

42nd

National Journalism Awards

Bulletin

20th November 2015



For details and information about the **IBP National Journalism Awards winners** click on the categories below

[IBP JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR](#)

[ARCHITECTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR](#)

[CONSTRUCTION/INFRASTRUCTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR](#)

[NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR](#)

[FEATURE WRITER OF THE YEAR](#)

[BUSINESS/FINANCIAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR](#)

[COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WRITER OF THE YEAR](#)

[HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR](#)

[MULTI-MEDIA JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR](#)

['NEW' JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR](#)

[SCOOP OF THE YEAR](#)

[MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR \(WEEKLY\)](#)

[MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR \(NON-WEEKLY\)](#)

[DIGITAL SERVICE OF THE YEAR](#)

WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S **IBP INTERACTIVE AWARDS BULLETIN**. CLICK ON THE LINKS OR USE THE BUTTONS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE TO NAVIGATE THROUGH.

To view all nominated journalists articles go to the homepage and click the awards drop down menu.

WRITERS PITCH PROPERTIES AGAINST PEOPLE, PROVIDE EXPLANATION AND EXPOSES, ASSESS BUILDINGS AND BALANCE SHEETS, AND SUPPLY SCOOPS AND SCANDAL.

Who needs airplanes when the property press brings the world to its readers? The IBP awards survey the cream of the year's construction and development journalism and whisked the lucky judges between countries and continents as writers pitch properties against people, provide explanation and exposés, assess buildings and balance sheets, and supply scoops and scandal.

All real-estate life is there, conveyed on a stream of adjectives, alliteration and active verbs. This year's category winners and their publications are as varied as their stories. It was pleasing to see websites jostling for honours alongside weeklies, monthlies and other more traditional media platforms. But what unites this disparate group is a common quest for quality and this year's entries maintained the highest standard. Better still, there was quantity too, with an increased number of entries in almost all categories.

[Click here to see a slideshow of the judging panel deliberating over the submissions.](#)



/// The best entry from the winners of each individual journalist category is considered for the coveted IBP Journalist of the Year Award, sponsored by Resolution Property. ///

IBP JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2015

The overall winner is chosen from the winner of the individual categories – so the standard is high in selecting the best of the best. Although that means comparing very different articles across the built environment, the same standards of journalism apply to all, and all provided insightful, well researched and presented articles that demonstrated the breadth and strength of the media serving the built environment.

WINNER: David Hatcher,
writing for *Real Estate Capital*

All journalists aim to be first with the news; but this year, IBP has its own first – a *Scoop of the Year* award. Many scoops have won awards in past years, but this year there was a separate category for the hottest of stories. In a sector with so much hard news, and which has produced so many journalists who have taken their building and property skills to bigger media groups, it is right that IBP honours the ‘first-among-firsts’.

And the first-among-firsts is a journalist who broke one of the biggest deals of the decade, never mind the year. Canary Wharf towers above the London skyline and David Hatcher's revelation of a £6bn bid for its owner towered as a news story.

The test of a real scoop is whether envious rivals follow it or down-play it – and *Real Estate Capital's* competitors had to concede that Hatcher had a scorcher. Nor was it just a one-fact revelation: his original story guided readers through the complex financial structure of a complicated deal. He scooped his opposition and thus deservedly scoops the IBP Journalist of the Year award.

Sponsored by



The screenshot shows the Real Estate Capital website interface. At the top, there is a banner for 'The Place for Best Local and International Property Deals' with dates '11 - 13 April 2016, Dubai World Trade Centre'. Below this is a navigation bar with categories like 'Private Equity International', 'Infrastructure Investor', 'PERE', 'Private Debt Investor', 'Private Funds Manager', and 'RE Capital'. The main article is titled 'Brookfield and Qatar Holdings prepare bid for Canary Wharf' by David Hatcher, dated 5th November 2014. The article text discusses the joint bid by Brookfield and Qatar Holdings to take over Songbird Estates and gain control of Canary Wharf Group's £6.28bn portfolio. A sidebar on the right features 'Related' articles and promotional banners for 'REAL ESTATE MATHEMATICS' and 'REAL ESTATE FINANCING'.

ARCHITECTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2015

Judges had a difficult time this year, owing to the high standard of entries. Whilst there was a discussion about how critical architectural journalism is at this point and questionable obsession with so-called 'starcutechs', there was a great deal of verve, in-depth research and style.

WINNER: Rory Olcayto,
writing for *Architects' Journal*

Nominations:

Rory Olcayto, *Architects' Journal*
Owen Pritchard, *Architects' Journal*
Eleanor Young, *RIBA Journal*

Rory's writing fizzes with style. It is gripping, energetic and leaps along the page. A worthy winner, the judges commented.

Eleanor Young, *RIBA Journal*: Highly Commended

Eleanor writes with real personality whilst simultaneously showing a thoughtful, critical and robust style. In particular her article on Sadie Morgan offered real insights without resorting to cliché.



Sponsored by **SidellGibson**
Architecture - Urban Design

CONSTRUCTION/INFRASTRUCTURE JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2015

There was a broad range of articles with representation from many of the sectors leading titles. The category judge's choice of shortlist was driven by those who went the extra mile, avoiding just offering straight reporting but instead giving something more for the reader.

WINNER: Daniel Kemp,
writing for *Construction News*

Nominations:

- Tom Fitzpatrick, *Construction News*
- Daniel Kemp, *Construction News*
- Tom Ravenscroft, *Construction Manager*

Daniel's entry was a strong offering of three very different pieces. A very timely interview with a leader of industry sat well alongside a genuinely interesting report on a world beating tower project. The judges felt that Daniel's inside look into the challenges of employing ex-offenders, including securing a visit inside HMP Brixton, really got to grips with the subject.



NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR 2015

Another great crop of stories this year from all the titles news teams. Stories generally fall into two obvious camps – those that report market activity and those that break news which affects the wider world. A balance is always needed. This year’s winner and final nominations reflect the traditions of all excellent news reporting and they all have an impact not just within the industry, but also on the wider world. Long may that effort continue.

WINNER: Will Hurst,
writing for *Architects' Journal*

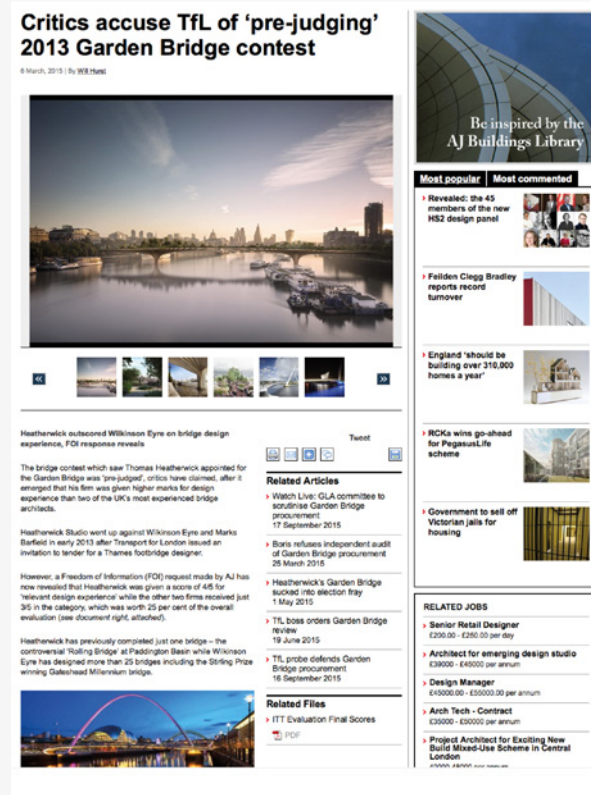
Nominations:

Pete Apps, *Inside Housing*
Hannah Brenton, *Property Week*
Will Hurst, *Architects' Journal*

Will Hurst was the judges’ clear winner. He showed a relentless determination to get to the murky bottom of a bureaucratic process that is essential to the fair operation of the public procurement process. It is vital this process is beyond reproach.

His work has shone a light on that process and demonstrated why that needs to happen. His work is what news reporting of any kind is all about. And the story of how TfL has procured Thomas Heatherwick’s Garden Bridge has been one of last year’s “must reads” the judges said.

Sponsored by 



Critics accuse TfL of 'pre-judging' 2013 Garden Bridge contest
8 March 2015 | By Will Hurst

Heatherwick outscored Wilkinson Eyre on bridge design experience, FOI response reveals

The bridge contest which saw Thomas Heatherwick appointed for the Garden Bridge was 'pre-judged', critics have claimed, after it emerged that his firm was given higher marks for design experience than two of the UK's most experienced bridge architects.

Heatherwick Studio went up against Wilkinson Eyre and Marks Barfield in early 2013 after Transport for London issued an invitation to tender for a Thames footbridge designer.

However, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request made by AJ has now revealed that Heatherwick was given a score of 45 for 'relevant design experience' while the other two firms received just 35 in the category, which was worth 25 per cent of the overall evaluation (see document right, attached).

Heatherwick has previously completed just one bridge – the controversial Roking Bridge at Paddington Basin while Wilkinson Eyre has designed more than 25 bridges including the striking Prize-winning Gateshead Millennium bridge.

Related Files

- ITT Evaluation Final Scores
- PDF

Related Articles

- Watch Live: GLA committee to scrutinise Garden Bridge procurement 17 September 2015
- Boris refuses independent audit of Garden Bridge procurement 25 March 2015
- Heatherwick's Garden Bridge sucked into selection fray 1 May 2015
- TfL boss orders Garden Bridge review 19 June 2015
- TfL probe defends Garden Bridge procurement 18 September 2015

Most popular | Most commented

- Revealed: the 45 members of the new HS2 design panel
- Falsten Clegg Bradley reports record turnover
- England 'should be building over 310,000 homes a year'
- RCKa wins go-ahead for PegasusLife scheme
- Government to sell off Victorian jails for housing

RELATED JOBS

- Senior Retail Designer £200.00 - £250.00 per day
- Architect for emerging design studio £20000 - £50000 per annum
- Design Manager £45000.00 - £50000.00 per annum
- Arch Tech - Contract £20000 - £50000 per annum
- Project Architect for Exciting New Build Mixed-Use Scheme in Central London £20000 - £40000 per annum

FEATURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2015

There was a marked increase in the number of entries in this category which produced a high standard of articles with a broad range of subject matters. This made the process of finding a winner that more stimulating and difficult.

WINNER: Martin Hilditch,
writing for *Inside Housing*

Nominations:

Nick Duxbury, *Inside Housing*
Martin Hilditch, *Inside Housing*
James Pickford, *Financial Times*

All three of Martin's articles were well researched, succinct and to the point. They were written with confidence and sensitivity, where necessary and further demonstrated a good use of his contacts.

News analysis

Empty feeling

In numbers
£4.1m Amount Accent wrote down the value of its housing properties by in 2013/14
130 Number of empty homes Accent owns in Horden
30 Number of empty homes Accent owns in Blackhall
£7m Amount Accent would need to spend to bring the homes up to its quality standard

Impact of bedroom tax
 The introduction of the bedroom tax in April 2013, which cuts the housing benefit of people under occupying by up to 20%, put paid to this solution.

“Our responsibility is to social residents. We need to make the right decision for them.”

Left: Meet Accent tenant and Horden councillor Billy Hill

© Inside Housing 6 February 2015

Sponsored by



BUSINESS/FINANCIAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2015

The entrants submitted a range of articles that was diverse in content, style and impact. Their remit extended from the City of London to The Eurozone, China and Africa and the outlets included web sites as well as print.

The best articles were very good and were worthy nominations. They showed the value of research, interviewing and using the journalists' own eyes. Curiosity and common sense remain key journalistic qualities. The writers then added their own analysis to produce compelling copy.

WINNER: Jack Sidders,
writing for *Estates Gazette*

Nominations:

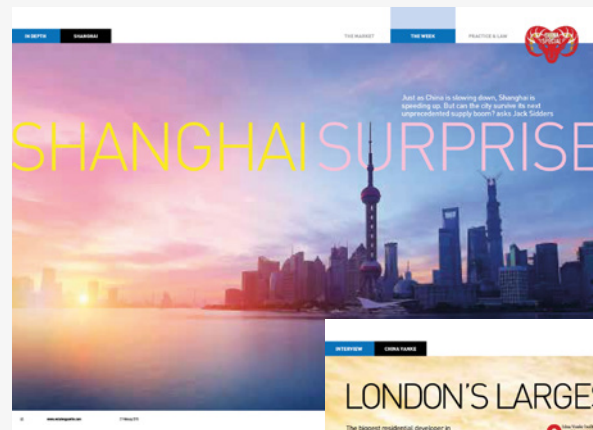
Sophia Fuber, *SNL Financial*
Steve Menary, *Housebuilder*
Jack Sidders, *Estates Gazette*

Jack produced an extensive series of articles on China that showed the rewards of real research and reporting. This diverse group of pieces covered not only China's booming development industry but its investment overseas.

The author got to the right people and received honest views on this key market in a slowing economy. He had done his home work in advance and got a lot out of it on the ground. This was thoroughly good journalism.

Back home, Jack also provided insightful pieces on the Cheesegrater and Hammerson's sale of its London office.

Sponsored by



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WRITER OF THE YEAR 2015

The Commercial Property writers took as their brief an agenda that covered UK party politics, Greece's financial plight, the collapse of oil prices and the decline of a US gambling city. And UK property too! They covered that range in depth and with colour, chasing interviews and digging for detail. And the hardwork and imagination paid dividends. The judges had to choose between a range of informative and entertaining articles that were a pleasure to read.

WINNER: Hannah Brenton,
writing for *Property Week*

Nominations:

- Chris Berkin, *Estates Gazette*
- Hannah Brenton, *Property Week*
- Rhiannon Bury, *Property Week*

Hannah returned to Soho – an area that has regularly attracted the property press's feature writers – but found insights that had been missed by her predecessors. She also interviews the team from Argent, the company regenerating King's Cross.

But the article that most impressed the judges was her piece on Atlantic City, a once prosperous US gambling resort whose glory has faded. She provided colour and analysis and – after diligent persistence – got Donald Trump to give his opinion of where his dream had gone wrong.

Her skills include not simply giving the developers' viewpoint but talking to the wider group of stakeholders and painting a wider, deeper and more colourful picture.

Sponsored by **.ing**

Place your bets

Atlantic City has hit a low – casinos are closing and revenues are plummeting. But as Hannah Brenton discovers, its luck may be about to change

Atlantic City

"For 30 years with no competition, all Atlantic City was concerned about was gambling and casinos," Atlantic City mayor Don Guardian says. "But five years ago, that monopoly ended and instead of having 12 casinos in Atlantic City serving the East Coast, we now have more than 30 casinos just in the states around us: Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York."

Yet, paradoxically, the number of people who are gambling and the amount they are spending have not increased, so you actually took the same value of \$20m and divided it by 30 instead of 12.

The four beleaguered casinos could not survive. When the Atlantic Club – formerly the Hilton – shut down last year, 58-year-old Allicks, who is now working as a waiter at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, was shocked. His first job had been at the casino – and he had subsequently worked there for 20 years.

"They kept saying they might have to close it – but we didn't believe them," he says, adding that some of his former co-workers still haven't found work. "Some of them went to the hotel, then that place closed; the Showboat, then that place closed; Trump Plaza, then that place closed – the rest got successful jobs. Some of them went to the Golden Nugget – they were lucky."

The closures and job losses would be difficult for any city, but for one that is kept afloat by taxes from the casinos, it has been particularly hard. Jon Hanson, chairman of developer/inspector/real estate company, who oversees a number of Atlantic City for Christie, says the city's biggest challenge is the cost of running its local amenities, which stands at around \$400m annually.

The city's budget, he says, grew correspondingly with gambling revenues as the tax burden on the casinos increased with the value of the properties. Yet, as those revenues then declined and revenues from other taxes dried up, taxes did not go down. As a result, the casino filed tax appeals – and won. The pay-outs and ongoing change in the tax base have forced the city into a precarious financial position and led to spending cuts and layoffs.

For a while, Mayor Guardian's committee, Christie appointed an emergency management team in January. He by Levin and Co. Their first report was published in March. In it the duo warned that the city faced a \$102m shortfall this year and would have to reduce its workforce and make other cuts to close the budget gap.

Taxing times

Mayor Guardian has been at the forefront of spending cuts since he took office 10 months ago. The \$160m in cuts was mostly as a result of seven or eight years ago, the casino industry paid 85% of the property tax to the city, but by January 2015 that had fallen to 65%.

"When the assessed values went down seven years ago the city and each casino fought over tax appeals and the city lost every one. By the end, the city will have had to take out debt of nearly \$400m just to pay back casinos for their successful tax

boardwalk. However, overall gaming revenues are slipping across the city, according to the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Officials and developers are now intent on broadening the offer to both tourists and residents, and the shuttered casinos are beginning to change hands and use. Local higher education establishments Shippensburg University is planning an island campus, hotel and student housing complex on the site of the Showboat. The university has agreed to sell the casino site for \$20m to Florida developer Glen Straub, who also purchased the hotel at the rock bottom price of \$60m. The Showboat conversion faces complications through an ongoing battle with Trump Entertainment Resorts, owner of neighbouring casino Trump Taj Mahal, which is seeking to enforce an old zoning agreement that only a casino can be operated from the site. It argues having students next door who are under-21 and cannot legally drink or gamble would be pedantic.

Upmarket vision

Straub and Stockton have now joined forces to push through Project Phoenix, their \$200m, eight-part vision for the seaside strip. As Straub now controls both the hotel and the Showboat, he envisions a new mixed project, extreme sports complex, two marinas with capacity to host supercars, a world-class multi-purpose aquatics complex, indoor and outdoor watersports, two universities, a pier project with leisure light shows, as well as high-speed ferries and a helicopter service connecting Manhattan and Atlantic City. Planning also includes a medical complex, high-end independent living facilities and an entertainment hub.

Straub – who owns a prestigious polo and country club in Florida – clearly believes in a more affluent future for Atlantic City. "I suppose the only complex bear the hallmarks of a developer with an eye on the East Coast cities. It is early days for his grand plans, but the city made progress taking control of two of the four shuttered casinos.

Meanwhile, the Atlantic Club, which closed last year, is believed to be the subject of a deal with Broadway Property Group, which specialises in residential property and housing for the elderly, so another of the casinos could well have a new gambling future.

Trump Plaza, however, may not be quite as straightforward to re-purpose. Both Guardian and John Palmieri, executive director of the Casino

Waiting game: after closing in 2014, the hotel has been sold for \$60m

Contentious: the Showboat is the site of a conversion battle

"We're not going to get the corporate office parks – they just won't come"

John Palmieri, executive director, CRDA

HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2015

As in previous years it was extremely difficult to separate entries because of the high standards of contributors, and the rich vein of stories in this sector.

WINNER: Hannah Brenton,
writing for *Property Week*

Nominations:

- Hannah Brenton, *Property Week*
- Martin Hilditch, *Inside Housing*
- Heather Spurr, *Inside Housing*

Many pieces have been written about the Pros and Cons of housing aimed at foreign investors but Hannah goes a step further by investigating the prospect of what could happen if the tap is turned off.

She also raises a warning flag about a potential danger already emerging as investors are flipping flats before they are even finished, pocketing profits as prices soar.

ANALYSIS
Storms gather over London residential
Protesters argue that foreign investors are forcing the locals out of London. Developers counter that without overseas money no housing would be built. **Hannah Brenton** looks at both sides of the argument

Residential investment ANALYSIS
Development of any scale has to be sold off-plan to make the 'money-go-round' Martin Dominic Cannon, Savills
Premium market The surge of overseas money flooding into the market is supported by figures from Savills, which show that 20% of all new-build properties in the £1,000-£2,000/sq ft bracket were sold to foreign investors in 2013/14, with Chinese and Pacific Asian buyers accounting for more than 30%. However, the number of foreign buyers drops to 50% in the more affordable £450-£1,000/sq ft section of the capital's new-build housing market. And across all sales and resales in prime London it starts at 59%.

Off-plan sales fund future builds
The practice of selling London's new-build properties to overseas investors has a long history. Agents and developers have been juggling up in Singapore and Hong Kong to market their wares since at least the 1950s.

Future vision: how the E10 Court redevelopment is expected to look

Sponsored by  WILLMOTT DIXON

MULTI-MEDIA JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2015

It is good to see how the best are maximizing the opportunities afforded by new media, thinking hard about the most appropriate channels through which to present their content.

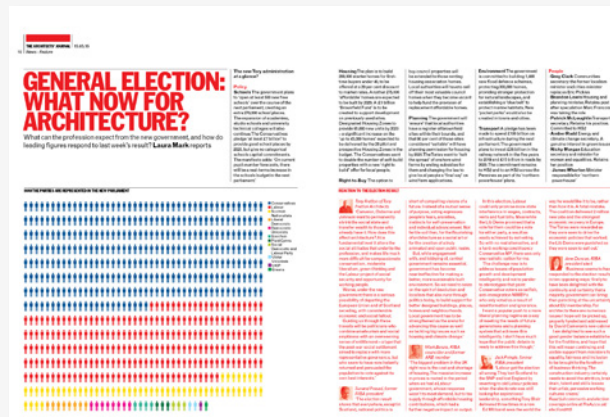
WINNER: Laura Mark,
writing for *Architects' Journal*

Nominations:

Laura Mark, *Architects' Journal*
Nick Duxbury/Jess McCabe, *Inside Housing*
Heather Spurr, *Inside Housing*

Laura's response to the Election result was rapid and appropriate to the sector, starting with real time coverage via social media as the results came in, with more detailed results throughout the day.

Her work on Women in Architecture and the AJ 120 demonstrates how long form journalism can be made to work online. She took every opportunity to enhance the contents digitally.



Sponsored by



Back to Main page

← Previous page

Next page →

'NEW' JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2015

The judges were impressed with the maturity and application demonstrated by all the entrants and the breadth and scale of the projects covered.

WINNER: Amber Rolt,
writing for *Estates Gazette*

Nominations:

Guy Montague-Jones, *Property Week*
Amber Rolt, *Estates Gazette*
Charlie Schouten, *Construction News*

Amber was a clear winner in this category, her entry fully lived up to her own ballsy entry intro. Of particular interest was Amber's unexpected and informative piece on the potential revenue stream provided by film locations. She showed the human angle behind the property industry.



Sponsored by



Back to Main page

← Previous page Next page →

SCOOP OF THE YEAR 2015

The quality of all the entries in this new IBP Awards category: Scoop of the Year was deeply impressive. All the submissions reflected a high degree of market knowledge, a clear understanding of what constituted news and evidence of both top-flight contacts and high quality research.

There were stories in this category of such significance they were followed up around the world while others indicated excellent use of tactics, such as Freedom of Information requests, dogged research, and skilful use of top industry contacts.

The writing in this category was, in the main, clear, accurate and concise and clearly tailored to its target reader audience, avoiding the use of industry jargon. This was a very closely fought contest and there were at least four submissions that could have taken the accolade of Scoop of the Year.

WINNER: David Hatcher,
writing for *Real Estate Capital*

Nominations:

Joanna Bourke, *Estates Gazette*
David Hatcher, *Real Estate Capital*
David Parsley, *Property Week*

This was a true blockbuster of a scoop that generated headlines around the world. The story was clear and concisely written and revealed both excellent understanding of property with an immense amount of detail. It is great to see the property press outgunning all the Nationals and setting the agenda on a story that is arguably the biggest property scoop in a decade.

Sponsored by



MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (WEEKLY) 2015

This year's crop of magazine entries showed further signs of recovery. Despite scarce resources and investment in digital platforms, there is still an enormous pride in producing great print products. However recent news that some built environment titles may be moving to digital only is disappointing. Many still regard print as the best medium for conveying built environment characteristics and complexities. The judges hope this is recognised and that print will continue to co-exist alongside digital platforms in some form.

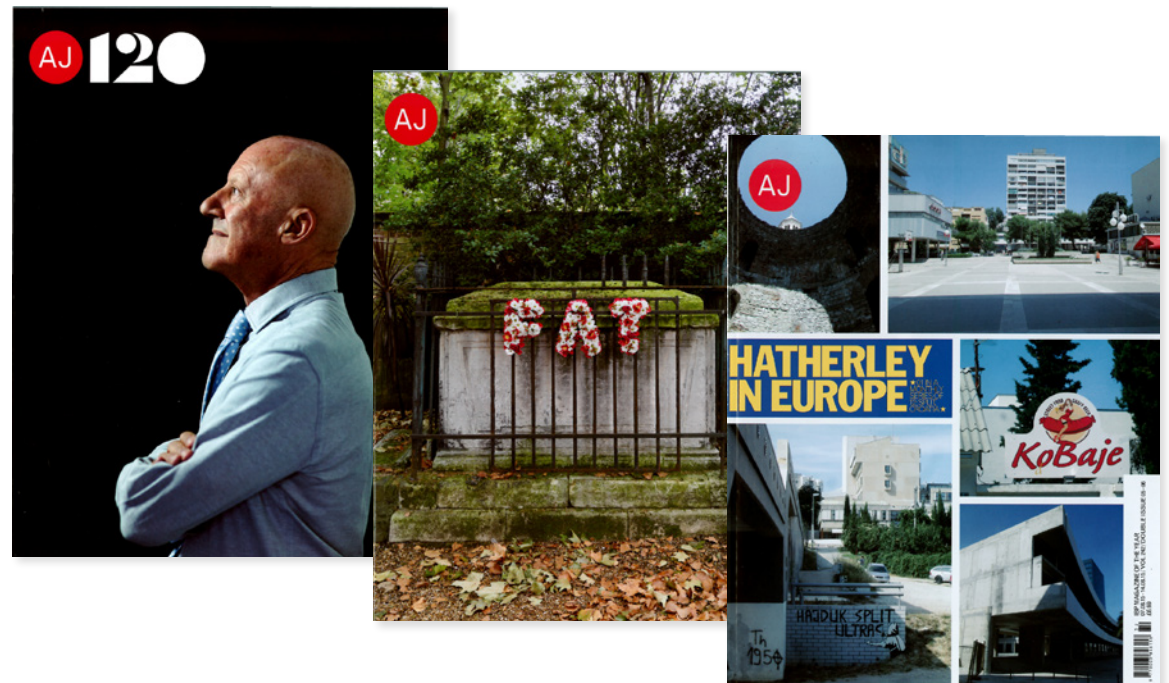
WINNER: *Architects' Journal*

Nominations:

Building
Construction News
Architects' Journal

This magazine is really in a class of its own, the judges' enthused. AJ's verve and style ensure it is never a chore or a duty to read, but always a delight and a pleasure. Its campaigning news and creative, sometimes quirky, features and approach make it a clear winner.

And it always reflects the extra dimension that good design brings to every aspect of what the building industry does.



Sponsored by  MarleyEternit

[Back to Main page](#) 

 [Previous page](#)

[Next page](#) 

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (NON-WEEKLY) 2015

The judges were pleased to see that the number of entries had increased this year, including some new and small independent publications measuring well against the established titles, showing that more magazines in the market worthy of entering.

WINNER: *onOffice*

Nominations:

Construction Manager
Landscape
onOffice

A magazine very well focused on its market with a layout and design balance which goes well with its interesting content. It demonstrates clever use of photography and daring picture editing being on trend and spotting interesting topics.



Sponsored by



[Back to Main page](#)

[← Previous page](#)

[Next page →](#)

DIGITAL SERVICE OF THE YEAR 2015

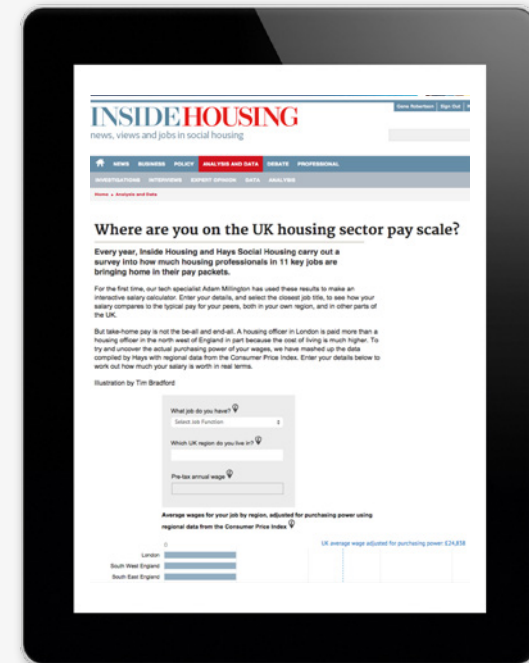
There was an impressive number of entries from across the built environment sector and the Nationals. The judges were impressed by the level of enthusiasm for the digital medium and particularly enjoyed seeing elements that would not have worked so well on paper, despite one or two instances of people using technology for technology's sake.

WINNER: *Inside Housing*

Nominations:

Construction News
Inside Housing
 Architects' Journal

This was an excellent redesign. The judges found the salary calculator compelling. There was thought-provoking content on two new user-uploaded communications networks. The multi-media microsite on tenant activism combined good journalism with interactive capability in a way that was fresh and attractive.



Sponsored by **EVERGREEN REPUTATION**

Back to Main page

← Previous page

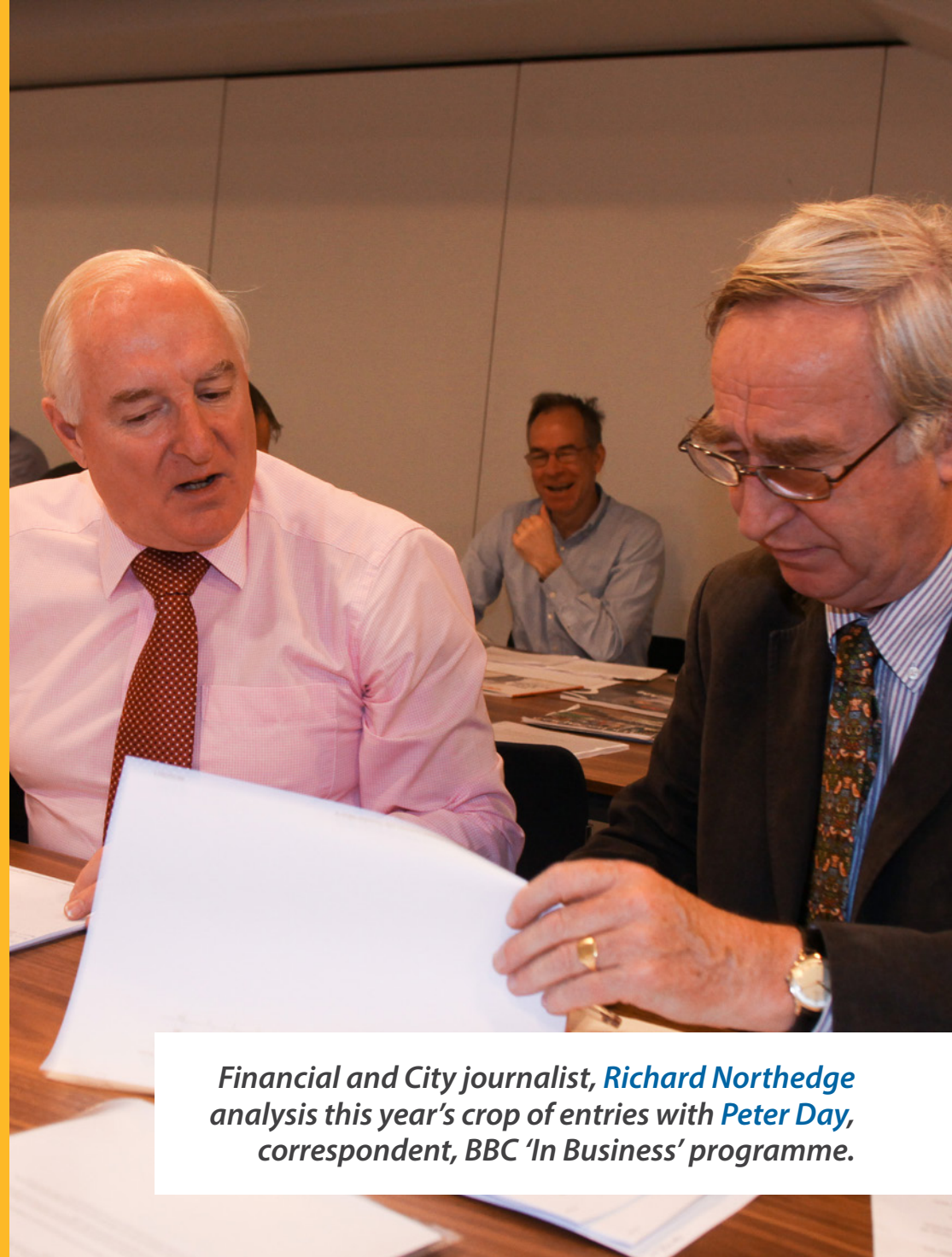
Next page →



*David Lawson, freelance, asks the questions of fellow judges **Alasdair Reisner** CECA, char, and **David Saffin**, professional engineer.*



Dickon Ross, editor-in-chief, Engineering & Technology with panel chair, John Yadoo, Vice President CIOB.



Financial and City journalist, Richard Northedge analysis this year's crop of entries with Peter Day, correspondent, BBC 'In Business' programme.





*Veteran architecture journalist, **Martin Spring**, foreground with **David Taylor**, editor New London Quarterly are joined by ‘new’ judges: **Soraya Khan**, partner, Theis and Khan architects and **Stuart Piercy**, founder, Piercy Company.*



Foreground: Left to right *Deirdre Hipwell*, *The Times*, chair Scoop of the Year judging panel discusses the short list with *Giles Barrie* (back to camera) *Jenny Davey* and *George Demetri*.