



Friday February 14 2014
Issue 2095 £2.90 bdonline.co.uk

'Civic markets are caverns of weirdness and complexity surrounded by chainstore boredom'

Owen Hatherley

OPINION PAGE 7



Why Skye's the limit

Dualchas' house by the loch P.12



Chipperfield makes history in Berlin

The practice's new offices pay tribute to the site's past P.8

BUILDING DESIGN ARCHITECTS' BEST LOVED WEEKLY



Foster's greenhouse effect

Foster & Partners has submitted plans for a new Maggie's centre in Manchester. The £6 million scheme at The Christie is to open in 2016. Norman Foster said: "This project has a particular personal significance, as I was born in the city and have first-

hand experience of the distress of a cancer diagnosis. I believe in the power of architecture to lift the spirits and help in the process of therapy." He highlighted the scheme's focus on natural light: "Within the centre there is a variety of spaces — visitors can gather

around a big kitchen table, find a peaceful place to think or they can work with their hands in the greenhouse." The gardens — designed by Dan Pearson — range from a "working glass house to bright clusters of flowers and tranquil water features".

McAslan walks out of public inquiry

Elizabeth Hopkirk

The public inquiry into John McAslan's plans to redevelop Smithfield Market in London got off to a dramatic start this week when the architect himself walked out of the witness box. McAslan had been called to the inquiry at the Guildhall in the City of London and was asked to give his version of the practice's appointment of former English Heritage director Paddy Pugh last year. EH has not objected to McAslan's plan for developer Henderson Global Investors and David Cooper, solicitor for Save Britain's Heritage, which is opposing the scheme, asked him about the timing of the appointment.



'The only thing that makes me very cross is suggestions of inappropriate behaviour' John McAslan

McAslan said: "How is that relevant?" Cooper said it might have meant McAslan knew what English Heritage considered an appropriate height for any development at the market. But McAslan said: "I really find that offensive, the way you have tried to connect these two incidents, which you obviously did, and the inspector has told you

it's not relevant. I really do take exception. I want it to be noted that I take offence at that. "The only thing that makes me very cross is where there are suggestions, as you have made, that there's any sense of inappropriate behaviour." McAslan then walked out, explaining that he was "going to stop for a moment", leaving the inspector to ask the developer's QC, Christopher Katkowski, what was going on. Katkowski said McAslan, who returned around a minute later, was "upset" by the questioning. The inquiry is due to finish at the end of next week.

MORE ON SMITHFIELD, PAGE 3

BD's new generation

It is with a sense of great pride and excitement that we today announce a series of sweeping improvements to BD.

Since its launch in 1970, BD has always gone against the grain, its hard news edge and irreverence shining through its pages as it consistently set the agenda, held the profession to account and influenced those who matter.

Loved and feared in equal measure, BD's impact has been felt not only within the architectural profession but also in the corridors of Whitehall and the wider built environment.

Over the decades BD, and the excellent list of people who have written for it, have split opinion, educated, entertained and informed. But, crucially, they have turned BD into an integral part of the community it serves. But times, as they say, are a changing. And it's now time for the next chapter in our history — one that is even more focused on engagement with our loyal community of architects and design professionals.

A central part of the plan is for BD to become a digital first brand. With the highest levels of online traffic, comments and engagement, BD has been at the forefront of a digital revolution not only in the way our community consumes information but also in the way the architectural profession continues to innovate in a digital world.

With these plans comes investment from our parent company, UBM, and a new editorial strategy. This is about evolution. BD will continue to provide news, analysis, comment, data, technical information, building reviews and pack the kind of punch that gives it its edge. But we plan to do much more, too, across digital and face-to-face platforms as well as build on our global position with BD's WA100 survey of the world's top architects and our annual showcase of expertise at the Architect of the Year Awards.

So today we are pleased to celebrate

BD's history but also to point to our digital future. Your new BD will include:

■ BD Futures Forum

A new think-tank, in partnership with Ecobuild, will look at the macro issues that impact the future of design, from sustainability issues through to population growth and water shortages.

■ The Carbuncle Club

An extension of our now infamous Carbuncle Cup, this new club will be BD's own building and design panel assessing projects throughout the year with a group of experts. And one where you will be able to have a say, too.

■ BIM Taskforce

Launched at our BIM Show Live event in April, this taskforce will help architects understand and implement the technology.

■ Interiors Community

A new blogging area of the website will be created in partnership with our sister exhibition the May Design Series.

■ New-Architect Advisory Group

BD will set up an advisory group to profile up-and-coming practices, focus on the key professional issues and keep BD at the forefront of the emerging issues.

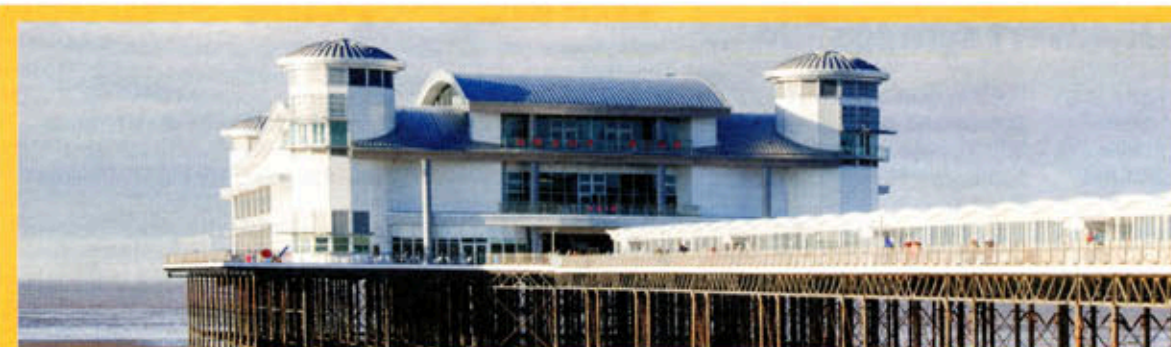
■ Intelligence Hub

An online resource based on live data from our sister brand Barbour ABI will assess top architects by value and look at the economic picture for the profession with our economist Michael Dall.

To this end, our last printed BD issue will be on March 14. But let's be very clear, this is not a story of BD's demise or misfortune. This is about investing in BD's digital future and embracing the digital future for the wider built environment. We will continue to be in touch with the needs of our community and allow it to have a much greater say online, and, in doing so, to set the agenda.

This is about bridging a generation gap. To lead where others will follow. We hope you will join us on the next exciting stage in the BD journey.

Tom Broughton, BD head of content



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BUILDING TRUST



PROJECT →

Rain pergola for Microsoft Italia HQ



The steel and glass rain pergola extends from the building's facade at a lower level than the shade pergolas to provide a canopy that gives shelter from the weather.

Architect
Flores & Prats
Location
Peschiera Borromeo,
Milan, Italy

By Hugh Strange

The headquarters for Microsoft Italia sits in the rural landscape of the Padana plains outside Milan, the clean lines of its glass volumes contrasting with the surrounding flat landscape. The design of the new entrance by Barcelona-based architects Flores & Prats seeks to stitch these two diverse characters together, metaphorically drawing the landscape towards and into the building.

Responding to the patterns of the furrowed fields, rows of trees and regular irrigation channels, a series of new canopies and shades, composed of parallel metal tubes and sections, form a meandering approach route that gently rises and, in the form of brise-soleils, appear to climb up the facades.

The majority of the canopies, referred to by the architect as

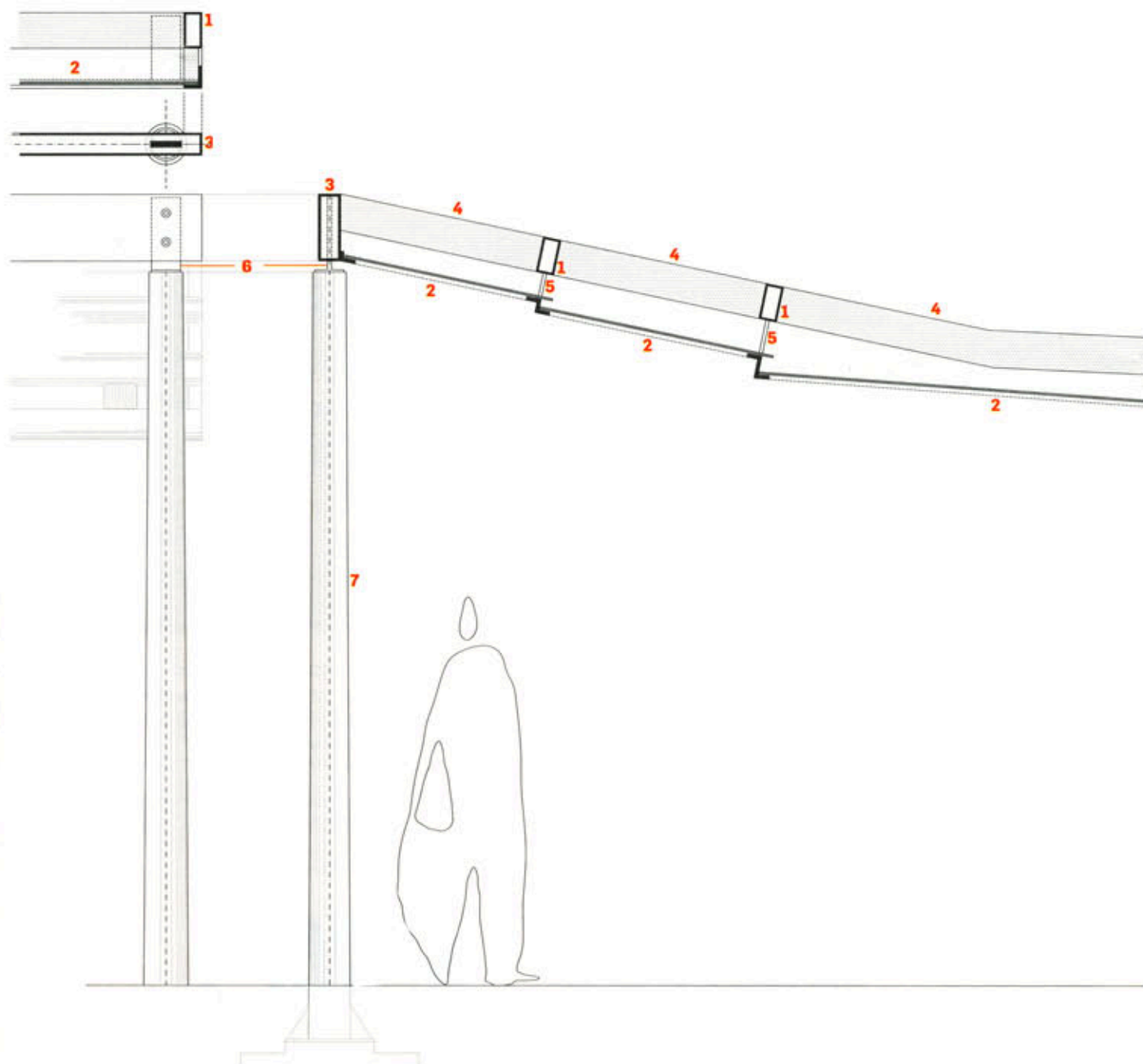
"shade pergolas" provide shelter from the sun, while one, constructed of metal and glass and running at a lower height, is referred to as a "rain pergola". The various canopies weave and overlap in both plan and section, their rhythmic lines creating complex patterns of shelter and shadow.

The columns of the open canopies are formed by tapering tubular steels that reduce to a diameter of 150mm at their tops. Onto these are fixed 150mm T-sections with a series of anchor plates welded to the top section. Bolted to the T-sections are the shade-giving 60mm metal tubes, fixed at 165mm centres. The "rain pergola" differs in that the tapered columns support a grid of 300 x 100mm rectangular hollow sections, from which stepping panes of glass are hung.

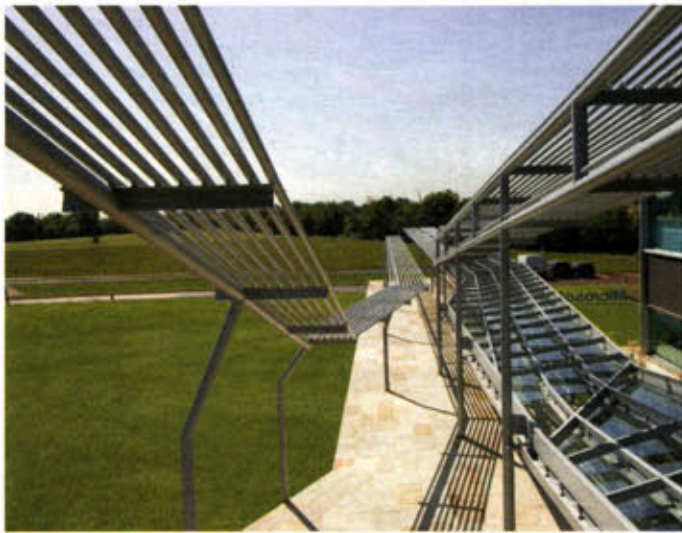
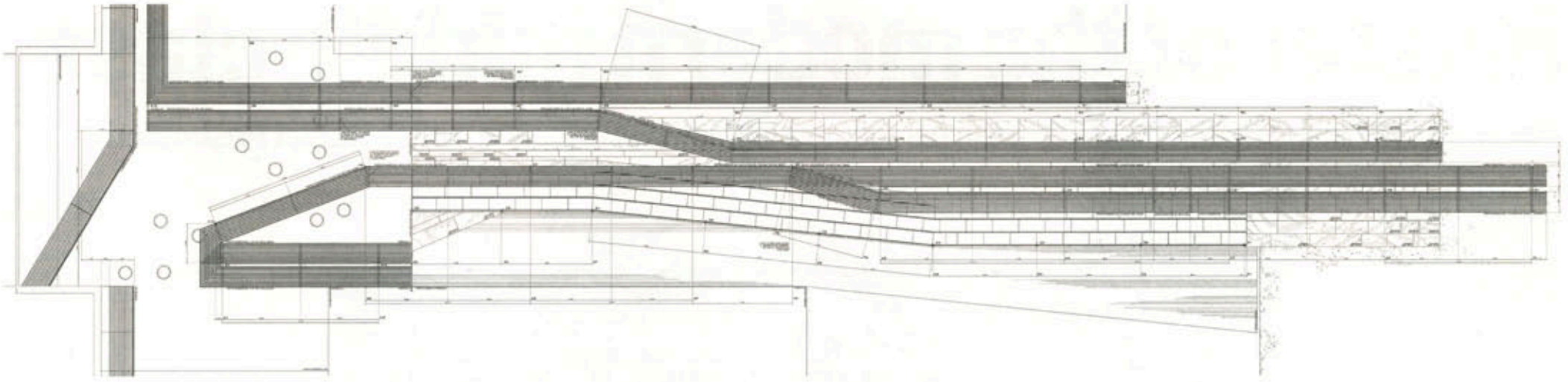
PROJECT TEAM

Architect and landscaper
Flores & Prats Architects
Client Microsoft Italia and Vitali Spa (developer)
Botanic adviser Luigino Pirola
Interiors ReValue

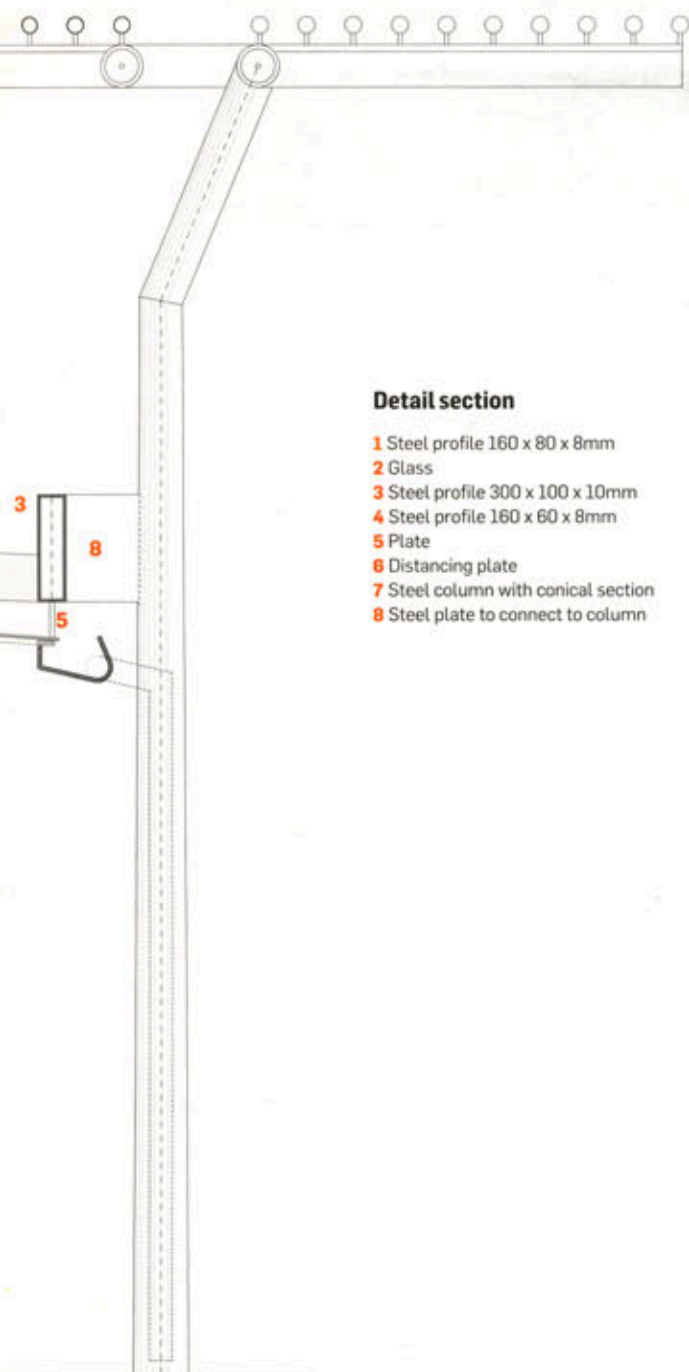
Sketch showing how the metal tubes continue as brise-soleils up the facade of the building.



Pergola plan



The overlapping pergolas create complex shadow patterns.



Detail section

- 1 Steel profile 160 x 80 x 8mm
- 2 Glass
- 3 Steel profile 300 x 100 x 10mm
- 4 Steel profile 160 x 60 x 8mm
- 5 Plate
- 6 Distancing plate
- 7 Steel column with conical section
- 8 Steel plate to connect to column

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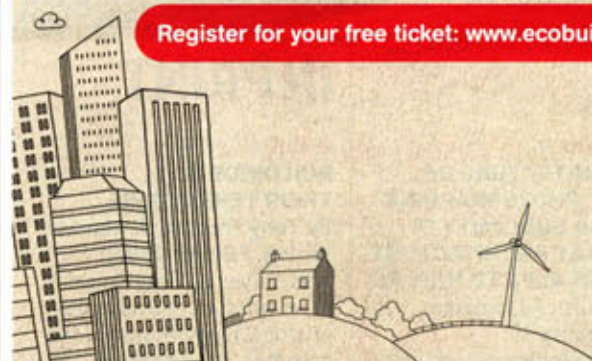
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