

Origin of architects

ARCHITECTUS A discovery from an archaeological dig in County Durham has plugged an important gap in the genealogy of the architectural profession.

UK architects, it appears, can trace their history all the way back to the Romans. Described as the 'Pompeii of the north', the site in Binchester was apparently home to a Roman trooper who described himself as an 'architectus'. It is the first known evidence for an 'architectus' in the UK and, not surprisingly, the site has some of the best-preserved Roman buildings in Britain. There is no evidence as to whether

the buildings were brought in on time and on budget.

Stirling Prize odds turnaround

FAVOURITES Bookmakers have had to completely shake-up their odds on this year's Stirling Prize after a wedge of cash was wagered on **O'Donnell + Tuomey's** Saw Swee Hock Student Centre (pictured).

Originally given a 4/1 chance of winning the most prestigious prize in UK architecture, the building at the **London School of Economics** (LSE) has become **William Hill's** new favourite at 2/1, replacing early frontrunner

The Shard by **Renzo Piano**.

The turf accountant confirmed the brick-clad belter had attracted big money, including a huge £500 bet – a sum which a William Hill spokesman said had raised eyebrows and suggested some kind of inside knowledge. Given that the judges will not visit the buildings until October, any conspiracy theories can be swiftly put to bed.



DENNIS GILBERT

However, the run on the LSE has resulted in Renzo's London Bridge Tower dropping down the rankings (5/2). It has also been overtaken by **Zaha Hadid's** Aquatics Centre – the bookies' new second favourite at 9/4.

Sadly **Mecanoo's** Library of Birmingham and **Feilden Clegg Bradley Studio's** Manchester School of Art are gradually dropping off the back of the field. Both are now priced at 10/1.

Hoy in Glasgow

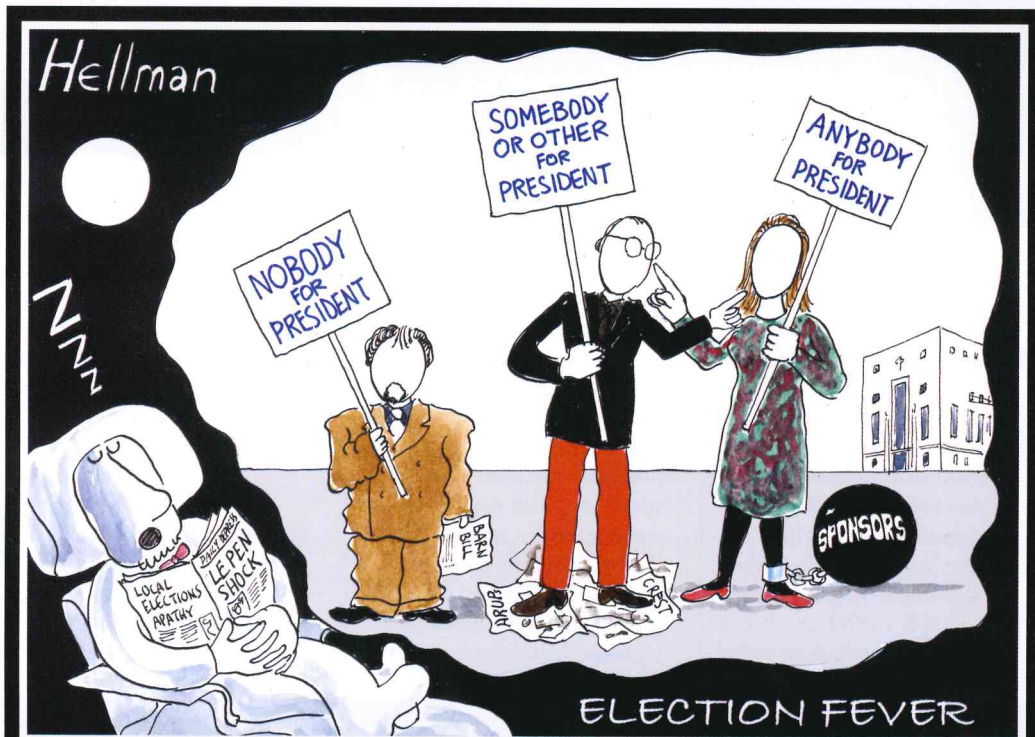
IDENTIFICATION 'Ahoy there!' shouted Commonwealth Games security to **Chris Hoy** last week when he was asked for ID to enter his own stadium.

The UK's most decorated Olympian was stopped from entering the **3DReid**-designed velodrome – named after Hoy – during the first day of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The cycling star laughed off the incident, later tweeting: 'She was only doing her job.'

Homeless Modernist

LANDLORD BATTLE Monthly columnist **Owen Hatherley** has had his socialist leanings confirmed when he returned from holiday to find that his private landlord had given him notice to leave and raised the rent to 'unpayable levels'. The Militant Modernist, who ominously tweeted about his landlord: 'I don't even know where he lives' is now considering his next move after confessing on **Twitter** that 'it all seems legal, alas'.

In a further tweet, Hatherley writes: 'Someone at [the] letting agency complimented me on an article on Preston bus station, which was a bit unnerving.'



The Hellman Files #141

Only 16.7 per cent of members voted in the RIBA presidential election; highlighting the low opinion architects have of the institute, which fails to operate effectively either as a lobbying architects'

union, or as a learned architectural society. Perhaps the RIBA and ARB should divide these functions between them instead? This AJ cartoon about a previous contest is from 02.05.02.