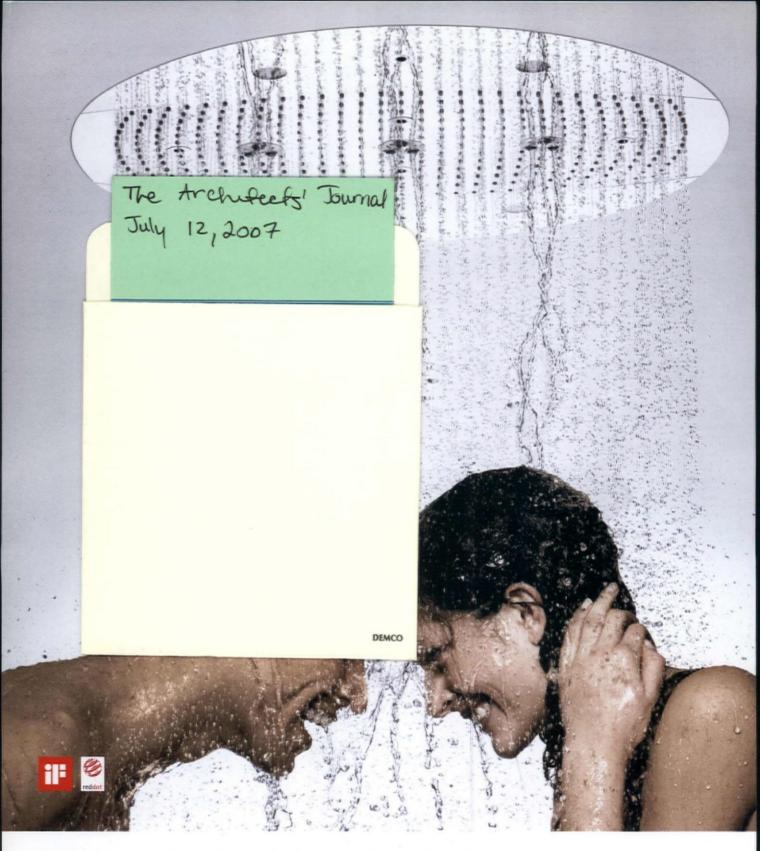


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AN ARCHITECT'S NAME IN A SECTION 106 AGREEMENT CARRIES NO WEIGHT

By Kieran Long

Pop quiz: who is the better designer? Hamiltons, a 200-strong, west London-based architect responsible for competent office buildings such as the stone-clad 40 Berkeley Square and a 43storey lipstick-shaped residential tower in south London? Or David Chipperfield, a 200-strong Mies van der Rohe Prize-winning and Stirlingnominated architect internationally lauded for buildings in several countries and currently working on the most important architectural project in Germany?

Whatever your answer, Camden Council can't tell the difference. Its planning committee has decided that Hamiltons is good enough to maintain the quality of a \pounds 15 million project in north London from which Chipperfield was dumped (*See News on page 9*), and has gone so far as to revoke a Section 106 agreement that guaranteed Chipperfield's involvement in the project in favour of developer Dwyer's preferred choice. It's time that these kinds of value judgements were taken to task. With all due respect to Hamiltons, it claims on its website to be a competent background architect, and has few pretensions about the scale of its artistic achievement. No critic in the world would put it in the same league as Chipperfield.

But the story is multi-faceted. It is now clear that having an architect's name written into a Section 106 agreement carries no weight. It also provides further evidence of a developer using a big-name architect to gain planning permission before dumping it for a cheaper alternative.

Perhaps most sadly, it demonstrates what Chipperfield describes as 'the lack of professional and intellectual solidarity' in the industry. Since our story about Mangera Yvars being dropped from the east London 'mega-mosque' (AJ 05.07.07), several architects have told me their stories of exploitation. Architecture, it seems, is a profession of little mutual respect and courtesy.

CONTRIBUTORS



Sutherland Lyall, who reviews Zaha Hadid: Architecture and Design at the Design Museum on page 44, is an architectural journalist and author in London



Helen O'Connor, who writes the Building Study on the renovation of Le Corbusier's La Tourette on pages 25-35, is a lecturer at the University of Dundee

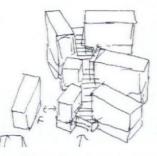


Hélène Binet, who photographs La Tourette, is a photographer based in London whose previous subjects include the work of Peter Zumthor, Daniel Libeskind and Zaha Hadid



CONTENTS

12.07.07 LE CORBUSIER/ LA TOURETTE



P.16 JUSTICE IS SERVED BY CHIPPERFIELD



P.25 LE CORBUSIER/ LA TOURETTE



P.10 INTERVIEW: MARGARET HODGE

NEWS

NEWS + AGENDA

7 Weekly digest/online news

9 *Chipperfield* dropped in London

10 – 12 Margaret Hodge's first interview

13 *Foster* reveals childrens centre

16 – 17 *Chipperfield's* justice complex **14 – 15** *FAT* unveils its part in Alsop masterplan

18 – 19 Hopkins aims high in Tokyo

20 *Viñoly's* 'Walkie Talkie' go-ahead signals change

BUILDING STUDY

25 – 35 Can the essential qualities of *Le Corbusier*'s monastery at La Tourette survive its renovation into a cultural/ conference centre?

TECHNICAL & PRACTICE

37 Update

38 - 39

Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects' use of computational modelling to design the optimum facade for an academic complex in Leeds

40

Legal/Webwatch



P.44 EXHIBITION: ZAHA HADID



P.14 MIDDLEHAVEN RUNS TO FAT

REVIEWS

REGULARS

43 Exhibition: *Scratching the Surface*

44 – 45 Exhibition: Zaha Hadid

45 Critic's choice

46

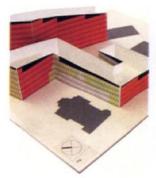
Book: Edwin Heathcote and Laura Moffatt's Contemporary Church Architecture

22 Astragal and Hellman

58 Sketchbook: Laura Allen

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P.39 TECHNICAL: FACADE MODELLING

JOBS & CLASSIFIED

• Centurion - interior designer

· Leeds Metropolitan University

49

55

Top five jobs:

• City Inn - architect

- architecture lecturers

• Anta - architect

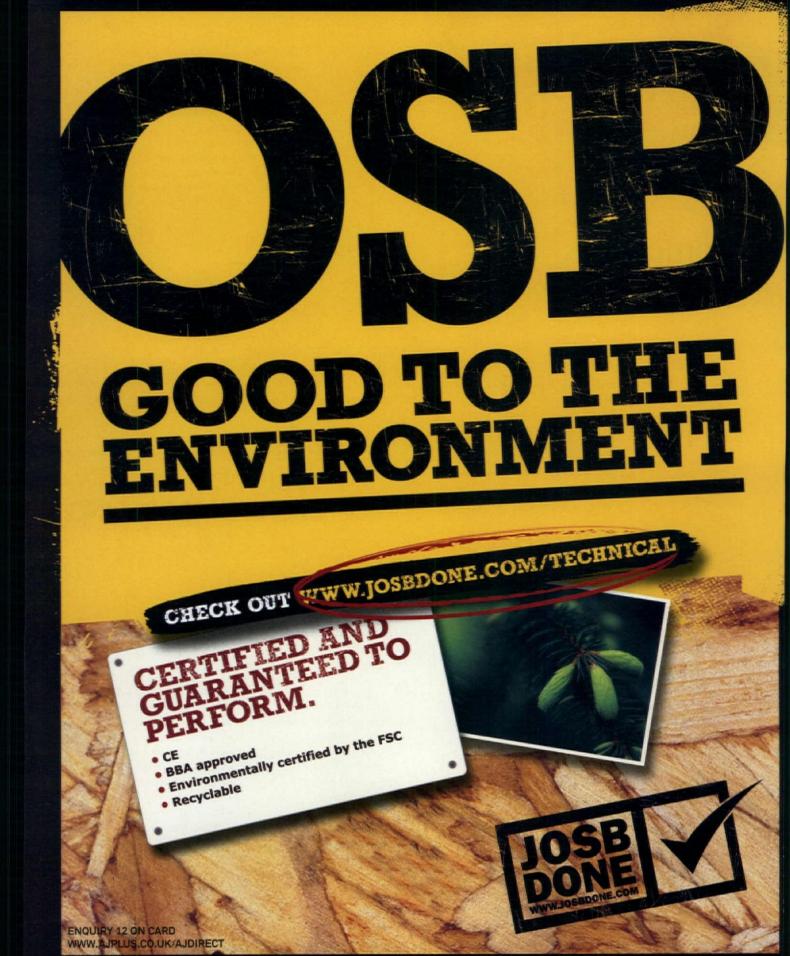
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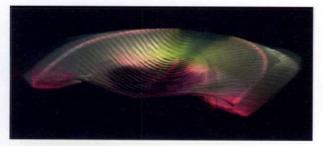
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FRIDAY 6 JULY

- Kevin McCloud unveils HAB's first sustainable housing sites – in Swindon
- · 'Uglier' baby shard approved in Southwark
- Allies and Morrison's Diane Haigh takes over CABE role (above)
- Sheppard Robson and Hawkins\Brown on sixstrong shortlist in Barking Riverside contest



TUESDAY 10 JULY

- Public Accounts Committee slams Olympic legacy mode
- Scottish practice Space Solutions eyes
 further growth after management buyout
- RIBA brings outline plan of work up to date
- First look at long-awaited rebirth of Les Halles in Paris (above)



THURSDAY 5 JULY

- Squire and Partners' tower 'too tall' for Old Street
- AOC wins battle for Royal Armouries revamp in Leeds (above)
- RIBA President Pringle blasts UK housing standards
- Street signs increase danger on roads warns CABE



MONDAY 9 JULY

- SMC Group's accounts reveal path to founder McColl's resignation
- Detailed plans submitted for Urban Splash's Park Hill revamp (above)
- CABE calls for 'compromised' power station scheme to be scrapped
- Nagan Johnson wins approval for Clapham development after three-year struggle



- WEDNESDAY 11 JULY
- Zaha's completed stand-in
 Serpentine pavilion revealed (left)
- Tories announce Early Day Motion
 to save Architecture Week
- ReBlackpool submits planning
 application for 'People's Playground'
- Vinöly finally gets planning permission for 'Walkie Talkie'

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Despite a Section 106 agreement apparently guaranteeing the practice's continued involvement, Chipperfield has been dropped from this scheme in Hampstead, London

CHIPPERFIELD OUSTED IN CAMDEN

By Richard Vaughan and Kieran Long

David Chipperfield Architects has been dropped from a $\pounds 15$ million scheme in north London, despite a Section 106 agreement which apparently guaranteed the firm's continued involvement in the project.

West London-based practice Hamiltons will now complete design work on the project after Camden Council declared itself satisfied that the commercial firm could match Chipperfield for design quality.

Speaking to the AJ, David Chipperfield said: 'I was in Valencia when I found out we had been dumped via Camden Council's website... The question this raises is whether there is any merit putting an architect's name in a Section 106 – the answer is "no".'

Developer Dwyer received planning permission last year for the conversion and extension of the historic Athlone Estate on Hampstead Lane in 2006, which will create 22 luxury flats.

Chipperfield had worked on the designs up to RIBA stage D, drafting in celebrated Swiss landscape architect Gunther Vogt to deal with the historic landscape. He said: 'What annoys me is that I went to nine or 10 meetings with the council and developed a nice relationship. Now I've ended up being the black sheep and fighting them because they didn't stick up for me.'

The committee that originally awarded planning permission to the Chipperfield scheme praised the developer and architect for an 'exemplary' design process. But, fearing he might be replaced, Chipperfield wrote to Camden Council last October seeking clarification, receiving no reply. Then early this year, Chipperfield was informed that Dwyer was considering replacing him.

Dwyer's solicitor, David Cooper, wrote to Camden Council to request that the Section 106 agreement be altered. The council agreed on the basis of assurances from the client about the new architect's brief, and because Hamiltons had three former Chipperfield employees working on the project. But, according to Chipperfield, Camden did not verify this with him.

Hamiltons director David Lawrence denies his firm has done anything wrong: 'We were approached by Dwyer back in the autumn and were asked to carry the scheme through from stage E to L.

'We agreed and waited until everything with Chipperfield had been concluded and the Section 106 agreements were altered. Once we'd been appointed, the 106 clause had been changed.'

A spokesperson for Camden Council said: 'We considered it desirable at the time to have an extra measure of control over the quality of the design by retaining the named architect [then David Chipperfield].

'We received a request from Athlone Estate to change to Hamiltons. The council agreed to the request in May 2007 because replacing the original named architect with the new one was unlikely to result in a failure to achieve the desired quality of design.'

Dwyer declined to comment except to state that it is 'more than happy with the architects it now has in place'.

AGENDA



INTRODUCING MARGARET HODGE

By Richard Vaughan

Margaret Hodge gives the AJ her first ever interview as the government's minister for architecture.

What do you think the role of an architecture minister is? It is difficult to answer so early on, but I should stress how important place is to people, and buildings are a crucial part of place. Architecture has always been important in all my ministerial positions.

When I was children's minister (2003–05), CABE did a competition for us which the Abbey Centre won, and that has now set a benchmark for other buildings for children.

And actually, architecture is a really good discipline. You develop a whole range of skills – you have to have physics and maths and you've got to have social understanding. We must remember we're jolly good at architecture in the UK. We have the Richard Rogers, the Norman Fosters and the Michael Hopkins, so we have a big tradition in it.

What kind of house do you live in? I live in trendy old Islington. We bought before the boom and when we moved in the mortgage broker asked, 'Why are you moving into this house?' He thought we were bonkers.

It's an 1860s crescent and is terrifically flexible. When we first moved in I had two children and then went up to four. Now we're back to two of us, and we have managed to change the space and enjoy it. And that is what is interesting. There's an 1860s building which has proved flexible after 150 years. How do you see the balance between development and protecting heritage? Both are crucial. Obviously there's the debate going on in London on how you protect heritage with the influx of tall buildings.

I drive to Barking often and so drive past Canary Wharf, which I think is quite attractive. I watched it develop, and hated it and I still think they got an awful lot wrong. They failed to put in any of the infrastructure. It was like going to a ghost town. Like a gated development, juxtaposed to Tower Hamlets. But I now quite like passing those buildings.

I still find them quite soulless. It's like when you fly into American cities, they all look a bit the same. The skyline is pretty similar with just a different array of tall buildings. People on the whole don't want to engulf the Tower of London with tall buildings, but there is the other side – the Gherkin is very interesting. These will be our monuments to the future.

What is important is that we value our past but also realise what we do in the present will create the legacy for the future. I'm not pro one or the other.

We have this wonderful heritage in London and we must make it work with exciting buildings of the future.

What are your thoughts on housing need and the role architecture has to play? In my constituency in Barking, there is Barking Riverside. It won't work unless we get the DLR out there. That's where we went wrong in the Docklands. We have a commitment from



Hodge, architects' new minister
 Jestico and Whiles' Axe Street
 Barking, Hodge's constituency

MARGARET HODGE

8 September 1944: Born Cairo, Egypt

1973 to 1979: Elected to Islington Council. Appointed chair of Islington Council Housing Committee in 1975

1981 to 1982: Islington Council deputy leader

1982 to1992: Council leader

1994: Elected MP for Barking

1998 to 2001: Under secretary for employment and equal opportunities, Department for Education and Employment

2001 to 2003: Minister for lifelong learning, further and higher education, Department for Education and Skills

2003 to 2005: Minister for children, young people and families, Department for Education and Skills

2005 to 2006: Minister for employment and welfare reform, Department for Work and Pensions

2006 to 10 July 2007: Minister for industry, Department for Trade and Industry

2007: Minister for architecture, Department of Culture, Media and Sport

government but we now need the funding to emerge swiftly.

But then there is the design, and we cannot have a repeat of Bellway Homes [Barking Reach regeneration programme] houses, which was disappointing to say the least. They have now learnt the lesson and they've brought this Dutch firm Maxwan to do a masterplan. It is now integrating housing – social housing to rent and housing to buy. But it shows that design really matters.

What I need for my constituents in regards to housing is the right to buy, and I've been very vocal recently. There is a desperate shortage of affordable housing to rent. The legacy of right to buy has meant the loss of what was very good social housing. I think that is one of the major factors contributing to current community tensions, which has led to the rise of the BNP.

These people feel a huge lack of fairness. There is desperate need for affordable housing if you want to create community cohesion.

What are your thoughts on the sustainability agenda? Another huge job, and it's not just new housing. There are 25 million homes, and even if we build 250,000 that's only 1 per cent. The challenge is cutting emissions from houses like mine.

Architects think of new housing, but what about existing housing? Domestic CO_2 output is one of the biggest contributions; I think it is 40 to 50 per cent of emissions. And then you have to look at how the street works together as a whole to achieve lower CO_2





3.

 Rick Mather Architects' masterplan for Barking
 Jestico and Whiles Architects' and Peter Barber's Tanner Street development

emissions. Architecture needs to do more each year.

What do you think architects building vast housing projects today can learn from the mistakes from the 1960s?

It's really important that what we build works for people. There is the Marquess Estate in Islington: I was at Islington Council at the time, and Harold Wilson gave it an award, but it's now being torn down. It was an absolute disaster. It was full of walkways: when people want streets, they want their defensible space, such as gardens etc.

Which current regeneration projects have impressed you most? Well, what I would look at from my own constituency in Barking, is Jo Richardson's school and what is so great about it, it's a school that's bang in the middle of a very difficult area. It's a community school and has within it a library, a police station, community facilities and children's centre. It works terrificallu well.

On the other hand I have a new PFI hospital in Romford, and it was a real triumph getting it. But I think that demonstrates our design failures in the PFI programme – there's nine miles of corridor! Who goes to hospital? You're either old or unwell or on crutches! So I hope these new local walk-in centres do a better job.

Architecture is a very maleorientated profession, as is politics. From your own experiences how can women develop more of a foothold in the industry?

I didn't realise it still was. There has been a change in other

professions, medicine and law due to girls outperforming boys at school, but I wasn't aware there still was such a gap in architecture. It obviously isn't just young women not starting, there are glass ceilings, although I would have thought architecture ought to be something that you can do on a part-time basis to raise children or look after elderly relatives or whatever. That is a challenge for me.

What is your favourite city? Siena. When you sit in the square at Siena, with the colour of stones and skyline, and the palace and the cathedral, there is nothing more delicious. It is also the flexibility of stunning heritage moving into modern architecture.

It's that integration of the past and present and looking

into the future. Just sitting in those restaurants and bars looking at the world go by.

What are your thoughts on the Mayor's public spaces programme? I think they are hugely important – how we set up the legacy for future generations. But it's also people's sense of wellbeing and identity with space.

In my constituency, they feel they don't have affordable housing. While I value the public spaces programme, you must construct a consensus that it is a worthwhile investment.

What's your favourite building? That's too difficult. There are far too many! What's yours?



Foster + Partners has designed this Thailand childrens' centre in memory of Louise Willgrass, a victim of the Boxing Day 2006 tsunami

FOSTER UNVEILS THAI CENTRE

By Max Thompson

Set within a tropical, sloping jungle valley in Kathu on the outskirts of Phuket – an island off the south-west coast of Thailand – this is Foster + Partners' design for a new childrens' centre.

The Louise Willgrass Centre, which will be built entirely of natural materials, is in memory of Louise Willgrass, a mother of four killed in the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami.

Keith Watts, a friend of the Willgrass family, is a trustee of the Louise Willgrass Tsunami Foundation, which organised the funding of the scheme in conjunction with charity The Asian Centre. He explained the background to the project:

'Nigel [Louise's husband] decided to raise some funds, not a huge amount, to help the couple that helped him and his family after the tsunami hit and Louise was killed. They were poor and lived in the slums and Nigel wanted to thank them.

'But, the donations came in. We treated it like a business and upped the ante and started a trust with Nigel and me as trustees,' said Watts.

When completed, the terraced building, which will nestle in 12 rie (4.8ha) of tamed jungle, will cater for 500 school children aged 4-16 and will have facilities to care for up to 125 orphans. There will also be accommodation for 25 gapuear students.

The school will include a library and computer rooms on the building's second-level terrace; a general purpose hall on the third terrace level; three storeys of student accommodation on the fourth

accommodation on the fourth terrace; and staff areas on the uppermost level. The buildings, said Foster + Partners, are 'flexible' in that brightly-coloured sliding partitions 'allow natural ventilation and provide access to external courtyards sheltered beneath canopies'.

Foster + Partners worked with Phuket-based practice East West on the scheme, and both practices donated their time free of charge to the project, and Watts said the trust has raised around £800,000 of the £1.3 million needed to build the facility.



CORRECTION

In AJ 28.06.07 and the RIBA Awards supplement, the project pictured on the front cover was a house for Nicole and Nadav Kandar in Hampstead, north London, by Jamie Fobert Architects. The client's name was spelled incorrectly.

AGENDA



1. Section showing pub, bottom left

1.

2. The massive waterfront redevelopment, featuring SMC Alsop's Krusty building third from left and FAT's CIAC fourth from left

MIDDLEHAVEN RUNS TO FAT

By Richard Waite

London-based Post-Modernist practice FAT has been given the go-ahead for this residential cube – part of the ambitious Will Alsop/Studio Egret Westdesigned Middlehaven masterplan in Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire.

The practice's Community In A Cube (CIAC) building and SMC Alsop's neighbouring Krusty housing block are the first two projects on the massive waterfront plot to be approved by the Middlesbrough Council.

Backed by developer BioRegional Quintain and Tees Valley Regeneration, the \pounds 7.5 million FAT scheme will create 80 apartments over eight floors.

The flats will sit above a new pub which will be built on the north side of the site. The south side will feature an 'Italianate' stepped garden, nestled between the U-shaped residential blocks.

On the top of the development will be a series of 'dinky' skyhomes, described by FAT co-founder Sean Griffiths as 'streets in the sky with the look of New England or New Urbanist houses.'

According to Griffiths, the two rooftop levels of housing will be clad in an 'imitation wood' cement fibreboard for ease of maintenance.

There will be two entrances into the development: one a route up through the building via the green terraces; another into a grand top-lit hall complete with giant chandelier.

The main block will have a concrete frame dressed in brick and the central courtyard will be clad in patterned wood – an interior likened by Griffiths to the lining of a 'flashy jacket'.

Comparing CIAC to the firm's other recent work, Griffiths said: 'The scheme is slightly different from our others in that there is not so much emphasis on the facade – unlike our other projects which played that card.

'This is a much more sculptural project. There is a sense of grandeur.' He laughed: 'It's almost heroic'.

The FAT scheme will also house a biomass boiler which will serve another seven similar sized 30m³ cubes which have yet to be designed.

Work on CIAC is expected to start on site in December this year and complete before the end of 2008.



NEWS IN PICTURES

JUSTICE IS SERVED BY CHIPPERFIELD

This is David Chipperfield Architects' City of Justice complex, currently under construction in Barcelona, Spain. When complete next year, the scheme - for Catalonia's Departament de Justicia - will unite 17 judicial buildings previously scattered across Barcelona and its neighbouring city, L'Hospitalet. The 330,000m2 City of Justice, situated at the border of the two cities on a site previously dominated by military barracks, spreads across the site into a series of separate, but interrelated, blocks set around a public plaza. According to Chipperfield, all nine of the complex's buildings are formed of 'restrained blocks with load-bearing coloured concrete "cage" facades'. The design, on which Chipperfield worked with B720 Arquitectos, achieves a 'spatial composition that attempts to break the rigid and monolithic image of justice', he said. By Max Thompson



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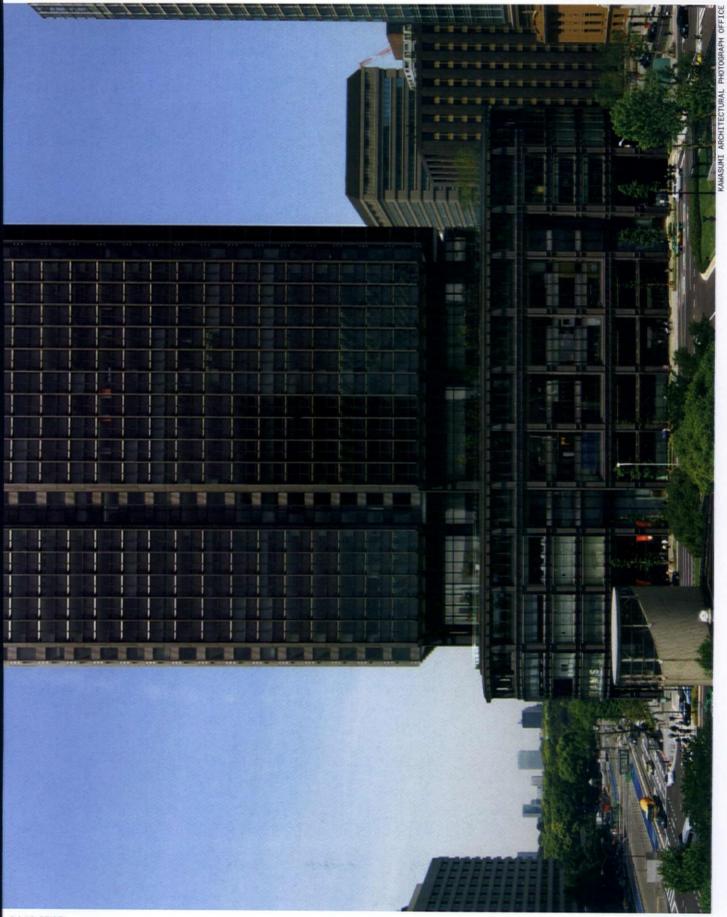
 Plan of the complex showing the nine buildings arranged around a public plaza
 & 3. The City of Justice under construction, with its coloured concrete facades

HOPKINS RAISES ITS PROFILE IN TOKYO

palace, planning permission was only granted after the project particularly tough. He said: 'Building to Imperial Palace and, controversially, overlooks the site coupled with tight financial constraints made Hopkins won the £198 million job in 2001, beating very restricted budget.' The building sits opposite Tokyo Station on the main ceremonial axis to the managing director, admitted the demands of the Mitsubishi Estates, and the Imperial Household. realise a very well-constructed building out of a Emperor's residence. Due to its proximity to the challenging, but the standard of craftsmanship in Japan was very high, which made it easier to project to date: the 35-storey Shin-Marunouchi high-profile opposition including Renzo Piano. This image shows Hopkins Architects' biggest the commercial demands of the budget was sensitive negotiations between the client, tower in central Tokyo. Bill Taylor, Hopkins' By James Pallister

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AJ 12.07.07

AGENDA



Viñoly's Walkie Talkie tower (right, with KPF's Helter Skelter to its left) gained planning permission this week

'WALKIE TALKIE' SIGNALS CHANGE

By Richard Waite

The decision this week (10 July) to allow Rafael Viñoly's controversial 'Walkie Talkie' office block to be built next to the Tower of London is important for two reasons.

First, the verdict effectively sidelines UNESCO in the debate about new developments near World Heritage Sites – a move which could also have an impact on proposed schemes in Liverpool, Bath and Edinburgh.

Secondly, it gives a vital and intriguing insight into the mind of Hazel Blears, the new Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) chief, who took over from Ruth Kelly in Gordon Brown's cabinet reshuffle in late June.

The proactive and can-do attitude demonstrated by Blears, even when facing a potential backlash from heritage bodies, contrasts starkly with that of Kelly, who gained something of a reputation for quashing or stalling tall-tower schemes. Kelly not only called in the Walkie Talkie project, but also derailed Ian Simpson's Brunswick Quay scheme in Liverpool.

The installation of Blears will be welcomed by developers, which are proposing ever taller towers all over London, and the debate will only intensify when the Greater London Authority's new viewing corridors are unveiled tomorrow (13 July).

Viñoly's 155m-high, 39-storey tower split opinion across the capital, and was most famously derided by former RIBA-president George Ferguson, who branded the office project 'one of the ugliest in London'. Yet the Land Securities scheme, in the City of London's Fenchurch Street, was unanimously given the thumbs-up by CABE, the City Corporation and London Mayor Ken Livingstone.

It was only when United Nations heritage watchdog UNESCO kicked up a fuss about what it regarded as threats to the Tower of London that Kelly decided to call the Walkie Talkie tower in for public inquiry.

Speaking moments after the tower's future was secured, chairman of CABE's design review panel, Paul Finch, said it would have been an injustice if the scheme had been scrapped 'as a result of one organisation's ramblings'.

'The decision shows that the government has taken the view that the planning system's strict controls in respect of conservation matters have been sufficient to deal with these projects without the need for special consultations,' he said.

Furthermore, Finch believes that if the UNESCO appeal had been upheld, future development in the capital could have been stifled.

'If it was agreed that it was somehow wrong for modern architecture to be visible from a World Heritage Site, we would end up putting large chunks of the city in aspic,' he said.

'This is very, very dangerous. It's like turning the city into a museum.

'My view is that the Tower of London is so robust that it doesn't need anyone else coming along to look after it,' added Finch.

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ASTRAGAL

'With hindsight I believe more openness and transparency may have prevented such a high level of suspicion'

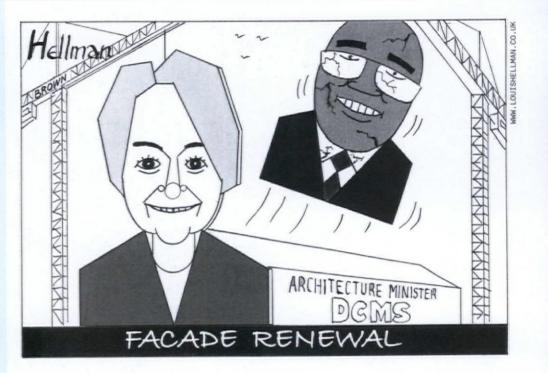
Brighton and Hove councillor Brian Oxley on Frank Gehry's Hove project. *The Argus*, 02.07.07

'We are building cells illuminated by pinholes, compared with which the muchreviled 1960s council flat seems a barely attainable ideal'

Rowan Moore on the impact of energy-driven building regulations. *Evening Standard*, 03.07.07

'This may be the first movement in architectural history whose followers are more famous than its leaders'

Christopher Hawthorne on green design. www. latimes.com, 04.07.07



TROUBLE IN STORE

Somebody in east London doesn't like David Adjaye's Stirling-shortlisted Idea Store in Whitechapel. Contrary to what the gossipmongers may tell you, the shattered pane of glass on the first-floor overhang of the green-and-blue striped library is not due to structural movement but to vandals. Police are looking for a villain with a very powerful throwing arm. Or an extremely tall Peeping-Tomcum-bookworm with a large bump on his head.

ART FROM YOUR ELBOW

Ahh, the unfathomable cost of Modern Art these days. Compared to the price of a genuine Jasper Johns, Herzog & de Meuron's £10 million fee for the practice's underwhelming Tate Modern extension is a snip. After all, it's only 6 per cent of the total project cost (£163 million). The Swiss duo would have to design another four extensions if they wanted to get their hands on **Damien Hirst**'s £50 million diamondencrusted skull. Actually, Astragal would rather have a whip-round.

KOOL FOR CASH

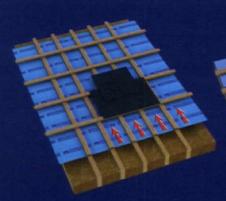
Despite **Rem Koolhaas'** new role masterplanning most of Dubai, we are reliably informed that the Dutch master will still build you a one-off, private house – just as long as you're willing to stump up a 100 per cent fee...

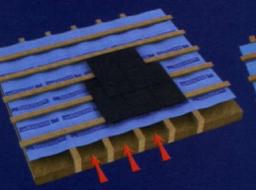
NEVER MIND THE RAIN

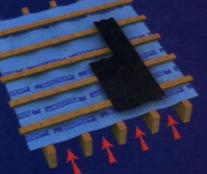
The summer party season is upon us, and the social calendar of this drunken old columnist has never been fuller. But sadly, this year has been a soggy affair for all involved - quite literally a damp squib. Astragal, however, would like to point out that we have known the weather was going to be like this for quite some time. The very merry month of May was wet and windy, June has been the wettest on record and the helpful people at the Met Office have told us that more is to follow. Why then are people resolutely holding their parties in the damp outdoors? Why must this diarist endure his glass of Prosecco or his Champagne cocktail in the pouring rain? Have we lost our minds? Hull is under the Humber, Noah is sailing through Sheffield and Astragal is having to wear waders to fetch his next Bellini. We are not amused.

no.1 for Moisture Management









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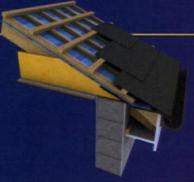
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ENQUIRY 13 ON CARD WWW.AJPLUS.CO.UK/AJDIRECT

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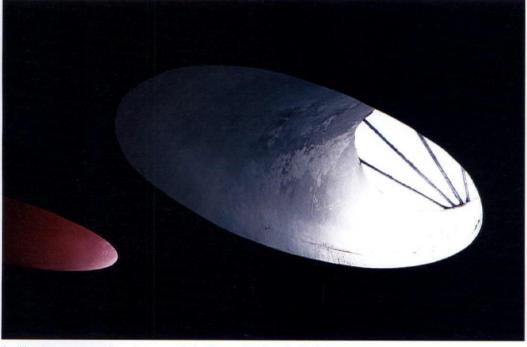
ENQUIRY 18 ON CARD WWW.AJPLUS.CO.UK/AJDIRECT



sikkens

the right colour

LE CORBUSIER/ LA TOURETTE



1. Water penetration in one of La Tourette's skylights

BUILDING STUDY

TO PRESERVE IT IN ASPIC IS TO DENY IT A LIFE

By Helen O'Connor. Photography by Hélène Binet

For years, Le Corbusier's monastery of La Tourette (1953-9), near Lyon, has suffered the effects of time and the weather. Water has penetrated the building and concrete has spalled, while the cold has made it difficult to inhabit in the winter. Now Didier Repellin, Lyon's chief architect of historic monuments, is undertaking the first phase of a renovation that aims to tackle the most pressing problems and upgrade La Tourette for use as a cultural/conference centre. But can the essential qualities of the building survive intact?

La Tourette closed to residents last year, and will not be lived in for some while. Guided visits are possible, but you can no longer eat in the refectory or wander unaccompanied around the building. Just before the closure, some students and teachers of architecture at the University of Dundee made the pilgrimage to La Tourette. They went to study the building, to draw, measure and write, and to spend time understanding those subtle qualities of architectural space not visible through the pages of a textbook.

Because of the imminent renovation, the trip turned out to be more poignant than we could have anticipated. We felt we were witness to a crucial moment in the building's life. We became aware that it might never again be exactly the same as it was at that moment. Changes might be subtle, even unnoticeable – but it will never be quite as it was for us.

'The defects shout at one from all parts of the structure! Faults are human; they are ourselves, our daily lives. What matters is to go further, to live, to be intense, to aim high, and to be loyal,' wrote Le Corbusier in his *Oeuvre Complète 1946-52*. La Tourette is rich and considered in detail, but this is not the polished and machined aesthetic of Corbusier's earlier works.

Perhaps it is this aspect of the building that visitors find most surprisingly beguiling, that quality of the roughly handmade; the touch of man on the building that leaves a trace. In an essay in 1977, Martin Purdy associated this aspect specifically with Le Corbusier's religious structures: 'The man-made image of imperfection appears to be the conscious choice of expression.'

There is evidence that the tight budget available for construction was one of those aspects that attracted Le Corbusier. He chose to emphasise as a positive those difficulties presented by financial restrictions, seeking to make an architecture that (as Alberto Pérez-Gómez says) 'revealed the potential spirituality of the technological world' through its *béton brut* approach to materiality. A letter in July 1953 from Father Couturier, the Dominican friar who acted as client for the monastery, states: 'I know, in advance, that in its poverty, it will be one of the purest and most important works of our time.'

We had warned the students that the quality of workmanship and materials used in the building is almost shocking, that it isn't comfortable, clean or polished. Services are not concealed, details are brutal, and few concessions to comfort have been made. The monastery was described by Colin Rowe as 'positive in its negation of compromise... a gymnasium for spiritual athletes' and indeed it is stripped of all superfluous decoration beyond the patterns of light and texture. Materials



2. The west face of La Tourette, scaffolded for the current renovation

and finishes appear almost defiantly poor. Perhaps our experience was conditioned by the blinding sunlight which highlighted those imperfections and made them appear rich, complex and often beautiful; in driving rain we might not have been so romantic.

This most problematic aspect of La Tourette is possibly also its most fragile – though it might seem strange to describe that massive, brutish concrete as fragile. It is the concrete which demands most attention, in that it's decaying, but it was meant to age and weather over time, which creates a certain beauty. In his text 'The Lamp of Memory', Ruskin says: 'It is in that golden stain of time that we are to look for the real light, and colour, and preciousness of architecture.' Ruskin was no doubt envisaging buildings of far greater age than La Tourette – he describes walls 'long washed by the passing waves of humanity' – but his argument still holds true for this Modern masterpiece.

Both students and staff felt privileged to be at La Tourette: to visit while it retains at least the vestiges of its purpose; to be able to stay in the building and be on our own in some of the most influential architectural spaces created in the post-war period; and to have seen those spaces at precisely the moment we did.

So what will La Tourette be when the renovation is complete? There's certainly a need to redress ad hoc repairs, some surprisingly heavy-handed, which have been carried out over the years. But it will be a major task to bring the building up to the standards required for a residential centre. When we visited, it was thought that one consequence might be the introduction of fire doors into the upper corridor spaces – an intrusion which would destroy the proportions, continuity and character of the spaces. Happily the argument against that has now been won.

Another suggestion at the time of our visit was that the refectory windows, with their distinctive *ondulatoires*, might be double-glazed. These windows are perhaps the single most recognisable image of La Tourette, but photographs cannot capture the subtlety of detail, the tactile dimension, and the quality of light and shadow they produce – that 'Xenakis-drawn music of the shadow-strewn ramps', as Steven Holl describes it.

First developed by Le Corbusier and Xenakis at La Tourette, these *ondulatoires* were subsequently used in later projects in France, North America and Chandigarh. Here in the monastery's refectory they frame the landscape to the west and create a pattern of striped shadows across the space which maps the progress of the day. Single planes of glass are puttied directly between the concrete verticals. The mastic shows the finger marks of those who installed them; the concrete mullions are chipped and polished by the innumerable hands that have touched them.

Double glazing the panels would not be possible without fundamentally changing the character of the space. The concern is not only the precise nature of the relationship between concrete and glass (which would be lost through the introduction of a frame, however slender); it's the unrecordable quality of reflections and shadows which bounce around the space and appear unexpectedly on the wall of the cloister outside. Fortunately Repellin agrees –



3.

 Works on the roof terrace include the installation of new concrete paving
 Weathering and staining of the concrete

the glazing in the refectory is being replaced with 6mm safety glass, not double-glazed units.

La Tourette is however, comparable to one huge coldbridge. The Dominicans can no longer afford (financially or ethically) to fire the huge boiler 24 hours a day during the winter; conversely, the spaces on the west of the building become practically unusable in summer. In his 1977 essay, Purdy wrote that La Tourette 'should have been double glazed' and that this omission, together with the poor quality of materials and workmanship, was largely a result of severe budget cuts once construction had begun, going beyond the financial limitations that Corbusier himself revelled in. The building is also in clear need of repair. Water cannot be allowed to continue to seep through the concrete, and areas of the insulation to the undercroft have deteriorated badly .

And attempting to avoid change would be to miss the point. The imminent restoration/renovation became the primary topic of conversation at every meal, with one student pointing out that 'this place teaches you that buildings have a life beyond their creators'. What fascinated him was the process of gradual change, seen both in the relationship between the building and its natural context – the places where it was being subsumed by moss and ivy, the cracks and fissures – and between the building and its inhabitants – the pencilled nameplates on the cell doors, the marks left by the cleaner's cloth. La Tourette is not yet wholly a museum, and to preserve it in aspic is to deny it a life; here I must agree with Pérez-Gómez that 'the building is emphatically not an aesthetic object; it must be used'.

Indeed, the works to the fabric will incorporate changes that the resident monks have themselves requested: a small number of the cells will be joined two-into-one, in order to provide an office as well as a bedroom. This may not be the clear, simple logic of minimal linear space which Le Corbusier initially intended, but future residents will not be young novices studying for a defined period of time.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of restoration, it is clear that this is a building which cannot simply be allowed to crumble to a picturesque ruin. But its quality relies upon its rough, raw imperfections as well as on its proportions. It embodies an attitude to detail which celebrates flaws and delights in scuff-marks and chipped edges. It is not pristine, neat, ordered and tidy; it is a difficult building which has been affected (I would say enhanced) by the evident passing of time. To clean it too much would be to lose an essential element of what makes it La Tourette.

There is a place in the crypt chapel where moisture is leaching through the concrete surrounding the skylights, the so-called 'light cannons'. In the reflected blue light of the crypt, the salt deposits splattering the concrete surface have created a rich pattern of colour and texture.

While the skylight must, of course, be stabilised and repaired, I can't help hoping that the architect chooses to leave this stunning natural Rothko where it is.





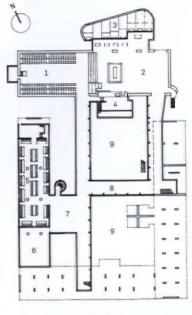


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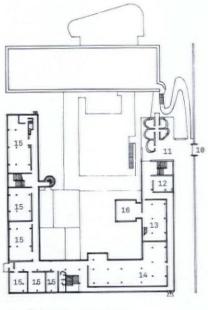
5.

5. The roof terrace in 1995, with its original grass surface

6. Aerial view with the church and crypt chapel in foreground

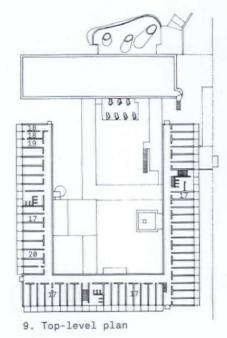






8. Entry-level plan

KEI	r -	
1	MONKS' CHURCH	11 PARLOUR
2	LAY CHURCH	12 LAY BROTHERS' COMMON ROOM
3	CRYPT CHAPEL	13 NOVICES' COMMON ROOM
4	SACRISTY	
5	REFECTORY	15 LECTURE ROOMS AND COMMON ROOMS
6	CHAPTER HOUSE	16 ORATORY
7	ATRIUM	17 NOVICES' CELLS
8	CLOISTER	18 SICK BAY
9	COURT	19 NURSE
10	GATE	20 VISITORS





10. Electrical and heating systems are being upgraded



11. A few of the monks' cells are being combined two-into-one to create an office and bedroom



12. Detail of monk's cell and a glimpse of the view which La Tourette commands

ARCHITECT'S ACCOUNT

Since its construction, there has been no concerted restoration of the monastery of La Tourette. Tasks such as installing a lift, insulating windows, or renovating the monks' cells, have been dealt with on an ad hoc basis, according to the occupants' needs. Since the building was classified as a historic monument in 1979, the main works have comprised repairs to the terraces, most recently in 1998. In 1987, a revolving steel main door was set in the church, according to Le Corbusier's drawings. J G Mortamet, chief architect of historic buildings, also created a main door on the north of the church in 1993, pews and stalls in 1995 and a new kitchen in 1997. Sanitary installations were renewed in 2001 under my supervision, and in 2002 I undertook a preliminary study for a general restoration and development of the monastery. Now this general restoration has begun, dealing initially with the whole west wing and with fire security in the two other wings, south and east. The works involve: · restoring the concrete. Its reinforcement, situated quite close to the surface, is exposed and rusting in places, both on the parapets of the terraces and on the facades generally;

- making the terraces watertight;
- restoring woodwork and glazing (using STADIP 6mm glass);
- · installing firebreak doors; and
- normalising electrical distribution and heating.

This undertaking is a first stage, which should be completed in 2008, and will be followed by the restoration of the other wings and the church as funds allow. This restoration is particularly difficult because we are dealing with a 20th-century building. Do we want to keep the monastery exactly as it was originally or discreetly adapt it so that we can go on using it? If the latter, how do we incorporate the necessary provision for security, fire, services, etc, without distorting the spirit of this work? The architectural interest and universal influence of La Tourette demand that all means be spent to resolve these problems, so that using and occupying it become easier, while respecting the spirit and consistency of the building conceived by Le Corbusier.

Didier Repellin, chief architect of historic monuments, Lyon



13. The now empty refectory, where all the glazing is being replaced



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TECHNICAL & PRACTICE / UPDATE





 Denbighshire Record Office in Ruthin, Wales, was converted from a former jail (Books)

2. The RIBA's take on the new CDM Regulations (Books)

THIS WEEK ONLINE

· Concrete is the latest topic to be added to our materials section, with links to a wealth of resources. The technology is changing fast and, with the sustainability agenda, its environmental credentials are the subject of debate. In particular, great claims are made for it as a way of enhancing thermal mass. See our collection of resources and concrete buildings at www.ajplus. co.uk/materials

TECHNICAL NEWS

· Want to get back into architecture after a career break? New in September, the **RIBA/London** Metropolitan University Returners' Course is aimed at qualified architects who have taken a break from the profession. ASD Projects, an architectural consultancy unit at London Met's Department of Architecture and Spatial Design, will manage the course. Developed partly in response to research by the RIBA/ University of the West of England into why women leave architecture, the course will have strong links with architectural practices and the construction industry, and will include a live case study as a way for students to understand current procurement and building processes. The course is intended to provide skills and build confidence, as well as a peer group to support graduates returning to work. Log on to www.riba-cpd.com or email a.markey@londonmet.ac.uk

TECHNICAL EVENTS

Scratching the Surface: Peabody Housing Cany Ash of Ash Sakula 18 July, 8.30-9.30am Free, booking required www.newlondonarchitecture. org/talks

Building Regulations Update (including Code for Sustainable Homes and Energy Performacne Certificates) **18 July, 1.30-4.45pm** RIBA South, Oxford amanda.hockley@inst.riba.org

Monitoring Progress and Managing Time on Projects 19 July, 1.15-5.00pm Cambridge jayne.ransom@inst.riba.org

Selling Design, Communicating and Presenting Effectively 26 July, 1.30-5.00pm Santa Raymond Consultants, Birmingham sue.spencer@inst.riba.org

BOOKS

Archive Buildings in the United Kingdom 1993-2005 Christopher Kitching Phillimore & Co, 2007, £17.95 A sequel to an earlier volume (1977-1992), this book by the former secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts surveys the key issues of archive buildings: developing a brief, security, fire-prevention, environmental control, etc. 35 short case studies provide a brief overview of the surprising diversity of this specialised building type.

Design Risk Management: Advice for Designers on the Implications of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 Association for Project Safety, edited by Nick Charlton Smith, RIBA Publishing, 2007, £40 Best-practice advice for architects on designers' duties, presented in simple language and a straightforward layout.

TECHNICAL & PRACTICE



A FACADE CLAD IN EXCEL DATA AND WRAPPED IN A SPREADSHEET

By Andy Macintosh, Richard Priest and Alex Whitbread



1. Computer-generated elevation in context

 Sketch model (1:500) with Excel spreadsheets applied as facades

A new academic complex for Leeds Metropolitan University gave Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects the opportunity to use computational modelling to optimise the building's facade design and even out daylight levels.

Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects' new academic complex for Leeds Metropolitan University, which will provide 10,000m² of offices and teaching spaces for four departments, including architecture, was conceived as a solid landscape form, drawing on Yorkshire's rich geological heritage. The scheme, which was granted planning permission in March 2007, also includes a new Baptist church, a café and exhibition space, and 240 student bedrooms/studios. These will be organised in two buildings of irregular massing and varying heights, ranging from three storeys adjacent to low-rise listed buildings to a maximum of 23 storeys. Rainscreen cladding of Cor-ten steel was selected as a solid, sculptural and weathering material, punctured by cascading glazing inspired by water flowing through a rock formation.

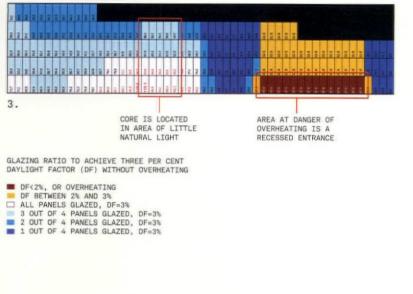
Early facade studies – using randomised, full-height glazing panels of varying width – explored the use of more glazing at the lower levels and progressively less transparency higher up. This was because upper storeys typically have greater access to light and so need less glazing, whereas lower levels, with more overshadowing from nearby buildings, need more glazing to achieve an equally bright interior. For ease of construction and to reduce costs, the cladding was rationalised to a grid of 1.5m-wide panels, and the facade design was developed through a process of iterative computer optimisation by modelling overshadowing and solar orientation on each building elevation. This computational modelling allowed us to test and quantify our design intuition and develop the design accordingly.

Light levels were compared on the basis of 'average daylight factor'. Recommendations vary, but less than 2 per cent is likely to require artificial lighting and 5 per cent is generally perceived as very well lit. For the Leeds academic complex, a target of 3 per cent was agreed in order to provide adequate natural light, avoid overheating and maintain the desired solidity of the exterior.

An initial analysis of the amount of glazing needed on different floors and in different facades to achieve the 3 per cent average daylight factor showed that there was more variation horizontally around the building than there was vertically. The vertical gradation in the percentage of glazing needed was only evident on areas of the facade in close proximity to other buildings. Since the team was keen to progress the facade design on this basis, detailed data on overshadowing was commissioned from the BRE. This gave us a 'theta' value (a measure of the area of sky a window can receive light from) for every 1.5m module on every floor of the building, from which it was possible to calculate the optimum percentage of glazing for that module. This data was colour coded and applied as a scaled facade to a 1:500 model.

Overheating and orientation were studied in a similar modelling exercise. For the Leeds area, Part L recommends limiting heat gains to 41W/m² of floor area, counting only floor area

FINAL GLAZING RATIO



a. COMPUTER-GENERATED FACADE
b. COMPUTER-GENERATED FACADE
c. MANUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE CORES, ENTRANCES ETC.
c. MANUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE CORES, ENTRANCES ETC.
c. FINAL FACADE

A FINAL GLAZING RATTO

4

3. Spreadsheet showing the final glazing ratio as a composite of glazing required to achieve the 3 per cent average daylight factor

4. Development of the facade from spreadsheet to finished elevation

within 6m of the facade. An assumption of 21 W/m^2 for internal gains left a maximum of 20 W/m^2 for solar gain. This detailed data was again converted into a coloured spreadsheet 'facade'. Comparison of the two sets of data showed that substantial areas of the building would be subject to overheating to achieve the desired daylight factor. The use of solar glazing – which transmits only about 40 per cent of solar gain compared to 70 per cent for typical double glazing – meant that it was possible to keep the required glazing around most of the building.

All calculations and analyses for the modelling were performed using Excel spreadsheets. With in-house computing expertise, this hard data was converted into a facade design using a Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) program within Excel. VBA was preferable to a standalone application, which would have required more extensive programming and might never have been used on another project. The VBA program could also be imported easily into Microstation, our primary CAD package.

The algorithm itself is a set of recursive conditional statements, making weighted decisions based on the numerical daylighting analysis and its design, at its current iteration. The user can define the way the algorithm responds to changing design requirements, using variables. The facade was divided into groups of four 1.5m modules. Each group was averaged to determine the amount of glazing required and assigned a number of glazed panels accordingly, which were randomly placed by the program. The randomised placing was then refined for aesthetic reasons, because the intention was that the Cor-ten – denser at the top of the building – would appear as if it were being weathered, thinning out as it came closer to the ground. The algorithm arranged the solid and glazed modules based on the surrounding panels, so that the probability of placing solid panels below or diagonally below other solid panels was increased. This created links between the solid panels at the top of the facade and those further down, giving the appearance of a 'cascade' of glazing down the facade. This was executed with a single button in Excel, meaning that many options could be created rapidly. Although it would have been possible to link the algorithm within Excel directly to Microstation to initiate the drawing, this was quick to achieve manually and time pressure meant that we opted for the safer route.

As a progression of these ideas, we have used radiosity renderer Maxwell to simulate the amount of daylight illuminating the proposed facades on another project. Renderings were made throughout a 24-hour period during summer and winter solstices, effectively giving a year-round analysis. A standalone program was then built to analyse the brightness of these renderings. The results replicated the daylighting analysis provided by the BRE for the Leeds academic complex, indicating a way forward for this type of analysis in-house, and bypassing many of the sums.

Andy Macintosh, Richard Priest and Alex Whitbread are, respectively, architectural assistant, architectural software engineer and partner at Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects.

WEBWATCH / LEGAL



SECOND LIFE: A VIRTUAL WORLD OF McMANSIONS

Virtual Internet world Second Life was billed as a major feature of the recent Architecture Week. I remained loftily uninterested, partly from laziness and fear of having to listen to a lot of selfindulgent rant, and partly from serious early disillusionment.

Getting involved in Second Life requires a total suspension of belief in all you ever believed about design, because, aiming for a global audience, Second Life has gone for a very low quality of detail. It's crude, clunky, early Lara Croft. As it's orthogonal, it's fine for pure Miesians, crap for curvy Zahaists.

Take a peep at the movie 'Mies on Architecture Island' athttp://tinyurl.com/ 21y3na. A black soutaneclad figure leads you to a representation of the Farnsworth House and then shows you around its interior. Fine. But dive into Second Life itself and it's the usual old dross - rather like what Jackie Craven at About.com calls the architecture of McMansion: 'large, showy Neo-eclectic... built without the guidance of an architect, with poorly proportioned and placed windows and doors ... quickly constructed using mix-andmatch details from a builder's catalog'(http://tinyurl. com/2cnlq8). Second Life architecture exactly. sutherland.lyall@btinternet.com

LAD CULTURE

Regular readers of this column will know that Liquidated and Ascertained Damages (LAD) are a good thing, writes *Kim Franklin*. The alternative to agreeing a liquidated, or fixed, sum payable for late completion is calculating the actual losses for delay – known as general (or unliquidated) damages.

If your development has a commercial use, demonstrating the rental income or profit you have lost while you waited for completion is a relatively straightforward business. The loss of use of a domestic building can be measured against the cost of providing alternative accommodation. But if the project was a nonprofit-earning venture, for example new municipal offices, demonstrating actual losses is no fun at all, believe me.

Nevertheless, some people remain to be convinced. They don't like the sound of liquidated damages, believing them to be a penalty payable for late completion irrespective of the cause of the delay. Although most standard forms provide for liquidated damages at the rate of '£x per week', it is not unknown for these provisions in the appendix to be crossed out, ignoring the fact that the body of the contract still provides for damages for delay. When the project subsequently overruns and the employer wants to recoup its delay-related losses, it is a moot

point as to whether it can claim its actual losses instead. In *Temloc v Errill Properties* (1987), the parties famously agreed that LAD should be ' \pounds nil'. The appeal court decided that the parties had made an 'exhaustive agreement' as to what damages were, or in this case were not, payable for the delay. The employer was precluded from claiming its actual delay-related losses. It had agreed 'nil' and would get nothing.

These issues arose in the case of *Chattan Developments* v Reigill Civil Engineering Contractors (Judgment 15.02.07). Chattan engaged Reigill for the construction of 14 homes in Trawden, Lancashire.

The parties agreed orally that the standard contractual LAD clause would not apply. When the project was delayed, Chattan claimed general damages of over £300,000. Reigill argued that the exclusion of the liquidated damages clause precluded Chattan from claiming any losses for delay.

The arbitrator agreed that while it was a surprising thing for Chattan to give up its right to damages, the site had been bedevilled by delay before Reigill's involvement and more delays were expected. There were therefore sound commercial reasons to agree to Reigill's terms rather than waste yet more time finding another contractor. He concluded it was more likely that the parties intended there would be no right to damages at all for late completion rather than leave open a claim for unliquidated damages. He found that the exclusion of liquidated damages from the contract prevented Chattan from recovering any delay damages at all. The appeal judge agreed that the LAD provisions eclipsed all other delay damages.

If you really want to scrap LAD, but still claim actual losses, make sure your contract is in writing and that all references to liquidated damages are expunged.

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







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REVIEW





2.

1. Ash Sakula's Peabody Trust Housing

2. Mangera Yvars' Gellatly Road house

EXHIBITION By Jaffer Kolb

Scratching the Surface: New London Facades by London Architects At New London Architecture, 26 Store Street, London WC1, until 1 September

With the rise of parametric modelling in architecture and use of new materials, now is an exciting time for facades – a moment appropriately explored by 'Scratching the Surface'. Unfortunately the exhibition does just that: while several of the 24 projects included have dynamic and imaginative envelopes, the exhibition suffers from lazy curation and a considerable lack of depth.

Each project is mounted on poster-board and affixed with screws to a clear, undulating plastic surface; itself a rather unsubtle facade over the white wall behind. Drawings, renderings and text describe the projects, elaborating on design and construction challenges. Mockups provided by the curators give the materials a tactile, three-dimensional quality. The projects vary greatly in both size and visibility. Some, like the Richard Desmond Children's Eye Centre, by Penoyre & Prasad, are both high-profile and well-published (AJ 26.04.07); others more discreet. Several of the featured facades demonstrate the latest technologies and (sometimes literally) brilliant new materials, and in so doing distinguish themselves from their surroundings.

Ash Sakula Architects' Peabody Trust Housing in Silvertown, for example, employs transparent GRP sheets over silver reflective breather membranes to form a lightweight, rainproof surfacing that is both visually stimulating and inexpensive. Likewise, in the Gellatly Road house in Lewisham, Mangera Yvars Architects has designed a fractal cladding structure that is geometric and complex.

Other projects more strongly connect with local context and carry less bang. Buildings such as Stephen Taylor Architects' three small houses on Chance Street are surfaced in glazed bricks, with explicit regard to neighbourhood vernacular. Similarly, muf used an innovative mathematical generation process to determine patterns in the bricks for its Lowe Building in Haggerston, creating surfaces that orient the building to its placement between a street and canal while maintaining a relationship to its surroundings.

Particularly delightful in the exhibition are the mockups, models and drawings that explain the designers' thought processes. In the Clapham Manor School, abstract diagrams of the exterior panelling help demonstrate the care with which dRMM approached colour maps. A sample of the charred wood for DSDHA's Potters Fields kiosks in Southwark is necessary for viewers to experience their oily black richness.

Despite the inclusion of such helpful artefacts, the curation of the exhibition feels haphazard. Though the projects could easily have been organised by building type or dominant material, they're instead ordered alphabetically by architect. Ultimately, the title of the exhibition seems more an apology than a clever play on words. Happily the accompanying book (Springer, 304pp, $\pounds 20$) has a substance that the show itself lacks.

Jaffer Kolb is a writer in London

EXHIBITION

By Sutherland Lyall

Zaha Hadid: Architecture and Design At the Design Museum, Shad Thames, London SE1, until 25 November

There's a continuity in the Design Museum staging its Zaha Hadid show straight after its Luigi Colani exhibition. Colani is the master of organic, large-scale industrial design, his free-flowing, organic, (possibly) aerodynamic forms envelop vehicles for air, sea and land. You are particularly reminded of this (perhaps serendipitous) connection by Hadid's threewheel hydrogen-fuelled Z Car for London art gallery owner Kenny Schachter.

It sits on the top floor of this show along with other Zaha things (a cutlery set, door handles, shapes to lounge on) and, in the brightly lit space overlooking the Thames, two rows of perspex-boxed models of buildings. The car's parallel in the Colani show was a twoperson city runabout of roughly similar size, but that was

cheerful - where, if it's possible for a car to represent emotion, Hadid's broods.

On the floor below, though, everything is brooding. The whole of the second-floor gallery, now revealed as a huge, high black box, is gloomily lit: much of the ambient light reflected from the changing images projected on a 30mlong side wall. Down the middle is a giant amorphous Hadid shape dividing the space roughly into two and lying, as you might expect, slightly aslant the orthogons.

And greeting you is that entrancing Swarm chandelier for Established & Sons, made from some 1,000 nylon monofilaments weighted by small dark crystals, grouped to create an enigmatic Hadid form suspended in the space you're about to explore.

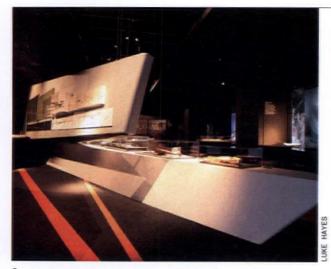
You have to go round the exhibition clockwise from the entrance - and you have to read the labels. Someone new to Zaha, whom I met at the show, complained of the irrelevance to the client of the giant abstractions of The Peak competition paintings. But if theu'd gone round the right way, before the painterly abstractions they would have seen the conventional model and the plans and sections that persuaded the client that Hadid should be the winner.

Admittedly, the very first images in the show are also abstractions, without accompanying drawings, but you can't include everything. The point is that, like her old AA contemporary Will Alsop, Hadid uses painting as a means for getting to the heart of her various projects.

For puritan England there is more than something of the night about that approach to architecture. And there is no way of ignoring the genuine distaste with which a lot of architects view Hadid's work - along with Alsop's, Libeskind's, Tschumi's, Koolhaas', and those other participants in that extraordinary 1970s ferment brewed by chairman Alvin Boyarsky at the AA. Judging by negative comments on the exhibition's blog, there's clearly visceral feeling about her out there.

More considered is the argument that if you look at, say, that old Expressionist, Hans Scharoun, you get the dynamism and the extraordinary spaces without any part of the building becoming unusable - whereas Hadid is profligate with





2.

1 & 2. The exhibition installation on the second floor of the Design Museum

unusable space. I suppose the response to that is that if clients are happy to 'waste' space in the Hadid fashion, so what?

Then, with her Opus Building in Dubai, she goes and designs a perfectly orthogonal commercial office building – except that she blasts an ugly molten hole right through the middle of its main elevation.

So ugly is the other issue with Hadid's forms. It should be said that there is often a distinct difference between the model, however accurate, and the reality. Take the Phaeno Science Centre, Wolfsburg, whose qualities the lumpy shape under the perspex can't possibly convey. But, so the argument goes, the faults with Hadid's forms is that they erupt from the turmoil of her imagination, which is why they are often brooding and heavy. Some used to say unbuildable as well, but her favourite engineers, Adams Kara Taylor and Arup, have shown that's not so. And even if you don't respond to every Hadid shape here, she has not joined those 'blobbists' who – as Colani did with his streamlining – maintain that their forms are simply the result of rational computergenerated processes and not some ecstatic inner vision.

Moreover, when you exit the Design Museum and see the architectural dross across the river, an ecstatic inner vision doesn't seem a bad thing.



CRITIC'S CHOICE

By Andrew Mead

After a dire period in the 1980s and 1990s, when it was disfigured by the progeny of Philip Johnson's AT&T building, New York is again a destination for new architecture. One promising project in the current construction boom is on the Bowery: a seven-storey stack of slab-like volumes clad in zinc-plated steel, home for the city's New Museum of Contemporary Art (www.newmuseum.org). Its architect is SANAA: the Japanese practice headed by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, which last year completed its first European building – the Zollverein School of Management Design at Essen, Germany, an erratically perforated concrete cube.

SANAA's increasingly high profile is reflected in two new books – both intriguing and often beautiful, but raising as many questions as they answer. Walter Niedermayr/Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA (Hatje Cantz, \pounds 30) features images of selected SANAA projects by Italian photographer Niedermayr, alongside a sample of his other work. Niedermayr is known for his panoramas of snowy Alpine landscapes, almost whiter than white, with skiers shrinking to tiny dots of colour in the distance. His SANAA photos tend to be similarly ethereal, uniting the buildin gs in a luminous white weightless world; the title of Milan Kundera's novel, The Unbearable Lightness of Being, suits them perfectly.

But in some shots you can't even be sure what materials you are looking at, let alone get a sense of inhabitation. The second book, *Houses: SANAA* (Actar, £24), although profiting from a number of detail drawings, doesn't really help. 'I think European people could not live in it. I also think some normal Japanese people could not live in it,' says Sejima of the House in a Plum Grove; you want to hear more. And while the photographs are not so rarefied as Niedermayr's, they still tend to idealise SANAA's buildings – an aestheticisation which the practice, for all its refinement and intelligence, seems to endorse.

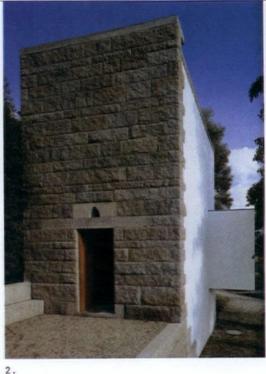
People barely cast a shadow in SANAA's books. But a new show in *Stanton Williams*' gallery at Compton Verney, Warwickshire, takes *The Shadow* as its theme, with quite a strong cast of participants (www.comptonverney.org.uk). For forthcoming events visit www.ajplus.co.uk/diary



1.

BOOK By Kenneth Powell

Contemporary Church Architecture By Edwin Heathcote and Laura Moffatt. Wiley-Academy, 2007. 237pp. £45.00



Jensen & Skodvin's church at Mortensrud
 Siza's Santo Ovidio Estate Chapel, Douro

This is a curious book - in fact really two books inside a single cover. The first 70 pages contain a highly competent and well-informed essay by Edwin Heathcote on the 20th-century church. Although broadly conventional in its approach, Heathcote's text is judicious and remarkablu comprehensive. It roots the story of Modern church design firmly in the 19th century, with proper regard to the innovations, especially in the use of iron construction, achieved in France at the end of the century.

Ian Nairn, 1960s architecture critic, compared Zacharie Astruc's Notre Dame du Travail in Paris, completed in 1901, to a train-shed – it is a building that could not have been constructed in late-Victorian England. Yet, as Heathcote points out, it was the English Arts and Crafts architect W R Lethaby who looked forward to a time when ornament 'will disappear from our architecture, as it has from our machinery'. In tune with Arts and Crafts thinking, the National Romantic movement in Europe produced some of the best churches of the early 20th century - not only in Scandinavia but in the former Hapsburg empire, with Hungary well represented here for once, alongside the work of Otto Wagner and Jože Plečnik.

Heathcote writes vividly, describing Gaudí's Sagrada Família, a potent symbol of Catalan identity, as resembling 'from some angles... the sticky mess of chewing gum on a shoe straining to stretch between the sole and the earth'. His understanding of the Liturgical Movement, which gradually reshaped the face of church architecture, is sound – he recognises that modernity in church design is not simply a matter of style.

The later work of church specialist Ninian Comper focused on the centrality of the altar, but it was in Germany that the fusion of architecture and liturgy achieved its most creative phase in the work of those great, and here too littleknown, architects Dominikus Böhm and Rudolf Schwarz. 'It is only out of sacred reality that sacred building can grow,' said Schwarz. It was Böhm's son Gottfried who created one of the greatest post-war churches at Neviges near Düsseldorf.

In the second part of the book, Laura Moffatt describes 28 church buildings of the past decade or so. Few are parish churches. Some, like Tony Fretton's Faith House, are not churches in any normal sense of the word. They range in scale from Niall McLaughlin's tiny chapel for the Carmelite fathers in Kensington to Renzo Piano's pilgrimage church at San Giovanni Rotondo in Puglia, and Rafael Moneo's cathedral in Los Angeles. Most are reasonably well-known. The church at Mortensrud, near Oslo, by Jensen & Skodvin, was a discovery for me, though its qualities are poorly evoked by Moffatt's rather bland writing. The bibliography is so thin as to be worthless, while the text is printed densely, using a tiny font size I found trying.

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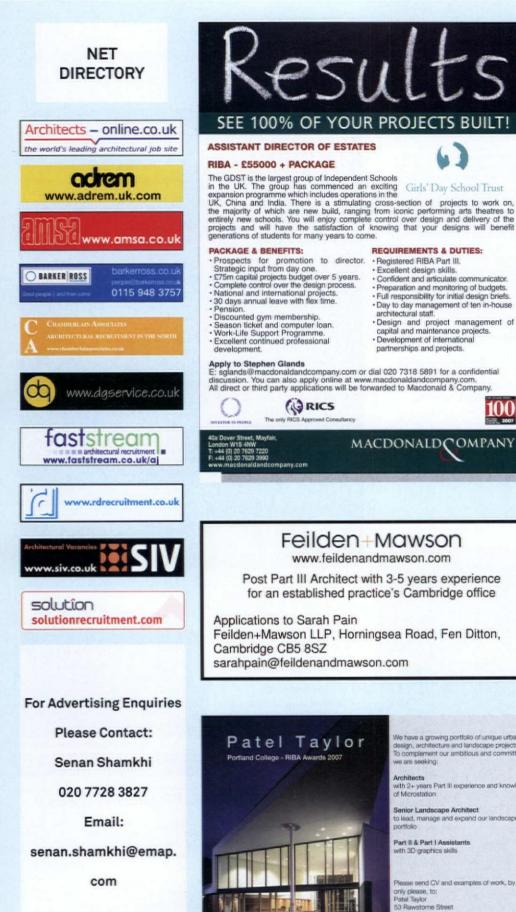


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Salary – circa £60k pa plus benefits LONDON SW1P

We are looking for an experienced and talented individual to join our team at our Head Office in Westminster in the newly created position of Design Manager / Architect.

City Inn is a fast growing independent brand of modern, stylish, city centre hotels. All our properties are new builds and having opened our first property in Bristol in 1999, we now have a portfolio of 5 hotels with the most recent City Inn opening in Manchester in June 2007. Our City Inn Westminster property, with 460 rooms, was London's biggest new build hotel in 30 years and has won a number of awards since it opened in 2003: Architectural Award for Best New Hotel at the European Hotel Design Awards 2003, Best New Hotel at the International Hotel Investment Forum 2004, RIBA Award 2004, The Concrete Society Awards 2004 and the Civic Trust in 2004.

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We have ambitious growth plans throughout Europe and each new hotel will be an internationally significant major landmark project. This is an excellent opportunity for someone looking to progress their career and looking for an exciting in house opportunity.

For further information about City Inn please log on to www.cityinn.com and to apply please forward your CV, covering letter, work examples and current salary package to: cityinn.recruit@cityinn.com.



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For an informal discussion, please contact Andrew Rolfe, Architectural Consultancy Manager, on 01282 477144 or Farida Ahmed, Head of Property Consultancy on 01282 477290.

For an application pack, please ring 01282 477289 (answerphone), leaving your name, address and details of the post, quoting ref: 3639. Alternatively, apply on-line at www.burnley.gov.uk

Closing date: 27 July 2007.

Interviews: 17 August 2007.

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(1 FTE or 2 x 0.5 FTE posts)

Ref: FAS/LSL/ARCH/AD/AJ

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PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

Street Scene Enhancement Officer Up to £35,990 pa (subject to review) 2 years temporary contract

A vacancy has arisen for a Street Scene Enhancement Officer in the City of London's award winning Planning and Transportation Department's Street Scene Enhancement Team. The role involves, identifying opportunities, negotiating and consulting on enhancement proposals, including the City's Street Scene Challenge initiative, Section 106 related schemes as well as other major capital street improvement projects.

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For an application pack please contact the Corporate Recruitment Unit on 020 7332 3978 (24 hour answerphone) or email cru@cityoflondon.gov.uk quoting reference number PLN034. Alternatively, apply online at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/jobs. Minicom service for the hearing impaired available on 020 7332 3179.

Closing date: 4pm, 31 July 2007. Interview date: 15 August 2007.



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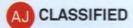
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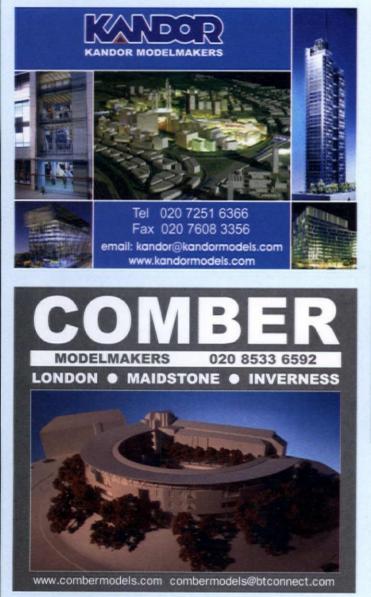


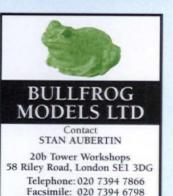


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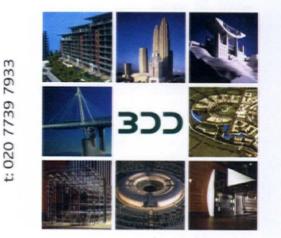




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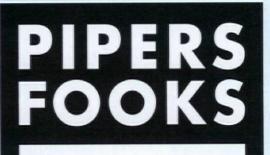
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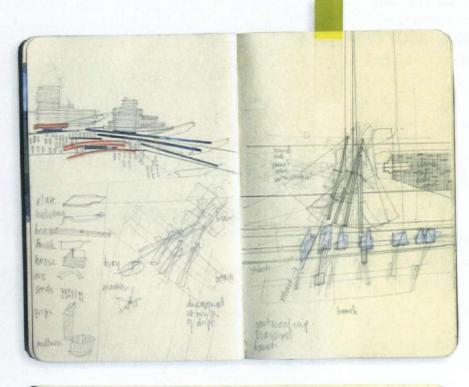
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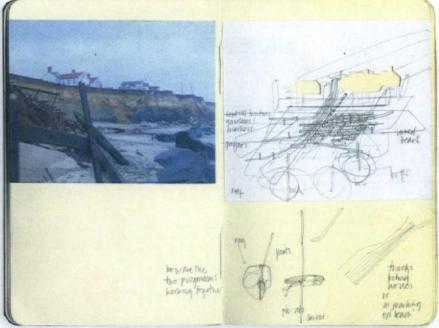
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SKETCHBOOK / LAURA ALLEN





Concept sketch for Retreating Village, a research project on the design challenges posed by coastal collapse, based in Happisburgh, north Norfolk. Drawn in preparation for Smout Allen's book Augmented Landscapes, published in May 2007. By Laura Allen of Smout Allen AJ PRODUCTS

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CORUS



AJ ENQUIRY 201

Kembrey Business Park, Swindon, has been clad using premium products from Corus. Colorcoat HPS200 and Colorcoat Prisma prefinished steel were specified as part of a Corus Panels and Profiles cladding system. Thorpe Wheatley Architects chose the products for their quality and longevity.

METAL TECHNOLOGY



KINGSPAN OFFSITE

AJ ENQUIRY 202

A hub for bioscientists and entrepreneurs, the five-storey £6.9 million Bioincubator at the University of Sheffield has two Metal Technology curtainwalling systems: System 17 High Rise and Silicone Pointed. The Bioincubator was designed by architect Bond Bryan with main contractor Kier.

CLAXTON BLINDS



AJ ENQUIRY 203

Claxton Blinds is one of the leading commercial windowblind companies in the UK, specialising in interior window projects for any requirement. Notable projects include Tower 42, the Canary Wharf Tower and the Citigroup Tower. For more information visit www.claxton-blinds.com

AJ ENQUIRY 204 The Kingframe Architectural

Facade system was integral to rapid weather-proofing of the new science building at the University of Manchester. Unitised through-wall panels featured hot-rolled box sections to support ribbon windows, which complement the zincingot rainscreen finish.

WHEELABRATOR



AJ ENQUIRY 205

Wheelabrator Group has completed regeneration work at one of London's Metropolitan and Circle line underground stations. The station's stainlesssteel cladding now boasts a finish resistant to scratching, and has a potentially indefinite life-span thanks to Wheelabrator's finishing.

GOODING ALUMINIUM



AJ ENQUIRY 206

Gooding Aluminium's new 172page 'Let There be Aluminium' handbook is packed with newgeneration aluminium products, fixing solutions and materials, as well as photographic examples of built projects. Specifiers can apply now for their free copy at www. goodingalum.com

HÄFELE



AJ ENQUIRY 207

Sales of glass splashbacks and upstands for kitchens and bathrooms – and of larger one-off bespoke decorative panels – are taking off at Häfele with the launch of a new range of colours. A total of 16 shades contrasts and complements today's fashionable fascia colours.

WARD



AJ ENQUIRY 208

Ward Topdek, the all-in-one, insulated single-ply roofing system, has been installed on a prestigious five-star hotel project in Christchurch, Dorset. The development has an unusual angled footprint design – a roofing challenge that was solved using the style and versatility of Ward Topdek.

Efficiency

TS 3000 B: The slim cam closer

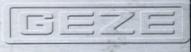
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