



built environment
Vol 2 • 2002

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Introduction



Welcome to *be* and thanks to the many of you who gave us feedback on the first issue. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive, so we aim to continue to keep you informed of changes in the School, and events and aspects of our work which may be of interest.

On 1 September, the School of Architecture merged with the School of Planning to create the *School of the Built Environment*. Our new enlarged School has over 200 staff and around 1,600 students.

We are also celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Oxford School of Architecture. Our celebrations included a Summer exhibition in the Ashmolean Museum here in our beautiful city of Oxford, and an exciting 75th Anniversary Lecture Series throughout the Autumn. Details of the lecture series have been mailed to you separately.

We don't attach too much importance to league table rankings but it is difficult to resist drawing your attention to two in particular. *The Sunday Times* has ranked us as the 'best new university' for the second year in a row, following *The Times*' ranking of Oxford Brookes as the best new university for the seventh year running. Those accolades are gratifying to both staff and students and I am pleased that their work is publicly recognised in this way.

We continue to make improvements to the physical setting for teaching, learning and working at the School. We have recently opened a new state-of-the-art digital studio to a competition-winning design by Níall McLaughlin Architects. In all we have invested over £300,000 in improvements to the School this year.

Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG, KCVO, leading environmentalist, and Louis Hellman MBE, architectural critic, were among the distinguished individuals to receive honorary degrees in September from Oxford Brookes University.

This issue of *be* focuses on Planning. We are proud to merge with the School of Planning, which is an internationally outstanding School in its field and with whom we have worked closely for over thirty years through, for example, the Joint Centre for Urban Design. This merger is a natural development for us and we believe that it widens our portfolio and positions us well to respond to the needs of the 21st Century.

Professor John Raftery
jraftery@brookes.ac.uk

Dean, School of the Built Environment

about *be*

be is the newsletter of the **School of the Built Environment**, which encompasses four Departments:

Department of Architecture
Department of Civil Engineering and Construction Management
Department of Planning
Department of Real Estate Management

Research Groups within these Departments are:

Centre for Development and Emergency Practices (CENDEP)
Centre for Vernacular Architecture Studies (CAVES)
Developing and Transitional Economies Research Cluster (DATES)
Housing Studies Unit
Impacts Assessment Unit
Joint Centre for Urban Design (JCUD)
Oxford Centre for Sustainable Development (OCSD)
Oxford Centre for Architectural History
Oxford Economic Observatory (OEO)
Planning Policies Research Group
Urban Policy and Management Group

Creating sustainable urban environments

An International Symposium



The 5th UPE International Symposium, *Creating Sustainable Urban Environments: Future Forms for City Living*, was held in Oxford from 23 to 26 September. It was attended by 230 delegates, both academics and practitioners, representing 36 countries from around the world. The Oxford Centre for Sustainable Development (OCSD) hosted the event on behalf of the International Urban Planning and Environment Association (UPE), and the convenors were Katie Williams and Professor Mike Jenks.

Six key themes were addressed – the environment, society, transport, land use and re-use, economics and future sustainable city forms – all concentrating on the question of the extent to which the forms of cities affect their sustainability. The output from the Symposium will take the form of at least three books and themed articles in the refereed journal *Urban Design International*.

The event was introduced by Professor Don Miller (co-chair of UPE), followed by a plenary session with stimulating keynote addresses. David Rudlin (a Director of URBED) gave an overview of sustainability in cities and examples of leading edge practice in the field, followed by

Joe Simpson, who is leading Oxford's bid to become European Capital of Culture in 2008. Papers were presented in 50 parallel sessions over two and a half days. A day was set aside for study visits to Reading and Wellingborough, and walking tours of Oxford. The Symposium was closed with addresses from Professor Gert de Roo (co-chair UPE) and Professor Michael Breheny. The high standard of the academic programme was complemented by social events including a reception in Blackwells Bookshop, Morris dancers and a banquet in the magnificent medieval dining hall of Christ Church.

The feedback from the event was extremely positive. It was not just the venue (Christ Church), nor the fine weather which made the event a success, but the high quality of the papers presented. Over 160 papers were presented, and more had to be turned away because capacity had been reached. Its success was also due to the dedication of many people acting as theme convenors and referees, administrators from OCSD and the Centre for Continuing Education, chairs of parallel sessions and helpers with rooms and the IT provision during the event.



What's on

Conferences

Tuesday 8 – Thursday 10 April 2003

Planning Research Conference

Contact: Karen Hughes +44 (0) 1865 483458, khughes@brookes.ac.uk

September 2003

Building the Link: Integrating Teaching with Research and Practice in the Built Environment

An international conference to be held in Oxford. For more information visit www.brookes.ac.uk/LINK

Also see Linking Teaching with Research and Consulting, page 5.

Postgraduate Open Evenings

Wednesday 27 November 2002 and

Tuesday 28 January 2003

5.30pm - 8.30pm

Main Foyer, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane, Oxford. Come along and find out about all the postgraduate courses offered by Oxford Brookes University.

Short Courses

Planning

Thursday 9 December 2002

Screening, Scoping and ES Review under the 1999 EIA Regs

Monday 12 December 2002

Introduction to the Planning Process

Thursdays 1 May – 11 July 2003

Certificate in Environmental Assessment (11 Thursday evenings)

For further information contact:

Karen Hughes +44 (0) 1865 483458, khughes@brookes.ac.uk

Civil Engineering and Construction Management

Thursdays 23 January – 3 April 2003

Construction Project Management (10 Thursday evenings)

For further information contact:

Maureen Jones +44 (0) 1865 484603, mljones@brookes.ac.uk

News in brief

Fundraising success

Staff in the School have been successful in winning funding from, amongst others, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the DTLR Partners in Innovation Programme, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Building Research Establishment and the EU. These projects are on topics such as building regulations, thin-joint glued brickwork, future surveying requirements for small-to-medium enterprises and photovoltaics.

The School is involved in the EPSRC's Sustainable Urban Environments Programme, leading one of the

first consortia to be invited to bid for funding up to £3 million as well as being involved in consortia for both the EQUAL 5th Call and the Impacts of Climate Change Programmes.

On yer bike!

On 9 June three School lecturers entered the London to Oxford Bike Ride in aid of Sargent – Cancer Care for Children. This charity supports children and young people with cancer, and their families, with professional counselling, financial help and practical care. Although the weather was against them (literally!), Alan Reeve, Mike Stubbs and Michael Hill completed the 62 mile ride, each receiving a certificate, a medal and aching limbs for their efforts! They raised £273 for the charity.

News in brief

Vivienne Spurge has been awarded the RICS Foundation Blue Skies prize for the best original paper presented at the 2002 Pacific Rim Real Estate Society conference. The paper is entitled *Broadband technology in the office: an appraisal of the perception and needs of office occupiers and the potential impact upon the office market.*

The **MBA (Real Estate and Construction)** is proceeding smoothly towards welcoming its first students in September 2003. Prospective students in the UK, other EU countries and from overseas have already been showing considerable interest. This suggests that, even in the current economic climate, this industry-themed MBA will be highly popular, with candidates recognising the career benefits it offers.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Peter Dent on +44 (0) 1865 483398, email ocrem@brookes.ac.uk.

Twenty-four high calibre students, from a range of disciplines and countries, joined the new **MSc Real Estate Management** one year full time conversion course this term. Ahead of them lies an exciting series of guest speakers from our sponsoring firms: Chesterton, DTZ Debenham Tie Leung, GVA Grimley, King Sturge and Knight Frank. In addition, the students will be visiting urban regeneration schemes in Manchester to give their studies a practical focus.

For further information, please contact Miles Keeping on +44 (0) 1865 483981, email ocrem@brookes.ac.uk.

Keeping standards high



This year we achieved third position in *The Times* league table of Land Management courses in the UK, while the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) panel in their five yearly review classified our research output as '...of international standard'. These external barometers are a reward for the hard work and dedication of all the staff in the Department. They also indicate the high standards that we set ourselves in meeting the needs of those wishing to enter the profession, as well as those world-wide members of the profession who benefit from the work we do.

Despite our successes, we continue to review our activities. We have developed a suite of new undergraduate programmes, along with our first MSc in Real Estate Management. With this expansion the University has appointed three new Visiting Professorships in the Real Estate field - Professor Anthony Lavers (White & Case), Professor Angus McIntosh (King Sturge) and Professor Paul McNamara (Prudential Property Investment Managers Ltd). Our ability to attract these influential figures to the Department is further acknowledgement of our standing. We look forward to working with them over the coming years.

Our research and consultancy activities are also growing with continuing work in Eastern Europe and SE Asia along with collaborations closer to home. For example staff have recently been working with Chesterton and DTZ Debenham Tie Leung on consultancy projects, and Nuffield College, Oxford on a research project.

Peter Dent

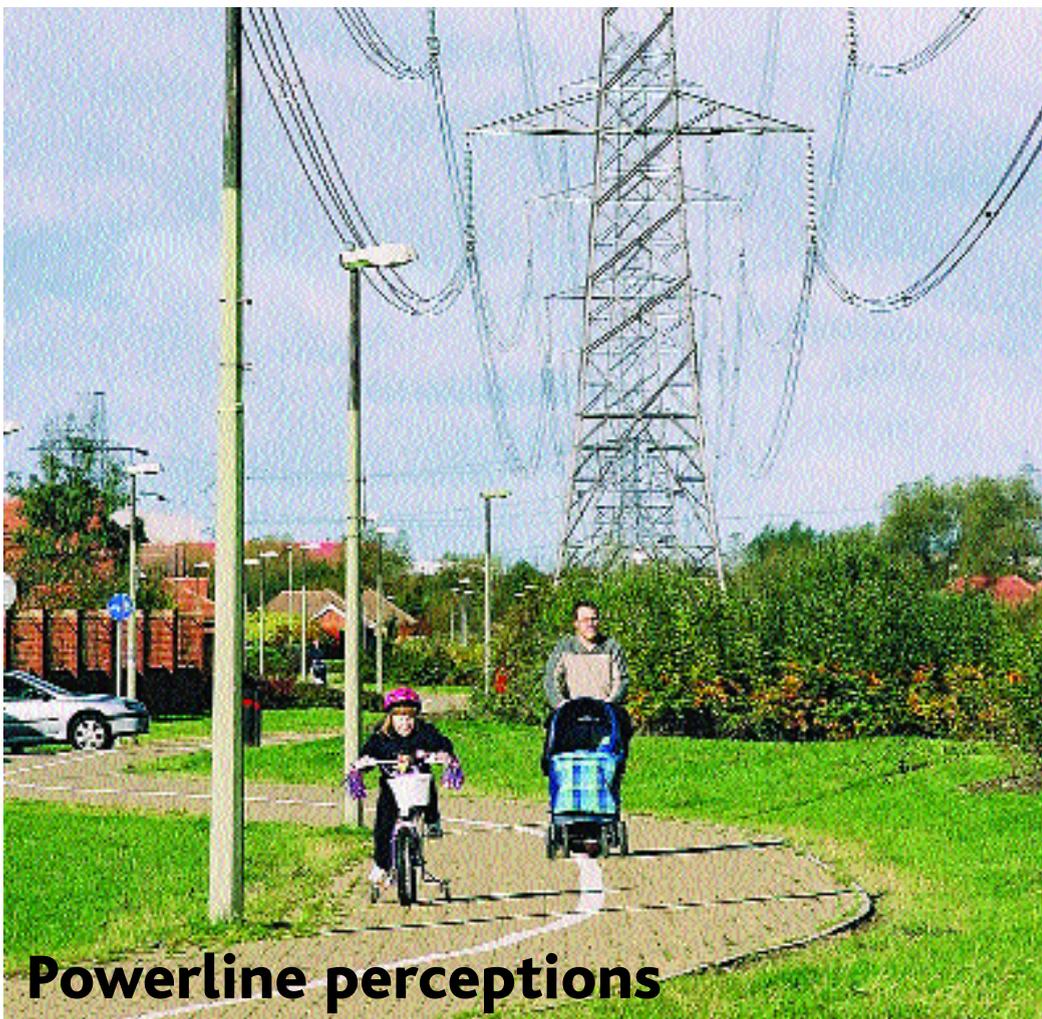
Head, Department of Real Estate Management

The south east Asian office market

Henry Chin is in the third year of a PhD, investigating office property markets in five south east Asian cities - Bangkok, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Taipei. At present he is analysing the office rental movements in these cities.

Earlier this year Henry presented a paper at the 2002 conference of the Pacific Rim Real Estate Society (PRRES). This gave an overview of his research topic, and resulted in very useful comments and positive feedback from some of the attendees.

Having completed the first half of his statistical analysis, Henry says, "So far, I have found floor space and lending rates are statistically significant elements affecting the office rental markets in most of the cities." Henry is planning to present his findings at the next PRRES conference in 2003.



Powerline perceptions

To what extent is land value determined by its proximity to powerlines? Sally Sims is a PhD student researching the effects of public and professional perceptions of electricity distribution equipment on the value of residential land and property in the UK. It's a huge subject to tackle, as Sally explains, "The first part, and perhaps the most time consuming, has involved wading through literature covering subjects as varied as medical research (looking at the potential health effects from living close to power lines), contamination issues particularly when there is stigma damage, legal and compensation issues, risk analysis and perceptual and opinion studies." Sally is now conducting her first attitude survey, which she says should reveal how members of the property valuation profession view and react to this issue. This will be followed by a survey of homeowners' attitudes towards living near overhead electricity lines. Sally aims to finish her thesis by October 2003, but says, "I can see a lot of late nights and early mornings for the next 12 months."

REM people



Albert Cao has recently joined us as a Senior Lecturer in Valuation. He was a lecturer in valuation in Sun Yet-Sen University in China for five years and is both a Certified Appraiser and a Certified Valuer there. He came to the UK to study for his PhD in real estate studies before joining us. He teaches valuation and investment modules to first, second and third year students in the UK and Singapore, and is also responsible for our links in China. His research interests are property valuation, investment and the property market in China.



Ann Boon has become a post-doctoral research associate on a part-time basis. Ann was awarded her PhD in 2001, with joint supervision from the Departments of Planning and Real Estate Management. Talking about her work Ann says, "My research interest is primarily economic development and I am currently writing articles for publication in refereed journals based on my thesis *Business Parks and the Planning Process.*"

The start of a new chapter



It is over 30 years since Planning separated amicably from its Architecture parent to find its own way in the world; now we are reunited. During the intervening period, Planning at Oxford Polytechnic, and then at Oxford Brookes, has established an outstanding reputation nationally and internationally. It is one of the largest centres of planning education and research in Europe, with an excellent teaching, research and non-teaching staff team. It has pioneered the modular approach, the 3+1 undergraduate programme, linked specialised Masters programmes and many other initiatives. It has achieved major change, with quality. Planning at Oxford Brookes is still the only RTPI approved centre to achieve the perfect 24/24 in the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) teaching quality assessments. We are the best performer amongst the new universities in the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), gaining a score of 4 out of 5* and have never been lower than 2nd in *The Guardian's* league table of Planning Schools. Planning also has the highest proportion of postgraduate activity within the University and has developed an impressive Continuing Professional Development programme (see page 2), delivering well over 100 events a year.

Change is a fact of life, and in higher education there is a move across the system to larger units to deliver both efficiencies and new opportunities. Our 'remerger' with Architecture is part of a rationalisation at Oxford Brookes to create 8 'superschools'. Already we have gained the support of the professional institutes for a joint RTPI-RICS undergraduate programme, and other initiatives are in the pipeline. We also plan to introduce soon, in purpose-built accommodation, a Research Institute of Sustainable Development to capitalise on the richness of research in the combined school. At a June 2002 RTPI accreditation visit, the visiting panel described us as a very, very effective planning school. We aim to build on these strengths as we start a new chapter in our new and larger School.

Professor John Glasson
Head, Department of Planning
Associate Dean (Research)

Messing about in boats



Since 2001 the Department of Planning and the River Thames Society have been working on a strategy for the whole of the non-tidal river (from its source to Teddington). This aims to enhance stewardship of the river's assets and maintain it as a resource for the communities along its banks. On 18 June Jake Piper spoke at a launch event for a new working group, hosted by Teresa May MP in the Palace of Westminster. The aims of the group include setting up a Strategic Partnership for the Thames, bringing together local authorities, statutory

bodies, NGOs and commercial interests in the river.

The Strategic Partnership – a top-down initiative – is one part of a two-pronged approach recommended by the Planning team. The Oxford Waterways Strategy, on the other hand, represents a complementary bottom-up approach, starting with a series of local projects along the river as part of Oxford's Capital of Culture bid. At the launch-on-a-launch (in fact, on a Salter's steamer), Professor John Glasson addressed a party that included Baroness Blackstone, Minister for Arts and Culture.

Decommissioning of nuclear reactors

What happens to a nuclear reactor when it is decommissioned? As part of their work to advise on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures for the decommissioning of reactors, Joe Weston and Jake Piper found themselves standing on top of one – *Dido*, located at Harwell. While there, they admired the visitor centre for school parties.

Such a 'heritage opportunity' is obviously not the case at all locations. The team also visited the Berkeley Reactor, on the Severn estuary – a reactor in the early stages of a lengthy decommissioning cycle, involving decades of 'care and maintenance' whilst radioactivity decays. If plans for the speed of decommissioning change, the desirability of a new EIA will need to be evaluated.

News in brief



Ed Merritt (centre) receives the National Geographic Society's award from David Miller of the Society's headquarters in Washington DC, and Val Mattingley, NGS's representative in the UK.

The Impacts Assessment Unit recently spent several months reviewing EIA across the European Union. EIA plays a major part in the European Commission's policies for environmental protection and sustainable development. The review aimed to consider changes in member states following an amended Directive on EIA (97/11/EC), to evaluate the application of the amended Directive, and to make suggestions for enhancing its application and effectiveness.

Professor Georgia Butina Watson, Karneal Thomas, Juliet Matthews (Joint Centre for Urban Design) and **Catherine Tranmer** (Resource for Urban Design Information) successfully launched a new pilot project for 16 to 19 year old students in a working partnership with teachers and sixth form students from Cheney School, Oxford. Its key objective is to develop virtual learning packages for understanding built environment and development issues. The project is funded by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), with a view to attracting young students into built environment careers.

Transport MSc students have again been very successful in open competition for bursaries. Two have been awarded Rees Jeffreys Bursaries (full fees and maintenance) and a third a Brian Large Bursary (covering fees).

Oxford Economic Observatory (OEO) undertakes world-class research on the knowledge economy of advanced regions. It is a partnership of Planning at Oxford Brookes and Geography at University of Oxford. In its first 18 months it has established an extensive database of Oxfordshire high technology activity – with clusters in biotechnology, information technology, clinical/medical, motorsport, publishing and many others. Two key reports, with major inputs from **Andrew Chadwick, Professor John Glasson** and **James Simmie** from the Department of Planning at Oxford Brookes, will be published later in 2002.

Liz Cairncross and **Martyn Pearl** are about to begin a national survey of housing association board members for the Housing Corporation. This will update a previous study and establish a new database in advance of likely changes in the recruitment of board members. They will be reporting to the Housing Corporation at the end of March 2003.



Professor Georgia Butina Watson has been successful in extending a collaborative link programme with Ecotourism Institute at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, to promote sustainable tourism and community development, funded by DfID (Department for International Development). So far, a number of challenging initiatives have taken place, with some 200 professionals, 300 Buddhist monks and 40 urban and rural communities taking part in workshops and projects.

Linking teaching with research and consultancy

There is much evidence to show that students *value highly* and are motivated by studying in a research-rich environment, but there is less clear evidence that students *automatically benefit* from this experience.

Project Link is a three-year project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) through the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning. It is led by the Department of Planning, with three other collaborative partnership institutions. The project aims to identify, develop and disseminate good practice in linking teaching with research and consultancy in three built environment disciplines – planning, land management and building.

Why is the teaching-research-consultancy link so important? Most obviously, in vocational and professional fields, graduates need well-developed consultancy skills. Learning these enhances their employability and gives them confidence in professional practice. But making the link between teaching, research and consultancy is about more than employability. In a knowledge-based society, all graduate level professions increasingly demand core skills in how subject-based knowledge is used to find solutions to new problems. Graduates need the skills to conduct appropriate research, but even more, the capacity to formulate solutions to problems based on awareness of research evidence.

Project Link is developing the ways in which built environment graduates will have these skills and capabilities. It is about stimulating them to feel a life long sense of inquiry into their subject area. But to do this means changes to the way we organise teaching and research; changes to the way we teach research; and changes to the way staff see teaching-research-consultancy as a seamless academic activity. At Oxford Brookes, for example, how research underpins teaching is one of the main guidelines being used to review undergraduate courses in the University's semesterisation programme for 2004.

For more information see www.brookes.ac.uk/LINK or read Professor Roger Zetter's paper on *Developing the Link – enhancing the relationship between teaching and research in built environment disciplines*, available from the Publications section of the website. See also the conference announcement on page 2.



Brookes meets its Waterloo in the planning field of Ontario

A longstanding exchange programme gives Brookes students a chance to visit the School of Planning at University of Waterloo, Ontario, while the Canadians study English town planning during a month based in Oxford. These pictures show the 2002 exchange groups on opposite sides of the Atlantic.



Increasing tenant participation

Tenant Management Organisations (TMOs) deliver an effective housing management service to their tenants, which in most cases matches or exceeds the quality of service provided by the top 25% of local authorities. This is the finding of a major evaluation of TMOs carried out for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by members of the Housing Team (Liz Cairncross, Caroline Morrell, Jane Darke and Sue Brownill) in association with consultants HACAS Chapman Hendy.

Building on this success, a new team comprising Liz Cairncross, Paul Allender, Sue Brownill and Martyn Pearl, again with HACAS Chapman Hendy, will evaluate two elements of the government's tenant participation programme: *Option Studies and Innovation into Action*. Surveys of tenant participation staff, tenant activists and ordinary tenants are

planned, alongside a number of case studies. The evaluation aims to assess how well the programmes are meeting government objectives for increasing tenant participation and obtaining value for money.



Bridging the gap in Community Forests

The Planning Policies Research Group has recently completed a study of the planning mechanisms that have helped to promote social, environmental and economic benefits for the Community Forests, in the context of the government's Rural White Paper (2000).

Community Forests are local partnerships between the Countryside Agency, the Forestry Commission and local authorities in the CF areas. The effectiveness of links with local authorities varies, however, making a need to 'bridge the gap' between the vision within the Forest Plan and local authority decision-making.

The loss of Countryside Agency funding for Community Forests in 2005 is a major concern. A number of forests fear that without funding from the agency, the local authority partners will also be reluctant to commit funding. The forests consider that some form of 'umbrella' should be maintained to give focus and drive to what are seen as flagship projects.

The project identified good practice in using the planning process to secure benefits for the Community Forests. The most useful tool to bridge the gap between Community Forests and the planning process is a developer's guide of the type produced by The National Forest Company. This document aims to be a practical 'hands-on' tool to guide the securing of forest-related planning obligations, and includes a costed scheme. It is currently used by Marston Vale Community Forest to give advice to developers.

Other prominent mechanisms include the detailing of forest proposals in Local Management Zones, policies in Regional Planning and Regional Development Strategies, and designing Supplementary Planning Guidance to implement forest schemes on the ground. Sixteen case studies, from across the Community Forests, document the type of benefits secured, their implications for management and the main interest involved.

Asylum seekers, refugees and the built environment

Over 3.7 million people applied for asylum in the EU in the last decade. The UK is now the largest recipient member state: 92,000 people having claimed asylum here in 2001 alone. Refugees and asylum seekers are a hot political topic, and research in this area is no less sensitive.

Professor Roger Zetter and his research team in the Department of Planning (David Griffiths, Martyn Pearl, Silva Ferretti, Nando Sigona, and Paul Allender) are developing one of the major research centres in the UK to explore the policy, social and procedural issues that this movement of peoples generates. In the last four years the team has undertaken nine projects (mostly won at tender), valued at £650,000. Clients include the Home Office (three projects), the EU, the Housing Corporation, ESRC and Oxfam. Research

is feeding directly into policy making and practice as well as the academic arena. Although these projects cover many issues there is a built environment theme running through most of them. Housing and accommodation is obviously a basic need of refugees and asylum seekers, and exploring its impact is one of the major features of the research.

According to Professor Roger Zetter, objective, evidence-based research is vital in this politically volatile and sensitive area, in order to safeguard both the fundamental principles of protection from persecution, and the social needs of millions of people forced into exile in an increasingly turbulent world.

Further details are at: www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/planning/dates/projects

Planning people



Karuna Gomanee recently joined us from the University of Nottingham where she completed her PhD in economics. She will be working on research applications for external funding on a comparison of the innovation systems in Toulouse and Oxfordshire. This is a development of our Alliance Programme funded work with researchers in the School of Geography at Toulouse le Mirail University.



Julia Becker, a research worker from New Zealand, has joined Graham Wood, Professor John Glasson and Agustin Rodriguez-Bachiller on an ESRC/ODPM funded project to assess how significant impacts are determined in EIA.



In with the new City of windcatchers

We enter the new academic year with an array of refurbished teaching facilities, new offices and a new ground-floor entrance designed by Niall McLaughlin Architects. On the top floor of Abercombie, the traditional home of First Year, a new shared digital studio has been created – one huge light open space, with power and data cables descending from exposed cable trays, linked to powder-coated steel computer desks designed by McLaughlin's practice. This is the beginning of a programme of upgrading in the Department, meeting the challenge of teaching design-based courses in the 21st century.

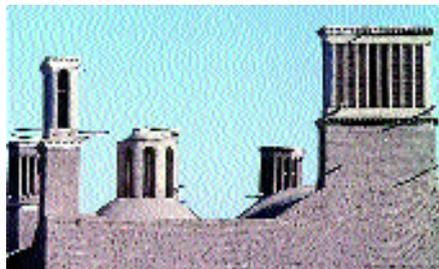
We were very sorry to lose a great friend and colleague, Layla Shamash, who died in August, having battled with cancer for over a year (see obituary, page 8). And Gordon Kirtley, a much liked and dedicated structures tutor, died earlier in the year after a short illness.

Farewells were said to two members of staff this summer. Dr Richard Hayward has been appointed Professor and Head of the School of Architecture and Construction at the University of Greenwich and Geoffrey Bennett retired, although I am sure he will continue to be seen in the Department for some time to come.

Congratulations go to all of our students who graduated this summer as well as to Murray Fraser who has been appointed Professor by the University, and to Ian Bentley who has been appointed Professor Emeritus on his formal retirement. Ian is continuing to teach part-time in the JCUD.

John Stevenson
Head, Department of Architecture

Teachers in Architecture (TIA) is an international organisation for teachers of Energy and Environmental issues within an architectural curriculum. Founded by Professors Sue Roaf of Oxford Brookes University and Marco Sala of Florence University, TIA has held three International Conferences in Florence and Oxford. This year they took a team of 21 experts (including old friends Fergus Nicol, Rod Hackney, Bill Bordass, Andy Ford and Geoff Cook), to the wonderful Iranian desert city of Yazd. Here they admired the wind towers, ice-houses, water cisterns and houses of this arid region, and held a two-day seminar in Yazd and Shiraz. In addition they judged the student entries for the TIA 2002 competition to design an Ecohouse in Yazd (see www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/arch/tia/desicomp.html).



The TIA 2002 Student Design Competition winners were:
1st prize (\$1,000): Salma Hoery and Sehr Mo'Taged of Yazd University School of Architecture
2nd prize (\$500): Amir Sadeghy, Farzad Azam Lofti and Morteza Mir Gholami of the Iranian University of Science and Technology
3rd prize (\$250) Ali Reza Nargessi of the Iranian University of Science and Technology
8 fourth place winners each received \$100

Delving in Valldigna

Last year International Studies in Vernacular Architecture (ISVA) staff were awarded a grant from the EU Culture 2000 programme for a joint research project with Kiel, Berlin and Valencia Universities, the Generalitat of Valencia and the Fundació Jaume II el Just. Based in Valencia Province, the project relates to the excavations of the monastery of Sta-Maria de Valldigna, which was recently designated as the seat of the UNESCO forum for the Mediterranean.

ISVA staff and students made a field trip to the valley in January and surveyed the vernacular building tradition in the villages of Simat, Benifairo, Tavernes and Barx. We made proposals for re-use of particular buildings and designs for a village museum, a visitors' centre and other accommodation. These were intended to accord with the local tradition and, together with strategies for conservation, designs were prepared during the second

and third terms of the masters teaching programme.

The opportunity to apply some theory of the taught programme in ISVA, while being involved in a live project which was genuinely international, is a valuable experience for all involved, linking teaching and research. All the material from each University was exhibited in Valldigna this summer and was received with great enthusiasm by the mayors and the residents of the villages.



Students from the three universities meeting at the monastery before starting work in the surrounding villages.

75th anniversary celebrations



On 28 June, over 200 people descended on the Ashmolean Museum to celebrate this very special anniversary. 75 years ago a group of young and enthusiastic architects created the Doric Club – a 'get together' to promote Architecture with other aspiring architects in the City of Oxford.

A welcoming address by our new honorary president,

William Taylor, was appropriately made at the Taylorian Institute, where older members had been addressed 30 years ago by Oscar Niemeyer, designer of Brasilia. The Architectural celebrity was none other than the new honorary doctor of the University, Louis Hellman, who arrived in the familiar *archi-têtes* personification of Norman Foster. We also heard an extract of the late Chevalier Reginald Cave describing, with customary humour, the provision of sanitary facilities along the Banbury Road to St Giles, where our event was held.

Members drank champagne at the Randolph Sculpture Gallery before moving to the basement for a splendid buffet dinner.

In addition to the School's exhibition at the Headley Theatre, members had the chance to see video extracts of the unforgettable 'teapot' lecture by Reggie Cave. The occasion, which was well attended by former students, young and old, was highly successful. Everybody commented on how much they had enjoyed it.

News in brief

The Department excelled itself by gaining further successes this summer in the British Steel CORUS International design competition, with 1st Prize awarded to **Tim O'Rourke** and 2nd Prize to **Ray Tyner**.

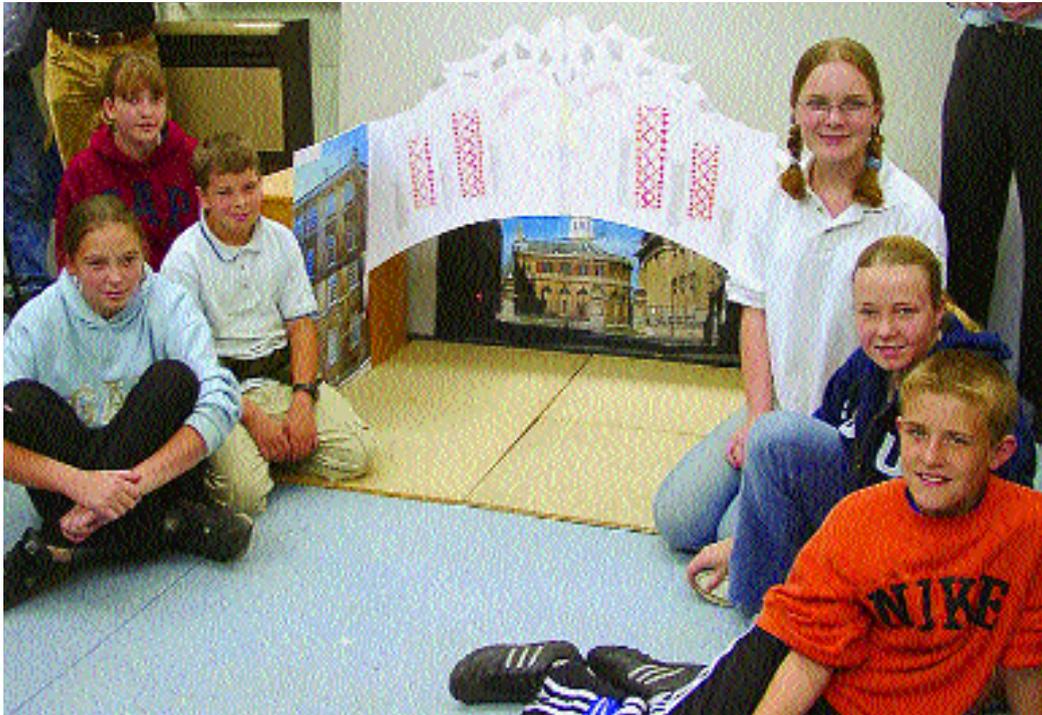
Following awards of the Bronze and Dissertation medals to Brookes' students at the RIBA last year, extremely strong entries have been shortlisted for this year's President's Medal prizes at both degree and diploma level. RIBA South and the Local Branch continue to sponsor prizes and lectures in the Department. This autumn **Chris Wilkinson** gave the keynote sponsored lecture in the evening lecture series.

Architecture people

Anja Brinkmann completed architecture studies and carpentry and joinery studies and now makes her living through her talents of craftsmanship and imagination. Currently living in Spain, she creates light sculptures and one off pieces of furniture, undertakes architectural projects and has begun a collaboration with an Italian industrial designer. She says: "I love being actively involved and witnessing the process of creation, realising one of the infinite possibilities with some given basic materials."



Civil engineers build bridges with summer school students



The Civil Engineering laboratories recently played host to 28 school children ranging in age from 10 to 14 years. They were selected for the Gifted and Able Summer School, a 10-day programme of activities (funded by the DfES) open to children attending schools which are part of the designated Oxford City Education Action Zone. One of the Summer School's themes was Italian influences and links, and on a walk round Oxford various Italianate features were discovered including, in particular, the Hertford College Bridge of Sighs named after the famous Venetian bridge, the *Ponte de Sospiri*.

Back in the laboratory the children were set a task to make an arch bridge consisting of five unbonded blocks/boxes formed from lightweight packing grade corrugated plastic sheeting, carefully calculated to form a bridge with the same rise to span ratio as the Hertford College Bridge of Sighs. Each group of children had to design façades as well as make and stiffen the boxes so that their bridge would take a load of 10kg. Bridges were set up with large photographic images showing the view under, and the walls adjacent to, the real Bridge of Sighs.

The day was a huge success with all groups constructing bridges that supported the 10kg load. Many of the reports the children had to produce on their activities, stated that the Bridge of Sighs project was the most rewarding and enjoyable of all.



CECM people

Vaughn Lawfull, a former student of Civil Engineering has, been appointed Associate at Peter Brett Associates only six years after graduating. Vaughn was a mature student at Oxford Brookes, having previously made picture frames and vehicle components. He graduated in 1996 with a 1st Class Honours degree and joined multi-disciplinary consultant engineers Peter Brett Associates as a trainee graduate engineer. He passed his professional examinations to become a Chartered Civil Engineer in 2000, and currently works as a team leader in the Building Structures Division of the company based in Reading. His promotion has come as recognition of his performance and skills in handling the management and technical aspects of building schemes from the initial concept design through to construction and handover.



From strength to strength

In the last addition of *be* I reported that Construction Management and Building had raised their recruitment targets. I am pleased to report that we have exceeded these, despite the continuing national downturn in construction related courses. This reflects not only the hard work of the admissions team but the growing reputation of the construction management courses through many published external indicators and the performance of our graduates in the industry.

Indeed such is the growing reputation of the course and the department that two members were invited to visit FH Joanneum in Graz Austria to discuss future collaboration. The FH Joanneum is a private yet publicly funded corporation. It is arguably Austria's leading University of Applied Sciences and currently offers 14 specialised programmes. Our hosts in Graz indicated their interest in developing relations with Brookes because of our excellent reputation for high quality teaching, growing portfolio of research, international curriculum and strong relationship with industry. FH Joanneum are interested in collaboration in research and consultancy, staff exchanges and possibly student exchanges. This first visit included a tour of the various departments as well as a series of lectures to first and second year students in the Department of Construction Engineering and Management. Plans are already underway to make Graz the venue for this year's construction management field course, where it is hoped students from both institutions will be able to undertake joint project work.

Marstan Street

Head, Department of Civil Engineering and Construction Management

News in brief

An Oxford Brookes civil engineering student has once again picked up a prize in the **Institution of Structural Engineers National Model Analysis Competition**. Final year student **Anne Wiseman**, was awarded a Highly Commended certificate for her investigation into the design and behaviour of precast concrete half-joints. The competition encourages students' awareness and understanding of the use of various testing and model techniques. Awards are given to the best dissertations on the application of physical models to solve problems associated with the design of structures.

Construction Management lecturer **Brian Wood** has just completed *Building Care*, a book encompassing everything from maintenance of a building to energy conservation. Publication is due at the end of the year, and the book will be available in paperback from Blackwell Publishing.

The Department organised a most successful evening in October, as part of the School's 75th Anniversary Lecture Series. **Alan Crane's** thought-provoking talk on his role as Chairman of **Rethinking Construction**, and the ways in which the construction industry needs to change to meet current challenges, was attended by over 100 guests.

Francis Connolly, senior partner at Peter Brett Associates, an alumnus of the Department and honorary graduate, is this year's winner of the **Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE) Outstanding Contribution Award**. The panel of judges described Francis as a "true ambassador for the engineering profession, exemplifying the contribution that consulting engineers make to today's society".

PUBLICATIONS

The green guide to specification



How can property professionals determine the environmental impact of the building materials and components being specified on their new building, maintenance and refurbishment projects?

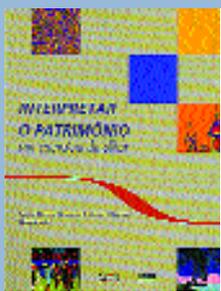
They can start by consulting the third edition of *The Green Guide to Specification*. This latest version uses the same innovative and easy to use environmental profiling system as earlier editions, providing guidance for designers, property owners and facilities managers on the relative environmental impact of over 250 building materials and components.

The system was designed by David Shiers of the Department of Real Estate Management at Oxford Brookes in collaboration with Mike Sinclair of Consignia and developed in partnership with BRE. It enables property professionals to choose the lowest environmental impact materials from a wide range of specification options provided for all the principal building elements including external and internal walls, floor systems, roofs, windows, paints, insulation and landscaping.

The guide provides a simple but reliable way for designers and specifiers to assess their options based on carefully researched, quantitative data derived from the BRE Environmental Database. To further aid specifiers, guidance on capital costs, typical replacement intervals and information on recycling are also provided for each material and component.

The Green Guide to Specification: an Environmental Profiling System for Building Materials and Components, 3rd Edition, is published by Blackwell Science.

ISBN number 0-632-05961-3



Professor Brian Goodey's work on heritage interpretation in Brazil continues. In 2002 a major new text, edited by Stela Maris Murta (former MA student in Planning) and Celina Albano (Cultural Secretary for Belo Horizonte), was published by the

University of Minas Gerais Press. It includes several chapters by Brian based on his research into appropriate methods for community-based interpretation in Brazil.



Professor Stephen Ward has had an eventful year. His book *Planning the Twentieth-Century City: The Advanced Capitalist World* was published in March by Wiley. He has also taken over editorship of *Planning Perspectives*. In July he undertook his last major public role as President

of the International Planning History Society, at the Society's international conference in London and Letchworth.

ISBN number 0-471-49098-9

GRADUATIONS & PRIZEWINNERS



BSc Hons Real Estate Management

In January our Graduands from the Singapore Open Learning programme attended a ceremony at the Marina Mandarin Hotel in Singapore. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Jim Bradshaw, and Professor John Raftery, represented the University and School. Prizes were awarded to Abdul Rahim Shirley Marlina for best overall performance and best dissertation, and to See Chun Yann and Tan Georgena for joint best performance for the Professional Practice Test module.

Top CECM graduates

Congratulations to all the department's graduates and in particular to those awarded first class honours degrees; David Ayling, Kevin Clarke, Benjamin Murphy, Anne Wiseman and Daniel Worth. It is particularly pleasing to note that four of the above originally enrolled on a foundation course or an HND within the department before progressing to their degree courses. The recipients of prizes are listed below:

Battie Prize for the best poster display of a final year project: **Benjamin Murphy**

CIOB Prize for the best construction management final year student: **Daniel Worth**

The Department Prize for the best construction management final year project: **Marcus Board**

Building Magazine Prize for the best overall student performance: **Marcus Board**

Architecture and Surveying Prize for the best performance integrated project: **Christopher Newton**

Society of Surveying Technician Prize best performance in projects: **Matthew Robinson**

The ICE Prize for the best civil engineering final year student: **Kevin Clarke**

The Department Prize for the best civil engineering final year project: **David Ayling**

Planning prizewinners

Barton Willmore Planning Partnership Postgraduate Prize for best implementation project on the Diploma in Planning course: **Thomas Smith**

Jacque Porter Memorial Prize for the best piece of work in housing or equal opportunities: **Rebekka Stredwick**

Land Use Consultants Prize for the best performance on the MSc in Environmental Assessment and Management: **Alice Helyar**

RTPI Book Prize for best performance on the BA in Planning Studies and Diploma in Planning: **Anna Bave**

Department of Planning Prize for the best performance on the BA joint honours programme: **Vicki Alan-Smith**

Department of Planning Prize for the best performance on the BA in Town and Country Planning: **Robert Blandford**

Symm Annual Prize for outstanding achievement on the MSc in Historic Conservation: **Shane Gould**

Timothy Hensman Memorial Prize for the best performance in Cartography: **Edward Merritt**

OBITUARIES



Layla Shamash

1943-2002

On 24 October we celebrated the life and work of Layla Shamash. Messages from former colleagues and students all over the world expressed their sadness at the loss of such a great teacher and friend. But every message carried with it the memory of Layla's continuing optimism and commitment to teaching, and the love which she extended to everyone who knew her.

Layla was born and grew up in Baghdad, but she had to leave Iraq in order to pursue her architectural studies. With the growing political tensions at home, Layla devoted her energy to securing the safe escape of her family, and she looked after her father in London and Oxford until he died.

After studying at the AA School, Layla went into practice in London, and at the same time set out on an extraordinary spiritual journey which would transform her life. She married in London, and with her husband Khalil and the two boys, moved to Oxford in 1981 to take up her teaching post.

Layla's contribution to the life and work of the School is immeasurable. Generations of students, and all who knew her, will always treasure her generosity.

Hunter Johnston

1951-2002

Hunter Johnston, who was an Architecture student from 1969 until 1976, died tragically in an Alpine climbing accident in August.

In Hunter's memory and as a tribute to his contribution to the life of the School the Doric Club Committee will be awarding a prize at the end of this academic year for the student who has contributed most to the life of the Department of Architecture.

For further information about anything featured in this edition of *be*, or to be added to or deleted from our mailing list, please contact:

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