

2009/ ARCHIVED NEWS GRADONARCHITECTURE



MARCH 2009

...End of a Chapter

Following fourteen successful and enjoyable years, Graham McDarby leaves Ryder Architecture, along with a number of staff, as part of company restructuring to deal with the global economic downturn which is now biting hard. Offers of employment are received but not accepted... It is time for a change... Life has a lot to offer and it is important that we make every effort to experience as much as we can!

A new "little black book" is purchased with the opening words enclosed:

"For my darling Graham... redundant in work, never redundant in love"

Things are changing!



APRIL 2009

...Beer and Inspiration

Are we one or all for one? What's in a name? Forty Architecture or MCD Architecture?

Thank you to Iain Hush, John Neilson, Neil and Beth Wright, Ian Baggett, Colin Wilson and Sir Alan Sugar.

The concept of being one but for all is engaging. A group of talented freelance individuals who are motivated by their own self drive and desire to be successful – could these be GRADONARCHITECTURE people and give us credibility in the market place?

The search for these people begins...



MAY 2009

...We know who we are now

Having established GRADONARCHITECTURE as our favoured brand and identity, we have started to share our thoughts and vision with a number of clients, contractors and consultants. The support and feedback is phenomenal – it is apparent that big isn't necessarily great. Our approach to a smaller, hands on and experienced service is welcomed.

Office location is important to us but is it essential at this stage? Following an extensive search of what is on the market, for which we thank Tony Wordsworth and Cath Cannon, we have concluded that to give our brand and value further strength we will work from GradonNE40 Studio and see where the future takes us.



JUNE 2009

...Busy Busy Busy

Momentum is gaining, we have our team but there is always room for more talented like minded people. The web design is progressing well, thanks to Min and Andrew for their patience. While we wanted to launch in June this is proving difficult due to project commitments.

We are now fully networked and connected to one another from The Gradon NE40 Studios.

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Do you recognise this now?

An experienced hands-on service from the Design Director.

We've talked to you, we've listened to you...we're doing it!

The construction industry is experiencing wholesale changes as a result of the world economic downturn. In order to survive we are all going to have to change and become better!

At GRADONARCHITECTURE we are ready for you!



..THINGSHAVECHANGED... INARCHITECTURE

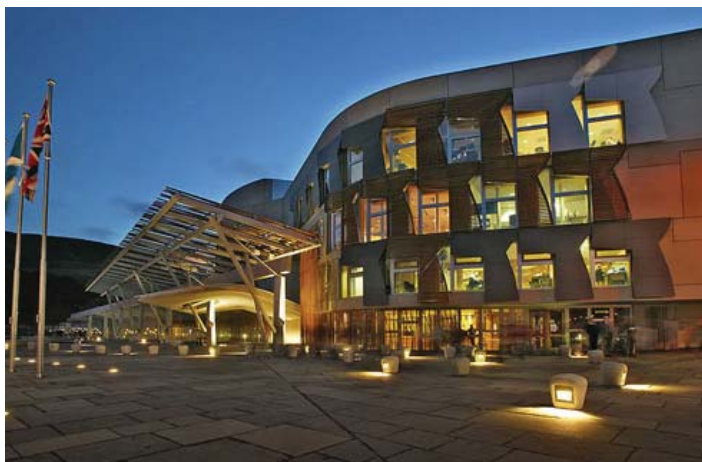
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JULY 2009

...Things have changed

Following two months of careful planning and listening to our clients, consultants and contractors, we are delighted to launch GRADONARCHITECTURE with our new website and welcome you to it.

We thank you all for our experiences in life this far, your support and look forward to continued success in the future.



JULY 2009

...Put on your boots

Ciaran Boots visit Scotland's controversial Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh. Designed by Enric Miralles, the building has been the subject of a lot of criticism, as a result of the phenomenal overspend associated with it. Despite this the building is a remarkable architectural and construction achievement. Miralles' vision of a building reflecting Scotland's landscape, people and culture has been spectacularly realized. Robust details, high quality materials and accurate construction have led to possibly the best building of our generation...but at a cost



JULY 2009

...Put your boots on

Graham and Donna put on their Boots and visit Poznan in Poland to attend a friend's wedding, which proves to be a very traditional Polish affair fuelled with much vodka! The old quarters of The Stary Rynek Old Town area offer a colourful array of Baroque and Renaissance which are beautiful and well preserved despite the odd tell tale of ricochet wounds from World War Two. Modern infrastructure and transport systems put much of the UKs to shame. A real sign of how Poland is developing and what it has to offer is the Blow Up Hall Hotel designed by Tado Ando.



AUGUST 2009

...Money raised for St. Oswalds Hospice

Donned in fancy dress, driven blindfolded to an unknown destination and abandoned with no money and no mobile phones GRADONARCHITECTURE participate in The Sanderson Challenge. The venture takes the team from Newcastle, to Rothbury, to Morpeth and Seahouses in search of clues and participation in bizarre impromptu challenges...all in a good course. The event raises over £4,000.



SEPTEMBER 2009

...Money raised for Multiple Sclerosis

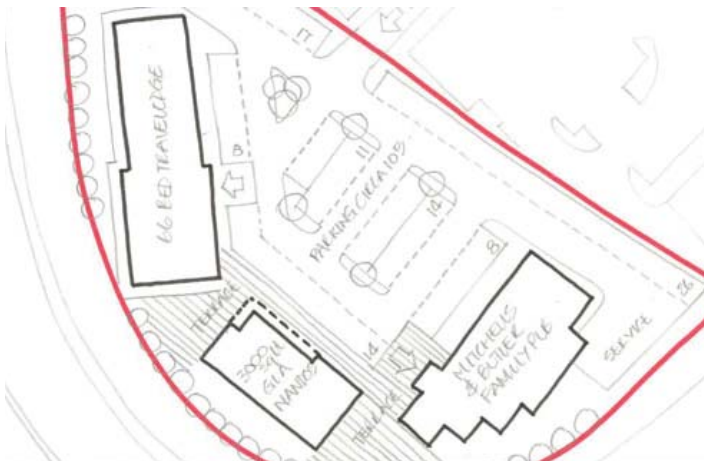
Our team participate in the 29th Great North Run. Our times vary depending on the level of training but Guinness once again proves to be the best form of preparation and recovery!



SEPTEMBER 2009

...Life begins at Forty

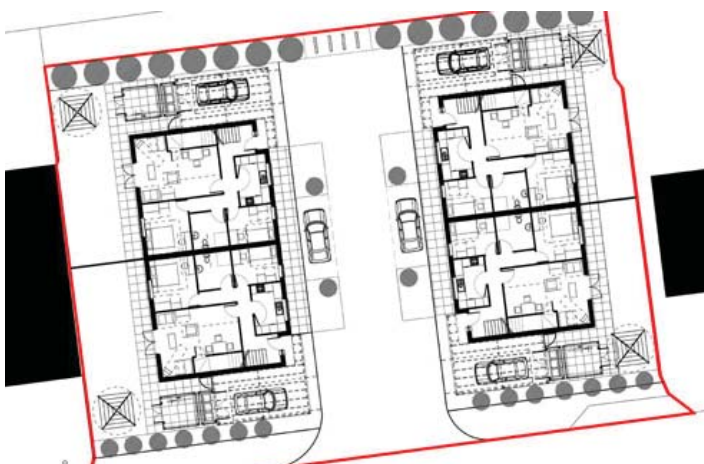
Directors and founders of GRADONARCHITECTURE, Graham and Donna McDarby turn forty. The number 40 will play a significant part in the future growth of the business.



SEPTEMBER 2009

...Designs start at Teeside Park

Feasibility studies commence on a 1.5 acre site on the gateway site to Teeside Park. Initial uses comprise a mix of retail, leisure and hotel accommodation.



NOVEMBER 2009

...Planning submitted for CSH

A detailed planning application is submitted to Gateshead Council for a development of accessible family homes at Norfolk Avenue in Birtley. Having secured funding from the Homes and Community Agency, Gateshead Council appoints GRADON ARCHITECTURE to design some of the first of their new homes in over thirty years. Each home will be built in accordance with Secure by Design, Code for Sustainable Homes and Lifetime Home standards.