



ROYAL HONOUR: Julian Owen shows off his MBE, with his wife Jill and parents Richard and Joyce

PICTURE BY CHARLES GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Local architect awarded MBE

By LYNETTE PINCHESS

BEESTON architect Julian Owen has been presented with an MBE by the Queen.

His wife, Jill, and parents, Richard and Joyce, accompanied him to Buckingham Palace.

Mr Owen, whose practice, Julian Owen Associates, is based in Cumberland Avenue, was honoured for his services to architecture.

He said the award came out of the blue. "It was a great surprise to be put forward."

"Meeting the Queen, however brief, was an interesting experience, although when she asked why I was receiving the medal, I found it difficult to explain."

"The nomination procedure seems to be very mysterious and I was hoping she would be able to tell me how I had been chosen," he said.

Mr Owen, who has run his own practice for ten years, has been responsible for innovative designs for people building their own homes.

His firm once designed two show houses at Alexandra Palace which were built in a week and demolished in the space of a day.

Mr Owen was involved in the conversion of the prominent Lenton Lodge, the former entrance to Wollaton Hall in Derby Road.

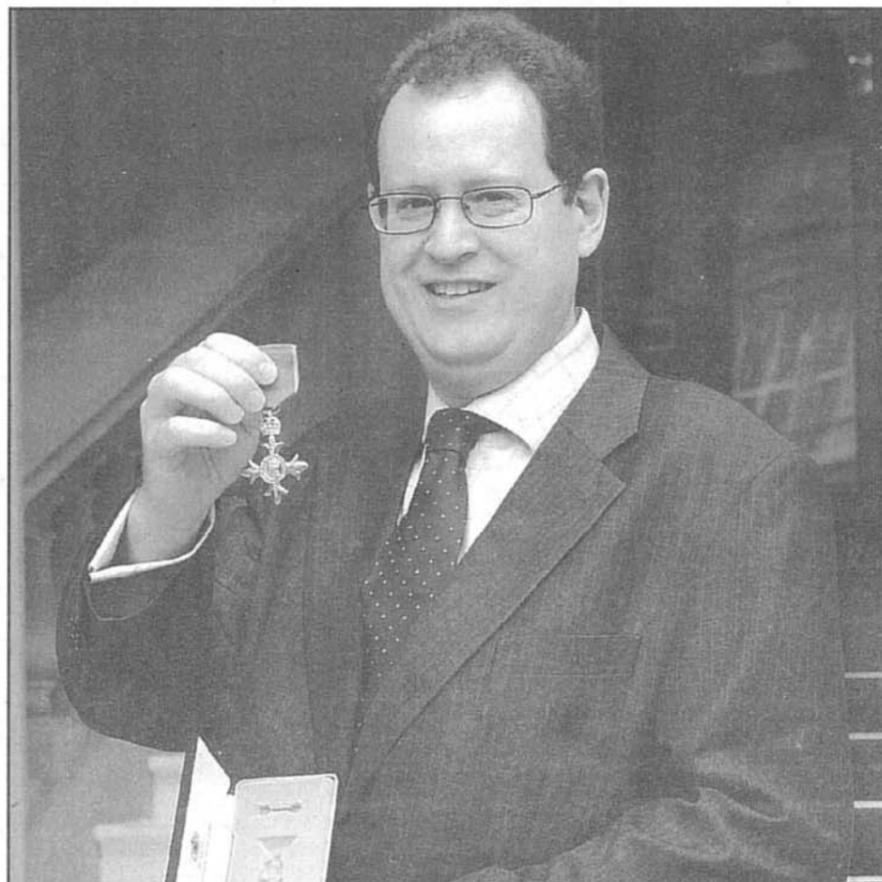
He said: "We have built some one-off houses in Beeston."

"A growing trend is for people to knock down existing houses or bungalows and redevelop the site with a new house."

"With single plots in such short supply in Beeston, this is almost the only way of building your own home in the area."

Mr Owen has been president of the Nottingham and Derby Society of Architects and was elected by architects across the country to represent them at the Royal Institute of British Architects' Council in London.

Ten years ago, Mr Owen formed a network ASBA Architects, which has become a significant voice pushing for change in the profession.



BIG DAY: Julian Owen after receiving his MBE at Buckingham Palace

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