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Welcome to this first issue of be. Our intention is to reach out on a regular basis to our supporters, to keep you in touch with recent changes in the School and with events which may be of interest to you. We aim to keep you informed of recent academic developments and the practical implications of our work. Most importantly, we hope through be to strengthen our network of alumni and friends of the School.

I took up my post as Head of the School in September 2000, after spending the greater part of the 1990s in Hong Kong where I was Chair of Real Estate and Construction Economics. I am proud to have joined Oxford Brookes University at an auspicious time in its history, as it established itself firmly at the top of its league.

Celebrating its 75th birthday this year, the School has grown larger and stronger over the last four years. In 1998 it was joined by its sister Schools, the Oxford Centre for Real Estate Management and the Centres for Civil Engineering and Construction Management. In addition to our wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, we have a thriving research and consultancy output involving 50 of our staff in world class research.

In September 2002 we will merge with the School of Planning to create possibly the largest school of the built environment in the UK. We will certainly be the biggest provider of postgraduate education in this field in the UK. I do hope that you will be able to come to join us at one of our 75th anniversary events in Oxford or overseas.

be will be distributed twice a year; suggestions or comments on content and style are welcome. From time to time we will publish profiles of graduates around the world, so please do send an email or a letter and let us know where you are now.

Professor John Raftery
jraftery@brookes.ac.uk
Head of the School of Architecture

Oxford Brookes
a hallmark of educational development

"Oxford Brookes is a hallmark of educational development." So said award winning journalist Jon Snow, during his official inauguration as Brookes’ new Chancellor in September 2001. The inauguration ceremony took place only 8 days after the events of September 11 and Jon had been broadcasting news bulletins almost non-stop on Channel 4. Nevertheless, he remarked “to be here today, at such a time feels right – for Oxford Brookes is about understanding, is about engagement, it is the antithesis of hatred.”

Describing Brookes as “The best new university”, he went on to say, “this is an institution which has already outstripped expectation and now has demanded of itself new expectations.” Since those words were spoken, Brookes has once again been named as top new university by The Times Good University Guide (May 2002), making this its seventh successive year at the top.

One of the reasons why it continues to do so well is the exceptionally high standard of teaching which students receive. With results of the government’s Quality Assurance Agency assessments including 24/24 for Planning and 23/24 for Building and Real Estate Management, the strength of its built environment content is widely acknowledged.

In addition to excellent teaching quality, a number of research areas at Oxford Brookes scored highly in the government’s recent Research Assessment Exercise (December 2001). The Built Environment category, comprising Architecture, Construction, and Estate Management, was rated 4 out of a possible 5 star.

To top it all, we are still one of the leading UK universities for graduate employability. In 2001, only 5% of our graduates remained unemployed six months after leaving. This just goes to show how highly our graduates are prized in the real world.

A new Resources Centre for the School

The new Resources Centre, situated in the Darcy Building, amalgamates material from Construction and Civil Engineering with the Architecture and Real Estate Management collections (grateful thanks to Lois East and Gwen Turner whom many remember with affection). It provides a pleasant work area for students and its range of material encourages an industry-wide approach. New contributions such as business brochures or surplus technical material (plus any returnable items borrowed in the past) are warmly welcome; please contact Inga Taylor on 01865 483277 or email itaylor@brookes.ac.uk.
A changing environment

Welcome to a department with a long and varied history. It is proud of its heritage, the achievements of its former students, its reputation and the service it has provided to the construction industry and students over the past decades.

Recent years have seen a national decline in students taking up civil engineering and related subjects. As a consequence, our civil engineering courses were brought under review and a recommendation was made to phase out the undergraduate civil engineering fields. With great support from members of our Industrial Liaison Group and representatives of the professional institutions, the School and Department produced a robust critique of the recommendation and fought a vigorous campaign against its implementation. However, in February this year the University’s Senior Management Team took the decision to phase out the civil engineering fields, citing the low number of students as the main reason for their decision.

The Department is now working hard to ensure that the phasing out of those fields will have minimal impact on the learning experience of our continuing students. All staff are keen to ensure that current students are not disadvantaged and that they will receive the continuing support and dedication we are known for.

The decision prompted a number of letters and emails, and quotes such as these reflect the content of most of the correspondence:

“I heard of the news that the civil engineering department (undergraduates) at Brookes is to close. If this is the case, then it is a great shame. It was an excellent course and I am certain it helped us to get ahead in industry having such a strong academic background.”

Ex-student

“When poor courses disappear it is one thing, but when a strong course with well motivated and capable staff goes it is something else”

External Examiner

These and other letters and emails of support have given staff the enthusiasm to continue to strive to do the best for our students.

On a more positive note, the construction management and building fields have raised their sales targets to reflect increased student interest in these areas over the last four years. This will allow us to meet the increasing demand from employers for both industrial placement students and graduates.

Further good news was the successful accreditation visit, made by a panel from the Chartered Institute of Building which took place in early 2002. During their visit, the panel met with the course team, representatives from the School and University, current and former students, and employers, and had the opportunity to inspect a selection of students’ work. The draft report of the panel has now been received and states that the “...aims and outcomes match well with the expectations of the CIOB and provide a full contribution towards the development of the professional builder.” The report also commented on the course’s teaching staff, describing them as “well experienced and enthusiastic in the delivery of the programme.” Furthermore, “the panel will recommend to the Accreditation Panel of the Chartered Institute of Building that the BSc (Hons) in Construction Management is accredited.”

We look forward to receiving the final version of the report.

Marstan Street
Head, Department of Civil Engineering and Construction Management

CECM people

DR VAHIK ENJILY

a former student of Civil Engineering, has been elected as Chairman of the Thames Valley Branch of the Institution of Structural Engineers for the 2001-2002 session. Vahik graduated in 1982, and continued his studies to become the department’s first PhD student. He has since gone on to specialise in timber design and construction and is currently the Director of Timber Engineering and Construction at the British Research Establishment (BRE).

From Llandudno to Rotterdam

The last six months have seen extensive travel by students within the Department on a number of field trips. A party of over thirty civil engineering students travelled to the Netherlands, where they studied some of the innovative structural design solutions being carried out by Dutch engineers. Not to be out done, a party of nearly thirty civil engineering students travelled to Rotterdam at Easter. Here, students gained an opportunity to learn about the phasing out of structural design solutions. The last six months have seen extensive travel by students within the Department on a number of field trips. A party of over thirty civil engineering students travelled to the Netherlands, where they studied some of the innovative structural design solutions being carried out by Dutch engineers. Not to be out done, a party of nearly thirty civil engineering students travelled to Rotterdam at Easter. 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What a year

2001/2 has been an extremely memorable year for us at the Department of Architecture in which we have met with unprecedented change and exceptional achievements. The highs have been great with a stunning range of staff, student and school prizes to add to our list. The Queen's Anniversary Prize, awarded in recognition of the pioneering work being carried out in the MSc in Development Practices, enables the University to adopt the royal stamp of approval on every page of its publicity, and at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in October, staff and students swept the board by winning the Bronze medal and drawing prizes, plus the dissertation prize and tutor's medals for the 7th year running. Other successes include Special Interest Group awards by the Centre for Education in the Built Environment (CEBE) for the development of digital learning, sustainable architectural design and for professional training, and a substantial increase in externally funded research.

A strong feature of the Oxford School of Architecture since its inception 75 years ago, is the breadth of our approach to teaching and learning, something which strengthens year on year. We are working hard to build up our digital teaching technology and facilities, we are leading the field in sustainable environmental research, and we are pioneering the development of work-based learning in architecture in partnership with the RIBA. We are currently enveloped in change. By September 2002 we will have merged with the School of Planning, joining with many old and new colleagues. The wider architecture people

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Sadly, 2000 saw the loss of our dear friend and colleague Reggie Cave. He was a great teacher and an inspiration to many. Earlier this year we celebrated his life's achievements, his leadership of the School of Architecture and his contribution to the City, in a memorial service at a packed Christ Church Cathedral.

We confidently expect to see the Department of Architecture continue its position as the leading centre for innovation in architectural and professional education. Come and join us on 28 June in Oxford's Ashmolean Museum for our 75th anniversary celebrations and we will tell you more about it.

John Stevenson
Head, Department of Architecture

The big prize

During the twentieth century, 170 million people died in war and political violence. Millions more were forced to flee their homes, cities were destroyed and livelihoods shattered on all continents. With an increase in natural disasters, massive urban poverty and continuing war around the world, humanitarian education looks set to remain an important priority in the twenty-first century.

The MSc course in Development Practice, run by the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) at Brookes, reflects this state of affairs. In 2001 it was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize in recognition of the training it provides for humanitarian professionals working with victims of war, disaster and poverty. On awarding the prize, the Royal Anniversary Trust commented, “Brookes has gained an international reputation for pioneering education and training for humanitarian aid workers.”

Led by Hugo Slim and Professor Nabeel Hamdi, the course attracts students from around the world, and is designed specifically for mid-career aid workers in areas of conflict and urban poverty.

Professor Hamdi, who was awarded a United Nations medal for lifetime achievement in 1999, explains the importance CENDEP’s work: “Until recently, humanitarian work was too often seen as the preserve of well-meaning amateurs. The Centre for Development and Emergency Practice at Brookes has played an important part in changing this perception.” Fellow course leader, Hugo Slim, commented on the significance of the MSc course: “There are now more aid workers than ever before and it is vital that they have the education they need to understand the situations in which they work and respond appropriately.”

In addition to the MSc course, CENDEP provides specific training in the UK and overseas to meet the needs of non-governmental organisations, international relief agencies, the military and other organisations. The Centre has attracted around 200 mature students, including staff from Oxfam, Save the Children, the Red Cross and the United Nations, and course graduates hold key positions as project managers, country representatives and regional emergency co-ordinators in a variety of international agencies.

Set for success

Professor Murray Fraser (left) receives his prize from Paul Hyett, President of the RIBA.

Teaching staff in the Department of Architecture enjoyed a number of high-profile successes over the last year. Principal amongst these was the award of the inaugural RIBA Dissertation Tutor Prize to Professor Murray Fraser in recognition of his student’s achievement in winning the Dissertation Medal (see News in brief). It was the seventh year in a row that a student tutored by Professor Fraser has won a Dissertation Prize in this international competition, representing a consistency of quality in architectural history and theory that far surpasses any other school.

MAY HANCOCK, a lecturer in the Department, has been appointed an Environmental Adviser to the Northern Area Education Project (NAEP) in Pakistan. World Bank are providing funding for a host of new schools in the region, schools which are innovative in many respects, not least because of the involvement of the communities which they serve. Funds of local people have worked on the sites, assisting the skilled tradesmen, and it is the communities who will run the schools and appoint the teachers who work there.

The Queen’s Anniversary Prizes for Brookes Higher Education 2001
In the beginning...

Reflections on the formation of the Doric Club, 75 years ago, by three key players in its development:

"While Paul Klee was putting pen ink and water colour on card in ‘Threatening Snowstorm’ in 1927, a group of young and enthusiastic architects were putting bricks and mortar in creating the Doric Club – a ‘get together’ to promote Architecture with other aspiring architects in the City. Within a few months a room was set aside in Broad Street and the Oxford School of Architecture was born."

Professor Byron Mikellides, 2002

"The Doric Club was thus launched and Committee elected, I being appointed Honorary Secretary. Competitions and visits to buildings of historic interest and others under construction were organised and the Club flourished. Our insignia was designed by one of our more senior members, Ablett, who worked in the City Architect’s Department."

Kenneth A Stevens, 1998
Ex-Oxford Brookes Governor
First Honorary Secretary of the Doric Club

"We began with three students, John Brookes used to say, ‘in the attic of Fielding Dodd’s office in The Turl: one man and two girls. One girl left at the end of the year to get married but it soon grew.’ It was the Oxford School of Architecture, the year 1927. A year before that three salient local architects – Fielding Dodd, Laurence Dale and Thomas Rayson had, even with the help of Goodhart-Rendel and the RIBA, failed to convince the University of Oxford that it should have a School of Architecture. So, egged on by the articled pupils in the area, they started one themselves and almost immediately asked John Brookes, Principal of the Schools of Technology, Art and Commerce in Church Street, St Ebbes, to add it to his growing empire. With characteristic vision and courage and in spite of a marked lack of municipal enthusiasm, he took it over, prised his building courses away from Engineering and added them to Architecture creating a joint School. Thus he continued the Arts and Craft philosophy of Ruskin, our founder, Morris, the Deutsche Werkbund et al."

The late Chevalier Reginald Cave, 1997

A celebration of the Doric Club’s 75th birthday takes place on Friday 28 June 2002. See back cover for further details.

Professor Cave enjoying a discussion with a group of students of the Oxford School (top); Enjoying a glass of claret (centre); Receiving a gift from his students (left).
Investing in futures
RICS University Partnership

Since becoming the first Real Estate Department in the UK to agree partnership status with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) back in 2000, we have maintained close relations with them in the development of our programmes. With the introduction of a range of undergraduate programmes including a BA (Hons) Business of Real Estate, a new structure to our BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management and a joint RICS/RTPI route course we continue to support the needs of the profession. Links to our programmes including a BA (Hons) Business of Real Estate Management (available from September 2002) we will be offering an MBA (Real Estate and Construction) to meet the growing business needs of the profession. We are also working with the profession to develop in-house training/CPD programmes and sponsorship of programmes such as our MSc Real Estate Management (available from September 2002).

Peter Dent
Head, Department of Real Estate Management

Innovative MSc in real estate management

Today’s surveying profession recognises the need to recruit high calibre graduates. The surveyors of the future are those with a wide skills set, day-to-day knowledge and practical skills, and an aptitude to work at a strategic level are the surveyors of the future.

In a groundbreaking venture, associated with five leading, international real estate consultancies (Chesterton, DTZ Debenham Tie Leung, CVA Grimley, King Sturge, Knight Frank), we have developed a postgraduate conversion course for people from ‘non-cognate’ disciplines wishing to become Chartered Surveyors. This new MSc course will enable its graduates to begin their professional training towards the RICS’s Assessment of Professional Competence.

The course is innovative in a variety of ways, not least in its provision of mentors, or ‘Business Coaches’, for each student from amongst our partnership firms. Through dialogue with practising professionals, students will be able to appreciate the professional and practical implications of their learning.

The one-year, full time course commences in September 2002. For further information contact Miles Keeping, telephone 01865 483981 or email mckkeeping@brookes.ac.uk

An MBA for the real estate industry

The MBA qualification has become a ‘must have’ factor in the business world. It is used both to develop and enhance business abilities and can act as a career enhancement step, providing specialist managers and professionals with the knowledge skills and competence to become senior managers or to make the transition to general management.

The Oxford Brookes MBA (Real Estate and Construction) aims to provide clear links between the concerns of the Real Estate and Construction industry and the general business and management modules offered on MBA programmes. Utilising the core modules of the highly-regarded Oxford Brookes Business School MBA, the MBA (Real Estate and Construction) allows students to undertake two modules that are sourced from either Real Estate Management (REM) or Civil Engineering and Construction Management (CECM) plus a research project and dissertation on a Real Estate topic, supervised by REM/CECM staff.

Developed in response to a perceived market need, we anticipate high levels of interest in the course and look forward to welcoming a substantial first cohort of students in September 2003. If you are interested in the course, please contact Dr Tim Harvard, telephone 01865 483981 or email tharvard@brookes.ac.uk

News in brief

A Professional Liaison Group has been established as part of the formal dialogue between the Department and the real estate profession. Meeting twice a year, the group discusses strategic issues concerning the Department’s work and advises on future developments for programmes of study and research. Recently the group has enabled us to open discussions concerning proposed changes to the undergraduate programmes and the development of postgraduate study within the Department. It is chaired by Paul McNamara, Head of Property Research, Prudential Property Investments Managers Ltd, who is a visiting Professor in the Department.

www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/rem/home.html

News from Singapore

The Department’s Open Learning (OL) programme has been invaluable in developing and delivering open learning materials based on an international real estate syllabus. Now in its sixth year, the programme currently has 70 students studying in Singapore at the Real Estate and Construction Centre. The Centre is a market leader in the provision of many real estate qualifications studied by Singapore-based students on distance learning programmes. It is led by Dr Quah Lee Kiang who provides invaluable academic liaison and pastoral support between Oxford and Singapore. Delivery is by a variety of open learning methods combining paper based workbooks, web support, email tutorial support and locally based workshops.

The success of the programme can be measured by the achievements of its recent graduates. By summer 2001, 25 students had graduated from the programme and since then have moved into employment with a variety of International Property Consultancies. Furthermore in the January 2002 Graduation Ceremony, Real Estate Open Learning awards constituted the biggest single subject group of Singapore-based Oxford Brookes graduates.

Work is currently underway to develop further the OL programme both within Singapore and in other countries.
Among the very best in the country

Research within the School of Architecture is among the very best in the country. In the government’s recent Research Assessment Exercise (December 2001), we gained a score of 4, the highest rating received by a new university in the Built Environment Unit of Assessment. We boast one of largest centres for postgraduate research in architecture in the country. International in outlook, the Postgraduate Research School (PGRS) provides a base for visiting scholars from abroad and for associated research students from overseas universities and colleges.

Our work, which is carried out by key research groupings, focuses on interdisciplinary research and consultancy in the fields of sustainable development and international development practices. Individual scholarship also takes place in the fields of architectural technology, urban design, vernacular architecture, architectural culture, history and theory, property law/dispute resolution, real estate economics, construction management and value management.

Professor Mike Jenks
Head of Research

The School of Architecture is able to carry out assessments, prepare reports and offer testing services in the following areas, all at competitive prices:

- BREEAM 2002 environmental assessment ratings
- Building physics and advanced thermal modelling capabilities
- Dynamic thermal simulation of whole buildings
- Physical testing of cladding junctions
- Materials and concrete cube testing
- Small structural frames and components
- A comprehensive range of rock and soils testing to British, European and International Standards

For further details on how we can help, please contact Sarah Taylor, 01865 483233 email: staylor@brookes.ac.uk

RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY

News in brief

OCSD: Cities is organising the 5th Symposium of the International Urban Planning and Environment Association, “Creating Sustainable Urban Environments.” The Group also hosted the conference “Achieving Sustainable Cities in the SE Asia Region” in Bangkok, 2001. The conference was opened by HRH Princess Sirindhorn and was attended by influential business, government and academic delegates, with keynote presentations made by sustainability experts from international organisations.

We have developed an international joint PhD Programme, which allows students to study full-time both at Oxford Brookes and in Universities in Indonesia, Jordan, Thailand and Taiwan. A part-time professional doctorate aimed at the practitioner, as well as a Doctor of Design, is also being developed.

Individual scholars have produced work on Anglo-American architectural influences, platonic geometry in medieval churches, proportional design in the buildings of Erno Goldfinger, tourism in historic towns, architectural modelling, an architectural guide to Cambridge (following a previous volume on Oxford), and the design of harmonious sustainable environments.

www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/arch/res/res_rg.html

Research Group round-up

The Centre for Development and Emergency Practices (CENDEP) continues its ongoing work, including action research, community development and international humanitarians, in deprived communities in Vietnam. The group has links with a number of external aid organisations such as The British Red Cross, Oxfam and Save the Children.

The Centre for Vernacular Architecture Studies (CAVES) is compiling the World Atlas of Vernacular Architecture and establishing an important image library. There are plans for a Sino-British collaboration with exchange visits between Britain and China in a first cross-cultural comparative vernacular survey.

The Centre for Construction Management, which undertakes research and consultancy into building care, just-in-time building maintenance and value management, is planning a research centre in the field of construction management and value engineering, based around existing and developing expertise.

The Centre for Real Estate Management undertakes a wide range of research and consultancy from housing and property consumption in the Far East to the resolution of planning disputes. Researchers have been developing real estate markets on transitional economies, particularly the Russian Federation and Romania, environmentally responsible buildings in the UK commercial property sector; construction law and environmental harm, and sustainable construction.

The Joint Centre for Urban Design (JCUD) undertakes a variety of research and consultancy activities including post-industrial urbanism, the rise of town centre management, and has worked on an evaluation of the effects of restricting vehicular access to Oxford city centre.

The Oxford Centre for Sustainable Development (OCSD) includes, within the School of Architecture, the following specialist groups:

- OCSD: Cities carries out major funded research into sustainable urban form, sustainable development on brownfield land and urban density, nationally and internationally. It is also progressing its work on EPSRC-funded research to improve the quality of life for older people with dementia through the design of the external environment.
- OCSD: Architecture has undertaken work on use of controls in naturally ventilated buildings, climatic variations and use of photovoltaics. The major EU-funded Smart Controls and Thermal Comfort (SCATs) project has been successfully completed and will inform world standards for indoor temperatures. A new project will look into how the building industry uses such standards, and research will continue in to the future of low energy, low impact building technologies.
- OCSD: Technology has substantial projects relating to the development of new masonry systems in the areas of concrete construction and technology and the steel sector. An EPSRC-funded project on assessment of concrete technology innovation using value engineering has been completed successfully.
- OCSD: International Developments Project Office undertakes research and consultancy on projects worldwide. These include the waterfront development of Guayaquil, Ecuador and an ongoing collaboration with the Fundacion Maiton concerning the future development of Santany Island as a possible tourist development to relieve pressure on the Galapagos Islands.

The Centre for Civil Engineering successfully launched Palettoft, a program for the analysis and design of pallet racking. Designed by Dr Mike Godley and Rob Beale, the program is one of the first commercial spin-offs of research undertaken by the Slender Structures Group. Other work includes research into scaffold systems, semi-rigid boltless connections, estuary morphology and management and calculations of wave/structure interactions at the coast.

The Centre for Urban Design has evaluated the effects of restricting access to Oxford city centre.
Doric Club
75th Birthday Celebration

Friday 28 June 2002
Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford

6.00pm – 7.00pm
Taylorian Institute Main Lecture Hall
Welcoming Address
by Honorary President William Taylor
Talk given by a mystery architectural ‘celebrity’

7.30pm
Randolph Sculpture Gallery
Champagne reception

8.00pm – 11.00pm
Randolph Sculpture Gallery and Basement Buffet
A chance to circulate and view the students’
exhibition in the Headley Theatre, next to the Café.
A video with extracts from the unforgettable
‘Teapot’ lecture by the late Chevalier Reggie Cave
will also be showing.

Cost £25 per person
For further information or to book please contact
the Doric Club, Oxford School of Architecture,
Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington
Oxford OX3 0BP

The Architecture Exhibition at the Ashmolean can
be visited any time from 10.00am–11.00pm during
the day.