



ARCHITECTURE

Women with designs on awards

By JAY MERRICK

Until the arrival of Zaha Hadid, women architects, however brilliant, tended to be background figures. Hadid's vivid ascent has cast light into the once shadowy realm of female architectural talent. And next week, thanks to the campaigning pushiness of the Architects' Journal, we will find out who the 2014 Woman Architect of the Year and Emerging Woman Architect of the Year are.

The shortlisted designers in the first category include women who are already considered to be outstanding. Even a hugely successful star architect such as David

Chipperfield wouldn't assume he could dominate a design competition that included Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects, who created the School of Economics at Luigi Bocconi University in Milan; or Francine Houben of Mecanoo, who designed the new Birmingham Library.

As for the shortlist of emerging women architects, Hannah Corlett of Assemblage beat Zaha Hadid in the competition to design the \$1bn Iraqi Parliament building, before picking up design commissions for a university building in Qatar and a new settlement in Iraq.

But she has stern competition. Exceptionally fine architecture has been delivered by young designers including Hana Loftus, whose HAT Projects practice created the beautifully crafted Jerwood Gallery in Hastings.

The winners of the Architects' Journal Women in Architecture Awards will be announced on 7 February (www.architectsjournal.co.uk)