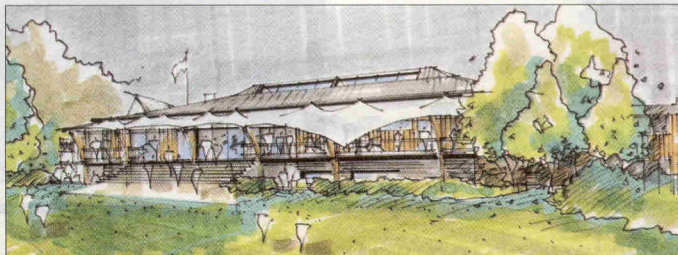


The RIBA fired the starting gun this week on the race to become the profession's next leader. Nominations are now closed and, as *BD* went to press, there were three candidates: George Ferguson from Bristol, Annette Fisher from London and David Thorp from Birmingham. Robert Booth and Charlie Gates check their credentials, their manifestos, and examples of their work

Annette Fisher



Old Albanian Sports Centre.

Annette Fisher became the first black woman to be elected to the RIBA council, in 1999. Fisher, a single mother, is known for her commitment and determination. "When you are a minority, you always have to be better," she has said. This reputation was recognised in July 2000 when she became vice president of communications for the RIBA after

only a year on the council.

Fisher studied architecture at Bath for one year, then transferred to Strathclyde to complete the course in her native Scotland. On leaving university, she got her first job at TP Bennett in 1983 through a friend of her civil engineer father. In 1997, she won the NatWest Award for African Professional of the Year.

Five-point manifesto

1 Awareness: Improving public and government awareness of the value of design.

2 Visibility: Increased visibility of the RIBA to government and the public.

3 Small practices: Focus on small practice issues, with regard to framework agreements and procurement of new work.

4 Education: Reinforcing good design through the RIBA's education and business practice initiatives.

5 Diversity: Encouraging diversity through mentoring and monitoring.

After a number of years working for practices in the US, including Moser Mayer Phoenix Associates, Fisher established her own Chelsea-based practice, Fisher Associates, in 1997.