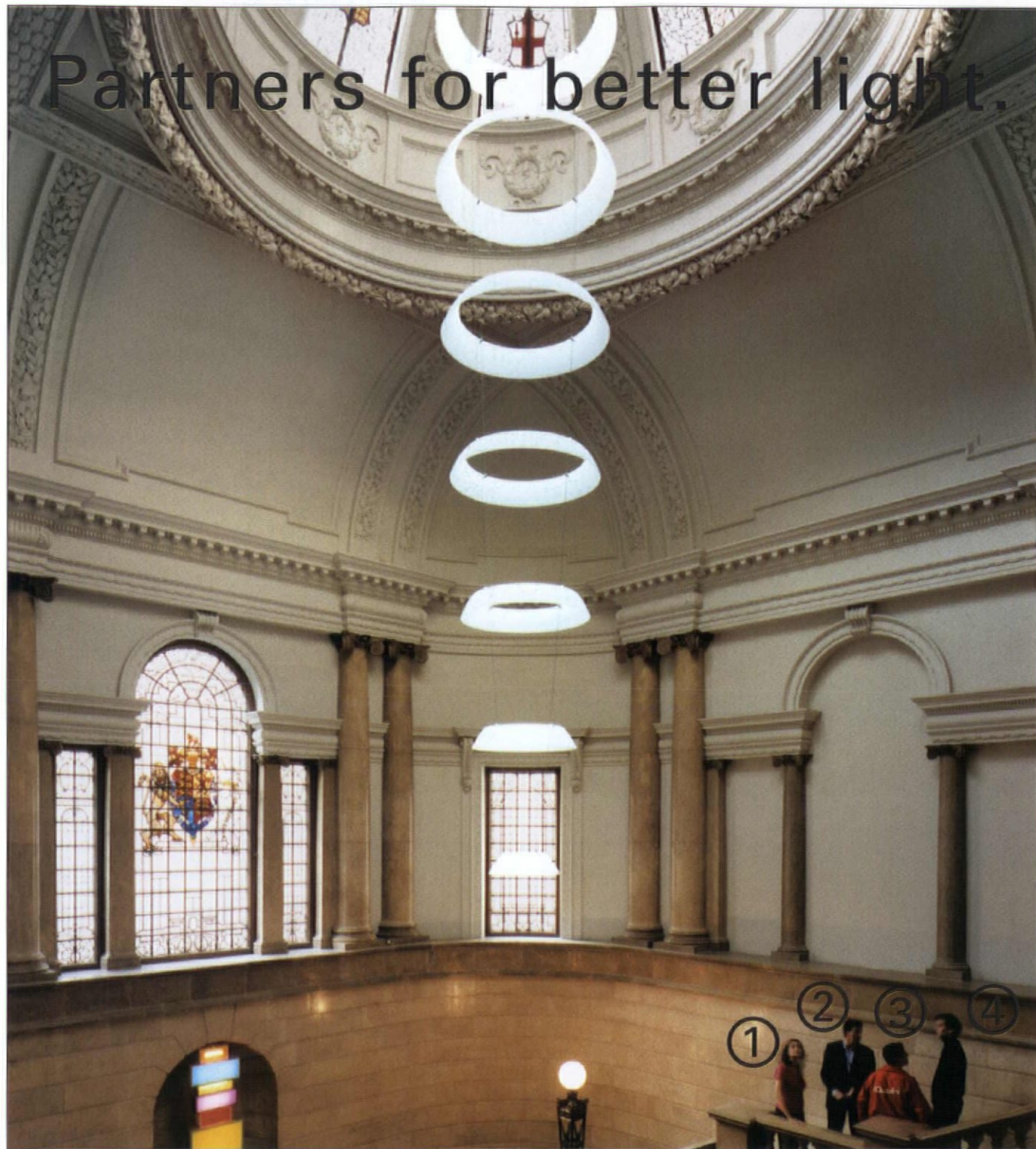
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programme

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- 08:30 Registration and networking
- 09:20 **Opening remarks from the Chair**
Paul Finch, Editorial Director
EMAP CONSTRUCT
and Deputy Chairman
CABE
- 09:30 **Constructive conservation: the English Heritage approach**
■ The importance and benefits of better legislation
■ Conservation principles that encourage investment in historic places
■ Education and training to improve capacity, capability and confidence
■ Encouraging and celebrating good practice
Steve Bee, Planning Development Director
ENGLISH HERITAGE
- 10:00 **Managing change: re-using historic buildings**
■ Adapting historic buildings for modern life
■ New into old: bringing contemporary interventions into historic buildings
■ Changing the use of a building
Tony Barton, Director
DONALD INSALL ASSOCIATES
- 10:30 Question and answer session
- 10:40 Morning refreshments
- 11:10 **Energy efficiency for historic buildings**
■ Meeting sustainability and energy efficiency requirements
■ Introducing modern technology into a historic setting
■ Incorporating low and zero carbon energy sources into an historic scheme
■ Respecting the building's historic integrity whilst also considering the impact of energy consumption on the environment
Ant Wilson, Director – Applied Research Group
FABER MAUNSELL
- 11:40 **Complying with Part L**
■ Meeting regulations and staying within the codes of practice for achieving building consent
■ Are there any relaxations of building regulations for historic buildings?
■ Investigating U-values and pressure testing for old buildings
■ Employing energy efficient building services within the context of an historic setting
Tim Yates, Technical Director for Heritage and Stone
BRE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
- 12:10 **Making historic buildings accessible – with particular reference to historic houses and churches**
■ Analysing the inherent problems of updating an existing historical structure
■ Understanding the need for lateral thinking when designing for accessibility in historic buildings
■ Striking a balance between respecting the integrity of historic and heritage buildings and improving access for the disabled
Richard Griffiths, Principal
RICHARD GRIFFITHS ARCHITECTS
- 12:40 Question and answer session
- 12:50 Lunch and networking
- 13:50 **Overcoming challenges in meeting fire regulations for historic buildings**
■ Addressing fire, security and escape requirements and their implications for old and historic buildings
■ Appropriate solutions for historic fire safety design
■ Assessing the various specialist products currently on the market for historic buildings
Andrew Forecast, Principal Fire Consultant
CHILTERN FIRE / TRADA
- 14:20 **Conservation, communities and creativity: the HLF approach to funding heritage work**
■ How HLF funding works
■ An overview of HLF achievements so far
■ Heritage and public value
■ What are the issues for the future?
Kate Clark, Deputy Director of Policy and Research
HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND
- 14:50 **The historic environment as a planning issue**
■ Contemporary solutions for historic sites and obtaining planning permissions
■ Working with listed buildings
■ Underlining the importance of early consultation with conservation officers
■ Getting planning consent for buildings in conservation areas
Alan Stanton, Partner
STANTON WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS
- 15:20 Question and answer session
- 15:30 Afternoon refreshments
- 16:00 **Selecting sustainable materials for use in heritage buildings**
■ Traditional materials in contemporary architecture
■ New technologies for the repair of the historic fabric of a building
■ Enhancing existing buildings
■ Are traditional materials sustainable?
Andrew Clark, Partner
PURCELL MILLER TRITTON LLP
- 16:30 **Conserving historic skylines**
■ Taking account of the UK's historic views
■ Combining old and new successfully along our skylines
■ Improving the skyline through considered and complimentary design
Lora Nicolaou, Director of Urban Strategies
DEGW
- 17:00 Question and answer session
- 17:15 Closing remarks from the Chair and close of conference

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WOMEN WANT EMPLOYERS WHO GUARANTEE PROPER CONTRACTS AND FIXED HOURS

By Isabel Allen

When we first asked the practices in our AJ100 survey to indicate how many women they employed, it was intended as a small silent reprimand, a statistical reminder of the extent to which large architectural practices were predominantly male. This year's figures (page 34-35) tell a different story. Taken as an average, 22 per cent of the qualified architects employed by the country's 100 largest practices are women; a far cry from the 46 per cent of the total national workforce which is female, but a marked increase on the number of female architects, which hovers at around 18 per cent.

A preponderance of women tends to indicate an employer which does not make unreasonable demands on its staff. As long as women shoulder the bulk of responsibility for childcare, they will gravitate towards employers who can guarantee proper contracts and fixed hours. There is nothing like impending maternity leave to focus the mind on the advantages of the corporate

security blanket, and nothing like systematic sleep deprivation to put paid to the notion that there is something inherently romantic about working into the small hours of the night.

Large practices, of course, are well placed to grant such fundamental support. It is easier to cast a benign eye on maternity leave when the dent on the overall workforce is comparatively small, and to operate fixed hours when the workflow is guaranteed. But there are signs that large practices are striving to offer rather more. In this year's AJ100 Awards, Employer of the Year received more entries than any other category. The winner, Assael Architecture (female architects: 25 per cent), offers an exemplary benefits package plus a few surprises, such as a couple of round-the-world air tickets and an additional 20 days paid leave for anybody who stays at the practice for 10 years. The architectural profession is starting to apply its creativity to the way it rewards its staff.



CONTRIBUTORS



Lars Jespersen, who compiled the figures for the AJ100 on pages 31-102, works for communications specialist Camargue, where he specialises in management of surveys



Kevin Cooper, whose work is featured in this week's Sketchbook on page 130, is a director of Parr Architects and is based in their Glasgow office

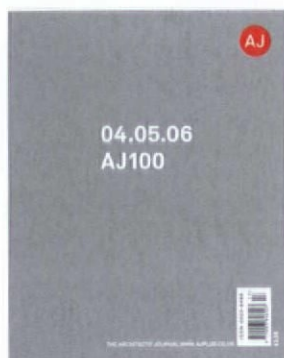


Morgan Falconer, who reviews the exhibition of Scott Burton's art-furniture on page 114, is a writer on art and architecture based in London

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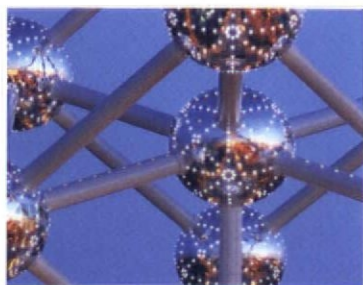
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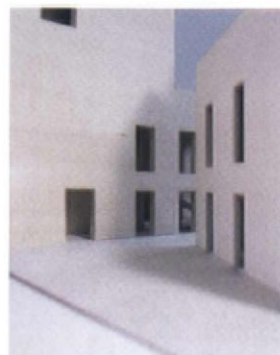
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Project: The Arches, Belfast

Architects: Penoyre and Prasad LLP; Todd Architects



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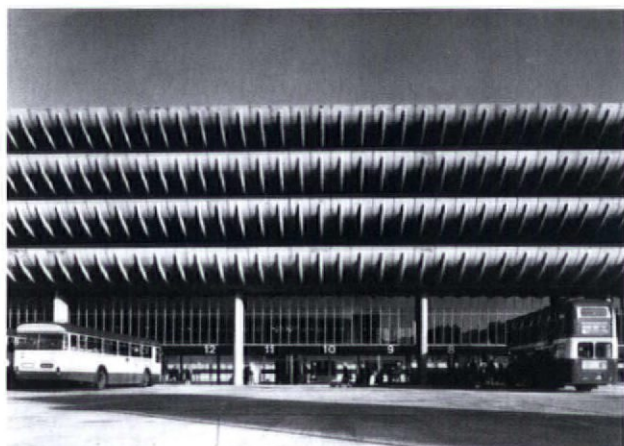


FRIDAY 28 APRIL

- Rogue planner sent down
- Sunand Prasad takes the lead in race for RIBA top job
- Japanese earthquake-data scandal worsens for architect
- Future of ARB hangs on battle for vice-chair's position

THURSDAY 27 APRIL

- SMC profits soar by 280 per cent
- New Modern building 'will spoil London Eye' (above)
- Row emerges over recruitment of new ARB boss
- Spence dropped as final two emerge for Hull bridge competition



TUESDAY 2 MAY

- Prescott's Trellick tower window decision 'could cost council'
- Lincoln to get the Prince Charles treatment
- Work finally to begin on central London's Jubilee Gardens
- BDP to demolish its own bus station (left)

Historic Buildings' Liberation Front

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Being to recent coverage in three national publications, that we know of. We've decided to get in touch and outline our future plans. Largely we'll be carrying on doing what we've always done. But we do have two ideas we'll be putting into effect.

The first one is that it's always been our policy to attack new-build that's been built at the expense of historic buildings. The situation we now have is that John Prescott is systematically destroying tens of thousands of historic houses in the north whilst building tens of thousands of new ones in the south. Since the expansion in the south replaces that being demolished in the north, this southern expansion fits well within our remit.

The second idea is that purchasers of these properties are no innocent

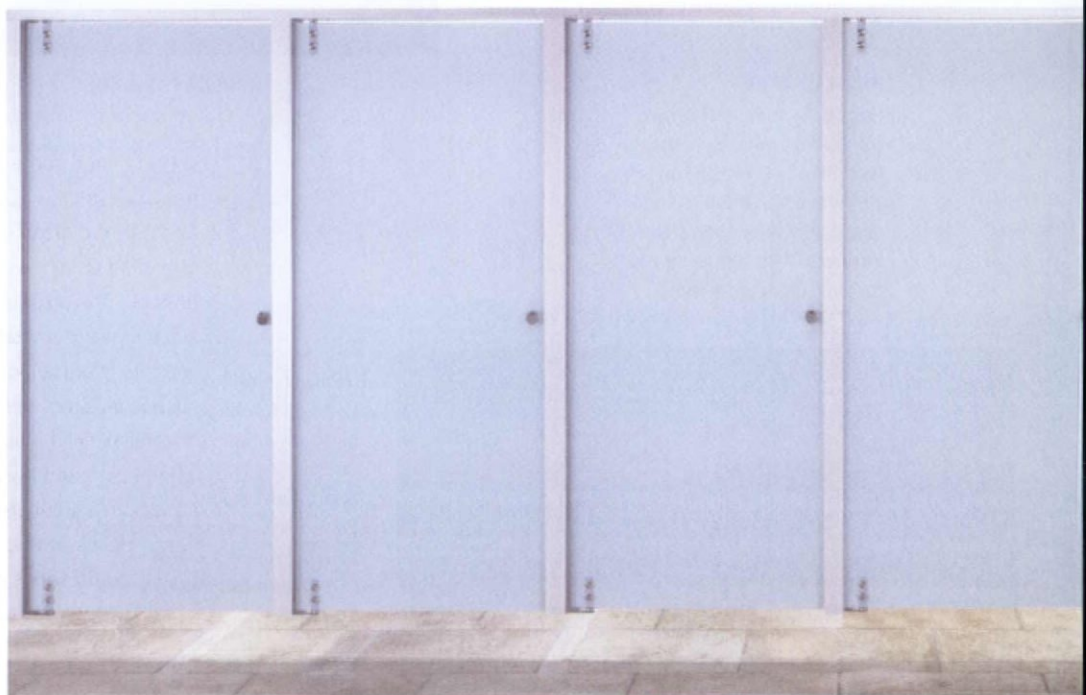
bystanders. By buying these new houses, they are fuelling demolition. For this reason, residents' vehicles will be targeted. We would advise developers to inform prospective buyers of the risk.

The situation is this. John Prescott, who's unashamedly bent on destruction in the position of deputy prime minister, in an unpopular Labour government, in one of the safest seats in the country is doing what the hell he likes to our heritage. This is the democracy we have at this present moment in time, and it's a democracy that reeks of corruption. This country belongs to the nation, it's not his alone to carve up how he sees fit. Anyone who opposes his plans should take up whatever action they can.

HBLF

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY

- Historic building terrorists to expand campaign (right)
- Veteran RIBA maverick threatens to stand for presidency once more
- Design watchdog savages new Aberdeenshire hospital
- Serpentine grass hill migrates to New Orleans



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thrislington cubicles

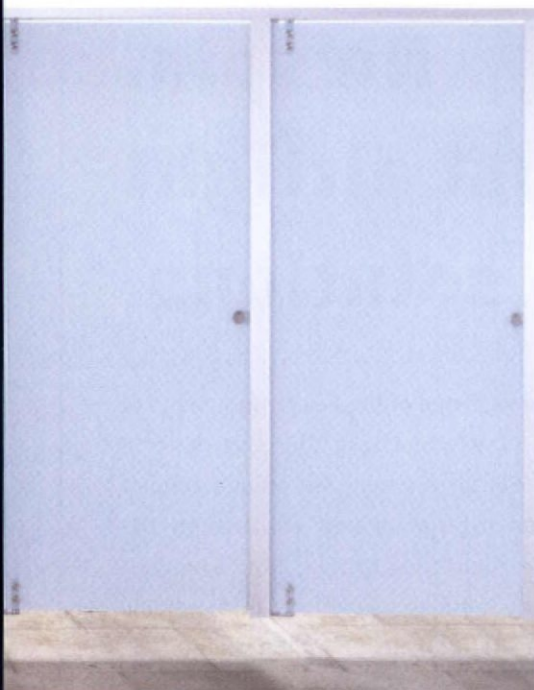
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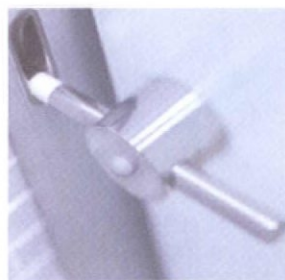
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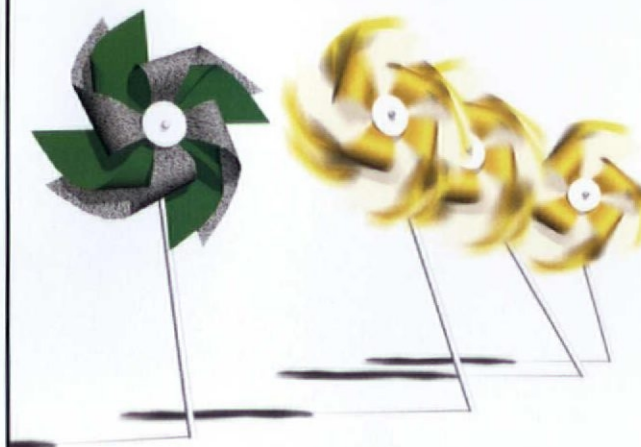
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Locals have dubbed the strife-hit Hove scheme 'Tin Can Towers'

GEHRY'S TOWERS TAKE A BATTERING

By Rob Sharp

Serious doubt has been cast over Frank Gehry's contentious plans for Hove this week after a senior council official admitted she 'didn't know where the application is going'.

Speaking in the light of fresh criticism of the King Alfred development from both CABE and English Heritage, Brighton and Hove's development-control chief Maggie Brian admitted the scheme's future was uncertain.

This is the first time planners have waded into the row over the designs. Up until now the council has backed the project in its position as landowner of the site.

'The council as a landowner is happy to go along with the scheme in principle,' Brian told the AJ. 'But now I don't know where the application is going.'

The comments come after an appalling week for Gehry's first commercial scheme in the UK. Problems on the project are understood to be seriously trying the international architect's patience.

In recent days the proposal, dubbed 'Tin Can Towers' by locals, has come in for a battering from both CABE and English Heritage (EH).

CABE hit out at the scheme in correspondence released in the past few days, claiming the project had not 'realised its potential'.

In a letter dated 21 April, CABE director of architecture and design review Selina Mason claimed that in looking at recently submitted images of the project, she was struck by 'how banal [CABE] would find this scheme if it were not for the towers.'

She added: 'We continue to believe that the public spaces are ill considered.'

And EH's concern continues to be the project's 'perimeter blocks and public-realm aspects', which it reaffirmed in a letter dated 21 April. EH Historic Areas Adviser for the South East Graham Steaggles said recent amendments were not enough.

These comments are understood to have hit Gehry hard. Project adviser Piers Gough, a long-term friend of Gehry, panned CABE's 'curmudgeonly peer review attitude' to Gehry's concept.

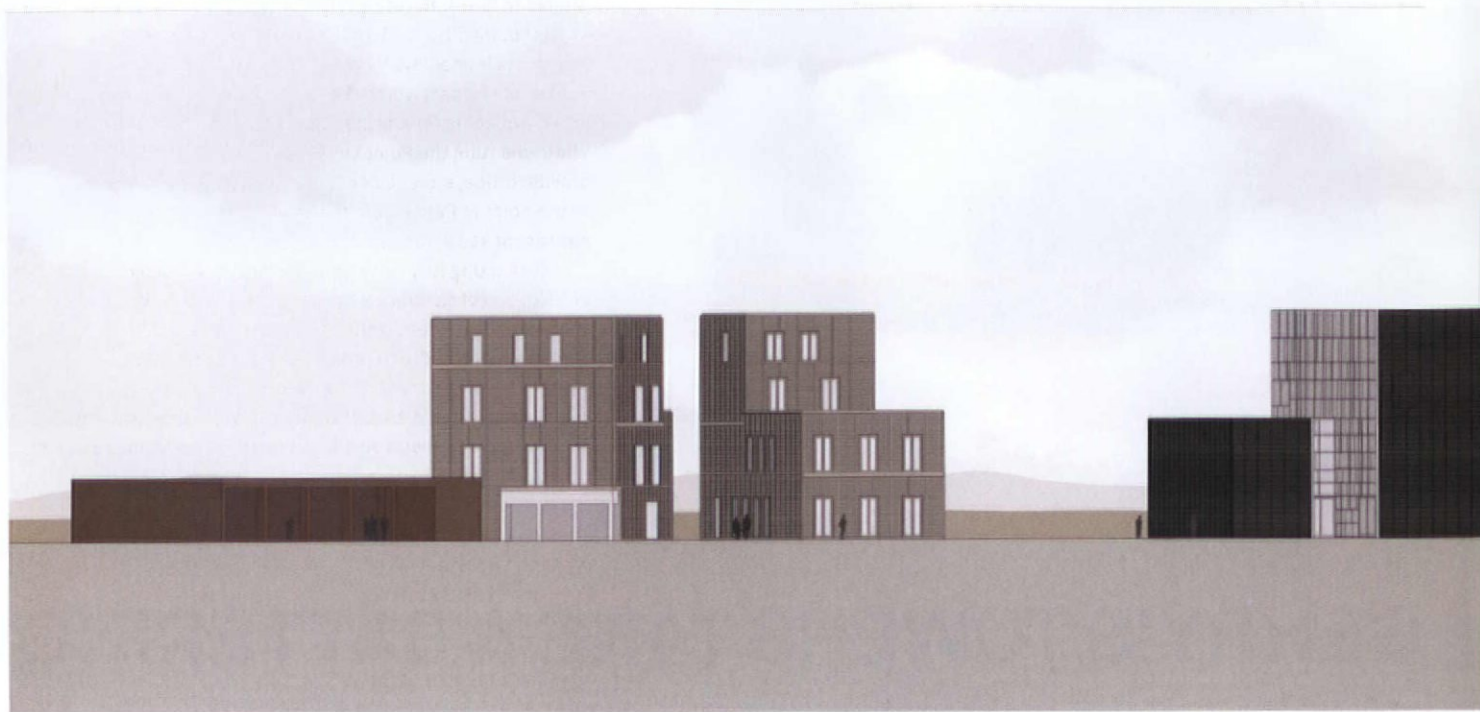
He added that the American superstar 'might think twice about taking up another offer of building in Britain'.

But the developer, Karis, insists the vast project remains

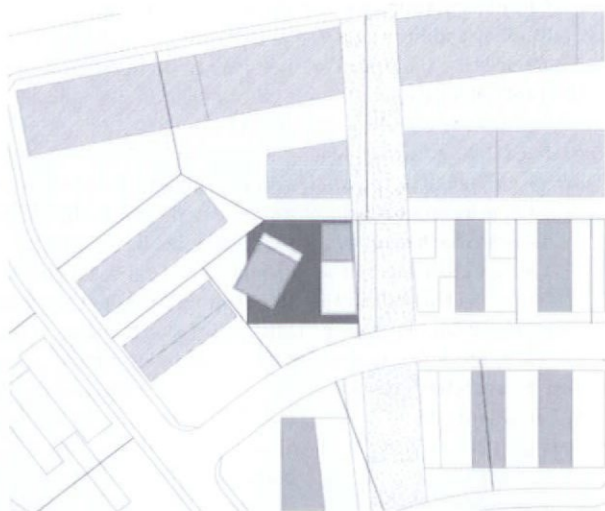
on track. Managing director Josh Arghiros said he remained 'absolutely confident' that the design philosophy for King Alfred was robust.

He also insisted that the scheme fulfilled the 'stringent development and design brief set by Brighton and Hove Council'.

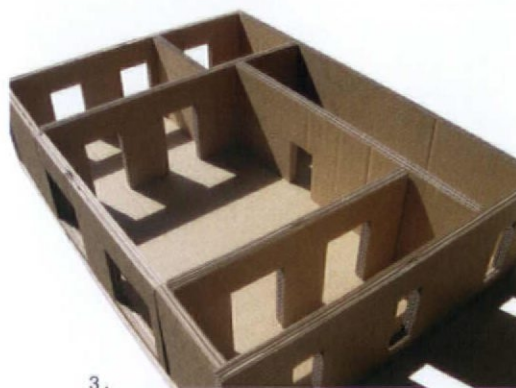
In a separate development this week, it also emerged that a group of local campaigners are taking the Hove local plan to a judicial review at the High Court. If the group wins this battle it will throw another spanner in the works for Gehry's plans.



1.

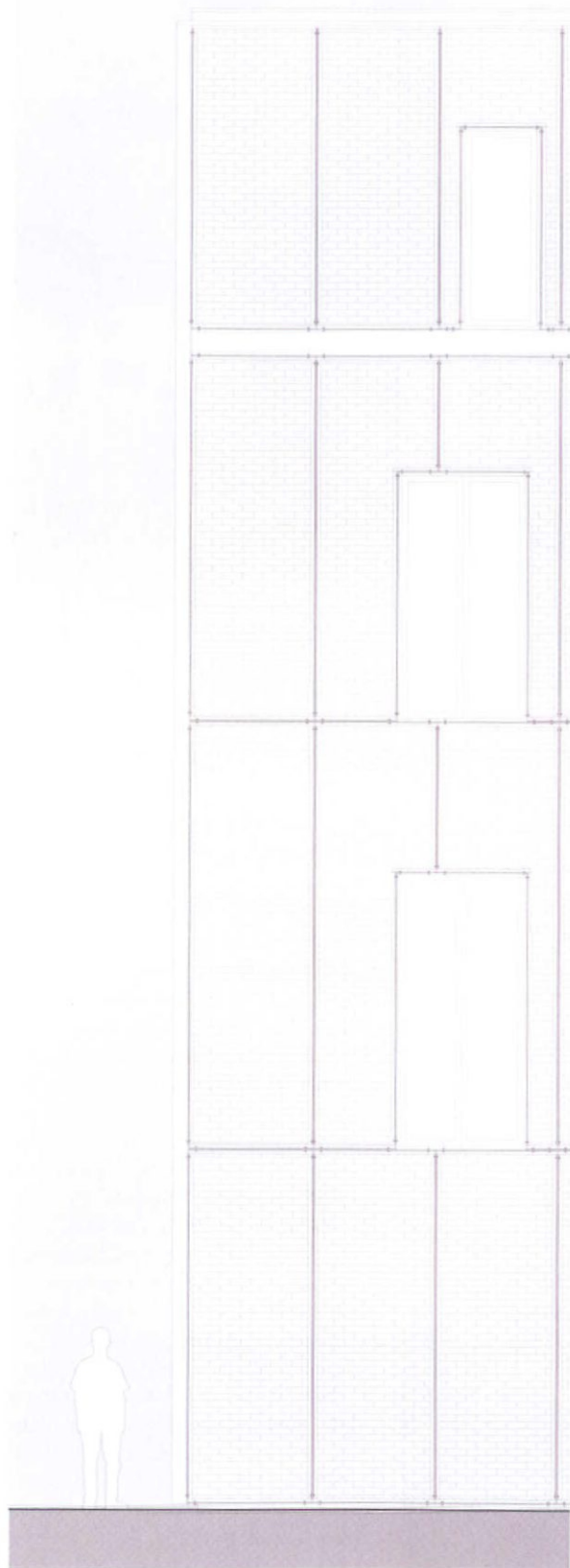
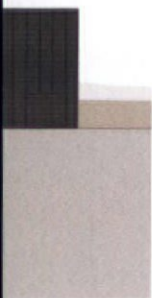


2.



3.

1. The new pair of buildings on the left, with the earlier Youl Hwa Dang building on the right
2. Site plan
3. An interior of rooms without corridors
4. Study for brick and steel curtain facade



BEIGEL GOES BY THE BOOK IN KOREA

Florian Beigel and the Architecture Research Unit (ARU) of London Metropolitan University are working on a new project in South Korea, for a site on the reclaimed land of Paju Book City, north of the capital, Seoul. The scheme is immediately next to the Youl Hwa Dang Publishing House, which they completed in 2004. This latest project is for another publisher – Chung Yong Chul, who runs the Positive Publishing Co – and will provide office, storage and living space in two buildings at the point in Paju where the street of publishing houses makes a 45° turn towards a mixed-use area.

Reflecting its pivotal place in the overall plan of Paju, one of the new buildings aligns with those in the publishing street while the other makes a half-turn towards the mixed-use premises but doesn't read as part of them – its transitional role is clear. The two buildings engage in a subtle give-and-take, each having a stepped section and echoing the other in form, but one with the main room on the first floor and the other having it on the ground. As with Beigel and ARU's Pojagi building (AJ 05.05.05), the precise use of rooms is not predetermined but awaits inhabitation.

Beigel wanted a loadbearing brick structure – a rarity in a country of curtain walls – but new post-tsunami regulations in Korea rule this out above two storeys. Thinking of Bernd and Hilla Becher's photographs of old industrial buildings and later precedents such as Mies' campus for Illinois Institute of Technology, Beigel opted instead for a steel and brick curtain, tied to an inner structural leaf of concrete. Much attention has gone to the placement of the windows, so that their rhythm is distinct from the steel's and they are not 'imprisoned' by it.

In tune with ARU's emphasis on research, the project is part of an ongoing interest in what Beigel calls ensembles: the way in which separate elements and the spaces between them are made to cohere. It's a theme that he illustrates with disparate references: a Lewerentz photograph of 'tomb-temples' on the Appian Way and a Morandi still life. In partnership with Korean architect Choi Jong Hoon of Network in Architecture, Beigel and ARU's scheme starts on site this month for completion in summer 2007.

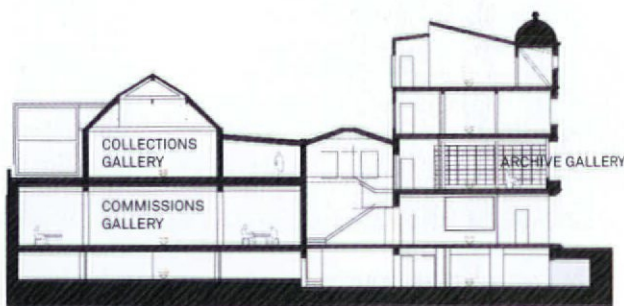
By Andrew Mead



1.



2.



3.

1. The archive room will house historic artefacts
2. The collections gallery will host work on loan for a year
3. Cross-section
4. The commissions gallery will show specially commissioned pieces



4.

WHITECHAPEL SET TO GROW

The AJ can reveal these exclusive images of Belgian architect Robbrecht en Daem's £10 million expansion plans for East London's Whitechapel Art Gallery. The architect has designed three new galleries as well as education and research facilities for the exhibition space, which recently displayed the work of 40 Under 40 architect David Adjaye. Proposals, which increase gallery space by nearly 80 per cent, include a collections gallery, which will display work on loan for a year from individuals, artists and other collections. A commissions gallery will house changing installations of artwork created especially for the room. And another new space will house historic artefacts from the Whitechapel's own archive. The development will dramatically extend the amount of time the gallery is open to the public. It currently has to close for up to 10 weeks a year to allow for the installation of exhibitions. The project will complete in 2007.

By Rob Sharp

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ALL HAIL PRESIDENT PRASAD?

By Ed Dorrell

Is the RIBA presidency about to become a succession rather than an election? It looks increasingly likely that Sunand Prasad will follow Jack Pringle into the big office in Portland Place next year without too much trouble.

If the rumours prove correct, then Prasad's campaign for the top job will be supported by at least the current incumbent and his immediate predecessor, George Ferguson.

Most of the evidence points to the fact that this candidacy will be like a stroll in the park compared to last time around, when Pringle had to see off serious challenges from five other candidates.

However, it is unlikely that Prasad will go completely unchallenged for the role – one name that also looks likely to enter the frame is that of

Andrew Hanson, the chairman of the institute's London region.

An exceptionally likeable man, Hanson will, however, struggle to compete with Prasad's status within the profession.

It is possible that veteran outsider Brian Godfrey may also stand.

Prasad is widely respected for being extremely bright and engaging, yet is also a serious operator who undoubtedly knows how to get his own way.

He has worked quietly and behind the scenes in all the right places over the last few years. An early commissioner of CABE, he was involved with the design watchdog in its infancy, when it really set the world on fire.

After this experience Prasad moved to the hallowed corridors of Portland Place. He

has worked for the last couple of years as Pringle's policy boss, dealing with areas such as PFI.

It is here that his impact has been most dramatically felt. It is only fair that he should bask in the glory of the recent victory in the campaign to get the Treasury to accept the importance of design in the PFI process. Taking credit for the success of this campaign is perfectly reasonable, given that he was largely its author.

Professionally, Prasad's practice, Penoyre & Prasad, is extremely successful. Design-led, it has also attempted to engage with government procurement methods.

Bridging several different sectors, it is often mentioned in the same breath as the likes of Allford Hall Monaghan Morris and Feilden Clegg Bradley. No one can doubt that as well as

being a consummate political operator, Prasad is also a heavyweight architect.

One senior figure at Portland Place put it this way: 'Sunand is a dream candidate. He's exceptionally bright and talented and popular. He will continue much of the good work Pringle has started.'

'It seems very unlikely that anyone could beat him. Even if a really big architectural name ran against him, it would be hard to compete with his record in the institute.'

Welcome president Prasad? It would be foolhardy to bet against it – and that's not a bad thing.

Nominations for the presidency close on 12 May and will be followed by five weeks of campaigning before ballot papers are issued.

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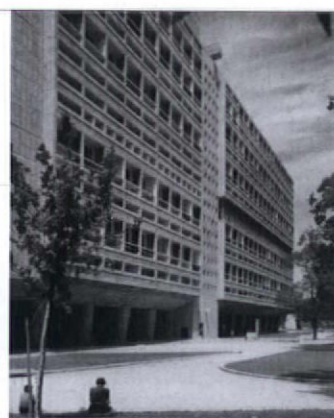
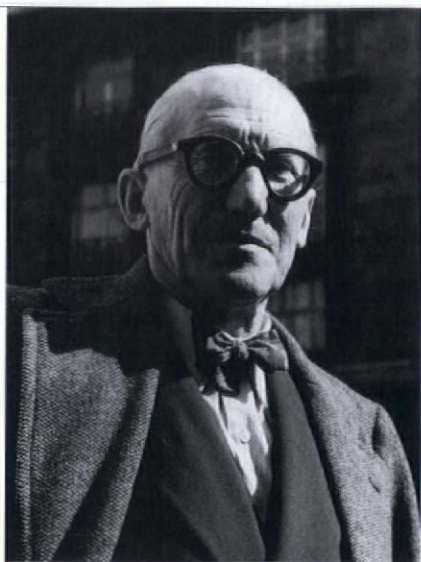
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RIBA BRINGS CORB BACK TO THE UK

By Richard Waite

The RIBA has pulled off a major coup by landing the first Le Corbusier exhibition to hit the UK for almost 20 years.

The AJ can exclusively reveal that the show will make its British debut in 2008 in the Edwin Lutyens Crypt under Liverpool's Catholic Cathedral before it heads to London.

It is understood that the brains behind the scoop is Graeme Russell – the institute's former head of programmes, who has been acting as a consultant in the North West since his surprise resignation from the RIBA in December.

The former CUBE man has not been shy about his plans to find a 'significant' and interesting exhibition space outside the capital to house an international, big-name show.

And now Russell seems to have hit upon both the ideal

venue and the perfect crowd-pulling exhibition for Liverpool's capital of culture celebrations in 2008.

The show in question, 'The World of Le Corbusier', is being prepared by architectural historians Stanislaus von Moos and Arthur Rüegg at the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, Germany. The pair are in collaboration with the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

According to a Design Museum spokesman, the exhibition will focus not just on Le Corbusier as an architect but also as 'a designer of comprehensive ideas'.

Split into three parts, the first section will give an overview of his work in the five cities which best 'represent the most important points of his cultural orientation.'

The second part is entitled Private and Public, and will feature a number of part-reconstructed interior settings. A final section, called Built Art, deals with the Swiss master's most important public buildings.

The last extensive Le Corbusier exhibition to hit these shores was in 1987 at the Hayward Gallery and was hailed as a 'must for every architect' (AJ 11.03.87).

Hopefully the show in the crypt, the only part of Lutyens' ambitious cathedral project to be completed before it ran out of funds, will be just as impressive.

The exhibition will begin its world tour in Rotterdam and travels to Berlin before it opens in Liverpool on 1 October 2008. It will then run in Liverpool for five months.

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1.



2.

1. The proposals aim to reinvigorate the built form of the site
2. The scheme sits within an SOM masterplan

STUDENTS AND LECTURERS IN NEWPORT WIN

Two lecturers and a group of students from the University of Northumbria have landed an international ideas competition for a site in Wales. The lecturers, Stephen Baty and Paul Jones, together with the architecture students, put together these proposals for the Market Square in Newport, Wales. Baty and Jones, both of the university's architecture programme, entered the competition through the university's architecture and research partnership, which they set up in 2004 as a vehicle to inform teaching. They saw off competition from around the world, including Art2Architecture with Urban Red from London, Anonymous Architects from Bradford, and Cardiff's Holder Mathias Architects. The other shortlisted entries were by Ireland's David Flynn and Taylor Architects, and Scott Wilson from Birmingham. The competition, which the council supported only as an 'ideas exercise' and which it will not commit to building, asked practices and architects to analyse the Market Square area of Newport, and how it relates to the River Usk. Sitting within an SOM regeneration masterplan and immediately adjacent to a new bridge by Grimshaw, the winning proposals look at how best to knit the square into the rest of the city, especially the Grade II-listed Market Hall. The brief also demanded that the winning proposals should 'reinvigorate and rebalance the built form of the square with new architecture'.

By Ed Dorrell



ROBERT COWAN

JANE JACOBS 1916–2006

By Robert Cowan

'When we deal with cities we are dealing with life at its most complex and intense,' wrote the writer and urban activist Jane Jacobs, who has died at the age of 89. It was her sense of the richness and excitement of the life of cities that made her probably the 20th century's most influential commentator on urban affairs.

Born Jane Butzner in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1916, she became a secretary in New York after deciding not to go to university. She was soon writing articles inspired by her close observation of the life of the great city. William H White, himself a brilliant observer of such matters, commissioned the articles that led to her first and most famous book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

Written in 1958–60 and published in 1961, *The Death*

and Life attacked contemporary planning practice and passionately advocated traditional, mixed-use neighbourhoods. Jacobs castigated the planners and architects who she saw as being in thrall to utopian ideas; who were more concerned with what developments looked like than how they worked; or who were reshaping cities in the interests of the car – or all three.

Her criticism of the garden city pioneer Ebenezer Howard was typical. 'Howard set spinning powerful and city-destroying ideas,' she wrote.

'He conceived that the way to deal with the city's functions was to sort and sift out of the whole certain simple uses, and to arrange each of these in relative self-containment.' She argued that Howard conceived of good planning as a series of

static acts. 'In each case the plan must anticipate all that is needed and be protected, after it is built, against any but the most minor subsequent changes. He conceived of planning also as essentially paternalistic, if not authoritarian.'

From 1952 to 1968 Jacobs was associate editor of *Architectural Forum*. She was a member of the New York Community Planning Board, campaigning effectively to save Greenwich Village and other neighbourhoods, particularly from the expressway-building ambitions of Robert Moses.

In 1968 she, her architect husband, and two sons moved to Toronto after the boys declared that they would rather go to prison than accept the draft to Vietnam. She was soon a notable public figure in that city, successfully opposing its

expressway plans. She became a Canadian citizen in 1974.

Jane Jacobs pioneered approaches to citizen participation in planning that have since been widely adopted, and her prescriptions in *The Death and Life*, based on her careful observations, have become orthodoxies of urban design. She further developed her thinking about cities and economies in a series of remarkable books such as *Cities and the Wealth of Nations* (1989) and *Systems of Survival* (1992).

Robert Cowan is director of the Urban Design Group and author of *The Dictionary of Urbanism*

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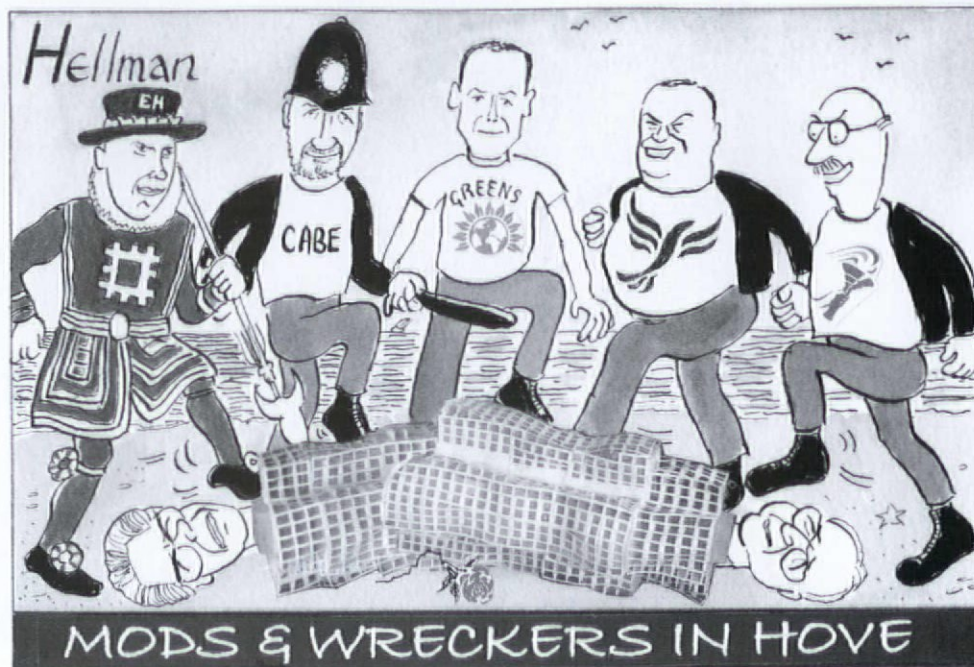
James S Russell on Renzo's new Morgan Library building in New York. www.bloomberg.com, 24.04.06

'I won't say which of his buildings is my favourite. I will say he's my favourite architect'

Richard Rogers on Renzo Piano. *Time*, 30.04.06

'She needs to be read again and again by those who think big bucks and bigger buildings are the only way to go in our cities'

Jonathan Glancey on Jane Jacobs. *Guardian*, 28.04.06



ACQUISITIVE NATURE

Spotted at the top of the Coq D'Argent in the City – one of the most moneyed of London's newer restaurants – were two ends of architecture's wonderful spectrum. At the bar discussing his latest results was **Stewart McColl**, founder and driving force behind the ever-acquisitive **SMC Group**, which has just bought **Alsop**. He was looking rather perky – hardly surprising given the squillions of pounds worth of profits he'd just revealed. On the other side of the restaurant, scoping out the scene, was one **Alejandro Zaero Polo**, co-founder of **Foreign Office Architects** and former Rem acolyte. Two more different individuals it would be hard to find. When Stewart realised who the figure at the other side of the eatery was, his eyes positively lit up. After Alsop;

Foreign Office? Stranger things have happened. Eek.

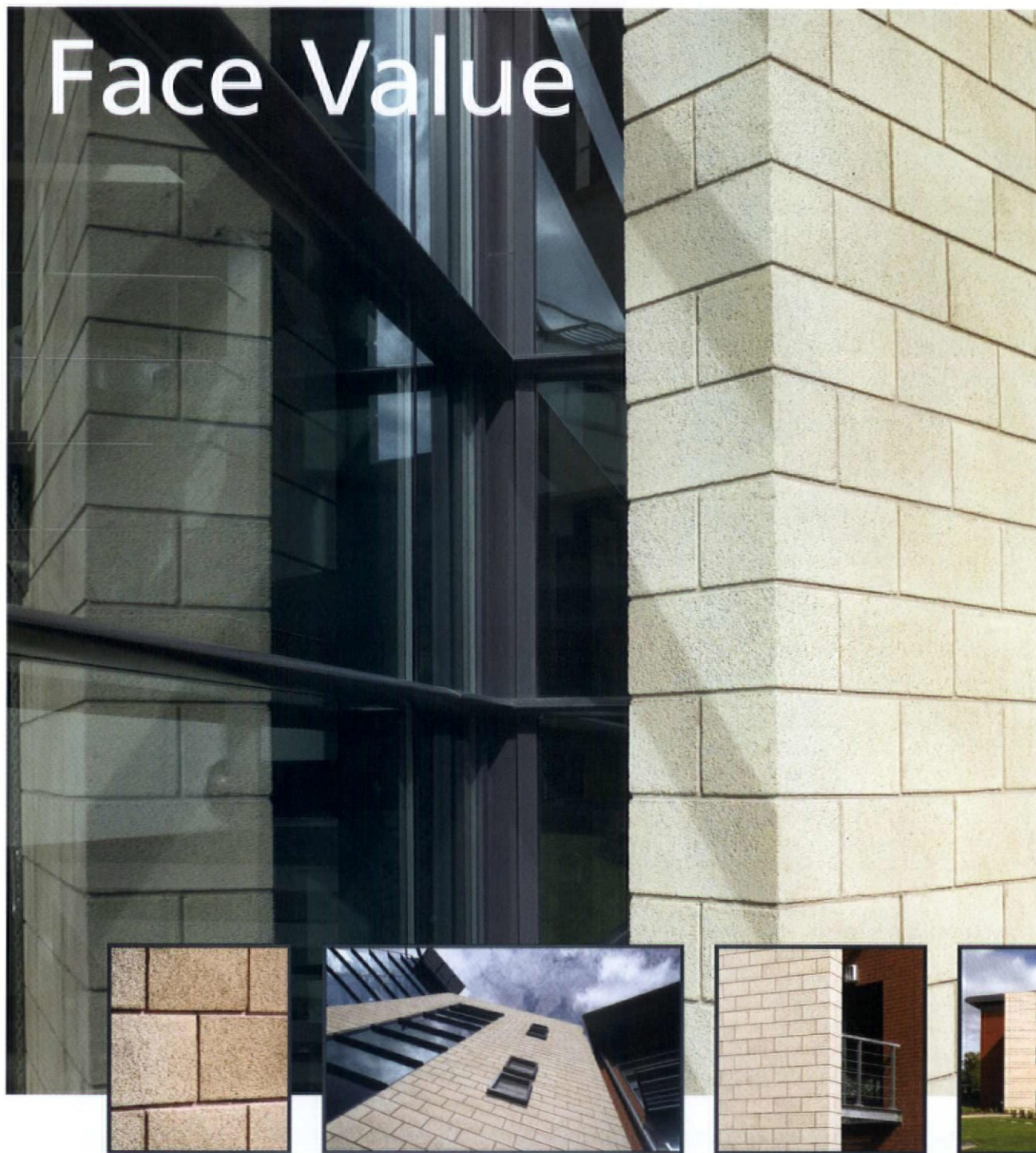
A BEE IN HIS BONNET

And so to the West Midlands and **Interbuild**, where Astragal took the opportunity to quiz Birmingham's finest cabbies on the city's recent glut of architectural 'treasures'. The verdict on **Selfridges**? 'Well, it's what you'd call immature design,' Astragal's driver said. 'The architect was looking at a beehive when he designed it, and then they asked him for some decoration so he got Ford to make the discs. It's a classic case of American design by an Englishman.' The response to Astragal's gentle suggestion that the designer might, in fact, have been Czech, was loftily dismissed: 'The designer's from the West Country. Why do you think he keeps bees?

FLOWER OF SCOTLAND

And so on to the AJ's Small Projects party. Thanks to **DSDHA's Deborah Saunt** for stepping in at the last moment to give an impassioned speech on the importance of smaller schemes and how up-and-coming practices should look after one another. An important message. Those present included the winners, **Paterson Architects**, who'd come all the way down from Scotland for the bash, and the highly commended firm, **Nord Architecture**, who also travelled from north of the border. Interestingly both are graduates of the Mack. The youthful Scottish scene seems really rather healthy – especially when one considers that Nord picked up the top prize last year. Come on England, its time to start performing.

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LETTERS

DE BOTTON GETS TO THE BOTTOM OF THE ISSUE...

I must congratulate you on a very good article by Alain de Botton. I'm by no means a fan of the so-called TV philosopher, but credit where credit is due. It was very enlightening.

M Badu, Norwich

...BUT OVERLOOKS THE CULTURE OF CONSTRUCTION

Alain de Botton clearly has an insight into man's need for buildings that are 'repositories of ideals' and for 'our sensitivity to our surroundings' (AJ 27.04.06). It is very likely that his latest book, *The Architecture of Happiness*, will be a success and will grace the coffee table of many a middle class intellectual.

While it is admirable to draw attention to the often ignored impact of architecture on individuals, de Botton does not address a far more important question: why is architecture of merit more valued (and more recurrent) in some societies than in others?

The production of architecture that is a 'repository of ideals' requires more than a competent and talented architect – it also requires a social awareness that architecture affects us in ways that cannot be quantified; a belief in sustainability over short-term profit; the recognition of timelessness over fashion; and the pursuit of common good over personal gain. Unfortunately these prerequisites are for the most part lost in a socio-economic climate that presents architecture as merely another commodity.

With the exception of individual houses designed for discriminating clients, the construction process is a sea of corporate clients, contractors, consultants and authorities – who contribute to shape the final 'product' and frequently display indifference towards the repository of ideals that defies quantification.

Bob Barlov, Putney

SPANISH FIRM MAY HAVE STOPPED TERMINAL DECLINE

Regarding Madrid Airport: having worked for five years alongside the RRP team on Heathrow Terminal 5 (T5), in retrospect I think that an involvement of Estudio Lamela at early stages of T5's design development would have been an excellent idea. As it stands the architectural image of T5 is absolute pits.

Andrzej Bisztyga, Guildford



PATERSON WINS SMALL PROJECTS AWARD

Paterson Architects has won this year's AJ Small Projects Award, sponsored by RobinEllis Design and Construction. The winning scheme was a private house in East Lothian, which the architects built for themselves. Last year's winner, Nord Architecture, was highly commended for the refurbishment of Destiny Church in Glasgow. All the published projects are on show at the RIBA, Portland Place, London, until 18 May.



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LETTERS

ONE MUST LOOK HARD FOR CUMBERNAULD'S HERITAGE

Our towns and cities function as a continuum, where historical momentum gives meaning to place. As architects, we adapt, adjust, infill, amend or clear areas of cities but do so against this continuum. As Rafael Moneo suggested in his RIBA Gold Medal address, the meaning of our work shifts in relation to the past and the future. Where does that leave Cumbernauld (AJ 20.04.06)?

What is clear is that Cumbernauld residents love their town. How do they stimulate interest of the key stakeholders who own most of the land? How do they create development that is meaningful? Creating diverse activities common to every town is no way to go, no matter how significant the architecture.

The workshops on this issue were particularly poignant, being attended by a few people who were actually involved in its inception and its demise as a New Town. As Gordon Murray (no relation), the first and only lord provost (mayor) of Cumbernauld, reminded everyone present, at that time there were no users to consult. A *tabula rasa*. No historical momentum beyond the handful of redundant mining villages which were within a five-mile radius of the hill that formed 'Copcutts Citidel'.

Given the downward 'progress' of the town centre in the last 20 years, it is surely the most bitter irony that the Scottish Development Department brief given to Sir Hugh Wilson in 1955

was that Cumbernauld, unlike other New Towns, was to be experimental, exploring new forms of living for the 21st century.

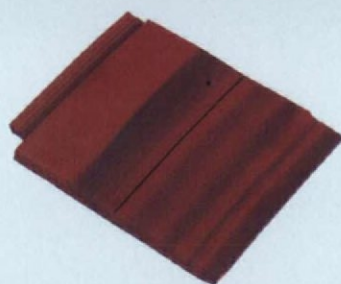
The fragments of history exist only in Cumbernauld's town centre, Gillespie Kidd & Coia's Technical College and St. Mungo's Church. Meagre, but great cities have been built on less. *Gordon Murray, Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop Architects*

NUCLEAR OPPOSITION IS STILL CORE FOR PRINGLE

Astragal is right (AJ 20.04.06), I am extremely concerned that nuclear power will be used as an easy and a so-called reliable solution to our climate-change challenges. The doubts over nuclear power are numerous. But I have not been silent.

The embedded energy (not to mention CO₂) in a new nuclear power station means it would be years, maybe decades before it becomes energy positive in use. Nuclear fuel is a scarce resource, making it a far from global solution. In the wrong hands power plants can make nuclear material for armaments. Reprocessing and storage of spent fuel is an unproven technology leaving a terrible legacy for our descendants. Nuclear power plants will be an obvious terrorist target, in a world of burgeoning terrorism. Nuclear accidents may be avoidable in sophisticated western countries, but if the developing world followed our nuclear example, could we expect the same standards to be maintained?

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Clearly this did not happen in Russia. I write this on the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster which claimed at least 9,000 lives and severely damaged many more.

Astragal may be pleased to know that I made most of these points when I met Malcolm Wicks, the minister for energy, on 20 March at the House of Commons during the CIC Energy Summit. I also, of course, made the case for energy conservation and research and investment in renewables, regulation and use of the tax structures. Wicks felt views on the nuclear option were personal and did not have a professional or construction industry locus. It's a fair challenge, and indeed there are those in the RIBA who would agree with this. Fundamental understanding of some of the technical issues is certainly outside of our professional competency. But architects are used to managing the technical input of others, within a strategic framework, and you don't need a PhD in physics to follow the arguments.

There are some big issues to be resolved. To keep CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere to even the new target of 550 parts per million (PPM) (it used to be 400PPM, but that was too difficult) we have to close a very big energy gap. This can only be done by using a number of measures which will add up to the solution – reduction in energy demand, renewable energy sources, carbon sequestration etc. But even enthusiastic environmentalists,

like George Monbiot (see *Guardian* 29.11.05) doubt the maths. There may be an unresolved gap. And the government wants the solution to be reliable and deliverable to provide a guaranteed 'base load'. Enter the nuclear lobby: 'We can do that'.

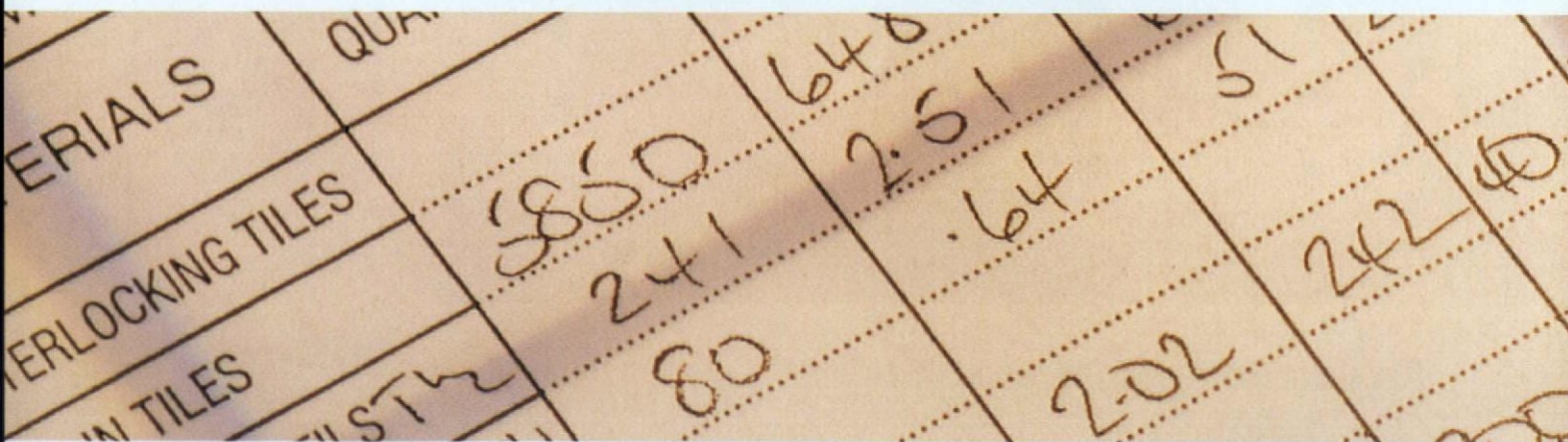
But, I think it is unreasonable to say here and now that we must meet our 2050 60 per cent reduction of CO₂ target by using today's tried and tested (if ultimately unresolved and dangerous) technologies. Innovation and technical development must play their part. In any case we are just not doing enough research into new clean technologies. The government is investing £50 million in research in renewables. This is peanuts. We need billions going into this research and we need real volume in the production of existing clean technologies, like photovoltaics (PVs), to drive their price down. If PVs had gone through the mobile phone development curve, they would be cheap as chips by now.

We need to close the CO₂ gap without nuclear for a clean and safe future.

Jack Pringle, president, RIBA

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

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