

be

built environment
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OXFORD
BROOKES
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School of the **Built Environment**

Introduction



Welcome to the Winter edition of **be**. Oxford is looking particularly beautiful at present with a crisp sharpening of the air, blue skies and abundant hues of golden brown and red glowing in the bright sunlight. We begin what looks to be another successful year, measured at least by record student numbers and one of our best years for winning new research projects. As the students are settling in to their academic year, staff within the School are putting the finishing touches to a fully revised portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. From September 2004, there will be among others, a new undergraduate programme in Cities - Environment, Design and Development, and new MSc programmes in International Real Estate and Sustainability and Energy Efficient Building.

We have a number of confirmed and new appointments in the School. Professor Mike Jenks has been appointed as Head of Architecture (he was previously Acting Head), and Peter Dent as Head of the new Department of Real Estate and Construction (REC). Linda New joins REC as the Department Administrator. Jon Cooper has been appointed as Director of the Joint Centre for Urban Design, and Mía Flores-Borquez as the School's Equal Opportunities and Diversity Co-ordinator.

As a School which provides professionally-oriented education and research, we are proud to report that Oxford Brookes University this year entered the top 10 UK universities for graduate employment. This School also did its bit for the University with two subjects which yet again scored in the top 3 for UK universities. These are Town and Country Planning and Real Estate Management.

Research in the School continues to flourish. During the last academic year we took on just under £1M worth of new projects, and there were 70 PhD students in the School. Our mission over the next few years is to increase the numbers of PhD students and produce managed growth in major research projects. Alumni and partners may be interested to know that we continue also to do applied research and consultancy. We don't aim to compete with 'high street' consultants; we are interested in particular in non-routine consultancy work. This is one of the ways in which we ensure that we continue to be research informed but professionally relevant.

Professor John Raftery
Dean, School of the Built Environment

about *be*

be is the newsletter of the School of the Built Environment which encompasses three departments:

Department of Architecture
Department of Planning
Department of Real Estate and Construction

Research groups within these departments are:

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

Top honours for built environment

Each year Oxford Brookes awards honorary degrees and fellowships to leading figures in the arts, sciences and business. Honorary graduates and fellows come from all walks of life and are chosen for their contributions to a field of study or for exemplary service to the University. They have a wide range of expertise and interests and are important role models for our students. This year several of them were drawn from the field of the built environment:



David J Piggott FRICS

David joined Chesterton in 1968 becoming a Partner in 1973. During the 1970s he worked for the company in Europe. Since 1991 he has been the Director of Planning and Development in London. His current role includes dealing with local authority urban property assets including the acquisition of sites. David also appraises potential new sites for development and is keen to promote industrial land regeneration when advising on future projects. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and is an authority on the use of land for both residential and commercial purposes.



Jon Rouse

Jon Rouse is the Chief Executive of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). CABE aims to help improve people's lives through better buildings, spaces and places and recognises that architecture affects everyone and can transform how people feel and behave. Jon is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and an Honorary Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.



Paul Hodgkinson CBE

Paul Hodgkinson has been Chairman and Chief Executive of the Lincoln based Simons Group Ltd – a privately owned construction, development and consultancy company, since 1986. Educated here at Brookes, Paul qualified as an architect in 1982. Since 1999 he has been a member of the University Court of Oxford Brookes and has previously worked with what is now Lincoln University as Chairman of its Business Fundraising Committee. Paul was awarded the CBE in 2001 for his services to business.



In addition, the title of Visiting Professor was conferred on **Professor George Monbiot** (pictured left) and the title of Visiting Fellow on **Trevor Osborne** FRICS.

Exciting changes for prize winning MSc course

Oxford Brookes' MSc in Development Practice, which won a Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2001 for its "pioneering contribution to the education of humanitarian aid workers", is growing rapidly and has appointed a new course leader. Brian Phillips, who is a human rights activist with experience of working with Amnesty International and the Quakers in the various conflicts in the Balkans, joined Brookes in September.

Brian takes over from Hugo Slim who, together with Professor Nabeel Hamdi and others in the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP), built up the course from small beginnings in 1994 to become one of the world's leading master's programmes for international aid workers. The course has had an intake of more than 50 students this academic year. Hugo Slim is taking up a new appointment as Chief Scholar at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva, but will remain a visiting lecturer at Brookes this year.

Brian Phillips is delighted to be taking the reigns of such an innovative and respected programme and is hoping the course will go from strength to strength. After successful pilot modules last year, Brian will be putting human rights practice at the centre of the course alongside humanitarian and development skills, keeping the Brookes course one step ahead of the rest.

The CENDEP team will also be working with a group of students to host Brookes' second Annual Human Rights Film Festival in Spring 2004 – an event co-sponsored by Oxfam and Modern Art Oxford. There are also plans afoot to work with the growing area of International Relations in the School of Social Sciences and Law at Brookes.

What's on Conferences

29 April – 2 May 2004

Post-occupancy Evaluation of Buildings

Third International Windsor Conference (organised by the OCSDA)
Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Castle grounds.
Delegates from around the world will join us for this expert's workshop organised to help introduce feedback into the building process.
If you would like to join us please email windsor@brookes.ac.uk

Exhibitions

14–30 January 2004

Ecohouse student design competition exhibition

On view at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), 66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD.

Lectures

13, 22, 29 January 2004

6.00–9.30pm Jarvis Hall of the RIBA

Virtuous circles: affordable buildings

Lecture series for the ecohouse competition (see above)

6.00pm Tuesday 8 June 2004

Lloyd Lecture Theatre, Headington Campus, Oxford Brookes University

Architecture in the digital age

Professor Murray Fraser proposes that digitalisation is most interesting when used to rethink the act of design, and that any approach to architecture can be designed via the computer.

For further information please contact Beth Hill, University Events Manager on 01865 484864, email bhill@brookes.ac.uk or visit www.brookes.ac.uk/brookes/prof_lectures/

Constructing Excellence

The previous edition of 'be' stated 'Construction is at the forefront of change management. We change the face of our cities and the environments in which people live, work and play; and we change ourselves, who does what, and how we do things.' Since then things have changed again.

The UK government has seen the potential for greater impact on the construction industry by bringing together the various post-Egan initiatives of Rethinking Construction, the Movement for Innovation and Construction Best Practice Clubs under a new badge 'Constructing Excellence'. The new Chief Executive is Professor Dennis Lenard, formerly of the University of Technology, Sydney.

The new Department is already going from strength to strength. Last year the Department was awarded Accredited Centre status by the Chartered Institute of Building, meaning we can now develop new courses for accreditation and expand those we currently offer. The Department's excellent reputation, recognised by the Quality Assurance Agency when awarding us 23/24 (best for Construction Management in the country), continues to bring rewards. This top score, together with the School's high research rating, continues to attract a good quality and quantity of new recruits.

In contrast to the occasional media reports of a decline in recruitment to construction courses, our student intake here at Brookes this year is up by 50%.

The preconceptions of many of construction as a predominantly male industry were challenged earlier this year when Angela Stack was awarded our best construction management graduate prize. In recognition of her achievement, Angela has also been awarded the prestigious Chartered Institute of Building Certificate of Excellence. Angela joined Brookes from the Oxford Women's Training Scheme and successfully balanced the needs of her family and her studies. In addition to Angela's success, Duncan Goodall, a Brookes Construction Management graduate of 2000, now working for HBG Construction, was awarded this year the Chartered Institute of Building's prestigious Sir Ian Dixon Scholarship for his research into more effective waste management.

The reputation of courses and students at Brookes is spreading beyond the UK. We now have exchange schemes with partner institutions in Bremen, Germany; Graz in Austria; Aalborg, Denmark; and Madrid, Spain.



Industrial fair: current final year construction management and civil engineering students display the work they completed on their year in industry.

Introduction



This summer the Departments of Real Estate Management and Construction Management joined forces to create the new Department of Real Estate and Construction. Bringing together these two disciplines marks a significant move in the development of both our activities. Through employment, placement, research and consultancy we are amongst the leaders in the market place. We have experience and expertise across a range of activities from traditional higher education through to short courses in a specialist area, in-house training or research.

Our Real Estate master's programme is acknowledged as one of the best in the country for its progressive and stimulating approach to industry involvement and reflective practice. Our problem-based short courses help participants confront real life situations in the classroom.

The partnership with all our external links operates through guest speakers and through our research and consultancy work. This year we have been fortunate to have amongst many others John Worthington (DEGW), Alan White (DTZ), Stephen Brown (RICS Foundation) and Marion Weatherhead (Gardiner and Theobald) to give lectures to our students. We also continue to have the practical support of our visiting professors Martin Avis, Angus McIntosh, Paul McNamara and Anthony Lavers. In October this year Professor Mikhail Soloviev visited us from Moscow to continue our collaborative links and to deliver a seminar paper on Housing Renewal in Moscow. We are proud of all our associations but we would especially like to mention Professor Paul McNamara who was recently awarded the OBE for services to the property industry.

Peter Dent
Head of Department

REM open learning programme in Singapore

We are busy preparing for the third semester of the current academic year for those of our students studying in Singapore through RECC. The Department was delighted to welcome Dr Quah, Director of RECC, as a visitor here in September. Dr Quah's visit to us provided a very useful opportunity to discuss the Open Learning Programme. A further ten students graduated from the programme between September 2002 and August 2003 and we look forward to an even larger number of successful graduate completions during 2003-04.

News in brief



The new MSc Real Estate Management course has proved to be highly popular and over-subscribed. Our first cohort of 22 students have now graduated and the vast majority of the group have found employment, mostly for global real estate surveying practices in London. The highlight of the academic year was a field trip to New York for one week in May 2003 in order to complete the Integrative Professional Practice module in Manhattan. (see photo)

In September the Department played host to Patrick Liao, Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Business Management, Lingnan College, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, China. Patrick Liao is also a senior member of the Executive Committee of the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. This visit underpins our existing academic links with Zhongshan University. It also provides support for expanding our research capacity in China including a recent initiative for a proposal on comparative study of the impact of globalisation on the development of real estate markets in transition economies, focusing on China and Central and Eastern Europe.



Albert Cao, Patrick Liao, Professor John Rafferty, Peter Dent

REC people



Paul McNamara, Visiting Professor for several years with the Department for Real Estate Management, was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list this summer for services to the property industry. A former

research associate and teaching staff member with both the Planning and Estate Management Departments in the 1980s, Paul remains keen to maintain his connections with Brookes. He is the current Chairman of the Department's Professional Liaison Group, bringing together leading industry figures to review and develop the Department's research and strategies.

He now works as Director and Head of Research at Prudential Property Investment Managers and is a member of the Investment Property Forum and Honorary President of the Society of Property Researchers. Until its recent demise, Paul was also a member of the Property Advisory Group, advising on policy issues for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Introduction



The Department is thriving. This year we welcomed around 150 new students onto our undergraduate courses and further 120 onto our diploma and master's programmes. We are now one of the largest departments in the University with a total of nearly 700 students and 80 staff.

In January 2004 work will start on a new building that will house our major research group – The Oxford Centre for Sustainable Development. This will mean a move for our first year students to better accommodation. We are also planning a complete refurbishment of the rest of the Department's accommodation. DEGW have drawn up proposals and consultation is underway, with a start planned for 2005/6.

A lot of time had to be spent last year with accreditation visits from ARB/RIBA, the governments' Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), and validation of our courses. Although all hard work, the outcomes were generally successful.

Last term ended with a successful exhibition of student work, opened by Lorenzo Apicella, attracting over 400 people. Students continue to win recognition through national and international prizes. Architecture staff have been active in securing research funding throughout the past year with prestigious grants from the Research Council totaling over £2 million. With accreditation and validation successes in hand, we look forward to a year where our efforts can be fully devoted to teaching and research.

Professor Mike Jenks
Head, Department of Architecture

The old "Oxford School of Architecture in a nutshell"

By Byron Mikellides

The historic city of Bergen, voted recently as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and boasting the famous 'Norway in a nutshell' excursion combining the breathtaking Flåm Railway with one of the most impressive fjords 'the Songhjord', is also a constant reminder of the Oxford School of Architecture. On arriving at Bergen's beautifully designed modern airport one is reminded of its architect, Andreas Grieg a former student of the Oxford School in the 1970s. Taking a taxi to the Scandic Hotel in the city centre, currently undergoing restoration, I was told at the hotel that the work is being done by yet another Oxford student, Truls Waage.

On my way to the old University of Bergen and the School of Architecture there, I passed through the main square and the imposing architectural office of Bent Stensaker who has been upgrading the environmental fabric of the centre through various urban design projects there. Driving with Bent through the various sculptured tunnels joining the picturesque little harbours of Bergen, I was reminded that it was his multidisciplinary office that has done the work.

After a day's work, at the design school and interviewing prospective students of architecture, on my way to the airport, I ended up discussing philosophy and the structuralist approach to the science of aesthetics with a recent Norwegian graduate from the University of Heidelberg called Bard Krakenik. As we approached the airport he commented that he was trying to restore some of his nine cottages with the help of a Norwegian Architect 'Elin'; when I completed her surname, Elin Thorsnes, he did not want to charge me for the taxi fare....

If one considers this as an unlikely coincidence, the previous evening in Oslo one telephone call at 5.15pm to Kikkan Landstad at the Norwegian Research Institute resulted in an impromptu reunion of the Norwegian Doric Club at 7.30pm the same evening; with Siri Helle, working as an architect promoting quality in housing through the Norwegian State Housing Bank and the inspiration behind Norway's 'Universal Design' directive, Trine Helle a

practising architect and urban designer, and Dag Arne Reiner the adviser to the Directorate of Heritage in Norway – all Oxford Architectural students.

As with Antonio Gaudi and Barcelona, the impact of the Oxford School to the current architectural scene in Norway is worth noting.



In May both Bent Stensaker and the Head Architect of the Regional Office in Bergen, Eli Holmefjord-Clarke (above), paid their homage to Reginald Cave and Richard Kayll at the memorial stone bench in Headington Hill Hall rose gardens reminiscing their time here and Vitruvius' words 'commodity, firmness and delight' (see photo). A few weeks earlier Gus Grundt, Coordinator for Environmental Affairs in Oslo, sat on the same bench just after preparing Oslo's application for the European Sustainable City Award 2003. Since then Oslo (together with Heidelberg and Ferrara) won the first ever award out of 65 submissions to the European Commission. Congratulations to Gus. Long live the Norwegian Doric Club and the Department of Architecture of the new School of the Built Environment.

In this particular year of RIBA, ARB, Periodic and QAA reviews it is reassuring to know that the most valid and reliable test of academic and professional assurance we have lies in such abundance with the prominence and real success of our students.

News in brief

Gus Grundt (architectural student 1964–69 and featured in *be* issue 2) headed the winning submission for the 'European Sustainable City Award 2003' for Oslo, Norway, organised by the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign.

Lynne Mitchell, of the Oxford Centre for Sustainable Development, has been awarded a £18,605 Housing Corporation Innovation and Good Practice Grant. This grant will fund OCSA's dementia team to produce a checklist of design recommendations to help housing associations create housing schemes with outdoor environments that are safe and easy for people to use, understand, enjoy and negotiate. The design recommendations are derived from the findings of a three-year research project, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, investigating how the outdoor environment can be designed to improve the quality of life of older people with dementia.

A solar fair, designed to answer any queries on solar hot water and electric systems and passive solar sun spaces was held in October. **Manuel Fuentes** and **Professor Sue Roaf** organised the event in conjunction with Oxford City Council, which was held at Oxford Town Hall, to meet the growing demand for information on solar power.

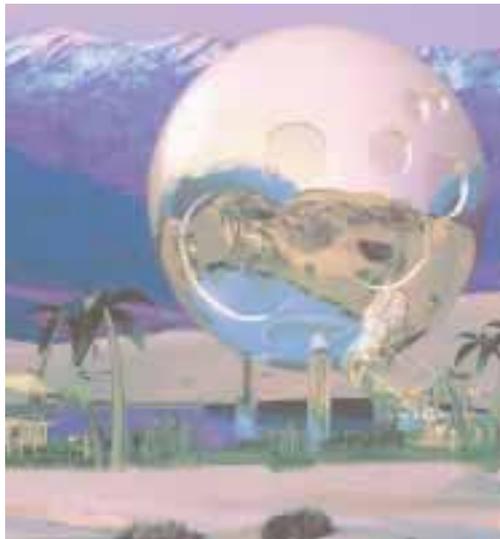
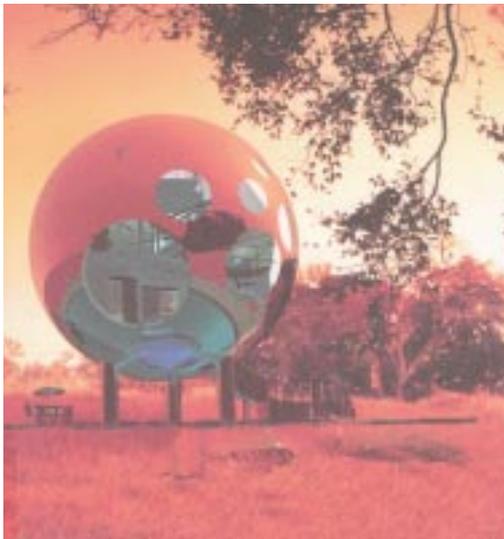


Digital Studio

Oxford design rules the BBC

Oxford Brookes students and staff featured in a new BBC series, *Design Rules*, shown over the summer. Filming for the six-part series took place at Brookes during the Christmas vacation and in early January. Professor Byron Mikellides spoke on colour and light psychology as well as being consulted on the subject. Architecture students were also filmed, both inside the Colour Chamber in the Architectural Psychology Laboratory, and in the new digital studio of the School of the Built Environment.

Design Rules, was presented by Lawrence Llewelyn-Bowen and was shown on BBC2 on Monday evenings. Despite competition from Coronation Street, two million viewers saw the programmes every week. A BBC publication based on the programme has also been produced. Dubbed a great success, the series will be shown again next year.



Eco houses by Dan Paraschix and Vasiu Liviu of the Academia di Architettura, Medirosa, Switzerland

Ecohouse competition grows

The second International Ecohouse Student Design Competition, run jointly by Professor Susan Roaf of Oxford Brookes University and the Architectural Press attracted 107 entries this year, from 196 students from 30 countries around the world including Cuba and Libya.

The entries ranged from stunning visual images such as a bio-climatic silver ball to highly detailed studies of innovative energy systems. Each Ecohouse was designed to be built in the student's own country and so buildings ranged from desert houses that could withstand temperatures of 50°C to a Russian house designed for a climate where winter temperatures fall as low as -45°C. Students had to convey their ideas clearly, illustrating solutions to problems of the climate, environment and society. The Chair of the Judges was Andrew Ford of Fulcrum Consulting, who coordinated the results of 20 judges from 12 countries who deliberated on the winners.

The competition entries can be seen in Gallery 2 of the RIBA on the 14–29 January 2004 (see page 2). Contact sroaf@brookes.ac.uk for more information.

Supporting home building in South Africa

Last year, the ISVA staff were invited to join a research project with ClaroMundi Limited, a financial services firm investigating a way of helping people finance low cost homes in developing countries. The aims of the project, led by Roy Woodhead of the School of Technology, are to raise awareness of cultural issues in the planning, design and implementation of such work and to investigate good practice in house building for low-income homes in South Africa. The School's initial role is in research and planning. If funding is forthcoming it is hoped that ISVA team will make a substantial contribution to the project's design and building.



Examples of students' work at the summer exhibition

Abingdon architects invest in tomorrow's talent

West Waddy ADP, architects and town planners based in Abingdon, has recently announced that it is to sponsor an annual student award in conjunction with the School of Built Environment. Architecture and planning are heavily interdependent and the West Waddy ADP Award will be presented to the undergraduate or postgraduate student, or student group, whose project best combines the joint disciplines. Philip Waddy says the firm is keen to encourage built environment students to deepen their understanding of the relationship between architecture and town planning as in this country, the two go hand in hand.

The West Waddy ADP Award will run for the next five years. A shortlist of student projects will be drawn up each spring and the winner of the West Waddy ADP Award will be presented with a £500 prize to assist them with their studies.

Using the vernacular

An example of how to combine teaching with research can be found in the pioneering methods being developed for cultural mapping in the master's course in Vernacular Architecture, based, in part, on new research by Professor Paul Oliver and Marcel Vellinga. The research is funded by an award from the Arts and Humanities Research Board to provide a world atlas of vernacular architecture.

This major new work has been developed to complement the award-winning *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World*, edited by Professor Paul Oliver and published by Cambridge University Press in 1997. The Atlas will be the first cartographic reference work on vernacular architecture in the world, and a new member of staff, Alexander Bridge, has been appointed to take care of the cartographic design and production of the Atlas. Its production within the department will also provide pioneering new methodologies for the recording of vernacular buildings that can be used by master's students in the Centre for Vernacular Architecture Studies, and in schools of architecture around the world.

Architecture people

Ayaka Takaki, a student on the master's course in International Studies in Vernacular Architecture, has been awarded an internship at the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome.

Former Brookes student, **Robert Greenstreet**, has been named as the Interim Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin System in Milwaukee. Robert is also the Dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning and the Chair of the Milwaukee City Plan Commission.

Luke Pulham is currently shortlisted for the 2003 Archi Prix awards organised by the Netherlands Institute of Architects.

Tobias Fielding-Crawley is the winner of the 2003 Corus Student Design Competition.



Mary Hancock received the Travel Award from the Worshipful Company of Architects. Mary is pictured with Alan Downing, presiding over his first event as Master of the Worshipful Company of Architects, and Roger France.



Introduction



The start of the new academic year was very busy for all staff in the Department of Planning. Many colleagues were working feverishly to enrol new and continuing students onto a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Particularly buoyant this year are postgraduate courses and it is good to see a continuing interest in Transport Studies, Urban Design and Planning courses generally.

In addition to preparing our courses for the new semesterised system to start in September 2004, teaching staff have also been busy redesigning our undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Particularly important are two new undergraduate programmes. A single honours course in City and Regional Planning replaces the Town and Country Planning course. The RTPI accreditation remains a key aspect of this course, though non-accredited routes are also available. By combining the RTPI route and several compulsory modules from the Real Estate Management programmes of study, candidates undertaking this route will be able to gain a combined RTPI and RICS accreditation.

Our present array of joint honours courses is also replaced by a new exciting course named Cities - Environment, Design and Development. This course is designed to train students who wish to become 'urbanists', with a range of specialisms in transport, design, environment, leisure, urban management and planning studies.

In addition to preparing our courses for new semesters, staff have been busy updating and redesigning several of our postgraduate programmes to respond to the RTPI invitation to make proposals to establish 12-month master's awards in Planning with advance RTPI accreditation.

Congratulations to all undergraduate, postgraduate and research students who graduated last year. We are particularly proud to welcome Jon Rouse as a new Honorary Doctorate and George Monbiot as a new Visiting Professor. Jon and George will work closely with the Department of Planning to develop new collaborative initiatives and they will also give high profile lectures.

Last year we were again ranked as one of the top planning departments in the country which is due to the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of all staff and students.

Professor Georgia Butina Watson
Head of Department

Graduations and Prize Winners

In September the Department of Planning enjoyed a very memorable graduation event, shared with many graduands, their families and friends. After the official awards ceremony a number of prizes were presented to our outstanding achievers sponsored by the Department, the Royal Town Planning Institute and by several leading private practices.

Building the Link conference

"The Conference far exceeded my expectations, clearly tapping an issue of international importance in higher education", a comment on the recent Building the Link conference held in Oxford on integrating teaching with research and practice.

The Conference was attended by 60 delegates from nine countries around the world and was hosted by Project LINK, a consortium of four built environment schools led by Oxford Brookes which has been investigating the link between teaching and research in built environment disciplines over the past three years. Delegates from the disciplines of planning, transport planning, estate management, surveying, construction, urban design, architecture and landscape architecture came together to share practice and debate the issues.

The Conference brought together some familiar faces from the School. Patsy Healey, a previous head of the School of Planning, gave the keynote speech and many new contacts were also made. This has led to discussions of possible follow up networking events and a suggestion that the conference be run again next year. A book is also in the pipeline.

More information can be found at www.brookes.ac.uk/LINK.

Planning people

Lucy Nichol from the Department of Planning was awarded her PhD this August. The topic was the implications for the UK land-use planning system of new styles of farming and forestry enterprise associated with local food production, coppicing and charcoal burning. She found that there is a tendency for the wider sustainability gains of small ecological enterprises to be ignored in favour of conventional policies of development restraint. Lucy's work has come at the right time to submit ideas to the government's review of planning policy guidance on the countryside.

News from the Summer School

Empowering young citizens to create a new vision for the Westgate area, Oxford

Thirty five A-level students from Oxfordshire and the surrounding counties took part in a three-day residential urban design summer school organised by the University and staff and students from the Departments of Planning and Architecture. The event was based on the teaching package and design simulation programme sponsored by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). The students worked in five teams to improve the Westgate Centre area of Oxford by using urban design principles developed in the teaching package.

The teams proposed some exciting and interesting solutions, based on a mixed use concept. They used the CADAI software design package to simulate their urban design solutions and 'walk through' their design schemes. Their ideas were presented to a panel of judges drawn from the University, the Royal Town Planning Institute, Oxford City Council and CABE, and to an audience of local students, teachers, parents and friends.

The summer school was recorded by a professional film company who are now producing a documentary.



News in brief

Professor Georgia Butina Watson visited the University of Taubate in Brazil where she worked with Professor Flavio Malta in the on the final report for a DfID (Department for International Development) sponsored project on community development. Georgia also spent several days in Sao Paulo where she made presentations at the British Council office on the academic and research programmes currently on offer in the School of the Built Environment.

Professor Georgia Butina Watson, Professor Ian Bentley and **Professor Sue Roaf** ran a workshop at Oxford Brookes University with 26 built environment professionals from Surrey on promoting sustainable development. Various experts came from a broad range of backgrounds such as planning, architecture, urban design, energy efficiency, private development, housing associations and a variety of sustainability experts. The next workshop will take place in December in the Surrey County Council offices with a view to produce a sustainable urban design guide.

Michael Wood, External Examiner for Mapping and Cartography at Oxford Centre for Cartography & Geographical Information Sciences (OCCGIS) at Brookes was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in June this year when he was appointed as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). The award was made in

recognition of his services to the subject of Cartography. Michael is also a Past-president of the International Cartographic Association, The British Cartographic Society and is presently President of the Society of Cartographers.

Dr Wood currently lectures in cartography at the University of Aberdeen, and in 1997 he was presented with an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Oxford Brookes, also as a result of his cartographic contributions and achievements. The team at OCCGIS and all members of the international cartographic community are delighted to recognise that one of its members, with such a high level of competency and strong ethical standards, as well as a life long passion for cartography, has been so officially acknowledged – many congratulations.



Professor Georgia Butina Watson presents Alen Firth with the Symm annual prize for outstanding achievement in the MSc Historic Conservation at the graduation ceremony.

Impacts of major energy projects - old and new



For over 20 years, a constant element in the work of the Impacts Assessment Unit (IAU) in the Department of Planning, has been the assessment of the impacts of major energy projects – and particularly the socio-economic impacts – on local and regional environments. From 1987, a major nine-year study focused on the construction of the Sizewell B nuclear power station. More recently the focus has been on the equally significant (de-) construction activity of the decommissioning of nuclear power stations.

Over the last three years, Andrew Chadwick, Research Associate in the IAU, and Professor John Glasson, Research Director of the IAU, have studied and assessed the likely impacts of the 120 year process building on case work at Bradley, Hinkley Point A, Dungeness A and Sizewell A power stations.

Complementing this research on 'old technology' has been a new research focus on wind power. Recent contracts include an outline socio-economic appraisal of a major new UK offshore wind farm

proposal, and a monitoring study of the construction of a wind farm in Liverpool Bay, which is ongoing. It's an ill wind that blows no good!

Our energy research has involved over £2 million of contracts over the life of the IAU, with over 25 projects for major public and private utilities including CEGB, National Power, Powergen, British Energy, Magnox Electric, Innogy and National Wind Power.

The Wadden Sea region: policies, management and legal industries



The Wadden Sea is one of Europe's most significant wildlife sites, stretching along the coast of the northern Netherlands, the western (North Sea) coast of Germany and northwards towards Esbjerg in Denmark. Its wildlife interest includes seabirds, North Sea and grey seals, and rare coastal habitats. Much of the area is designated under international agreements, such as Special Protection Areas, and it is a candidate World Heritage Site (Australia's Great Barrier Reef is another such site). The adjacent sea is busy with tankers and freights, so the Wadden Sea has been named a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area, to help protect it from the threat of pollution.

Tourism, windfarms and fishing are the important industries of the region. Policy and legislation affect planning and management here in complex ways, not least because of its three-nation geography, although it is planned to manage the area as a single ecological entity.

A team from the Department of Planning (including Joe Weston, Jake Piper, Stewart Thompson, Elizabeth Wilson and Professor John Glasson) were commissioned to review the operation of EU Directives affecting the region, together with other legislation, policies and strategies. They also made recommendations to strengthen the operation of policy instruments across the region. In particular, the team looked at how the concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management might be usefully applied in Wadden Sea area and what institutional structures and changes would be needed to implement this. The project client, the Wadden Sea Forum located in Wilhemshaven, Germany, has commended the team on their excellent work towards this pioneering report.

News in brief



Professor Martin Elson discussed the results of recent Oxford Brookes research on Village Pubs in Oxfordshire with HRH Prince Charles at a reception at Highgrove. The reception was held for those involved in a range of initiatives across the UK, termed the 'Pub is the Hub', for which the Prince is Patron.

The Brookes study, carried out with **Lesley Downing** in the Planning Policies Research Group, is feeding into the West Oxfordshire based EU funded Leader+ programme of rural development, a key theme of which is the promotion of village services. Local authorities in Oxfordshire funded the study.

Professor Martin Elson has recently completed a review and proposals for Sport in the Countryside as part of Sport England's new national strategy A Framework for Sport, due to be launched later this year. He has also been appointed a member of the South East Regional Sports Board, a body charged with implementing the strategy, and which involves the award of lottery funds at regional level.

Introduction



A particular feature of built environment at Oxford Brookes is the strong underpinning of all our activities with cutting edge research and consultancy. In each edition of *be* we will highlight a sample of this research and consultancy, complementing the individual departmental reviews covered in the earlier pages.

Professor John Glasson
Associate Dean (Research and Consultancy)

Major successes in research funding

In the last six months, researchers in the Department of Architecture have had major successes in securing funding for projects. As part of the Oxford Centre for Sustainable Development (OCSD), we secured major funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to participate in three new research consortia. These consortia comprise academic institutions and industry partners and provide an excellent opportunity for us to work with leading research groups across the UK.

The largest award is £1.88 million for the **Sustainable Urban Form Consortium** led by Brookes. OCSD's share of this grant is £542,000 over a four-year period. Professor Mike Jenks will lead a £245,000 plus project within the consortium. In addition, OCSD academics have been partners in the development of a consortium entitled 'Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors' (total value £503,000, led by Brookes' Elizabeth Burton). This project builds on the teams' current work designing outdoor space for people with dementia. Department of Architecture researchers have also teamed up with colleagues from the Department of Planning in a consortium on Adaption Strategies for Climate Change in the Urban Environment (total value £390,000 again led by Elizabeth Wilson).

OCSD's vernacular architecture centre has also had a major success in securing £210,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Board for the completion of the **World Atlas of Vernacular Architecture** (led by Marcel Vellinga and Paul Oliver, see page 4). OCSD's technology group has also won funding through the Partners in Innovation Programme looking into compliance in building regulations (£50,000) and thin-joint glued brickwork (£54,000).

Securing this funding means that our research teams will be leading internationally significant studies for some time to come. Many of our staff have contributed to these successes, and we are very pleased that our track record is enabling us both to win this calibre of funding and to operate at the leading edge of our specialisms.

Financing our heritage

Financing heritage buildings through sustainable leisure uses is a proposed multidisciplinary project being developed by **Miles Keeping** and **Professor Angus McIntosh**. The project is principally concerned with understanding economic trends and sources of finance in the international leisure industry, with the intention of clarifying some measurable environmental, social and economic sustainability benchmarks for different uses of leisure heritage buildings. The project intends to involve a consortium of other real estate departments, practising designers, management consultants, town planners and industry sponsors. Key products of the research will be "sign posts" which will enable leisure building owners and occupiers to know how and when to retain, enhance and sustain their property.

On the conference scene

Professor John Glasson, member of the Strategic Planning Advisory Group for South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) gave the academic perspective on the vision for the region at a conference launching the start of the roll-on of the South East strategy. The conference, held in September, included 200 representatives of key South East agencies and local authorities, plus ministerial representation from the ODPM.

Peter Headicar, Reader in Transport Planning, chaired the Institute of Logistics and Transport/County Surveyors' Society Conference on Regional Transport Strategies: Key Policy and Delivery Issues, at Westminster, in October. In the same month, he also spoke on Delivering Strategic Land Use and Transport Planning Solutions and Major Projects at the Institution of Civil Engineers Conference, also at Westminster.

Research Round up

The water framework directive

The EU Water Framework Directive (2002/60/EC)



Atkins

is one of the most important pieces of environmental protection legislation to be issued by the European Commission. It concerns not only water quality and the water environment across the whole community but is also intended to promote the sustainable use of water for people and wildlife. The Directive introduces a system of planning and management based upon river basins and presents considerable technical challenges with regards to setting environmental objectives as well as introducing risk assessment and monitoring. UK institutions responsible for the introduction and implementation of this legislation – DEFRA and the Environment Agency – have been carrying out a series of consultations with stakeholders to inform the process.

Jake Piper of the Department of Planning was commissioned by the Environment Agency, together with Atkins Water, to prepare a consultation report based on responses of stakeholders to the Environment Agency's consultation on two fundamental Technical Annexes of the Directive. Responses were received from a range of stakeholders including water industry companies and other industrial interests, government and statutory bodies, NGOs and interest groups and academics.

'Globalisation, peripheral land markets and income generation in developing countries: The case of Sao Paulo, Bangalore and Cairo', is the title of a proposal submitted to the ESRC. This is a collaborative work led by **Ramin Keivani**, and involves colleagues from DPU (UCL) and South Bank University. The research aims to fill a gap in existing knowledge on globalisation and contested urban space in developing countries. It will examine the impact of globalisation on peripheral land markets and the way this has influenced income generation strategies of the low-income populations in Sao Paulo, Bangalore and Cairo.

Historic environments and sustainability are areas of current research activity by **Mike Stubbs**. Mike's work will deal with examples of sustainability and climate change mitigation, sustainable tourism and green transport plans.

'Build it and they come: a case study of retail tourism and property development in Dubai'

This is a collaborative project between **Ramin Keivani** and Bassem Younes (University of Sharjah). It considers the role of retail tourism as an economic development strategy in Dubai and its impact on retail property development in the city estate.

'Globalisation and real estate markets in transition economies: a comparison of China and Central/Eastern Europe', is a new research initiative led by **Albert Cao** and **Ramin Keivani**. It aims to bring together the experiences of colleagues in the Department in respect of their work on transition economies to develop a new proposal for submission to the ESRC.

Location and local economies, is a developing research area led by **Ann Boon**. At the local level, Ann is looking at the effects of the conversion of redundant farm buildings to commercial use on rural economies. At the international level she is involved in a joint project on location behaviour in commercial property markets with Deborah Levy, University of Auckland, New Zealand. The rural economies research is intended to develop comparative analyses with other rural economies, both in the UK and internationally and to contribute to the development of new theories on rural economic development.

Sajja Rao has joined Ken Kwarteng, studying the **behaviour of light steel structures** under the supervision of **Mike Godley** and **Rob Beale**. Mike and Rob have recently presented papers at international conferences in Hong Kong and Australia. Mohammad Berawi is working on value management, in conjunction with **Roy Woodhead**. Roy's books on value management and achieving results continue to receive critical acclaim.

Future research for REC

The Department is gearing itself for a major increase in research activity in the coming

months. The emphasis is on the development of collaborative research within the context of international land studies in its widest sense covering both property and construction related studies including their physical, social and economic impact on human habitat. As part of this, several initiatives are being pursued:

In September the Department played host to Stephen Brown, Director of Research, at the RICS Foundation. Stephen's visit was part of a developing initiative to expand research links between the department and the Foundation through joint research proposals particularly on the impact of globalisation on property markets and urban change.

During October, REC also hosted Professor Terry Boyd of Queensland University of Technology as part of his study visit to the UK. During his stay at Brookes Professor Boyd gave a research seminar on his current area of activity and discussed ideas for future academic and research collaboration between the two universities.

REC research studentship

As part of our mission to foster research the Department has been running an occasional Research Studentship since 1999. The studentship is for £8,000 per annum and covers the fees for the three-year PhD study period. With the merger of the departments of Real Estate and Construction this scheme is now open also to potential construction research students. Funding constraints, however, have limited our support to only one student per three-year study duration. We invite all Real Estate Management and Construction alumni to support our expanding PhD research programme through direct financial assistance and practical suggestions for supporting the Research Studentship scheme. Please contact Peter Dent (prdent@brookes.ac.uk) or Ramin Keivani (rkeivani@brookes.ac.uk) to discuss your possible contribution and suggestions.

Publications

Brian Wood's book *Building Care* is selling well. Sir Michael Latham, author of *Constructing the Team* said of it; 'Brian Wood rightly confronts dismissive attitudes throughout his thoughtful and profound analysis of the maintenance process.... Putting maintenance at the centre of the continuing post-Egan reform process is long overdue... This book seeks to advance that debate and the reform process in a very focused way. I warmly commend it to you and to a wide audience.'

New maintenance manual for schools by Mary Hancock

The Northern Areas Education Project, funded by the World Bank, has opened nearly 400 community built schools. Workshops were arranged in Gilgit, and the manual was commissioned by the British Council to encourage ownership and ongoing maintenance of the school buildings, which give increased educational opportunities for local children, particularly girls. The manual gives ideas on basic maintenance as well as strategies to make the buildings more comfortable in extreme thermal conditions. It is published in Urdu, to be accessible to local people in the Northern Area.

Agustin Rodriguez-Bachiller with **John Glasson** (2003) *Expert Systems and Geographical Information Systems for Impact Assessment*, Taylor and Francis.

Building from a major research project, this book discusses the potential for integrating two well-known computer technologies (E5 and GIS) to help with the process of impact assessment. The proposition behind the work is that all three areas are potentially complementary and that mutual benefits can be gained from bringing them together in the field of planning.

Paul Oliver, of the Centre for Vernacular Architecture Studies, has revised and expanded his book *'Dwellings: The Vernacular House World Wide'*, recently published by Phiadon Press. The book argues for the recognition of vernacular traditions and addressing current and future housing problems.

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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