



ARCHITECTURE AND THE VISUAL ARTS

FASHION WEEK AWARD DEMONSTRATES EXCELLENCE BY DESIGN

Kelly Shaw, who graduated this year with first class honours in Fashion Design, made headlines with her innovative "Brit kitsch" collection at the Graduate Fashion Week Gala Show in June. Featuring embroidered hoodies with full-skirted dresses, strawberry-print rain macs and marigold rubber gloves, the collection won the £2,000 prize in the prestigious River Island Gold Awards. Her designs attracted acclaim from critics and buyers alike for their bold and imaginative use of materials, colour and pattern, their exemplary cutting and styling, and their witty references.

Victoria Beckham, a member of the Award's judging panel, was particularly impressed, buying a number of the pieces and publicly praising Kelly's work in TV and magazine interviews. The collection was featured in several national newspapers, and, in October, went on display at Selfridge's in Oxford Street. ■

Among the UK's leading centres for architecture, and highly rated for research in art and design, our school of Architecture and the Visual Arts (AVA) brings together fine art, fashion and textiles, visual theories, digital arts and visual communications. AVA students have won numerous awards and distinguished alumni include Ken Russell, Peter Greenaway and Jake Chapman. Fay Brauer, photographer David Montgomery, architect Rodrigo Perez de Arce, sculptor Richard Wilson and Turner Prize winner Grayson Perry are some of our visiting professors.

Important landmarks in 2007 included a major retrospective at the Venice Biennale of the work of Professor John Smith, plus international exhibitions of work by, among others, Faisal Abdu'Allah, Faye Brauer, Grenville Davey, Gereon Krebber, Michael O'Pray, Michael Pinsky and Susan Stockwell.

The AVA Showcase held throughout the summer demonstrated once again the strength and depth of student work, and Canary Wharf Group plc awarded a new travel and research scholarship for outstanding AVA students. Among numerous

student achievements, Krystal Orphanides was selected to exhibit at the New Designers SELECTION at OXO Tower gallery, and UEL photography student Sophie Drury was awarded the London City Airport photography prize.

The school confirmed its reputation as a centre of excellence for teaching and research in architecture. David Adjaye accepted an Honorary Doctorate, and Diploma student Kiyooki Takeda was shortlisted for the RIBA Silver Medal and named by Building Design Magazine in its 'Class of 2007'. ■

"I couldn't wait for the models to get their clothes off actually so I could get them on... I think she's really, really talented - it's so exciting to find a new, fresh designer."

Victoria Beckham, speaking about UEL fashion design student Kelly Shaw as part of an interview on GMTV, 5 June 2007

◀ Students' work on show at MA Fine Art exhibition

▼ Students' work on show at AVA showcase

