

## October Lunch

Having been warned of torrential rain we were surprised to have yet another fine and sunny day, which set lunch off to a good start.

I was delighted that Diana Yakeley could join us; she remembered that I had been to tout my wares at her practice many years ago when I was but a callow youth. Diana and I now sit on the Council of the British Institute of Interior Designers, formerly the British Interior Designers Association, where she has worked tirelessly for countless years to raise professional standards and gain Institute status.

Last month we had the pleasure of Moshen Tayebi's company and this month we were pleased to welcome his business partner at Stanhope Gate, Alireza Sagharchi. Alireza has a long and impressive record of achievement over his career with it would appear plenty more to come.



Left to right: Richard Paxton, Kees Van der Sande, Neil Stevenson, Diana Yakeley, Alireza Sagharchi and Jasper Weldon

Theresa-Mary Morton is the Head of Exhibitions at the Royal Household and I take great pride in calling her a friend. It took some time to achieve this status as TM, as she is affectionately referred to, is a demanding client who suffers fools badly. We have undertaken many projects together, all usually involving late nights and early mornings to be ready for the openings at the Queen's Galleries in London and Edinburgh.

Kees Van der Sande shares a keen interest in modernism with Diana Yakeley, and now finds himself engaged by Formation Architects on the largest residential refurbishment of an historic property in London, 100 Park Lane. He was instrumental in the selection of only the best companies for the internal works and Jasper and I are very pleased to say that we amongst the successful appointees. Kees has a very impressive international track record as an Architect, but I like to think he gets his talent, from the family furniture business that he managed for a number of years.

Richard Paxton is Sales Director for Walter Lilly Limited who coincidentally is the Main Contractor for 100 Park Lane. Richard has followed a circuitous route from IT to construction, his role in the development of traffic camera technology came of something of a surprise but we forgave him as he has obviously seen the error of his ways.

The general feeling with regard to the market was slightly more downbeat than previously, echoing my view that 2010 was likely to be more trying than 2009 as we start to experience the lag in new projects over 2008 affecting the supply chain into the premiere residential sector. Fortunately for Jasper and I we are due to start Park Lane around June 2010. This though still leaves early 2010 to fill.