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ISSUE

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THE big

100TH ISSUE



It's our birthday!

To celebrate turning 100, the *GDM* team has come up with a definitive list of the very best from the homes and design world – from TV houses and British buildings to iconic products and top architects



10 best architects

Check out this shortlist of firms worth having on speed dial when commissioning your next project

GREGORY PHILLIPS

If you like classy and glassy, try the Gregory Phillips practice. It works across a spectrum of scales, from huge new-builds or remodels to smaller commissions, and clever use of glazing – and lots of it – is one thing that binds together its oeuvre. The team is also keen to incorporate state-of-the-art technologies for true twenty-first-century living. (020 7724 3040; gregoryphillips.com)



WEAL ARCHITECTS

If you are in the market for a sensitive conversion, take a look at Weal Architects. Working out of two rural bases, the practice is considered to be an expert in restoration, with director Francesca Weal recognised by the RIBA as a specialist conservation architect. (01794 517 515; weal-architects.co.uk)



JOHN PARDEY

Fans of Modernism will love John Pardey's design aesthetic with its celebration of clean, simple lines. Almost without exception, the practice's elegant structures make use of natural materials and there's an emphasis on bringing together indoor and outdoor spaces. 'We aim at a timeless quality in our designs, and avoid the fashionable at all costs,' says Pardey. His team's not afraid of a planning challenge, either – which is handy as it's based in the typically conservative New Forest. (01590 626 465; johnpardeyarchitects.com)



PAUL McANEARY

For urban inventiveness, look to Paul McAnear Architects. Whether it's an unusual extension or a striking apartment renovation, it produces striking and adventurous contemporary designs. One strength that ticks *GDM*'s boxes is the way the practice incorporates bespoke built-in furniture for clutter-free living. (020 7240 0500; paulmcanear.com)

PAUL ARCHER

There's nothing conventional or suburban about Paul Archer's approach to architecture; every project it undertakes has a boundary-challenging contemporary twist. The practice has led the way in making glass-cube extensions the of-the-moment look – although the website is almost an online look book of different styles. (020 7251 6162; paularcherdesign.co.uk)

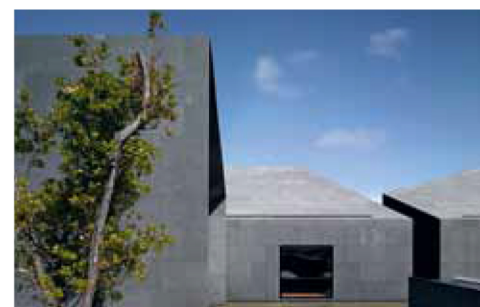


DAVID MIKHAIL

In these don't-move-improve times, *GDM* is drawn to architects that are experts at extensions. David Mikhail has made a name for itself crafting striking and bespoke additions, though its remit does spread to larger-scale projects, too. Its self-professed priority is relationships: 'We want our clients to enjoy the process and feel in control and involved every step of the way,' explains Mikhail. (020 7608 1505; davidmikhail.com)

NIALL McLAUGHLIN

The go-to firm for an inventive approach to materials, Niall McLaughlin Architects is a practice that relishes juxtaposition, often bringing traditional techniques into a contemporary context. The company is all about using strong, masculine angles, while designing buildings that remain sensitive to their surroundings. (020 7485 9170; niallmclaughlin.com)



Darren Chung; Tim Crocker; Nerida Howard; Nick Kane; Julien Lanoo; Andy Matthews; Will Pryce; Nigel Rigden; Timothy Soar



NICOLAS TYE

GDM first came across Nicolas Tye's work with The Long Barn, which was shortlisted in the Grand Designs Awards. He is known for his sensitive approach to design and his striking new-builds, which incorporate traditional features and natural materials into modern spaces. (01525 406 677; nicolastyearchitects.com)

STAN BOLT

Perhaps the most celebrated name in the South West, Stan Bolt's seaside projects are easy to fall in love with, capturing the very best of the views and location. There's nothing in the least bit homogenous about its productions; rather, each of the practice's designs is a specific and considered response to the unique demands of its site. (01803 852 588; stanboltarchitect.com)



STUDIO OCTOPI

Always a firm favourite at *GDM*, Studio Octopi undertakes a wide range of projects, from daring new-builds to sensitive renovations, all of which make inventive use of materials and engage with unusual forms. 'We enjoy working with traditional materials and techniques within a contemporary context,' says practice director Chris Romer-Lee. (020 7633 0003; octopi.co.uk)

