



aspirATion

Issue 6

Spring/summer 2016

The magazine for aspiring Architectural Technology professionals



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Group

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Sponsored by CIAT

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Front cover: Top pic: Le Rocher by John West. Bottom Pic: Grillagh Water House by Patrick Bradley Architects

Editor's foreword

Welcome to another jam-packed issue of aspirATion magazine. In this issue we meet some of the Chairs of the newly formed aspirATion Groups and gain some insight into why they wanted to get involved and what their plans for the future are.

To close the 50th Anniversary CIAT held a Design Futures Symposium at the University of Westminster at the end of last year. Professor Sam Allwinkle PPBIAT MCIAT gives you a summary of the event. We speak to Gensler about 'The Future of the Metro IdeaJam' which was sponsored by CIAT. Craig O'Halloran MCIAT and the team tell you about the new ideas that were produced.

We also have some great articles from University of Brighton students, encouraging you all to take work placements, and we catch up with Glyndŵr University to find out about their Colwyn Bay Promenade Development project.

Jack Wilson
Education and Membership Administrator

For further information on the articles featured, or to contribute to aspirATion magazine, contact Jack Wilson, Education and Membership Administrator. Email: jack@ciat.org.uk Tel: 0207 2782206

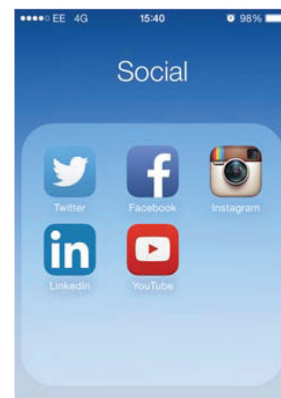
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aspirATion is published by The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists
397 City Road London EC1V 1NH UK Tel. +44(0)20 7278 2206 Fax. +44(0)20 7837 3194
info@ciat.org.uk www.ciat.org.uk

Meet the aspirATion Group

By **Jack Wilson**, CIAT Membership and Education Administrator



Above, left to right: Michael Angus ACIAT; Rori Millar ACIAT; James Banks CIAT Membership Director; Bradley Clarke MCIAT; Todd Morgan ACIAT; Craig O'Halloran MCIAT; William Price MCIAT; Kirsty Murray MCIAT; Leon Crascall ACIAT; Daniel Wood ACIAT; Daniel Rossiter MCIAT; Natasha Vermeulen ACIAT; Kevin Meakin; Liam Leonard; Kyle Metcalfe

At the end of last year CIAT launched its new Group for future Architectural Technology professionals: the aspirATion Group. The main aims for the aspirATion Group are:

- To provide a focal point for the Institute's activities and objectives with respect to all future Architectural Technology professional members.
- To maintain a dialogue between the aspirATion Group and the Institute's other Groups and Committees regarding any issues that may affect future Architectural Technology professional members and to ensure that such members are not adversely affected by any of these issues.
- To raise awareness of Institute activities, objectives and constitutional processes.
- To increase the potential for participation among current students.
- To increase awareness of the Institute to potential future Architectural Technology professionals.

An induction workshop was held in December 2015 at the University of Westminster, which featured guest speakers including Sophie Cox, International Co-ordinator and HQ Novus Co-ordinator at the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). Her presentation focused on Novus, a passionate group of young professionals who place CIOB at the heart of their careers. The Group prepares young people to be the next generation of construction industry leaders and provides a direct link from undergraduate to Chartered Membership.

James Banks, CIAT Membership Director, presented on the aspirATion Group processes and protocols and the Group's aims and objectives for the following year. aspirATion Group chairs had the opportunity to discuss what they were planning for their local aspirATion Groups. The meeting ended with a networking session at a local pub where the members got to know each other and discussed upcoming plans. In the following pages you have the chance to meet some of the aspirATion Group Regional Chairs and find out why they wanted to get involved.



Natasha Vermeulen, ACIAT

Yorkshire Region Chair

A 'passionate Architectural Technology professional'

Why did you put yourself forward to be your Regional Chair for aspirATion?

I am a passionate Architectural Technology professional based in the Yorkshire Region where I currently hold the role of Deputy Councillor on the Regional Committee. I am now half way through my third year on the Committee and as part of my role I have attended and supported various careers events at both schools and universities across the Region as well as organising a number of site visits to help support the continued learning and development of CIAT members.

One of the reasons for joining the Yorkshire Committee was to help my progression towards Chartered status. Something I would hope all Architectural Technologists aspire to achieve in their professional career. Before joining the Yorkshire Region I had completed a PGCE in Design and Technology Secondary Education and found joining the Committee a good way of

I have a huge passion for learning and development and aim to support design

reconnecting and getting back into practice. I have a huge passion for learning and development and aim to support design and technology within education and practise wherever I can. As well as being an established member of the Yorkshire

Region I also sit on the Construction Industry Council (CIC) Yorkshire and Humber Committee. I work full time at WCEC Architects and I am studying for an MSc in Technical Architecture at Sheffield Hallam University so you're probably wondering why I would take on the considerable task of being the Yorkshire aspirATion Chair. It's simple, I believe in our profession. I believe in all those that represent it. I believe that as Architectural Technology professionals we not only have the knowledge and skill but the rare quality and value of what it takes to drive the future of the construction industry forward.

I believe in our profession. I believe in all those that represent it

When I heard about the aspirATion Group, I couldn't miss the opportunity to get involved. We have some very challenging times ahead. We have to ensure our future Architectural Technology professionals are prepared, engaged, and ready for the challenges they have yet to face. We face skills shortages, putting increased demand on our practices and the teams of those that represent them, not only in our field but across the construction industry.

As professional practitioners, students and lecturers, I believe we are the key to our own success and we must become better integrated. We need to support design and technology education within schools. We must engage with pupils, teachers, schools, communities, colleges, students, universities, lecturers and our practices to ensure we are all working together. We need to work towards developing a strong bond and creating a clear path to light the way for our future professionals.

We have an opportunity to set the precedent across the industry. To lead by example and ensure our future Chartered Architectural Technologists thrive in a changing world. Ensuring they are adaptable and ready for any future challenges that they may be faced with in the construction industry. We need to ensure their growth and development to become the best professional practitioners they can be. This is something I am very passionate about and I believe my skills, knowledge and understanding with support from my fellow network of professionals will ensure success in achieving this.

What are your plans for aspirATion in the Yorkshire Region this year?

We have a big task ahead however the first is to set up the Yorkshire aspirATion Group that will be split across the Region. Our universities will sit at the heart of each Group which include Sheffield Hallam University, University of Huddersfield and Leeds Beckett University. We are going to encourage all CIAT student members, graduates and professionals to get involved.

We need to support design and technology education within schools

Some of the initiatives we are looking to run are to introduce our new members into the realm of architecture and, more specifically Architectural Technology through skill building workshops and architectural visits. For those looking for work placements we are hoping to support universities by forming

strong links with professional practice supporting CV writing, portfolio development and interview technique.

We are also hoping to host a number of less formal events to help encourage networking and development of young professionals amongst their peers within the industry. As we become more established, we will hopefully see the introduction of a 'Construction who's who' designed to support our prospective Architectural Technology students, teachers and those looking to pursue a career within construction to get to know more about the different professional roles and how the construction industry really works.

We also hope to support the STEM initiative not only regionally but nationally by creating a resource that will help promote Architectural Technology within education. STEM is an initiative designed to inspire young people to pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), so hopefully together we can encourage and inspire a few minds.

You may notice there is a lot of 'hope' in delivering all of these initiatives. That is because the aspirATion Group will rely on YOU, our members to help us support and drive all of these initiatives across the Region. If you are a student, graduate or professional member of the Institute or maybe you are just interested in getting involved and offering your expertise, please do, we need you!

What are your thoughts on the training event, and CIAT's Design Futures Symposium?

The Design Futures Symposium encompassed everything I love about Architectural Technology. The day started with the launch of the aspirATion

If you are a student, graduate or professional member of the Institute interested in getting involved, please do, we need you!

Group and a training event that established the task at hand. It was great to meet fellow aspirATion Chairs and discuss the prospective plans for our Regions.

The afternoon saw us meet programme leaders and listen to the delivery of how Architectural Technology has changed and developed over the years. Programme leaders discussed what they were doing in their departments and how they planned to drive the discipline of Architectural Technology forward. It was interesting to listen to so many diverse opinions each delivering passionate presentations about the way their subject is taught.

The evening drew to a close with a less formal event which allowed the aspirATion Group to get to know each other a little better. We shared stories about our own professional development and focused on how we could best work together as the national aspirATion Group to launch and deliver CIAT's new initiative. Dinner with Past President Robert Mason PPBIAT MCIAT, allowed us to learn more about CIAT and the many changes the Institute has undergone over the years in creating a professional body that is well established and equally respected amongst its peers.

The changes were fascinating and explained a lot about how we experience Architectural Technology in professional practice today. What was most notable was the passion that everyone I met had for the discipline. It is this passion that has driven CIAT to where it is today and continues to take it forward as we exit the Institute's 50th year. The second day saw the introduction of members from professional practice with a passionate keynote presentation delivered from Fergal Walsh of Gensler as he spoke about the Shanghai Tower project. An incredible piece of work delivered by one of our very own. A true inspiration to his fellow Architectural Technologists but what I was most taken back by, was the passion he had for Architectural Technology. I think what makes the profession so great is how diverse it can be, it can take you anywhere.

Whilst we continue to evolve the profession it is important our core competencies never change. We must remain the critical thinker, the problem solver and the person who has the ability to understand materials and engage with future technologies. It was an inspiring two days showcasing the best qualities of the Architectural Technology, one that I was proud to be part of in representing the Yorkshire Region.

Michael Angus ACIAT

Scotland West Region Chair

Why did you put yourself forward to be your Regional Chair for aspirATion?

I put myself forward for the Chair position as I wanted to get more involved with the Institute and encourage anyone studying in the field of Architectural Technology to join in and gain the benefits of meeting other students and industry professionals.'

What are your plans for aspirATion in Scotland West Region this year?

We are planning to create a platform where we can start to tailor CPD events to needs and wants of students.

What are your thoughts on the training event, and the Design Futures Symposium?

Travelling to London for the training day was great! To meet the rest of the aspirATion Chairs and discuss lots of ideas was really refreshing. Some of the ideas which are already in place have been really successful, something we are striving to replicate in the Scotland West region.

Our initial focus will be on getting the numbers up in the Region, attending universities and colleges. So, if you know anyone in the field of Architectural Technology who hasn't yet joined, encourage them to join, its free for students so nothing to lose, everything to gain.

Bradley Clarke MCIAT

North West Region Chair

Why did you put yourself forward to be your Regional Chair for aspirATion?

I put myself forward as I want to promote the Institute and get more members whilst wanting to feed-back to the Institute to keep it relevant and modern.

What are your plans for aspirATion in the North West Region this year?

My plans for the Region are to get more young professionals involved with the Institute whilst promoting Architectural Technology as a profession. I hope to put on CPD events and also a couple of social events for members to just meet up and have a good chat over a drink.

What are your thoughts on the training event, and the Design Futures Symposium?

The training was really good and provided all the information for me to be able to set the group up and start events. The symposium was really exciting, and as mentioned by the guest speakers I think Architectural Technology professionals are ideally positioned to leave our mark on the industry by using the opportunities presented by the "BIM craze" that is sweeping through the industry at the minute.

My plans for the Region are to get more young professionals involved with the Institute

Leon Crascall ACIAT

East Anglia Region Chair

It was interesting to listen to and network with so many differing levels of experience

Why did you put yourself forward to be your Regional Chair for aspirATion?

It sounded like an interesting opportunity to provide a platform for the Institute to connect students/professionals to similar models/examples that other membership bodies do.

What are your plans for aspirATion in the East Anglia Region this year?

My plan is to work firstly with the established Regional Committee to help develop strategies for engagement; visit the institutions/colleges/universities and schools to raise awareness of the scheme, while in the initial period of finding its feet.

What are your thoughts on the training event, and the Design Futures Symposium?

It was good and informative, interesting to listen to and network with so many differing levels of experience.



Dan Rossiter MCIAT

Wales Region Chair

Why did you put yourself forward to be your Regional Chair for aspirATion?

Since becoming a Chartered Architectural Technologist last year, I have been wanting to help engage and support the Institute however possible. Luckily, I have been given such opportunities by being able to develop and present Building Information Modelling (BIM) webinars, feedback to the Institute on publications such as the revised *CITB 14-19yo LOF*,¹ and the *JCT BIM Guide*,² as well as opportunities to speak on the Institute's behalf at events. However, as grateful as I was, I wanted to do more.

What are your thoughts on the training event, and the Design Futures Symposium?

The training helped provide a real insight into CIAT's vision with the aspirATion Groups, firmly with collaboration in mind. The first meeting had staff from the CIOB Novus group discussing the success they have had and a want to integrate and collaborate; a great first message. In addition, it allowed me to meet the other aspirATion Chairs to find out about my new peers, unsurprisingly the others were as keen as I was, and discussions on how to move forward were quickly underway.

The Symposium itself was very different but just as rewarding. With a myriad of educational and industry speakers there was a lot of good practice being showcased and interesting points being provided. Anyone reading this who attended will know that I was not 'mic-shy' that day, and managed to ask a fair few questions.

A key outcome of the symposium was making contact with Dr Colin Stuhlfelder MCIAT at Glyndŵr University, who manages one of the two CIAT Accredited undergraduate courses in Wales, as

well as meeting our President Gary Mees PCIAT for the first time.

After collecting my thoughts and taking on board all of the information at the symposium, it was time to act, soon after a meeting was planned at Cardiff Metropolitan University to talk to the students about aspirATion. The presentation was well received, and to my surprise most of the questions came from the lecturers. We discussed some ideas and have already begun to put a few in motion.

When I thought back to my time as a student, I realised that what I was missing was exposure to the industry. So my key focus is to introduce aspirATion members to local professionals through site visits and placement opportunities, and the MentorMatchMe scheme. Through the nature of my work at BRE, I am familiar with many firms across the UK, and have a number already happy to help link members to placement opportunities.

By setting down a clear vision of support, I hope that I can do my part to create a member focused network that not only promotes Architectural Technology, but allows those involved to develop, expose and connect to our industry through the right people to suit them and their career development. This is my aspirATion.

Footnotes

1. *CITB 14-19yo LOF* is a guide for teachers to teach construction in the classroom by CITB (Construction Industry Training Board)

2. *JCT BIM practice note* is a guidance document on integrating BIM within the contract process.



Get involved

If you are a student, recent graduate or an aspiring AT professional and want to get involved with your local the aspirATion Group, please email your local Chair:

Will Price MCIAT
 Rosie Johnson (Student)
 Natasha Vermeulen ACIAT
 Bradley Clarke MCIAT
 Kevin Meakin (Student)
 Matthew Willemsen ACIAT
 Liam Leonard (Student)
 Kyle Metcalfe (Student)
 Leon Crascall ACIAT
 Darren Mckane ACIAT
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will.price@mwgroup.net
 rosemaryjohnson@northumbria.ac.uk
 natasha.vermeulen@wcec.co.uk
 bradleyclarkes@hotmail.com
 kevmeakin@hotmail.com
 matt.willemsen7@gmail.com
 liamleonard94@hotmail.co.uk
 kyle.metcalfe@outlook.com
 leoncrascall@gmail.com
 info.aspirationcentral@gmail.com
 info.aspirationcentral@gmail.com
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 dan.j.p.wood@gmail.com
 samara@create-architecture.com
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 kirsty.murray@amecfw.com
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The Gensler IdeaJam Sponsored by CIAT

The Future of the Metro IdeaJam: London and Tokyo

Earlier this year Gensler Architects held an IdeaJam – an intense idea generating exercise examining the relative merits of London and Tokyo's underground railways. By Craig O'Halloran MCIAT, Greater London aspirATion dual Chair, Trevor To, Riddhi Parakh, Adam Phillips, Adam Esposito, Gensler

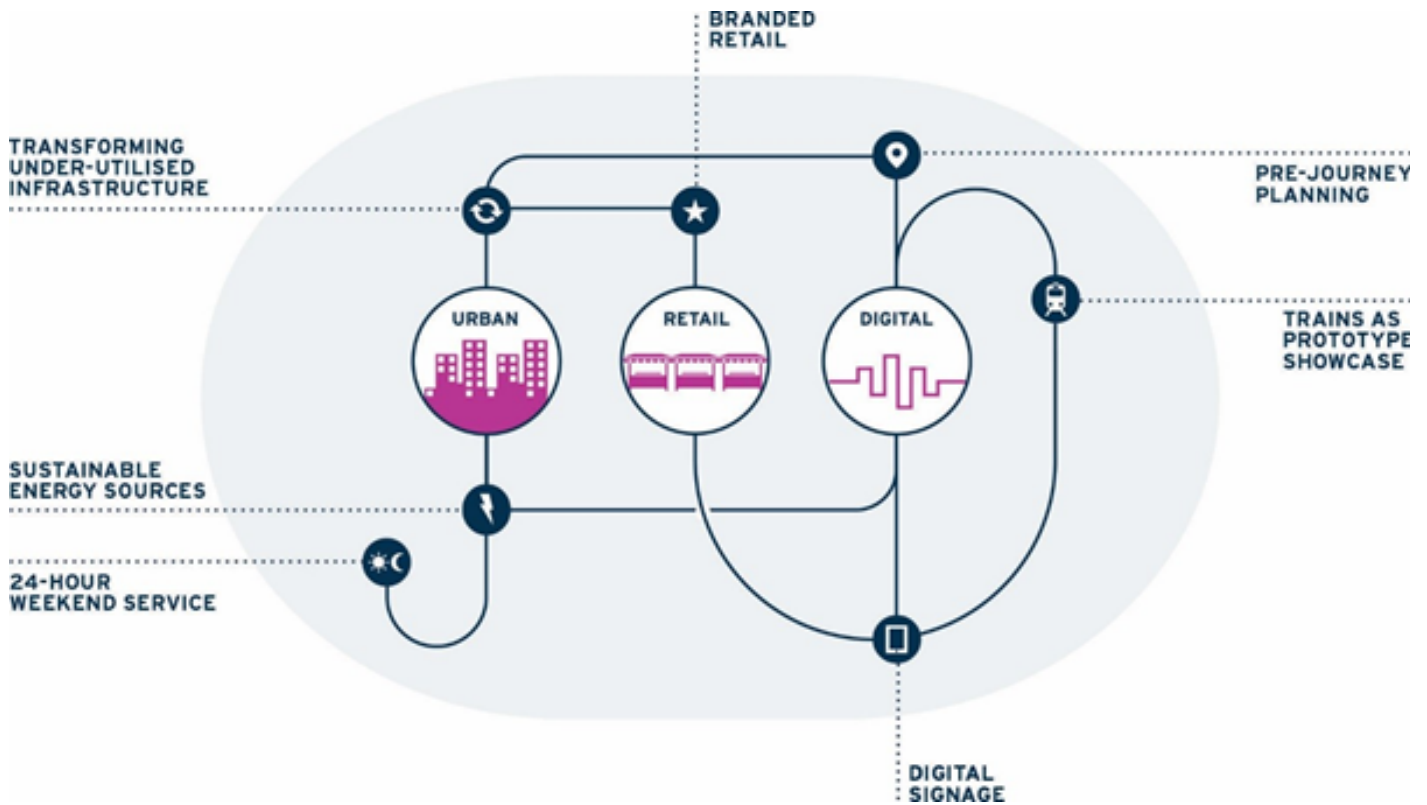


What have London and Tokyo got in common? Both are modern cities with Olympics experience. That AND the Gensler IdeaJam.

The IdeaJam forms part of the future of metro transportation phase II research. This follows on from the success of the Phase I research which included the London Underline proposal that won Best Conceptual Project at the London Planning Awards in 2015. From Gensler's Phase I research, seven key themes such as changes in operation, technology and retail in metro transport were

shortlisted using London Underground as a case study.

Following the success of the Phase 1 research we decided to apply our findings from London to another metro system in another city, which needed to be similar to London in terms of experiences and metro infrastructure. As the world's most populous metropolis and host to the Olympic, Tokyo was identified as an ideal city for collaboration.



Above: key trends

Our Tokyo office joined us to further explore the trends linked to Digital Signage while the London office decided to investigate Brand Power. The fact that these two metropolitan cities have their own lifestyle and urban characters makes them a perfect duo to compare our findings, and with Tokyo lined up to host the 2020 Olympics we believe our study will support Tokyo in understanding challenges and opportunities link to hosting the event, and learn from the host experiences of London in 2012.

In order to find a way to best engage both offices, we hosted an 'IdeaJam' in each city and invited the 'jury' members on both sides to participate in an online roundtable discussion.

What is the IdeaJam? How did it work this time?

The IdeaJam is an intense idea generating session with participants usually from different academic institutions and professions focusing on answering a challenge(s) put forth via a brief.

Spread over two weekends, academic participants included students from Royal College of Arts,

City University, University of Nottingham, Central Saint Martins, London School of Economics and University of Greenwich. Professional collaborators include Digital Catapult and the University of Greenwich.

Starting on Friday 15 January 2016, the London office conducted an early evening tour of Waterloo station, while the Tokyo office opted for an early morning tour of Shinjuku station the following day. This involved role playing activities, simulating potential users of the stations with their needs and destinations, and gave participants a feel of how a large station is used through its peak hours and how different users, use the space at the same potential time.

On site the teams split up and walked the route of the challenge to familiarise themselves with the existing conditions, their own experience and watch how others experienced the space. Instantly, from the immersion into the site, the teams quickly started to discuss the positives and negatives of the space and what opportunities were available to them.



Above: London and Tokyo network service comparison.
Opposite, top: the London team.
Opposite, below: the Tokyo team.

The next morning the programme began, with a welcoming session and discussion of the brief with some precedent projects by Gensler. The participants then formed their own teams for a rapid idea generating session. After lunch there was a number of short presentations on the future trends and fundamentals on art, transport, technology and Urbanism.

This was then followed by another team working session until the end of the day, with comments made by the collaborators. The teams were all in in-depth discussion, laying out everyone's thoughts and ideas about how they could focus their proposals which went on for over six hours!

The topics focused on three key areas of each city's transport network

A week later, we regrouped at Whitechapel Gallery and were joined by our London judges: Peter Elliott of TfL, Niall Healy MCIAT, Gavin Hutchison of CLAWSA RIBA and Michal Szczesny of ArtFinder.

On this final day the teams came

together to finish their presentations. There was still a lot of conversation and energy flowing to make sure all the ideas were engaging and exciting. The day began with a presentation of the winning Tokyo proposal via Skype and a sharing session between both jury teams, with the Tokyo jury members - Yukimi Isoda of Japan Rail East, Daisuke Matsumura of East Japan Marketing and Communications, Yukiyo Nikuchi and Hideki Nishizawa of ARUP and Professor Senhiko Nakata of Miyagi University – all on hand to provide feedback on the entries.

By the afternoon the London Jury had arrived and after introductions the teams took to their presentations. The Jury was engaged in all three presentations, giving a lot of feedback at the very end to all the teams.

The topics focused on three key areas of each city's transport network: (1) 'Wayfinding and Tourism – The Olympic effect', (2) 'Urban Development and Place-making with urban transport hubs' and (3) 'The offer to travellers in the tube journey or at the station'.

The discussion first began with the impact and importance of transport hubs in the growth and regeneration of cities:



'London stations were an important part of the transformation of London as well as creating whole neighbourhoods during the Victorian era. The recent transformation of King's Cross St Pancras and the entire area around the station, and the current redevelopment of Stratford after the Olympics, has been a huge success in London's recent history' *Niall Healy, Chartered Architectural Technologist, London Region Chair*

Shifting to the role of public and private investment, in Tokyo, we learnt that:

'Japan Rail was first a public, national rail then privatised in the 1980s. The business model of JR adapted differently from the private. They established a hierarchy connecting the major cities in Japan, then developed a second infrastructure. However, the population centres that are connected have created much larger hub stations in comparison to London. In many instances the stations themselves are like a neighborhood.' *Yukimi Isoda, JRE*

'A driving force for improving transport in London is the population surge and need for new housing communities to support demand. However, in Japan, with a declining population, what is this type of planning being managed?' *Peter Elliot, TFL*

'Peter's observation is interesting. Even though Japan's population may be declining overall, the population of Tokyo is increasing, and also shifting across areas of the city. Yet, technology with JR is improving with new Maglev trains, where most commuters will be living 2 hours away, in a remote location, but can get to Tokyo in 45 minutes.' *Yukimi Isoda, JRE*

When the conversation shifted to the journey experience, we know in cities like London, the tube takes on its own cultural identity of the city. We were interested to find out whether transport in Tokyo had a similar cultural impact:

'With the change and shift of population in Japan, and Tokyo, it may be possible that the meaning of the station, or the tube could change, perhaps turning a station into an art museum, or something.

Already, changes in digital advertising are allowing for in train / journey advertisement and artwork to enter our every day journey. Examples of this can be seen in some of the rapid transit trains.' *Hideki Nishizawa*

After the roundtable discussion, the London teams presented their design proposals to the jury. The jury deliberated to decide who the winners were for each challenge. After lunch, the judges made comments on each team and the two winners were announced.

Craig O'Halloran MCIAT is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Certified Passive House Designer with experience in retail and residential projects based in Ireland, the UK and the Middle East.



Left, top: London Winning Team 1: 'Kinecton' with Niall Healy MCIAT, London Region Chair.

Below: London Winning team 2: 'Under the Clock.'

CIAT Design Futures Symposium

Professor Sam Allwinkle PPBIAT MCIAT, gives aspirATion a summary of the event



A ground breaking event, CIAT's Design Futures Symposium was held at the University of Westminster in London on 10-11 December 2015.

It focused on the global challenges that the industry is faced with and how Architectural Technology will play an increasing and integral part in the

future of design. Presentations demonstrated the development and evolution of Architectural Technology as a key design discipline and the significant contribution it has, and will make, in changing the face and performance of the industry by pushing the boundaries of design knowledge, innovation and practice. The majority

of presentations were made by Chartered Architectural Technologists and clearly demonstrated the influence and impact that Architectural Technology and Members of CIAT have on design and construction of the built environment nationally and internationally within the thematic areas of:

Design Education and Architectural Technology

and included integrating technology in design studios - research led and practice based approaches; Integrating BIM into Architectural Technology programmes; past, present and future of the Danish Architectural Technology education, underlining the development and process of 'the benefits of co-design and the role of the Architectural Technologist from a Danish perspective'.

Design, Innovation and Smart Construction

robust detailing and pathways for new innovations; the role of a leading manufacturer within innovation and advanced construction; and the increasing role of offsite and advanced construction in the UK economy.

Digital Design, Collaborative Working and Co-Design Getting to grips with BIM:

team working and Information Management; the application of ICT and BIM to support collaborative design practice; and supporting the incremental uptake of BIM from the rural fringe.

Design Practices, Processes and Performance.

Design and Build contracts and Architectural Technologists, two point perspective on Architectural Technology; integration of Building Information Modelling, sustainable design analysis and performance monitoring – a case study based

approach; testing residential building fabric and reporting on the impacts upon performance and potential risks to occupant safety'

Not wishing to detract from the excellent quality and standard of the presentations the star performance was given by Fergal Walsh of Gensler in his keynote presentation 'Head in the clouds, feet firmly planted on the ground'; a talk about Shanghai Tower, the second tallest building in the world. Fergal is an Architectural Technology graduate from the Cork Institute of Technology and is a Principal and Financial Services Firms Practice Area Leader at Gensler. According to Building Design Online, Gensler is the largest architectural practice in the world, turning over \$1 billion each year.

Fergal's zealous presentation conveyed that Architectural Technology is an essential design function within the technology of architecture. It is required to ensure that design solutions result in buildings that can be constructed to perform efficiently and effectively within the context of user needs, environmental, regulatory and budgetary requirements. His humility, sincerity and emotions were infectious; resulting in an audience that were close to tears creating a moment that will have a lasting impression on future, current Architectural Technologists.



Fergal's zealous presentation conveyed that Architectural Technology is an essential design function



Discussion during the Q&A session with Dr Colin Stuhlfelder MCIAT, Professor Richard Laing, Professor Sam Allwinkle PPBIAT MCIAT, Dr Tahar Kouider MCIAT.

Finally, the Symposium was an exemplar for Architectural Technology. This was evidenced by the content and quality of the presentations which stressed that Architectural Technology is a significant design function linked to project management and processes; through the integration of technology and the emergence of collaborative working within communities of professional practice.

Architectural Technology is clearly evolving into the critical design discipline in the digital age for building projects through the use of information, communication and design technologies, such as Building Information Modelling. All of these are needed to optimise the production process – ensuring economic efficiency and effectiveness, maximising the performance of buildings, their

sustainability, reliability and minimising environmental impact.

Visit CIAT's Youtube channel (CIATechnologist) to view all speaker PowerPoint presentations along with conference programme and brochure. Selected presentations will be published in *AT* magazine and a special symposium publication.

Architectural Technology is clearly evolving into the critical design discipline in the digital age



Special thanks

CIAT Design Futures Symposium was a great success and was attended by students from Westminster University, University of the West of England, Nottingham Trent University and University of Derby.

CIAT would like to give special thanks to Professor Sam Allwinkle PPBIAT MCIAT, Dr Noora Kokkarinen CIAT Assistant Education Director and Virginia Rammou MCIAT, course leader at University of Westminster for organising the event, as well as all the speakers at the event.

To Sandwich, or not to Sandwich?

Photo posed by a model



Will a 'sandwich year' give you a fresh slice of life, or leave you stale?

By **Sophie Dennis**, student member at the University of Wolverhampton studying BSc (Hons) Architectural Design and Technology

After passing your first year at university, and enjoying a nice long summer break, you may be feeling invincible. All of a sudden the stresses of the second year come crashing down! You start to get your head around it all when someone asks 'do you want to do a sandwich year? (A year-long work placement in between your second and third year) inevitably, we all ask ourselves the same questions; do I want to delay my degree for another year?! I've made friends here now, do I want to come back in a year and not know anyone? As well as having to watch my friends graduate before me – knowing it could have been me...is it really worth it?

It is always a good idea to get a second opinion; universities have trained career advisors to guide students in the best direction for them, based on their past experiences. Evidently, there are many pros to a sandwich year including; gaining valuable work experience, in the office and on site, while gaining a decent wage. (in many cases more than a graduate internship), studies also indicate that graduates with the placement experience earn more. Extra credits may be achievable towards your degree, and you will gain valuable knowledge which will certainly benefit you in your final year, which could mean the difference between a first class

degree and a second class degree. According to various directors in the construction industry, there is no downside. It is possible that the firm you worked for see potential in you, offering you a full time job after graduation, it would obviously be beneficial to that company, having already trained you.

However if they decide not to employ you, another employer will be more likely to hire someone with a year's worth of work experience as opposed to a graduate with no experience. Even simple office experience is a huge advantage to an employer and it means that they have to spend less time having to train that person.

It seems a very small number of students opt for a sandwich year, possibly due to the lack of information given to them about how beneficial it can be. Yes, there are advisors in each university for students to talk to, if they choose, but students are not always given sufficient information on the subject, through, for example, as lecturers, the university's virtual learning programme, email to students, even posters around campus. Unfortunately, many students will not even consider the sandwich year as an option, therefore could be missing out on a better start to their career.

University of Brighton: Encouraging work placements

aspirATion spoke to two student members from the University of Brighton about the importance of work placements.



Shriya (left) and a colleague work on an office makeover

'I was about to give up...don't you ever do that!'

Shriya Gohil, student member and final year Architectural Technology student at the University of Brighton, always wanted to study Architectural Technology.

I always knew I wanted to study Architectural Technology at university. By using my skills in science and design, I believe I can develop conceptual designs into functional influential designs. I have always aspired to make people's dreams become reality; through Architectural Technology I believe I can make a positive difference to society. Buildings often have positive influences and innovative designs, are what can improve performance and inspire success in many industries by improving space users experience at work and at home.

Continually applied

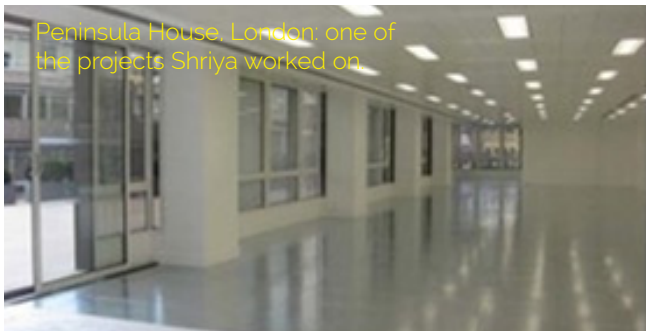
After completing my foundation degree at Southampton Solent University, I went to the University of Brighton. Ensuring I could work a year out in industry, I continuously applied for potential jobs. Through this period I noticed

that employers looked for certain skills. At university we were either team leaders or team players in commercial and residential projects, where we were exposed to various sets of problems and expected to develop various sets of skills which were sought after by employers.

Our lecturers gave us a chance to get involved in "real-world" applications to get us ready for the office environment. I enjoyed the fact that everything we learnt we would be able to apply into team projects enabling us to apply our knowledge in materials, design and construction.

Securing a placement

Nearing the end of my second year at university, I was able to secure a two-week work placement at a small but growing



architectural firm in Central London. During the two weeks I shadowed my colleagues as much as I could, absorbing as much information as possible. Through the use of my technical skills in Photoshop and AutoCAD, I was able to create a visualisation which was later presented to a client. My Director was so impressed and asked if I could stay on as a full-time employee for a year!

No room for mistakes!

The first few days were slightly nerve-racking but as the workload increased, there was more interaction with my colleagues where I was able to ask questions and offer help when and where needed. At this point my nerves were settling down, although I had to remind myself, university life is different from the real-world expectations – there was no room for mistakes!

Learning new software

The first month was a bit tougher. It was mostly about understanding and learning new software packages such as InDesign and juggling several projects at a time. Working for a small company is an amazing experience; you receive one-to-one help when you need it and you are given more and bigger responsibilities while being exposed to a broader range of projects.

During the course of my placement year I continually utilised and enhanced the skills that I gained through university, especially when it came to detailing work and specifications. I continually tried to reflect and to self-develop and managed to gain skills in workplace strategies.

Unique workshops

One of the Team Directors was a Workplace Director. She always found new ways to present conceptual designs to clients. She organised unique workshops and presentations, sometimes through the use of A1 size boards and post-it notes or through questionnaires; always an innovative way out of some tested and conventional methods. She really was able to engage with clients efficiently. I began to show interest in workplace and she started to mentor me; so many new opportunities opened up for me through this new interest!

New connections

Working doesn't have to be all work, no play! My colleagues knew how to work hard and enjoy themselves too. That's how I learnt to enjoy even more what I do as a job. Now that I am back to complete my final year at university, I am applying all that I have learnt from the real-life projects into my studies. It has opened up new connections and my eyes to how the real world really is.

It truly is beneficial

As a piece of advice to fellow students out there, do apply to do a year in industry; it truly is beneficial. If you couldn't secure something immediately, keep trying and don't give up! Gaining professional experience provides you with so much more knowledge that is best learnt first-hand. It's something for you to add to your CV and make yourself stand out of the crowd. If you have that bit more knowledge it makes you more employable, and while you are still a student on a year-out experience, you still have a little bit of space for mistakes!



Hard work always ends with a smile

Janet Osei-Berchie, Student member at the University of Brighton studying Architectural Technology, combined a keenness for art with an interest in technology.

Like many people I didn't know exactly what I wanted to study but on the basis of the knowledge I gained through my A-level studies, I made a decision on the course I wanted to apply for; that was Architectural Technology. As a keen and fully committed art student with an interest in new technology this felt like the perfect career for me. My long-term goal was to pursue a career in Architectural Technology and this was the first step.

A daunting choice

Choosing the right university was daunting at first; there were so many factors I had to think about. At first I didn't think I would end up at the University of Brighton; but I had a look at the course and the university and loved it, and the lecturers were so nice, the course looked great and Brighton as a city is just amazing! I just wasn't sure if it was the right place for me. I looked at other universities and was set on a different place. My circumstances changed and I decided to come to Brighton, I can honestly say that it was the best decision I have ever made!

Starting university was scary; I was in a new city with new people. You hear all these stories about students who start a degree and end up hating the course. I was nervous and didn't want this to happen to me and luckily I still love my course! I think the highlights of

my course have been working with different people. The course at the university allows me to work with different students studying courses in AEC industry e.g. surveyors, project managers and civil engineers. I am able to learn from them, understand more about their role and what it can be like when working on live projects in the future. Some of the other highlights have to be the help and support we get from the lecturers. There hasn't been a module I have done where I haven't been given help from the lecturers. If I am struggling I always know I can drop them an email or just knock on their office door and they will sit and go through my queries.

Experience is vital

In the course we are encouraged to take a placement year working in the industry, this is done after our second year in university. I knew that this was something I really wanted to do, as experience is vital in this industry. The placement office

There hasn't been a module I have done where I haven't been given help from the lecturers

at my university is amazing! I started applying for a placement in the summer but wasn't getting any luck. This changed with constant motivation and help from the placement office. I kept applying and finally I got one! My course leader who knew the Directors of the company found this particular placement. Having a good relationship with your lecturers can really help when looking for placements or graduate jobs.

Approachable local practice

The company where I found a placement is a fast growing, approachable local practice in Brighton. They specialise in environmentally conscious architecture and are very client-oriented. They are very committed to creating buildings that aim to strike a balance between aesthetics, functionality, environmental awareness and affordability. They commit themselves to ensure that the client receives nothing but the best.

My first week at placement was daunting as I felt that I was out of my comfort zone. I was no longer working with fellow students who knew just as much as I did but with talented experienced design team who I felt incapable of offering any help or support to. My nerves soon calmed down and I started loving my placement; I learnt so much! Every day I think I learnt something new. I had the opportunity to work on many different projects.

We were always busy!

The company was amazing; it was growing so fast and had such a diverse range of projects. We were always so busy! I was able to learn

from experienced architects who were willing to teach me new things and provide help and support in any way they could. I loved the fact that I was able to get so involved in different projects and started feeling more and more helpful and able to offer support for the team and contribute to different projects. My placement involved working on a variety of construction works. From extensions to a whole house renovation. I was given the opportunity to do design extensions, survey clients' houses and provide detail drawings to comply with building regulations. What I learnt at university helped me on my placement but due to the nature of the course and this profession there is a lot you are still able to learn while doing a real-world project on a year-out placement and that is why I would highly recommend a placement to any student studying Architectural Technology.

This is 'the' career for you

I am now back at university in my final year. What I have learnt from my year out is helping me tremendously in appreciating what we are taught in our final year of the degree. I am so glad I decided to do it! For current students all I have to say is keep going, work hard and get as much experience as possible, talk to your lecturers, find out who they know in the industry. They might seem scary but seriously they are just like any of us, they were once students too! For future students I would definitely recommend Architectural Technology; if you have an interest in construction, design and the technical aspects of construction then I would say this is 'the' career for you.



Students at the University of Brighton (left) enjoy a vibrant coastal location. *Image credits: Michael John Wilson/Ian Stannard*

Home or away?

Agnieszka Piwnik, Architectural Technology and Construction Management Student at VIA University College in Denmark writes about her Erasmus Exchange experience at Southampton Solent University.



The decision to study away from your home country can be challenging, but what happens if you have already moved and chose to take part in an Erasmus+ Programme?

I was born and brought up in Poland. After high school I decided to move to Aarhus, Denmark to study Architectural Technology and Construction Management at VIA University College. During my first semester of the second year I decided to enrol on Erasmus+ Programmes and joined the BA (Hons) in Architectural Technology at Southampton Solent University for one term. It was a challenging yet marvellous journey that changed my way of seeing the programme and helped me make important decisions.

At VIA, my course is more complex: my final project consisted of a Revit file of a single-family house together with installation plans (heating, hot and cold water, ventilation, drainage), fire plans as well as calculating U-values, R-values, static and energy reports.

Before choosing a UK university as a destination for my Erasmus, I had to decide either to study

Architectural Technology or Construction Management as those are taught separately. At VIA I had already studied some elements of construction management including business, planning and project management and it was these areas that I wanted to learn more about at Solent where I chose to study contract administration, specification, procurement and project management as well as design.

Arriving at Southampton, not knowing anything about the university other than reading articles and seeing the materials on the website, was a pleasant surprise. The campus looked professional, modern and moreover, the facilities were of the highest level. The studio was

I was the first Erasmus student on the Architectural Technology course and was really taken care of

I would encourage anyone to participate in Erasmus, and not only for study. The cultural impact is massive.

incredible and well equipped with all the computer programmes I needed.

I got the warmest welcome from my course leader Sarah Radif MCIAT together with all the lecturers and the International Office staff. I was the first Erasmus student on the Architectural Technology

course and was really taken care of it felt like being at home. I was really impressed with the professionalism of the university, course and the staff and was encouraged to fulfil my ideas and shown a path to follow my dreams.

During the fifth semester at VIA, I will have to make a decision as to the direction I want to go with my studies: Architectural Technology or Construction Management, and then, choose my speciality either in energy, sustainability or fire safety. I do not know which direction I will choose yet, but going to

Solent has opened my mind to new ideas I hadn't thought about previously. Studying a semester abroad is a wonderful experience. It might not be that surprising when you already live in a different country, but Solent has managed to meet all of my expectations and more. It showed me new possibilities for my future career and opened many doors.

I developed friendships which may be helpful while looking for a professional job. I learnt about the English NHS requirements for hospitals and the way people work there. I would encourage anyone to participate in Erasmus, and not only for study. The cultural impact is massive, free English communication practice, the motivation and support that makes you more responsible and brave in life as well as enriching your CV. After finishing my degree, I would like to start working in an architectural company anywhere in the world.

Although the programme at Southampton differs slightly from the one in Denmark, I must say that it was a great time that without me knowing it, changed my way of thinking and seeing the world. It was a great experience, full of joy and support so I would definitely encourage anyone to visit Solent – at least once!

What they said about **Agnieszka**

It was a pleasure and delight having Agnieszka as the first ERASMUS student of Architectural Technology at Southampton Solent University and we couldn't have asked for a better student. We were impressed by her level of technical knowledge and Revit skills which is a credit to the colleagues at VIA. As both courses are Accredited by CIAT, the exchange experience was relatively easy and seamless. Studying in a different culture and country is an exciting and enriching experience, one that can add value, open-mindedness and resilience. I encourage all students to think seriously about taking part in an ERASMUS exchange due to the benefits it brings, academically and socially.

Sarah Radif MCIAT, Architectural Technology Programme Leader, Southampton Solent University. (sarah.radif@solent.ac.uk)

You have got to admire Architectural Technology students like Agnieszka for taking the challenge taking an exchange semester abroad to Southampton Solent University. Students that have the ability and courage to

take this step abroad are removed from their comfort zone. Taking a parallel semester abroad gives many challenges for students to face, for example different teaching methodology, learning and working with new software programs, studying different construction methods and materials, not to mention arranging new accommodation and making new friends.

To be flexible and learn new international skills from construction to design techniques, language and learning to function culturally in another country are exactly the skills that Architectural Technology students/graduates should also possess in the future.

Many thanks to the Architectural Technology teaching team, at Southampton Solent University for making Agnieszka and Erasmus exchange semester possible.

Roger Howard Taylor MCIAT, International Coordinator ATCM, Lecturer in Design and Construction, VIA University College, Denmark

Promenade Development Project

Architectural Design Technology students recently contributed designs for the Colwyn Bay Promenade development; three were selected for consideration by Conwy Council for actual realisation.



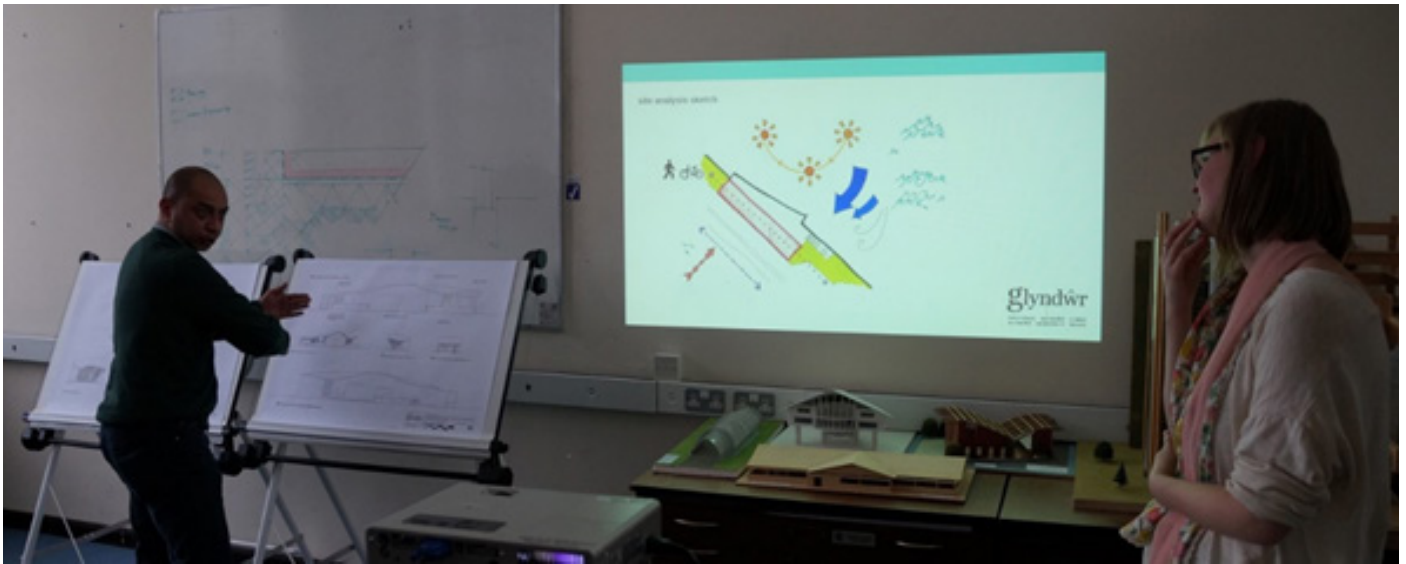
Proposed Headland site for the concessions stall along the Promenade. Source: BCA Landscape

Conwy County Borough Council contacted Dr Colin Stuhlfelder MCIAT Programme Leader for Architectural Design Technology (ADT) with the opportunity for students to get involved with a 'live' project; the Colwyn Bay Promenade redevelopment.

Students were given a brief requiring the design of a concessions stall and Harbour Master office on one of the headlands being built out from the Promenade. It was a tight spot with limited

scope for development (something we decided to optimistically call a 'Bijou site').

The second year ADT students proposed a variety of schemes at an initial event in December, attended by officers from the Council and the Liverpool-based Landscape Architects BCA Landscape, who stated: 'have to say I'm impressed by the quality of the presentations: they've had a lot of fun with this!'



Hussein of BCA Landscape discussing the design of Cadi, one of the second year students

Following this event, three schemes were selected for consideration. The selected designs of Michael Clarkson, Nichola Hilton and David Robbins (and the others, praised by the clients but not selected) were then worked up to a fuller set of drawings

and presented to the ADT team at the university as their major design project for marking as part of their second year course; combining a real life project with an actual client against the ongoing need to achieve their credits.



David's developmental sketch, Nichola's visualisation, and Michael's Elevations

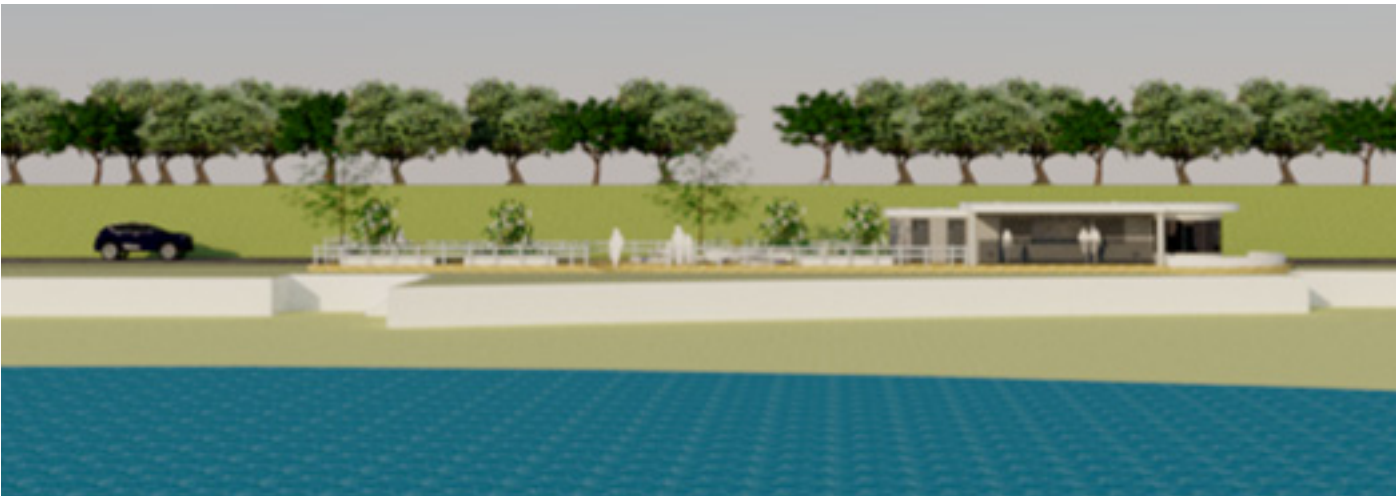
Gethin Morgan, the lead officer for the project from the Council reflected:

'We feel the collaboration has worked really well and has been a real benefit to both parties. Involving the university students has worked well in terms of the community benefits of the project, and hopefully involving both the client and the design team in the development of the designs

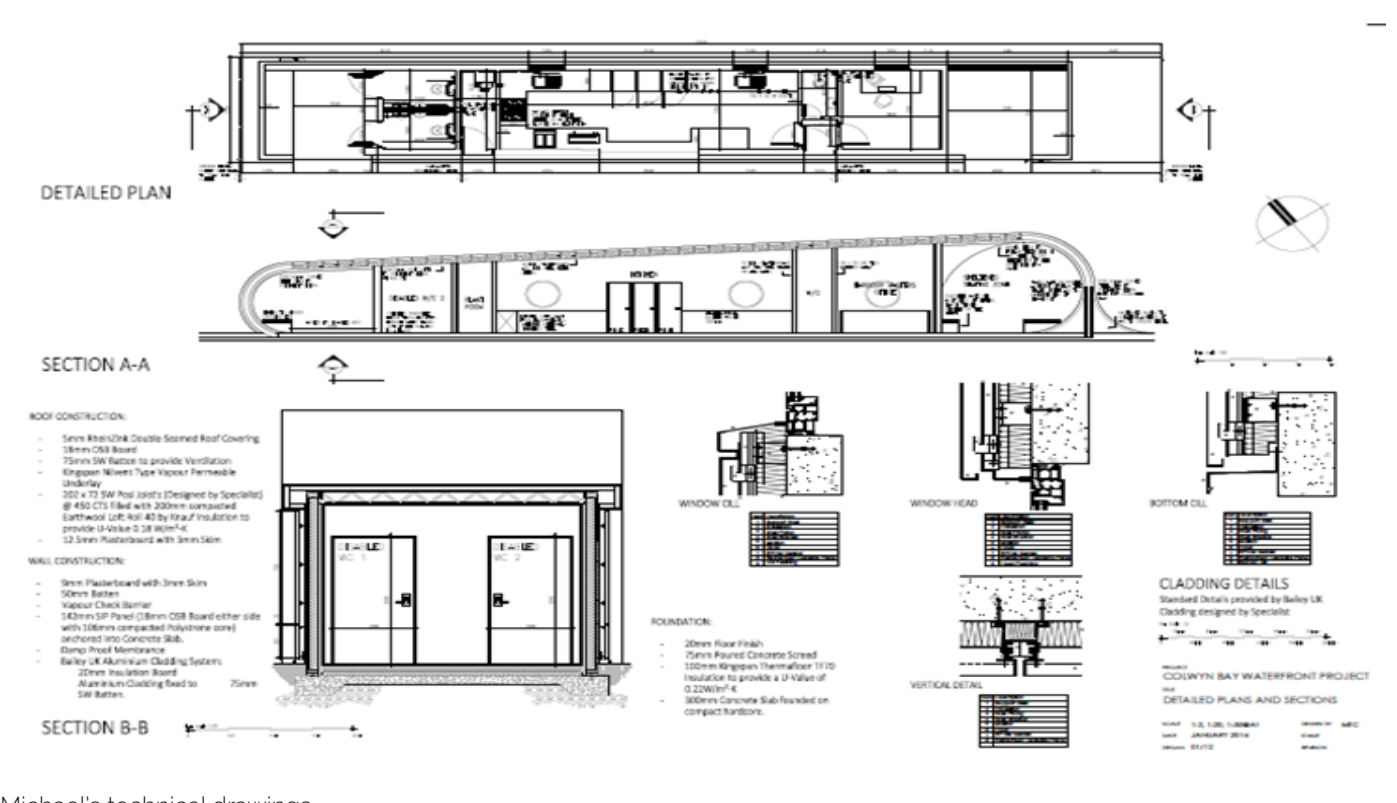
has been a benefit to the students, by giving them a taste of working on a 'live' project. We were very impressed with the quality of the work presented by the students and how the students really got stuck in to the scheme and concept. This is reflected in the fact that the Council is currently considering one of the student design concepts to be developed further and incorporated into the final scheme.'



David's final visualisation



Nichola's final visualisation



Michael's technical drawings

Of their designs, Nichola found a personal connection with the scheme, living as she does a few minutes from the Promenade:

The task gave me the opportunity to design a building and landscape that myself and my children would be able to see and enjoy every day...I opted for an Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) wall system for efficiency and ease and a concrete roof. I chose a grey composite wood cladding for the external to add contrast to the white render. To make the design vibrant I added heavy planting using colourful plants suitable for coastal conditions. The whole experience allowed me to expand on my knowledge of construction by giving me an insight into how construction is specific to different environments. I thoroughly enjoyed the assignment as I had the opportunity to design a little haven for a place I love.

Colwyn Bay's promenade today and in its Victorian heyday (inset). *Neil Kennedy.*



'The task gave me the opportunity to design a building and landscape that myself and my children would be able to see and enjoy every day' – Nicola Hilton

Michael noted:

The main feature I wanted to incorporate into my design was a viewing gallery, protecting the public from harsh coastal weather yet allowing them to still enjoy the view looking out to sea. This space is designed to replicate the crest of a wave, with the underside of the crest boasting a mural/feature wall of mosaic tiles depicting the colours of flowing water.

Zinc and aluminium make up the primary materials used on the exterior envelope of the building, mainly for their corrosive-resistant properties, however, they also allow the experiment with colour and shapes if the Council feels that is a feature to add to the design.

To conclude, this project has inspired me to challenge my creative boundaries in other projects at the university and in practice and I'm hoping to enter competitions like this in the future to showcase these ideas.

David's design in particular, with its use of Corten-Steel as a means of adding to the restrained slate building sparked a discussion about the 'Marmite-effect' of certain designs and how achieving this is often a means of attracting attention to a building and, by extension, the scheme it is part of. During these discussions we had to try and explain to two Catalonian exchange students what the 'Marmite-effect' meant.

As Dr Gareth Carr, Lecturer in Architecture at the university is an ardent fan of the savoury delight, we decided the best way to get the message across was to provide the Catalonians with a slice of bread with added Marmite. Needless to say, the point was well made.

Over the next month, the Council and its partners will decide on which scheme to pursue. With any luck, the end of 2016 will see one of these designs up and working on the Colwyn Bay Promenade.

Life after graduating



Frances Walters ACIAT writes about her experiences with M+W Group's graduate training programme and her involvement with CIAT's Wessex Region.

Alongside my work as an Architectural Assistant at M+W Group, I am currently in the process of completing the company's four-year graduate training programme, the Knowledge Development Programme (KDP) which provides all those involved with experience across a broad range of disciplines.

The KDP allows participants to choose from a range of module options, tailored to the individual's specific learning and career aspirations. One of the first modules I completed was 'Professional Conduct and Institutions – Architecture', which introduced me to architectural institutions, primarily the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT). I was able to research the core principles of both, which gave me the platform and confidence to apply for professional membership.

I acquired a wide range of skills and knowledge at University which enabled me to explore a range of career opportunities within various industries. The course provided a limited level of exposure to construction details and technical information however and this is something that is invaluable in professional practice. Since joining M+W Group I have been able to significantly increase my technical knowledge and with it continued to develop my career.

At M+W Group, I work as part of a multi-disciplinary team on a range of major and complex projects. The KDP encourages interaction with other

departments and provides exposure to meetings and other learning platforms that I may not otherwise have the opportunity to be a part of. For example, this year through 'live' project experience I will obtain the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to complete my chosen modules of basic mechanical and electrical engineering, contracts, multidisciplinary design coordination and quality.

My aspiration is that through training at work, attendance at CIAT Wessex Region events and mentoring, I will be able to apply to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist MCIAT in the future. Although my goal is to become MCIAT, it is the journey that I will take to get there that I am most excited about. I really enjoy learning and furthering my knowledge, both in architecture and other related fields. CIAT has provided me with a professional goal for my learning and a reason to ensure I maintain and develop my knowledge and experience in the industry whilst also providing me with professional recognition.

Frances Walters is an Architectural Assistant for global high tech engineering and construction company M+W Group, based at the UK HQ in Chippenham, Wiltshire and part of the Wessex Region. Frances graduated in 2012 with a BA(Hons) Interior Architecture and has been working for M+W Group for three years, primarily in the renewable energy sector and has been ACIAT for approximately one year. In addition to project work, Frances is also a STEM ambassador working with local students encouraging core subjects and potential career opportunities, as well as being very involved with the Engineering Education Scheme (EES)

Student Awards for Excellence in Architectural Technology



The winning entry in CIAT's Student Award (Project) 2015, by Joshua Slingsby

CIAT Student Awards are the premier accolades that recognise outstanding design and research achievement in Architectural Technology. There are two Award categories that you can enter:

- Project
- Report

To enter the CIAT Student Awards for 2016, please go to our website www.ciat.org.uk, read the entry criteria and complete the online application form.

Why enter the Awards?

- To have your work and your university's teaching excellence in the technology of architecture recognised by Architectural Technology professionals.
- The entries are rigorously judged and assessed by highly experienced Chartered Architectural Technologists
- Award winners receive promotion across the Institute in print and online and featured at www.ciat.org.uk/en/awards/student-awards/
- If your entry is shortlisted you can promote this to networks and colleagues and have use of the Awards logo
- Winners and their projects will be featured in a specially printed booklet, the Institute's magazine AT and through our social media channels.

Who can enter?

Entrants must be CIAT members, studying full or part-time on an undergraduate programme in Architectural Technology (or related subject) and must not hold any construction related professional qualification.

2016 Award deadlines and timetable

The CIAT Student Awards for Excellence in Architectural Technology are open from 12 February 2016 until 1 July 2016.

Shortlisted entries are announced on Tuesday 2 August 2016 and those successfully selected can promote that they have been shortlisted and will be issued with a special Awards logo for use. A press release will be issued.