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Into the mind of an Evil Genius

By Guardian-series

A STUDENT is awaiting the publication of his fourth book, at the tender age of 19 Gavin Harper is one of a growing number of students on the University of East London' s Masters in Architecture advanced environmental and energy studies, a programme run in conjunction with the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales.



The programme's flexible nature allows him to study while working on a range of technical books for US publishing giant McGraw-Hill.

Solar Energy Projects for the Evil Genius, largely inspired by Gavin's UEL studies, is due for publication this summer.

He spends a week every month studying intensively in Wales.

He told the Guardian: "I left school at 16 because I didn't really feel challenged and I'd been invited to take up a position at a leading engineering company.

"When things didn't work out, I contacted the Open University and was accepted on a BSc honours degree course in technology.

"I began the course in 2004, the same year that I decided to have a go at writing."

He went on: "I'd been doing up an old Mini since the age of 12 and had built up a wealth of knowledge which I felt could really benefit people working on advanced motor projects.

"Luckily, editors at McGraw-Hill saw the potential of my plans and quickly offered me a contract for a book called 50 Awesome Auto Projects for the Evil Genius."

Since then Gavin has produced two further books Build Your Own Car PC and 50 Model Rocket Projects for the Evil Genius.

He counts himself lucky to have been accepted for a place on the UEL course and has been able to put what he has learned so far to good use in his latest book.

"All the students and staff at CAT have been excellent in providing me with information, and both CAT and UEL will feature extensively in the new book," he said.

The books are available through Amazon.com and many retailers. Solar Energy Projects for the Evil Genius will be published next month.

For further details of his course, which examines the relationship between human beings and the built environment, call 8223 3333 or visit www.uel.ac.uk

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