



Simon Gill 'Planning officers should visit Barcelona'

What got you started?

My dad was a builder and art was my best subject at school — it was the obvious choice.

Who was your most inspiring tutor?

The late James Madge at the Polytechnic of Central London.

Which architect have you learnt the most from?

Dead: Palladio. Alive: Simon Hudspeth of Panter Hudspeth.

Which living architect do you most admire?

Alvaro Siza — his best projects have a wonderful relationship with history and context.

What is your best project?

Our Fishing Lodge in Bulgaria where the climate and beauty of the site were inspirational.

What part of the design process do you most enjoy?

Standing on the site at the very beginning — it's like hearing the orchestra tuning up.

What is your Achilles' heel?

Never pushing hard enough.

Which house would you most like to live in?

A self-designed house on the Norfolk Broads.

What is your favourite city?

Summer: Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

You can work in any city at any point in history — where and when would you choose?

Late 19th century London.

What would be your dream commission?

A library for a client who thinks "flexibility" is a swearword.

What one piece of legislation would you introduce?

Every planning officer must attend a tour of Barcelona.

What is your favourite architectural book?

Juhani Pallasmaa, *The Embodied Image*.



What are you listening to?

Captain Beefheart, Safe as Milk.

Complete the sentence: At heart I am a frustrated...

...indie guitarist.

What have you sacrificed for your career?

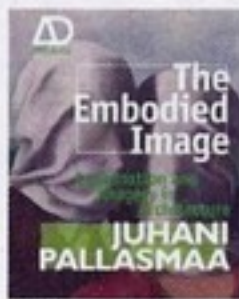
Cult status as an indie guitarist.

What does your family think of your work?

My mother consistently tells



Simon Gill's Fishing Lodge in Bulgaria; Alvaro Siza; Juhani Pallasmaa's *The Embodied Image*



me that she doesn't like it.

Your child tells you they want to be an architect.

Put away your Lego bricks for I have something to tell you...

Is it getting easier?

You're joking, right?

Simon Gill is owner of Simon Gill Architects

ARCHIVE



Andrew Sebire (left), Kit Allsopp and Ted Happold with their Vauxhall model.

What might have been...

Date 1982

Subjects

Andrew Sebire, Kit Allsopp, and Ted Happold

Location Vauxhall

With the recent completion of Broadway Malyan's Vauxhall Tower we look back to a scheme that, had it been built, would have extended along the Thames from the site of the tower to the MI6 building.

Andrew Sebire, Kit Allsopp

and Ted Happold won the Vauxhall Cross competition in 1982 against a shortlist including Nicholas Lacey Associates and the Terry Farrell Partnership.

Assessor Richard MacCormac applauded their £200 million scheme as "formally very pragmatic and a powerful architectural statement". Ronald Lyon, the chairman of the developer Arunbridge, told BD: "In my

view it is one scheme which will happen."

Unfortunately, the 5ha development hit intractable planning difficulties just as Arunbridge ran into commercial difficulties having failed to find tenants for a development in Wembley. The company went into liquidation in 1983 owing debts of £8 million and Allsopp, Sebire and Happold's scheme was abandoned.

BOOTS



A HEATED DEBATE

In a new report on the potential effects of blackouts on New York, the Urban Green Council claims that if one hit during a summer heat wave, the interior temperatures of fully glazed buildings could rise to more than 39°C after a week. Boots hopes this news had reached the ears of Rafael Viñoly, architect not only of the sun-afflicted Walkie-Scorchie but also 432 Park Avenue, which on its completion next year will become New York's tallest residential building.

INDUSTRIAL INJURY

With entries for the Stirling Prize closing today, Boots is curious to find out where this year's event will be held. RIBA president Stephen Hodder isn't spilling just yet but assures us it won't be Central St Martins. Last year he walked into a glass door, sustaining a cut over his eye just before hosting the event. Luckily, his PA was on hand to apply a dollop of make-up to ensure his inaugural awards as president passed out without major bleeding.

OVER THE HANDLEBARS

The first episode of BBC Four's *The Brits Who Built the Modern World* is to air next Thursday. It tells the story of how British hi-tech became a global phenomenon but promises to be a history of changing fashions in more than one sense. Here is the young Nick Grimshaw, doing his best Vivian Stanshall impersonation — a look he was able to revive some decades



Grimshaw: in the pink.

later when he became president of the Royal Academy.

VAUXHALL AND MI

Boots has long enjoyed the speculation around BT's mysterious Keybridge House — one of Vauxhall's uglier buildings, though competition grows stiffer by the year.

The infrequency with which anyone enters the 17-storey building, its proximity to MI6 and reportedly high levels of microwave activity sparked stories of secret tunnels and a basement as deep as it is tall.

So, Boots had just one question for Alfredo Caraballo, Allies & Morrison's director behind plans for its replacement: are they true? It is with great regret that she is obliged to report his reply: "No."

TALK IS CHEAP

In the PR blurb about its plans to go global, Candy & Candy describes its One Hyde Park scheme as "arguably the most talked about residential development in the world". And not necessarily for all the right reasons, Boots might add.



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