

# 'To be a good, effective architect you need to embrace a kind of voluntary multiple personality disorder'



## Architectural training has left a legacy of impotence

Meredith Bowles is utterly right about the training of architects, where everyone just wants to be Le Corbusier ('Executive architects are seen as playing second fiddle to someone else', AJ 12.01.17). The truth is that to be a good, effective architect you need to embrace a kind of voluntary multiple personality disorder, whereby you are simultaneously artist, technician and professional. Being taught to aspire to just the former has left a legacy of impotence, the results of which can be seen only too clearly in the built environment. *Simon Gill*

It would have been inspiring (and a lot of fun) to have had examples of Peter Salter's plan drawings of Walmer Yard (pictured) juxtaposed with some samples of the actual construction plans.

That would give your readers some of what Meredith Bowles says: 'One of the reasons I'm so interested in the executive architect role – I want to ensure as a practice we continue with a knowledge of building.' *Peter Bernamont*

Very interesting interview discussing the role of the architect in terms of design and delivery, and how we can ensure we are experts in both. *@langstaffday*

## Croydon move could herald some more interesting buildings

Hopefully Croydon architect's department will be the start of more interesting buildings that have a wealth to give beyond the narrow confines of commercial architecture, making a built environment we actively look forward to seeing in future decades. Perhaps, in reference to the comment of one-time LCC planner Percy Johnson-Marshall ('In-house: the council architect', AJ 12.01.17), architects should play more of a role in policy formation and actually enact some of the Farrell review? Who would be a good chief architect in Westminster? *Alexander Hills*

## UKGBC's strength is that it works with large companies

What gives the UKGBC its strength is that the learning, innovating, campaigning and lobbying is done in conjunction with all large and influential companies ('Architects need to learn from the way buildings are used', AJ 12.01.17). As a practice of 20, we see this as a plus.

The AJ rightly bemoans the fact that so few architects signed up to the COP 21 pledge in 2015. However, HAB Housing, a UKGBC member, did, and committed to deliver the first Energy Positive place by 2018, with all schemes energy positive

by 2020. Land Securities, another member, committed to restrict its carbon emissions to meet the 80 per cent reductions required by 2050.

How many architects have such ambitions or even log events like COP 21? How many have the knowledge and the skills to educate their clients and design teams as Julie Hirigoyen suggests?

There is much that the UKGBC can offer architects large and small, and there is much that architects can contribute to the debate within the UKGBC. Join up! *Anna Woodeson, LTS Architects*

## There may be innocent reasons for leaving the register

I think it is inaccurate for ARB to suggest it has removed 3 per cent of the profession from its register for non-payment of fees ('ARB boots 1,200 off register for not paying fees', AJ online 06.01.17). Every year there will be retiring architects who no longer wish to remain on the register, and others who have moved abroad or are having a break from the profession. It creates a false impression to suggest these individuals have been removed for non-payment of fees – albeit factually correct. *Chris Roche*

## Patrik Schumacher's leaked email

When architecture is more like reality TV – leaking and printing private emails. *@angeladapper*

I recommend reading Schumacher's email out loud in a Christopher Walken impression. It seems to suit all the exclamation marks. *@hantsarchitect*

'Hey, shit happens' and 'Politics and professional service don't mix' doesn't amount to a sincere apology. *@skylar\_moran*

Disagreeable though his views are, we can agree an architect who builds, writes, speaks and teaches widely is a very good thing. *@tomfredfox*



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