

# bulletin

## 47th Annual National Journalism Awards

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[Architecture Writer of the Year](#)

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[News Reporter of the Year](#)

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Welcome to the 2020 IBP interactive awards bulletin. Click on the links or use the buttons at the bottom of the page, to navigate through the winning journalist's articles. For the nominations go to the awards drop down menu on our homepage.



**Skill and dedication being applied to all areas of the built environment media**

This year's entries confirm the built environment media continues to break leading stories ahead of the national press. Plus, powerful writing, probing interviews and first-class research from young journalists – “all the hallmarks of great journalism” the judges said.

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**AECOM**

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# IBP Journalist of the Year

## Winner: Jack Simpson, Inside Housing

Some aspiring journalists choosing between jobs might consider writing about social housing dull. How wrong they would be. This sector has yielded important stories for many IBP winners in recent years, not least after Grenfell Tower.

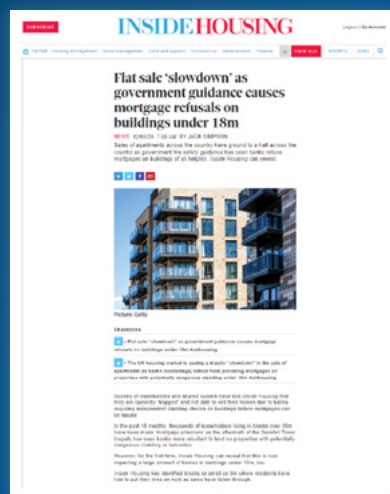
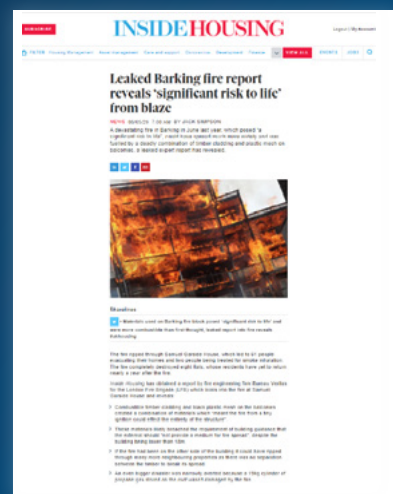
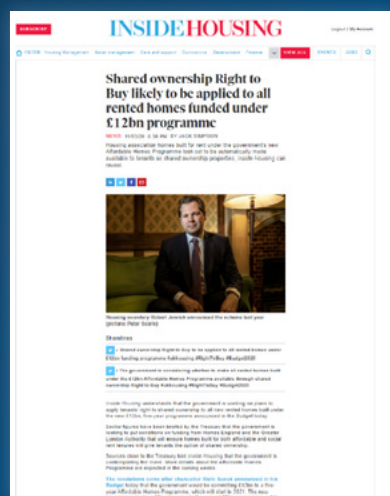
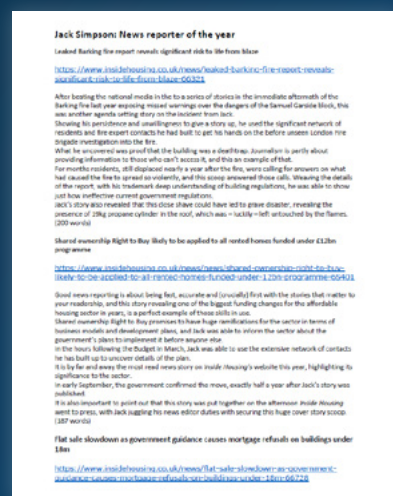
But a fire at a block in Barking last year also provided stories. Luckily no-one died, but the wooden cladding, the plastic mesh - nevermind the propane tank on the roof - were described chillingly in a report for the fire brigade that was leaked to Jack Simpson and splashed across Inside Housing, rightly winning him the News Reporter of the Year award.

That was not Jack's only scoop, however. He revealed how government guidance following Grenfell has made mortgage lenders wary of financing flats with cladding, blocking sales and leaving owners unable to sell.

The judges agreed: "Jack was miles ahead of the competition. The national media took months to catch up with what a big story this is and how it's blighting the lives of so many."

These, and the other pieces that Jack submitted, show not only the strength of his contacts but an ability to highlight the relevant facts and present them in a way easily understood by general, as well as specialist, readers.

They are journalism at its best, and the follow-ups by the national press demonstrate the importance and impact of Jack's stories.



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The submissions tackled many issues facing architecture, but they also reflected wider topics, outside the sector. There was some authoritative writing, fine descriptions and strong comment pieces that challenged accepted norms.

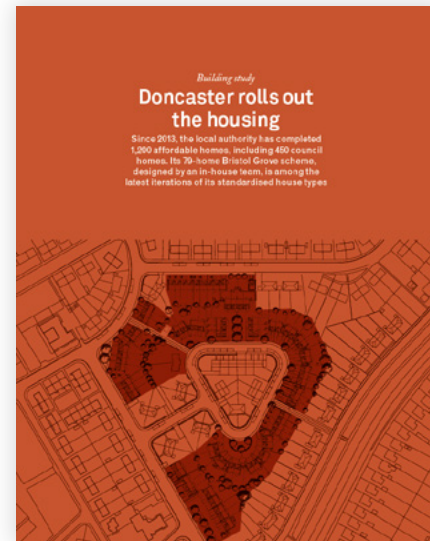
**Nominations:**

Ike Ijeh, London Architecture Works formerly Building/Building Design  
 Elizabeth Hopkirk, Building Design

# Architecture Writer of the Year

## Winner: Robert Wilson, Architects' Journal

The judges felt that this was a terrific series of articles. Every feature was jam-packed with details and insights, giving the reader a window into something that they might never have come across. Robert Wilson has a distinctive style, playful, yet never indulgent, combined with a deep understanding of the subject matter. The judges enjoyed the modern cultural references, the humour and the writing that seemed effortless and always accessible.



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# Construction/Infrastructure Writer of the Year

**Winner: Ian Weinfass, Construction News**

The judges congratulate all those who submitted entries to this very competitive category with entries of a consistently high standard. They were impressed with the insight and topical flavour of these comprehensive and well structured pieces. The skillful presentation of complex technical and sequencing information in a readily understandable form, so important in this category, was clearly evident.

Three well structured articles packed with detail and enthusiastically presented.

The 'hard hitting' piece on 'Cladding Battles' benefited from in-depth research and a close attention to detail, while the article on 'Leicester City RC's training ground' drew high praise from the judges – a well structured piece underpinned by a keen technical appreciation. The judges were impressed overall by the imaginative and determined approach to research and information gathering.

**Nominations:**

- Rob Horgan, New Civil Engineer – Highly Commended
- Jordan Marshall, Building
- Fran Williams, Architects' Journal





The overall standard was good and reflects the fact that standards of journalism are being maintained in difficult times. This year's crop of articles shed light on serious issues that effect the sector at the moment.

**Nominations:**

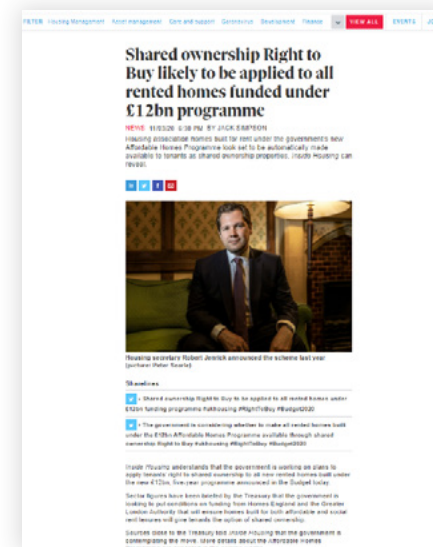
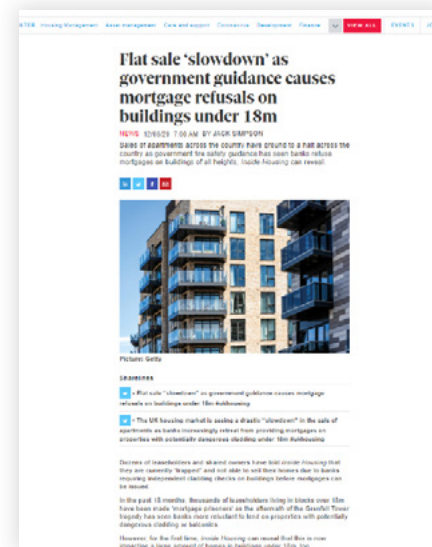
Pete Apps, Inside Housing

Lucie Heath, Inside Housing

# News Reporter of the Year

## Winner: Jack Simpson, Inside Housing

Jack has a very clear strong style. He is probing, challenging and investigative, not holding back in pursuing the story.



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The judges congratulate all those who submitted entries this year, with entries in this popular category showcasing the contribution of in-depth research to the revealing and informative nature of the presentation of the facts.

These comprehensive 'hard hitting' articles successfully combine detailed analysis with pleasing readability. The judges were impressed by the diversity of topics covered with all entries being of a very high standard.

**Nominations:**

- Pete Apps, Inside Housing – **Highly Commended**
- Nathaniel Barker, Inside Housing
- Martina Lees, writing for The Sunday Times and Times
- Richard Waite, Architects' Journal

# Feature Writer of the Year

## Winner: Zak Garner-Purkis, Construction News

Three 'hard hitting', well-constructed articles, from this category winner, presented in a fluid style, being both informative and engaging.

The judges found the collaborative piece on Istanbul's new airport comprehensive and insightful reflecting the skillful application of in-depth research. The pieces drawing attention to 'Slave labour in London' and 'Slavery in the supply chain' were each powerful and revealing.

The comprehensive and fearless approach gave insight to issues affecting the lives of many: "A fine example of investigative journalism" highly praised by the judges.



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The pandemic has affected property in many ways and the entrants for this category explored how it is affecting their particular readerships, whether in housing, building or shopping centres. Some looked at the big picture, others at individual situations, but the best all gave colour and comprehension on an unprecedented problem.

There were plenty of other subjects, however, including how the property world is encompassing ESG – environmental, social and governance issues. The very best entries combined original content with stylish writing.

**Nominations:**

Luke Cross, Social Housing  
 Mike Phillips, Bisnow

# Business/Financial Journalist of the Year

## Winner: David Price, Construction News

David tackled big and important subjects – the continuing aftermath of Grenfell and the new and changing crisis of coronavirus. He has an ability to get good quotes from his subjects but he is not scared to attack. This was hard edged journalism, well-written. The three pieces were penetrating and urgent.





A really good range of topics, from high profile policy to strong personal stories and interviews. There was real specialist insight from journalists with good contacts and strong understanding of their sector. At a time when the country is focused on the issues of Covid-19 it is refreshing to see journalists really exploring the consequences for housing.

**Nominations:**

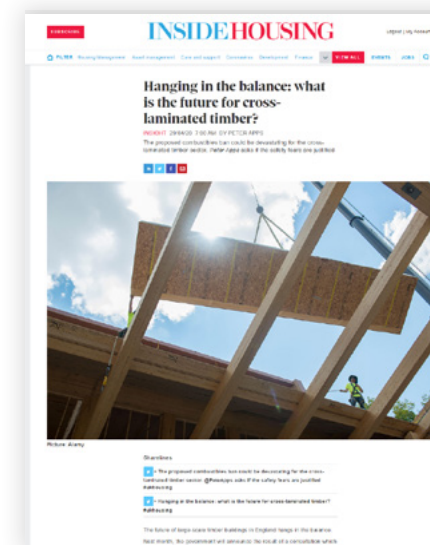
Nathaniel Barker, Inside Housing

Lucie Heath, Inside Housing

# Housing and Residential Journalist of the Year

## Winner: Pete Apps, Inside Housing

Pete offered consistently strong articles that are well written with good analysis and quotes. He provides real insight on issues affecting the sector. This has never been so important as people are at risk of becoming disconnected from issues due to Covid-19.



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There were some very strong submissions in this category with powerful writing, probing interviews and first-class research – all the hallmarks of great journalism. The judges were impressed by how quickly these young journalists grasped the complexities of the industry after so little time writing about it and how they used the full range of digital and classic techniques to track down interviews, gather and trawl through data and put together their research at speed and with style.

**Nominations:**

Megan Kelly, Construction News - **Highly Commended**

Lucie Heath, Inside Housing - **Commended**

# New Journalist of the Year

## Winner: Thomas Lowe, Building

Thomas is a journalist with great potential. The submission revealed a confident and engaging style smoothly blending fact, chat and stories. The information was always revealing and the opinion measured and the writer did not hesitate to challenge the industry.

The submission included an excellent and revealing interview and a feature where different voices were woven together to paint a picture of how leaving the EU has impacted construction workers.



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The judges felt that the three finalists entries covered the entry criteria with engaging content and creativity. The submissions showed the inventiveness and fresh thinking we have all adjusted to and embraced.

**Nominations:**

Architects' Journal/Architectural Review/EMAP: W Awards

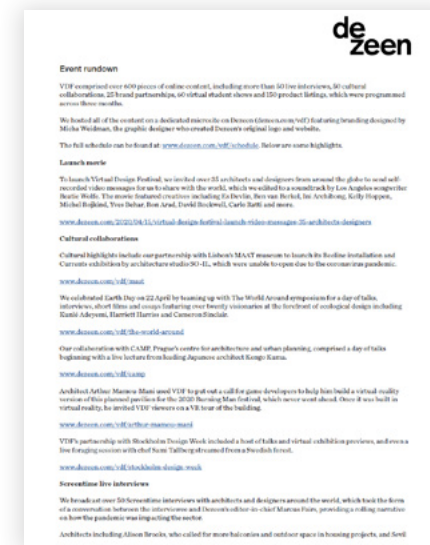
Building/Assemble Media Group: The Building Awards 2019

# Event of the Year

## Winner: Dezeen: Virtual Design Festival

The judges were very impressed by the Dezeen entry which demonstrated ambition, imagination and creative flair with varied and engaging content and well branded segments of different offers from interviews to collaborations. They particularly like its 'phoenix out of the ashes' response to a looming disaster,

With a reduced team and on a modest budget, the organiser put in place a wide range of virtual events which spoke straight to the interests and concerns of its community. They quickly and clearly identified where the need might be for sharing information, for instance schools of architecture and speedily pulled in a array of impressive, high-profile collaborators. In the circumstances, to bring in 'over £500,000' was an extraordinary achievement.



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The judges were delighted by the entries received, but would have liked to have seen more entries to this important category, and remind potential entrants that innovation and leadership can occur at all sizes of operations.

**Nominations:**

Jamie Harris, Freelance, formally Building magazine

# Digital Leadership of the Year

## Winner: Marcus Fairs, Dezeen

Marcus Fairs' infectious smile shone through all 50 – yes, fifty – interviews he conducted with architects and designers as part of the innovative and highly profitable Virtual Design Festival, and he has even more reason to smile as winner of this award.

Little wonder that Dezeen continues to show impressive growth, turning even the Covid-19 pandemic into an opportunity.



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This was a highly contested category with no weak links. The entries demonstrated the skill and dedication being applied to coverage of all areas of the built environment. Exclusives and investigative journalism are going strong.

**Nominations:**

Louise Clarence-Smith, The Times

Joey Gardiner, Building

# Scoop of the Year

## Winner: Jack Simpson, Inside Housing

Jack was miles ahead of the competition with a scoop on the cladding scandal which has left thousands trapped in flats they are unable to sell. The national media took months to catch up with what a big story this is and how it's blighting the lives of so many.



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Amid unforeseeable events, it's a testament to the built environment press how effectively its titles reacted to the effects on their readers of Covid-19, while continuing to cover and campaign on issues that endure beyond a pandemic. The best entries told a powerful story of the brands' unique role in both supporting and provoking their readers during a year they will never forget.

**Nominations:**

Inside Housing – **Highly Commended**

Building

Construction News

Dezeen


# Editorial Brand of the Year

## Winner: Architects' Journal

While most 125-year-olds would sit back and consider a life well lived, The Architects' Journal continues to reinvent itself -and to terrific effect has a clear goal and a well defined strategy. By making climate change its focus, it has positioned the brand for the future, while supporting and educating its readers.

When race and diversity became defining issues of 2020, the AJ was able to build on work it had begun two years before, giving its coverage added momentum and gravitas . In its reaction to the pandemic, AJ struck a superb balance between practical 'how to' guides, informative data and a communal sense of creativity in lockdown.

Vision, focus and great execution – the AJ is a deserving winner from a strong field of entries.



**Key features**


Retrofirst is common sense. Let's hope the government sees that,  
 by Will Hurst  
 p5-9

The clients championing RetroFirst  
 p16-18

Train of thought,  
 by Fran Williams  
 p28-43

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<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/digital-edition/27-02-20-retrofirst-and-the-circular-economy>



**Key features**

Architecture is systemically racist. So what is the profession going to do about it?  
 by Richard Waite  
 p9-p16

Five online student shows reviewed  
 p21-32

Sketchbook: Daniel Barrett  
 p119

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<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/digital-edition/aj-23-07-20-student-special>

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