

save up to

£4110

at Caffyns Brighton

new and used car event
starts **29th December**

Hurry don't miss out, limited numbers available



SAVE £2850



SAVE £2300



SAVE £920



SAVE £4110

Golf TSI DSG New
Delivery miles £18485 RRP
Caffyns Price **£15,995**

Beetle Luna New
Delivery miles £15295 RRP
Caffyns Price **£12,995**

Fox New
Delivery miles £7915 RRP
Caffyns Price **£6,995**

Jetta TDI SE New
Delivery miles £20105 RRP
Caffyns Price **£15,995**

Save up to £1000 on a used car
Select from a wide range on show and UK stock, over 300 cars

08 57	Fox 1.2 3-dr, red, 13,600 miles	£4,495	10 59	Golf 1.6 TDi S 5-dr, black, 11,800 miles	£12,995
07 57	Fox 1.4 3-dr, silver, 13,100 miles	£4,995	06 56	Golf 2.0 TSI GTI 5-dr, grey, 37,600 miles	£12,995
10 10	Fox 1.2 3-dr, black, 3,000 miles	£6,495	09 59	Golf 2.0 TSI GTI Auto 5-dr, white, 6,000 miles	£21,995
07 57	Polo 1.2 S 3-dr, silver, 6,100 miles	£7,495	10 10	Golf 2.0 TSI GTI 5-dr, white, 12,000 miles	£22,995
07 57	Polo 1.2 S 5-dr, silver, 16,500 miles	£7,995	10 60	Golf 2.0 TSI GTI 5-dr, grey, 4,000 miles	£28,495
09 59	Polo 1.2 Match 5-dr, blue, 11,600 miles	£8,495	07 56	Beetle 1.6 Luna Cabriolet, black, 43,500 miles	£9,495
08 08	Polo 1.4 Match 5-dr, blue, 22,800 miles	£8,495	08 57	Beetle 1.6 Luna Cabriolet, cream, 28,500 miles	£10,995
10 59	Polo 1.2 Moda 5-dr, grey, 12,000 miles	£11,495	10 10	Beetle 1.6 Luna 3-dr, white, 3,000 miles	£11,995
10 10	Polo 1.2 SE 5-dr, grey, 10,600 miles	£11,495	10 10	Jetta 2.0 TDi Sport 4-dr Saloon, black, 3,000 miles	£16,495
10 10	Polo 1.4 SE, black, 3,000 miles	£12,495	09 09	Passat 2.0 TDi HVL Estate Auto, black, 33,900 miles	£16,495
07 57	Golf 1.4 S 5-dr, grey, 23,100 miles	£8,995	09 59	Tiguan 2.0 TDi SE 5-dr 4x4, blue, 31,600 miles	£18,995
07 57	Golf 1.9 TDi Match 5-dr, grey, 31,000 miles	£10,995	07 07	Touran 2.0 TDi SE MPV 5-dr, grey, 45,700 miles	£11,495
08 58	Golf 1.9 TDi B/M 5-dr, black, 41,700 miles	£12,995	08 08	Sharan 1.9 TDi S 5-dr MPV Auto, silver, 27,600 miles	£11,995

2yrs / 20,000 miles free servicing on all used cars*

CAFFYNS

Caffyns Brighton Victoria Road, Portslade, Brighton, BN41 1YD
Tel: 01273 425600 Web: www.caffyns.co.uk

Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE *2 years or 20,000 miles which ever come sooner, terms and conditions apply.

JB0327

the magazine

tv&leisure

220111



Designs for life

Brighton architect Paul Zara talks about his love of iconic buildings and how he's changing the landscape of our city

Your 30-page TV guide

The Argus

Laying foundations

Local architect **Paul Zara** talks to **Ian Ray** about beautiful buildings, backing

With the rejuvenation of Brighton's voluptuous Embassy Court behind him and the much talked-about demolition and redevelopment of the Astoria ahead, Paul Zara's working day has a very visible impact on his home city.

But the architect – the longest-serving director at the prestigious Conran and Partners – is wondering where the next generation of people shaping Brighton and Hove will come from.

"It takes seven years to train as an architect, and the latest move on tuition fees will have the effect of pricing people out," the 49-year-old says.

"It's going to be a very difficult profession to get into, which is very wrong. I was one of that last generation to leave without student

borrowing, but I see people in our Brighton office with debts of tens of thousands of pounds – it'll only make it harder for people."

The gravest concern within the profession is that only the wealthy will be in with a shout – particularly disheartening when you consider that a big chunk of Zara's design work is in housing for those at the lower end of the social spectrum (he's about to embark on a mammoth, 700-home, decade-long project in Ealing, west London). Needless to say, Zara still believes the profession is rewarding enough to give it a crack.

"It really is a fun job. Aside from the fact you can still do colouring in when you're in your 40s, there's so much to it that you don't need to find other things to do to keep life interesting."

Born in Lewes, Zara trained in London after inheriting the building bug from his surveyor father.

"I was always visiting sites and looking at buildings. Through that I met lots of architects, and I think I always liked the idea of it as a job."

It was soon after qualifying that Zara was given a job with Conran and Partners, founded by design giant Sir Terence Conran, and he's now been with the retailer, restaurateur and writer for more than 25 years. Endlessly driven, Conran has won both praise and blame for his ambitious transformation of British style, but what's the 79-year-old like to work for these days?

"He can be difficult because he's very passionate about what he does, but I think he's an amazing guy to work for and I wouldn't have been here this long if that weren't the case. "Sometimes he's very charming and sometimes less so, but he's the hardest working person I know and comes back from his holiday with pads full of beautiful sketches of ideas he's had."

From founding Habitat to his own

designs, much of Sir Terence's work has been against a backdrop of "democratic design", and the commissions Zara and his team have worked on have aimed to pick up that thread.

"Better buildings, better interiors and better public spaces make people happier and improve the quality of their lives," Zara explains.

"It's a very important thing to consider in Brighton, I think.



Sir Terence Conran

If you compare it to some other cities, like Sheffield or Manchester, they have very good modern buildings but we seem to have missed out. We have

Jubilee library, but if I asked you to take me to ten really good modern buildings in Brighton I think you'd struggle. We have wonderful Regency architecture, but it's our duty as architects to be building the equivalent heritage buildings of the future."

Zara is doing his bit with the modern buildings. Conran and Partners are behind some major projects in the future of the city, not least the redevelopment of the former ice rink in Queen Square into a new hotel and leafy square, and the controversial demolition of the Astoria on Grand Parade. A super-sustainable office building, the most

for our future

the Saltdean Lido campaign and his vision for Brighton

eco-friendly in the city, will take its place.

"It's obviously a building that holds a lot of memories for people," Zara explains.

"But the outside is reconstituted stone blocks that are crumbling away, there's asbestos everywhere, and there's nothing worth keeping other than the sentiment of an historic building. I think in that case the right thing to do is to replace it with something better.

"I'm sure there'll be objections to the project in Queen Square as well, but it's one of Brighton's few south-facing squares and if it had lovely paving, trees and a stunning building at the top; it could be a really nice place."

Objections, he says, are both understandable and par for the course (he cites the example of the Gala Bingo site in Portland Road as a particularly protracted planning process). He's actually been a virulent objector to redevelopment himself, as a student campaigner against the

demolition of his beloved 1930s buildings. Today, Conran and Partners gives its services for free to the Save Saltdean

Lido campaign. The current leaseholder Dennis Audley heavily revised his original plans to concrete over the pool and construct apartments and a

It really is a fun job. Aside from the fact you can still do colouring in when you're in your 40s, there's so much to it that you don't need to find other things to do to keep life interesting

library around the lido after a public outcry. But Zara feels more protection is needed (the campaign is currently seeking an upgrade in the lido's listed status).

"I've known the building forever because everyone drives past it, but my sister spotted a poster for the campaign and suggested I get in touch with them.

"I know the current owners are looking at alternative plans at the moment, but the plans they have produced so far are completely unacceptable to me – I think it would be better to knock it down than to build flats in front of it."

Zara and his team have been putting together alternative designs, including use of the

building's rotunda as a wedding venue and conference centre.

"It's the first lido to be listed and if we save one across the country, it should be this one because the setting is so beautiful. When you look at postcards from its heyday, it's rammed, with lots of people using the green space around it. It's an architecture of happiness and it really shouldn't be looking as sad as it is."

There are echoes here of Embassy Court; some time before he helped establish the Brighton branch of Conran and Partners three years ago, Zara got to work on the four-year labour of love that was the restoration of the Wells Coates-designed modernist building.

"It was complicated, with so many leaseholders, but it was such a fascinating project. There are so many stories and myths about things that have happened in the building, famous people who've lived there [Max Miller and Rex Harrison among them], births and deaths. It's a great example of how a building can have meaning and tell a story."

Since opening the Brighton office, the numbers have waxed and waned with the economic fortunes of the country, but Zara now employs around 20 people – more than the office has ever had before. Zara himself is chair of the local branch of the South Coast Design Forum, which brings together designers and creatives of every



Zara in 2003 when the renovation of Embassy Court started

stripe along the South Coast for mutual support and opportunities for collaboration.

Back at the Queen's Road Conran office, there are dozens of projects on the table, from an entire estate to what's promised will be a sensational redevelopment of an Edwardian building on Hove Lagoon's "Millionaire's Row" for a private client ("It's going to be the house in Brighton that everyone wants to live in").

But the project for which he reserves his greatest affection is his own self-built home, tucked away off a Hove footpath. Spotting a rarity in a vacant plot of land (which had been a market garden), Zara put in a bid and sold his house in Clifton Street to fund a new-build for himself, his wife and two children.

"Being an architect, you don't get all those Grand Designs traumas because you know it's going to take a bit longer than the builder says it will, and it was actually really good fun. Having everything exactly the way you want it is an amazing feeling, and I'd do it again tomorrow."

● www.conranandpartners.com

● For more information about the South Coast Design Forum, visit www.scdcf.org.uk



EDF ENERGY
Feature Writer of the Year
Ian Ray

Picture by
Liz Finlayson

4 Saturday, January 22, 2011



INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW

Saturday, January 22, 2011 5