

The International Association of Construction, Design and Property Press

**40th**  
National Journalism Awards

# Bulletin

21 November 2013



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

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

## HOUSING GRABS THE HEADLINES AND THE AWARDS

**"In a year that has provided great campaigning journalism, in our business magazines, including blacklisting of construction workers (winner of both the News and Features categories) housing and welfare, personal rights and fraud all grabbing the news headlines the judges commented, on more than one occasion, that the quality of the investigative writing would have not been out of place in a national newspaper.**

However the housing sector provided some of the best stories and this year's winning weekly magazine, in a year which saw housing catapulted to the top of the political agenda."

**Gerald Bowey**, Awards Chairman

[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 2013

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, the same standards of journalism apply to all, and all passed with flying colours; the range of articles demonstrated the breadth and strength of the media serving the built environment.

**WINNER: Jess McCabe,**  
*writing for Inside Housing*

The 2013 IBP Journalist of the Year, **Jess McCabe**, produced a highly readable story of how housing is being built on areas vulnerable to flooding. The approach, from the point of view of the distressed homeowners, as well as the policy makers, produced a high quality piece of journalism on an important subject. This approach and its impact impressed the judges greatly.



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# ARCHITECTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2013

The judges were impressed with the breadth of entries albeit disappointed with a lack of entries from Building Design or National Newspapers, perhaps continuing to reflect the diminishing space allocated to architectural matters in the national press, noted by the judges last year. Nevertheless, it was a strong category, with varied and lively approaches and points of view.

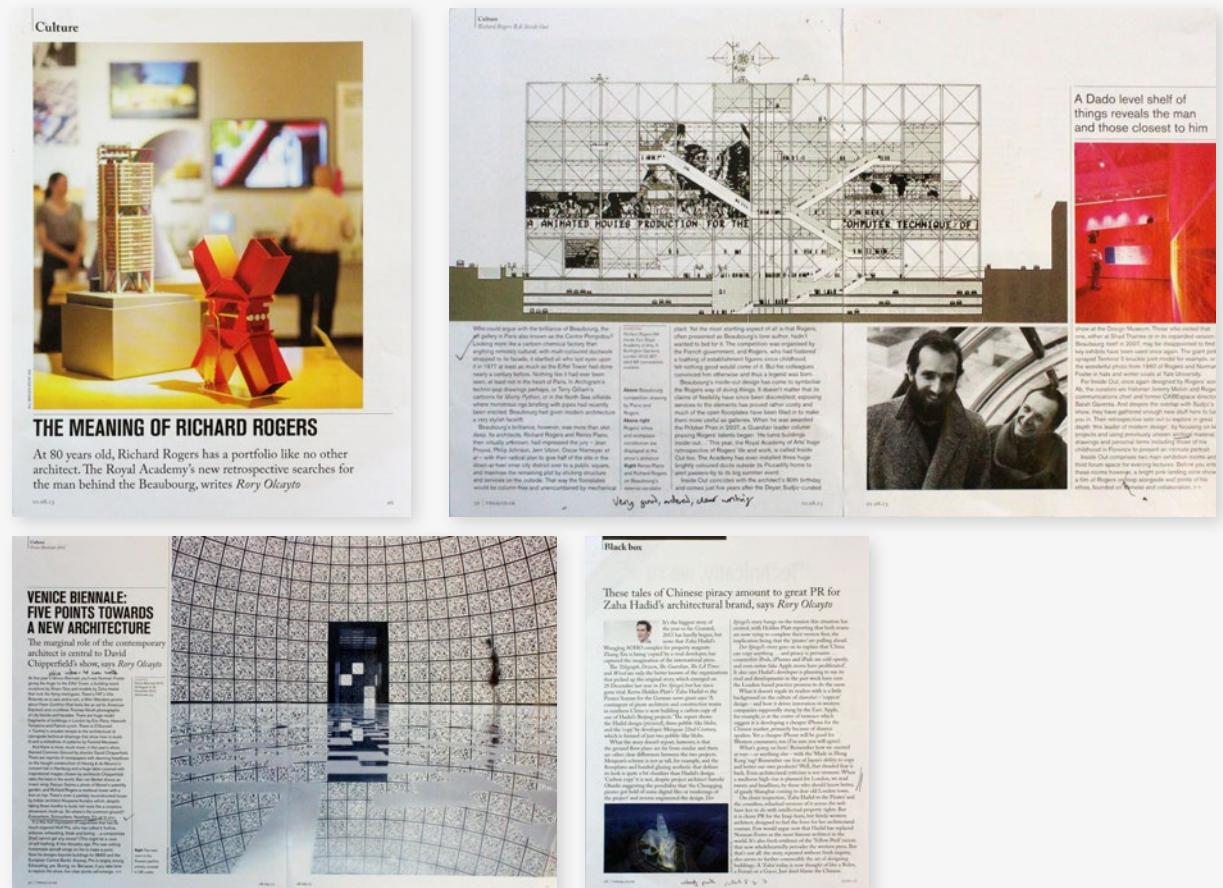
**WINNER: Rory Olcayto,**  
writing for *The Architects' Journal*

*The Architects' Journal's* **Rory Olcayto** is a clear winner. The judges were impressed with his subtle dismantling of his subjects' often inflated reputations, coupled with a very engaging writing style. He writes not just about buildings, but also about the underlying issues.

The judges liked **Will Hunter's** stimulating pieces which appeared in *The Architectural Review* they particularly liked his proactive involvement with architectural education and look forward to reading more on this subject.

**Felix Mara** also of *The Architects' Journal* was short-listed for an interesting submission of penetrating critiques which left the judges wanting more.

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# SUSTAINABLE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2013

Clearly issues of sustainability remain near the top of the agenda for companies across the built environment sector. The entries reflected this with coverage of many of the major issues. We hope next year to see journalists really push the boundaries to see where the sustainability agenda will go in the future.

**WINNER: Jess McCabe,**  
*writing for Inside Housing*

Jess McCabe of *Inside Housing* produced well researched and relevant articles in a style that makes you want to read more, the judges said. **"The interesting content of the articles makes you think, and has an impact."**

In short listing **Vern Pitt** of *Building*, the judges noted his was the strongest news offering in a category that was dominated by feature articles, with evidence that the articles were picked up by the national media.

The judges liked **Thomas Lane's** well written articles in *Building*, that were relevant to an audience across many sectors of the built environment.



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# CONSTRUCTION/INFRASTRUCTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2013

**A new category for 2013.** This is a growing area and was hotly contested. The judges thought the overall standard was very high and the technical complexities explained very well.

**WINNER: Mark Hansford,**  
*writing for New Civil Engineer*

**Mark Hansford's, New Civil Engineer** pieces were all interesting, very well written and explained technical subjects simply and without any jargon. His article on the Russian stadium was a technical tour de force. It explained the byzantine Russian codes incredibly well and really got under the skin of the project, which could not have been easy.

**Vern Pitt, Building** entered three really good news stories which had been well researched and provided great insight into future procurement strategies on three of the UK's major infrastructure projects.

**Tom Fitzpatrick, Construction News.** His three news scoops stood out for the judges, in this category. All were written with great clarity, well researched and highly informative. The piece on Network Rail was particularly revealing.





**The judges said it was really encouraging to see that campaigning journalism continues to flourish – with blacklisting of construction workers, housing and welfare issues, personal rights and fraud all grabbing the news headlines in our business magazines; all campaigns that show journalists are still passionate about principles and standards...**

...It continues to be about not letting people get away with things they shouldn't and holding the industry to account while celebrating its achievements.

The judge's liked *Will Hurst's* articles in *Building* for his three stories about blacklisting. "If there is one thing a democratic society should always abhor, it is the arbitrary exclusion of people, for unexplained reasons, from job opportunities that should be available for all", the judges said. Will's three pieces demonstrated the fundamental importance of a free press in sustaining democracy and the rule of law.

*Inside Housing's* trip by **Carl Brown** to Merseyside to interview an old lady brought to life the controversies surrounding the Government's Bedroom Tax and the hardships the legislation is causing. *"Great legwork!"* the judges commented.

While the submissions from **Rakesh Ramchurn** of *The Architects' Journal* demonstrated a comprehensive, intelligent approach to an issue – gay equality – that has career, national and international ramifications in the architecture profession – which the profession needs to address.

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NEWS  
sustainability | risk | finance | people | innovation

# Blacklist now threatens crossrail

Blacklisting history of Crossrail's industrial relations manager emerges in court papers

By *Will Hurst*

The scandal of blacklisting threatened to engulf the largest engineering project in Europe after it emerged that Crossrail's industrial relations manager was an established blacklisted in a former role.

Following recent parliamentary questions on alleged blacklisting in the E10 bus London rail project, an investigation by Building has found that the manager, Ron Barron, was named by an employment tribunal two years ago as a blacklisted at his former employer, the contractor CH2I.

The revelation that he went on to work in such a sensitive role at Crossrail is significant because it raises questions about how thoroughly Barron's record was checked or acted upon by the Crossrail claim team.

It did also raise questions on because of ongoing claims by the union Unite that 28 workers were unfairly dismissed from the project over a dispute with a shop steward who claims to have raised serious health and safety concerns over leaks.

Unite also says it provides any link between Barron and the contractual move which led to those workers losing their jobs.

Speaking from his desk at Crossrail's Canary Wharf office in Tuesday, Barron said: "I can't comment on anything".

The tribunal, which took place in November 2010, awarded a worker Philip Willis £10,000 compensation after finding that BHS had unfairly refused him work in 2007 because he was in a trade union blacklist.

Willis was on the construction industry blacklist held by the now defunct Consulting Association (CA).

In its judgment, the tribunal said that Barron – then a senior HR manager at CH2I – was responsible and had contributed information to the CA as well as consulting its database almost 1,000 times in a six-month period in 2007 to carry out checks on workers.

Labour's shadow business secretary Chuka Ummels, the MP who raised parliamentary questions, said Building's revelation raised further "serious questions" about what was known about Barron. "We need clear assurances that blacklisting is not in operation," he said.

A spokesperson for Crossrail said Barron was "not a Crossrail employee" but was employed by its project delivery partner Bechtel.

It said "Crossrail Ltd is responsible for employees directly employed by Crossrail Ltd and is not responsible for employees employed by other companies working on the project to complete with the law, including the prohibition on blacklisting".

It added: "Crossrail is not responsible for the actions or inactions of any individual. There is no evidence of blacklisting of any kind in connection with the rail project".

A Bechtel spokesperson said Barron was engaged as a consultant before the decision of the industrial tribunal case – was published, and were not part of the case. He requested references and he came highly recommended.

Barron is understood to be retiring from Crossrail next month. CH2I was unavailable for comment.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 28 WORKERS?**

Every morning for the past eight weeks, Frank Morris, pictured above, has hurried its start point at various Crossrail sites across London. Morris, an electrician with a young family, was working as an on-call signaller at Crossrail's Waterbury Park site for tunnelling specialist EIS, a subsidiary of Crossrail's former tunnelling contractor BPA – a JV comprising Ben Nutall, Perennials and Kier.

He and his union, Unite, claim that he and others were victimised for fear of comments about the potential overriding of the existing chamber on the huge boring machine being used, which would provide a patchy refuge for workers in the event of a major earthquake such as a fire.

Building understands the dispute is now being negotiated through mediation services.

Morris told Building "The chamber was designed for 20 people but the machine regularly had 27 or 28 people on it".

He claims that Crossrail reacted badly to this challenge and was so intent on removing him from the project that it terminated the entire EIS contract in September, resulting in himself and 27 other workers losing their jobs.

A spokesperson for Crossrail said this is "simply not true".

He said: "A contract between BPA and EIS ended in September as the work they were carrying out to commission the first two tunnel boring machines had been completed with tunnelling now under way. EIS subsequently made 28 workers redundant".

EIS and BPA declined to comment.

**BUILDING MAGAZINE** 11 OCTOBER 2012



Union shop steward, Frank Morris, who lost his job on Crossrail

[illegible]

# FEATURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2013

This year there have been a good volume of investigative journalism articles and powerful and imaginative subjects for interviews. The judges were impressed with the number of entries this year which were of a very high standard.

**WINNER: Will Hurst,**  
*writing for Building*

The judges praised **Will Hurst** of *Building*, for his painstaking investigative research into the Building Industry's controversial blacklist issues; the fall out from the scandal, the human effects and what should be done in the future.

The judges shortlisted **Sophia Furber** of *Estates Gazette* because she submitted features on Nick Leeson, Islamic Finance and the Turkish riots to show how unusual angles and a lively colourful writing style can bring building finance reporting to life.

**Felix Mara** of *The Architects' Journal* demonstrated an independent voice and fresh writing style in his three articles.



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# BUSINESS/FINANCIAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2013

The roller-coaster of the property market in recent years has provided a rich vein of stories for business and financial journalists. This year's entries mined that seam deeply in providing a variety of articles of high quality...

**WINNER: David Hatcher,**  
*writing for Property Week*

...The submissions also reflected the variety of approaches to some outstandingly good stories – from meticulous desk-top number-crunching to pacing the streets of communities facing development to digging diligently to find facts in foreign countries. The judges were impressed at the standard of the work they read.

**Property Week's David Hatcher** looked at how the retail world has been saved and scoured by the private-equity industry, changing the ownership, and sometimes the face, of the high street and retail parks.

The effects of the changing financial scene were also seen in his analysis of the purchase and planned sale of DTZ, where David sought answers to key questions being asked by the industry.

His on-site investigation of the planned Elephant & Castle development, in which he relayed the views of the south London residents as well as those of the developer and council, most impressed the judges.

A financial despot at The Pinnacle development in the City provided **Allister Hayman** of *Building* with a strong news story but he also revealed his skills as an analyst and feature writer in examining the problem at Morgan Sindall and Balfour Beatty. The combination of his articles showed the strength of Allister's abilities.

While **Sarah Dennis** of *Construction News* displayed an ability to drill down into data and reach newsworthy and sensible conclusions. Her articles were very workman like pieces of journalism that added value to the sector's output. All journalists, one hopes, are good with words the judges said but not all show similar skills with numbers as Sarah has in her approach to her articles.

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# COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WRITER OF THE YEAR 2013

All the entries were of a high quality but covered a diverse range of subjects and approaches – from news and features, personalities and issues to micro domestic stories, to international matters...

**WINNER: Kat Spybey,**  
writing for *Property Week*

...The judges were impressed at the diligence in presenting stories and the depth of research; and were particularly pleased to see journalists adding value to their copy by looking under and deeper than a simple scoop.

There was much stylish unity, and while the judges did not allow themselves to be influenced by good lay-outs, the unsung heroes of the design desks deserve a mention in dispatches.

The judges found **Kat Spybey's** article in *Property Week*, on Mike Ashley, the unconventional businessman behind the Sports Direct phenomena, highly readable. Kat provided not only an entertaining profile but an analysis of the profits and strategy of a business that defies conventional models. The article would have sat easily in a weekend colour supplement, the judges said.

However that was not the piece the judges considered her best. That accolade went to her analysis of the bleak Greek property market in an on the ground report of how the financial crisis has hit real estate assets there.

**Nick Whitten** of *Estates Gazette* identified business rates as a major problem for parts of the property market and used Freedom of Information requests to support a concerted campaign that was backed by major figures in the industry. He wrote both of his day in Parliament discussing the problem with MP's and of the effects on different aspects of the industry. Overall it was a good piece of campaigning journalism. **Nick is awarded a worthy Highly Commended Award in this category.**

While **Joanna Bourke**, also *Estates Gazette* recounted the tale of colourful crook, Achilleas Kallakis that was as entertaining as it was disturbing. She provided added value with both background and comment and accompanied the article with a piece interviewing the Serious Fraud officer in charge of the case – a refreshing example of 'thinking outside the box'. Joanna also clearly demonstrated her ability to obtain news stories on imminent deals and write about them succinctly.

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# HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2013

The articles in this category showed good evidence that all views had been sought to develop balanced pieces. This was a closely contested category that left the judges with a difficult decision on a clear winner.

**WINNER: Nick Duxbury,**  
writing for *Inside Housing*

All the articles from **Nick Duxbury**, *Inside Housing*, were of a standard that you would expect in a national newspaper; good style and colour, the judges said, yet he still managed to address the needs of his specific audience they added.

**Carl Brown** also of *Inside Housing* was shortlisted for providing a good mix of news and features that were well researched and put together.

The third nomination in this category was from **Martin Hilditch** making it a close run final for the strong trio from *Inside Housing*. Martin perhaps wrote the best individual article in this category with an investigation into the deaths of two fire fighters in a council-owned high rise.



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# YOUNG JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2013

This category achieved a small number of entries this year giving a clear warning of the impact of the lack of recruitment of young journalists in our sector; nevertheless the judges believe that the entries, especially the winner in this category, demonstrated that there is talent out there.

**WINNER: Heather Spurr,**  
*writing for Inside Housing*

The judge's agreed that **Heather Spurr** of *Inside Housing* was a natural winner in this category because they felt that her submission was worthy of a national newspaper. Her articles showed hard work, curiosity and wit, packed with quotations from a wide range of sources.

**Lucy Mair** of *Construction News* was nominated because the judges admired her ability to secure key interviews and provide leads for her readership.

While **Laura Mark** of *The Architects' Journal* displayed a strong technical grasp as demonstrated in her investigation into the RIBA's new plan of work.



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# MULTI-MEDIA JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2013

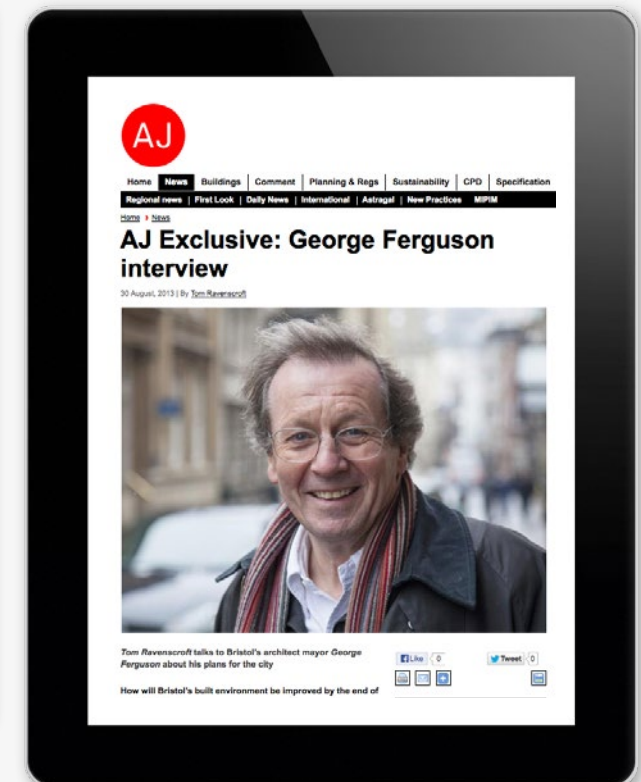
The entries this year demonstrated high standards and evidence of dynamism in this sector and recognition that while all journalism now straddles both print and digital, some journalists show a particular appropriate use of the different platforms, the judges commented.

**WINNER: Tom Ravenscroft,**  
*writing for The Architects' Journal*

**Tom Ravenscroft** of *The Architects' Journal* impressed the judges, in particular with the small projects awards – a true example of multi-platform journalism, straddling print, web and social media. The judges felt he had really championed the AJ's web first model and were impressed with the overall quality and quantity of his output, including his features about Bristol.

In nominating **Daniel Kemp**, of *Construction News* the judges acknowledged his sheer energy and enthusiasm for taking often dry information and data and turning it into clear and accessible journalism, written in an authoritative way. The judges also liked the way in which he integrated social media into the life cycle of an issue and subsequent article; **the judges therefore felt that Daniel is "one to watch" in the future and deserves a Highly Commended.**

While **Marcus Fairs** of *Dezeen* produced compelling video interviews with Richard Rogers which were well-edited and focused on the interviewee rather than the interviewer. The judges also enjoyed his in-depth writing on 3-D printing, saying that his writing is lively and professional.



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# MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (WEEKLY) 2013

This year's entries show life is increasingly challenging in publishing, given the competition and the sheer weight of digital output, but the quality of journalism is still incredibly high – testimony to the talents of everyone who chooses to make a career in this industry.

## WINNER: *Inside Housing*

*Inside Housing* features good hard-hitting news and features and great visual journalism. "It did exactly what it should be doing in a year which saw housing catapulted to the top of the political agenda" the judges said.

In adding *The Architects' Journal* to the nominations this year the judges said "this magazine continues to be a stylish, authoritative, critical and campaigning force in the design world."

While *Building* continues to be important to its sector with great news and campaigns, often picked up by the nationals.



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## MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (NON-WEEKLY) 2013

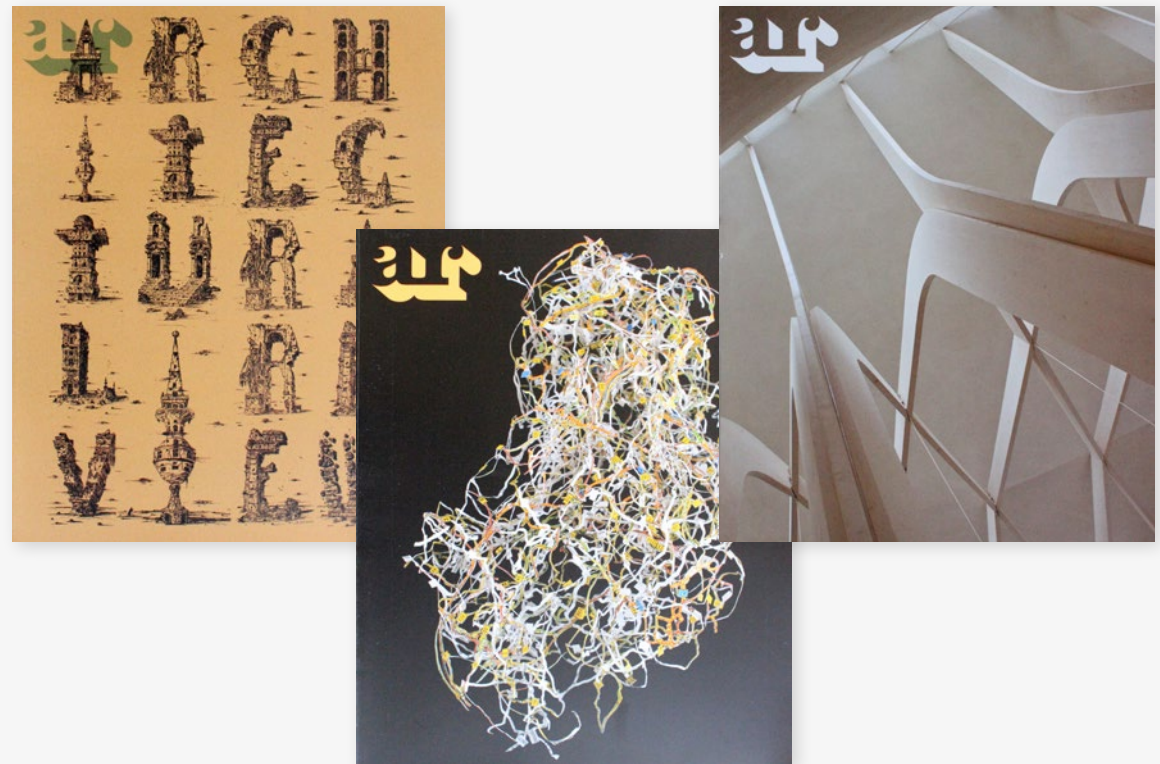
This year the category was represented by a range of magazines covering many aspects of the industry. There was a good degree of unanimity by the judges on the quality of the submissions.

### WINNER: *The Architectural Review*

***The Architectural Review* produced a consistently good entry combining quality content appropriate for its audience, in a distinctive and alternative format.**

*New London Quarterly* last year's winner in this category produced another strong entry with the judges particularly attracted by its people, photography and overall presentation.

*RIBA Journal* was included in the nominations by the judges who said "this magazine has very recently changed its format and style and they were impressed by the first issue, in its new look; by its bold new design and interesting variety of articles."



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# DIGITAL SERVICE OF THE YEAR 2013

All the nominated entries were using the digital platforms available to do something different whether the creation of dashboards and use of data journalism or their approach to social media; the four nominees really excelled at this...

## WINNER: *Dezeen*

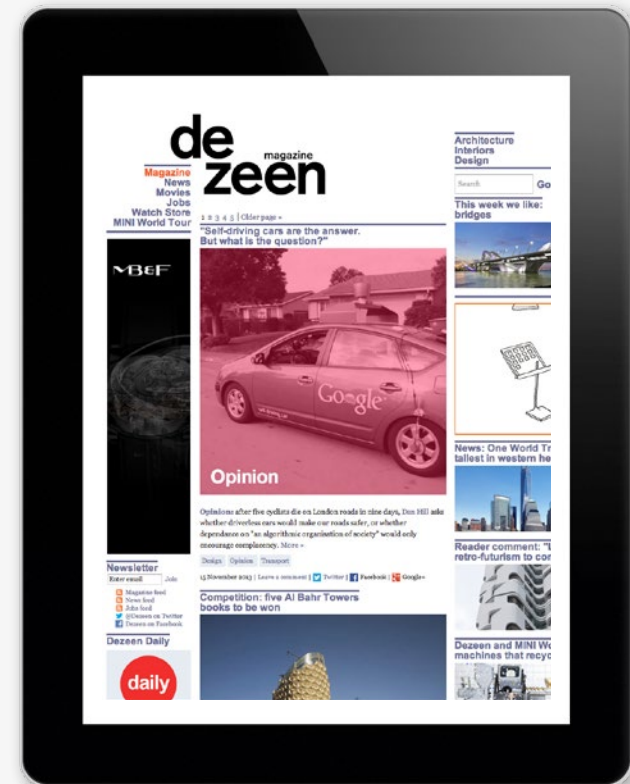
...The judges were looking for real innovation and change that anticipated future developments, all four nominations met this benchmark to one degree or another, with all scoring high points.

**The *Dezeen* entry was of an amazingly high quality. The sheer volume of content is impressive in itself. However there have also been several exciting developments in the past year underlined by evidence of impact – the service is certainly not standing still with, for example traffic growing 17% to 37.3 million visits. Innovations, since last year, have included a beautifully designed and produced print on demand magazine, covering the fascinating world of 3-D printing; a partnership with Google and the introduction of an opinion area.**

*The Architects' Journal* remains high quality and authoritative with a consistently executed digital-first approach. It has a direct approach to its audience and responds to reader demand with, for example, the introduction of carousels of images and regional news sections. AJ has a rich dynamic site which is serving its readers well and continuing to develop.

There is a lot of newsworthy content flowing through the *Building4change* site in a consistent stream; it is evidently very well connected with the industry. Innovations include the introduction of the sister site *Technology4change*, and the BRE Retrofit briefing which contains a wealth of information. Stories such as the importance of opening hospital windows were picked up nationally.

The excellent *Construction News* site continues to blaze a trail in data-driven journalism at a time when other publications are only just realising the potential. The introduction of targeted dashboards makes it easier for professionals to use the data in their everyday business. The judges were impressed by the apparent ease with which these updates have been absorbed in the daily work flow.



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Veteran architecture journalist [Martin Spring](#) (right) checks the spelling of fellow judges, [David Taylor](#) and [Matt Yeoman](#) (left of Spring) during the final stages of the judging.





*Liz Peace and Richard Northedge pause to consider their final decisions.*



*George Demetri and Denise Chevin compare notes in the 'new' category Construction and Infrastructure Award.*





*Dickon Ross (left) and John Yadoo assess the short list of nominations.*



*David Lawson and Steve Hale compare entries in the run-up to the final nominations.*





*Housing stories dominated the 2013 Awards, prompting careful reading by [Alasdair Reisner](#) and [John Slaughter](#).*





*Michael Day and Andrew Sawers remain focused on the final selection.*







**Left to right standing:** [Colin Tweedy](#), Managing Director, The Building Centre (host for the final judging session); [Denise Chevin](#), freelance journalist; [George Demetri](#), freelance journalist, [David Saffin](#), Consulting Engineer; [Andrew Sawers](#), freelance financial journalist; [Peter Houston](#), Consultant B2B magazines; [David Payne](#), Editor, [bmj.com](#); [Dickon Ross](#), Editor-in-Chief, Engineering & Technology; [Michael Day](#), Managing Director, Integra Property Services; [Richard Northedge](#), City & Business Journalist; [Alasdair Reisner](#), Head of Industry Affairs, CECA; [Steve Hale](#), Managing Director, Crofton; [Matt Yeoman](#), Partner, Buckley Gray Yeoman; [David Lawson](#), freelance journalist; [John Slaughter](#), Director, External Affairs, HBF; [Mark Collins](#), Executive Director, CBRE; [Frank Duffy](#), CBE, PPRIBA, Architecture Consultant; [Martin Spring](#), freelance journalist; [Gerald Bowey](#), CEO IBP Services (Awards Chairman) **Seated, left to right:** [David Taylor](#), Editor New London Quarterly; [Lee Mallett](#), Consultant, Regeneration & Communication; [Ruth Slavid](#), Architectural Journalist and Editor; [Liz Peace](#), CEO, BPF; [John Yadoo](#), Partner, Pryme Consulting and [Richard Aylwin](#), Managing Director, ACL. [Not shown in the picture: [Pip Clothier](#), journalist and broadcaster; [John Waples](#), UK Head of Strategic Communications, FTI Consulting; [Peter Roper](#), freelance journalist; [Peter Day](#), Correspondent, BBC 'In Business' Programme and [Kate Pain](#), Managing Editor, HIS Maritime].