

BE magazine

Volume 9 | 2010

World leading projects at House of Lords

Homes for Haiti

Treehouse wins sustainable building award

UrbanBuzz: Rootscape inspires local teenagers

New Urban Design studios

RICS Adaptation Programme in China

Employer Engagement

Adapting to a changing climate

OISD joins UK Green Building Council

An architectural rendering of a modern building complex. The buildings feature a mix of materials, including wood cladding and large glass windows. A central courtyard area is paved with light-colored gravel and contains several trees, a small outdoor seating area with a yellow umbrella, and people walking. A blue car is parked on the right side. The sky is a clear, light blue.

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School of the **Built Environment**

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BE magazine is sent to all alumni of the School of the Built Environment at Oxford Brookes University. It is a record of our school's achievements and our plans for the future. It is sent electronically as part of our sustainability agenda but if you would like to receive it as hard copy please contact be_marketing@brookes.ac.uk

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Georgia Butina Watson, Tim Dixon, Bill Flinn, Rajat Gupta, Ramin Keivani, Rhiannon Lassiter, Jake Piper, Mark Swenarton, Joe Tah and other staff members from the School of the Built Environment.

Design

Rhiannon Lassiter

Photography

Frank Dumbleton, Rhiannon Lassiter and other staff members from the School of the Built Environment, Oxford Brookes University and associated colleagues.

Cover photograph

'The Shambles' by Nick Thorne winner of the UDG national award for best urban design scheme.

Message from the Dean

The last year has been a time of great change for the School of the Built Environment, beginning with the next scheduled phase of the masterplan which has seen the Department of Planning move to new premises, the start of the demolition of the Lloyd building, the demolition of three more bays of Darcy and the construction of the new John Payne building which now houses the Architecture Workshop and Technology Laboratory. The construction of the Abercrombie Extension and the New Library and Teaching Block is due to start in the new year.

There are also changes ahead as the university embarks on an administrative restructuring process which will see the creation of a new Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment formed from the School of the Built Environment, the School of Technology and the Departments of Arts. This is one of four new faculties being created. This structural change will see the four new Deans taking a larger role in the management of the university as the Deans of the four new faculties will also become pro vice chancellors and members of the Senior Management Team. Our Departments of Architecture, Planning and Real Estate and Construction look forward to exploring new collaborations and extending our culture of cross-disciplinary teaching to the new subject areas the new faculty will encompass.

I'm also proud to look back on some of our successes presented here in BE Magazine. Our school took a central role in the Changing People: Changing Places presentation at the House of Lords demonstrating the range of research, teaching and community work we are engaged in. I visited colleges of Architecture, Art and Planning in India where we explored collaborations at a range of levels and promoted our postgraduate Indian scholarship.

Across the Departments there has been a huge variety of achievements both institutionally and individually. The involvement of our students and staff in our local community and their contributions to the wider global community is a testament to their commitment to a sustainable, ecological and successful future for us all. There are far more achievements than can be included in this publication so I encourage you to look at the news pages of the School's website which we update on a regular basis: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/news/index.html>

Whether you are a recent graduate or a longstanding alumna or alumnus of the school and its departments, we hope you'll keep in touch with us and share your stories of the wide range of careers you've joined, the different countries where you've made your homes, and your contribution as a Built Environment professional to the changes we are making in the world.



Marstan Street, Dean

Brookes showcases world-leading projects at the House of Lords

In March 2009 Oxford Brookes' Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor hosted an exciting event at the House of Lords. *Brookes: Changing People and Places* took the University to the country's most influential decision-makers and showed them some of the work we are doing.

Academics, alumni, students and senior figures from the University met over 200 politicians and VIPs to give them a glimpse of the calibre of the projects we are engaged in. Professor Beer said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for us to highlight the wide range of pioneering research, teaching and community work we carry out at Brookes. Crucially, it all directly benefits society. We have so much to be proud of. Colleagues from Brookes who will be travelling to the House of Lords represent the many dedicated individuals and teams who make a huge contribution to the business, culture, heritage and sporting life of our region and the wider world."

The projects being showcased at the House of Lords included three Built Environment initiatives:

- Brookes' involvement in community initiatives: Professor Georgia Butina Watson has joined teenagers in Blackbird Leys and Cowley in drawing up ideas for a new youth centre.
- Work at the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP): training students to make interventions in some of the world's worst-hit crisis areas.
- Dr Rajat Gupta's DECoRUM computer model: maps CO2 emissions from houses and helps planners calculate the benefits of designing different energy efficiency measures across entire streets.



Marstan Street conducts tour to strengthen ties with India

In February 2010, Marstan Street, Dean of the School of the Built Environment at Oxford Brookes University conducted a short tour of India to strengthen ties and establish new links between the School and colleagues, institutions, academics, researchers and practitioners in India.

Accompanied by Smita Chandiwala, a research associate with the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD), the Dean travelled to Mumbai and New Dehli, taking advantage of opportunities to present and exchange knowledge about the challenges to creating and maintaining a sustainable environment in the 21st century.

Between the 30th of January and 7th of February 2010, the team visited Rachana Sansad Academy of Architecture, the Sir JJ College of Architecture and the Kamla Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute of Architecture and Environmental Studies in Mumbai, the BVU College of Architecture, met members of Sinhgad College of Architecture and visited the Nanavati College of Architecture for Women in Pune. They also visited the School of Planning and Architecture and Sushant School of Art and Architecture in New Dehli.

The School's research institute, OISD, focuses on the creation of sustainable futures and sets the standard for research in subjects such as the

importance of low carbon buildings, sustainable technology and sustainable urban form. An important reference point for collaborations between Oxford Brookes and colleagues in India is the Living Steel Demonstration Building in Kolkata. The apartment block prototype is the outcome of a worldwide collaborative programme designed to stimulate innovative and responsible housing design and construction, incorporating state of the art thermal dynamics solutions. Oxford Brookes University performs the function of Sustainable Habitat Design Adviser to this project.

Dr Rajat Gupta of OISD at Oxford Brookes University, maintains an advisory forum and swikipedia on best-practice in sustainable habitation, promoting sustainable building design and development in India. He has convened and chaired several UK-India conferences in Dehli in recent years, such as the Urban Sustainability and Green Buildings for the 21st century conference in 2009 and the Sustainable energy technologies and low carbon buildings conference for young scientists, in 2008.

OISD at Brookes generates world-leading research covering a wide range of findings such as energy use, transport behaviour and bio diversity for publications such as the International Journal of Low Carbon Technologies and the Journal on UK-India low-carbon research. OISD teamed up with the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA) in 2008 to host a conference focused on Sustainable Urban Form in India. Other partners included the British Council, the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) Ahmedabad, the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) and the Indian Institute of Technology of Mumbai and Delhi.

Additionally, Masters students from the School's Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) undertake field-based research for their dissertations. The Centre assists by linking students to organisations it works with in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These include two Indian NGOs; the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) based in Ahmedabad, and SEEDS India. *(Read more about a CENDEP alumna's work in India in our Alumni section of this magazine.)*

The School of the Built Environment offers a postgraduate scholarship for Indian students. The scholarship is awarded annually to an Indian student graduating from an Indian University who applies to any MSc or MA in the School of the Built Environment, who either has an excellent academic record or who demonstrates significant potential.

Living Steel Demonstration Building, Kolkata



Department of Architecture news

Hazard resistant homes for Haiti

Thousands died in the Haiti earthquake because of low quality construction; the last thing that Haitians want now is more shoddy building.

Haiti is in the news again as we pass the six month anniversary. Tens of thousands are still homeless, living in camps, squatting by the sides of roads. Despite the best intentions of aid agencies, there is still a huge need for “transitional shelter”, houses that will see families safely through the approaching hurricane season and provide a dignified home. This home may have to last several years until they are resettled and can rebuild.

The Centre for Disaster and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) has been advising agencies on simple ways to achieve a hurricane proof timber building. To prove the point we built one on the grass in front of the Darcy building. With a handful of architecture students, it was built in a couple of days from a pile of 4x2s, a bucket of nails and some rolls of metal strapping. Aside from learning about shelter after disaster, the students were able to practise their carpentry skills. A simple photo-manual developed afterwards has been sent to Haiti.

There is an acute shortage of “shelter” practitioners. This has long been felt across the world, but with over a million made homeless by the earthquake in Haiti, this shortage became critical. The week

Images from the construction of of the hurricane shelter: below and right



following the building of the shelter, it was employed as a teaching tool in CENDEP’s “rapid shelter training for Haiti”. The participants, who were all preparing for possible deployment to Haiti, were able to see how good engineering and construction techniques can make a simple, de-mountable, safe, temporary home. Subsequently, several of these qualified architects and engineers have been working in Haiti.

CENDEP is further establishing itself as a centre for learning and practice in shelter with the launch of the new Postgraduate Certificate in Shelter after Disaster. This course, along with other planned specialist trainings, is part of a concerted effort to increase the number of shelter practitioners, but more importantly to provide those practitioners with the skills to deliver high quality shelter programmes for those affected across the world by floods, storms, earthquakes and conflict.





Student-designed treehouse study centre wins sustainable building award

After winning an award for her design for a rural education centre, Brookes University architecture student Samantha Sherwood saw her studio project tree house design turned into reality in the New Forest, replacing the dilapidated huts formerly used by the Countryside Educational Trust (CET) as classrooms where children and adults learn about the countryside.

Samantha beat competition from architecture students from across south east England, when her design won first place in a competition run by the Solent Centre for Architecture and Design.

Students were invited to design a tree house study centre for the Countryside Education Trust, which is based on the Beaulieu Estate in the New Forest in Hampshire. The judges were seeking designs that provided good access for disabled people, whilst also being environmentally sustainable.

Samantha's design certainly rose to the challenge, featuring a grass roof, solar panels, large windows, underfloor heating fuelled by wood pellets and a light and wind tower - all several feet off the ground among the trees. Samantha was working in Unit E within the Department of Architecture under design tutors Steve Bowkett, Sally Daniels and Ronnie MacLellan.

The design was taken on by Blue Forest Ltd and Novoe Ltd who have developed Samantha's concept to the real world study centre we see in use today. Other organisations involved were South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) who funded the competition, RIBA (South East) and XCO2 Energy.

The completed building has since won a LABC Award as the best sustainable / technical building of 2009.

A memorial to Tom Lethbridge, the deceased Oxford Brookes student who was a runner up in the competition has been laid at the site of the tree house.

Message from Department Head: Professor Mark Swenarton



From the practical to the inspirational, our staff and students have created work that relates closely to the issues and concerns facing us today. Whether designing hurricane-resistant shelters for the people of Haiti or a study centre in the New Forest, the Department's work is centred on people and their needs.

The quality of our student work is shown not only in our annual exhibition but in the awards won by our students for sustainable housing in the 'Make Bethnal Green' competition and for sustainable design in the LABC awards.

The practical projects set by course tutors have seen the creation of a wide range of structures, some temporary, others permanent, including a ticket booth for the Creation Theatre Company in Oxford, as well as proposals for urban intervention in Jericho, an installation designed to raise awareness of homelessness, and a performance-art structure celebrating the sights and sounds of the River Thames as part of the London Festival of Architecture.

The Department has had many successes over the last two years, too many to report them all here. For more about us, please visit our website.

www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/about/architecture

Architecture students on show at Albania's National Gallery of Arts

Work by students from the departments of architecture and fine art at Oxford Brookes formed the centrepiece of a major exhibition in July 2008 at the National Gallery of Arts in Tirana, Albania.

The exhibition, *The City: Visions and Realities*, explores the contemporary condition of the city and offers inspirational ideas for the future as seen by the new generation of artists and architects. Curated by the Gallery's director Rubens Shima, the exhibition brought together designs and models by Oxford Brookes architecture students, installations and artworks by Brookes fine art students, and artworks from some of Albania's leading contemporary artists and projects by postgraduate architecture students from the Polytechnic University of Tirana. Tutors Andrea Placidi and John Hoole oversaw the installation of the works in the gallery.

Work by more than a dozen architecture students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, from Oxford Brookes were selected by Rubens Shima for the exhibition. Highlights include the Museum of Nature project by third year undergraduate Paul Nicholls (which was short-listed for the RIBA President's Bronze Medal), the London Gliding Club project by postgraduate Elliott Wingfield, and digital projects for the airship docking station in east London by Andrew Longlands and others.

Interior architecture undergraduates Genti Djikola, Ed Harty, James Stroud and John Southwell showed a wide range of proposals for converting St Mary's church in Lambeth into the Garden History Museum, while recent graduates Andi Kercini and Besnik Bijo (now both working for Foster & Partners) showed their postgraduate projects for the art gallery at Compton Verney.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by Prof Linda Fitzsimmons, Dean of Arts and Humanities, and Prof Mark Swenarton, Head of the Department of Architecture, who said: "We are delighted to take part in this exhibition and to contribute to the intense debates now taking place in Albania over the future development of their capital city".

The exhibition attracted enormous interest in Albania, with widespread press coverage and lengthy interviews. The Department of Architecture at Oxford Brookes University gratefully acknowledges financial support from Architects Design Partnership, Assael Architecture and Haverstock Associates for the exhibition.

**National Gallery of Arts, Tirana
showing exhibition poster**



'Make Bethnal Green' winners announced at RIBA

The winners of 'Make Bethnal Green', affordable housing provider Affinity Sutton's first social housing competition for Part 2 students, have been announced at the RIBA.

Joe Williams and George Calver, both of Oxford Brookes, shared the prize, a year's placement (six months each) at HTA Architects supported by Affinity Sutton.

In the event, the DS1 studio at Oxford Brookes University wiped the boards with the competition, producing 7 of the 10 finalists. In addition to the joint winners, two of the commended students, Heena Mistry and Richard Mather, were also from the DS1 studio at Oxford Brookes. The third commended project was by Christopher Bell of Bath University.

The brief called for exemplar 21st century sustainable housing to replace an existing Affinity Sutton estate which recently celebrated its 100th birthday. The jury included representatives from Affinity Sutton, Peter Sharratt of WSP, and the chair of the Bethnal Green Residents' Association, among others and was chaired by Ian Taylor of Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios.

Affinity Sutton was delighted with the quality of the student work which it hopes will raise the bar for design on its own housing portfolio. The eight architectural practices from the Affinity Sutton framework who hosted each competition finalist for a week's placement to develop their initial designs to final submissions were happy to be associated with this worthwhile competition (Cartwright Pickard, Conran & Partners, HLM, HTA, Hunters,

Karakusevic Carson, Levitt Bernstein, PRP, RH Partnership, RPS).

Each student found their experience in working with their respective practice partners and Affinity Sutton very rewarding.

Oxford Brookes tutor Richard Rose-Casemore who had assigned the competition brief for his spring studio project said "I chose to run the 'Make Bethnal Green' competition this year as it embodied many of the issues I wanted the students to explore in the DS1 studio. Housing has been considered a high-risk theme in Schools of Architecture for a while. However, the need to understand the increasingly stringent codes and standards, contribute to the topical debates, and challenge dated pre-conceptions has never been more apposite."

"I had already decided to find a suitable project brief which would shadow the work we are undertaking at Design Engine in designing sustainable housing exemplars, and the Affinity Sutton brief offered a fascinating vehicle for that exercise. My practice colleagues have been able to input with specialist knowledge and we have carried out tutorials both in University and at the office. The students have visited some of the best built schemes in the UK and I also took them on a week-long study trip to Holland in March, where we were able to visit first hand the influential Dutch housing models which have been translated for the British lifestyle in schemes such as Accordia", he said.

Winner: Joe Williams, Oxford Brookes



Winner: George Calver, Oxford Brookes



Department of Planning news

UrbanBuzz: Rootscape inspires local teenagers

Engaging the talents and imagination of Oxford's young people was the focus of the Rootscape urban design project involving teenagers from Blackbird Leys and Cowley.

Rootscape is part of UrbanBuzz, a nation-wide initiative delivering sustainability in the built environment. The project was delivered in partnership with Oxford Youthworks and Mayim voluntary organisations.

Rootscape introduced twelve young people to the concepts of urban design, showing how they could influence the transformation of open spaces and housing in their neighbourhood. Brookes ran Saturday workshops and taught youngsters practical skills including using computer design software, model-making, and video and documentary production.

The group designed a wildlife garden for their school and ideas for the new Academy school. They also had the chance to see urban design in action during a trip to Amsterdam. They then used their newfound skills to design a youth development centre for Cowley, which featured in a Rootscape exhibition in December. Professor Georgia Butina Watson, who led the project, now hopes funding can be found to make the centre a reality.

Maya Francis, teenage participant in the Rootscape project commented:

"It has been amazing. It's been very inspiring and an eye-opener. I have learned a lot. I have learned how to communicate with people a lot more and I'm more confident in myself."

Four case studies have been developed from the project as teaching tools and models for further projects, and volunteers are being trained to take the project forward. Oxford City Council is also interested in the group's input to plans for local regeneration.

Perhaps most crucially, half of the young people now say they want to go to university.



Professor Butina Watson and young people in Blackbird Leys

Elizabeth Wilson champions climate change actions at the UN

Elizabeth Wilson of the Impact Assessment Unit, Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development, recently spoke at the Palais des Nations in Geneva at the 63rd session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

UNECE, founded in 1947, works to promote pan-European economic integration amongst its 56 member states, and has taken an active role in co-ordinating UN support for climate change action in the region and beyond.

Elizabeth argued that UNECE should take a lead role in using its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to integrate actions both to mitigate (that, is, to reduce the causes of) climate change and to adapt to unavoidable climate change, in order to maximise co-benefits and avoid conflicts (such as biofuels' impact on food production).

The recommendations from this session were taken up by Mr Jan Kubicki, the Executive Secretary of the UNECE, for follow-up action to sharpen the impact of UNECE in the field of climate change.



Urban Design studio, in use by postgraduate students

New studio spaces as the Department of Planning moves offices from Lloyd to Darcy

The prospect of moving the Department from the six floors of the Lloyd building to a single floor of the Darcy building was not contemplated with equanimity by anyone. But when the time came for the move it went much more smoothly than we'd dared to hope. We took advantage of the move to dispose of boxes of old hard-copy files and to organise and arrange our new offices more effectively.

Of special interest to staff and students are our two new Urban Design studios. The former Technology Laboratory has changed from an industrial workshop used for materials science to a bright and open studio space (pictured above) with a high barrel-vaulted ceiling giving character to the room. A second 'digital studio' holds computers with specialist software for Urban Design and Planning courses.

Other advantages of our new location include open plan research offices and a reception area where students can ask for help and hand in work.

As the work on the masterplan continues this will not be the end of the Department's travels. In another two years we expect to move again; this time permanently into purpose-built space in the new Abercrombie extension where we'll be alongside our colleagues from the Departments of Architecture and Real Estate and Construction.

Message from Department Head: Professor Georgia Butina Watson



There have been changes for the Department of Planning as we said goodbye to the Lloyd building, which has been demolished as part of the master plan, and moved into new offices in the Darcy building. This change of location enabled us to create new offices and teaching spaces including a large open-plan Urban Design studio in what was once the Technology Laboratory.

There are also changes to our courses as we have added a new MSc in Climate Change and the Built Environment and revised our undergraduate suite of programmes. These developments in our degree courses reflect the changes we are experiencing nationally and globally with an increased interest in and enthusiasm for ecological considerations and the need to create stronger links across the professions involved in Planning, Architecture, Urban Design and Property Development.

I am proud of the dedication of our teaching, research, administrative and support staff and our contributions to the university's goal of engaging with the critical issues facing the world, prioritising the environment and working with communities at home and overseas to bring about positive and lasting change.



PhD students and researchers move into the new research office



Professor Butina Watson tests out the new Planning reception



Postgraduate student wins Urban Design award

A postgraduate student has won the Urban Design Group's Francis Tibbalds Student Award. Nick Thorne's project, 'The Shambles' is a proposed regeneration of the Osney Mead industrial estate in Oxford.

Nick talks about the award

"In February 2010, I was presented with the first Francis Tibbalds Student Award by the Urban Design Group for 'The Shambles - A new heart for the Osney Islands', Oxford project. The scheme was an individual project based upon a masterplan (group project) as part of the Urban Design Specialisation module undertaken during the second year of my Architecture Diploma.

The project regenerates Osney Mead Industrial Estate, a primarily single use brownfield site located beside the River Thames and canal approximately ten minutes walk west of Oxford City Centre. The scheme includes a new mixed use neighbourhood within a perimeter block form connected to the existing Osney Mead community by a new pedestrian bridge. The new bridge will create an important nodal point on the Osney Mead side of the river and analysis of the existing and proposed urban grain demonstrated an opportunity to create a centre with a unique identity for the new neighbourhood.

A design motif was introduced into the scheme inspired by graffiti on warehousing along the canal. The variety of shapes and colours of the graffiti influenced the plot form, selection of materials, street furniture and an abstract pedestrian dominant floorscape. The Shambles combines references to the past with the use of an abstract design motif to create a "one off" exciting and distinctive mixed use neighbourhood that promotes social and physical wellbeing. The heart will provide a vibrant location for the new and existing communities to integrate and develop their own identity to attract people from Oxford and beyond.

The award ceremony was an exciting evening event held in a basement gallery located in London. The nominated students were each required to present their submissions to the audience which was then followed by a presentation ceremony. I was over the moon to win the award and that my work had been recognised over other competitive projects at Brookes and from other universities around the country."

Read more about Nick's award-winning design on our website:



Design for The Shambles

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/postgraduate/nickthorne.html>

A workshop in Kazan

Kazan, a city of some one million people and capital of the Russian Federation's republic of Tatarstan, celebrated her millennium in 2006 and will be hosting the student Olympic Games in 2013. This is therefore an important period in the city's development, and there is a great need for creative ideas for her future development. Recognising this need, the city administration held an international urban design workshop to explore future possibilities, during the Summer of 2008.

The workshop focused on ideas for the future of a run-down mixed-use area, predominantly containing outdated industrial enterprises set up in great haste and therefore with limited planning oversight during the Second World War, known as the "Volga Territories". This huge, disorganised and polluted area of some 2000 hectares has a strategic importance for the city's future: it links quite directly to the city centre, it borders the river Volga which is at the heart of Kazan's identity, and it lies on a natural route from the airport to the city centre, forming a gateway from abroad, both to the centre itself and to the proposed Olympiad venues.

Supported by officials from the various city departments, and by development advisers from Hungary, participants in the workshop were invited from Kazan, from elsewhere in Russia, and from Belarus, Finland, Germany, and the Netherlands; in addition to a UK team from the Joint Centre for Urban Design at Oxford Brookes University.

The Joint Centre's team (Professor Georgia Butina Watson, Ian Bentley and Laura Azevedo) found the experience of participation both stimulating and challenging. Because of the huge size of the area – our development advisers agreed that it would take at least 150 years to build out, and probably a great deal longer – it seemed clear to us that even the most strategic form of masterplan would almost certainly be overwhelmed by the massive changes likely during that period, if changes during the last 150 years were anything to go by. As an overall structure, therefore, we developed two "early win fixes" intended to be implemented during the more predictable medium-term before the Olympiad, against a background, long-term idea of the Volga Territories as a whole as a "machine for creating opportunities".

The Opportunity Machine depended on the idea of maximising connectivity, both of public space and of environmental infrastructure such as water and green connections, in order to generate the widest potential both for human activities and for ecological

accessibility. The existing fragmented and polluted series of streams, lakes, ponds and ditches were to be gradually re-connected to each other and to the Volga, whilst current stretches of public space and redundant railway land were linked to form the most connected deformed grid we could devise. Using Space Syntax, we explored which parts of this grid could be cut away without destroying the connectivity of the whole, and which had to be preserved at all costs, in order to give the municipality a simple, robust idea of underlying, long-term spatial structure that had to be controlled.

The two "early win fixes" involved the development of a "green tram" system forming a spine through the Volga Territories to the airport, creating a natural spine for future development, and the regeneration and connection to the city centre of an outdated river port, to form waterside housing and commercial space: the economic impact here would have a spin-off in the regeneration of a historically-important but currently run-down market street, bringing the benefit of the new development into the heart of the old city.

We were pleased to find that the Joint Centre's ideas, though rather different from any of the other teams', were well received. We were delighted to be asked, as a result, to team up with a local firm of architects and urban designers to develop a conservation strategy for a historic city-centre area; the implementation of which is now on hold because of the recession. We were also excited to be asked to get involved in an exchange programme of student work with Kazan school of architecture, which is now under development. All in all, a positive and stimulating experience.



Department of Real Estate and Construction news

RICS Adaptation Programme in China

The Department of Real Estate and Construction is working with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) to develop a new route to professional membership. A pilot scheme was formally launched in Shanghai on 10th April 2009, and will last for three months. It is delivered online via our Virtual Learning Environment (Brookes Virtual) with face-to-face workshops for assessment through three extended weekends locally.

All the delegates are senior professionals with many years experience of working in either Chinese or European markets. Once they successfully complete the programme, delegates will be awarded a Qualifying Certificate in Advanced Valuation from the School. With this certificate, they will be eligible to proceed to the final RICS interview straight after the scheme.

Although this scheme is still at a pilot stage, once it has been reviewed and, if approved by the RICS, it



Pilot scheme workshop in Shanghai

could open up many worldwide opportunities for similar programmes not only in Property Valuation but also Project Management and Quantity Surveying, both of which are strongly represented in the Department.

Employer Engagement and Foundation Degree

In response to emerging Government thinking that the future prosperity of the UK will depend upon upskilling the workforce, we are increasingly working with employers and developing programmes that are suited to work-based learning modes of delivery.

One such initiative is our Foundation Degree programme in construction management developed in collaboration with Kier Group plc., which is now in its second year, having had a very successful first year. We are in discussions with a number of other major contractors that have expressed interest in

sponsoring students on the programme. We will be happy to hear from and work with organisations that wish to sponsor students on this and any of our programmes. We have strong relationships with businesses through student sponsorships on our programmes.

We want to build on these relationships and extend this to engaging with businesses in consultancy, CPD, and in soliciting funding under the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) initiative run by the UK Technology Strategy Board.



Kier students at Oxford Brookes



Brian Wood and students in Oxford

Successful Postgraduate Project Management Course adds full-time option

Our MSc Project Management in the Built Environment made a successful start last academic year by attracting students from highly reputable construction organisations. The problem-based learning approach adopted on this programme is proving very popular with students and we have again recruited a good number of students from highly reputable construction organisations this year.

This programme is currently delivered part-time and full-time online distance learning with two weeks of intensive teaching on-campus per year and an international field trip.

We intend to build on this experience to expand our Masters Programme portfolio into Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management, and Facilities Management in the near future.

New Undergraduate Construction Courses launched

We have significantly renewed our undergraduate construction management programme resulting in the successful validation and accreditation of two new pathways commenced in September 2009. These are: BSc (Hons) in Project Management; and BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management. These replace the previous BSc (Hons) in Construction Management and BSc (Hons) Building programmes.

Students on a field-trip to the BRE Innovation Park



Message from Department Head: Professor Joe Tah



I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to lead the Department of Real Estate and Construction. The students, academic, and support staff are the soul of the Department. My role as Head is to serve and empower everyone to achieve their full potential. I intend to build on the firm foundations established by Peter Dent and look forward to working with all our stakeholders to create a world class teaching and research environment.

We continue to renew, improve and grow our programmes to better reflect the current and emerging needs of industry and the professions. We have undertaken a significant review of our construction management undergraduate programmes resulting in the launch of two new pathways in project management, and quantity surveying and commercial management. Our highly successful MSc Real Estate Management programme continues to recruit high calibre individuals and is establishing a growing recognition as one of the best in the country. Our distance learning MSc Project Management in the Built Environment programme added a full-time mode due to popular demand from potential students.

We will continue to focus our efforts on undertaking high quality research and developing innovative ways of enhancing the quality of our students' learning experience.

EPSRC Project on Brownfield Development gains outstanding peer review

The work of the EPSRC SUBR:IM consortium which featured Professor Tim Dixon's (OISD: ILM) research on the 'Role of the Development Industry in Brownfield Development' was rated as 'tending towards outstanding' by EPSRC peer review.

Finding Solutions to the problems of developing brownfield land was the goal of SUBR:IM (Sustainable Urban Brownfield Regeneration: Integrated Management), which ran from July 2003 until July 2007. Funded by EPSRC under its Sustainable Urban Environments initiative and the Environment Agency, it drew together ten major

academic and research institutions in a programme designed to improve the quality of urban environments.

The Consortium aimed to develop technical solutions and tools for restoring brownfield land in urban areas, whilst at the same time increasing the knowledge base of all stakeholders involved in such development. This included investors, developers, planning bodies and local authorities, but also the general public and engineers who work with such problems.



Keynote presentations

The International Labour Organisation invited Ramin Keivani to join an expert group meeting in the ILO regional conference on Green Jobs for Asia and the Pacific in Niigata, Japan in April 2008. This conference was part of the preparatory activities for the ILO contribution to the G8 meeting in Japan in May 2008. Dr Keivani gave a keynote speech on creation of green jobs through sustainable construction. This was based on a recent ILO sponsored research on the topic that was undertaken in the Department of Real Estate and Construction in collaboration with Prof. Joe Tah, Dr. Esra Kurul and Henry Abanda.

In May 2008 Ramin Keivani was invited by the Municipality of Tehran to present a keynote speech on Globalisation and Urban Competitiveness in their first conference on Municipal Financing. The conference was attended by over 500 delegates comprising city mayors and councillors from all over Iran as well as a significant number of urban development academics and practitioners.

Dr Albert Cao gave a keynote speech on valuation of commercial property under risky market conditions at a Seminar on Appraisal and Property Protection On 18-19 October 2008, hosted by FIG (International Federation of Surveyors), China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents (CIREA) and Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors.

Dr Ramin Keivani and Dr Andrea Colantonio were invited to present at the fourth World Urban Forum on harmonious urbanisation, which took place in Nanjing, China, 3-6 November 2008. The World Urban Forum is a biennial gathering established by the UN Habitat, which is attended by a wide range of partners, ranging from non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals and academics to governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments.

For more about the World Urban Forum see:
http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/oisd/news/UN_Habitat_4.html

New journal launched

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new “International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development” with Taylor and Francis. This is the initiative of Ramin Keivani (Reader and Research Coordinator in the Department of Real estate and construction) in collaboration with Jingzhu Zhao (Chinese Institute of Urban Environment).

IJUSD has a strong international editorial board drawing on a wide range of expertise in urban development including planning, architecture, urban design and real estate.

This journal aims to provide a forum for cutting edge research and rigorous debate for in-depth and holistic understanding of the complex inter-related environmental, social, economic, political, spatial, institutional and physical challenges facing urban areas. Its premise is that multi-disciplinary approaches provide the space for the range of disciplines and perspectives related to the full breadth of issues that affect urban



sustainable development. The journal also aims to enhance knowledge and understanding of the two-way interactions between urbanization processes and patterns and environmental changes at the local, regional, and global scales.

The journal seeks to connect theory and practice in ways that

are useful to academics, policy makers, community activists and professionals who are concerned with or engaged in building and governing cities in ways that enhance environmental viability and foster urban equity and well being and engender economic vibrancy and political accountability.

IJUSD is fully peer reviewed. It publishes original research and review papers. It also includes important think pieces and position papers by prominent scholars and practitioners in the broader field of urban sustainable development. It has a global reach covering cities and towns of different sizes, cultures and economies in the North and the South. It strives to bring together views and experience from industrially developed, developing and transition countries for mutual learning. Authors from developing and transition economies are particularly encouraged to submit papers.

The journal website can be accessed at:
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/19463138.asp>

Invitation to Foresight Panel on Land Use Futures



Tim Dixon, Professor of Real Estate and Director of OISD, has been invited by the Government's Foresight Panel on Land Use Futures to write an expert review on 'Urban Land and Property Ownership Patterns'.

The review will examine what is meant by 'urban land and property' (ULP), and why ULP ownership patterns are important in the context of understanding urban growth in the UK. The review will examine historic trends in ULP ownership patterns in key commercial and residential sectors (in the context of yield and price movements), before identifying the key forces for change that may influence future trends in ULP over the next 50 years to 2060.

More information on the Panel can be found at:
<http://www.foresight.gov.uk/OurWork/ActiveProjects/LandUse/LandUse.asp>

Adapting to a changing climate: A three-year project funded by the UK Research Council

Climate change will affect everyone in the future, but the scale and intensity of change will depend on where you live. Equally the capacity of individuals and communities to adapt and change in the face of climate change also depends on where you live, because of how wealthy you and your neighbours are, of the type of house and neighbourhood you live in, and how effectively local policy makers and public service providers will respond to the challenge.

To address this major gap in knowledge, Oxford Brookes University is co-leading a cutting-edge research project which seeks to answer the question - how existing suburban neighbourhoods in the UK can be best adapted to reduce further impacts of climate change and withstand ongoing changes?

Dr Rajat Gupta, Reader in Architecture and Climate Change in the Department of Architecture and Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development-Architecture Group, in the School of the Built Environment, has been awarded a 3-year research grant (from September 2009) by the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to undertake research on 'Adapting suburban neighbourhoods for a changing climate: identifying effective, practical and acceptable means of suburban re-design (SNACC)'. Smita Chandiwala from the Department of Architecture, is a Research Fellow on the project.

The total value of this multi-disciplinary project is £641,318, with University of West of England, Heriot-Watt University and a range of industry partners including ARUP, as well as researchers from overseas. SNACC is one of the six projects (out of 45 shortlisted in the second round) funded under the £6 million call on Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate (ARCC), which is part of the 10-year 'Living with Environmental Change' Programme (LWEC) programme.

SNACC focuses on suburbs because they are the most common type of urban area in the UK housing 84% of the population. The project will identify successful adaptation and mitigation measures: these are classed as those that perform well technically (i.e. they protect people and property from climate change impacts and mitigate against



Dr Rajat Gupta at the Westmill Wind Farm in South Oxfordshire

further climate change) but are also those that are the most practical and acceptable for those who have to make them happen. The project uses 6 neighbourhoods from 3 cities as case studies (Oxford, Bristol and Stockport). In these areas, key agents of change (e.g. home owners, elected members and planners) will help to determine successful adaptations.

The project will also extend the capability of the RIBA award-winning carbon-counting DECoRuM model (www.decorum-model.org.uk), to conceptualise and evaluate the exposure, vulnerability and adaptive capacity of our existing homes and neighbourhoods in the UK. The modelling (of climate change, house prices and adaptation outcomes), will allow the participants to visualise what 'adapted' neighbourhoods will look like, and deliberative methods from social sciences, to generate a portfolio of adaptation strategies that are feasible, and fully endorsed by stakeholders. The findings will be communicated to a wide network of policy, practice, public and academic beneficiaries. The outcomes will contribute, practically, to securing a sustainable future for the UK's suburbs in the face of climate change.

Dr Rajat Gupta, the Principal Investigator from Oxford Brookes, said: "SNACC is a significant and timely contribution to a research community seeking to address the paucity of socio-technical research. SNACC will expand our research and expertise on climate change mitigation and carbon emission reduction, to evaluating the climate change adaptive capacity of our sub-urban neighbourhoods."

"The project will provide more sophisticated and tested versions of DECoRuM, visualisation tools and hedonic pricing models to help decision-makers effectively manage and protect UK's homes and communities against a changing climate."

OISD: UPM research for NESTA shows that 'history matters' for Britain's city regions

A major new research report co-authored by Professor James Simmie, Dr Juliet Carpenter, and Andrew Chadwick of OISD : UPM (and Department of Planning) with Professor Ron Martin of Cambridge University suggests 'history matters' in understanding which are the most and least successful city regions in Britain. The new report, published by National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), is entitled 'History Matters: Path Dependence and Innovation in British City Regions', and focuses on evolutionary economics and models of path dependence to explain differences in growth and performance amongst Britain's city regions over the last 20 years.

The results of this new research contain important lessons for national and regional economic policymakers. Developing new 'pathways' for economic development depends, to a large degree, on a city-region's local innovation system and absorptive capacity. However, individual policy interventions are likely to have little impact on economic development if they do not take into account previous economic structures and their legacy. Perhaps most importantly, policymakers must be patient and allow major interventions time to bear fruit.

Jonathan Kestenbaum CEO, NESTA in his foreword to the report writes: "This work feeds into a wider body of work that deals with the spatial aspects of innovation policy. Its insights underpin many of the practical programmes we have underway at NESTA and it forms the backdrop to our work with the nations, cities and regions that make up the UK".

OISD joins UK Green Building Council

The Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD) has joined the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC). UKGBC is a membership organisation, consisting of businesses from across the industry, all of whom believe the challenge of sustainability is an opportunity, not a threat. In addition to industry, members include NGOs, academic institutions and government agencies.

Paul King, Chief Executive of UKGBC, said: "I'm delighted OISD at Oxford Brookes has joined the UK Green Building Council's campaign for a sustainable built environment. Our members are increasingly drawn from right across the built environment - and the private, public and third sectors. OISD at Oxford Brookes has an enviable reputation as a key player in sustainable development research and we look forward to a very active involvement in our work to break down the barriers, whether in government policy or industry behaviour, to a more sustainable built environment."



Message from the Director of OISD: Professor Tim Dixon



This year has been a very active and eventful year for OISD. Whilst we saw the departure of several members of staff to other institutions (most notably, Elizabeth Burton and her WISE team to Warwick University, and Nicola Dempsey to University of Sheffield) we have continued to grow and expand our portfolio of funded research, and have also invested considerable effort in producing papers and outputs which will have an impact on policy and practice.

Collaborating with partners in industry and academia is now an everyday part of research life, and over the last year we have also seen a growing partnership with colleagues from the Environmental Change Institute, Smith School for Enterprise and Environment and the James Martin 21st Century School, all based at Oxford University, as well as other institutions both in the UK and overseas, both in terms of conferences and research proposals. Some of this activity is already bearing fruit and we hope there will be further successes to come.

In OISD we are therefore continuing to seek to develop a portfolio of funded research which is based on a variety of sources not only from the research councils, but also industry, government and others.

More research news

International Symposium on Vacuum Insulation (IVIS 2009)

Oxford Brookes University and the University of Cambridge jointly hosted the prestigious 9th International Symposium on Vacuum Insulation, IVIS2009, at the Royal Institution in London, where James Dewar invented the vacuum flask.

The Symposium took place on the 17th and 18th September 2009 chaired by Prof. Raymond Ogden of Oxford Brookes University and Dr Mauro Overend of the University of Cambridge.

The Technology Group within the Department of Architecture at Oxford Brookes University (which includes both Ray Ogden and Chris Kendrick) is playing an internationally leading role in establishing the technology in relation to low energy building envelope systems. It worked closely with the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge (who also have activities in this area particularly in relation to glazing systems) to organise the conference, as well as with the Bavarian Centre for Applied Energy Research and the University of Loughborough.

Welcome address at IVIS 2009

Buildings in the future will need to fractionalise their carbon emissions with new build regulations heading toward zero carbon in a surprisingly short timescale (housing perhaps by 2016). Current building techniques will struggle to achieve this performance, and while many are looking at sustainable alternative techniques such as earth and straw bale construction, many building types will continue to demand technical solutions that are space efficient and capable of being embraced by current building typologies including dense and multi-storey construction as is common in urban environments.

Vacuum Insulation is a very important research area. The technique which in this application often requires evacuating nano-scale materials is able to provide between 6 – 10 times the levels of insulation associated with the best conventional materials such as foams and mineral wools. Building panels if successfully developed would therefore have potential to play a very significant role in reducing the carbon footprints of buildings, both new build and retrofit. Other advantages include thinness and



the ability to optimise the usable floor area of buildings, low combustability and sustainability.

The conference attracted leading researchers, building designers and commercial companies from around the globe including Europe, China and North America. Keynote speakers included Prof. Ernst Worrell of the Copernicus Institute in Utrecht (author of 4 reports for the International Panel on Climate Change), Prof. Derek Clements-Croome (former vice-president of CIBSE and chair of the Intelligent Buildings Group) and architect Prof. Richard Horden of the Technical University of Munich.

Chair of the International Scientific Committee on Vacuum and Advanced Insulation: Prof Raymond Ogden (Oxford Brookes University). Conference secretary: Dr Bousmaha Baiche (Oxford Brookes University).

The official website for the 9th International Symposium on Vacuum Insulation can be found at www.ivisnet.org.

Nicholas Whitehouse gains MBE

The former chairman of Terrapin, currently employed as Business Development and Research Advisor in the School of the Built Environment Technology Research Group has been awarded an MBE in the new years honours for services to the building Industry.



Nick Whitehouse has a long and illustrious record of technical innovation and has worked with the Technology Group (ACT) of the Oxford Institute of Sustainable Development (OISD) for the past two years. His appointment came as part of a HEIF3 initiative for business enterprise.

He is also a key figure in Buildoffsite: the organisation representing off-site construction in the UK.

Nick Whitehouse joined Terrapin Limited in 1977 as a Group Architect, was appointed a Director in 1984 and became Chairman/Managing Director in 1996. Over the years he has served on various RIBA, Government and trade association committees to encourage cross sector working and move off-site manufacture into the main stream of construction.

In his role with the Technology Group at Oxford Brookes University, Nick is currently engaged in the development of testing and accreditation facilities to serve the needs of the UK offsite and cladding sectors. He is an important part of an increasingly successful drive to make Brookes the preferred supplier of technical support in the area of systems engineering, structural design, building physics and sustainability across these sectors.

See our website for more about the work of the OISD Technology Group:
www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/oisd/act/technology

IASTE Conference in Oxford

From 12-15 December 2008, the Department of Architecture hosted the successful 20th anniversary conference of The International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE).

Held in the Examination Schools in Oxford's High Street, the conference was co-hosted with the University of California, Berkeley. It brought together 260 delegates from all over the world and from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, including architecture, anthropology, historic conservation, architectural history and planning.

The conference was opened by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, who commented on the fundamental importance of traditional architectural heritage in a time of globalisation and environmental change.

The 162 papers presented dealt with a number of issues, including the regeneration of traditional architectural heritage, the use of tradition in fundamentalist ideologies and the potential of tradition as a coping mechanism in post-disaster and post-conflict rehabilitation processes.

Duke of Gloucester, opening IASTE conference



Alumni news

Pro Vice-Chancellor visits CENDEP graduate's work in India

In New Delhi today there are approximately five million people living in 'unauthorised' conditions - unplanned slums without adequate drainage or sanitation which surround or swallow whole villages. But Built Environment alumna Pritika Mandal '08 is part of an innovative project in one such 'spontaneous' city which could help improve the quality of life in these areas.

As part of Pro Vice-Chancellor John Raftery's visit to India in February 2010, he travelled to the village of Aya Nagar to see Pritika's work in action. Here the original village population of 20,000 has grown over the past three decades to more than 100,000 people living largely in illegal dwellings.

Professor Raftery said: "This is the reality of rapid urbanisation and represents a sample of the influx of workers from the villages to the work opportunities provided by the large neighbouring city - Aya Naga is only 20km from Connaught Place (a busy district of New Delhi) and the sophistication of Lutyen's Delhi, the national capital.

"The rapid population growth and almost total irrelevance of urban planning has resulted in the decay and pollution of the Johars (ponds), the socio-religious centres of the village, and the absence of effective drainage and sanitation."

Pritika works with a non-Governmental organisation called Greha, helping to establish a prototype



From left to right: Rohit Gulati, Ashish Ganju, Pritika Mandal, Prof John Raftery, Dr.K.L Nadir, Guarav Sharma

'closed-loop' water drainage and recycling system for the village, while working in partnership with the local population. Long term, it is hoped that Aya Naga can provide inspiration to improve conditions in other villages.

"It is quite inspirational to find one of our alumnae working on such painstaking, important, long term work," Professor Raftery commented on his daily blog of the trip. "If she and her colleagues are successful this could provide nothing less than huge betterment for 100,000 people AND a whole new paradigm for sustainable, rapid urbanisation."

Pritika Mandal received an MA in Human and Development Practice from Oxford Brookes, presented by the University's Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP).

Surveyors Bite Back

A pair of Brookes alumni have established a networking group to serve members of the surveying profession. Charles Curtis, investment surveyor for Finn & Company and Sara Brooks, assistant surveyor at King Sturge met whilst studying Real Estate Management at Oxford Brookes University and founded the group Young Surveyors: Biting Back to aid young surveyors struggling to cope in the difficult market, among other things.

The group was formed as a networking forum for the property industry's future leaders. Two events organised by the group took place in 2009 in central London and attracted over 100 young surveyors.

For more about the group visit:

<http://www.youngsurveyorsbitingback.co.uk>

BE magazine | volume 9 | 2010



Charles Curtis and Sara Brooks: co-founders of Young Surveyors: Biting Back

IARD Students network in Norway

In January 2010 two IARD students Chris Millar and Kathryn Hay travelled to Evje in southern Norway to participate in a charrette training course run by the International Network for Traditional Buildings Architecture and Urbanism (INTBAU).

They joined architects, urban designers and other built environment professionals from around the world to participate in this collaborative design workshop involving a wide range of stakeholders. The purpose of the Evje charrette was to produce a masterplan for the redevelopment of the town centre, intended for gradual implementation over a twenty year period. Increasing density and creating a vision for a sustainable, mixed-use town centre with all amenities within walking distance were the main objectives.

At the start of the charrette, the participants became acquainted with the town and the surrounding area and were introduced to the key principles that

underpin sustainable urbanism. During the next few days the participants listened to the local community, analysed the layout and architecture of the town centre and identified the key constraints and opportunities. The design process that followed was undertaken in multi-disciplinary groups, with each of the participants bringing their own disciplinary skills to the table. By the end of the week the civic hall was covered in graphic representations of collated data, and a final hand-drawn masterplan, ready to be presented to the local community, who expressed their approval through an informal vote.

The openness of the project effectively engendered an atmosphere of trust between the public and 'the professionals', and certainly the collaborative nature of the project was a clear ingredient in its success. Whether future planning decisions will reflect this democratic process remains to be seen, but it may be hoped that it will provide the influence necessary to deliver the change that residents wish to see.

IARD students in Norway at the INTBAU training course



Roots Architecture Challenge

The first Roots Architecture Workshop is being held at the WOMAD Roots Architecture festival at Charlton Park from 22nd - 25th July 2010, showcasing sustainable architecture and building projects worldwide in the humanitarian and aid sector, ranging from emergency shelter to community development and buildings.

The four day challenge consists of four teams designing and building four small de-mountable stages for four performances on Sunday evening (9pm 25th July). Materials available for the purpose include reclaimed timber, green wood, bamboo, fabric and netting and other random treats as yet to be identified.

Team leaders and assistants have been gathered from a range of design and technical specialists working in the field of architecture and practical education. They include: Charley Brentnall - International timber design, fabrication and conservation consultant; Melissa Kinnear - General manager, Architecture sans Frontiers UK; TYIN Tegnestue - Non-profit organisation of architecture students from Norway; 'Bamboo' Jack Everett - Bamboo sculptor; Bill Flinn - Architect and independent shelter specialist; Marcus Toop - Architect and co-founder of Tangentfield; Sally Daniels - Tangentstudio Ltd - co-founder of Tangentfield; Oliver Lowenstein - Writer and originator of the 1st Roots Architecture Workshop at WOMAD.

Oxford Brookes architecture students exhibit at the Royal Academy

Works by three Oxford Brookes students – more than any other school – were chosen for inclusion in the 2009 Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy.

The three – undergraduate Alexander Hills and postgraduates Esther Rivas Adrover and Marina Illum - were selected by Will Alsop for display in the architecture room alongside works by Zaha Hadid, David Chipperfield and Norman Foster.

The item by Esther Rivas Adrover (pictured) was an ink on paper study of her project for a library tower and archive on the River Thames, completed while a student at Brookes. Marina Illum's work was a beautiful ink and digital study of her postgraduate project. Alexander Hills' piece – the most expensive item in the architecture room, priced at over £47,000 - was an extraordinarily complex ply and pinewood model of interlocking pieces, created as part of his study for responsive architecture in Morocco.



Graduate and post-graduate architecture students from Oxford Brookes, UWE and Plymouth will also be participating, supported by engineers from Integral Engineering - Tim Mander and Margret Cooke.

It is intended that the workshop be run true to the spirit of WOMAD and participants are encouraged to:

1. Work together and improvise in the design and fabrication of functional and fantastical structures,
2. Have a great time, meet and work alongside some skilled and experienced people, learn a variety of simple construction techniques,
3. Enjoy some brilliant music.



Library tower and Archive on the River Thames by Esther Rivas Adrover

OBREMS - Macdonald & Company Dissertation Prizes 2009

Oxford Brookes Real Estate Management Society (OBREMS), with the support of Macdonald & Company, have rewarded the efforts of the three best final year undergraduate students on the BSC Real Estate Management degree at Oxford Brookes University. The prizes are based on their performance in their dissertations.

The winning students were:

1st Prize (£250): Davina Clowes

Dissertation Title: Eco Towns are unlikely to be a deliverable or successful Replica of a Sustainable Community

2nd Prize (£175): Reggie Noel

Dissertation Title: The Building Societies Act 1986 and its effects on UK Financial Services Institutions

3rd Prize (£75): Jeannie Pritchard

Dissertation Title: The Effect of Economic Regeneration in Hastings

Macdonald & Company is the leading professional recruitment consultancy for the property industry and built environment acting for a diverse range of clients, including developers, investors, institutions, property companies, funds, banks and consultancies.



Prize Winners (from left to right) Davina Clowes, Reggie Noel and Jeannie Pritchard

They are Gold Sponsors of the Oxford Brookes Real Estate Management Society (OBREMS), an alumni association of Oxford Brookes University graduates who work in the real estate sector. The Society's membership predominantly consists of Chartered Surveyors who have studied Real Estate Management at Oxford Brookes University.

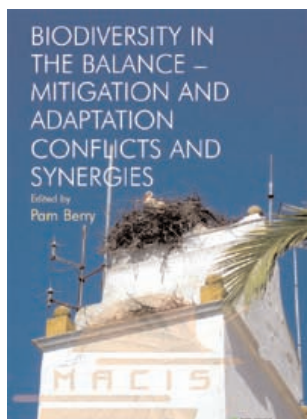
A prize giving luncheon was held at the Arts Club in London on Friday 11th September. All the Prize Winners attended and were presented with their cheques by Peter Moore, the Managing Director of Macdonald & Company. Also in attendance was Charlie Holroyde, a Director of Macdonald & Company who was instrumental in establishing and overseeing the award.

Alumni websites and resources

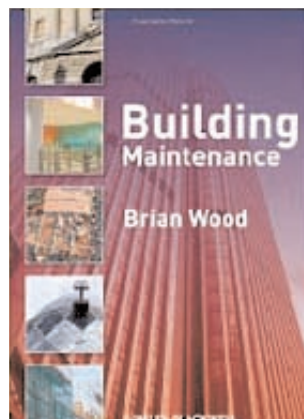
Wherever you are, and whatever you're doing with your life, you're still part of Brookes. The 'my alumni website' at www.brookesalumni.co.uk makes it easy for you to stay connected – with people, with opportunities, and with what's going on.

There's also a website which helps graduating students understand the benefits and opportunities of alumni membership, at www.brookesalumni.co.uk/aftergraduation.

Publications from Built Environment staff



Biodiversity in the balance - mitigation and adaptation conflicts and synergies
Pam Berry (ed) 2009
Oxford Brookes University contributors: Dr Jake Piper and Elizabeth Wilson
Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow
ISBN 978-954-642-516-4
Paperback in English
165mm x 235mm 300 pp



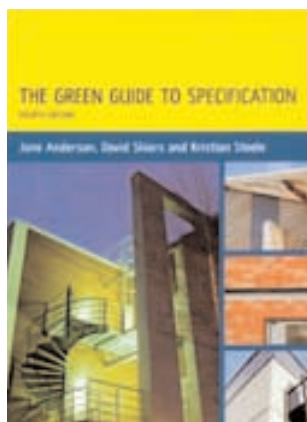
Building Maintenance
by Brian Wood
October 12, 2009
Wiley-Blackwell
ISBN-10 1405179678
ISBN-13 978-1405179676
328pp



Transport Policy and Planning in Great Britain
by Peter Headicar
April 2009
Routledge
ISBN 978-0-415-46986-9
Hardback
ISBN 978-0-415-46987-6
Paperback
496pp



Drawing Out the Interior
by Ro Spankie
April 2009
AVA Academia
ISBN 13:978-2-940373-88-8
160mm x 220mm
176pp
220 images



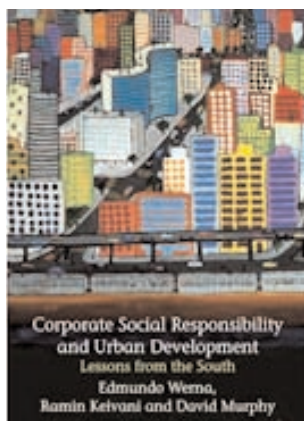
The Green Guide to Specification
Fourth edition
by David Shiers (OBU), Jane Anderson (BRE) and Kristian Steele (BRE)
January 2009
IHS BRE Press and Wiley-Blackwell Science
ISBN 978-1-4051-1961-0
227pp



Methods of Environmental Impact Assessment
Third edition
by Peter Morris and Riki Therivel (OBU)
2009
Taylor and Francis
ISBN 978-0-4154-4174-9
562pp
Illustrated



Building the New Jerusalem, Architecture, housing and politics 1900-1930
by Mark Swenarton
December 2008
IHS BRE Press
ISBN 978-1-84806-024-1
Hardback
234 x 156 mm
248pp plus CD Rom
54 line drawings, 41 photos



Corporate Social Responsibility and Urban Development: Lessons from the South
by Ramin Keivani, E. Werner and D. Murphy
19th December 2008
Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN-10 0230525326
ISBN-13 978-0230525320
216 x 144 x 22 mm
208pp hardback

More publications from our staff can be found on our website:
www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/news/publications.html

Conferences and short courses

Date of course / conference	Title of course / conference
Monday 25 October and Tuesday 26 October 2010	Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal A linked two-day course from the Department of Planning designed for planners and their consultants, statutory consultees, planning inspectors, academics and others involved in SEA/SAs
Friday 29 October 2010	Developing Local Identity A course for planning officers, to develop a practical understanding of place-identity and how new development can reinforce its positive aspects.
Monday 8 November 2010	Introduction to Planning Law A one-day course from the Department of Planning for councillors, land owners and agents, architects, surveyors and others
Tuesday 14 December 2010	Screening, Scoping and ES Review Under the 1999 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Under the 1999 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended). A one-day course from the Department of Planning providing essential guidance for local authority planners, planning consultants, property developers and their agents
Thursday 16 December 2010	Introduction to the Planning Process A one-day course from the Department of Planning for councillors, administrative officers and others
January 2011	Certificate in Strategic Environmental Assessment by Distance Learning How to carry out SEA or sustainability/environmental appraisal. A structured learning programme from the UK's foremost planning department, up-to-date (written spring 2001, revised autumn 2006) and of international relevance
Starting Thursday 28 April 2011	Certificate in Environmental Assessment: Procedures and Process 10 evening teaching sessions. Learn how to put the EIA Regulations into practice and gain a professional certificate in this vital area of planning

For more information contact:

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You can also book online and see details of courses on our website

www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/development



Photograph of Interior Architecture work from the Architecture exhibition 2010

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