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Cover: Trevor Sutton's interpretation of Foster Associates and their work. (l to r: Michael Kuch, Michael Hopkins, Birkin Howard, Frank Peacock, Mark Sutcliffe, Norman Foster, Loren Butt, Wendy Foster. Associates not shown: Reg Bradley, Tomm Nyhuus)

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This month

AD last covered the buildings and projects of Foster Associates in May 1970. Since that time the organisation has expanded considerably, moved into flashy new offices and taken on a more varied programme of work.

Even so the projects shown in this issue retain the style of Fosters' early work. The BSD sectional perspectives are still there, the attention to detail, the light weight structures and the comprehensive over view of design problems.

Although ecologists may criticise Fosters' buildings for their high-energy technological input the office is of interest as an example of a finely tuned operation producing efficient and sometimes innovative buildings in the real world.

There is more of Royston Landau's special issue on complexity to be found in Sector, and in Round-up (successor to Symposium, successor to Odds and) there are a group of related articles on planning in London which focus on some of the more vital issues and might thus be expected to call forth the vituperative and 'irresponsible' comments that AD is so often accused of printing, instead all is in the nature of constructive criticism and positive proposals – even though the articles emanate largely from that centre of dissent, the Save Piccadilly Campaign.

Next month

Bucky looks back. Special issue with R. Buckminster Fuller and some of his associates. Edited by Michael Ben-Eli.