

Research in the making

Research about research has become something of an **arq** speciality during the journal's formative years, and this issue is no exception. Leslie Forsyth and colleagues (pp33–43) offer a valuable review of the history of the institutional context for research in UK schools of architecture, and we report on two short conferences held at the RIBA: the first, organised by the Cambridge school (pp13–15); the second, convened by the Institute itself to explore the still vexed issue of design as a form of research (pp17–19). Finally, in an extended and most perceptive letter, Peter Carl reflects on some of the issues raised by the former, and argues that far from being defensive about architecture's seemingly weak position vis à vis traditional academic disciplines, its cross-disciplinary perspective may yet serve as a model in the search for practical wisdom in the shaping of our world.

We will doubtless return to these questions in the future, but with the RAE deadline looming it is our intention to avoid too much navel-gazing and concentrate on publishing papers that contribute to constructing that 'multifaceted vision of the world' which Italo Calvino (in his *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*) defined as the major task for art in the new century. For architects, a key capability in this search will surely be the rapid closing – courtesy of new digital technologies – of the centuries-old division between thinking and making, designing and building, that is the subject of Bob Sheil's paper (pp20–32). The uses to which Sheil and his colleagues deploy these new techniques may be on the fringes of mainstream practice, but their impact – already apparent in the work of offices as diverse as those of Foster and Gehry – is surely destined to change the way buildings are conceived as well as made.

Keen readers of **arq**'s inside covers – and such there surely are! – will note several changes in this issue. Firstly, we have said thank you and farewell to several members of the Editorial Board who have made valuable contributions during the journal's formative years, and welcomed new members and correspondents who we hope will help us maintain our breadth of interests and increase our geographic reach. And secondly, we would draw attention to significant changes – in particular to the conventions for footnoting and referencing – detailed in the notes for contributors.

THE EDITORS

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