

**"...but the main lesson I learned here
[whilst inventing the 'Turboblock']
was about how Architects specify.
Most people specifying Blockwork
didn't know the product.**

**It could be dense, light, aggregate, whatever.
To Architects a block was a block."**

Neil Pepperell MD RIBA Liability Research Ltd.

**'If you don't know
what's in the material
you end up putting
things side by side
that don't like each other.'**

Neil Pepperell MD RIBA Liability Research Ltd.

**“It is a wise man who
looks things over,
instead of
overlooking things.”**

**“My idea of an optimist
is one who believes that
things will come right if
he works to put them right.”**

If you assume,
you risk making an
ass of u and me

Expert: Definition:

X is an unknown quantity,

Spurt is a drip under pressure.

**“In the touchy and litigious
world of building design,
ignorance is no excuse”**

Neil Pepperell MD RIBA Liability Research Ltd.

**“You must
interrogate
the data”**

Neil Pepperell MD RIBA Liability Research Ltd.

**“Blessed are the ignorant
who know they are ignorant,
for theirs is the
Kingdom of Knowledge.”**

**“Knowledge is of two kinds:
We know a subject ourselves
or we know where
we can find information upon it”**

Dr. Johnson

**“It’s not what you know
it’s who you know”**

A Librarian is a great ally

**“Man prefers
to believe
what he prefers
to be true”**

Liability Alert

“PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES”

“Many suppliers claim conformity to British Standards or other test standards but have no certificates or in house testing procedures. If such is important, then ask for the number and date of the certificate”

“PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES”

**“If Agrément test certificates
are claimed, make sure
they are current and
relate to the proposed product,
not another in the range”**

**“What some of us
do not know
is very profitable
to others”**

“DON'T FALL DOWN ON FOLLOW UP”

**“Innovative design
to be successful
requires adequate research”**

Liability alert No. 30

“Innovative materials tend to be launched without adequate testing or their virtues over emphasised and possible failings played down”

Liability alert No. 30

Performance Standards:

**"Unless workmanship and performance
are defined as part
of the Contract Documents.
then any control over the end result
becomes entirely speculative."**

Neil Pepperell MD of RIBA Indemnity Research Ltd.

"LACK OF EXPERIENCE"

“A recent legal judgement has shown that part of an Architect's duty must be to collect information about materials or systems of which they lack knowledge or experience and then to form a view about them”

LIABILITY ALERT No.5

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“LACK OF EXPERIENCE”

“If an Architect feels that he or she cannot form a reliable opinion then the client must be advised to take additional specialist advice”

LIABILITY ALERT No.5

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Trade Literature

**“There is one form of advertisement
better than making a good show-
that is showing a good make”**

Liability alert No. 30

- **“Healthy cynicism as to life in-use performance can prevent claims for negligent specification”**

“Seek specific reassurance about product performance claims from directors of supply companies and state in writing you are placing reliance upon their advice”

Liability alert No. 30

Specification

**“The specification is only as good
as the team that produce it.**

That team may consists of:

**Designer, Technician, Librarian, QS,
Consultant, Manufacturer & Specifier.”**

Quality

**“There is hardly anything in the world
that some man cannot make a little worse
and sell a little cheaper,
and the people who consider price only
are this man’s lawful prey.”**

John Ruskin (1819-1900)

**“The common law
of business balance
prohibits paying a little
and getting a lot
- it can’t be done.”**

John Ruskin (1891-1900)

“COMMON SENSE IS NO DEFENCE”

**“It is prudent to tell clients in writing what to you may be obvious:
No building is perfect in perpetuity”**

Liability alert No. 19

**“All work is designed
in the expectation it will receive
regular future maintenance
which will accord with
good trade practice and
manufacturer’s recommendations”**

Liability alert No. 19

**The man who moves mountains
begins by
carrying away small stones**

Chinese proverb

**The shortest distance
between two points
is under construction.**

Noelie Alito

**If you want truly to
understand something,
try to change it.**

Kurt Lewin