

Chippo profits up on 25% lower turnover

Practice's workforce also falls to 92 as international projects complete

David Chipperfield Architects' turnover and staff numbers have fallen by a quarter, according to the company's latest trading report.

The 25 per cent drop in revenue, from £9,823,030 in 2012 to £7,412,812 in the year ending December 2013, coincided with the 'successful completion' of a number of key projects, including the Museo Júmex in Mexico City and One Pancras Square at King's Cross in north London.

While profits ballooned from £71,000 to £394,717, the workforce shrank from 120 to 92. According to the directors' statement, the office was 'reduced in size, stabilised and [showed] a greater profit margin', creating 'strong foundations on which to



build the future'. The statement continues: 'The focus for the following years is on securing a reliable profit margin. We have a stronger national [UK] client base than in previous years when a greater percentage of work was international.'

Among current home-grown projects is a large residential

scheme (pictured), on the Colville Estate in Hackney with Karakusevic Carson Architects (AJ 01.08.14), and the overhaul of the east side of Selfridges' Oxford Street store (AJ 05.06.14).

Chipperfield took home a director's dividend of £460,000 in 2013, up from £280,000 in 2012.

Richard Waite @waitey

AHR reveals proposals for former BBC site

AHR has become the latest practice to work up plans for the former BBC Oxford Road site in Manchester. The architect revealed all-new proposals for the plot featuring 14,000m² of offices and 350 homes. A previous scheme for the site was worked up by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios in 2012. www.theaj.co.uk/AHR

Businesses call for planning reform rethink

Business groups, planning officers and Mayor of London Boris Johnson have called on the government to drop a key element of its latest proposed planning reforms. A raft of planning changes floated over the summer includes allowing planning permission-free conversion of offices to homes in core London business districts, removing exemptions won by Johnson last year. www.theaj.co.uk/planning

RSHP unveils LSE social sciences centre design plans

New images of Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners' competition-winning scheme for the LSE's proposed £90 million Global Centre for Social Sciences have been revealed.

The design proposals went on public display this week ahead of a planning application, which is expected to be submitted later in the year.



Court caps Shell Centre challenger's legal costs

A legal challenge to Squire and Partners' £1.3 billion Shell Centre redevelopment has cleared a major hurdle after the High Court agreed to cap the costs of the challenge against the scheme.

Writer and activist George Turner said he had been granted protection on costs that would limit his exposure to £5,000 in the case, which seeks to challenge viability data provided to a public inquiry that preceded the scheme's approval in July this year. www.theaj.co.uk/ShellCentre