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“  
*Care and  
curate our  
public square.  
It should never  
be in thrall  
to the whims  
of politicised  
billionaires*”



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MATT BLEASE



**On the cover**  
After last year's Cop28 when the US envoy John  
Kerry chided "major producers" for not signing  
up to a G7 pledge "to accelerate the phaseout  
of unabated fossil fuels", he was directing his  
criticism at classic petrostates such as Saudi  
Arabia and Russia. But other countries are quietly  
leading a frenzy in oil and gas expansion.  
*Illustration: Alex Mellon/Guardian Design*