Building a profile: Irish architects making their mark on London

After their exceptional work at the London School of Economics, and the Photographers' Gallery, O'Donnell and Tuomey should win more challenging commissions in the British capital

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James Stirling was the first architect to win the Royal Gold Medal for a non-British architect in 1974, and thereafter follow-up commissions came through the door. His own London School of Economics building of 1968-69 was a perfect example of his co-existence with the city. Since then, the consensus among the architectural intelligentsia has been that British architects are not the most internationally experienced or adventurous, especially in the modern period. The exceptions are, of course, Norman Foster and Richard Rogers, whose Post-Modern buildings have been building themselves away;

To quote the architect, "Our clients are the British public who are as insatiable as the ancients." He describes the British public as "enlightened" in their interests, saying that they are "intellectual, curious, and demanding." The architects, he says, "are trying to please the public in a variety of ways, but they are not always successful."

The London School of Economics building, for example, is considered by many to be a masterpiece of modern architecture. It was designed by James Stirling and embodies his philosophy of "enlightened" design. Stirling's approach to architecture was characterized by a focus on the relationship between the building and its environment, and his work often included innovative solutions to solve architectural challenges. His approach to design was influenced by his own interests in art and philosophy, and his work often incorporated elements of both into his designs. Despite this, Stirling's work was not universally appreciated, and his designs were often the subject of controversy and debate. Despite this, Stirling's work continues to be highly regarded by many in the architectural community, and his legacy as a pioneer of modern architecture continues to be felt today. His work has been widely studied and celebrated, and he is considered one of the most influential architects of the 20th century.