

THE NEW CROP

After extensive consultation with the industry, we have selected another group of 40 talented individuals under 40. Here, **Emily Wright** profiles eight of them. Photos by **Eoghan Hanrahan**



Pascale Scheurer

36, founding director of Surface to Air architects and Wired architects

Where will you be in 10 years?

Leading an international architecture practice along the Arup model, and having built up our interests in IT and renewable energy.

Where do you see the construction industry going in the future?

A lot of great people are leaving the UK because of the recession but London is fantastically well-connected and all those people moving globally are like pollen carried by a gust of wind – they'll seed new partnerships.

What has been your high point so far?

Turning over our first million. I went out and joined the Classic Car Club, which I'd wanted to do for eight years. Turns out it's cracking value for money.

And the low point?

Red-lining an entire tender package at VIPIM the morning after a very late night at Tom Bloxham's villa.

Who is your hero?

Bertrand Piccard – the guy who travelled round the world in a balloon. A true pioneer. And not unattractive.

If you could take one thing with you to a desert island, what would it be?

Bertrand Piccard!



James Morris

38, European director, Jones Lang LaSalle

What has been the hardest challenge you have faced so far?

In the early days of my career, it was difficult to get recognised as someone with the potential to succeed in our industry.

Where will you be in 10 years?

Running a profitable business with international opportunities. I also aim to be managing an engaged team, building relationships with clients and enjoying life.

What has been your high point so far?

Building a successful project and cost management business (KHK Group) from scratch more than seven years ago and integrating it into Jones Lang LaSalle.

And the low point?

Making friends and colleagues redundant

Who is your hero?

Sir David Lean

If you could take one thing with you to a desert island, what would it be?

A helicopter.



Peter Millett

39, managing director of Shepherd Construction's west division

Where will you be in 10 years?

Still working in the industry as up to today is only part of the journey. I have had the privilege to work with and for some exceptional people and we have an obligation to make sure the next crop of leaders better our achievements.

Where do you see the construction industry going in the future?

We all know that the next two or three years will be difficult owing to the economic conditions. To survive in such difficult times will require an entrepreneurial approach. During the next decade the industry mustn't lose all the good things that were developed during the noughties; everyone needs to work hard to develop the industry to create true sustainable partnerships where trust, ownership and challenge are at its core.

Who is your hero?

Sir Frank Lampl. His life story and achievements are truly amazing.

If you could take one thing to a desert island, what would it be?

My family.



Ajay Sharma

35, regional director, HLM Architects

What has been the hardest challenge you've faced to get where you are?

Standing up and being recognised. I didn't want to push too hard and seem too desperate for success. I just kept my head down and worked very hard.

Where will you be in 10 years?

I would like to have earned myself a position on the board of directors.

What has been your career low point so far?

In all honesty I haven't experienced one yet.

Who is your hero?

My late father. He was a hard worker, great businessman and teacher. He taught me how to be a businessman, ruthless yet sensitive to situations.

If you could take one thing with you to a desert island, what would it be?

My iPhone G4. I am often accused of not switching off when I'm on holiday or on a break ... why change the habit of a lifetime?



To find out who else features in our new 40 under 40, and for updates on more of the originals, go to www.building.co.uk/careers/40under40



Nigel Wood

31, regional commercial manager, Laing O'Rourke

Where will you be in 10 years?

Opportunities can quickly present themselves in this industry so I like to remain flexible. I'd like to move towards a broader operational role and be in a position to influence the strategy that shapes the business for the next 10 years.

What has been your high point so far?

I've had lots of high points, particularly when I've been working with successful teams in the delivery of projects from start to finish.

And the low point?

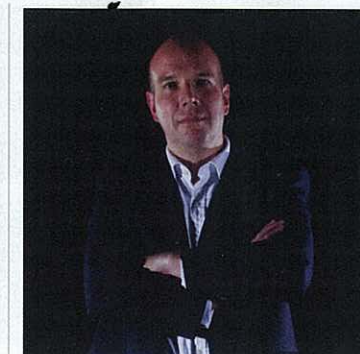
When we have an unsuccessful tender. I hate losing!

Who is your hero?

I don't have a single hero but being an avid Doncaster Rovers fan the current chairman, John Ryan, has got to be worth a mention for recently turning round the direction of the club.

Where do you see the construction industry going in the next year?

The challenge will be attracting talent to the industry and investing in their training and development to ensure we continue to improve the image and efficiency of the work we carry out.



Howard Penstone

37, development manager (national centre), Network Rail

What has been the hardest challenge you've faced to get where you are?

Accepting the fact that as a project and development manager, you will never know everything about construction and property. This is why I place so much emphasis on strong and collaborative relationships with other experts in their fields.

Where do you see the future of the construction industry going?

Next year the industry will be feeling the impact of the cuts arising from the spending review. This is bound to result in further casualties. However, I expect to see more private sector investment emerging which should offset some of the pain.

What has been your high point so far?

Watching the ground being broken at Network Rail's national centre in Milton Keynes. It represented the culmination of 18 months of work.

And the low point?

Watching how the slump has affected the construction industry and the people involved in it has been very sad.

Who is your hero?

My father.



Ben Hudson

27, project manager, Mace

Where will you be in 10 years?

I would like to be working for a client organisation with responsibilities for an international portfolio. I'd also like to improve my golf handicap.

Where is construction heading?

I fear that many of the promised innovations and advances in the industry will not materialise now; we have abandoned collaborative working for short-term protectionism. The challenge facing our generation is to find a successor to the Egan agenda that will remain sustainable in the face of harsh global markets.

What has been your high point so far?

The first time I was responsible for managing a winning bid.

And the low point?

When I admitted to myself that I was never going to qualify as an architect because I did not have the creative flair that would enable me to compete with Hadid or Koolhaas. It was the first time I'd really failed at something that I had wanted to do.

If you could take one thing with you to a desert island, what would it be?

Aftersun.



Geraldine Fleming

38, vice-president and executive director, Knowles

What has been the hardest challenge you've faced to get where you are?

Trying to keep my motivation up while doing my law degree part time, and missing social and family events because I had to study.

What has been your high point so far?

When a client phones you back for more advice on another project – it shows that they were happy with the work you did first time round.

And the low point?

Being rejected for sponsorship by Wimpey in 1990 – however, this disappointment quickly evaporated as I was given a summer placement job at Balfour Beatty in 1991. They subsequently gave me a year-out placement and sponsored me during my final year, and then gave me a job on completion of my degree.

Who is your hero?

My dad, who was an ex-JCB driver and gave me the best possible career advice – to be a QS. He didn't get it quite right as he said that QSs earned loads of money and got company cars! But I have certainly enjoyed every day at work.