

The International Association of Construction, Design and Property Press

# 41st

National Journalism Awards

# Bulletin

27<sup>th</sup> November 2014



**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 AWARDS AGAIN THIS YEAR**

**“News outlets – news rooms – change but news remains, news and journalism are still the drivers of the media whatever the method of delivery. This has been a very newsy year for journalists, so with no shortage of source material there has been plenty of scope for writers to demonstrate their skills.**

The category winners however are those that show they can dig deeper, think more broadly and reach greater heights. The best of this year's entrants do exactly that and deserve the recognition that goes with being nominated and winning an award; it is good to know that the built environment press has so much talent for the future.

Housing topics again provided some of the best stories this year, following last year's clutch of wins for the sector, but there were some surprises too!”

**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 2014

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

The challenge for *building* a magazine title is to think outside that box and write about something new with a construction connection. The 2014 IBP Journalist of the Year, Nick Duxbury, did that in his feature on how housing professionals are being educated to detect extremists. Basing his article on a meeting at Wigan Cricket Club nicely brought the subject of international terror to the parochial base where extremism is manifest.

*How to spot domestic extremists: 20 June 2014* was an entertaining but important read showing the journalistic skills of keeping the reader interested to the end – and even wanting more.

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# ARCHITECTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2014

The judges were impressed both with the standard of entries and how that reflects on the projects and issues to write about in the wider world.

**WINNER: Rowan Moore,**  
*writing for The Observer*

Rowan Moore's submission demonstrates an ability to speak in his own calm, considered, authoritative way to a wide series of audiences. He presents complex, professional issues: *London's skyline (30.03.14)*; *The LSE's profile-raising new student centre (16.02.14)* and his profile on David Adjaye (03.08.14) in a lucid manner without talking down to his reader – no mean feat.



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# SUSTAINABLE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2014

This category provided articles on a wide range of subjects, from colourful site visits to data-led investigative pieces. The entries prove that there continues to be a strong focus on sustainability issues across the trade business press.

## WINNER: Nick Duxbury, writing for Inside Housing

Nick Duxbury of Inside Housing tackled one of the big stories of the year in terms of sustainability in the housing sector.

Against strong competition, this year's winner dug into the data to show how government intervention was having a serious impact on efforts to make social homes more energy efficient (*The end is nigh*: 14 February 2014).



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# CONSTRUCTION/INFRASTRUCTURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2014

The judges thought that all the entries demonstrated a very good understanding of a sector that demands good technical mastery and the ability to write authoritatively and succinctly.

**WINNER: Tom Fitzpatrick,**  
*writing for Construction News*

A comprehensive, well structured and wide ranging submission of which two were picked up by the national press. The winning article (on contractor performance and establishment of higher standards: **Order books soar but profit battle remains: 15 November 2013**) demonstrated, in the option of the judges, business journalism at its best.

The article described what could become a model for the rest of the UK infrastructure and construction industry. The piece demonstrated how to achieve best value out of a project, how to achieve a 'level playing field' that is not just about achieving the lowest possible price.

Finally, the writer demonstrated excellent knowledge of the construction process, producing an article that initially the client was not too keen to cooperate with. This article (*Crossrail drives for world-class performance: 13 December 2013*) will undoubtedly be of great interest to clients and contractors in the infrastructure and construction fields.



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# NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR 2014

In a year affected by changes in the built environment press, news journalists made the most of finding and generating opportunities to dig out original stories' some of which were aimed at large, influential organisations, and some of which achieved quick results. Long may that continue.

**WINNER: Richard Waite,**  
writing for *The Architects' Journal*

We liked Richard's high profile stories, the judges enthused: challenging major institutions, (*BBC: 07.03.14* and *RIBA 18.10.13*) pointing out shortcomings in line with the magazine's long standing campaigns. The impact of his stories was highly effective and triggered a substantial online response and a policy change at the RIBA.



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# FEATURE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2014

Again the change of ownership and editorial teams during 2013 had an impact on the number of submission in this category for 2014. Nevertheless some extremely good submissions were made.

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

The judges were unanimous in their decision in selecting Nick as Feature Writer of the Year. He submitted three articles of contrasting interest demonstrating an ability to write with a style that retained the reader's interest.

His article: "How to spot extremists" (20 June 2013) was unusual as much as it was relevant to its readers.



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# BUSINESS/FINANCIAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2014

The range of articles read by the judges displayed why good journalism requires hard work. It is not sufficient to secure an interview with an industry chief if he or she does not say anything interesting. A critical story might be a good read but the facts have to be checked and double checked.

A complex investigation requires diligent digging but it must be written simply if the reader is to understand the twists and turns and get the most out of the article. The best of the pieces submitted this year did exactly that and are deserving winners.

## WINNER: *Jack Sidders, writing for Estates Gazette*

The amount of hard work put into his stories showed in each of Jack's submissions. Rather than simply reveal that a building had been sold, his stories dig to find details of buyer, the reason for selling, the identity of under bidders and the consequences of the sale.

He revealed the proposed sale of The Pinnacle (25 January 2014) and the take over of the Gherkin (12.09.2014). But his feature on the consortium that bought another City building, Lloyds Chambers, showed how far Jack is prepared to dig for a story whose back drop included China, the Cayman Islands and a former US treasury secretary: 18 January 2014. It was good old fashioned journalism.



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# COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WRITER OF THE YEAR 2014

The judges were impressed by the consistently high standard of all the articles submitted – any one of which could have been the winner.

They demonstrated the breath of the journalists' abilities, from complex investigations to simply produced scoops and from geographical studies to in-depth interviews.

**WINNER: Joanna Bourke,**  
*writing for Estates Gazette*

Joanna submitted articles which included the revelation of a £400 million Mayfair deal, (an investigation into the mystery bidders in the London property market (*Ortega buys Devonshire House: 23.12.2013*) and a study of the Soho real estate scene (*Sexy to Suave: 1 March 2014*).

This last feature added colour and dimension to an area of the capital that many Londoners think they know well but, as Joanna showed, in her piece, has more depth than many realise. She captured the character and the changes taking place in this still vibrant central location.

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# HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2014

As ever the standard of the entries in this category was extremely high providing a rich vein of topics and issues to write about, leaving the judges struggling to separate the top places.

**WINNER: Hannah Brenton,**  
*writing for Property Week*

Hannah has been a leading news hound and analyst in the increasingly important market for rented homes. She was among the first to draw together trends which could see Londoners priced out in future.

Her article on the shape of London in 2025 (*A Tale of Two Londons: 15.11.2013*) makes for depressing reading in terms of affordable property available, she highlights a human angle buried among statistics about the boom in top-end housing. In a return to the era of Downton Abbey, (*Upstairs Downstairs: 17.04.2014*) developers are having to provide space for servants in homes aimed at the super-rich.

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**The judges were impressed with the overall high standard of entries in this revised and extended category with plenty of hard evidence used, including the use of freedom of information requests. The judges particularly commended Inside Housing for once again guiding ‘new’ journalists joining their team into the skills and principles of journalism.**

**The judge's felt that Dawn's submission showed a deftness of touch allied to an imaginative approach, elegantly using both words and imagery to tell her stories.**



# MULTI-MEDIA JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2014

The judge's saw a good volume of entries across the sector and were pleased to see some experimental entries; the journalists obviously have a real passion for their subjects and this came across in their work. Multi-Media is giving journalists an opportunity to spread their wings and to acquire new skills.

**WINNER: Jack Sidders,**  
*writing for Estates Gazette*

Estate Gazette's Jack Sidders' impressive video delivery clearly demonstrates that this journalist with strong print obligations successfully juggles video, audio and print. His use of video is significantly more engaging than that of many in the sector.



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## MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (WEEKLY) 2014

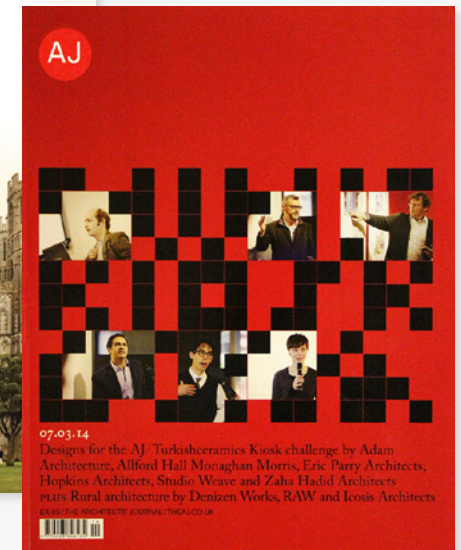
Given difficult times, reflected in publishing events during the last year, the judges found it hard to make really clear judgements about the overall performance of titles across all outlets. Money is still clearly being invested, however, in making print look good, but some titles are still fairly thin in places, and some have sadly disappeared in print. Interest has been diverted to live events. The challenge is to find ways of connecting with advertisers and sponsors that resonates with readers.

All that said the judges felt that the building press can still produce magazines that are worth buying every week, with comprehensive and telling coverage – and which readers are very lucky to have. That is a major achievement.

### WINNER: *The Architects' Journal*

**The Architects' Journal is good looking, authoritative, campaigning with a modern open feel. It isn't afraid to challenge authority and breaches news when it has to.**

The magazine feels good to handle and it is a good read. And it is by far the most stylish magazine the judge's had to consider in reaching their final decision.



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## MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR (NON-WEEKLY) 2014

The submissions in the Magazine Non-Weekly category were to a very high standard overall, reflecting a variety of interests.

### WINNER: *RIBA Journal*

The first full year of RIBA Journal, in its new style, has reinforced the view of a revamp that has really worked. The overall quality and range of articles was excellent and the impact of both text and pictures as well as its matt paper was appreciated by the judges.



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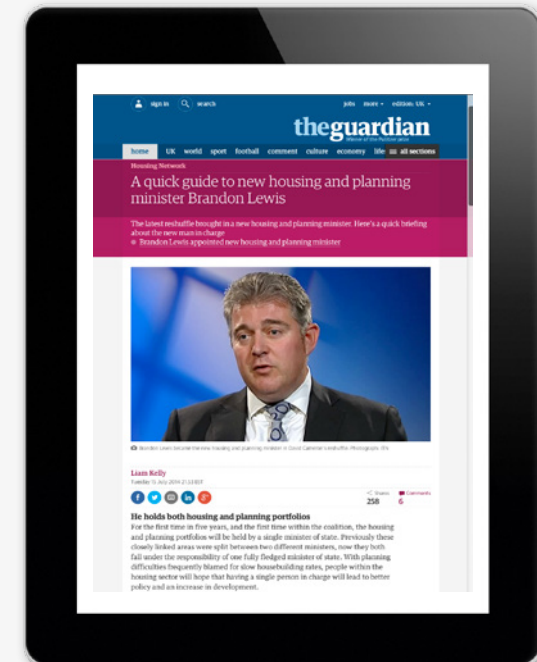
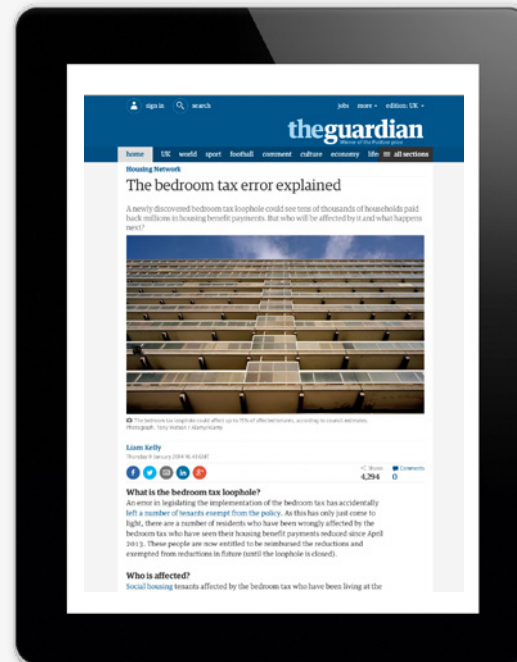


# DIGITAL SERVICE OF THE YEAR 2014

It was good to see campaigns striving to put user experience at the core. There were good examples of digital first strategies that are becoming the norm. The ambition of sites is impressive, particularly the fact that many are put together with relatively small resources.

## WINNER: *The Guardian Housing Network*

When looking at The Guardian's Housing Network, the judges felt there was a nice blend of news, features, data visualisation and comment with lots of multi-media and interactivity. This is an intuitive and informative site. The judges were particularly impressed by the Q&A explainers.





Veteran architecture journalist, [Martin Spring](#) (centre), editor [David Taylor](#) and Past RIBA President, [Frank Duffy](#), contemplate their final choices.





*Andrew Sawers, former editor of Accountancy Age, counts up the scores for the final session.*

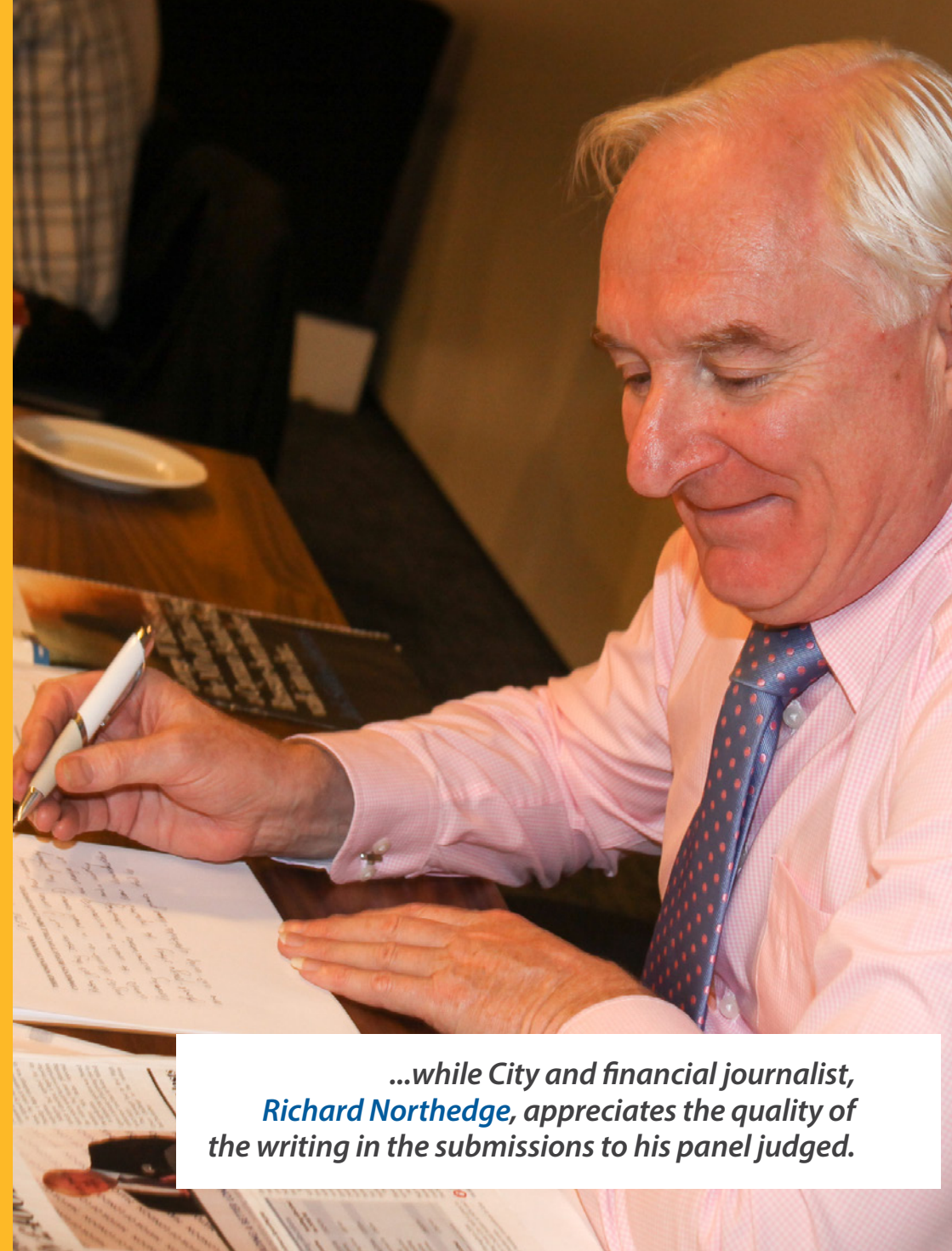


*Professional engineer, David Saffin, and former editor of World Tunnelling, George Demetri, relish complex technical subjects delivered succinctly.*





Freelance journalist, **David Lawson**, brings his considerable experience to the task in hand...



...while City and financial journalist, **Richard Northedge**, appreciates the quality of the writing in the submissions to his panel judged.





*The digital categories judging panel had an air of the teci about them, but an impressive line-up of judges (left to right): **Kate Pain**, managing editor of IHS Janes, ex Property Week journalist and PR consultant **Dominic Morgan**, **Alison Gow**, Editor of Digital Innovation with Trinity Mirror, and freelance editor and journalist, **Ruth Slavid**, were impressed with the experimental entries and examples of digital first strategies.*