



Andy Corp, the Royal Institute of British Architecture's Head of Southwest, selects his top 10 modern architectural wonders from round these parts.



feature

BUILDING SIGHTS

ROOM 13

Architect: Mitchell Taylor Workshop
Location: Hartcliffe, Bristol

1 "This is a world first which is changing the lives of kids in Hartcliffe for the better. Architect Piers Taylor has captured a sense of fun and importance in this building which juts out of the Hareclive Primary School Playground. Internally, the towers flood the building with mood-enhancing light and provide vertical space for innovative creations and projections. At the front of Room 13 is a rectangle of steps which create a natural outdoor debating arena. The students use this to discuss their plans for the building's future. Being Bristol-born and very familiar with the area, Room 13 instantly warmed my heart. It demonstrates that architecture is, more than anything, about people."

THE EGG THEATRE

Architect: Haworth Tompkins Ltd
Location: Theatre Royal, Bath

2 "The Egg is the third and smallest performance space for the Theatre Royal, Bath. It is a small-scale children's theatre which has been inserted as two-thirds of a red egg - which more or less says everything about the playful nature of this place. When I was a kid we used to watch theatre productions in Weston woods and this building creates a similar aura of magical mystery, a space where storytelling is important and the building is as key a performer as the actors on the stage. In this age of multi-million lottery-

fueled revamps, a lot can be learned from this little theatre which has performance at its heart."

'HEELIS', NATIONAL TRUST HQ

Architect: Fielden Clegg Bradley LLP
Location: National Trust, Swindon

3 "OK, it's not Bristol or Bath - but Heelis is one of Britain's most important buildings, is right on the doorstep of the region and is open to the public. Planned as the ambitious new headquarters for the National Trust, architects Fielden Clegg Bradley applied to the job their eco-know-how and sustainable principles to create a building which is as eco-efficient as it is beautiful. State-of-the-art and totally in-tune with meeting the challenge of climate change, the building somehow manages to encompass the work, passions and heritage of the National Trust - even though it's right next door to an out-of-town discount retail centre. In a word: magnificent."

SS GREAT BRITAIN & HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Architect: Alec French Architects
Location: Cumberland Road, Bristol

4 "When the SS Great Britain Trust decided to find a solution to preserve this historic but rapidly rusting vessel, they must have been sweating over how best to compliment the genius of I.K. Brunel. And they found it in architect David Mellor. The vast glass platform which is covered with running water creates a space

below which is simply unique - the experience of going sub-water-line under the great glass canopy, dwarfed by the massive ship, cannot be given justice in any photographs. Bristol should be as proud of this architectural wonder as it is of the legacy which Brunel has left us."

CAFÉ @ BLAISE CASTLE

Architect: CODA Architects
Location: Blaise Castle, Bristol

5 "This modest project is a carefully considered solution to the need for a facility at a space both with vast numbers of visitors and, sadly, vandalism. Sheltered behind the retained wall of a barn there is a water wall etched with the sentiment: 'And years afterwards you'll remember that kiss on the bridge where nail heads glittered like stars under your feet'. This has to be the most romantic solution to preventing graffiti anywhere in the world. It also creates a suitably poetic background for visitors reflecting over a cup of tea on a sunny day at Blaise."

SPIKE ISLAND

Architect: Caruso St John Architects LLP
Location: Cumberland Road, Bristol

6 "Spike Island has been a space for creative people for decades - but the recent renovation has produced a remarkable place with a genuine buzz. The light created by the new ceiling in the main gallery spaces is flawless, bringing to life the exhibits within, whilst the creation of studio space and an area for small and

burgeoning creative professionals is a great innovation which will propel the region's profile as a centre for creativity. The new café-bar should soon become a meeting place for all the creative types in the expanding corridor from the Tobacco Factory to Paintworks."

PAINTWORKS

Architect: Acanthus Ferguson
Mann Architects
Location: Bath Road, Bristol

7 "Some regeneration projects are screamingly obvious. It's clear to anyone who has been to Broadmead or the Southgate Centre in Bath, for example, that both need some designing and development. But Paintworks is one of

those rare occasions where it must have taken genuine vision to see the possibilities of this site, opposite the cemetery which had been neglected for decades. Yet what has grown from this jumble of old brick units is a magnificent symbol of the aspirations of the region.

Mixing venue, offices, living space and the home of TV hit 'Deal Or No Deal', the redesign has created a space where people want to be. Ten years ago, who'd have dreamt of a good night out round the back of Temple Meads? But, with a remaining phase yet to be completed, Paintworks has redefined the cultural map of Bristol, and Totterdown has become the place to be for artists and designers in the West Country."

MOONSHINE

Architect: Mitchell Taylor Workshop
Location: Woodland, 10mins from central Bath

8 "I had to umm and ahh about including Moonshine in this list because it is a private family house, but it is a house which tells us so much about the power of great design. This wooden extension to an ancient woodland school building is set half a kilometre from any car access, and it feels like a home amongst the tree canopy. The finish is simple - plywood floors and walls - but all the more pleasing for this work of great design on a budget. It has been selected by 'Grand Designs' as an example of what is possible with a dream and a very skilled architect."

THE LIGHT HOUSE

Architect: Stride Treglown Ltd
Location: Barton Hill, Bristol

9 "The Light House (a competition name) is an annex to the family play centre and provides childcare training rooms, social spaces and volunteers' workrooms. It epitomizes the idea that great architecture is about the people that use it. The architects designed a fully accessible, flexible building in a very congested area, in a part of Bristol which needs to feel the benefit of community cohesion."

THE POINT

Architect: Fielden Clegg Bradley LLP
Location: Whapping Wharf, Bristol

10 "For me, the great thing about The Point is not only its scale and majestic sweep along Whapping Wharf, but the fact that its appearance on the sensitive riverside came about at a time when Bristol was struggling to make sense of its purpose as a city with a river running through it. Six years on, the city's connection with the river makes perfect sense. The introduction of The Point and other riverside developments has helped us embrace our future and let go of our collective wish that Bristol was still an important international dock. I'm particularly impressed by the treatment of the space around it, which has become a place of public enjoyment for weekend riverside strolls to Brunel's Buttery for a bacon sandwich."