



JANUARY 2010

...It's all in the planning

Following a number of weeks of feasibility and concept design development GRADONARCHITECTURE submit a number of private housing projects for planning approval. These developments include the conversion of an agricultural cowshed in Stocksfield into spacious open plan living, the refurbishment of an upside down house in Jesmond and an extension of an existing cottage in Hexham. All of the projects offer the clients modern and contemporary interventions to their existing accommodation and challenge a number of planning directives.



FEBRUARY 2010

...The best design starts with a vision

Given the opportunity to convert a former church into a viable proposition to safeguard its heritage and future, GRADONARCHITECTURE commence work with The Northern Synod to explore a number of differing ideas. A sensitive response is required to the building fabric as well as a real understanding of a sustainable use to fully preserve the community asset.



APRIL 2010

...Ash cloud keeps boots grounded

Tanja puts on her boots in anticipation of strolling along the Champs Elysees and visiting Notre Dame. Unfortunately there is nothing the boots can do against the volcanic ash clouds streaming down across Europe from Iceland. They ultimately see Tanja stranded at the airport and back in the studio the same day with much of world grinding to a standstill as a result. The power of nature puts a lot into perspective.



MAY 2010

...NEAS Centre submitted for planning

Following an appointment in February 2010 and a busy collaborative period of design development, GRADONARCHITECTURE submit a detailed planning application on behalf of The North East Autism Society for an education and training facility at New Warlands Farm in Durham. The facility will incorporate a number of specific design features suitable for autistic students and subject to gaining planning approval will start on site immediately.



MAY 2010

...Extraordinary measures at Belsay

Ciaran Treanor, a GRADONARCHITECTURE sponsored student at Newcastle University School of Architecture secures an English Heritage fellowship which allows him to exhibit his work alongside some of the UK's leading contemporary artists. The Extraordinary Measures exhibition runs at Belsay Hall throughout the summer. Ciaran's winning artwork, Wild Horses appears as seemingly random organic shapes which form a number of coherent images of horses outside the stable block at Belsay.



JUNE 2010

...Swinburne Residence starts on site

Work commences on site for a private residence in Jesmond. The proposals include the introduction of a new first floor garden terrace to connect the upside down living accommodation with the first floor open plan living spaces. Materials comprise of natural slate sets, through coloured render, aluminium framed windows and glass balustrades and will seek to provide a contemporary addition to the existing exclusive street scene.



JULY 2010

...Stu Kent joins the team

Following the completion of his Part 2 Architecture degree, Stu Kent joins GRADONARCHITECTURE. During his studies Stu worked alongside the team as a part time consultant where he demonstrated flair and ability beyond his years. We are delighted to strengthen our team with new emerging talent of Stu's calibre on a full time basis.



JULY 2010

...Moving in, moving up

Having played a significant part in the growth of GRADONARCHITECTURE over the last twelve months we are pleased to announce the promotion of Tanja Smith to Associate Architectural Technologist. Following steady growth we are at the same time delighted to announce the appointment of Chris Allan as Associate Architect who rejoins Graham McDarby following his time at Ryder Architecture.



JULY 2010

...Who's King of the Castle?

GRADONARCHITECTURE enter four teams into the annual Sandcastle competition held on South Shields beach. The event supports Children North East and sees local schools assisted by our industry to design and build a range of innovative sandcastles. Our prior engagement sessions with our allotted school, St Mary's in Jarrow, sees us design and build The Angel of the North, The Great Wall of China, London and Table Mountain. A great day was had by all.



JULY 2010

...Put your boots on

GRADONARCHITECTURE support twelve students from Newcastle University who journey to a remote Ugandan village to build a children's village. Known as The Wider Mbarara project, the aim is to construct a children's village for orphans. Every year since 2004, 12 students attending Newcastle University who are part of the Architecture, Planning and Landscape (APL) and Civil Engineering and Geosciences (CEG) schools commit to raising the funds and go out to Mbarara, South West Uganda and help the community which is massively affected by HIV and is home to thousands of orphans. GRADONARCHITECTURE will support the project for the next five years with design development, financial assistance for future trips and ongoing fundraising.



JULY 2010

...Affordable Housing in for planning

A development of seventeen new homes comprising of accessible bungalows and family homes is submitted for planning to Gateshead Council. The scheme complies with Code for Sustainable Homes standards, Lifetime Homes and Secure by Design standards. Having secured funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, subject to planning approval, the project will commence on site in November 2010.



AUGUST 2010

...NEAS all framed out

One month into a tight five month build programme, the steel frame of the new education facility for The North East Autism Society is erected at New Warlands Farm. The building form is a simple steel portal frame which reflects the existing agricultural sheds on the farm. Internally the plan and volume provides a flexible space for evolving education methods and if necessary further expansion.



AUGUST 2010

...NE40 Studios in for planning

Following a sensitive appraisal of a former church and hall in Ryton, GRADONARCHITECTURE conclude their proposals for its conversion into what will become NE40 STUDIOS...more than NE1. The conversion will offer a space for like-minded creative businesses to invent themselves, grow and flourish.



AUGUST 2010

There's more to it than just work...

Donna McDarby, Finance Director of GRADON ARCHITECTURE shares with us her typical day of children, pets and management. The Journal 26 August 2010.



SEPTEMBER 2010

...The Triple Challenge

The plea... We recognise more than most that times are difficult at the moment and we cannot be as generous to our charities...but the good causes for which we have all supported over the years remain in desperate need of our support. GRADON ARCHITECTURE have therefore set a tougher challenge to reflect the tough times we are all experiencing to help us reach our target of raising £2,000 in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. Graham McDarby and team members Stu Kent and Chris Allan will participate in The Buccleuch Challenge, a gruelling 60k mountain bike route around the Drumlanrig Castle Estate, near Dumfries on 10 September. Graham and Stu then take part in the Great North Run on 19 September, then Graham heads off alone to undertake the Kielder Marathon on October 17.



OCTOBER 2010

...Work starts on NE40 Studios

Having secured detailed planning permission for the conversion of a former church and hall, work commences on site at NE40 STUDIOS. GRADON ARCHITECTURE assemble a team on site to oversee the sensitive project works. Completion is anticipated in January 2011.



OCTOBER 2010

...Triple challenge completed

GRADON ARCHITECTURE would like to thank all of those who gave their support and generous donations we have received in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. We are proud to say we didn't take the advice of those who said we were mad and we successfully completed all of the challenges we set ourselves. Despite Chris suffering serious cramp during the Buccleuch Challenge, we finished the course in a respectable 5/36 position in a time of just under 6 hours. Graham and Stu both finished the Great North Run in 1 hour 53 mins and Graham completed his first marathon at Kielder in 4 hours 40 mins. All of the events were heavily fuelled before and after with Guinness!



OCTOBER 2010

...Novocastra revisited

Having been involved with the original designs of the micro research facility Novocastra over the last twelve years, Graham McDarby and the GRADON ARCHITECTURE team are appointed by Leica Micro Systems to revisit the operational facilities of the building to accommodate the company's changing requirements and extended product range.



OCTOBER 2010

...Teeside Park submitted for planning

Plans are submitted to Stockton Borough Council Planning Department for planning permission to transform the former site of Springs Health Club on Teeside Park, which has become an eyesore since it closed in 2002. The proposals will transform the former health club site into a 66 bedroom Travelodge, a Nandos restaurant as well as a Mitchells and Butlers pub style eatery. The redevelopment will not only see £7.5 million of private money being invested into the site but will also see the creation of 64 full time roles across all three outlets. Subject to planning permission works are anticipated to commence in early 2011, with the project earmarked for completion by Autumn 2011.

NOVEMBER 2010

...oh so quiet...then BANG!

Since launching our website in July 2009 we have not kept it up to date but we have been busy! Sixteen months on we now have...

- ... a core design team
- ... a supporting design team
- ... a new home at NE40 Studios
- ... a range of exciting projects to talk about
- ... a few pairs of well worn boots

We think it is time to share what we have been up to.

THINGSRCHANGING...

Meet our talented team...

Tanja Smith Senior Architectural Technologist | Stu Kent Architecture Graduate | Sophie Benton Trainee Architect | Chris Allan Associate Architect | Graham McDarby Design Director | Dimpy Kansal Architect | Aaron Young Part 1 Architecture Graduate | Ciaran Treanor Architecture Graduate | Donna Finlay Finance



PEOPLE LIKE WHAT WE DO
 They say they are going to do ... Quality Architect ... Talented ... Committed to delivering excellent architecture within realistic

JULY 2010

...Merry Christmas and Best Wishes

We share with you some seasonal images carefully designed by some of the learners from The North East Autism Society Thornbeck College who we have been working with over the last ten months to deliver their new college at New Warlands Farm in Durham.

The artwork brings together their own visions of what their new college looks like.

The individual original pieces of art can be viewed on www.gradongallery.com and can be purchased by way of a discretionary donation with all of the proceeds going to The North East Autism Society.

Special thanks to all who participated. To find out more about Autism visit www.ne-as.org.uk

