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Fiona Cobb

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Freelance Property Writer

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David Lawson

Freelance Journalist

Debbie Legall

Web Manager and Freelance Journalist

Lee Mallett

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City and Business Journalist

Rex Pengilly

Construction and Property Consultant

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website builder and programmer

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Marketing Manager Intelligent Engineering

John Slaughter

Director, External Affairs House Builders Federation

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Editor London Property Review

Christopher Warman

Freelance Journalist The Times (Special Reports)

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Architectural Journalist of the Year

Sponsor: Sidell Gibson Architects

SidellGibsonArchitects

Architectural Critic of the Year

Sponsor: International Building Press



Construction Journalist of the Year

Sponsor: Association for Consultancy and Engineering



News Reporter of the Year

Sponsor: Aylwin Communications



Feature Writer of the Year

Sponsor: Chartered Institute of Building



Business/Financial Journalist of the Year

Sponsor: International Building Press



Commercial Property Writer of the Year

Sponsor: International Building Press



Housing Journalist of the Year

Sponsor: International Building Press



Environmental Journalist of the Year

Sponsor: URS Corporation



Young Journalist of the Year

Sponsor: WM Protek AB



Magazine of the Year (Weekly)

Sponsor: Marley Eternit



Magazine of the Year (Non Weekly)

Sponsor: Internal Building Press



Website of the Year

Sponsor: International Building Press



IBP Journalist of the Year

Sponsor: International Building Press



Three new judges, Fiona Cobb, associate, Price & Myers; Polly Simpson, marketing manager, Intelligent Engineering and Nick Sellen, website builder and programmer, joined the panel of twenty five judges to supplement the broad spread of knowledge provided by both journalists and industry professionals. These latest judges' complete the restructuring of the judging panels started in 2007.

This year's panel front row left to right: Gerald Bowey, CEO ibp Services; Roger Wilsher, Managing Director, Aspect Media; Clive Branson, Editor, Commercial Property Register; Lee Mallett, Consultant, Regeneration & Communication; Peter Murray, Director, NLA; Richard Aylwin, Managing Director, Aylwin Communications; David Taylor, Editor London Property Review; Matt Yeoman, Partner, Buckley Gray Yeoman; Peter Roper, Freelance Journalist; Polly Simpson, Marketing Manager, Intelligent Engineering; Chris Marsh, Faculty, Built Environment, University of Westminster; Frank Duffy, Founder, DEGW; Peter Harris, Chairman Art & Work Awards; Michael Day, Partner, Integra Property Services; John Slaughter, Director, External Affairs, HBF; Chris Warman, Freelance Journalist; Andrew Sawers, Editor, Financial Director; Fiona Cobb, Associate, Price & Myers; Richard Northedge, City & Business Journalist; Michael Rose, Chairman, The Building Centre; Peter Day, Correspondent, BBC 'In Business' programme and David Lawson, Freelance Journalist.



Not in picture: Richard Anderson, Chief Executive, Anderson Fraser Partnership; John Grigsby, Freelance Property Writer; John Keenan, Editor, Meetings & Incentive Travel; Debbie Legall, Web Manager and Freelance Journalist; Rex Pengilly, Construction and Property Consultant; Nick Sellen, website builder and programmer; John Yadoo, Partner, Pryme Consulting



international building press

**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
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PROPERTY WEEK DOMINATES IBP AWARDS

Property Week's Deirdre Hipwell walked away with the Business/ Financial Journalist and overall IBP Journalist of the Year Awards at the presentation dinner in London.

This was a meaty year for property journalists and Property Week in particular with no fewer than 14 Nominations 2 Highly Commended and 4 Wins to their credit this year.

With no shortage of subjects to write about both at home and overseas journalists showed good imagination in moving away from the crash and crunch to look at social issues and environmental matters.

The quality of writing was as high as the subject material was wide and choosing an overall



Journalist of The Year winner from such good entrants was a very fine decision.

The winning entry from Deirdre Hipwell of Property Week was read by the judges of all the individual entries and chosen as the overall winner because of her detailed report on the Zimbabwe property market obtained under the severe constraints of a UK journalist working there. She wrote with style and understanding on economic conditions not witnessed elsewhere in the world.

New faces join lineup at awards

New faces joined experienced journalists at this year's IBP National Journalism Awards. Some sixteen journalists entered the Young Journalist of the Year category representing titles across the sector, including Architects' Journal, Building, Construction News, Inside Housing, New Civil Engineer and Property Week. Many entering this category also put in a strong bid in the other categories. At the final judging session the judge's expressed their difficulty in choosing from the range of excellent articles, eventually nominating four in the Young category to demonstrate the sheer range and quality of the entries.

The number of entries in the Architectural, Architectural Critic and Construction categories all doubled on last year while the News category increased by nearly 60% producing a crop of articles that had the judges locked in debate. "Yet again the international building press were ahead of the nationals" they said. The credit crunch took centre stage as the real story unfolded but the judges noted that the journalists in this category "diligently and imaginatively pursued their own interests – providing some cracking scoops".

The Feature and Business categories were also up on last time, with the judges particularly praising James Whitmore's, Property Week October 2007 detailed article on the credit crunch which, the judge's said, "still stood up to scrutiny a year later". The judge's were so impressed with the body of James work they awarded a highly commended.

The Commercial Property category dipped by some 50% on 2007 providing a disappointing level of support from a range of titles including Estates Gazette. While this left the

field wide open for Property Week to dominate the category nevertheless the judges said "that despite the limited number of entries, the subjects written about covered a wide and interesting range of topics including many outside the standard fare of the property industry".

Environmental followed this upward trend in entries and the judge's commented that "the quality and range of subjects had significantly improved", so much so that the judge's said that they had difficulty in separating out the final nominations. In true democratic style they played their 'Commended' card to solve their dilemma!

Housing entries obviously suffered from the rapidly changing market sector. Again, the judge's had occasion to make special comment, singling out Joey Gardiner of Building and praising him "for his insight and writing quality, which bodes well for the future". But it was veteran Martin Spring who brought home the bacon for his work in Building. The judges said they were in no doubt about the winner. "Spring's consistency, experience, solid content and factual base continues to set standards".

IBP NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS 2008

THE RESULTS IN FULL

ARCHITECTURAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

2008 was a strong year in the Architectural Journalist category with the judges commenting that most of the entries scored highly. "This is a sector that has a good supply of highly competent writers, keeping the profession well informed about current issues," they said.

The judges praised Richard Vaughan of The Architects' Journal. His story on the proposed demolition of Robin Hood Gardens in Poplar, East London was something of a scoop and his profile of Rifat Chadirji was of the highest quality. While Dan Stewart of Building magazine did a good profile on Renzo Piano and, said the judges, an interesting piece on the problems of building Zaha Hadid's exotic architectural forms which was written in a clear and elegant style. "Stuart's stories were well structured and his comments perceptive," they said.

The winner was Beatrice Galilee of Icon magazine. Her piece on Norway was personal, evocative and direct. "I could imagine myself in these places", said one of the judges. The article included work little known outside Norway which was a "revelation" said the judges.

NOMINATIONS: Dan Stewart – Building
Richard Vaughan – The Architects' Journal
Beatrice Galilee – Icon (Winner)

ARCHITECTURAL CRITIC OF THE YEAR

In the Architectural Critic of The Year category the judges were impressed as ever by the quality of the entries – including what, in this category, were rare contributions from a national newspaper journalist. "Architectural criticism is alive and well", they said.

Justin McGuirk of Icon magazine wrote clever, sharply written pieces on three well chosen, highly original, even edgy projects. The judges said that McGuirk evokes the special nature of these buildings within their settings while keeping his critical distance. "The architectural profession needs even more critical writing of this quality," the judges felt.

Rob Gregory of Architectural Review wrote about three wonderful topics, said the judges – Chipperfield in Germany, Fretton in Denmark and Piano in New York - all excellent architects at the height of their powers. "Gregory's content is excellent. He says a lot in a small space, seriously, simply and elegantly," the judges observed. They pointed out that appropriate precedents and references support his critique. "Pieces like these are an antidote to sometimes self-obsessed architectural criticism," they added.

Shane O'Toole of The Sunday Times, Culture supplement, the winner in this category, wrote in a fine and highly accessible style for a national newspaper. "His three pieces pack an enormous impact," they said. "They are highly intelligent, well informed, sharp, witty, and evocative to the point of poetry – the best we have read for years. Easily the winner," they enthused.

NOMINATIONS: Rob Gregory – Architectural Review
Justin McGuirk – Icon magazine
Shane O'Toole – The Sunday Times (Winner)

CONSTRUCTION JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

"It was pleasing to see more entrants with a good variety of topics challenging the 'regulars' in this category this year," said the judges.

They praised Ruby Kitching of New Civil Engineer for "good technical details on familiar topics" and Stephen Kennett of Building magazine who "linked construction with broader issues such as international trade", while Alasdair Reisner of Construction News demonstrated his "usual high standard".

The winner in this category was Thomas Lane of Building magazine who wrote in an "excellent style" said the judges. "His stories had a good impact that illustrates how the industry is tackling extreme construction challenges," they said.

NOMINATIONS: Ruby Kitching – New Civil Engineer
Stephen Kennett – Building magazine
Thomas Lane – Building magazine (Winner)
Alasdair Reisner – Construction News

NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR

The judges praised highly the entries in the News Reporter of The Year category, "yet again the international building press were ahead of the nationals, in particular unveiling the impact of the credit crunch as it unfolded, as well as diligently and imaginatively pursuing their own interests," said the judges. They felt that there were some "cracking scoops". While the pace and complexity of events perhaps required slightly smoother copy and more explanation of the wider importance of some stories, they felt, nevertheless, that this was an "excellent crop of articles".

They praised Laura Chesters of Property Week. "This reporter found nationally significant stories in her field which were well followed up in the national business press," they said. While Chrispin Dowler of Inside Housing, "ploughed a very specific furrow". The judges commented that he writes in an interesting, intelligent and revelatory way about stories that identify and explore important national themes in housing – particularly social housing.

But the winner's gong in this category went to Will Hurst of Building Design. "The winner's dogged pursuit of information and his nose for really edgy, spiky subjects provided him with the means to produce powerful, accessible, fully-rounded stories. In particular they liked his hunt to discover Norman Foster's real tax status and its conflict with his position as a peer of the realm.

"This was a great piece of investigation and reporting of interest to everyone. Also, the use of the Freedom of Information Act to force the BBC to reveal its correspondence with its architects was another great revelation. A well-deserved prize for a good reporter," they concluded.

NOMINATIONS: Laura Chesters – Property Week
Chrispin Dowler – Inside Housing
Will Hurst – Building Design (Winner)

FEATURE WRITER OF THE YEAR

The number of entries for the Feature Writer of The Year award fell significantly this year but, that said, the judges felt they were all of a very high standard and caused the judges a lot of soul searching and debate before agreeing on a winner.

In the category the judges especially noted that for a number of years Christine Eade's entries have consistently been in the top three of the judges' deliberations.

"This year was no exception with her entries splitting the judges. All were beautifully written, and demonstrated excellent readability.

Mark Hansford of New Civil Engineer "demonstrated a singular passion for his subjects, picking fascinating themes and offering insight into his chosen topics"

While the category winner, Stewart MacDonald of Building magazine, certainly had the "wow" factor, and without doubt his entries were outstanding, amongst the finalists.

Christine Eade of Property Week was awarded a Highly Commended "Indeed only two points separated the top three entries, all of which stood out from the others," they added.

NOMINATIONS: Christine Eade – Property Week (Highly Commended)
Mark Hansford – New Civil Engineer
Stewart MacDonald – Building magazine (Winner)

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

In the Business/Financial Journalist of The Year category the judges felt that the entries for this category showed exceptional width and depth and demonstrated a very high standard. The entrants showed an ability to report on serious situations across several continents as well as investigating the domestic property market. The judges' difficulty in deciding who to omit from the winner's list demonstrated the quality of all the submissions.

"In October 2007 James Whitmore, Property Week, wrote a detailed article on the credit crunch which still stood up to scrutiny a year later. "He applied a similarly detailed analysis of the business empire of Robert Tchenguiz as he battled against the crunch and also cast healthy scepticism about the latest plans for the Battersea Power Station area.

Laura Chesters also of Property Week provided a view of the credit crunch from New York and interviewed Sir Philip Green about his empire. Most impressive, however, was her study of the new property empire of Kevin Maxwell, in which she persuaded several of his colleagues to talk, even if Maxwell declined to co-operate himself.

Completing Property Week's dominance of this category, Deirdre Hipwell, covertly forecast that J P Morgan would abandon its plans for a new City of London HQ months before the important decision was announced. Also, she detailed difficulties on the development of a Liverpool scheme that would have been a key part of the European Capital of Culture.

However, the judges were especially impressed, which tipped the balance to win her the category Award, with her report from Zimbabwe, despite the ban on UK journalists writing there. "She described how, despite the continuing problems there, that a thriving property market exists even with hyper-inflation," said the judges.

James Whitmore was awarded a Highly Commended.

NOMINATIONS: Laura Chesters – Property Week
Deirdre Hipwell – Property Week (Winner)
James Whitmore – Property Week (Highly Commended)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WRITER OF THE YEAR

In the Commercial Property Writer category Property Week's dominance continued. Commenting on the category as a whole, the judges said that despite the limited number of entries, the subjects written about covered a wide and interesting range of topics, including many outside the standard fare of the property industry. "The high writing standard was complemented by increasingly good layouts and artwork making good reads even livelier.

Mark Shepherd wrote about an area of property little commented on, the marketing practices used to win mandates and shift buildings. "Also, he interviewed John Prescott on his views on the industry and looked at the serious and growing problem of identity theft," commented the judges.

Mark Jansen gave an interesting account of the dispute between a City developer and its existing neighbours that went into detail not usually aired in public. He also looked at the conflicts of valuations and at the arguments over developing Smithfield.

Sean McAllister also of Property Week used a visit to South Africa to produce a very interesting and informative look at the country's property market that included an incisive look at the social and commercial environment. The judges commented that his article on Pontin's holiday camps was an entertaining look at a changing industry with strong property implications and also he studied another industry based on real estate – garden centres.

NOMINATIONS: Mark Shepherd – Property Week
Mark Jansen – Property Week
Sean McAllister – Property Week (Winner)

HOUSING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

In the Housing Journalist category the judges said that the overall standard of entries was good but perhaps less innovative than in previous years, no doubt due to the rapidly changing market sector. Nevertheless, web-based entries are beginning to appear and in some cases matched more traditional formats. Inevitably, many pieces are now overtaken by events and emphasises the need for articles to appreciate the dynamics of market conditions.

Joey Gardiner of Building magazine came in for special comment from the judges for his insight and writing quality which bodes well for the future, while Steve Menery, writing for Housebuilder and Contract Journal continued to produce quality work and consistency, the judges said

However, the Housing Journalist of The Year award went to Martin Spring of Building magazine. The judges said that unlike the general standard, this year they were in no doubt about the winner. "Spring's consistency, experience, solid content and factual base continues to set standards which together with strong visual support underpinned the decision to give the award to him," they said.

Gardiner received a Commended.

NOMINATIONS: Joey Gardiner – Building Magazine (Commended)
Steve Menery – Housebuilding/Contract Journal
Martin Spring – Building (Winner)

ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Established in 2007, there was an increase in the number of entries in the Environmental Journalist category this year and the quality and range of subjects had significantly improved, so much so that the judges said that the top three contributions were difficult to separate out.

Philippa Ward from Inside Housing impressed the judges with her article on the Tachbrook Estate, Pimlico, London and the greening of spaces which they particularly appreciated. They also commented that Thomas Lane of Building magazine "once again achieved quality and impact with his three pieces".

The winner of the category was Mark Jansen of Property Week who was the most consistent performer in the category and delivered three quality pieces, varied but clearly showing his own style.

However, as mentioned above the top three nominations were of such a close and consistent quality that both Philippa Ward and Thomas Lane were Commended by the panel of judges.

NOMINATIONS: Mark Jansen – Property Week (Winner)
Thomas Lane – Building magazine (Commended)
Philippa Ward – Inside Housing (Commended)

YOUNG JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

The judges observed that the Young Journalist of the Year category becomes more popular every year, introducing a new crop of journalists year-on-year with a range of excellent entries, vying for poll position. This year was a close run contest "creating sleepless nights" for the judges, "We finally had to nominate four finalists and found it difficult to choose between those eventually shortlisted; it is to be regretted that there can only be one winner," they added.

Particular praise, for outstanding entries was made for the body of work from journalists working on Property Week. Jennifer Rigby, who strikes a chord with key issues; Hardeep Sandher and Richard Heap both of whom approached key issues in an informative way.

But the winner of the category was Lydia Stockdale, also writing for Property Week, who covered controversial issues bringing 'taboo' issues into the open, said the judges.

NOMINATIONS: Richard Heap – Property Week
Jennifer Rigby – Property Week
Hardeep Sandher – Property Week
Lydia Stockwell – Property Week (Winner)

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (WEEKLY)

The judges said that the Weekly Magazine of The Year category is increasingly competitive with redesigned and refocused publications like Architects' Journal and Inside Housing entering the fray to join others that continue to evolve.

They added that, "In the weekly magazine category it's not easy to accommodate all the requirements of an often disparate audience, but with increasing time poverty some publications are perhaps doing more than they need to, which makes it more difficult for the reader. A few handle this very well and create some great reads week in, week out."

The judges said that following on from its redesign last year Building magazine continues to be a power house in this category, with strong use of imagery and typography. They said that Inside Housing's bold redesign sets off some very powerful content addressing this increasingly important social housing sector.

"A good effort that can only continue to evolve in a positive and attractive way," they concluded.

The winner of the award is Building Design. The judges said that "Obviously settling into the redesigned format, Building Design's team demonstrate really confident use of content – knowing when to stick their neck out, and when to be more tempered. The techniques used – combining short reads with longer pieces – could teach the nationals who have moved to smaller formats, a thing or two," the judges felt.

"Building Design's mix provides a very inclusive feel to attract a wider audience, while also giving detailed coverage for the core readers. It is very easy to use and navigate providing a very satisfactory diet of news and features," they concluded.

NOMINATIONS: Building magazine
Building Design (Winner)
Inside Housing

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (NON WEEKLY)

Entries were down nearly 50% in this category, from last year. The judges commented that they wished they had had more entries to choose from. The top three shortlisted each clearly demonstrated that they had not stood still but developed and moved forward to consolidate their position in the market places they serve.

The judges said that Planning in London magazine (last year's winner) is clearly continuing to develop and has lots of top quality content which is even more outstanding when the fact it is produced on a very tight budget is brought into the equation.

The judges felt that onoffice has improved a lot since its launch a year ago and deserves to be in the final nominations for this category. They said, "It has cemented its position in a very tough market place," but they cautioned the magazine to differentiate, in its design, between editorial and advertising.

Commenting on the winner, Architectural Review, the judges felt that the magazine demonstrated that it is very focused, and beautifully presented with a clear, excellent content. They were particularly impressed with the edition focusing on China's Olympic developments. "The magazine showed outstanding creativity throughout, and we love the use of full page photography which wouldn't look out of place in an art gallery exhibition," they added.

NOMINATIONS: onoffice
Planning in London
The Architectural Review (Winner)

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

The judges found all of this year's entries worthy candidates, all were interesting and seriously focused on their target audiences and showed a good understanding of the need to write and design specifically for the screen, integrating images with short and pithy paragraphs. Many have gone to some lengths to increase usability and accessibility for a variety of readers.

Property Week's content rich website provided many additional features. News stories are concise and written with the web in mind, aiding swift online reading. Each story includes a "tell us what you think" section encouraging reader interaction.

The design is pleasing to the eye with a good use of colour and image to add interest. The site is constructed with active server pages and RSS feeds. The search facility is well featured with a user filter enabling multiple search criteria.

The Building Design site has many examples of good web writing with short easy-to-read paragraphs illustrated with good images. The design is bright and fresh with good colour choices, rational subdivisions and clear dropdowns. Site loading is fast with active pages and a useful sitemap. It also features podcasts, video and newsfeeds. The Sound & Vision section links to relevant items of architectural interest on YouTube.

However, the visual design of the winning site: World Architecture News is in a league of its own. Modern and bold, powerful yet comfortable to read and look at. It benefits from a disciplined and consistent use of its grid which contributes to the settled yet interesting visual appearance. A very well considered choice of colours provides impact while preserving legibility.

Copy is well written and combined with a good choice of quality images. Advertisements are not intrusive. A backstage section encourages reader participation and the news in pictures section allows fast access to general issues. There is also a comprehensive bookstore and jobs section. Technically the site is well constructed with excellent load times, good use of cache controls and few XHTML validation errors. The site has RSS feeds, uses one style-sheet and a reasonable number of JavaScript files.

NOMINATIONS: BDOOnline
PropertyWeek
WorldArchitectureNews (Winner)