

The International Association of Construction, Design and Property Press

Bulletin

December 2010



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

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YOUNG JOURNALIST CATEGORY WINNER SCOOPS IBP JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD 2010

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. Therefore, the standard by definition is extremely high. The judges felt that despite the inherent difficulty of comparing such a diverse range of subjects, they were able to identify the common qualities of good writing, explanation and the fact finding that comes together to make good journalism. This award, for the best of the best, demonstrates that the building press can accommodate the highest standards in journalism. [Click here to find out about the winner.](#)

[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.”

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2010

This award, for the best of the best, demonstrates that the building press can accommodate the highest standards in journalism.

WINNER: Isabel Hardman,
writing for Inside Housing

The judges were hugely impressed by Isabel Hardman's article in *Inside Housing* which won her the Young Journalist of the Year category.

The article - which gave a picture of life on the housing fringe using the whole of a family in a central London area to illustrate the macro problems facing both community and government - argued the case well, balancing personal circumstances to the national statistics. Writing with style and conviction, the judges agreed that Isabel's article **"was well written, moving and illuminating"**.

Isabel also won the **'Young Journalist of the Year'** award. For more details [click here](#).



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ARCHITECTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2010

The judges were impressed with the quality of entries in this category. *"We saw a very strong field with a wide range of styles – from punchy news reports to stylish criticism,"* they commented.

WINNER: Shane O'Toole,
writing for Building Design

Once again the judges were impressed with Shane's "elegant and lyrical style." His three articles "highlighted examples of provincial Irish architecture" and "described the intention of their creators in a wonderful narrative style."

Also nominated is **Will Hurst** of *Building Design*, the judges praised his articles and thought all his "stories had real impact" and were clearly "a result of dogged journalism and good use of the Freedom of Information Act."

In nominating **Martin Spring**, writing for *Building*, *Inside Housing* and *AJ Specification*, the judges said they particularly liked his article that showed "deft handling of criticisms of the Scottish Parliamentary Building, focusing on the comments of MP's who have to use the building".

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CONSTRUCTION JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2010

In this category submissions were of a high standard. *"Many of the articles we saw, turned what could have been dry technical material" into "informative, accessible good reads" that were very "well presented," one judge concluded.*

WINNER: Stephen Kennett,
writing for Building

However, the judges said that they would be pleased to see more entries for this category next year from the talent they know is out there.

Winner – *"Stephen demonstrates an ability to cover a whole range of types of feature articles."* The judge's said.

Thomas Lane, *Building*, "produced another year of commendable articles" that demonstrated his "writing flair" they said.

While the Judges described **Greg Pitcher**, *Construction News*, as a "refreshing new entrant in the category that demonstrates capability in both news and features".



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NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR 2010

This category produced a great crop of stories about the consequences of the recession and emerging government cuts in an extremely fast changing context. The judges hope that next years entries *“will provide a clearer picture of the new shape of the industry”*.

WINNER: Daniel Thomas,
writing for the Financial Times

The judges considered his articles had a **“significant impact”**. They considered his story on the Candy’s decision to take legal action against the Qatari Diar to be a **“corker”**. They felt the same about his story on Liberty International’s decision to split up its portfolio, and particularly liked the analysis of this decision for readers in a linked, longer piece.

Laura Chesters, *Property Week*, provided “another really strong performance” and showed that she is “a news reporter who consistently gets the biggest stories in the sector, which are particularly enjoyable for their crisp style,” the judges stated.

Sarah Richardson, *Building magazine*, is nominated for what the judges called her “nimble footed” and “timely coverage” of the cancellation of school and healthcare programmes, and the “topical withdrawal” of Bovis Lend Lease from the nuclear sector. Richardson’s submissions were “clearly amongst the best to appear in the sector,” enthused the judges.



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FEATURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2010

An increase in entries this year pleased the judges. And the very high standard of all the entries made selecting a winner a very difficult decision to make. The judges said that *"overall there were a number of outstanding individual articles"* and that they were *"impressed by the high standard of entries submitted by Inside Housing"*. But the category was extra special this year as the judges exclaimed that *"the overall quality of the features"* was considered the best ever over the life of the IBP Awards.

WINNER: Rory Olcayto,
writing for Architects' Journal

In what was a very competitive category Rory scooped the Feature Writer of the Year Award. The judges called his enthusiasm for his subjects *"truly outstanding."* They also praised his writing style and the way it draws the reader in and holds their attention to the end. The judges thought his feature on the competition to design a new US Embassy was remarkable. His other two entries were of a very high standard *"which when combined with thoughtful and considered design made him a worthy nominee"* for Feature Writer one judge stated.

Roxanne McKeen, *Building*, was nominated for clearly demonstrating an ability to combine thorough research of her subject and her writing style into a highly infectious feature. One judge commented *"we were impressed with her ability to be consistent in all her entries submitted, despite them covering a widely diverse range of subjects."* They particularly praised her pre-election feature looking at the candidates and voters in the Derbyshire town of Dronfield

Once again, **Sarah Richardson**, *Building* magazine, is nominated for her entries that were very professionally researched and presented. *"We were impressed with her writing style that encourages the reader to delve deeper into the article. Her 284 feature demonstrated a passion for the subject that some other entries lacked,"* one judge enthused. Her investigation into Bovis Lend Lease which revealed some serious issues taken by the company despite the potential legal implications also impressed the judges.



BUSINESS/FINANCIAL JOURNALISM OF THE YEAR 2010

The submissions in this category covered a wide range of subjects, and many involved serious investigation and analysis as well as lighter articles. The judges were pleased that there were still *"award-winning pieces to write even when mega deals were not being signed."*

WINNER: **Claer Barrett,** writing for *Investors Chronicle*

Claer continues to impress, she chronicled the use of the Inside Track buy-to-let group during the pre-crash boom and she revisited the group and the subject again to provide an enlightening article on its return. This impressed the judges, *"Barrett knows her subject inside-out"* and went inside to reveal its current operation, using traditional journalistic techniques. She also reported on the fall out from the end of the buy-to-let boom with solicitors being sued, and on the failure of new funds to attract investment.

In nominating *Property Week's* **Laura Chesters**, for her wide portfolio of pieces, including an interview with retailer George Davies, an article on Starbucks' retreat and a comprehensive feature on property refinancing and insolvencies – the judges believed that the breadth of her entries showed her range of abilities and demonstrated that she can write stylishly across the whole spectrum.

Daniel Thomas, *Financial Times*, is also nominated specifically for his two pieces of detailed analysis on the property markets as well as showing that he can get scoops; while one judge exclaimed, *"Thomas's article on the problems and consequences of empty space showed a depth of understanding of the macro issues often missed by the trade press and other nationals. This was an exceptional piece of journalism in a sector where colour is sometimes more highly valued than analysis."*

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WRITER OF THE YEAR 2010

In this category the quality was high and the topics were varied. *"We were encouraged to see writers tackling difficult subjects and being prepared to ruffle feathers among the industry,"* enthused the judges.

WINNER: Hardeep Sandher,
writing for Property Week

The judges praised her for submitting what they called, "articles covering a breadth of subjects – from online retailing, through to agency practice to marital pressures". They stressed that she "shows a depth of understanding and writes stylishly, but with conviction, only after researching the subject thoroughly". One judge said that her article on "Double Agents" – who are brokers that work on both sides of a property deal – "revealed a real conflict that the profession now has to answer".

In nominating **Aditi Shah**, *Property Week*, for her feature on the oversupply of student accommodation the judges said, "she highlighted a situation prevalent in many provincial towns and having a significant impact on local environments" – the judges stated that she showed "how interactive journalism can be used in the property world".

David Hatcher, also a *Property Week* journalist, is nominated for his "detailed analysis on the costs of administrators and accountants" handling property company failures and reconstructions. He balanced that with a human interest feature on surveyors in the Territorial Army on duty in Afghanistan.



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HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2010

With a great deal of creative feature writing, alongside hard news, investigative journalism and informed comment, the judges felt that they were spoilt for choice in this volatile market sector and therefore decided to make four nominations in this category to illustrate the wealth of subject matter and the close call in choosing the eventual winner.

WINNER: *Joey Gardiner, writing for Building*

Gardiner showed excellent style of writing that is both easy to read and informative; **"he also shows a strong understanding of the subject matter,"** said one judge. His interview with Graham Cherry, two day's after Alan died illustrates this point; while he also gives us his own insight into Grant Shapps. His piece on local councils abandoning plans to build thousands of homes in government growth areas pulled together a long running issue in a concise and informative format.

Isabel Hardman, *Inside Housing*, is nominated for "an overall high standard of journalism in her three submissions that placed her rightly in the running for poll position in this category"; she particularly showed consistent good reporting of sustainability issues from biomass boilers, mothballed for cheaper gas, to funding home improvements by the UK's energy giants.

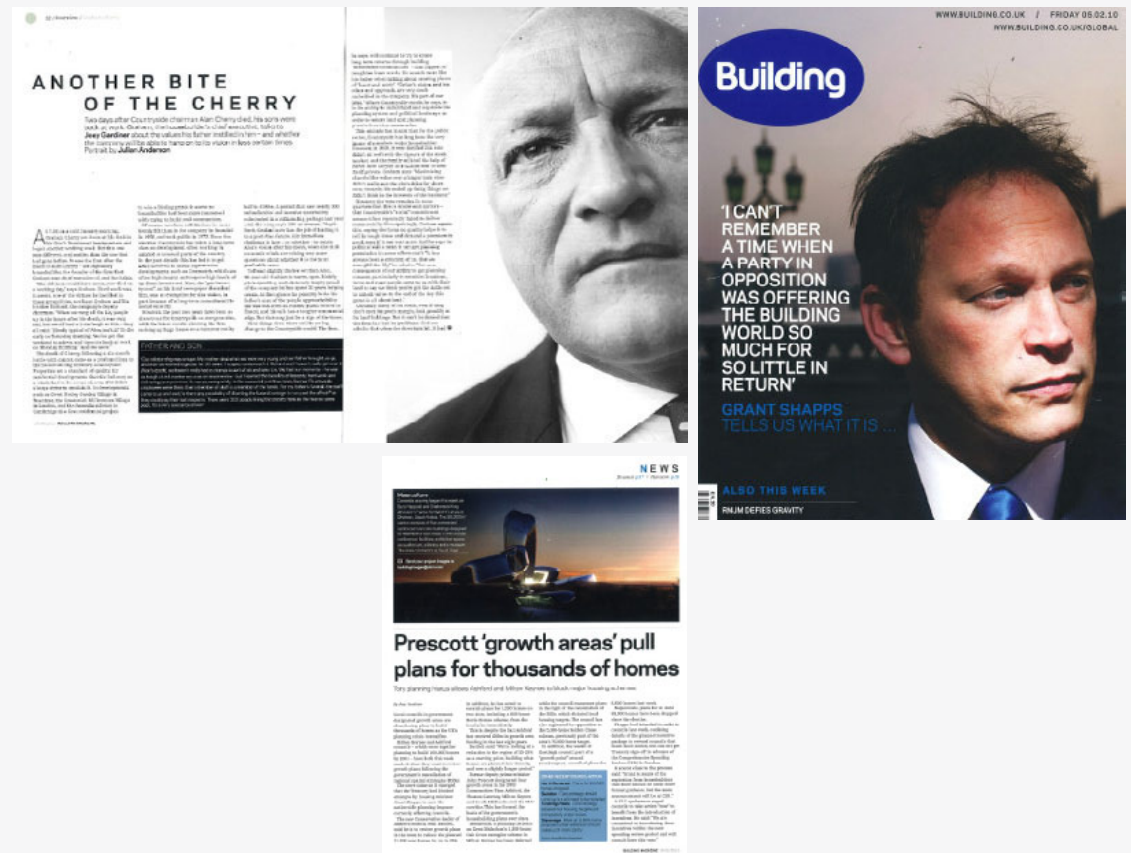
Doug Morrison, *Property Week*, is nominated "for going the extra mile" to obtain one of the first interviews with Housing Minister Grant Shapps; while his investigation on the failure of Labour's 'Pathfinder' regeneration policy delivered a great feature.

Paul Norman, *Estates Gazette*, provided a good mix of exclusive news and features articles looking a buy-to-let investor's legal fight with developers after pulling out of off-plan deals. While his exclusive on the Capital & Counties control of the Earls Court project was picked up by the weekend's FT. His Olympic Park Legacy piece is still the only insight into the post Games master plan.

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YOUNG JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2010

The entries in this category reflected the low level of recruitment to the industry in these difficult times. *"It would have been good to see more entries from interns working on magazines."* The IBP Award can be of great benefit to an interns' career as former winners – like Marcus Fairs, Ellis Woodman, Justin McGuirk and Kieran Long – would agree.

WINNER: Isabel Hardman, writing for Inside Housing

Isabel wrote some human interest pieces in a field that is dominated by discussion about standards, planning and funding, the judges said it was refreshing **"to read articles about housing that discussed the impact on people and the end user of proposed cuts"**. The authority that Hardman illustrated in the three pieces **"reflected the benefit of specialising in a single subject,"** one judge commented.

Merlin Fulcher, *Architects' Journal*, took a look at some interesting issues within sustainability and regeneration, but is nominated for what the judges described as **"a useful investigation into the failure of green walls and planning problems faced by Mr Bean"**.

Michael Lane, *Construction News*, gave the judges a glimpse of good old time journalistic skills and a down to earth approach to producing his articles. **"Michael provided good old school news reporting produced as a result of good contacts, hard work and an ear to the ground,"** enthused the judges.

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MULTI-MEDIA JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2010

"We were delighted with the range and standard of entries in this new and exciting category. Many journalists demonstrated versatility by writing, blogging, videoing, tweeting and podcasting," stated the judges. However, one judge stressed that **"more consideration must be given to the fact that just because a medium is available it may not be appropriate or interesting to use it"**.

WINNER: Paul Norman,
writing for the Estates Gazette

"Paul works comfortably and appropriately across a range of formats. He writes good straightforward news in print and produces an informed and engaging blog that gives a real insiders view of the Olympics with a fascinating first glimpse of the John Lewis site and a well executed video interview," the judges commented.

Claer Barrett, *Investors Chronicle*, the judges all agreed **"this is really good journalism, easy to read and engaging, she demonstrates a talent for an original story that she can re-present effectively for different media audiences. She is a consummate professional at work"** they said.

Richard Heap, *Property Week*, is nominated for an entertaining article that makes a personal interest relevant to the readership. The judges applauded him for **"backing up the article with a video of his performance and the fact he also used his skills for a charity event"**. He is **"versatile enough to run a website"** one judge commented.

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WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 2010

"Clearly we still want to see ink on paper," said the judges. "However, our expectations are being influenced by the web and other media. It is fascinating to see how some magazines are beginning to reflect this new set of relationships", "What is exciting is, that new opportunities to evolve journalism are being taken. A whole new phase of trade journalism is clearly opening up, the competition is really getting tough and it can only get more so next year", concluded the chairman of the judging panel.

WINNER: *Property Week*

The magazine was praised by the judges for moving "confidently into the digital era" and the "power and flexibility" it possesses "to switch confidently between an image/magazine, cover and a news cover". The judges felt this was "compelling". Also Property Week's use of research by software provider ADOBE to adjust its graphic design is also an interesting development, and its graphic approach of providing readers with bite-size chunks of information is clearly a transfer of a web-based approach to print - a really powerful cross-fertilisation between symbiotic media.

Estates Gazette is nominated for what the judges called a "great stride to reinvigorate its brand with a redesign and new sections that make it much better to look at, and its content more accessible". They hailed the changes as, "a great refurbishment of an industry classic," and urged the publication to "keep up the innovation".

Construction News is consistently strong, its punchy news values permeate the publication, and the redesign, plus a few clever tweaks have really strengthened the title. It is great to see a top title back in contention after such a bold move," the judges exclaimed.



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MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR - NON WEEKLY 2010

The judges were impressed with all entries in this category “they covered their fields very well” and described the submissions as “authoritative and interesting to read and most importantly the quality of the editorial content.”

WINNER: *Architectural Review*

AR has continued to develop whilst still maintaining a very high standard of both editorial content and design, all presented in an easy-to-read style. The judges were particularly impressed with its highly opinionated editorial stance, its overall layout and the use of some outstanding photography. The latter being often the first thing to be cut during tough economic times. The judges expressed the view that there could be no doubt the magazine was greatly appreciated and supported by its readers.

Construction Manager the judges thought this magazine had made significant progress in the past year. They were particularly impressed with its in-depth, but friendly editorial style commenting that as a membership magazine it could easily hold its own as an independent mainstream title. Judges were impressed with the overall style, which they felt delivered a lot of complex, but required information to the reader in an easy to understand manner.

Planning in London the judges felt that every year this magazine just gets better and better. They complemented its hard hitting editorial which they felt was obviously approved of by the readers, judging by the type of letters it received and published. The judges were impressed by many of the top level, exclusive articles and interviews featured, especially bearing in mind that the three editors all had other full time jobs. Overall they felt it fully deserves to be recognised for its quality and achievements.



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WEBSITE OF THE YEAR 2010

The judges were impressed with the “variety of entries” from “richly populated and complex sites to others that were simpler but carefully directed”. “Business applications of social media are of increasing importance and this was reflected in all the entries. However, not all sites paid sufficient attention to accessibility and ease of use and some need to be careful to update content regularly in all areas,” one judge stressed.

WINNER:

www.Cninsight.cnplus.co.uk

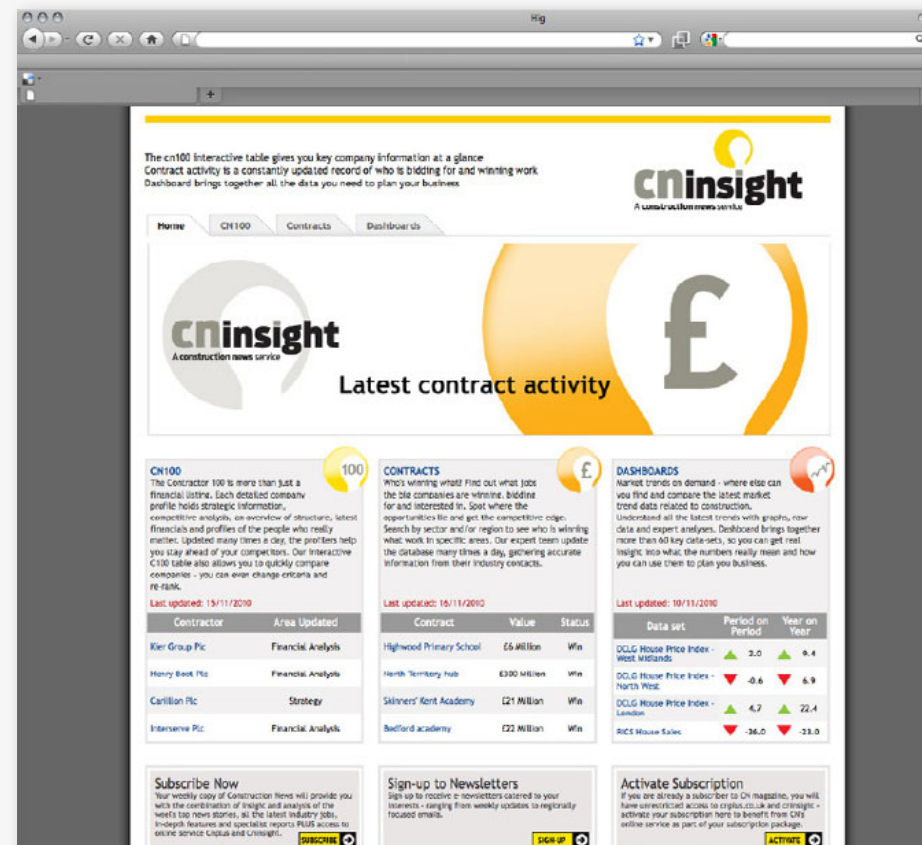
The judges enthusiastically stated that the website provides a very professional collection of well presented information for the target audience. It is a form of communication that could only be done via the web and forms a valuable and objective resource that is not provided by any of the other publications in the field. One really feels they are getting the information from behind the scenes. It also boasts excellent load times and is technically well constructed including a useful range of options for filtering data.


In nominating **Building4change.com** the judges stated that this new website “addresses a specific area for a wider audience within the construction industry. And because sustainability is a key issue of our time it is valuable to have such a timely and well judged collection of information”. The website was also highly regarded by the judges because it is “simple and fast to use, is regularly updated, with longer articles being well broken up”. They also applauded it for being a “well targeted” site where “economy of content can be seen as a virtue rather than a failing”.

Propertyweek.com is described as “a hugely ambitious site with a wealth of content that is regularly updated” by the judges. They were also “amazed by the sheer volume of work, the snappy writing and the clear page URL’s” that make the website so special. It was also praised by the judges for being, “highly professional, well run, and the fact that its re-design has bought a great improvement and clarity given the amount of content”. “Propertyweek.com takes heed of current trends in design,” one judge said.

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The judges in the Website and Multi-Media categories (Richard Anderson, CEO, Anderson Fraser and Ruth Slavid, Architectural Author and Journalist), went on-line to refresh their individual assessments and to arrive at their final conclusions.



Peter Murray, Director, New London Architecture



Peter Day, BBC "In Business" programme



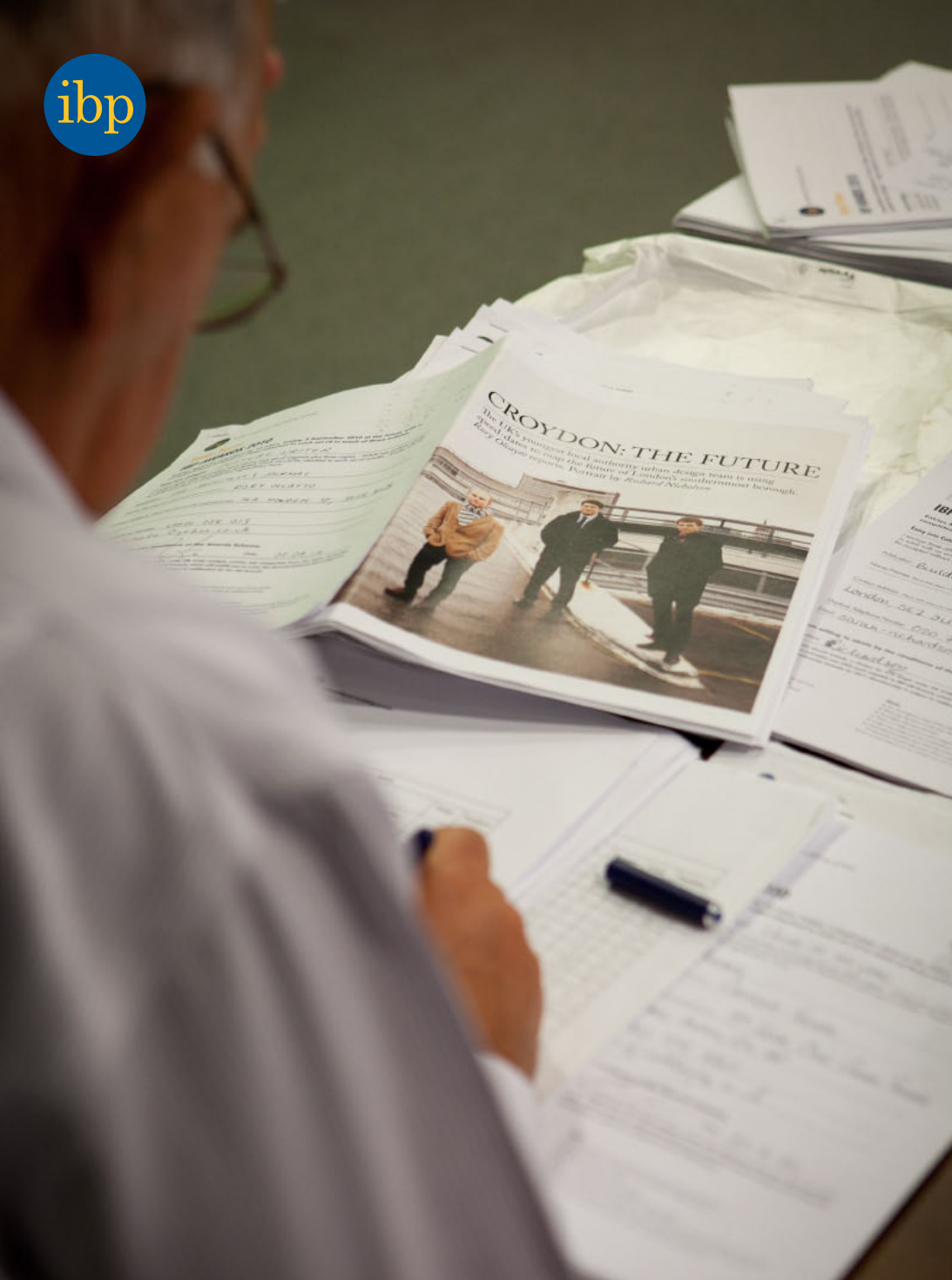
David Taylor, Editor, New London Quarterly



*Frank Duffy, Founder, DEGW,
seeks advice on a technical point.*



Work in progress



Peter Roper, Freelance Journalist and Clive Branson, Editor, Commercial Property Register, confer on the shortlist of Feature articles



The Judges came together on Monday 11 October, for their final session, hosted by The Building Centre.

Left to right: [Michael Rose](#), Chairman, The Building Centre; [Nick Sellen](#), website builder and programmer; [David Lawson](#), Freelance Journalist; [Richard Anderson](#), CEO, Anderson Fraser; [Peter Day](#), Correspondent, BBC "In Business" programme; [John Yadoo](#), Partner Pryme Consulting; [Michael Day](#), Partner, Integra Property Services; [Alasdair Reisner](#), Head of Industry Affairs, CECA; [Richard Northedge](#), City & Business Journalist; [Ruth Slavid](#), Architectural Author and Journalist; [David Taylor](#), Editor, New London Quarterly; [Richard Aylwin](#), Managing Director, Aylwin Communications; [Frank Duffy](#), Founder, DEGW; [Gerald Bowey](#), CEO, ibp Services; [Peter Murray](#), Director, NLA; [John Slaughter](#), Director External Affairs, HBF; [Peter Harris](#), Chairman, Art & Work Awards; [Dickon Ross](#), Editor-in-Chief, Engineering & Technology; [Peter Roper](#), Freelance Journalist; **Seated:** [Clive Branson](#), Editor, Commercial Property Register; [Chris Pateman](#), Managing Director, BMF; [Roger Wilsher](#), Managing Director, Abstract Associates; [Lee Mallett](#), Consultant, Regeneration & Communication and [Polly Simpson](#), Director, Embolden Limited. (Not in picture: [Matt Yeoman](#), Partner, Buckley Gray Yeoman).