

leader

Travelling hopefully

In the past 18 months we have published, as promised, six issues of *arq*. Or, looked at another way, 600 pages containing no less than 49 papers, 23 reviews, 26 letters and, unusually for a refereed journal, some 700 illustrations. Enough, surely, to enable those who read *arq* and those who produce it to take stock.

The leader in our first issue set out our objectives. First, by publishing across the broad spectrum of architectural endeavour, to take a stand against the tendency to compartmentalise architectural research. Second, to provide a peer-reviewed outlet for research papers from both practitioners and academics. Third, to provide a link between the worlds of practice and academia.

We had other objectives, too. We wanted to offer our readers a journal that was truly international; which, through the quality and generosity of its illustrations, reflected the fact that architecture is a visual art; and, finally, something which was both enjoyable to read and useful to refer to. We simply could not afford the time to publish a poorly illustrated, jargon ridden publication which collected, dusty and unread on academic library shelves.

Are we succeeding? Every issue so far has contained between 6 and 8 subject areas ranging from history to information technology and always including that one area, design, into which all the many areas of architecturally related endeavour are drawn together. It is particularly pleasing to hear reports that *arq*'s policy of publishing papers setting out the theoretical background of the buildings described resulted in some positive results for their authors in the recent Research Assessment Exercise conducted in United Kingdom universities by the Higher Education Funding Council. We shall be reporting on this exercise in a future issue.

Our contributors have included both practitioners and academics from all over the world. In this issue alone, we have papers, reviews and letters from Australia, Chile (3), Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States (2). Most of our subscribers are, to our very great delight, practitioners from all over the world.

arq is produced by a single Editor supported by an active international Editorial Board. Final sub-editing and all the layout and production is undertaken by *The Architectural Review's* editorial team and the *A. R.'s* Editor is *arq's* Publisher. The fact that all the papers (but not the reviews) have to be refereed by extremely busy practitioners and academics is a constraint which none of the architectural monthlies and weeklies has to contend with.

Little wonder, then, that out of the 254 papers and outlines received so far, it is the best that progress fastest into publication. Too many papers get stuck at an early stage of the editorial and refereeing process. We regret this because, although a particular paper may not be suitable for publication in *arq*, it is almost certainly bound to be of interest to someone. We are therefore planning to offer the authors of all such papers the opportunity of placing abstracts of their work in *arq's* section on the world wide web. Further details will be announced in our next issue.

To celebrate this, our sixth issue, we have introduced a new end section or tailpiece: 'insight' presents an opportunity for reviews of a book, film, exhibition or other medium – but *not* a building or place – which has influenced the contributor. The first one (p. 96), by the Chilean architect and teacher, Rodrigo Pérez de Arce, is, appropriately, an account of a particular issue of a journal, *L'Architecture D'Aujourd'hui*, which, with great insight and style, presented the work of Louis Kahn.

We have yet to achieve many of our editorial objectives and every now and then there is evidence of the difficulties of producing a truly independent and international high quality refereed *architectural* journal. We may never reach perfection but, in the meantime, we hope that you find our journey through uncharted waters as exhilarating as we do.

The Editorial Team.