

## Editorial



Champagne for getting new job, but no smile for losing old job.

Welcome to the arclib bulletin 2009.

Well, hello again. It is exactly two years since the previous bulletin, which makes it a biennial publication. I can never remember the difference between biennial and biannual, which has never caused me any problems since library school until now, but I have looked it up (again).

Look inside for some conference reports, photos, details of the next conference, and a small quiz for your entertainment (and possibly edification, though I doubt it!).

Phil Pearson

## News



We are sad to report that **Alice Fulcher** died on Tuesday 14th October 2008. Alice made many valuable contributions to

## View from the Chair



Dear ARCLIB members

As you will gather from this bulletin there have been quite a few changes within ARCLIB over the past year or so, some good and some sad. On a happy note, I am delighted to say we have a number of new members and that the Committee has some fresh faces - welcome to you all.

The Liverpool conference was very enjoyable - many thanks to Joan Shaw in particular. This was the 3rd ARCLIB conference she has organised.

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the group and was responsible for organizing the excellent Greenwich conference in 2007.

In 2007 we were saddened by news of the death of Inga Taylor from Oxford Brookes. Many will remember her from conferences and elsewhere.

## Arclib committee



**Jane Oldfield (Chair)(2)**

**Sarah Nicholas**

**(Conference 2009)(4)**

**Philip Pearson**

**Hinda Sklar (secretary)**

**Norman Ashfield**

**(treasurer)(3)**

**Joan Shaw**

**(membership/web)**

**Greta Friggens (5)**

**Carla Marcheson (1)**

We are pleased to welcome Greta, Portsmouth, Carla, the Prince's Foundation, and Sarah, Cardiff to the committee

Sorry to say Sue Palmer has left the committee. Many thanks for all Sue's help.

**Karen Latimer** received an OBE and **Ruth Kamen** an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2007. Hearty congratulations! See inside for more details and a picture.

The Spring visit to the RIBA & Le Corbusier took place on 17th March 2009

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## Points of interest:

- London Conference 2007
- Liverpool Conference 2008
- Cardiff Conference 2009



London 2007

(View from the Chair, continued)

On his blog, our speaker on Web 2.0 Dave Patten, a seasoned speaker and conference frequenter reported 'I don't think I've ever laughed so much at a library conference' in response to our speaker Stephanie Davies from laughology.

We had a very successful Spring visit this year to the RIBA and the Barbican. A Spring visit is a very good way of keeping in touch, particularly as not everyone is able to come to the annual conference. Suggestions for future visits - or offers to organise one - are always welcome.

This will be my last view as my term as Chair comes to an end this year. I would like to thank everyone for making it such an enjoyable time and wish however is my successor the very best. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Cardiff Conference.

Jane Oldfield

## Poundbury

The return of the prodigal librarian.

When I started on my library career 11 years ago, my mum's ponderous comment was "if you tell people you're a librarian it looks like all you do is *take a book, give a book...*". To my younger self (who, like most ARCLIBers, worked in a busy academic library with 9000 registered users) The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment Library might have conjured up the same images. I can confirm that this solo librarian does indeed *give a book, take a book* (or several) and that the truly exciting highlight of 2008 was the acquisition of a library management system. Yes, been there done that, only last time it did not involve the migration of existing data from a spreadsheet :-> But before you start thinking that it will be the ideal occupation to help your novel writing career, consider this: this solo librarian looks after the information needs of a studio of urban designers and architects, the Prince's Foundation and INTBAU membership, and post graduate students and staff from an array of MA, MSc, MPhil and PhD in Urban Sustainability and Design, Sustainable Urbanism, Traditional Arts, Building Crafts and Life Drawing, from three of the Prince's Charities in our building. Amidst the odd spell cataloguing and label sticking, these are some of the things that have kept me out of trouble in the current academic year.

In 2008 I joined the Education department's Graduate Fellows (soon to become the MA in Sustainable Urbanism) and Craft Apprentices, on a visit to the incredible collection of Charles Brooking at his home in Cranleigh. (The official Charles Brooking Collection is housed at Greenwich University [http://www.dartfordarchive.org.uk/technology/art\\_brooking.shtml](http://www.dartfordarchive.org.uk/technology/art_brooking.shtml)). For students and researchers of English architectural history Mr Brooking's backyard is a veritable Aladdin's cave. A live encyclopaedia: each storage door the beginning of a new volume on doors, windows, handrails... each box a chapter on door numbers (Charles Brooking's first love), door handles, door knockers etc. The pictures-in-the-flash accompanied by Mr Brooking's live commentary. For each piece he can tell you where and when it was taken, when and by whom it was designed and the background history of that type of object and style. It was a magical experience.

(continued p10)

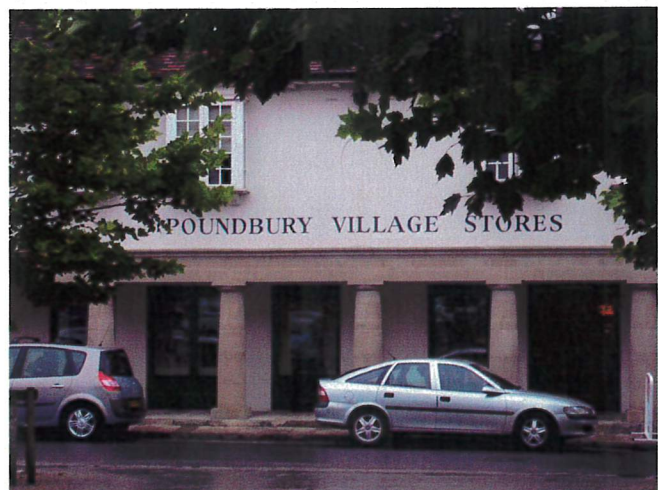


Photo: Carla Marcheson

## London Conference 2007

Alice Fulcher organized an informative, entertaining, and thoroughly enjoyable conference. My own personal highlights were: Alan Powers' Southbank tour (pictures below), the barbecue in the Queen Anne Court yard (I've never before been 'on show' to tourists before!), and the tour of the Laban Centre.

I'm happy to say, you have reports from a number of people on various sessions and a jolly good read they are too:

ARCLIB Conference 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007 09.00 – 10.00

Making places: working together by Louise Thomas, Urban Renaissance Institute

Louise described the role of the Urban Renaissance Institute before leading into an informative presentation on theories of urban design and how cities can be designed to suit the needs of the people who live in them.

The URI sits within the University of Greenwich and is an outward-facing service, partly funded by SEEDA, and works with existing practitioners providing training, research and consultancy services with the aim of improving skills and encouraging cooperative working across related disciplines (architects, urban designers, town planners etc). It also works with school-children to promote the built environment as a career option.

There have been many differing ideas as to what the ideal city should look like and we were shown examples from both the UK and US. High demand for new housing means that, in future, more of us will be living in an urban environment and pressure on land means that many new developments will be on regenerated brown field sites.

Louise went on to talk about how it is more important for practitioners to consider what it would be like to actually live in an urban environment rather than to spend all their time designing 'landmark' buildings. This includes considering the surrounding areas and infrastructure and the way everything connects together. An urban space has to suit the needs of the people who will make use of it and this means that architects and planners need to work together if a new development is to have a viable and successful future.

*Report by Heather Shaw, Nottingham Trent University*

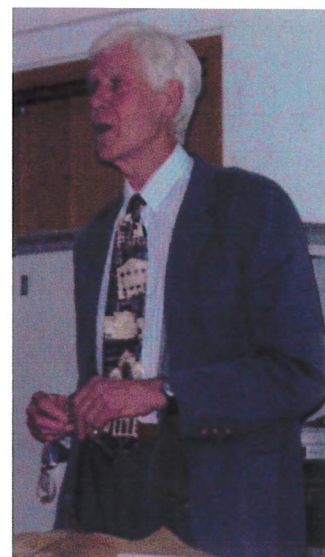
Louise Thomas  
Urban Renaissance  
Unit



Alice welcomes everyone



Alice introduces Richard Hayward,  
Head of School of Architecture and  
Construction, University of Green-  
wich



Anthony Quiney:  
A new look at old Greenwich

## London and Regeneration: the affordable housing dimension

John O'Leary School of Architecture and Construction – University of Greenwich

This session began with an overview of the historical and political context of "affordable housing" supply in London. We learned how a decline in house building over the past 25 years has led to many of London's "key workers" being unable to afford local housing. Back in 2003, John Prescott's "Building Sustainable Communities" strategy sought to tackle this issue and Gordon Brown's recent ministerial appointments indicate this issue will continue to be a priority.

John then went on to highlight initiatives arising from this strategy, including "HomeBuy" and "Intermediate Renting" – a range of flexible options for potential buyers and tenants.

The session concluded with a look at some "mixed" urban development schemes e.g. Royal Arsenal – Woolwich. Such schemes demonstrate how private developers, alongside social landlords, now play a pivotal role in the provision of "affordable housing".



John O'Leary

Joan Shaw

Liverpool John Moores University

## London riverside regeneration

Tom Turner of the University of Greenwich captured our attention with his passion and enthusiasm as well as an extensive knowledge of his subject. He began with a brief history of the open space aspect of London, mentioning Henry VIII's purchase of York House and its land, which became some of London's most famous parks, such as St James and Green Park; and Joseph Bazalgeth's Thames Embankment including an underground railway and sewers, which transformed the previously pastoral waterfront where the gardens of large houses reached the river. There was little space for gardens in the old, walled city, but when defence changed from city walls to armies this enabled building to spread into the countryside.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the parks, previously used by royalty for hunting, were laid out in the baroque style. They became a recreational resource open to the public.

An early plan for London was the 1829 Breathing Spaces Plan by John Loudon, consisting of alternate rings of buildings and parks, planning for three centuries into the future. Although not adopted, it influenced future thinking.

Two key 20<sup>th</sup> century figures were Ebenezer Howard who inspired the joining up of London's open spaces, and Patrick Abercrombie, whose 1943 Open Spaces Plan showed a web of open space along the river and throughout the city. The Abercrombie Park System, although not officially adopted, became part of how Londoners think of their parks. His plans for Thames Riverside use, converting warehouses into open space, failed to happen.

Tom showed us photographs illustrating lost opportunities for riverside places with examples of dull, uninviting spaces. This was followed, however, by pictures of successful and imaginative ventures of walkways, cycle ways and pleasant spaces – some designed by ex- Greenwich students. We saw the regenerated space outside of the South Bank complex and the possibility of Tower Beach becoming like the Paris Plage, another Abercrombie prediction. The cleaning of the river makes this a more attractive prospect.

Tom's ideas for future use of the riverside includes more trees, more plants and flowers to brighten up the barges, etc.; steps down to the river from places such as the Buddhist Peace Temple in Battersea Park; and the encouragement of riverside cafes and picnic areas where cooking could take place – all currently forbidden. We were not so sure about his suggestion of riverside cremation sites for the Hindu community. Tom reminded us of Caneletto's painting of the busy river at Greenwich, full of boats and how good it would be if the river was once more to be used much more for transport and recreation.

We could have listened much more that the allocated hour to this interesting and entertaining speaker, who had so much to tell us.

Maggie Black

University of the West of England



Tom Turner

## Visit to the Laban Centre, Deptford

After a busy day, we trundled along the delightful Creek Road to the Laban Centre. It stood incongruous amongst its neighbours with a neat garden and path leading up to its mirrored doors. One of Laban's ideas – that of harmony in space – was interpreted by the grass pyramids and mini amphitheatre, where performances sometimes occur.

We stood outside the building and were given a talk about the history and design of the building. Designed by the Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron, the building won the Stirling Prize the following year. The outside of the building was impressive with its semi-translucent, coloured polycarbonate exterior. The curved front and reflective doors are intended to give a feeling of embracing the community. The architects' intention was for the building to reflect the community around it and to respect it. This involved creating a 'brown roof' which is conducive to the Black Redstart, a rare bird, as well as considering local landmarks such as St. Paul's church.

The centre provides a range of dance courses in dance theatre, scenography and dance science. It also aims to include the local community by holding exercise classes and public shows, linking in with Laban's philosophy that dance is for everyone.

Inside, the design is centred around the theatre, which is physically at the heart of the building. The Bonnie Bird Theatre, named after a Director of the Dance Theatre Department who contributed to Britain's first BA (Hons) degree in Dance Theatre studies, and subsequently Britain's first MA and PhD degrees in Dance Studies, was very black – black floors, seats, walls and stage. Key design features included effective soundproofing of the doors meant that the space was womblike with no distractions for the eye.

The interior of the Laban Centre was designed to be conducive for communication with areas where students could talk and watch and learn from each other. As such, studios are light open places, with transparent glass walls on one or more sides and each with a coloured wall from the outside of the building. Corridors are colour-coded and there are internal spaces (which provide light) and ramps which make the building feel irregular inside.

The materials used are mixed – our guide emphasized how their toughness and subtlety reflected the same qualities in dance. Concrete, metal, glass are used throughout, while the wooden curved hand rail (influenced by the ballet bar) that runs through the building adds a warmth and softness.

The building itself received a mixed response from the Arclib visitors. The bright coloured walls were cheerful and youthful but the functionality of the building was a topic that caused a lot of debate.

Morwenna Peters

Formerly Arts institute at Bournemouth, now University of the West of England



We're all going on a summer holiday!

Well, a boat trip on the Thames.



Royal Naval College



Royal Festival Hall



Alan Powers giving the South Bank tour.

The related book is:

Festival of Britain, edited by Elaine Harwood and Alan Powers. London: Twentieth Century Architecture. 2001.



A shelf of librarians at a microbrewery in Greenwich



Royal Festival Hall. Interior



Gormley Exhibition  
Oh we did have fun spotting the figures!



# Liverpool Conference 2008

Deftly organized by Joan Shaw, LJMU and Joyce Raynor, University of Liverpool

The theme of the conference was: Cultural Constraints. I am pleased to report that there was plenty of culture and not many constraints. I didn't manage to get anyone to do reports for this so I'm afraid you're stuck with my summaries, but you do get Norman's photos, which more than makes up for it.

We had an informative talk from **Jos Boys** and **Jane Devine Mejia** on the CETLD (Centre for Excellence in Learning and Design) which will be continuing its work until 2010. They talked about informal learning and learning spaces and engaging students with archives through social networking.

**Dr. Brian Glover** asked us to consider the API as an index of ideas, and I think I might pinch that and use it in my information skills sessions, so thanks Brian!

**Valerie Stevenson** presented a very thorough paper on Academic Libraries for the Google generation to accompany her talk on social learning zones which melded well with the following session from **Dave Patten** from the University of Huddersfield on Libraries and Web 2.0. Here's a couple of buzz words for you all to google : folksonomies and freeconomics. I was most interested to hear about libraries in Second Life, though I must admit I ought to get to grips with this life first.

Some favourite memories: the city centre walk with **Paul Jones**, an Urban Sociologist; Laughology with **Stephanie Davies**; the **Williamson Tunnels**, which were spooky, educational and, because I have an issue with heights, somewhat nerve-racking! And the conference dinner, as always.

All the pictures on this page are by **Norman Ashfield**

Phil



Meals in the Carnatic Restaurant



The Bluecoat, a guided tour and the venue for another tasty and fun conference dinner



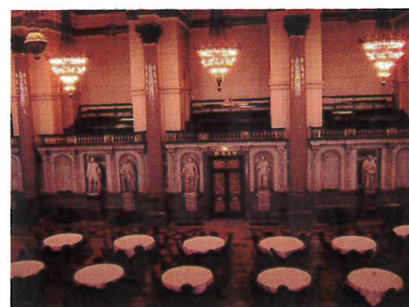
An end to another successful conference. Joan and Joyce receive our most grateful thanks, and they breathe sighs of relief



Paul Jones herding librarians on his city centre walk. Slightly easier than herding cats, but not much



Steve Binns, MBE, Liverpool's community historian, who gave an entertaining talk to open the conference, and then (pictured here) a tour of St. George's Hall at the end of the conference



St. George's Hall

## Honours Galour!

As reported on the front page, two Arclib personages were recognized in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2007.

Karen Latimer, Architectural Librarian at Queen's University, Belfast, was awarded the OBE for her services to heritage in Northern Ireland.

Ruth Kamen, formerly director and Sir Banister Fletcher Librarian at the British Architectural Library, Royal Institute of British Architects, was awarded the MBE for services to architecture.



Karen Latimer. With gong.

## Southend on Sea

Norman has provided us with some pictures of his trip to Southend. I haven't seen it recently, and in case you haven't either:



Southend Pier



For non-walkers



Norman tells me this is NOT a ferry disaster



Dartford Bridge



These three are not Southend but make a jolly good adjunct to our London conference photos

## Cardiff Conference 2009

Organizer: Sarah Nicholas, Architecture Librarian at Cardiff University.

**Wednesday 8th July to Friday 10th July.**

Cardiff Conference at a glance:

Opens with a drinks reception in the Senedd with Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing. Janet Peters, University Librarian and Phil Jones, Head of Welsh School of Architecture will also join us.



### **Senedd -**

Wales' National Assembly Building -

a Richard Rogers Partnership building shortlisted for the Stirling Prize in 2006.

The evening meal will be at nearby **Bosphorous restaurant**.

There will be various talks on our themes of '**librarians as educators**' and '**visual learning**' including

Katya Hosking, Cardiff University - How dyslexic students understand and learn

Andy Roberts, The Centre for Education in the Built Environment - Problem based learning in architecture

Greta Friggens, Portsmouth University - Enhancing the online learning environment (FindIt@ Portsmouth)

Nigel Morgan and Sonja Haerkoenen, Cardiff University - The Cephalonian Method

Keith Wilson, NBS - Postgrad learning and development: a librarian's contribution to CPD

Karen Latimer, Queen's University Belfast - The changing role of the subject librarian

Dave Kilbey, JISC Digital Media - JISC Digital Media

David Buri, Glasgow School of Art - The Gillespie, Kidd and Coia Architecture archive

Mark Barratt and Sylvia Harris, Cardiff University - Welsh School of Architecture SCOLAR digitisation project



Our conference dinner will be in the **National Museum**, in the company of Liz Walder, Director of the Royal Society of Architects in Wales. As you can see on the right, your committee was very pleased with this venue.

This will also be the subject of what promises to be a fascinating presentation from Gerallt Nash, Senior Curator at St Fagans National History Museum, on his building restoration work at the Museum.



Friday afternoon's choice of tours: Walking tour of Cardiff's civic centre and beyond; Millennium Stadium; Llandaff Cathedral; Cardiff Central Public Library

A full programme and booking form are available from the Arclib website: [www.arclib.org.uk](http://www.arclib.org.uk)



## Arclib Spring Visit 2009

I attended the annual meeting of the ARCLIB Group held at the RIBA Library on Tuesday 17 March 2009. It was a day of firsts for me since I had never been to RIBA nor to an ARCLIB Group meeting. The 1930s RIBA building had a wonderful feel to it. It was designed by the architect Grey Wornum with the interior decoration done by his wife Miriam. There was a sense of grandeur and spaciousness seen to best advantage on our meeting day because it was fine and sunny, making the already light and airy building even more inviting.

There were 14 members attending from a variety of libraries within London and those like myself who came from further afield. I travelled up from the University of Portsmouth, others came from the University of Brighton and from Oxford. We were welcomed by our hosts for the day, the Chair of ARCLIB and Deputy Director of the RIBA Architectural Library, Jane Oldfield and the Director of the RIBA Architectural Library, Dr Irena Murray.

The meeting had the theme of Le Corbusier. Irena, who is an authority on this architect, had just helped to organise an exhibition of his work at the Barbican entitled *Le Corbusier: The art of architecture*. We were to visit this later in the day.

To begin with Irena gave us a fascinating talk on Le Corbusier's life and work, supporting it with books and periodicals, from the library's stock, which he had designed and illustrated himself in every detail. She took us down to the Florence Hall to see a replica of the minute Cabanon (beach house) which Le Corbusier had designed and built in 1952 for his holidays in Cap-Martin. A Mediterranean garden had been made to set the scene for this. We all managed to squeeze in to the Cabanon to look round, admiring the minimalism of the interior and the cleverness of the design. As we streamed out one by one we heard another visitor who was waiting to enter remark "It must be a Tardis inside!" Also on this floor was a large display of furniture designed by Le Corbusier provided by the English supplier of his designs, Cassina, which is based not far from RIBA.

Jane then gave us a tour of the library and we were allowed into the store where the rolling stacks contain material dating from 1485 – 1955. A great variety of material is housed here. The output of architects is limited not only to their professional role as designers but also to their flair for poetry, writing and art. All such work is relevant and carefully stored here too.

After a delicious lunch we made the short tube journey to the Barbican. My memories of previous visits to the Barbican many years before were of dark, wet, blustery winter evenings which had enhanced for me the coldness and dreariness of this concrete development and left me unimpressed. However on the beautiful sunny ARCLIB meeting day, Irena took us to the Barbican by the high-level approach where there were wonderful displays of spring flowers and well-tended gardens among the high-rise buildings so reminiscent of Le Corbusier's own urban designs.

The exhibition was a unique revelation of the development of Le Corbusier's work. Architectural models and photographs were juxtaposed with his drawings, paintings, sculpture, tapestries, furniture and film to trace the way his art and architecture actively blended together throughout his life. Works from his mentors, contemporaries, friends and colleagues were also displayed. Irena took us around, patiently explaining and giving details of the items we saw. The giant wall hangings particularly impressed me. At the end of this tour I was overwhelmed by the amount I had learnt about Le Corbusier and I felt privileged to have been part of what for me was a truly memorable day.

Thank you Jane, Irena and ARCLIB!

Chris Reason  
University of Portsmouth Library

(Poundbury continued from p2)

To commemorate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Prince's Foundation is releasing a series of books by its senior fellows, and the library has been made the selling point for the publications. The latest, **The Roots of Sustainability** by David Cadman has just been published. It delves into the meaning of sustainability and the interrelation of our economic, environmental and social lives. It was preceded by **The Place of Dwelling** by Ray Gindroz, which looked at dwellings in relation to the self, the neighbourhood, and the city, and the use of pattern books. The first publication in the series, **Architectural Tuning of Settlements** by Léon Krier, discussed the governing principles of aesthetics in relation to the practice of urbanism and its role in creating sustainable places. The series will be completed by the individual contribution of the remaining eight senior fellows <http://www.princes-foundation.org.uk/index.php?id=50>

While the government has declared the intention of peppering the country with eco-towns, the PFBE has launched the Poundbury Series, to share the first hand knowledge gained building sustainable communities <http://www.princes-foundation.org.uk/index.php?id=281> and this solo librarian has been checking the place out for you (see the accompanying pictures) and will be very happy to host an ARCLIB visit at Poundbury or any meeting in the library in Charlotte Road. Norman and those of you who came to the visit to my previous home in Holloway Road might find the comparison...interesting. Not only have I got the best office ever, but this solo librarian has plenty of company and action too. On my first week the Prince's Drawing School was running a week long Life Drawing open class on the library floor, I've never had a dull moment ever since in this past 3 years!

For those of you who might remember, the round-the-world trip was just what I needed, I'll do that any day! Although I didn't end up visiting all architecture libraries in the world, I did satisfy my personal interest and visited buildings used for astronomical observations, both ancient and state of the art, and I most certainly want to do more of that.

But it is nice to be back. See you all at the conference.

Carla Marchesan

Librarian

The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment

19-22 Charlotte Road, London EC2A 3SG

[Carla.Marchesan@princes-foundation.org](mailto:Carla.Marchesan@princes-foundation.org)

Tel: 020 7613 8507



Photo: Carla Marchesan

## Quiz (just for fun so no fighting please)

Who said:

- 1a) Whilst acting is my career architecture is my passion
- b) what project was this person talking about?
- 2) A house is a machine for living in
- 3) The Physician can bury his mistakes, but the architect can only advise his client to plant vines
- 4) Now there is one outstanding fact regarding Spaceship Earth, and that is that no instruction book came with it
- 5) Houses are built to live in and not to look on
- 6) She well knew the great architectural secret of decorating her constructions, and never descended to construct a decoration
- 7) Architecture is the art of how to waste space

Identify the photos :



- 8a) Where is this?
- b) Who was the architect of the building in the right of the foreground?
- c) What is the address of the pointy building in the distance?



- 9a) What is this?
- b) Who was the architect responsible for the design?
- c) What was the date of the opening ceremony?
- d) Who did the honours



- 11a) Where is this?
- b) What is it called?
- c) Who designed the modern part to the left?



- 10a) Which civil engineer would have been saddened to see the sorry state (in 2002) of this pier that he built in 1866?

Answers on page 12

- 1) Brad Pitt b) Environmentally friendly hotel and resort in Dubai in association with GRAFT
- 2) Le Corbusier
- 3) Frank Lloyd Wright
- 4) R Buckminster Fuller
- 5) Francis Bacon
- 6) Anthony Trollope
- 7) Philip Johnson
- 8) Old Royal Naval College, Thames, London b) Sir Christopher Wren c) One Canada Square
- 9) Sydney Opera House b) Jørn Utzon c) 20th October 1973 d) HRH Queen Elizabeth II with the Duke of Edinburgh in attendance
- 10) Eugenius Birch (West Pier, Brighton)
- 11) Berlin b) Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche (memorial church) c) Egon Eiermann