



The year in review
*Suicidal fees, coalition
cuts and student riots: the
state of architecture at the
close of a turbulent year*

16.12.10

Ian Martin
*The Epic Spaces
of 2010*

Going to the panto

3 building studies: Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Marlowe Theatre, and New Entertainment Venue



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Astragal

The Hellman Files #26

A trawl through Hellman's archives, in which we uncover gems that are as relevant now as they were then.

Hellman writes: 'This seasonal

cartoon, now in colour, is from the AJ for 20.12.89. Apart from the PoMo references it seems quite apt for today.

Happy Christmas.'

A CONTEXTUAL CAROL

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE OFFICE OF MARLEYFLAW & SCREWD Architects PLC



MR EBENEZER SCREWD? I'M FROM THE SOCIAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION... I WONDER IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION IN AID OF THE HOMELESS?



EBENEZER HAS A WORD WITH HIS CHIEF ASSISTANT, BOB SCRATCHOUT

THE DEVELOPERS WANT TO SEE THAT DOCKLANDS SCHEME BY 27TH DECEMBER - MAKE SURE THE DRAWINGS ARE READY!



BACK IN HIS PENTHOUSE SUITE AT HUMBUG WHARF...

LUCKY MY PARTNER SNUFFED IT WHEN HE DID, NOW... HUH?? WHO IS THERE??!



I AM THE SPIRIT OF ARCHITECTURE PAST... SEE HOW HAPPY AND CONTENT EVERYONE WAS...



I'M THE DYNAMICALLY CONTEXTUAL SPIRIT OF PRESENT NEW REALISM ARCHITECTURE - WISE!



I AM THE SPIRIT OF ARCHITECTURE YET TO COME...



NEXT MORNING...

HOMELESSNESS... RECESSION... WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN!!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS BOB OLD SON...! CAN I INTEREST YOU IN THIS GREEN, OZONE-FRIENDLY, CFC-FREE CARDBOARD DWELLING? SPECIAL OFFER 'TIL JANUARY!



Highs and lows of 2010

Among the responses we were unable to squeeze into this year's vox pops (pages 8-11) were Chris Romer Lee of Studio Octopi, whose personal low point was the Baby Gaggia coffee machine breaking and Gordon Carey of Carey Jones Chapmantolcher whose story of the year was Anne Widdecombe's run in *Strictly Come Dancing*. 'It shows how mischievous the British Public can be,' he said.

Tony Blair's false start

Congratulations to architect Simon Templeton and his client Tony Blair who this week finally secured planning permission to revamp South Pavilion, the former Prime Minister's £5.75 million stately home in Buckinghamshire. Original plans included an endless swimming pool, but this was ditched after 13 months of wrangling with English Heritage. A disgruntled neighbour said of the proposals: 'It's better than living next to a pop star. But only slightly.'

Zaha in full flow

Zaha Hadid's plumbing installation at the Architectural Review's Emerging Architecture Awards last week featured 'the world's first tap to supply hot, cold and filtered water through a dedicated tube... to avoid cross-contamination with unfiltered water', claims awards sponsor Triflow Concepts. Online, comments on the tap were also unfiltered, with one describing it as a 'goose turned upside down'.

Read more architectural gossip at architectsjournal.co.uk/astragal