

Test match not so special, says BBC

Future Systems' Media Centre at Lord's cricket ground has come under fire from commentators using the facility for the first time.

The first test match at the ground since the centre's completion saw defeat for England and criticism from BBC commentators about their new home.

The commentators agreed the building was "a bit too futuristic", but conceded it was better to be inside looking out at the "Edwardian splendour" of the members' stand than vice versa.

BBC stalwart Christopher Martin-Jenkins moaned: "I much preferred our old place in the old pavilion."

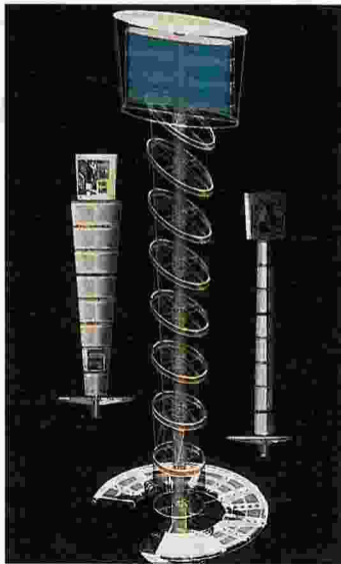
There were also criticisms of

the building's height, which made it hard to identify players on the field, and of excessive heat.

Amanda Leveté of Future Systems responded by saying: "The brief was to give every journalist a view of every boundary in the ground. We worked out the height accordingly." She added: "They are used to being on the first floor of the pavilion - it's just different."

Leveté said the overheating was caused by the routing of telecommunications wires over air-conditioning vents.

BBC commentators caused problems during construction by insisting on having an opening window in the all-glass facade of the building.



Art 2 Architecture (Peter Fink and Igor Marko) has been shortlisted in Westminster City Council's £25,000 Shaping the Heart of London street furniture competition, for this stainless steel "attractor" and seat. It went on display with the other shortlisted designs (by PearsonLloyd Design Partnership, Timpson Manley with Harland Design, and Mackenzie-Chong Design) at the Architecture Foundation last week.