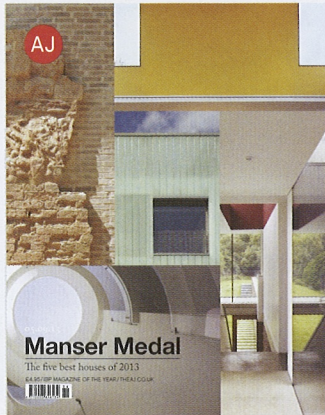


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The letter of the week's author will receive a bone china AJ mug. Letters should be received by 10am on the Monday before publication. The AJ reserves the right to edit letters.

'Brady – a good thing'



Angela Brady (AJ 05.09.13) did start off with an apparent disadvantage – she was not experienced in the internecine politics of the RIBA, but on reflection this was a good thing. She cut through it all with her charming smile, concealing her resolve to sort things out. She did her best to make changes to public sector procurement but, in spite of all the noise, nothing much has happened. But she was a brave campaigner on issues like unpaid internships and bad employers, and I loved the way she supported architects wanting recognition for their 2012 London Olympic designs. The only time she stopped talking was when she put tape over her mouth at a photo shoot outside the RIBA – brilliant PR. I am sad to see her go.

John Assael, Assael Architects, by email

Bristol isn't boring

The statement that Bristol's built

environment is 'lacklustre' is entirely incorrect (AJ 19.08.13). Bristol contains approximately 4,500 listed buildings and has more Georgian buildings than Bath. Bristol has been poorly served by many of its recent buildings. Cullinan Studio's Harbourside masterplan has been disregarded, with all the new buildings becoming bloated versions of the concept designs. The outside of Cabot Circus is an uninspiring blank wall, but the last thing Bristol needs is the 'brashness' of 3XN's Museum of Liverpool, a Zaha Hadid pastiche. Bristol requires the careful retention and conversion of its existing stock of superb historic buildings, as well as high-quality new buildings and the new arena. *Quentin Alder, chair, Bristol City Conservation Advisory Panel, by email*

Shouting from rooftops

Rory Olcayto is quite right to highlight the cost of the supergraphics and dummy glass facade on AOC's St Saviour's and St Olave's School (AJ 29.08.13).

While the school clearly

shows some commendably intelligent thinking, aren't architects playing right into the hands of Michael Gove and the flat-packers if they start spending the client's very limited budget on nothing more than, quite literally, shouting (the bleedin' obvious) from the rooftops?

Simon Gill, Simon Gill Architects, by email

Merit versus muscle

The vicious circle encouraged by EU procurement rules has been a major concern (AJ 05.09.13). Turnover criteria have been a major stumbling block for smaller practices – many have been excluded from competing for larger, more interesting work and end up confined to small domestic projects that the larger practices are not interested in taking on. If the ultimate aim is to create better architecture, any refinements to the bureaucratic arrangements surrounding procurement to allow quality and competence, rather than muscle, to compete on a fair basis is more than welcome.

Shahriar Nasser, director, Belsize Architects, by email



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