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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 10 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 Brehey. 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 484858, 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
Certificate in Environmental Assessment
Thursdays 1 May – 11 July 2003
5.30pm – 8.30pm
Construction Project Management
Thursdays 23 January – 3 April 2003
5.30pm – 9.30pm

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, of green 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 EU’s 5th and the 6th Framework 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一块 cheque 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.

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, 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, and she says that it 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.”

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.

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 and post graduate courses in Real Estate Management, and expanded our graduate programmes, with Chesterton, DTZ Debenham Tie Leung, GVA Grimley, Savills, Savills 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 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-tiered 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 Hanwell. 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 Mattingly, NGC’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/ECT), 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 Catharina Trummer (Resource for Urban Design) information) successfully launched a new pilot project for 16 to 19 year old students from Chelsey 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 slow Jeffrey Burtarics (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 Simmion from the Department of Planning at Oxford Brookes, will be published later in 2002.

Liz Cairncross and Martyn Peat 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 Srinakarinwrot 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 a competitive edge in 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.

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 Brownell) in association with consultants HACAS Chapman Hendy. Building on this success, a new team comprising Liz Cairncross, Paul Allender, Sue Brownell 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.

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 people 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 is working on research applications for external funding on a companion of the innovation studies in Toulouse and Oxfordshire. This is a development of our Alliance Programme funded work with researchers in the School of Geography at Toulouse la Mirail University.

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

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

WINTER 2002 | be | 5
In with the new

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 Abercrombie, 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 Ian Bentley 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.

City of windcatchers

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 Nicoll, 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/ia/tia/comp02.html). The TIA 2002 Student Design Competition winners were:

1st prize (£1,000): Salma Hoey and Seyed Mo Taged of Yazd University School of Architecture
2nd prize (£500): Amir Sadeghy, Farazad Azm Autobiography and Mortaza Mir Ghalami of the Iranian University of Science and Technology
3rd prize (£250) Ali Rasa Nargosi of the Iranian University of Science and Technology

8th 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 Kei, Berlin and Valencia Universities, the Generalitat of Valencia and the Fundació Jaume Il el Just. Based in Valencia Province, the project related 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, Taverns and Baix. 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.

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 university architects in the City of Oxford.

A welcoming address by our new honorary president, John Stevenson, Head, Department of Architecture

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 and undertakes architecture 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 Sopari. 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.

From strength to strength

In the last addition of the Department of Civil Engineering and Construction Management we 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.

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 Institution 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.”
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 Canegrow 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 Stella Maria Murta (former MA student in Planning and Cultural Heritage at the University of Minas Gerais Press. It includes several chapters by Brian based on his research into 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 Leitchworth.

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 Kathy, represented the University and School. Prizes were awarded to Abdul Rahim Shurley Marinina for best overall performance and best dissertation, and to Sei Chun Yung and Tan Georgina 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, Tim 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:

Rabbit 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 for the 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 Strick

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 Hennes 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 1961 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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be

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