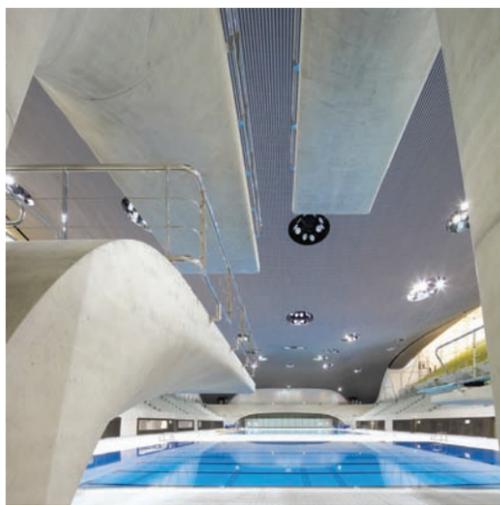


"One would think that one was in a subterranean city, that's how heavy is the atmosphere, how profound is the darkness!"



Making a splash

Zaha Hadid's Aquatics Centre may be late to the party but arrives with a flourish **P.12**

A special bond

Eric Parry is drawn to Fritz Höger's Hamburg brick masterpiece **P.16**



BUILDING DESIGN ARCHITECTS' FAVOURITE WEEKLY

Foster plans new Beijing HQ as base for China expansion

Firm's office will neighbour Ai Weiwei gallery and promote Chinese art and architecture

Ellis Woodman

Foster & Partners is designing its own headquarters building in China as the firm looks to expand the amount of business it carries out in the country.

Chairman Norman Foster told BD the new building in the Caochangdi area of Beijing would go up next to the Three Shadows Photography Art Centre — designed by dissident architect Ai Weiwei four years ago — and would be submitted for planning later this year.

Foster said: "It will in part be public in the sense that it will have

galleries, it will have a café. It will host exhibitions by young artists and architects in China. It will have an apartment for an artist in residence.

"It will also be a centre for ourselves. It will have all the facilities for designers. We'll have workshops and modelshops. That will be our centre in that part of the world."

Three Shadows co-founder and director, Chinese artist RongRong, said the news would promote Beijing's case as a cultural centre.

He added: "It's great news for the entire city of Beijing as a truly international cultural hub. The



"There is an awareness of the fragility of being overly dependent on one place" **Norman Foster**

presence of a renowned master of [Foster's] calibre here in Beijing will have a very positive influence on architecture and other types of art and culture."

Foster & Partners set up a base in the Chinese capital back in 2003. Among the projects it is currently working on are the Citic

Bank Headquarters in Hangzhou and a scheme designed in collaboration with Thomas Heatherwick for the upmarket Bund district of Shanghai.

Foster said the firm was eyeing more opportunities overseas, with Brazil thought to be high on its list, because of continuing problems with parts of the global economy such as the US and Europe.

"[There is] an awareness of the fragility of being overly dependent on one place," he admitted. "You do get all these cyclical upturns and downturns."

But he said UK firms thinking about branching further overseas

should take the plunge. "If you are immersed in those places instead of reading about them in the press you do get a very different experience."

The company's 2011 results will be unveiled later this year but in its most recent accounts, for the year to April 2010, Foster's had a turnover of £134 million with just £10.5 million — less than 10% — coming from its UK operations.

Its biggest operation was the Middle East at £60 million, while Asia, including China, had revenues of £21 million. However, it did just £626,000 worth of business in South America.

INSIDE

NEWS ANALYSIS

Architecture and the riots

Urban planning expert Wouter Vanstiphout looks at what this week's violence could mean for UK city development. **P.3**

NEWS

Alsop's latest incarnation

The name of Will Alsop's latest venture, with ex RMJM principal Scott Lawrie, will be registered in the next few weeks. **P.5**

OPINION

'A sense of place matters more in Suffolk than some faux-Olympian ideal of modernity'

Jonathan Glancey doesn't want a Tesco, traditional or modern. **P.9**

BUILDINGS

The quality of Mersey

3XN/AEW's botched Museum of Liverpool fails to match the needs of its sensitive site. **P.10**

CULTURE

The man who designed Britain

Bus stops, cabs, post boxes, trains — the Design Museum's Kenneth Grange retrospective underscores his influence. **P.21**

IT

Social climbing

Social network sites like Twitter and LinkedIn can lift your firm's profile. Su Butcher shows how to build an online presence. **P.22**

Paul Finch's nightmare

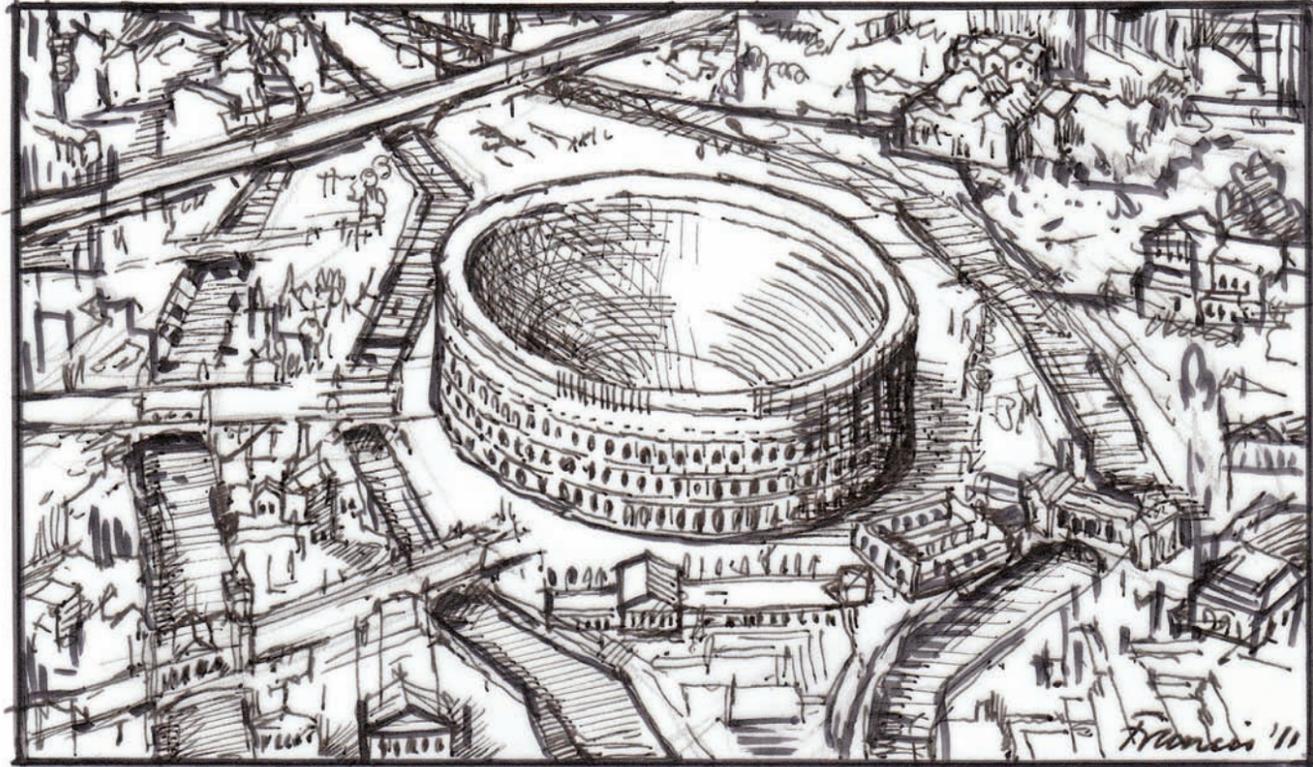
This is what the 2012 Olympic Stadium might have looked like had it been designed by a traditional architect.

BD asked Quinlan & Francis Terry, whose non-involvement in next year's event was described as a "good thing" by Paul Finch, to come up with an alternative scheme.

Drawn by Francis Terry, a partner at the firm founded by his father, it is reminiscent of the Colosseum in Rome.

While the design may appal Finch, Francis Terry has backed the Design Council Caba chairman's views on the Olympics, saying "traditional architecture would look ridiculous as part of the Olympic site".

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HOWDENS JOINERY CO. MAKING SPACE MORE VALUABLE

Aecom and Grimshaw team wins in Brisbane

Multidisciplinary partners chosen to create 'airport city' masterplan

Elizabeth Hopkirk

A team led by Aecom has won the design competition to create a 1,000ha masterplan for Brisbane's "airport city".

The multi-disciplinary team, which features Grimshaw, beat entries by Wilkinson Eyre and ARM working with fellow Australians Arkhefield.

The winning team will now work with Brisbane Airport Corporation to work up a detailed masterplan by December for all its developable land.

The airport's first property masterplan, it will also look at how to better connect the airport with the city through physical infrastructure and urban design.

The company is anxious to be prepared for Queensland's future needs which include a rapidly expanding mining and resource sector.

The competition followed a two-day atelier in April at which a large number of Brisbane-based architects, planners, urban designers and engineers came up with a number of visions for different parts of the site.

Almost 30 expressions of interest followed, which were eventually reduced to a shortlist of three, each of which will receive an honorarium.

A source close to one of the three said the competition had been fierce.

The news comes hot on the heels of another big win for Aecom, which is the biggest architect in the world according to BD's

World Architecture 100.

The practice beat BDP to win a £4 billion masterplanning competition in Kuala Lumpur.

It was among five shortlisted teams for the River of Life project which will transform two polluted rivers in the centre of the Malaysian capital.

The longlist of 22 had to submit a comprehensive masterplan showing how 10km of waterfront along the Klang and Gombak rivers could be turned into a focus for development.

They also had to come up with detailed proposals for two of the 11 precincts earmarked for redevelopment.

The jury, which included the UK architect and Stirling Prize winner Stephen Hodder, voted unanimously for Aecom's scheme.

All five shortlisted firms – which included one Korean and two Malaysian firms – will receive a £60,000 honorarium.



Aecom's shortlisted plan for the River of Life, Kuala Lumpur.

Gensler's Istanbul theme park looks to city's past

Gensler has won a design competition for a 150ha mixed-use development in Istanbul.

It will contain the region's first theme park as well as residential, office, retail, and hospitality and 60ha of open spaces and parks.

"This is a masterplanning project that essentially creates a city within a city, and we're thrilled to be a part of it," says Marty Borko, principal and leader of Gensler's mixed-use practice.

The City of Seven Gardens masterplan was inspired by Istanbul's nickname, the City

on Seven Hills.

Turkey's largest city, which stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has a history stretching back 2,000 years.

"As the plan developed, we kept both 'new' and 'old' in mind," said design director Tom Sze.

"We're incorporating best practices around planning, design and sustainability – building around existing transportation routes, maximising proximity and views to the lake, creating dynamic open spaces – while respecting the region's rich history and culture."



DRDH starts on Bodø hall

DRDH Architects has broken ground on a £65 million concert hall and library within the Arctic Circle in Norway.

The buildings will fill the last two empty blocks in Bodø city centre, on the harbour edge.

Much of Bodø was destroyed by the Luftwaffe in the second world war. More than half its 6,000 inhabitants lost their homes in a single night in 1940.

DRDH won a competition for the city's cultural urban framework in 2008 and later triumphed in competitions for the plan's two principal buildings.

The buildings will open on May 17 2014, Norway's 200th anniversary.



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Form and function perfectly combined ...the Plateau Rooflight

The brief for this King's Cross Penthouse was to create a light, bright apartment using a mixture of modern and traditional materials. Light was a very important element in the design and having used products from the Rooflight Company before on other projects to great effect, the architect specified a 600mm x 1800mm Bespoke Plateau Rooflight. The architect found that they are easy to install as well as providing an aesthetically appealing lighting solution.

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