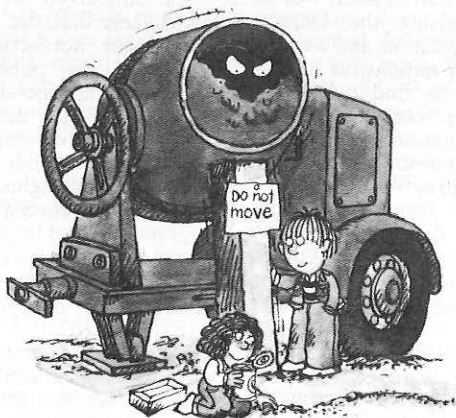


Keep children off the site

Twelve-year old Malandra Borrows neglected her homework – but for a good cause. Instead she wrote a poem spelling out the dangers of building sites.

Malandra's poem was the winning entry in the Health and Safety Executive's national

Poetry Competition, part of a major campaign to warn children against playing on sites. The competition attracted over 1000 entries. Celebrity Pam Ayres also wrote a special "horror" poem which was illustrated by McLachlan (one sample below).



The Building Site by Malandra Borrows

*Beware of me, the Building Site,
so terrible by day and night,
Stay clear of me or risk being sick
– victim of a falling brick.*

*I'm a mixer for cement,
that's the way my life is spent,
Slip in me and this you'll learn
– I'm not particular what I churn!*

*I'm a jagged half-built wall,
more cruel than a lion's maul,
My bricks are loose, my mortar wet
– a fall from me you won't forget.*

*I'm a ladder to scaffold high,
never climb me – don't even try!
You're bound to slip and it's a cert,
you'll bawl your eyes out in the dirt.*

*I'm a hole of mystery,
don't risk a look inside of me.*

*To climb down me is quite insane
– you may never see outside again.*

*I'm a cable of electricity,
I kill with shocking simplicity.
Don't tug, twist or cut me with knives
– you're not a cat and haven't
nine lives.*

*I'm a mound of cement and sand,
a hilly beach on building land,
But I'm not the seaside if that's
what you think
– I could fall and bury you
quick as a wink.*

*So when you see me stay well clear,
I'm someone you must always fear.
Play, have fun, scream and fight
– but not on me, I'm a Building Site.*



25 YEARS AGO

Smog and the architect: The Government has decided to set up a committee under an independent chairman to undertake a comprehensive review of the causes and effect of air pollution, and to consider what further preventative measures are practicable. It is estimated that the fog of last December was responsible for some 4000 deaths in the Greater London area alone. This pollution of the air we breathe is responsible for more deaths every year than the state of our roads. Its effects on the health of city dwellers are incalculable. So too are its economic effects, though every architect and builder is familiar with its effect on paint and

brickwork and the damage it has caused to the masonry of some of our finest buildings.

Leader 10 July 1953.

100 YEARS AGO

Prevention of decay in wood: A method of treating wood to preserve it from decay has (says the *Mining Journal*) been invented by Mr Waldemar Thilmann of Cleveland, Ohio. After the wood has been steamed in a closed cylinder or chamber to drive off the sap, moisture and other matters, a vacuum is created by the action of a pump; then the wood is charged with a solution of sulphate of zinc and iron, either combined or separately. The proportion should be about one pound of the sulphate to 100lb of water, more or less, depending upon the nature of the wood and the purpose for which the treated wood is designed.

News 6 July 1878.

Diary

Next week



"Reflection": preparing window frames prior to installation.

Creative industrial photography exhibition of work by Len Dance FIIP FRPS. Venue: Pentax Gallery, London W1. Date: until 28 July.

SUNDAY 9 JULY

Building centre at the Palace: an event for producers and users, the media and the building industry in general to meet each other in a friendly atmosphere. Venue: Alexandra Palace and Park, London N22. Details: Andrew Brett, The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1. Tel: 01-637 1022.

MONDAY 10 JULY

Memorial celebration and thanksgiving: for Enid Caldicott: to be held at 12 noon at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, Bedford Street, London WC2. Light refreshments will be served in the AA library, 34 Bedford Square, London WC1, after the service. Details: Architectural Association. Tel: 01-636 0974.

Merseyside architectural week:

a mobile information centre, created and sponsored by the Merseyside Branch of the RIBA which will feature an exhibition of recent community architecture projects and provide general help and guidance for local people on all aspects of architecture, building and the environment. Venue: 10-12 July at the Pedestrian Precinct, Williamson Square, Liverpool; 13-15 July at the Students Union, Brownlow Hill-Union Precinct, Liverpool. Details: Gerald Beech. Tel: 051-709 2000.

Aesthetics again: Art Net second rally organised by Peter Cook. Venue: Central School of Art and Design, Southampton Row, London WC1. Date: until 15 July. Details: Art Net, 10-11 Percy Street, London W1. Tel: 01-636 0798.

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY

Living in cities: RIBA conference. The opening reception will be on Wednesday evening, followed by the formal conference proceedings on Thursday with two major papers by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Reverend David Sheppard, on the culture of cities, and a visual display of the urban fabric compiled by Theo Crosby RIBA. On Friday 14 July the Rt Hon Reginald Freeson MP, Minister for Housing and Construction, will present a paper to explain Government inner city policy. The conference will close on Saturday morning with some personal views, the final discussion period and closing address by RIBA President, Gordon Graham. Venue: University of Liverpool. Date: until 15 July. Details: RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1. Tel: 01-580 5533.

Product information: the planning of a national service: conference at which the results of two recent surveys into production information will be given. Venue: Cranfield Institute of Technology. Date: until 14 July. Details: Aslib Engineering Group, 3 Belgrave Square, London SW1.

Future events

Man, environment and buildings: symposium organised by the Chartered Institution of Building Services to discuss current environmental criteria for design and the impact of these on the building, its services and its energy consumption. It will highlight research activity into comfort in the UK and consider the type of building and living styles that may evolve in the future. Date: 28 September. Venue: Loughborough College of Technology. Fee: £36 (members CIBS); £45 (non-members). Details: Conference Secretary, CIBS, 49 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0JB.