

The Daily Telegraph

Weekend

Saturday March 15 1997



Big Hair

Making a comeback
for the Nineties

Page 10

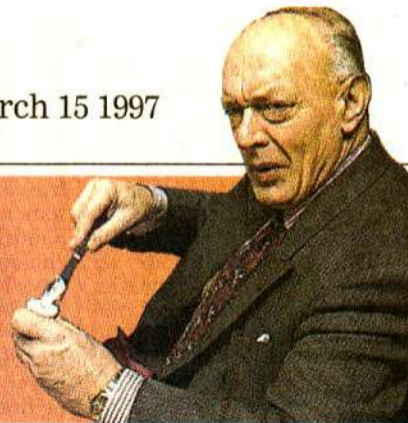


Ship ahoy!
The Endeavour
sails again

Page 24

'This is funny food'
Euro-sceptics eat the
mussels from Brussels

Page 13



How your own home could win you a holiday



The Daily Telegraph Individual Homes Builder of the Year Awards

DESIGNING or building your own home is one of the most creative and satisfying achievements. But until we launched *The Daily Telegraph* Individual Homes awards in 1993, the efforts of individual house-builders went largely unrecognised.

Architectural awards went to grandiose public projects, not to real houses for real people. Previous winning homes represent the best of British house building and design, and some of the designers have gone on to scoop international architectural awards. As a result of our competition, judging panels now take house design more seriously.

In a few years, the competition has grown in importance and is now recognised as Britain's biggest and most prestigious award for the builders and designers of one-off new houses. This year the top prize is a one-week holiday in Prague and Vienna — two of Europe's grandest and most enchanting cities, each with a reputation for magnificent building and fascinating places to visit.

There are special-category prizes for conversions, a key section partly because British plan-

ning rules encourage people to convert buildings and partly because, as a nation, we are so fond of them.

There will also be prizes for the most elegant contemporary design, the best architect of an individual house project and the best traditional design.

This is not an elitist competition. It is primarily for the creators of elegant and well-executed homes in which they intend to live, people who are proud of their environments and have contributed to making their neighbourhoods more attractive.

You might have done all the work yourself, but that is not a condition of entry. Whether you hired a builder, found a romantic ruin and commissioned a contractor, or have recently completed your own home, the competition is open to you.

We are running the competition in conjunction with *Individual Homes* magazine, which will launch it at the Individual Homes Building and Renovating Show, at the NEC, Birmingham, from next Thursday until March 23.

You can obtain half-price tickets at £3.50 each by showing a copy of *The Daily Telegraph* at the door.

How to enter

For an entry form, send a stamped, addressed envelope to Individual Homes, 91-93 High Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 8AQ.

THE PRIZE

A one-week holiday for two adults with Crystal Premier Cities comprising three nights in Prague (right) and four in Vienna. It includes return flights from Heathrow, plus first-class rail transfers between the cities. Travel insurance is included and the holiday is subject to availability.



Picture: JOHN EDWARD LINDEN

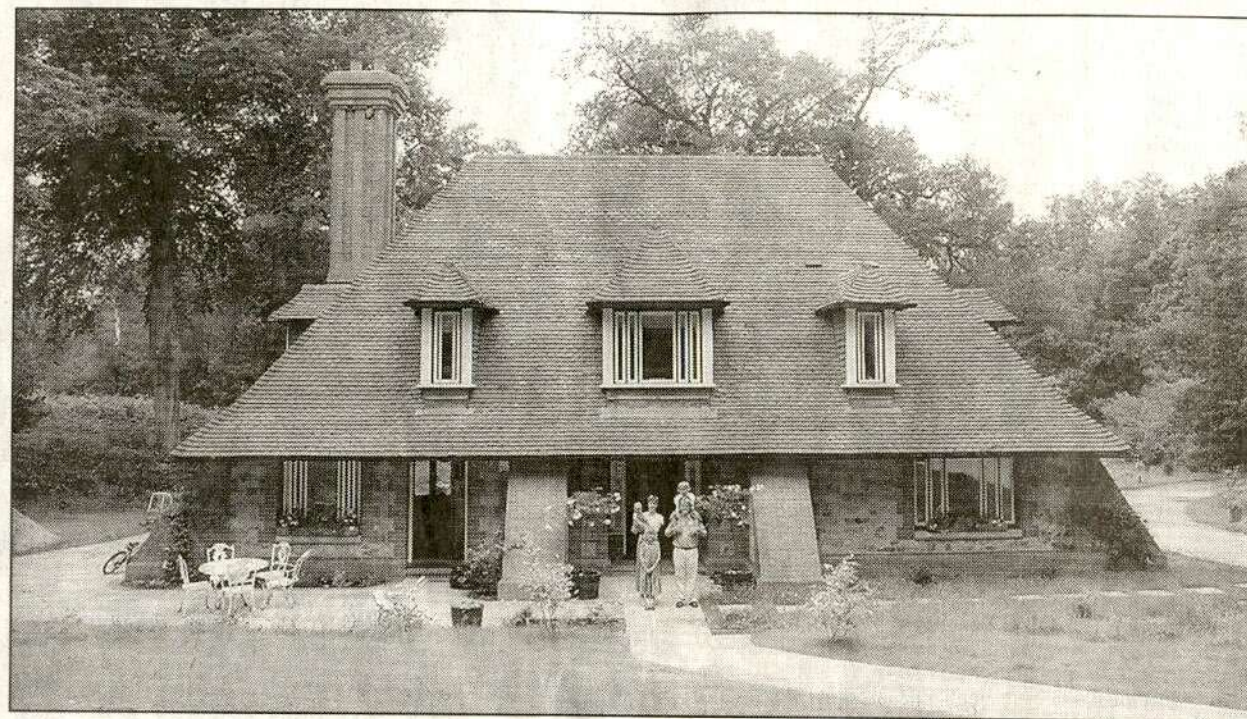
Overall winner

The winners of last year's top prize were Elizabeth Monk and Michael Winter, who built an energy-efficient house in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, for about £300,000.

Standing in a mature wood, the house impressed judges by the way it succeeded in being modern and yet perfectly in keeping with its surroundings. The roof, for example, was covered with copper, which will eventually weather to produce a soft, natural verdigris.

Low-energy, double-glazed panels gave the house a light and airy feel while also providing excellent insulation.

Michael Winter, an architect, employed a traditional timber frame structure, using cheap and ecologically sound scrap wood for the internal beams. Cavities were filled with recycled newspapers, to reduce heat loss.



Pictures: ANTHONY COLEMAN



Best traditional house

Megan and Neville Farrington's four-bedroom house beside a lake in West Sussex was designed for them by local architect Neil Holland. The house, which cost £150,000 to build using local materials, won the Best Traditional House category. Fittleworth stone was used for the walls, the roof was finished with hand-made clay tiles.