

# 26.10.06 HAWKINS BROWN/ CULVERIN COURT

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### ANYTHING THAT ADDS TO THE LIGHTNESS AND JOY OF BRIGHTON IS WELCOME

By Ruth Slavid

Developers are infamous for trying to keep lots of plates spinning in the air at once, but few as literally as developer Deltastar in Brighton, with the company causing dissension and confusion in the city by proposing a tower like a pile of tottering plates, designed in-house and eerily reminiscent of Danish practice 3XN's Nordhavnen Residences in Copenhagen (see page 9). Setting aside the important issues of plagiarism, this seems to be an extremely ill-conceived project, with its determined attempt to make a splash.

Not that far from Gehry's tower scheme for Hove, itself the subject of lengthy and ongoing controversy, this is another attempt at grandstanding. In contrast to Marks Barfield's i360 viewing platform, exactly the kind of attraction that the seaside needs, the tower of plates is just jammed into a street, yelling 'look at me'. Expensive to build, Deltastar's scheme will be predicated purely on the idea of generating

above-average sales prices. This is the last thing needed in a city that has a great deal of fine building – but which has also suffered a number of architectural insults.

Much of the construction along the seafront is horrific, its only virtue that it directs the offended eye out to sea, to enjoy the place's main attraction (always blanking out, of course, the ruined West Pier). But Brighton works, with its strange mixture of commuters, alternative householders and hen weekends. Anything that adds to the lightness and joy of the place is welcome, in the same way that Niall McLaughlin's bandstand enhanced Bexhill, and Ian McChesney's shelters adorn Blackpool (see pages 52-65). What Brighton does not want is bombast and derivative design. Developers should be careful not to destroy the delicate balance that makes such a fundamentally unusual place work. If they do, all those plates could come crashing to the ground.

#### CONTRIBUTORS



Austin Williams, who reviews Deyan Sudjic's study of Future Systems on page 79, is the writer and illustrator of NBS shortcuts and director of the Future Cities Project

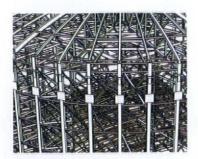


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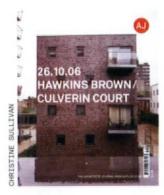


Matthew Teague, who interviews architects for the MetalWorks supplement on pages 35-66, is principal architect in the Corus Construction Centre

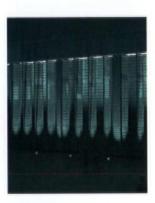
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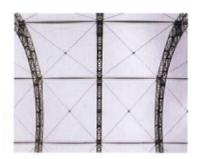
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- Page/Park Architects project architects
- · SLLB architectural assistant
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- Watson Batty architects

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#### THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

- Calls for Chippo's 'forgotten' Berlin scheme to get under way
- SMC Group, Britain's biggest practice, looks to global expansion
- Gehry's Hove scheme caught in yet another council row
- Watkins Gray continues Gateshead's renaissance

#### FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

- Scunthorpe picks sports academy designer (below)
- Huddersfield market hall could get new lease of life
- Another heritage watchdog springs up in Bath
- Student body campaigns for practices to sign up to minimum wage



#### MONDAY 23 OCTOBER

- Hackney to open new swimming pool despite shadow of Clissold
- Hemingway makes fresh call for 'family-friendly apartment' design
- Battersea developer wants new planning assent (see pages 14-15)
- Future of former English Heritage HQ, Fortress House, hangs in balance (right)

#### **TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER**

- No way out as Preston bus station faces wrecking ball
- Hackney housing scheme suffers 'tortuous' planning ordeal
- Chipperfield joins Meier and Piano with Atlanta commission (below)
- Government names 'growth points' for 100,000 new homes



#### WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER

- Unesco report forces deferral of Broadway Malyan Liverpool scheme
- Key conservation result for Foster revealed in New York
- Zaha forced into changes in Glasgow due to valueengineering pressures (left)
- Student design competition launched at London's Material Lab



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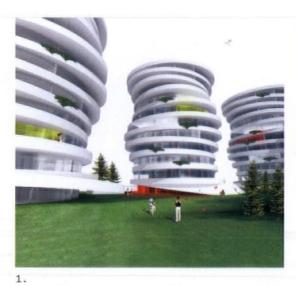
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2.

 3XN's 2004 competition design for Nordhavnen Residences
 Deltastar's design for Medina House, released earlier this month

### 'COPYCAT' ROW OVER HOVE TOWER

By Ed Dorrell and Richard Waite

An extraordinary state of affairs which has seen one practice dropped and another looking into issues of copyright infringement has broken out over a contentious site on the South Coast.

The debacle centres on the Medina House site in Hove, just along the seafront from Frank Gehry's King Alfred project, a plot which was being redeveloped until this week by John McAslan + Partners – before the practice was dropped by the developer.

And now, in a bizarre twist, this developer, property firm Deltastar, is facing potential accusations of copyright infringement by Danish giant 3XN after it released images of a concept scheme it claims to have drawn up in-house.

Amazingly, it seems that yet another big name from architecture is set to wade into the fiasco, with CZWG's Piers Gough reportedly interested in taking on the project from McAslan.

This is not the first time the site has been embroiled in controversy. Back in 2002 it was subject to a planning application drawn up by Lomax Cassidy & Edwards – also for Deltastar – which was suddenly pulled.

Following a design competition earlier this year McAslan was appointed for a fresh redevelopment attempt – but not for long.

Deltastar's Sirus Taghan told the AJ this week that they weren't satisfied with McAslan's work.

'We have put [McAslan] on hold,' he said. 'We weren't happy with the progress... they just weren't getting on with it. Also we thought they were not imaginative enough. They couldn't progress it and they couldn't take it forward.

'This new concept scheme that we've been publicising was drawn up in-house,' he added.

But Deltastar itself now appears to be in trouble – due to these concepts. 3XN's founding partner Kim Herforth Nielsen was surprised with what he saw as the likeness of the images published in Brighton's local press to one of his own projects.

'It resembles our Nordhavnen Residences towers [from 2004],' he said.

'It is really amateur-like. They've done it all wrong. They've put this amorphous freestanding tower in a position where it shouldn't be.'

Whereas 3XN's project is in an open space, Nielsen said

that 'this has put the tower in a dense urban street'.

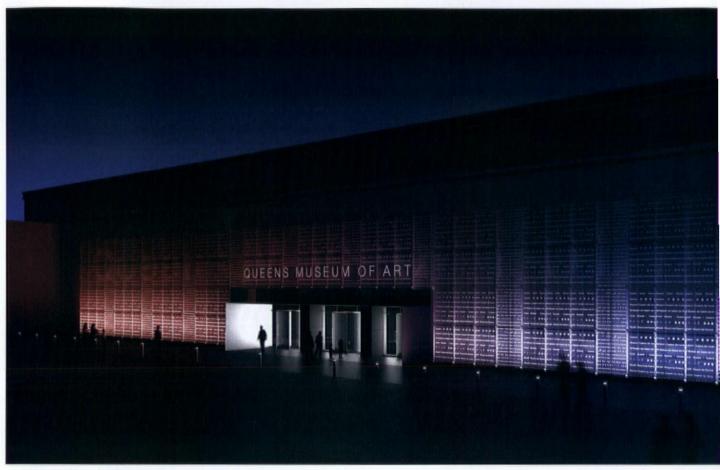
'We are looking into the copyright issues and thinking about legal proceedings.

'The whole thing makes me feel sad,' Nielsen added.

Unsurprisingly, McAslan's practice was not entering into a spat. Following a competition nine months ago John McAslan + Partners was selected to design a replacement building for the Medina House site in Hove, Brighton,' it said in a statement.

'The practice looked at various options but are no longer involved with the project,' the statement added.

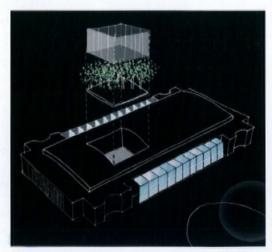
#### **NEWS IN PICTURES**



1.

#### GRIMSHAW'S NEW YORK ART SHOW

These are the first images of Grimshaw's proposals for the \$37 million (£19.7 million) revamp and expansion of the Queens Museum of Art (QMA) in New York. The practice saw off the likes of Rafael Viñoly and SOM to land the project, which will almost double the size of the museum in Flushing Meadows Corona Park to almost 9,760m2. The QMA shares its home, originally built for the World Trade Fair in 1939, with an ice rink, which will be moved to another part of the park. Grimshaw proposes to open up the space between these two halves and 'drop' in a large, hanging winter garden, which will be supported from the roof. Outside, there are plans to remove the unsympathetic 1960s additions and return the facade to its original 'colonnade'-style appearance. The west wall of the building, which can be lit up at night, will feature the name of the museum in 139 languages to 'reflect the diversity of the area'. By Richard Waite



2.





3.



4.

- 1 & 3. The western facade of the Queens Museum of Art will be inscribed with the name of the museum in 139 languages
- 2. A hanging winter garden will be 'dropped' into the middle of the building
- 4. The museum's size will almost double



MacCormac Jamieson Prichard's proposals for the new newsroom at the BBC

### MACCORMAC PONDERS BBC RERUN

By Ed Dorrell

Talks on whether Richard MacCormac will make an unlikely return to the BBC Broadcasting House project he was controversially sacked from at the end of last year are set to be concluded in the next month.

Sources close to the negotiations have told the AJ that the MacCormac Jamieson Prichard (MJP) founding partner is 'seriously considering' returning as a consultant for the BBC on Phase II of the scheme.

The talks, which have been simmering for most of this year, have almost collapsed on a number of occasions.

A resolution to the dispute would be an extraordinary thawing for the different parties, who fell out in the months after Bovis, to which MacCormac was novated, decided to dispense with his services. However, MacCormac's renewed involvement could trigger more problems for the BBC, which won the RIBA Client of the Year Award three years ago.

It is understood that Sheppard Robson, which was brought in by Bovis to replace MacCormac, has let it be known that it 'has no interest in working with a third party' on the project.

It is unclear how BBC bosses would resolve this potential stumbling block.

The months since Bovis dropped MacCormac have been very difficult for MJP, as it has lost a host of staff and more than half of its directors.

However, MacCormac is keen to regain influence on the project, which he considers to be one of the most important ones undertaken by his practice. The move to bring the MJP boss back on board is understood to have been made because senior cultural figures were disgusted by the way the BBC had treated both MacCormac in London and David Chipperfield in Scotland.

Chipperfield was appointed but later replaced on BBC Scotland's headquarters scheme in Glasgow.

His involvement with the scheme became more and more tenuous after the BBC brought in Keppie Design to work alongside him.

If MacCormac does return to the Broadcasting House development, the BBC will have to be very careful not to repeat its experiences north of the border and further undermine its already tarnished reputation as an architectural client.

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### **BATTERSEA'S COMPLETE CONFUSION**

By Richard Vaughan

The Battersea Power Station debacle is very confusing. Few people know exactly what is going on – least of all, it seems, the developers.

Hong Kong-based
Parkview International bought
the freehold on the Battersea
Power Station site in 1996
– two years after the Tate
announced that Bankside
Power Station would be the
home of Tate Modern. Nearly
seven years since Tate Modern
opened, Battersea Power
Station is still in disarray.

The latest chapter in this seemingly never-ending story is a debate over the definition of 'complete', arising from a Section 106 agreement, signed in January 2005, stipulating that the power station's redevelopment must be completed before work could start on surrounding projects.

Parkview spokesman Ian Rumgay says: 'We are waiting for a definition of "complete" from Wandsworth Council.'

This semantic wrangling may sound like a Monty Python sketch, but Parkview claims it needs the definition to be certain of the work it must carry out to make the site ready for tenant fit-out.

'Once we get agreement on the Section 106 definition, we will be able to secure the future of the power station for generations to come,' says Rumqay.

According to Parkview, once this is settled the developer will be the closest it has ever been to 'having all the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle in place'.

'We have just finished the enabling works and have completed an £8 million renovation and regeneration of the jetty, which will be used for the removal of waste from the site, as well as delivering new materials via the river,' says Rumgay.

'We are the closest to starting work on redevelopment of the site since the power station was decommissioned in 1982.

'We need to get on with putting a roof on, building the west wall, putting in concrete floors and doing the electrical and mechanical work.

'It's what the construction boys call "shell and core" – meaning it will be ready for tenant fit-out,' he adds. 'But we can't do the actual tenant fit-out, as we don't know what they want, and we haven't even secured all of the tenants yet.'

However, a former employee of Parkview, who chose not to be named, claimed



1 & 2. Parkview's most recent plans for Battersea include a leisure centre, retail and surrounding housing

that tenants who had been waiting to get involved and were 'excited about the prospects' became disillusioned when Parkview owner Victor Hwang changed the designs for the scheme.

'We had our four floors of retail space, we had restaurants and we had 1 million m<sup>2</sup> of space, but then Victor changed the designs,' the source said.

Local pressure group Battersea Power Station Community Group believes this change confirms that Parkview's promises for the scheme will not be kept.

Chair of the pressure group Brian Barnes said the talk of a 35-screen cinema, Cirque de Soleil and interchangeable exhibition space has been replaced with plans for 'some new floors and a roof'. 'It's quite clear they have to sell the site and they never intended to build the leisure centre they promised all those years ago,' says Barnes.

'They just want to mothball the power station, make it wind and weather tight, then develop the surrounding site into flats, to make a more attractive prospect for whoever will buy it – be it Ballymore or Treasury Holdings.'

The pressure group claims that if this happens, it will spell the end for the power station. Keith Garner, Barnes' partner at the Battersea Power Station Community Group, said mothballing the power station and developing flats would eventually result in the structure being demolished.

Garner believes Battersea should be left open to the

public, to create awareness and interest in the building, but sections of it should be mothballed for development in future phases.

'The same method was used to regenerate [New York's] Ellis Island,' says Garner.'If you generate interest in a scheme, people will back the redevelopment project and you can apply for grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund or similar organisations.

'But to leave it all wrapped up and then develop luxury flats on the surrounding site would mean that Parkview could apply for the power station's demolition, as it would be blocking the riverside views.

'They have gone about this totally the wrong way,' Garner says. 'You can never redevelop a site of this size in one £1.5 billion project.'

The demolition of Battersea Power Station may seem unlikely, but little has happened at the site, despite reports of Norman Foster and Richard Rogers expressing an interest in becoming involved in the development.

Battersea Power Station's future still seems uncertain. The regeneration of the site has been going on for more than a decade and confusion still abounds.

It speaks volumes that the most activity in recent months concerning the redevelopment will happen on 9 November, when councillors gather to debate the meaning of 'complete'.

'My home is a plane and the clouds, which is a very good place for a professional dreamer. Then when I come back to Earth I can bring you a higher vision'

Philippe Starck. Times, 20.10.06

'I didn't hold with New Brutalism myself. I just prayed for the day we would be able to paint it'

Patrick Hodgkinson, architect of the at-longlast-painted Brunswick Centre. Guardian, 23.10.06

#### 'Maybe I've really got too old, but it's just not Moscow'

Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov on Foster's proposed hotel and concert hall there. Independent, 20,10,06



#### SECONDS OUT

RIBA presidents in their second uear are rather like their second-term counterparts in the White House - they worry away about their legacies. There can be little doubt that this must be the case for Jack Pringle. But does Pringle think reform of the ARB is one thing for which he'll be noted? Apparently at a recent meeting ARB chair Humphrey Lloyd threatened to walk out on two separate occasions because Jack was being so, ahem, combative. That must tell you something about his priorities...

#### **NEW FOREST**

Astragal was intrigued by news that World Trade Center masterplanner **Daniel Libeskind** is behind new plans to build a massive indoor rainforest in Blackpool. Sucked in by the 'promise' of being able to catch up with Danny, Astragal attended a press briefing at Libeskind's own Imperial War Museum North. However, not only had very few members of the media bothered to turn up, Daniel hadn't either. Apparently he had missed a plane in Moscow. But Astragal managed to pin down the original 'brains' behind this scheme - Rainforest Venture's John Woodman. Astragal went for the jugular. 'Isn't this scheme a step away from Libeskind's usual work?' he asked, citing projects like the Jewish Museum in Berlin. The answer was unequivocal. 'No, lad. It's a bloody great big leap.'

#### **GOING DUTCH**

Astragal loves national stereotypes. And no nation tickles his fancy more than the Dutch. When not sticking their fingers in dykes, Astragal believes, the average Hollander can be found cycling through the red-light district puffing on a jazz fag. And the behaviour of OMA's press office has only confirmed these prejudices. Astragal made the mistake of trying to contact Rem Koolhaas' acolutes using a phone number on a press release. Several attempts to get through were greeted with the phone at the other end being picked up and put down again. When Astragal managed to speak to someone, the response was less than helpful. 'The presh offish?', this befuddled OMA minion said. 'oh shit man, I don't know what their number is.' The Dutchman then dropped the phone on his desk, scrabbled around with what sounded like some kingsized Rizla, and replaced the receiver on the hook.

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#### **LETTERS**

#### CHAUCER SHOULD NOT BE CONSIGNED TO HISTORY

I was delighted to see your editorial praise the 'robustness, endurance and quality' of Milton Court (AJ 12.10.06), and to see you publish photographs both of this Chamberlin, Powell and Bon (CPB) building and of the same practice's Geoffrey Chaucer School in south London. This is a great reminder of just how good this firm's work was.

The Twentieth Century Society (C20), however, thinks that there is a viable future for both these buildings and we were delighted that the scheme which John Assael has prepared for C20 – proving that the demolition of Milton Court is unnecessary – has started to get people talking about alternatives for the Barbican site.

We hope to do the same for the Geoffrey Chaucer site. Yes, it is a failing school, and arguably its buildings are unsuitable for future education uses, but with all the redevelopment planned for the Elephant and Castle area it must surely be possible to find a new site for the proposed City Academy and look at alternative options for all the listed buildings on the current site, and not just the pentagonal pavilion.

After all, government guidance on listed buildings says that the unencumbered freehold of a listed building should be offered for sale on the open market before demolition is started – this has not ever been seriously contemplated by Southwark Council for the Geoffrey Chaucer School, and such action would have the added advantage of not exposing pupils to the disruption of redevelopment.

Geoffrey Chaucer School is an outstanding complex of buildings which exemplifies the 'placemaking' ideology which CPB was so passionate about. By suggesting that the pavilion be kept on its own, Future Systems misses the point and risks destroying a subtle combination of foreground and background architecture that could act as a much-needed exemplar at both local and national level.

Catherine Croft, director, the Twentieth Century Society

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHARTERED PRACTICE?

I have just read Tom Jestico's letter regarding the RIBA Chartered Practice Scheme (AJ 05.10.06). I too have challenged the RIBA on its proposals.

I emailed the institute on 15 September highlighting my concerns about this issue, and am still awaiting a reply. I suspect it will never arrive.

I raised several points in my email, the key one being: what would becoming a Chartered Practice actually do for me?

I am one of four directors in a company of architects and surveyors. Half of the directors in the firm are chartered surveyors, and therefore the company can, and does, use the term chartered surveyors in its title. There is no additional fee charged by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors for this service

As I am the only chartered-architect director, the company is precluded from registering as a registered practice. Despite this, the company employs one other chartered architect, one project manager, one technician, two diploma students and one day-release student in the last year of her architecture degree.

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As far as I understand, what the RIBA proposes will cause registered practices to cease to exist, have chartered practices at a lower qualifying threshold and increase the membership fee to rake in more money.

The only thing I can see that the RIBA might do for me is to throw the odd lead my way, something which it should have been doing all along.

So please can the RIBA tell me – what is in it for me and my company, other than you taking more of my money? Derek Nicholson, RIBA membership number 4343078

#### A REFRESHING VISIT TO THE STIRLING SHORTLIST

Regarding your Stirling Prize coverage (AJ 12.10.06). Why was Mariella Frostrup the only judge provided with something to drink on site visits?

Trenton Oldfield, by email

#### DECISION-MAKING PROCESS UNCOVERED ON COVER

I have always wondered how the Stirling Prize judges select the winning entry, but now I know.

All is revealed on the front cover of AJ 12.10.06; you toss a coin!

Tim Battle, Battle Associates, London SW15

#### CORRECTION

Willow House, featured in the October issue of AJ Specification, was designed by Reid Architects, not Reid Architecture.

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# HAWKINS BROWN/ CULVERIN COURT



#### **BUILDING STUDY**

# IT SHINES LIKE A GEM IN A CHAMBER OF HORRORS

By Andrea Wulf. Photography by Christine Sullivan

Hawkins\Brown was established by Roger Hawkins and Russell Brown in 1989, and now has a staff of 78. It has a reputation for delivering social-cultural buildings and community-based projects in the UK. Key projects include the Arts Faculty for the University of Southampton (AJ 28.11.96), the Sheep Field Barn Gallery for the Henry Moore Foundation (AJ 15.04.99) and the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Oxfordshire, which opened last year (AJ 11.08.05).

Culverin Court, four storeys high with 20 small residential units, stands amid its neighbours like David fighting against Goliath. The site is hugged to the west by EG3, a semicircular building which rises 10 storeys; in red-orange bricks it is overbearing in colour and monotony. To the other side, just across the road, there are eight storeys of social housing with yellow brick and clumsy balconies. The back is bordered by a run-down post-war building used by London Metropolitan University. But, strangely, despite its giant neighbours, Culverin Court is not dwarfed by them. Quite the opposite, it transcends the ugliness of its surroundings, shining like a gem in a chamber of horrors.

The whole site, sandwiched between Hornsey Road and Eden Grove, belongs to the Arsenal redevelopment project. Culverin Court is part of Hawkins\Brown's conversion of the derelict Victorian school, Mount Carmel, which runs alongside the large plot. The scheme's masterplan had been prepared by CZWG, who suggested Hawkins\Brown to the client Wilson Connolly for the redevelopment of the locally listed school in spring 2003.

The school, which had been built as a convent in the 1870s, had stood empty for 10 years. It consisted of two narrow wings, positioned in a right angle with a series of post-war extensions at one end. CZWG's original plans, for which Islington Council had given conditional consent, incorporated these extensions. But Hawkins\Brown decided to strip the old school back to its basic fabric. 'The later extensions had no architectural merit and did not hang together well with the old building,' explains one of the project architects, Heidi Corbet. Instead, Hawkins\Brown suggested Culverin Court, a new free-standing building that would act as 'a mediator' between the school and the surrounding structures. Culverin Court was the practice's answer to the huge discrepancy between the height and density of EG3, which had been designed by CZWG, and the low-rise domestic scale of Mount Carmel. 'We were looking at various moderations between them,' says Corbet. Their initial massing studies favoured a six- or seven-storey building, but the cost analysis concluded that a four-storey load-bearing masonry structure would be more cost effective because the client wanted 'a low-risk project'.

The palette of materials used for Culverin Court is simple but effective. To lighten up the north-facing front facade Hawkins\Brown used Eternit cladding, while it built the remaining sides in bricks, which are coloured dark aubergine and sourced from the Netherlands. The bricks are made of engineering stock and semi-glazed. The other project architect Harbinder Singh Birdi explains: 'Their colour mutates, depending on lighting conditions.'

AJ 26.10.06



1. A mediator between the old school and the surrounding structures





2

\_

- 2. An elegant glass screen provides security on the ground floor
- External walkways allow for larger units within Mount Carmel
- 4. A turf-roofed extension houses bike store, substation and refuse

They tinge the building with an almost silver glimmer from some angles and, most importantly, they provide a soothing relief from the sharp red of EG3 while harmoniously contrasting with Mount Carmel's London brick.

The main stairwell is clad in red cedar, a material that has been used throughout Culverin Court and Mount Carmel for outside passageways, balconies and roof terraces, 'We left the cedar untreated so that it would age gracefully,' explains Singh Birdi. The cladding continues inside the stairwell, where it not only provides a warm atmosphere to the communal space but also exudes a delicious smell which gives the whole building a welcoming feel. 'Everything was kept simple,' says Corbet, 'but we played with the positions of the windows and the balconies.' The windows are staggered, as are the balconies - some are recessed and others are projected - animating the facade as well as bringing variety to internal layouts. In fact, it was this simplicity which allowed the architect to remain true to its original design during the lengthy planning and tender negotiations. There was nothing that was superfluous,' explains Corbet, 'so there was nothing that could be removed."

The planning and building of Culverin Court also reveals how a tight time frame, a change of clients (Taylor Woodrow took over from Wilson Connolly in May 2004), and busy contractors can work in favour of a building. When Hawkins\Brown had to file a new planning application, due to the fact it had completely departed from CZWG's original design, Corbet explains that the

added time pressure 'worked to our advantage'. Preapplication negotiations with the planners started in September 2003, but the scheme only secured consent in February 2004. With just 14 months in which to finish the building, there was no time for the contractor to negotiate alternative materials — Singh Birdi believes this is one reason that Hawkins\Brown was able to use the dark bricks, 'which were twice the price of the ones that the contractor normally uses'.

The small scale of Culverin Court and Mount Carmel in comparison with the other projects on the massive Arsenal site also worked to Hawkins\Brown's advantage. 'The bigger jobs were more important,' laughs Corbet, 'the contractors were slightly diverted', and sometimes just didn't have time to go into the details. So much so that the contractor Laing O'Rourke subcontracted Culverin Court and Mount Carmel to Bryen & Langley, which specialises in listed buildings. Bryen & Langley was 'considerate', collaborating when changes had to be made rather than just executing them; and most surprisingly, Singh Birdi insists, it aligned the cedar cladding on the walls with the timbers of the decking on the balconies and walkways 'without being asked'.

The whole planning process was complex, says Corbet, as Mount Carmel is locally listed and an isolated site of a nearby conservation area, but Hawkins\Brown managed to barter. It repaired roof and brickwork with reclaimed materials from on-site demolitions and kept the old school's facade close to the original. 'We replaced like by like as trade-offs for new design details.'



4.

explains Corbet. In the new double-glazed windows in Mount Carmel, for instance, Hawkins\Brown used the same moulding and design as the originals; and in return, it was allowed to use the same cantilevered glass balconies as in Culverin Court. Mount Carmel, however, is more luxurious with much higher specs for the interiors, including free-standing Philippe Starck baths which cater to the taste of the target group of young urban professionals.

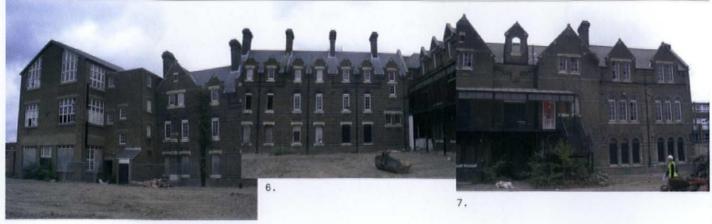
Mount Carmel and Culverin Court might be detached and conceived with different residents in mind, but they are designed as one project. This relationship is communicated through their shared language of architectural features and materials, such as cedar cladding, timber-lined open walkways and glass balconies. These details, and Hawkins\Brown's use of space, combine to make the buildings a strong unit so that, at least metaphorically, they rise above their neighbours. There is plenty of outside communal space, such as generous walkways and stairwells, which gives both of the buildings an airy feel. On the ground level at Culverin Court, for instance, the planning condition was to provide additional security, but instead of barricading the open passage with metal bars or mesh Hawkins\Brown installed an elegant glass screen.

To solve the problematic circulation in the narrow school building of Mount Carmel, the architects added open external walkways that also allowed them to increase the size of the units. A small extension to one of the wings creates another courtyard which will eventually be used as a nursery (a planning condition). The passageways and courtyards not only connect the units and

the buildings but also open vistas on to their surroundings – small and selected details, as if a whole view on to the site would just be too overbearing.

Almost all units have an outside space, but most of these are overlooked by EG3. As they are surrounded on three sides by higher buildings, no flat in Culverin Court is entirely 'private', though Hawkins\Brown has tried to address the problem by aligning the living spaces of the flats to the private courtyard between Culverin Court and Mount Carmel. In addition, bathroom windows are frosted and narrow oblong kitchen windows are positioned waist-high, letting in light but also providing a certain degree of privacy. Given that EG3 wraps around the site like an auditorium with each of the dozens of windows eyeing the stage of Culverin Court, some of the balconies and the living spaces behind them do still feel quite exposed.

Despite the constraints of the site, Hawkins\Brown has created a dramatic space by using the overwhelming dimensions of the surrounding buildings as much as possible to its advantage. The approach into the communal space of the site, for example, is channelled purposefully through a narrow gap between Culverin Court and EG3. Having been forced through this cleft-like passageway, the landscaped courtyard with the rising turfed mound that lies behind it feels all the more open and light. Culverin Court, and Mount Carmel, might be small in comparison to their neighbours, but they stand solid and proud among them. In the battle against these giants they win unequivocally.



5.



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11.

- 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. The 1870s school (and post-war additions) before its conversion
- Mount Carmel uses the same cantilevered glass balconies as Culverin Court
- The old school's facade has been kept close to the original

#### STRUCTURE

The conversion and extension of Mount Carmel and the adjacent new four-storey residential building were only a small part of a much larger project. From a structural viewpoint, they needed to be treated in a completely different way to the rest of the development. This was particularly evident in the existing Victorian building which, being locally listed, needed a sensitive and careful approach. To enhance our understanding of the existing building. a historical study was undertaken together with a series of opening-up works. This gave an in-depth knowledge of the structure, which comprised load-bearing masonry walls and a mixture of timber joists and steel filler joists with breeze-concrete infill for the floors. An investigation of the timber floors by a specialist revealed the usual array of localised decay, particularly at roof level, which resulted in an assortment of repair details being required. The conversion of a building inevitably involves alterations and modifications to the existing fabric. But. in working with the architect, it was possible to develop a 'light touch' approach, generally avoiding the need for large-scale structural intervention except in certain localised areas. The building structure was fairly robust and could accept the new loadings so no large-scale strengthening of the existing floors was required. Corner ties were added to some wall junctions, and walls were strapped to floors, particularly in places that were adjacent to where the demolition of some 1950s extensions was required. The new-build parts of the project were four storeys high, allowing the use of traditional load-bearing masonry construction with precast floors incorporating a structural topping. A series of steel access walkways and cantilevering balconies were provided to both new and existing buildings. These were connected to the masonry buildings for stability but detailed to appear as separate slender structures. The balconies had to be detailed carefully where they connected to the floors, notably in the existing building where the floor structure was varied. Ian Taylor, Alan Baxter Associates



12.





13.

12 & 13. The composition of the balconies – some recessed and others projecting – animates the facade. The lack of privacy has been addressed by aligning living spaces with the private courtyard between Culverin Court and Mount Carmel



Y
PUBLIC COURTYARD
PRIVATE COURTYARD (CULVERIN COURT)
NURSERY COURTYARD
NURSERY
RESIDENTIAL UNITS (MOUNT CARMEL)
RESIDENTIAL UNITS (CULVERIN COURT)
REDUM ROOF
ROOF TERRACE
ACCESS DECKS

KEY



KEY

1 HOLLOWAY ROAD TUBE STATION

2 CULVERIN COURT

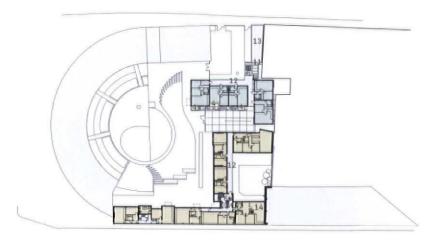
3 MOUNT CARMEL

4 EG3 (CZWG)

5 EG2 (CZWG)

6 HORNSEY STREET SOCIAL HOUSING (CZWG)

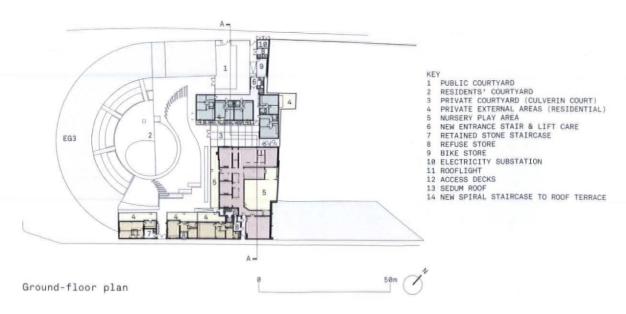
7 LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



Second-floor plan



First-floor plan



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Cost analysis based on tender sum. Cost o gross internal area	sts refer
SUBSTRUCTURE	
Foundations/slabs	£57.12/m²
Concrete floor slab	
SUPERSTRUCTURE	
Frame	£62.61/m²
Steel framing to deck structure	
Upper floors	£59.96/m²
Precast-concrete floor planks with structural t	
Roof Waterproof membrane; insulation; sedum blan	£61.06/m²
Staircases	£44.17/m²
In situ-concrete staircase	
External walls	£202.64/m²
Load-bearing blockwork with external facing	
brickwork; timber cladding (larch or western	red cedar);
and Eternit Natura board	677 00 /- 3
Windows Polyester powder-coated aluminium window	£77.98/m²
glazed screens to deck level	system,
Internal walls and partitions	£39.84/m²
Concrete blockwork or plasterboard partition	S
Internal/external doors	£28.73/m²
Flush solidcore doors, including ironmongery	frames
INTERNAL FINISHES	
Wall finishes	£35.69/m²
Ceramic tiling to kitchens and bathrooms; pa	
Floor finishes	£70.66/m²
Tiling to bathroom; carpet; timber laminate f	
Ceiling finishes	£59.45/m²
Plasterboard and skim	
FITTINGS AND FURNISHINGS	
Furniture	£79.79/m²
Kitchens, built-in wardrobes, mirrors and acce	essories
SERVICES	
Sanitary appliances	£363.13/m²
Bathroom fittings Lift and conveyor installations	£30.43/m²
Builders' work in connection	£15.21/m²
NOTE AND ALL COMMODERAL	W-W ( & 4/ III
EXTERNAL WORKS	
Landscaping, ancillary buildings	£86.49/m²
Paving, timber decking, planting to borders, g	ravel to garden
DDEL THINADISC AND THOUSANDS	
PRELIMINARIES AND INSURANCES Preliminaries, overheads and profits	£273.42/m²
overheads and profits	DZ/3.42/III

#### Cost summary

	Cost per m <sup>2</sup>	Percentage
		of total
SUBSTRUCTURE	57.12	3.46
SUPERSTRUCTURE		
Frame	62.61	3.80
Upper floors	59.96	3.64
Roof	61.06	3.70
Staircases	44.17	2.68
External walls	202.64	12.29
Windows	77.98	4.73
Internal walls	39.84	2.42
and partitions		
Internal doors	28.73	1.74
GROUP ELEMENT TOTAL	576.99	35.00
INTERNAL FINISHES		
Wall finishes	35.69	2.17
Floor finishes	70.66	4.29
Ceiling finishes	59.45	3.61
GROUP ELEMENT TOTAL	165.80	4.84
FITTINGS AND FURNITURE	79.79	4.84
SERVICES		
Sanitary appliances	363.13	22.03
Lift and conveyor	30.43	1.85
installations		
Builders' work	15.21	0.92
in connection		
GROUP ELEMENT TOTAL	408.77	24.79
EXTERNAL WORKS	86.49	5.25
PRELIMINARIES		
AND INSURANCE	273.42	16.58
TOTAL	1,648.38	100

Cost data from P Daborn, AYH



14. The main stairwell: the cedar cladding is untreated to allow it to age gracefully

#### Credits

Tender date December 2003 Start on site date August 2004 Contract duration 14 months Gross internal floor area 1,446.03m<sup>2</sup> Form of contract JCT 98 with Contractors Design/ Single Stage Total cost €2,383,606.90 Developer client Wilson Connolly/Taylor Woodrow Architects Hawkins\Brown: Heidi Corbet. Harbinder Singh Birdi, Michael Paris, Jeremy Walker, Russell Brown, Sonua Flynn, Jason Martin, Jeremy Gay, Tanya Brown Contractor Laing O'Rourke Subcontractor (client post-novation) Bryen & Langley Planning consultant Teresa Brooks, Hepher Dixon Structural engineer Alan Baxter Associates Quantity surveyor AYH Landscape architect HLM Acoustics engineer Fleming & Barron Planning supervisor AYH Subcontractors and suppliers Bricks Banbury Bricks, Baggeridge Bricks (Staffordshire smooth blue bricks); render Stotherm; damp-proof membranes Ruberoid, Hyload; aluminium windows Reynaers; rainwater goods Alumasc; glass balconies Sapphire; sedum roof Bauder; Natura cladding Eternit; fall-arrest system OCS Group; mesh Orsogril; timber strip flooring Kahrs; ironmongery Eurospec; carpet Gaskills; kitchens Bluestone Kitchens; sanitaryware Armitage Shanks, Aston Matthews, Hansgrohe



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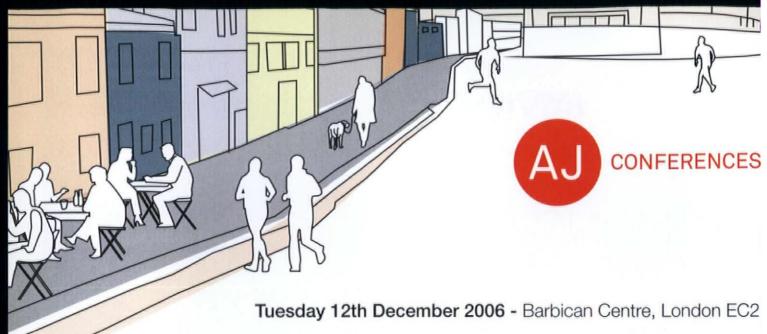
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# **TECHNICAL & PRACTICE**

# THE HANGAR MUST FIND A NEW RAISON D'ÊTRE

By Hattie Hartman



 Archive photo of airship hangar with canvas cover

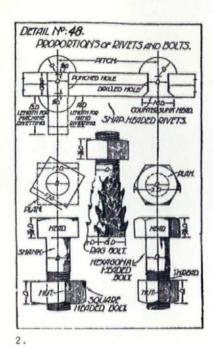
'Life wouldn't be worth living if we didn't take our buildings seriously,' says Julian Harrap. That attitude is in evidence in Farnborough, where Julian Harrap Architects has sensitively restored a portable airship hangar, which was inaugurated this month as the unlikely centrepiece of a public square at the heart of Farnborough Business Park, a 52ha former Royal Aircraft Establishment site owned by property developer Slough Estates. Originally built to shelter inflatable airships, which were used for reconnaissance in the First World War, the resurrected hangar is part of a historic core of buildings at the northern end of the site that seeks to convey a sense of the site's aviation heritage. Two nearby listed buildings, also refurbished by Harrap, house five wind tunnels – three of which are still in working order and looking for tenants – which have been used to test aircraft ranging from the Spitfire to the Concorde.

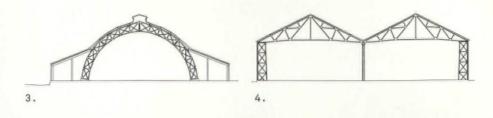
Designed c.1910, the hangar, which was one of only six airship sheds in the UK at the outset of the First World War, had a very short life and was permanently dismantled in 1916, when its steel-lattice structure was cut into pieces and reused in the construction of two other buildings on the site. The straight lower legs of the frame were used as the main structure of a fabric and balloon workshop, while the arched upper section was incorporated in a forge and foundry building. And that is where they remained until Harrap was brought in to bridge a gap in communication between the developer, who wanted to maximise the development potential of the site, and the

Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST), a group of aviationhistory enthusiasts who were keen to see the important features of the site retained.

A survey of the four listed buildings revealed that two of the buildings were only listed because they contained the dismantled hangar. Harrap proposed the demolition of these two buildings in order to extract the structural components of the arch, which could then be reconstructed 'to provide a historic and cultural landmark for the business park and the town'. This proposal satisfied both the developer and FAST because it simultaneously released two development sites and secured a commitment to the reconstruction of the hangar. The arch has been rebuilt just north of its original site to retain proximity to the remaining historic buildings and due to height restrictions from the adjacent Farnborough Airport. Its east-west orientation corresponds to its original alignment, which was determined by the prevailing winds that assisted the launch of an airship.

The next challenges were: to obtain listed-building consent for the demolition of the two existing buildings; determine how to extract the airship hangar structure from the buildings without damaging it; and establish the scope of required repairs. Opening-up works revealed that the lower part of the lattice-frame sections, which had been buried beneath the concrete floor slab, were sound. However, one entire arch of the 14 that make up the total structure was missing and had to be replicated, as did the purlins which tied the arches together at the upper levels.







- 2. Archive construction detail of rivets
- 3 & 4. The hangar's latticeframe sections had been dismantled and reused in two other buildings on the site
- 5. Excavation of the lower section of the frame

Everything about the structure was designed for lightness, so that it could be easily demounted and relocated. Archival research indicates that it took 50 men five weeks to dismantle and rebuild the hangar. The structure comprises 14 arches of box section made of riveted angles and flats, which are bolted together. The whole is braced with guy ropes. The salvaged pieces were surveyed and drawn, and a full inventory of all the existing steel was undertaken to establish a schedule of repairs. The historic steelwork was laboratory-tested to provide a basis for accurate structural calculations and to determine any differences between the hangar's steel sections and steel available today, which would be used to replace the missing arch. Associate architect Judy Allen explains that replication of the missing arch was complicated by the fact that steel sections are no longer fabricated in this country to imperial dimensions, so the missing sections had to be sourced from the United States and the Netherlands.

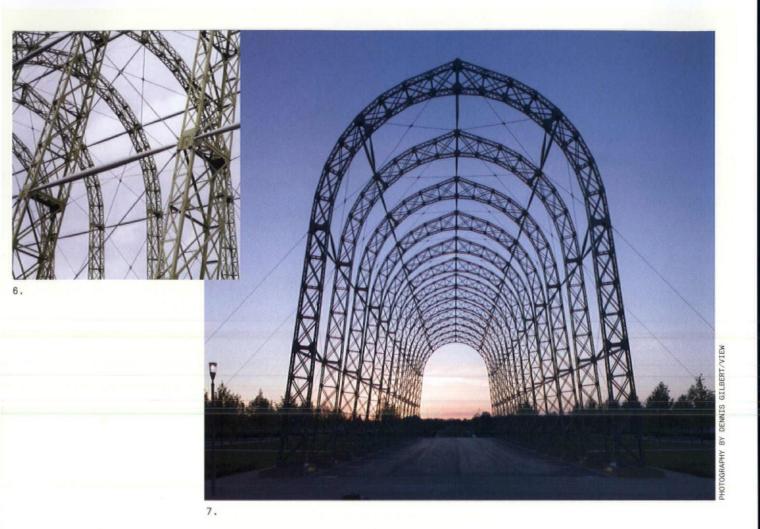
The replication of the rivets that connect the frame components was particularly challenging because the hot riveting technique which was widely used at the time for shipbuilding and bridges has virtually disappeared. Harrap observes that many of the construction skills required in conservation work today have been lost and replaced only by niche specialists whose work is often prohibitively expensive. In this case, Harrap was fortunate to locate Littlehampton Welding, a metalwork company that is still able to do hot riveting. The architect, engineer and fabricator collaborated in an iterative process to resolve the construction

details. Alternative designs were explored for the plate detail where four tension members come together, before opting for a cruciform design. Most of these are at such a high level that one can't see them, but Harrap's delight in the elegance of this detail is unmistakable.

The most challenging bit of detective work in the project involved the purlins, of which the only remaining pieces of evidence were a few archival photographs that suggested their tapered profile. Harrap speculates that the original purlins were hollow timber, similar in construction to the spinnaker poles of Edwardian yachts, which stretched timber technology to its limits at the time. The use of timber could also explain why no purlins remain and why the hangar's lattice structure was 'cannibalised' and incorporated into other buildings on the site.

The use of timber for the new purlins was ruled out due to expense and its more onerous maintenance requirements. The new purlins are steel, 1.43m in length, but they are not actually curved, despite their visual appearance. As they are made up from 4mm steel sections of a diminishing cone, which are butt welded together, no joints are visible. The diameter of the steel sections was critical to achieve the desired visual appearance (strong enough but not too heavy) and was based on a trial prototype. Harrap's initial trial prototype was off by only 25mm.

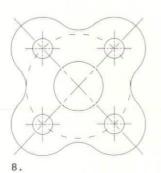
Specification of the appropriate paint for the project needed extensive research because the hangar required a highquality paint that would be resistant to cracking with movement.

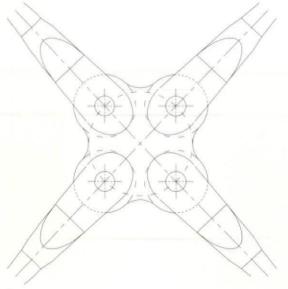


6. Detail of new purlins

7. View of the reconstructed hangar

8 & 9. Details of the new plate at the junction of four tension wires  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{N}}$ 





9.

AJ 26.10.06





Site plan of Farnborough Business Park showing new location of hangar

11. Diagrammatic view of possible inflatable canopy

11.

As the hangar had been indoors for so many years, the original lead-based paint was intact below later coats, and original colours could be ascertained, revealing that the end frames had been a slightly darker shade of green than the internal arches. The original colours were closely replicated. As lead paint cannot be used on Grade-II listed structures, the original paint was removed by grit-blasting. The frame was then sprayed with a zinc-based paint, because the heat of galvanising would have distorted it.

New design issues which emerged as a result of the hangar's location in a public place included anti-vandalism measures to prevent people climbing up the frame and lighting. Harrap designed metal-mesh 'socks' for the base of each arch and carefully sited lighting that was recessed into the ground to show off the hangar to maximum advantage. Benches have been located between the bases of the arches.

Though resurrection of a monument of aviation history at the heart of a business park may reek of heritage tokenism, the quality of execution here is exceptional, largely due to meticulous archival research and careful detailing. An issue raised at the outset of the project was whether the air hangar should be reconstructed on the Farnborough site or shipped to Duxford to be part of the Imperial War Museum. The jury is still out on this question, and it depends entirely on how the new hangar in the park will be used.

With appropriate programming of ongoing activities and one-off events, this extraordinary structure could provide a cultural focus for an otherwise anonymous business park. There might even be a synergy with TAG Aviation's development of the adjacent airfield for private jets and the nearby town centre. It is encouraging to learn that the masterplan for adjacent housing is being reconsidered to make it more consistent with the site's historic buildings.

Active use would be greatly enhanced and encouraged by the suspension of a protective roof within the hangar. As Harrap has suggested, a tensile fabric or inflatable roof would be entirely in keeping with the history of the park, where reconnaissance kites were once manufactured. Such a structure could also introduce an intermediate scale to this dramatic hangar sculpture. Devoid of the airship, the hangar must find a new raison d'être or risk a future as an archaeological relic in a lifeless park.

# Credits

Structural engineer
Hockley & Dawson
Architect
Julian Harrap Architects: Julian Harrap,
Judy Allen, Sean Buick
Contractor
Littlehampton Welding
Masterplanner
Bruce Gilbreth Architects

# VECTORWORKS 12.5 BRINGS HUGE TIME SAVINGS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS

By Jonathan Reeves

Nemetschek's VectorWorks 12.5, released in September, introduces a number of new features and productivity enhancements which continue to make it the software of choice for small to mediumsized projects, particularly given its value for money and ease of use. For Apple Macintosh users with the new Intel or earlier PowerPC based Macs, 12.5 is an absolute must because it is now a universal application, which means the software will run natively on both platforms. Nemetschek's speed comparisons show the application can run nearly twice as fast on a Mac Pro Quad. Running VectorWorks 12.5 on my new MacBook Pro, I experienced impressive performance (similar to a Dual 2.5Ghz G5), making it perfectly feasible to work on complex drawings and 3D models on the road. Best of all the update is free to VectorWorks 12 users via a web download or for a small fee on DVD.

At first glance, the interface for VectorWorks 12.5 looks virtually identical to the previous release, which is sensible, as Version 12 marked a significant revision that takes a little getting used to for experienced VectorWorks users. However, the introduction of toolsets, a navigation palette and an improved organisation dialogue make for significant workflow enhancements over Version 11, which may prompt users still on Version 11 to upgrade now.

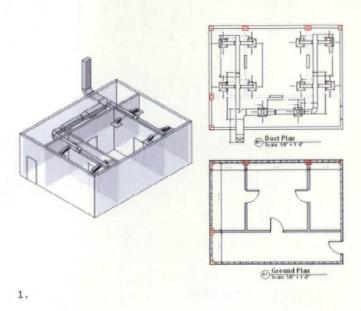
Another major new feature is the ability to import and export PDF documents directly from within the software with real control over file resolution, layers and batch exporting, which makes working with PDFs not only quicker but also more precise

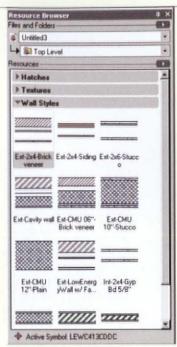
and more flexible. This gives enormous time savings during the design process as PDF is now the universally accepted method of transferring information between consultants and client.

Workgroup referencing has had a significant overhaul with support for relative file paths. This means that if source files are moved or folders renamed, the referenced file will still be found and the path automatically updated. Also, the ability of a reference file to update class attributes in the target file means one master file can be used to update graphic styles of all other project files if required. Moving references using layer linking is also simpler.

Viewports in 12.5 also offer a number of improvements that will save time. Right-clicking offers immediate access to editing the annotations, crop or source-design layer. This can also be set as the default for double-clicking if required. When navigating from viewport to design layer, VectorWorks 12.5 takes you directly to the correct view, and there is an option to display the crop if required. Another useful feature is the ability of the eyedropper to match viewport properties, as well as to pick up plug-in setting for windows, doors and walls etc. between sheets or even different files.

As well as the major features, designers using the program day in and day out will be interested in the many little improvements. These include the improved offset tool, which allows for objects to be preselected or post-selected and can leave or delete the original object, and the duplicate array command, which is now capable of complex 3D modelling functions.





2

- Viewport enables simultaneous views with different levels of information
- Wall types can be selected easily from the Resource Browser

Inverse selections and new search criteria for selecting objects within complex drawings are welcome additions.

Communicating with other applications is an important function of any CAD system and VectorWorks Architect 12.5 has a number of advances. DXF/DWG files are the bedrock of CAD information exchange, and automatic unit matching and missing Xrefs alerts will make this process smoother. The ability to import native Sketch UP files is a big plus for architects developing early ideas into more accurate 3D CAD models. Finally, support for Google's KML files, another new feature, means it is simple to insert VectorWorks models directly into Google Earth.

Architectural 3D modelling has always been a strength of VectorWorks. 12.5 offers a few tweaks such as automatic mesh smoothing and easier light aiming. Creating images from within VectorWorks is possible with the addition of RenderWorks 12.5. Here there are some useful rendering improvements, such as support for high dynamic range imaging (HDRI) for creating photorealistic lighting and reflections. However, while RenderWorks has improved greatly in recent years and is quick and easy to use, it is still difficult to achieve the high-end image quality and animation of programs like Artlantis R or Cinema 4D, which work directly with VectorWorks via plug-ins.

An important feature of all CAD systems is the ability to use library parts effectively, but traditionally UK architects have often been unwilling to compromise on using generic objects, preferring to draw them. In the Architect version, the introduction of UK metric architectural libraries with all the standard door, window and wall types available as pre-made parametric objects should make this simpler. These new plug-in objects are vastly more flexible than in previous versions, making it simple to drag and drop elements into the developing designs and make changes easily. Using intelligent parametric objects also makes other benefits such as automatic scheduling available. There are also new libraries of sanitaryware, cars and the complete collection of Marvin products. However, with this increased flexibility comes added complexity in the number of options available, and it would be useful to be able to see changes in plan, elevation and 3D all at the same time.

Overall, the VectorWorks 12.5 upgrade is worthwhile for all Version 12 users. The most useful new features are increasingly only available in the industry versions, which means that for architects using older versions of the software or alternative CAD packages, the motivation to upgrade to VectorWorks Architect 12.5 will now be even more powerful.

For more details see www.nemetschek.net and www.unlimited.com/3ddesign/vectorworks.html

Jonathan Reeves is an architect specialising in CAD training and 3D visualisation consultancy. Visit www.jr-architecture.co.uk

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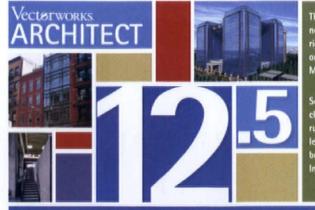
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# THE CANDYMAN POSTS A PUZZLE FROM ATLANTA

So to the indefatigable
Eric Moorhouse's latest bit
of architectural eye-candy,
the website of an interesting
architect from Atlanta,
Robert M Gurney, FAIA (www.robertgurneyarchitect.com). I was struck by the fact
that I could not get past the
home page. I clicked on
Gurney's name, the word
'architect' beneath, the line,
and then the three red dots
at its end. Nada.

I tried it the following morning. Same thing. Then, for some reason, I pressed the full-screen button and there at the bottom was the tiny word 'enter' with two arrows beside it. I ask you. Who runs full-screen? (I gather it depends on the size of your screen.)

The three square dots were a graphic device which expanded to fill the screen and then morph into a slide show. I don't usually go for slide shows, but this moves at a fairly brisk pace and you can look at the buildings individually by hitting 'portfolio'. The inevitable practice philosophy text has a thin red line on the right, which you eventually discover is a slider accessing yet more philosophy. But, happily, this is displayed in such non-adjustable, small type that you don't feel guilty not reading it. sutherland.lyall@btinternet.com

# **ROOT CAUSE**

A large oak tree growing in Mr and Mrs Shephard's garden in Northamptonshire was said to be damaging the house next door by means of the familiar pattern of root encroachment and extraction of water. In legal jargon, this is a nuisance, writes *Sue Lindsey*. But the Shephards were powerless to do anything to help their neighbours, Ms Perrin and Mr Ramage, as the tree was protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Breaching a TPO is a criminal offence. Perrin and Ramage made the proper application to the local authority for permission to fell the tree, but it was refused. Their appeal to the secretary of state was dismissed, as even though the oak was implicated in the damage, there was an alternative engineering solution that would avoid the need to fell the tree.

But could Perrin and Ramage rely on section 198(6)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which provides that a TPO does not apply to the cutting down, uprooting, topping or lopping of any trees, so far as that is necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance? Anyone carrying out works which are allowed by section 198(6)(b) is protected from being prosecuted. The local authority argued that because there were engineering works that would solve the

problem, works to the tree were not necessary, hence there was no section 198(6)(b) protection. Furthermore, they argued that Perrin and Ramage should pay for the engineering works themselves.

Perrin and Ramage went to court to find out if the local authority was right (Perrin and Ramage v Northampton Borough Council (26 September 2006)). On the basis of assumed facts, the judge decided the preliminary legal question, whether it is relevant for the purposes of section 198(6)(b) that there are other works that could prevent the same nuisance.

The judge focused on two words in the section in order to interpret it; 'nuisance' and 'necessary'.

He concluded 'nuisance' means an actionable nuisance that either had caused or would shortly cause damage. So, the section would not permit tree works that would abate mere encroachment by roots or branches.

As for 'necessary', that refers to the extent of works needed to abate the nuisance. The judge concluded that in deciding what are necessary tree works, there is no need to take into account that there may be alternative works, including engineering, that might achieve the same result. His reasoning included that section 198(6)(b) does not

mention any considerations other than works to the tree itself. In addition, there are probably engineering solutions to most tree problems, and if those needed to be taken into account the section would in practice never apply. But the judge emphasised that section 198(6)(b) only allows the minimum works necessary to abate the nuisance; to go further would be an offence.

So, while someone planning to rely on section 198(6)(b) need not take into account that there may be alternative effective ways of controlling damage being caused by a protected tree, before reaching for their chainsaws they would be wise to consider taking advice as to whether works to the tree would be effective in abating a nuisance, and the minimum necessary work.

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



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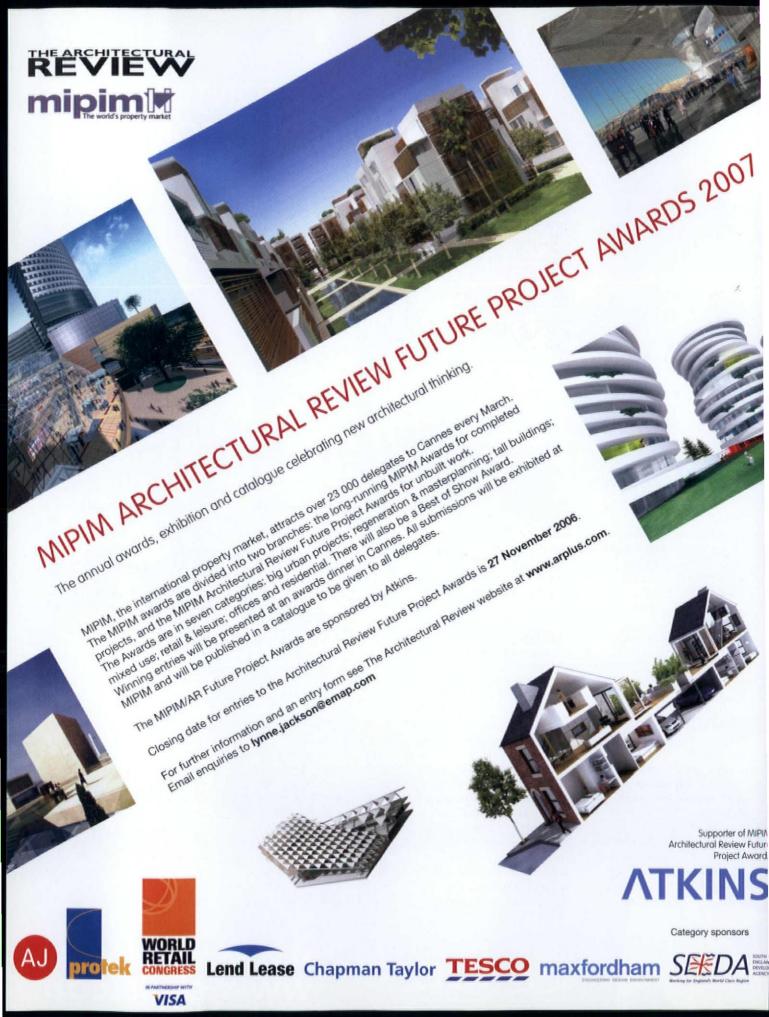
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# REVIEW

# BOOK

By Austin Williams

Future Systems By Deyan Sudjic. Phaidon, 2006. 238pp. £45





2

- 1. Alessi tea and coffee set
- 2. Naples subway station

At an Architecture Week event a few years ago, Amanda Levete, discussing Future Systems' place in the modern architectural pantheon, said that there were two types of people: 'Those who love our work and those who are stuck in the past.' Ironically, this piece of vanity publishing encourages the view that maybe it is they who are stuck in the past.

This is quite an achievement, because there is clearly an interesting story to be told. As Deyan Sudjic says, Future Systems 'have had the courage to explore startlingly new forms and geometries ahead of the field'. If only the content of Levete and Jan Kaplicky's work could, for once, take precedence over the form.

The book skirts through the practice's back catalogue in product design, commercial projects, bridges, 'landmarks', civic projects and skyscrapers.

Seeing the 1985 Trafalgar Square competition entry reproduced as the Bibliothèque de France competition entry in 1989, and finally as the Selfridges building, is an unintentional object lesson in reuse and recycling.

Unfortunately, editorial haste – combined with a preference for appearances over intellectual rigour – has resulted in the themed essay frequently being out of sync with the images it should accompany. This is irritating but soon proves to be symbolic: Sudjic's occasionally high-minded words are out of step with the flimsy premise of this book.

Levete almost admits as much. 'We don't protect ourselves with theory,' she says. 'For me, architecture is more about feeling and emotional responses.' Tired of flogging a dead horse, Sudjic gives up his half-hearted analysis halfway through the book and falls back on client-pleasers. Praising its range, he says: 'Future Systems' work is based on a kind of intuitive search for formal perfection.'

Actually, on first impressions, it seems as if Future Systems' work is based on the iconic grainy 1933 photograph of the Loch Ness monster. The bulbous head, the elongated neck, the part-submerged body is replicated time after time in lamp stands, tables, cutlery, concept villas, museums and churches. To vary it a little, there are the protuberances and orifices, beans, blobs and penises for which Future Systems is famed. But what the practice is trying to achieve; why it is

trying to achieve it; what its philosophy might be, how it reaches decisions; why it thinks it never builds anything; etc., are just some of the many questions ignored in this book.

By refusing to engage intellectually with the architectural debate, when the pair do venture an opinion it can seem slightly unworldly (although Kaplicky's blithe insistence that museums should sanctify the artefact is refreshing).

I would love to recommend this book simply for the line 'if a building is an epic novel... a spoon is a haiku'. But all things considered, this book not only tells us nothing new about Future Systems, it actually tells us nothing at all.

Austin Williams is the writer and illustrator of NBS Shortcuts







2

# BOOK

By Kenneth Campbell

Holkham Edited by Leo Schmidt et al. Prestel, 2005. 239pp. £30

- 1. Holkham's palatial Marble Hall
- 2. Construction began in 1734

Holkham is one of the great houses of Britain. However, as its current administrator says in his contribution to this volume, in attracting visitors it has to contend with its rather isolated Norfolk situation. Certainly, anyone who undertakes the journey will be amply rewarded by its particular contrast of external austerity and internal magnificence.

The authors, of whom there are 16, have contributed in various ways to the book's contents, but who wrote what is not explained, and then only partially, until the penultimate page. This should not be taken as criticism, since their efforts are clearly aimed to be collaborative, which is perhaps reflective of the house itself.

The 1962 Pevsner for Norfolk spoke only of William Kent as architect. In a series of

articles in Country Life, Leo Schmidt later argued that the history was much more complicated. The man who commissioned the house, Thomas Coke MP (created Earl of Leicester in 1744), himself probably played a substantial role, together with Matthew Brettingham, and probably with advice from Lord Burlington. That view was reinforced by the discovery and publication of letters between Coke and Brettingham by C Hiskey (in Architectural History), which show Coke giving him the most precise instructions on the works then in hand.

It demonstrates that a great building need not be the result of one mind, but can be the product of many interacting ones, even if it does require a single figure of great vision and tenacity to carry the project through. Wheeler-dealer politician he may have been, but Coke clearly was such a man. That statement needs a gloss only to the extent of including his redoubtable widow who, their dissolute only son having died early, brought his life's work to completion.

Apart from the architecture, another fascinating aspect is that of the original arrangement of the paintings, and their significance. Although previous writers on Holkham have discussed this in terms of overall aesthetic effect, C M Vogtherr here proposes elaborate schemes of content reference, including some to contemporary political events. At least part of this, although intriquing, seems, as the author admits, not directly provable, and will perhaps strike some as far-fetched in its detail.

The contribution of Coke's great-nephew, Thomas William Coke, the agriculturalist, for whom the earldom was recreated in 1837, is also addressed, since he was mostly responsible for the grounds as they are today. As is that of his son, the second earl, who commissioned S S Teulon to create the terraces.

The overall tone is somewhat uneven between the scholarly and the anecdotal, but this may not matter too much in a book that few are likely to read from cover to cover. It is very handsomely produced and includes a wealth of plans and elevations of the various stages of the genesis of the house. An index would, however, have been helpful.

Kenneth Campbell teaches at King's College London



Massimiliano Fuksas' Musée des Graffitis

# BOOK

By Robert Cowan

Contemporary Public Space: Un-Volumetric Architecture Edited by Aldo Aymonino and Valerio Paolo Mosco. Skira, 2006. 393pp. £19.95

Forgiving the ungainly subtitle, this book is welcome for its description of 100 projects. All involve objects or structures that shape open space but do not enclose internal space including sculptures, street furniture, shelters, bridges, observation towers and parks. We know from experience that half the projects will prove successful while the others will have been vandalised or bulldozed within five years. Part of the fun is trying to guess which will be which.

Each section is introduced by an essay, most of them enlightening. Can architecture be 'un-volumetric'? In her piece, Denise Scott Brown recalls Louis Kahn defining architecture as 'the thoughtful making of space'. She comments: 'Kahn took for granted that architecture's main task was the making of space. Yet in the late 1940s, I had been taught that architecture had to do with mass and volume.'

Pippo Ciorra identifies Bernard Tschumi's 1980s Parc de La Villette as 'the archetype of "zero-volume architecture", and some of the authors are passionately committed to what Ciorra calls 'applying architecture to construct space without constructing buildings'. Kengo Kuma writes: What the human spirit and body really seeks is not objects or volume, but holes.'

Architects who find that idea threatening may be comforted by this book's thesis that satisfying such human needs can yet be classified as architecture.

Robert Cowan is director of the Urban Design Group



# CRITIC'S CHOICE

By Andrew Mead

Each summer for the past 10 years, Shin Egashira, a unit master at the Architectural Association in London's Bedford Square, has run a student workshop at the village of Koshirakura some 200km north of Tokyo. Now the subject of an exhibition at the AA (see picture), it began when the regional prefecture identified Koshirakura as a 'marginalised village' in need of revitalisation. But Egashira has been careful to avoid the sense of bright students parachuting in to do 'good works' and then exiting – the emphasis has been on 'intercultural exchange', which comes across in the diary of each year's activities included at the AA, where contributions from the village residents are interspersed among those of the students, and reveal genuine warmth on both sides.

The workshops became still more pertinent after the Niigata earthquake in 2004, which threw Koshirakura's terraced landscape into disarray. It was landscape that the workshops first focused on, and one of the most engaging projects here – in a series which includes such built works as a bus shelter, a pavilion and a viewing platform – involved the installation of 22 'reading chairs' in carefully selected spots around the village, directed to particular features of the landscape and linked by renewed segments of old or disused paths. The AA show gives a strong sense of what's clearly been a really worthwhile undertaking, and a book on the workshops will be published soon (www.aaschool.ac.uk).

Among the most enterprising attempts to integrate architecture and landscape that the AJ has published lately are the projects of *Duncan Lewis* and his practice Scape Architecture, both in his adopted country, France, and further afield – a school in Norway, for instance (AJ 22.05.03). Lewis is one of the speakers at this year's RSAW annual conference, *Outside the Box*, which takes place in Cardiff on Friday 24 November. As the title suggests, the aim is to look at what architects can learn from their collaborators in other disciplines, and joining Lewis on the platform are engineer *Mark Whitby*, artist *Gordon Young*, and author *Charles Jencks* – whose own 'cosmic' landscape gardens will no doubt feature (www.architecture-wales.com).

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



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Scale 32 - 39 £25,437 - £30,843 (bar at scp 36 subject to qualification) You must have a relevant academic or professional qualification and have experience of a multi-disciplinary property support service environment.

# **GRADUATE ARCHITECT** (Ref: 1126)

Scale 6 - SO2 £20.895 - £26.928

You must have a degree in Architecture and be able to demonstrate an interest in building design and be working towards full qualification as a Registered Architect.

APPLICATION FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY MIDDAY 07/11/06.

# **DESIGN MANAGER** (Ref: 1128)

Scale 43 - 45 £34.146 - £35.772

You must be a Registered Architect with five years' experience at Principal level in a consulting environment.

# GRADUATE QUANTITY SURVEYOR (Ref: 1127)

Scale 6 - SO2 £20,895 - £26,928

You must have a relevant degree or professional qualification.

APPLICATION FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY MIDDAY 08/11/06.

All posts are subject to Job Evaluation. If not informed within 3 weeks of the closing date, candidates must assume they have not been shortlisted for interview and will therefore not be notified in writing

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Plymouth

Ny Cliest, a well-renowned Architectural practice, with offices in Plymouth and Exeter, currently seek an Architectural Technician. To be successful the following qualities must apply:

- 3 to 5 years experience
- Good IT and CAD skills (ideally Microstation but not essential)
- Good eam worker essential
- Good deam worker essential
- Good design awareness
- Good understanding of construction and ability to detail
- Good design awareness
- Good hand drafting / freehand detailing desirable.

#### 3D Visualiser

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To - £38,000

Our Client, an AJ100 listed practice, are renowned for their quality Architecture and attention to detail. With a large number of exciting new projects being won, they currently seek a talented 3D Visualiser to assist with the ever growing workload. To be successful you will have experience producing visuals for large commercial, retail and residential projects. This is a great opportunity to join a well established Fractice, with endless amounts of interesting new projects.



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#### Architecture with a conscience! Central London

Award-winning, friendly practice with a strong ecologically sustainable bias has an urgent requirement for talented, design-focussed individuals to join their exceptionally busy team. Seeking applications at all levels including experienced part IIs and fully-qualified architects. Microstation skills preferred although cross training offered for exceptional candidates. Excellent career potential for talented people.

#### Case Study Available Central London

Our client is a medium-sized, respected practice with projects including leisure, residential and low-energy buildings. They are now seeking a bright and energetic part II or equivalent with ambitions to fulfil their part III. Autocad skills are essential, and you must be able to demonstrate technical ability as well as creative flair. Candidates will have minimum 2 years experience and a genuine desire to progress.

#### **Cutting Edge Design** Central London

We have been retained by this well-known design practice to source a talented and experienced project architect. Having won over 1m sq ft of competition space in the past few months, they require excellent creativity combined with outstanding job running skills. Associateship exists for the right person.

#### Bespoke Private Residence **Central London**

This medium-sized practice has grown steadily since its inception 3 years ago. Having recently won a prestigious project with a private client, they are now seeking to appoint talented part II or equivalent on a contract basis. Autocad skills and good all-round ability are essential. 4 month contract initially with the option to extend.

We have ongoing requirements for a range of staff from cad technicians to senior project architects. Call today for an informal, confidential discussion with someone who will really understand your aspirations.

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Job Ref 1102

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The successful candidate will need to display strong design skills, previous hotel experience and an ability to manage a design team during both concept and delivery stages. Microstation would be an advantage.

To apply for this position please send your CV to info@ribaappointments.com or call 020 7496 8370

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# Architects & Technical Staff



DUFFY MITCHELL O'DONOGHUE is a progressive design focused architectural practice with a diverse and interesting portfolio of projects in both public and private sectors. Our work includes many large scale mixed used urban redevelopment projects comprising commercial office, retail and residential uses, as well as unique projects involving conservation and refurbishment aspects.

We are now seeking talented, motivated candidates at all levels, both architects and technical staff to join our practice. In addition, we are seeking architects and interior architects to become part of our growing interior architecture section. We offer the opportunity to be part of a team environment, to challenge and be challenged, to grow, to develop and to contribute.

An interesting and innovative employment package is offered. For positions available see www.dmod.ie under recruitment.

Please forward your response or queries by post to 12 Northbrook Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 or email to recruitment@dmod.ie - all applications will be treated confidentially.

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DuPont is constantly developing new products and applications including Teffon®, Corian®, Keylar®, Tyvek® and CoolMax® and will be launching a radically new product into the UK construction market that will significantly decrease the energy consumption of buildings whilst simultaneously decreasing the environmental impact. To support this launch, DuPont is looking to bring a Technical Consultant into the Building Innovations division of their business.

# The Role:

- · Supporting the specification of the new product with the major Architects, · Ideally, you will possess a degree in Mechanical & Electrical Engineering or Mechanical, Electrical, Environmental & Sustainability Engineers.
- · Actively developing the market of new specifications and prospects through the identification and development of leads and projects.
- · You will be expected to offer technical support with reference to the thermal behaviour of buildings and the subsequent installation of the new product.
- · Effective management of the key accounts through project delivery and quality of service.
- · Analysis and reporting of the New Product's Development within the marketplace to formulate relevant feedback for the division as well as remaining up to date with market trends and development.

# Experience:

- be a qualified Architect with a minimum of 5 years' experience within a Mechanical & Electrical Engineering, Building Services or Architectural Environment. Knowledge of building science, with focus on the thermal behaviour would be advantageous to the role.
- As a key liaison for DuPont Building Innovations in the UK, you will be expected to demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Working well in a team will be critical as much of your time will be spent in a
- · You should demonstrate a strong understanding of the commercial potential of the role and display excellent technical skills, especially with regards to Building Services Science, Building Structure and HVAC.
- A knowledge of CAD, SAP/SBEM and TRNSYS would be advantageous.

DuPont is committed to developing your professional and personal skills in order to enhance a supportive, multicultural working environment that pursues and embodies excellence.

The role is offered on a consultancy basis but offers the potential to enter permanent employment with DuPont at a later stage. In the first instance please email: response@ndksearch.com quoting reference NDK BI/001 and include your full CV and remuneration details. For a confidential discussion please contact NDK on 01925 813888.

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Due to an increase in workload on healthcare, retail and education projects we have a number of vacancies.

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# Lead Conservation Architect. Kabul, Afghanistan

This is an exciting opportunity to lead, Turquoise Mountain and A4A's ongoing programme of historical restoration in the old city of Kabul. The successful applicant will oversee and deliver an extensive programme of historical restoration on a variety of buildings in Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan. They will also work with local architects to develop their capacity.

Applicants should be RIBA part III qualified or equivalent, have specialist knowledge and experience of historical conservation, and familiarity with vernacular mud brick building techniques. Applicants also require strong leadership skills, a sensitivity to, and knowledge of, Islamic culture and a willingness to live, to travel and to work

1 year fixed term contract, starting October 2006, salary commensurate with experience.

Apply in writing with CV to: Dr. Victoria Harris at 10 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4QJ, or call +44 (0) 207 466 1222, or vicky@architectsforaid.org





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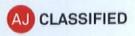
The UK Architecture stand, organised by The Architects' Journal and sponsored by Buro Happold and Gardiner & Theobald, is now in its 2nd successful year at Cityscape.



Cityscape, held in Dubai, will provide an opportunity for UK design practices to demonstrate the quality

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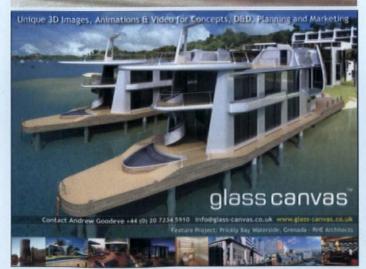


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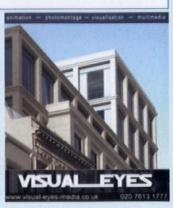
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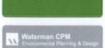




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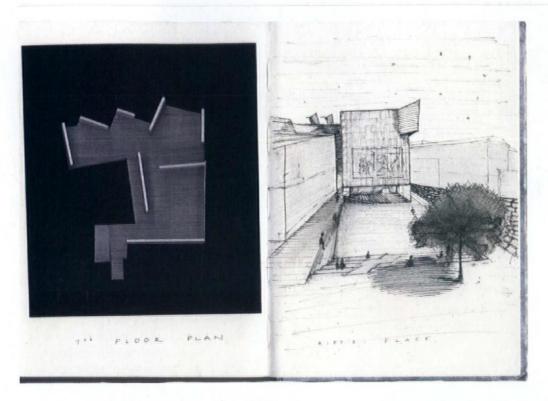
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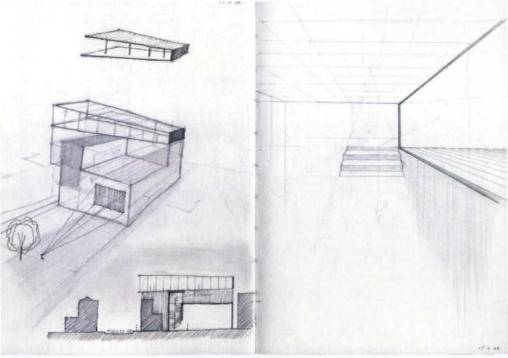
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# **SKETCHBOOK / PAUL DURCAN**





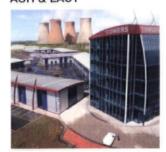
Sketches for a project to design a public library in Cork city, Republic of Ireland. By architecture student Paul Durcan, currently working in his year out for Murray O'Laoire Architects



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# **ASH & LACY**



# AJ ENQUIRY 201

Architectural roofing and cladding expert Ash & Lacy has supplied a range of its innovative Ashfab flashings to enhance the visual appeal of the Towers Business Park in Rugeley, Staffordshire. Ash & Lacy was called upon to create the look of modernity by employing a range of Ashfab components.

# STOAKES SYSTEMS



# **AJ ENQUIRY 202**

Pools & Halls and Kalwall for Schools are new publications which focus on projects where Kalwall diffused daylighting system was specifed. They include interesting comments from architects/clients on how Kalwall can save energy, change interiors and improve health. Visit www.stoakes.co.uk

# **VELFAC**



# AJ ENQUIRY 203

Velfac now provides a service for domestic or small commercial projects. Each window is made to order to specifications for design, colour and size, allowing you the freedom of your imagination. The display is at the Kettering showroom. Telephone 01223 897100 or visit www.velfac.co.uk

# KINGSPAN



# AJ ENQUIRY 204

Kingspan Kooltherm K10 Soffit Board was installed on the roof of the underground car park to thermally insulate between the car parking, service/loading bays and the first floor of the captivating City Lofts mixed-use scheme, which is a key contributor to the rejuvenation of the Liverpool Docklands area.

# SWS



# **AJ ENQUIRY 205**

The extensive range of folding sliding-door systems from Scandinavian Window Systems continues to offer architects the edge in technology, performance and versatility; combined with the highest possible quality. Why settle for anything less? www.scandinavian-windows.co.uk

# CORUS



# AJ ENQUIRY 206

Corus has launched a completely revised version of its Repertoire online product-selection and colour-matching tool, which could revolutionise the way architects select building envelopes. The free, interactive tool allows architects to mix and match different cladding colours and profiles.

# KORAMIC



# **AJ ENQUIRY 207**

Independent research on CA Building Products has shown that its non-fragile rooflights have the best insulation performance in the industry. CA's non-fragile lights are both the safest and the most energy-efficient, with a U-value of just 1.00 W/m²K – saving energy for heating as well as lighting.

# **VM ZINC**



# AJ ENQUIRY 208

Pluline D is a ready-to-glue rainwater system made from preweathered VM Zinc, specifically designed for houses and conservatories. It is delivered in special kits with gutters, concealed brackets, stop ends, corners, running outlets, downpipes and self-locking pipe brackets.

# Levolux

# Academic Excellence



Photographer: Nigel Young - Foster & Partners

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