



**PRESS RELEASE
Architect's Eye:
Winners Announced**

12 November 2009

The winners of Architect's Eye, a competition which judges architects' photography skills, were announced on Wednesday 11 November.

The winners were John Barr, an independent architect practising in Glasgow, and Philippe Brysse, an Associate at Foster and Partners. Runners up were Paul Qi-En Lim, a Part 2 Architectural Assistant at Stride Treglown Limited in Bristol and Antonia Infanger of Antonia Infanger Architecture+ Interiors.

The competition, which attracted more than 200 entries, was open to all qualified architects practising in the UK and is split into two distinct categories: *Architecture and Place* and *Architecture and People*.

John Barr won the *Architecture and Place* category with his image 'Church of the Light'. The photograph featured a church in Ibaraki, which is one of Tadao Ando's earlier works and will be known to many architects. The photograph depicts light flooding through a cruciform window in a manner which is immediately striking. George Kavanagh, professional photographer and judge said " This photograph has is all - drama and narrative with its skilful composition, good use of light and technical competence ."

The winning photograph in the Architecture and People category, by Philippe Brysse was a contrast: an image was taken at a reservoir in North London, featuring a bride and groom on their wedding day. Margaret O'Regan, Art Consultant and judge, said of the piece: "I love the starkness of this photograph and the isolation of the building. The evidence that a wedding has taken place and the parked car outside add some humour and life to an otherwise nondescript piece of architecture. It illustrates the connection between the two. "

A brainchild of International Arts Consultants (IAC), the award is now in its second year. IAC developed the idea for the competition from observing architects' enthusiasm for photographing buildings. Photography is an important part of all architects' education and continuing professional development and is taught on most architecture courses in the UK.

The competition was judged by Jack Pringle (Chairman of Pringle Brandon Architects), Keith Priest (Fletcher Priest Architects), Hugh Pearman (Editor of the RIBA Journal and architecture critic for the Sunday Times), leading architectural photographers Grant Smith and George Kavanagh, Nick Scott (Chair of Applied and Professional Panel, Royal Photographic Society), Charles Knevitt (Director RIBA Trust) Jean-Francois Cardella of Construction Photography and Margaret O'Regan of International Art Consultants.

Commenting on the results of the competition, the Chairman of the Judges Jack Pringle said: "Once again architects have proved that they have an "eye" for a good photograph. This made judging a challenging, but

enjoyable task. Despite that, we were in agreement that the two winning photographs were both technically and artistically excellent which, we believe, demonstrates the importance of photography in architecture.”

The competition is organised by International Art Consultants, sponsored by Construction Photography and specialist property marketing consultancy tta Group and supported by the Royal Photographic Society and RIBA Trust.

The Exhibition of all 17 competition finalists across both categories can be viewed by appointment at the Galleries, 15 Dock Street, London E1 8JL from Wednesday 11th November until midday on Saturday 14th November. Please call 020.7481.1337 to arrange a viewing.

Given the continued success of the competition International Art Consultants would like to make it a regular biannual event and will be planning accordingly for 2011.

ENDS

For further media information, please contact Sam May of TTA Group: 020 7886 0302 / email smay@ttagroup.co.uk

[Photographers' comments in full](#)

Architecture and Place WINNER

John Barr
John Barr Architects
Glasgow



‘Church of the Light’

The church is located in Ibaraki, constitutionally a separate town but essentially a suburb of Osaka, and is generally known as The Church of The Light. It is one of Tadao Ando's earlier works and one of his most famous and most powerful, distilling his preoccupations with exposed concrete and light down to their essentials.

The church attracts a steady stream of architects, students, etc. and must have been photographed thousands of times. The view usually published is a general view from the back of the church looking towards the cross and emphasising the architectural form; the simple, and quite dark, volume sliced through by the light from the cross.

So great is the interest in visiting and photographing the church that you now need an appointment to do so and are met by the priest who makes little attempt to disguise his concern that your visit has no spiritual purpose and not only gives a small lecture on the real meaning of a church as a place of congregation and worship but also asks that, when you enter the church, you sit quietly for five minutes before beginning to take photographs. This, I think, is wise. The

intention of the priest seems to be to help you feel the spirituality of the place or, at the very least, to prevent you from rushing in to fire off a few snaps and rushing out again, but it can also serve a practical, if unintended, purpose in giving you a chance to think about the essence of what you want to capture. In taking the time to reflect on this I decided on the shot that I have sent you. The darkness and the light are surely important, but they are important as symbols as much as architectural form. I composed the shot to represent the symbols of the church more than the architectural space: the cross; the altar; the bible; and the light illuminating the words of the bible.

I'm not sure what you're looking for but I guess you only want a few words and hope that you can extract what you need from the above. If you need anything else, please let me know. I will be out until around mid-afternoon your time but can get back to you then if necessary.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Paul Qi-En Lim BSc BArch
Part 2 Architectural Assistant

Stride Treglown Limited
Bristol



Extension to Castelvecchio

For me, the Extension at Castelvecchio in Verona is my favourite architectural building. I loved the way the building blended together despite being a mix of an old fort and the museum gallery now. The photograph was taken atop the platform at the end of the initial hall looking down at the open area facing the courtyard. Looking down I was drawn to the various geometric shapes and forms from the steps and the slabs and the railings. The shot also showed the new extension overlapping the construction of the older stone building surrounding it.

The photograph was taken with a Pentax A20 in 2006

Architecture and People WINNER

Philippe Brysse
Foster and Partners
Associate.



The Wedding

The image was taken in London, Stoke Newington Water Reservoir. I was asked to be the wedding photographer for my friends Xavier and Denise but I really liked the building so I took a photo where the actual couple was just a background to the building.

I've used a Canon EOS D20 camera and a 10-22mm lens.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Antonia Infanger

Antonia Infanger Architecture+ Interiors



Phaneo Science Centre Wolfsburg

I love travelling and seeing all the amazing architecture there is out there. Seeing a building within its surroundings is what I am most interested in, which includes how people use them.

The Wolfsburg Phaeno feels like a big space ship has landed, and it is amazing to see that it really feels like it when you are standing below the building and watching the people move through the created spaces.