

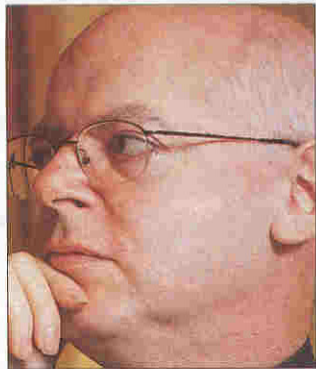
People in the news



After a bad start, news maker of the year Will Alsop ended 2002 on a high.



Annette Fisher and Paul Hyett.



Will Alsop emerged as *BD*'s newsmaker of the year, his 12 months starting badly with the collapse of an ambitious scheme for the Aylesbury estate, but ending on a high by beating Rogers, Foster and Cullinan, (men old enough to be his father) to win the Liverpool Fourth Grace commission.

His fortunes reflected a year in which the profession held its breath for a post-September 11 slump which **Gordon Brown's** billions in new public spending held at bay.

In January Alsop was angrily attacking the country's housing associations for being dyed-in-the-wool after opponents branded his, er, lively designs "crap" and "a joke", but by December he was the toast of Merseyside. In the interim, architecture's winsome geezer also secured commissions for a new arts complex for Goldsmiths College and to rework the grim basement that is Birmingham New Street station. He entered

pre-planning talks for the "Big Banana" tower development for the Millennium Quarter development south of Canary Wharf; and threatened to leave

Alsop threatened to leave the 'irrelevant' RIBA before it emerged that Annette Fisher might sit at its helm.

the "irrelevant" RIBA before promptly demonstrating he was for turning when it emerged that **Annette Fisher** might sit at its helm.

Fisher eventually lost to **George Ferguson**, but came close

to giving the institute the image makeover of its dreams with her obtuse rallying cry: "I am not a woman, I am not black, I am an architect."

Meanwhile, Portland Place's current incumbent enraged small practices by labelling them "a collection of anarchists" who were incapable of designing the flood of schools, hospitals and housing schemes being commissioned by the public sector. A week later, the small guys hit back and told tough-love **Paul Hyett** to resign. He hasn't, and practices have started merging as he suggested.

In April Hyett told Arb it had no right to regulate the profession, shattering, in one fell swoop, the then fragile peace between the regulatory body and the institute. His ardent outburst appeared to have been motivated in part by Arb's attempts to increase the insurance premium of his semi-retired architect father. "It is totally crackpot," he fumed.