

Astragal



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TOP GRAND

Kevin McCloud, who seems to be becoming a regular in this column, became one of the fastest men ever to appear on the BBC's motoring show *Top Gear* last week. The *Grand Designs* host's lap time was so quick, it rocketed him to second on the leaderboard, shocking presenter and anti-green dinosaur **Jeremy Clarkson**. Only Jamiroquai front man **Jay Kay** has managed to post a faster time in the 'star in a reasonably priced car' slot's seven-year history. A fantastic result for the 'eco-mentalist', even without a project manager to see the process through on schedule.

SWAN SONG

A late entry to the AJ Small Projects Awards landed on Astragal's desk this week. This 'Starchitect Karaoke Booth' by **Piers Taylor** of **Mitchell Taylor Workshop** and **Mole Architects** features a show-stopping **Zaha Hadid** belting out Katy Perry (pictured above). If pictures could talk, this one would be singing its way to X Factor glory.

SIR TERRY TO YOU

Astragal received an interesting phone call from an AJ reader one morning last week, relaying the details of some recent correspondence with **Terry Farrell's**

office. In one email from the man himself, the reader was curtly informed that the use of his title 'Sir' would be appreciated. 'I noticed that in last week's AJ you referred to him as "Terry Farrell" and in one case just as "Farrell". You're sailing very close to the wind,' the reader added, a note of foreboding in his voice that left Astragal's knees knocking.

KNUT ON YOUR NELLY

It seems Astragal is not the only one who has been following the story of **Knut**, the orphaned German polar bear. Knut shot to media fame after Berlin Zoo took the decision to hand-rear him. A string of maulings and teenage difficulties led him down the path

of many a child star, prompting *The Times* to dub him 'the Britney Spears of zoo animals'. Berlin Zoo recently announced its decision to sell him, but help is at hand in the shape of a bespectacled Berlin resident, **Daniel Libeskind**. The Deconstructivist architect is one of thousands of Berlin residents lobbying to keep Knut in the capital. Astragal wishes him luck.

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Would you look for another job if your practice reduced your pay?

Next week's question: Non-Muslims are forbidden from entering Mecca, so should a non-Muslim be allowed to redesign it?

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