

NEWS

'Midlife crisis' prompts Piers Taylor to quit firm

Andrea Klettner

Piers Taylor has announced his split from Mitchell Taylor Workshop, six years after co-founding the practice.

Taylor told BD that he experienced "a kind of midlife crisis" while on holiday in Australia this month, leading him to set up a new



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venture, Invisible Studio. He hopes this will be a "creative organisation that can be agile enough to morph, change, disband".

He said: "I found myself at a crossroads, and if having a midlife crisis is wondering if the pattern of your working life is how one wants it, then I suppose I had one".

Taylor also sent an email to his colleagues and the press inform-

ing them of his decision to leave (see below).

His move has been lauded by a number of architects, including Sarah Wigglesworth, who said she would follow his trajectory "with great interest and envy".

Invisible Studio is working on a number of projects in Australia, and Taylor is also delivering work with his studio at the Architectural Association. In addition, he will focus on collaborations with experts from various fields including mathematicians, magicians and boat builders.

"I'm open to working with a range of people," he said. "I was ashamed to have the word 'director' on my business card because I didn't want to direct people, I wanted to work with them so I'll be collaborating rather than employing."

Taylor will also remain a consultant to his old practice.

"I'm no longer a day-to-day employee," he said. "I'm leading on key projects and I'm also there to help win new work, which is in my interest as I remain a shareholder."

PIERS TAYLOR'S RESIGNATION EMAIL

"My vision isn't an office with flatscreen monitors and associates and directors and buzzy rhetoric about itself and timesheets and a logo...

"Instead, it is a studio that is beholden to no one, which is based everywhere and nowhere, which is a provocative and polemical vehicle for collaboration, experimentation, research and education, which works internationally and very

locally, which collaborates with mathematicians, magicians, writers, carpenters, digital fabricators, boat builders and bicycle framers who can come and go and drop in and out; which recognises the importance of raising children, of downing tools in summertime when the weather's good, and doesn't try to squeeze itself into the tiny and narrow confines of a pre-qualification questionnaire."