



Guernica



Shackleton



MP3 player



Glenn Patterson

In My View

Robert Bleakney

In My View – Robert Bleakney

Robert Bleakney RIBA is an architect practicing in Moira. Some years ago he was the winner of the Ulster Architect Energy Efficiency House Design Competition which was sponsored by housebuilders, F.T. Ferguson & Co. His winning entry was built at Glengormley.

What is your most prized possession?

It's not my most prized possession but if I could only take one thing to a desert island, I would take my mp3 player.

Who was the greatest influence on your life?

My mother who sadly died recently. She had a very strong work ethic, was very kind and very determined.

Which architect or architectural practice has influenced you most and briefly why?

The first practice that I worked for - Diamond Redfern Anderson. Recently on holiday I visited their Castlepark Village which won an RIBA award and I still admire that scheme. I learnt so much in the first few years working in their office that it most certainly influenced and shaped my architectural views.

Who is your favourite visual artist and briefly why?

It is difficult to pick one but I would choose from:- Picasso for his inventiveness in different periods and particularly the painting "Guernica" which symbolizes the destructive impact of all war. This painting is in the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid and is well worth seeing. Velasquez - "Las Meninas" - a fascinating study of perspective or Paul Henry - 'Into The West' etc which perfectly captures damp soggy days in Ireland.

What is your favourite view?

The sunrise - anywhere. A new day, a new opportunity to do something interesting or worthwhile.

What book are you reading at the moment?

Roland Huntford's biography of Ernest Shackleton. It is interesting to see how much things have changed in 100 years, the many communication devices that are available to us and a reminder that polar exploration then was as difficult and unknown almost as space exploration is now;

Glenn Patterson's 'Lapsed Protestant'. An interesting selection of earlier writings on Belfast and NI and a reminder of how things have changed and at the same time how things have remained unchanged in recent years.

Also reading to my younger daughter at bedtime - Mark Twain's - 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' (It seems to have echoes of the 'Horrid Henry' books that she likes to read herself). The language in Tom Sawyer now seems quite archaic.

What music are you listening to at the moment?

Mark Knopfler - most of his albums, Ry Cooder's - 'Mambo Sinuendo & Chavez Ravine'; Snow Patrol's 'Final Straw' & 'Eyes Open', Cold Play's 'X & Y'.

Who is your favourite living architect?

Richard Rogers. I like his earlier buildings - The Centre Pompidou, Lloyds Building and the more recent Barajas Airport and National Assembly for Wales. I also like the work of Frank Gehry particularly the Weissman Art Museum.

Who is your favourite architect of all time?

Le Corbusier. The Villa Savoye and Notre Dame du Haut are particular favourite buildings.

Throughout the world what is your favourite building?

Probably Frank Lloyd Wright's 'Falling Water' or the Chrysler Building in New York. My favourite interior is that of the 'Hill House' by Charles Rennie Mackintosh which is timeless.

In Ireland what is your favourite building?

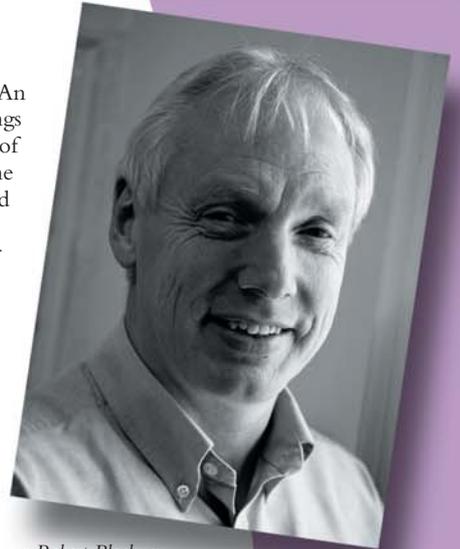
Mussenden Temple. A simple classical design with a fantastic location.

Where did you study architecture?

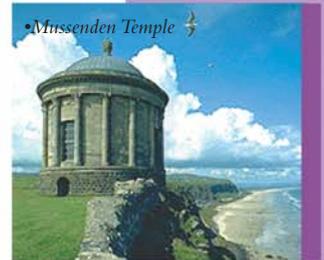
Q.U.B.

If you won the Lottery what would you do with the money?

As I have never bought a ticket I guess I would share it with whoever bought the ticket. Giving the money away or spending it would help me get over the surprise!!



• Robert Bleakney



• Mussenden Temple



• Pompidou Centre



• Sunset



• Villa savoye

• Photograph of Robert Bleakney taken by Paul Megahey