

and 27 per cent respectively.

Glenigan economics director Allan Wilén said the pace of expansion in the commercial sector had clearly eased over the past six months, driven in part by a drop in investment across the economy during the second half of 2014.

'The recent sharp decline is a break in this trend, and suggests a wholesale decision to "wait-and-see" by private sector clients and developers,' he said.

'We expect construction will start to spring back during the second half of the year, so long as a credible government is formed and the prospect of a second general election later in the year fades. This would mitigate the impact of the recent slowdown.'

More positively, the findings show the value of housing starts were up 1 per cent, with a 4 per cent growth in private housing starts offset by a 6 per cent decline in social housing.

The hotel and leisure sector, meanwhile, grew by 11 per cent in the three months to March. *JD*

## BARTLETT SECOND IN WORLD SURVEY OF ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS

The Bartlett School of Architecture has come second in a league table of the world's 100 best places to study architecture.

The London-based school was beaten to top spot in the rankings by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Compiled by higher education data specialist QS, the table is based on academic reputation, employer reputation and research impact.

Other UK institutions to make the list include the universities of Cambridge, Cardiff, Salford, Newcastle, Sheffield, Oxford Brookes, Nottingham, Bath, Edinburgh, and Liverpool. *LM*

🐦 @aaalexmaxwell citations = impact = £££ = 'we're the best' in 2015. Unis run an antiquated system.



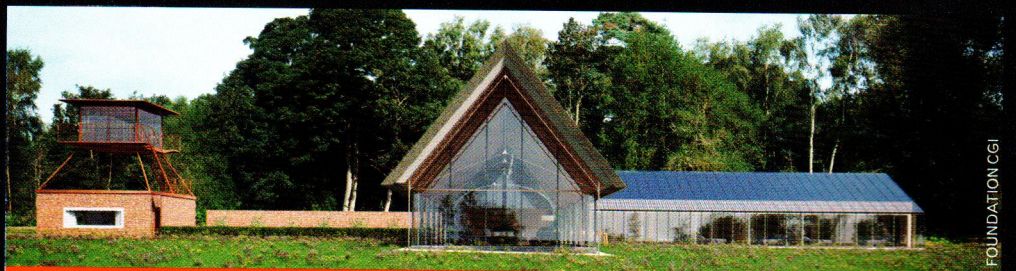
Burrell Mistry



Hudson Architects



ADAM Architecture



Sanei Hopkins Architects

## FOUR PRACTICES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF 'COUNTRY HOUSE' CLAUSE

Architects have relied on the little-used 'country house' clause for four wildly different homes on rural sites in recent weeks.

Last month London-based Burrell Mistry successfully used paragraph 55 of the National Planning Policy Framework – an exemption allowing new-build homes in the countryside under 'special circumstances' – to bag permission for a 1,263m<sup>2</sup> home in Surrey's green belt.

Hudson Architects netted approval for

a proposed £1.2 million, 350m<sup>2</sup> 'bio-based' PassivHaus in Burcott, near Wells in Somerset, while Robert Adam's practice ADAM Architecture won the go-ahead from King's Lynn Council for a nine-bedroom Classical country house on farmland at Docking, Norfolk.

In March Sanei Hopkins Architects secured consent for a 'modest' family house in rural Suffolk. The 'homestead' for practice founders Amir Sanei and Abigail Hopkins and their five children has been designed to be highly adaptable, with the 'kids' bedrooms becoming small studios for each of their future families and the living space becoming the meeting place'. *RW*