

aspiration

An e-magazine for aspiring & newly qualified
Architectural Technology professionals

Issue 17
Autumn/Winter 2023

How to prepare for
an architectural
job interview

AT Awards 2023 |
Winners & Finalists

Competing for
excellence at
EuroSkills
Gdańsk 2023





A word from the Editor

Welcome to the autumn/winter edition of *aspirATIOn magazine* as we wave goodbye to the year that was 2023. As always, we're pleased to be bringing you another issue of insightful features, guidance and support to aid you in your studies, at work and as you develop your career in AT.

Back in October, the AT Awards 2023 were held in Shoreditch, London once more, and we have lots of AT Awards-themed content for you to read, including more about the winning projects and reports from the Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology. The AT Awards open again for entries on **5 February 2024** – hopefully you'll be inspired by this year's entries and want to gain recognition from industry for your own work in the technology of architecture.

This issue also features an interesting insight from Isabelle Baron ACIAT into entering another international competition – EuroSkills 2023. There are helpful articles on the role of mentoring as a resourceful tool as you aim to qualify as a Chartered Architectural Technologist, and useful tips, tricks and advice for preparing for a job interview.

As I always say, please get in touch regarding ideas for future articles, profiles or features, as well as anything in this issue – this publication is for you and is your chance to have your voice heard, share your experiences, successes, and advice among other things.

Seasons greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

April McKay
Editor



The aspirATIOn Yorkshire Group met for the first time in-person this month – previously, all meetings had taken place over MS Teams.

Group Chair, Sam Lambert ACIAT (right) said: "We are looking forward to the New Year and all 2024 brings, as we work together to develop the aspirATIOn Yorkshire Group further."

Find a Mentor with Mentor Match Me

Our mentors are here to help you gain additional knowledge and insight

- Gain guidance on the MCIAT qualifying/progression process
- Identify your strengths and weaknesses and the best way to work with these in your career
- Develop a professional network within CIAT

Set up an account at ciat.mentormatch.me



Front cover image:
The Hide: Centre of Environmental Safeguarding
© Callum Matthew Craske

In this issue...

06
aspirATion initiative

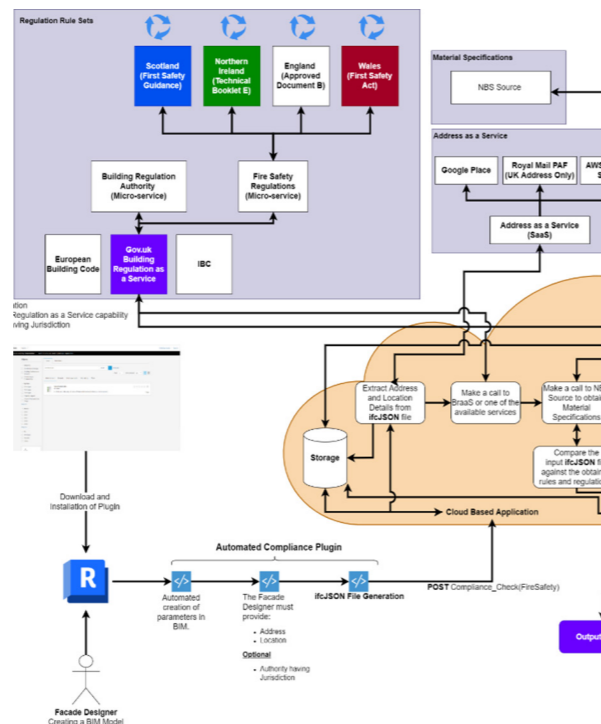
08
AT Awards | Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology
Winners
Callum Matthew Craske
Jack Buckley ACIAT

15
Emerging Talent in the Technology of Architecture
Rosie Thirlwell ACIAT

18
Transformative learning: my work placement year
Tim Danson

19
Competing for excellence at Euroskills Gdańsk 2023
Isabelle Baron ACIAT

22
The role of mentoring in helping to attain Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT status
PLD Mentoring



24
CIAT student member leads team to construction award excellence
Abi Inskip

27
First CIAT Accredited apprenticeship in England offered by LSBU
April McKay

28
How to prepare for an architectural job interview
Aylin Round

31
Improved Design Management for effective BIM implementation
Daniel Grimes ACIAT

33
North West Region one-day conference
Dr Colin Stuhlfelder FCIAT



aspirATIOn

The network supporting
and developing aspiring professionals.

You may often think about what your career as an Architectural Technology professional or Chartered Architectural Technologist will be like, but perhaps you are unsure where to start.

It is never too early to start networking and being affiliated and engaged with certain organisations as this may be fruitful later in your career; either because you know who to contact or perhaps to find your next role. This is why CIAT is committed to helping you get started through our aspirATIOn initiative.

What is aspirATIOn?

aspirATIOn is a forward thinking and inclusive global community of CIAT members and affiliates, made up of students, graduates, Associates, affiliates and recently qualified Chartered Architectural Technologists. The initiative was established both to support aspiring professionals as well as to help shape the future of the profession.

aspirATIOn operates at Region/Centre level led by an aspirATIOn Chair who has convened a local aspirATIOn Group. aspirATIOn currently exists/operates in the following areas, though it is growing as Architectural Technology becomes more widely recognised:

- 01 Northern Region
- 02 Yorkshire Region
- 03 North West Region
- 04 East Midlands Region
- 05 West Midlands Region
- 06 Wessex Region
- 07 East Anglia Region
- 08 Central Region
- 09 Greater London Region
- 10 South East Region
- 11 Channel Islands Region
- 12 Western Region
- 13 Scotland West Region
- 14 Scotland East Region
- 15 Northern Ireland Region
- 16 Wales Region
- C2 Republic of Ireland Centre
- C5 Asia Centre (India)
- C6 Europe Centre (Denmark)
- C7 Middle East and Africa Centre (Dubai)



The Chairs of all Regions/Centres in turn form the aspirATIOn Committee which is currently overseen by Joe Hyett ACIAT. Both William and Joe have previously been aspirATIOn Group Chairs in their respective Regions and part of their remit as Committee Chairs is to provide guidance and a framework for the Group Chairs to follow. This is supported administratively by CIAT staff. The aspirATIOn Committee meets at least once a year to network and share good practice.

Local aspirATIOn Groups will typically meet more frequently as they hold different events and outreach activities and are encouraged to work with the following groups to organise events which can include socials, CPD events or site visits:

- Region/Centre Committees
- CIAT Accredited Programmes
- Colleges and schools
- Peer groups such as
 - neighbouring aspirATIOn Groups
 - members of BRE Academy
 - CIOB Novus
 - RICS Matrics
 - local industry professionals

Why get involved?

Being part of aspirATIOn will provide you with support whether you are studying, a recent graduate, an early career practitioner or have recently become a Chartered Architectural Technologist. There will be other members or affiliates that are going through the same thing or perhaps are a little further into their career, meaning they can share valuable tips from their own recent experiences.

Some of our former aspirATIOn Chairs have gained employment through their involvement and networking events. Similarly, several former Chairs have been appointed to other roles within the Institute such as Vice-Presidents, Regional Chairs, Councillors or as Trustees on the Institute's Executive Board, for example.

How to get involved?

We will advertise vacancies for the role of Chair via the Accredited Programme leaders, email and *AT Weekly*. Should any Chairs ask us to promote other roles they have within their aspirATIOn Committee, we will circulate them via the above means as well.

If you would like to be put in contact with your local aspirATIOn Chair, please email education@ciat.global. Similarly, if you have any feedback or suggestions on aspirATIOn, we would be pleased to hear them. ■



aspirATIOn Group Chairs and members celebrating at the AT Awards 2022 in Shoreditch, London



Winner
2023

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY
| PROJECT



The Hide – Centre of Environmental Safeguarding

Words by Callum Matthew Craske, Nottingham Trent University

The Centre of Environmental Safeguarding is the latest addition to the University of East Anglia's world-renowned research facilities. Strategically situated at the heart of the North Norfolk coastline, 'The Hide' has been thoughtfully crafted to fuse the University's expertise in life sciences with a commitment to preserve the natural beauty of the Cley Marsh Nature Reserve, the planet's largest chalk reef and marine conservation zone, and the exceptional dark skies that are emblematic of the region's status as an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

The steady rise in tourism, which has seen an additional 5,000 visitors to the marsh nature reserve since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, has galvanised a community of independent business owners, walkers, photographers and wildlife enthusiasts to rally around efforts to sustain this delicate environment. This local initiative has since grown to encompass national organisations, including the RNLI, Marine Conservation Society, National Wildlife Trust and the UEA. After extensive consultations, a management plan that integrates local expertise with the broader knowledge of large organisations was agreed upon. Subsequently, the critical importance of a central hub that would serve as an educational and inspirational beacon for safeguarding the coastline was recognised.

Our development proposal prioritises the protection of the local environment. Global studies have demonstrated how the integration of community efforts with the research capabilities of large organisations such as the UEA can be tremendously beneficial in environmental conservation. Our proposal includes bio-laboratories, IT suites and classrooms for the university to carry out and apply their research. Additionally, smaller classrooms have been designed for the Marine Conservation Society, National Wildlife Trust and RNLI to apply their knowledge, alongside exhibition and presentation spaces that will provide opportunities to educate tourists and the local community on ways they can contribute to environmental preservation. In summary, our design proposal is a well-considered, environmentally conscious response to the unique needs and demands of this exceptional natural environment.

The undulating plan of the building is an expression of the irregular lines seen in the surrounding landscape where the waves of the North Sea crash onto the shingle bank and the rivers that meander through the marsh land. The multifaceted form provided abundant opportunity to create picturesque views over the unique coastal landscape for each of the educational environments found within 'The Hide'. Developing on the undulation seen in the plan, the triangulating roof reduces visual impact and creates a winged appearance relating to the rare birds and insects that live and breed in the coastal marsh land.

Coastal Grazing Marsh - land previously used for livestock farming to the south of the beach car park is utilised for its high and compact ground with a lack of existing wildlife.

Splash strip and green roof - the growth of contextually appropriate plants such as the yellow horned poppy, attracts rare swallow tailed butterflies benefitting the ecosystem

Exhibitions and educational displays - from the university and local groups like the BSAC branch 11 scuba team aim to inspire the public in a joint preservation attempt

Light weight and local construction - the flint, timber frame and rammed earth are locally sourced and can be constructed by local crafts people.

As part of our approach to the dark skies policy we decided to emphasise the beauty of experiencing them. The four observatories strategically located around the site

provide intimate spots for walkers, photographers, wildlife enthusiasts and star-gazers alike to experience the many wonders, day and night, held within the delicate landscape. The integration of local knowledge with that of international expertise is apparent in the approach to education, preservation and construction. This unification is most visible in The Hide external appearance where flint, traditionally used in the vernacular of the Norfolk coast merges with the internationally respected VmZinc cladding.

A by-product of the iron making industry, a 70% GGBS cement substitute is used in the inevitable cement building components due to holding a lower LCIA rating than usual concrete mixes and for its whiter appearance resembling the chalk reef. Despite having a high gwp of 12209.4kgCO₂ eq/m³, VmZinc's pigment green, double lock-standing seam cladding system was chosen for its durability against saline water exposure and harsh coastal winds.

Seamlessly blending into the sand and shingle bank, embodying the coast at its core, the locally abundant stone has low embodied carbon and in its natural form can withstand the testing coastal environment.

The copious amounts of wood fibre building components used, such as the steico flex 036 insulation, Finsa Superpan airtight board and Troldekt acoustic panels, benefit healthy and comfortable indoor environments while maintaining a low environmental impact and often performing better than their synthetic counterparts.

Natural ventilation strategy - the narrow form, top hung, windows, floor vents, rammed earth and GGBS concrete (with their high thermal mass), created conditions that benefited the integration of a natural ventilation strategy.

Wind and tidal turbines - the North Sea here provides optimal conditions for wind and tidal turbines which exist currently with potential to develop further. The research carried out on site looks to enhance the harvesting of these omnipresent energy sources

Saline water source heat pump - the highly efficient and sustainable heating and cooling solution utilises natural warmth from the sea to regulate the buildings thermal comfort at a considerably lower environmental and economic cost than traditional HVAC systems.

Natural lighting strategy - oversized high level windows flood natural light into all spaces with internal glazing carrying this into the central corridor - a successful glazing strategy allowing for a mostly natural lighting system with daylight sensors and movement controlled lighting used where required.

Solar photovoltaic technologies - the aligned research project investigated the optimal integration of SPV technologies into The Hide's renewable energy strategy. With a tilt angle of 40 degrees and azimuth angle of 3 degrees, simulated as the most effective solution, the Cadmium Telluride panels can be expected to produce 29,205 Kwh/yr.

What the Judges said

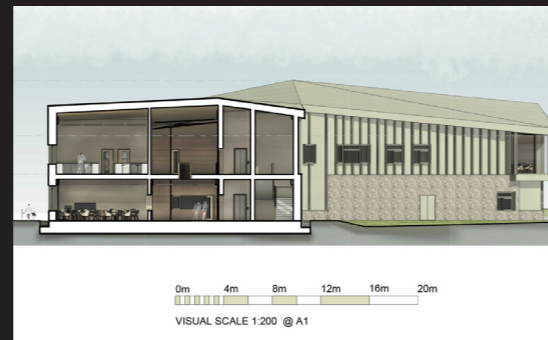
Callum's entry distinguished itself from the other submissions by its accomplished explanation of the project, with impressive overall presentation and a consistent thematic approach throughout. The Judges were unanimous in considering that the choice of materials aligned well with the location and could see the careful consideration in each of the choices.

Judges were particularly impressed by the consistently well resolved details, where crisp annotation and a thoughtful selection of colours for the different elements provided for clear presentation of the work. The work shows an advanced understanding of a number of important agenda for the practising Architectural Technologist.

The inclusion of thermal targets through the inclusion of U-value calculations and accompanying imagery, incorporating a carbon calculation as a performance check for materials was thought to be a noteworthy and innovative inclusion for a Student Award entry. This was complimented by a comprehensive fire strategy that the Judges agreed was possibly the best they had seen in a number of years. The work incorporated key accessibility targets and had a unique approach to variations in material colour to accommodate visually impaired users.

All of these set a high standard for entries and were the key factors in the Judges' selection of this work as the standout winner for the Student Award | Project. ■

The inclusion of thermal targets through the inclusion of U-value calculations and accompanying imagery, incorporating a carbon calculation as a performance check for materials was thought to be a noteworthy and innovative inclusion for a Student Award entry



Winners & Finalists

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY | PROJECT

aspirATIOn magazine takes a look at the other winners & Finalists for the Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology | Project



Highly Commended

Sirocco Quays: Multi-Generational-Residential Scheme

Jack Buckley ACIAT, Ulster University

This visionary redevelopment project is poised to breathe new life along the banks of the River Lagan, creating a vibrant and sustainable urban quarter that harmoniously blends residential and commercial spaces while prioritising modern living standards, environmental sustainability, and community well-being.



Commended

The Hex Building

Dylan O'Connor ACIAT, South East Technological University

Dylan's proposal takes an innovative approach to façade design in combining low carbon concrete, green walls and recycled plastic panelling coated with a titanium oxide paint which over its 25-year lifespan turns carbon dioxide into oxygen. The proposal hopes to reduce the building's overall carbon footprint to almost zero.



Finalist

Local Roots Revival

Edis Fodolovic ACIAT, Robert Gordon University

Nestled in the vibrant heart of Inverness, Local Roots Revival Project stands as a testament to transformation, addressing the ever-evolving needs of the capital of the Highlands and Islands. The local council's ambitious aspirations to reclaim and revitalise the waterfront area served as an inspiration for this ground-breaking project.



Finalist

Green View Park

Márton Fehér, Gediminas Laurinaitis, Wiktoria Rzymaska, & Jonathan Skov, VIA University

Green View Park is a sustainable housing project that was created during their fourth semester at VIA University College in Aarhus. As Denmark aims to become a frontier in sustainable and inclusive design, these practices were promoted from the early stages of their studies and treated as core principles throughout the design process.



Finalist

Sirocco Works – Belfast

Julia Aleksandra Szymborska, Ulster University

The Sirocco project's overarching goal is to effectively extend the city centre towards the eastern bank of the River Lagan. Its primary objective is to cultivate inviting public spaces, foster connections between neighbourhoods and communities, and offer a diverse range of land uses for all residents.

Winner
2023STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY
| REPORT

Reconstructing the Facade: An Investigation into the Fire Issues Surrounding Ventilated Rainscreen Cladding

Words by Jack Buckley ACIAT, Ulster University

Ventilated rainscreen cladding systems have gained popularity in the construction industry since their emergence in 1990, primarily due to their ability to reduce energy consumption, enhance sustainability and increase adaptability. However, as the industry has increasingly focused on energy efficiency, concerns about the fire safety of these systems have emerged. This concern intensified following the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire, leading to stricter regulations and greater emphasis on transparency and accountability in the construction industry. This shift has spurred interest in innovative technologies and materials to improve fire safety.

One such technology is Automated Code Compliance (ACC) software, which aims to automate the regulatory checking process for building designs. While attempts at ACC software have been made over the past two decades, the challenge of encoding complex regulatory texts into computable objects has hindered its development. My paper explored the fire safety issues surrounding ventilated rainscreen cladding and evaluates the potential of ACC software to address these challenges.

The research highlights the multifaceted nature of fire safety challenges in ventilated rainscreen cladding. Interviews and questionnaires conducted as part of this investigation reveal a range of issues. Notably, there is no single, isolated problem; instead, there exists a catalogue of failings, a sentiment consistent with previous research findings. Participants across the board emphasised the difficulties presented by ever-evolving fire regulations, particularly the inherent ambiguity within these regulations.

This aligns with observations by Hackitt (2018), who argued that the current regulatory processes for assessing fire safety in high-rise buildings are inadequate.

All participants agreed the Building Safety Act 2022, introduced by the UK Parliament (2022) as a direct response to the Grenfell Tower disaster has supported significant development in resolving issues relating to controlling material choice and substitution by creating a digital trail of information. However, participants added there is still a long way to go in erasing issues surrounding workmanship and improving the regulatory checking processes. The creation of a BIM model with accurate manufacturer product information would allow an ACC software to run fire compliance checks as the design evolves saving time and costs. Reports produced from the compliance checks can be stored on a common data environment (CDE), allowing all stakeholders to work from the same project information, providing the site team access to the latest façade drawings

and recording material choices and substitution. This would serve as the golden thread of information as recommended by Hackitt (2018).

Throughout this research there is an agreement that ACC would benefit the industry. However, that ACC software has not yet evolved to check fire safety adequately. All participants stated limitations that were restricting the adoption of ACC software at present. With one participant highlighting that software would need to be created with the ability to continuously update in line with fire safety regulations thus ensuring pan industry adoption. Participants also highlighted issues surrounding liability in the event of a software failure questioning where the responsibility would lie. One participant stated that ACC software could only be used to its highest potential if accurate manufacturer product information is fed into the BIM model. The results of the questionnaire highlighted a divided opinion towards the adoption of ACC software, with participants with 1-5 years' experience being more interested in learning more about ACC software whereas, participants with 6-10 and 10+ years' experience stating they are not interested in upskilling with advancements of technology. These findings convey the current state of the industry and provide optimism that ACC software as a solution to the fire issues surrounding ventilated rainscreen cladding will be adopted in the future.

The analysis of Solibri model checker (SMC) identified that ACC software is unable to cover fire safety adequately and does not have the ability to validate the information entered into the BIM model. This emphasises the significance of participant C's statement who suggested that ACC software is only as effective as the quality of a manufacturer's data. The analysis found that the software does not allow the customisation of rulesets to local jurisdictions, aligning with the findings of Eastman et al (2009). The analysis revealed that SMC lacks the ability to analyse material authorisation against regulations regarding fire safety, as the rulesets presented within SMC are more appropriate for model checking i.e. clashing objects, this highlights that at present there is no software that meets all of Eastman et al (2009) recommendations of attributes needed for ACC software. All current software needs greater transparency in how it works, to update with changes in legislation, be customisable to local jurisdictions and can authorise fire safety compliance of facade elements. i.e. cladding.

I devised an Automated Code Compliance (ACC) workflow tailored to align with the objectives outlined in my paper, encompassing the entirety of the research's findings. This showcased workflow emphasises the pivotal role of collaboration among industry stakeholders, software developers, and regulatory bodies. It establishes a robust framework for an ACC software solution capable of effectively addressing fire safety challenges, all the while promoting transparency, accountability and compliance with continually evolving regulations.

The proposed workflow, designed as an ACC software plugin for Building Information Modelling (BIM), offers a comprehensive solution. It entails sequential steps,



Jack (centre) with President Kevin Crawford PCIAT (left) and Matt Allwright at the AT Awards 2023

beginning with the precise input of manufacturer product information, followed by the execution of compliance checks, and culminating in the storage of reports within a shared data environment. Additionally, the workflow harnesses local building regulations, leveraging the user's address to customise its application. This information is securely stored in the cloud and automatically updated with any revisions to building regulations. This automation eliminates the need for manual software updates with each regulation amendment, ensuring seamless.

What the Judges said

Jack's report is very well written and engaging. It takes a very serious and topical issue and approaches it in a good, clear and meaningful way. A subject area that is very important for all Architectural Technology professionals. This study impressed the Judges with its sound methodological stance and robust research design. With clear aims and objectives, this work is based on the collection of primary data matched with a clear and complete literature review. The findings obtained indicate that Automated Code Compliance (ACC) software is viewed as the future of fire compliance checking in the industry.

This rich and precise piece of work was thought to be imaginative and finely executed in successfully shedding light on the potential for ACC software in addressing fire safety issues in ventilated rainscreen cladding. The research highlights key issues and challenges that currently hinder the adoption of ACC software, including concerns regarding legislation, liability and the standardisation of BIM model information. It suggests these challenges must be tackled before widespread adoption can occur to ensure the industry is ready to embrace ACC software and fully leverage its potential. The mix of text, drawings, diagrams and images combine to make it a well written and informative report. This work is a brilliant example of excellence in Architectural Technology and an exemplar for the Student Award Report category. ■

Winners & Finalists

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY | REPORT

aspirATIOn magazine takes a look at the other winners & Finalists for the Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology | Report



Highly Commended

An Investigation into Improving Communication to Students with Enhance Remote Learning Experiences

Saif Wasim ACIAT,
Ulster University

With a clear method and well-defined aims and objectives, this work challenges us all to learn from the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and adapt work practices to protect our livelihoods from the impact of any future events of this type. A good mix of information types and particularly useful renderings of virtual meeting environments clearly articulate the message of the work.



Commended

Hemp Lime Composite as a Natural Building Material for Proposed Walls in Irish Construction

Jack Fleming ACIAT
Atlantic Technological University

While exploring a material very local to Jack's location of study, Judges felt that he has highlighted an important traditional construction method that is important for the modern Architectural Technology professional concerned with the sustainable credentials of their projects. Providing a thorough background to this traditional material, the work highlights the renewed importance it could make in modern construction.



Finalist

An Investigation into the Impact of Alternative Stabilisers, Aggregates and Additives on the Durability and Compressive Strength of Rammed Earth for Use in a Healthcare Setting

David Blackburn,
Coventry University

This experimental report tested the impact of waste product stabilisers, aggregates and additives on the unconfined compressive strength and surface durability of Rammed Earth, aiming to discover functional and sustainable alternatives to Cement Stabilised Rammed Earth that could be implemented into a medium secure child and adolescent mental health unit.

Winner 2023

EMERGING TALENT IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF ARCHITECTURE

AWARDS

Rosie Thirlwell ACIAT

Words by Patrick McMahon, Partner, FaulknerBrowns

The third recipient for excellence in the technology of architecture for those in the early stages of their career in Architectural Technology.

The Award recognises Associate members and Chartered Architectural Technologists with a professional career path of ten years or less.

Rosie is a highly deserving candidate due to her significant impact and unwavering passion in the field of Architectural Technology. In just six years, she has made remarkable strides, ascending from a trainee to a Senior Architectural Technologist. Rosie's influence is evident not only in her impressive project portfolio, which includes the successful refurbishment of Newcastle Civic Centre and Britannia Leisure Centre, but also in her commitment to collaboration and sustainability. Her passion for detail-oriented work and innovative design solutions has consistently delivered award-winning projects, but her contributions extend beyond her professional achievements as she actively promotes diversity, inclusion, and wellbeing within the construction industry and CIAT. Her role as a trailblazer and advocate for young women in a male-dominated industry is a testament to her impact and determination. With her exceptional leadership skills and relentless passion, Rosie is an exemplary candidate for the Emerging Talent Award.

Rosie first joined FaulknerBrowns Architects on a work placement in 2014 and her commitment and attitude made a very positive impression; the practice was compelled to offer her a permanent position as a trainee Architectural Technologist while she completed her studies part time. In 2017 Rosie graduated with First Class Honours and won the CIAT Outstanding Student Award. In less than six years, she has worked her way up from a trainee to a Senior Architectural Technologist, showing her drive to develop professionally and lead others. She now runs projects and is the technical lead on high profile and complex schemes, such as the refurbishment of Newcastle Civic Centre, Britannia Leisure Centre and Woolwich Leisure Centre, a new community facility in London. Rosie is now on track to achieve Chartership in 2023 after returning from maternity leave.

Rosie's role, detailing how a building is constructed, is creative and complex, requiring a lot of coordination and collaboration with other disciplines. As a technical lead, she encourages collaboration by holding design workshops with consultants and works hard to ensure everyone is communicating effectively together. Rosie is a keen clarinettist, playing in a quartet and prestigious events, and so an understanding of team dynamics comes naturally to her. Her open and flexible nature has allowed her to create strong relationships within the industry, from members of the design team, Building Control, planners to and suppliers.

Rosie combines a strong leadership style with excellent people management skills. These attributes drive not only her project work, but her influence as a founding member of FaulknerBrowns' Wellbeing and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) groups. The two causes are important to her, and she has worked to create a better working environment that gives back to the community, an approach that was instrumental in her winning Highly Commended for the G4C Future Leader Award in 2022.

Rosie is passionate about public sector buildings that can deliver social value in spades, having recently worked on Britannia Leisure Centre, a project innovative both for its stacked form and approach to inclusivity and accessibility. She challenged the design team to create innovative solutions for structural challenges created by stacking sports facilities. Rosie was instrumental in the delivery of this project and was the single point of contact with the contractor. Now complete, the centre operates innovative programming, including transgender and women-only swim sessions, and Rosie led FaulknerBrowns in donating to the Black Swimming Association, who have been using Britannia for their pioneering learn to swim pilot.



At FaulknerBrowns, Rosie encourages collaboration through sport to promote team building, as well as collaborations with charities, local businesses and initiatives in her role on the CSR and Wellbeing working groups. She has often attended career days to promote architectural technology and supported the PlanBEE programme to prepare young people for a career in a broad range of technical and professional roles in the construction industry, which aimed to create an interdisciplinary working ethos.

Rosie regularly works to improve the practice's awareness of sustainability, for example organising an 'Earth Focus' day and implementing changes to recycling and consumption habits. However, as a talented technologist, Rosie is particularly interested in the sustainability of projects and Passivhaus principles – a fabric first approach to sustainability, where the detailing of a building ensures its energy efficiency. Her knowledge on the subject is ever developing, and she is keen to review the office's standard details to implement these design principles into everyday buildings. She takes the project lead on BREEAM submissions / coordination.

However, the most lasting legacy she believes she can leave is a change in the stigma she has experienced related to being a young woman in a male-dominated industry. Rosie is young but ambitious and knowledgeable, and she challenges stereotypes. As a result, she has gained respect from her colleagues and collaborators. She works to inspire other young women to do the same, and recently wrote an article for Women in Construction UK Magazine on her experience in the built environment and the importance of encouraging young people.

Rosie is passionate about encouraging more open discussion of the impact of family life and championing the benefits of a more flexible approach to work. Within FaulknerBrowns, she has been instrumental in promoting hybrid working and

flexible working patterns. More recently, she has shown tenacity and flexibility when managing work alongside morning sickness and has used this experience to promote to her peers the importance of prioritising your health and wellbeing.

Rosie shows great capability, determination, professional standards and conduct which she displays at all times, and through the happy demeanour which she exudes. As a student, Rosie joined CIAT's Northern Region to meet and encourage other ATs but found their meetings to be quite insular and passive. She wanted to stay on in the group to develop the Region into a proactive hub that could host more engaging events and provide support for young professionals. Rosie recently became an ambassador for the Architects Benevolent Society (ABS) and was one of the organisers for their latest Northern Region event, a pub quiz which raised over £400 for the charity. She is proud to support ABS and hopes that she will be able to help Architectural Technologists through the charity.

Despite still being a young professional, Rosie is driven to develop her leadership skills by attending events such as the CIOB's Strategic Leadership Programme in Construction, to network with leaders who might have more experience. She implements the knowledge she gains in management and business structure as an active mentor, guiding both architects and technologists who are less experienced. Like a true leader, she is patient and always willing to share knowledge.

Rosie is committed to the discipline of Architectural Technology and aspires to do better and help improve the role of AT's. She has also left a great impact on the industry, through her role in CIAT and with mentoring within the office. Her projects have such positive impacts on the community and show excellence in Architectural Technology. ■

AT Awards 2024 open on 5 February 2024

Full details and application forms can be found at architecturaltechnology.com/atawards

The AT Awards are recognised as the premier accolades that demonstrate outstanding achievement in Architectural Technology globally and celebrate the technology of architecture.

The 2023 event was held on 20 October and was hosted by the President, Kevin Crawford PCIAT and Matt Allwright.



architecturaltechnology.com/atawards
#ATAwards

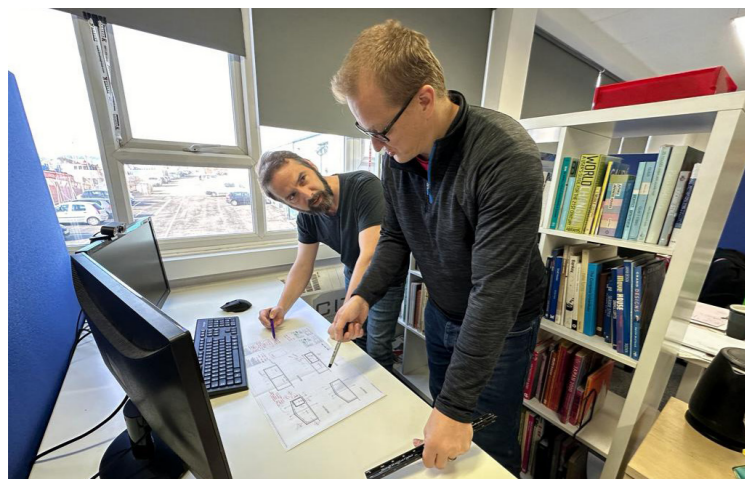
Sponsored by



Transformative learning: my work placement year

Words by Tim Danson, CIAT student member, University of Brighton

A placement year offers an opportunity to gain diverse experiences and perspectives, something I achieved by splitting my year across two different architectural design practices.



Cityzen also helped me tackle other cognitive challenges. Their expertise in design detailing exposed me to the intricate logic behind architectural drawings, transforming my perception of each element from mere components to comprehensive structures.

Through various live projects, I experienced the entire construction process, from feasibility to project completion. I engaged in projects at every stage, learning the art of problem-solving – an essential skill for any Architectural Technology professional. They don't just create concept images; they design buildable structures that meet legal and client requirements and are valued by the construction industry for this expertise.

I have a neurological disability and anxiety disorder which makes adapting to new environments a challenge. However, my experience with CIAT Chartered Practice Cityzen Ltd, my second employer, was marked by their exceptional empathy and support.

My manager at Cityzen worked to understand and accommodate my unique needs. They allowed me to explain my sensory and compulsion issues and the cognitive difficulties I face. Armed with this knowledge, they helped create a comfortable work environment, whether in the office or at home, and guided me toward achieving my placement goals.

As an aspiring Chartered Architectural Technologist, my role demands designing in compliance with standards and scientific principles, integrating information from various sources to meet numerous requirements. This can be overwhelming, especially for someone with neurological challenges. However, Cityzen encouraged me to seek Access to Work funding, enabling me to receive coaching support. This support helped me manage panic, maintain focus and approach tasks step by step. With a newfound sense of calm, I began processing information more effectively and articulating questions clearly.

My attraction to the field stemmed from the promise of using modern computing power for construction projects. Although the adoption of such technologies remains slow in smaller practices, Cityzen's investment and experience in these tools provided a valuable learning opportunity. I honed my 3D computer-aided design skills and benefited from the expertise of colleagues who demonstrated the technology's advantages.

One critical lesson I learned from Cityzen was the value of professionalism. They exemplified this in every aspect of their work, thoroughly reviewing and ensuring the quality of their output before delivery. This commitment to excellence left a lasting impression on me, emphasising the importance of responsibility and expertise in one's field.

A placement year is more than a mere extension of your degree; it's a transformative learning experience. It allows you to apply your knowledge and identify areas requiring further attention. As I approach my final year of study, I'm confident in plugging the knowledge gaps and showcasing what I've learned. The connections I've made during my placements and the lessons I've absorbed will continue to guide me in my studies and future career. ■



Competing for excellence at EuroSkills Gdańsk 2023

Image credit: WorldSkills UK

Words by Isabelle Barron ACIAT and Michael McGuire, WorldSkills UK Training Manager

EuroSkills Gdańsk 2023 was held from the 5-9 September. Often called the 'skills Olympics', the event was an international competition with around 600 competitors from 32 countries in over 40 different skill competitions.

I competed in the Digital Construction (BIM) skill where I won Gold for achieving the highest score in my skill as well as the 'Best in Nation' award for the highest score by a Team UK competitor.

Digital Construction falls under the Construction and Building Technology category and although it has been running in the UK since 2018, it is a relatively new competition internationally. I'm the first person to represent the UK at at EuroSkills competition in my skill, which was an incredible experience. In the UK, we often see people represent their country in sporting events like the Olympics but like most, I had never known of WorldSkills competitions where you compete against other countries in your chosen skill from your college course / university programme or employment.

In 2021, I was introduced to the WorldSkills UK competitions by my lecturer, Geoff Olnor from Sheffield Hallam University, who encouraged me to take part. The hardest part of the competition was probably taking this first step to sign up and allow myself to try something new (with the possibility of failing). Up until this point, my CIAT Accredited degree had provided me with an understanding of the Autodesk Revit

fundamentals that would later help me to understand the competition task instructions and complete architectural and structural modeling tasks.

Once registered, WorldSkills UK Training Manager, Michael McGuire introduced the competition cycle and training resources to all the competitors and I realised there was a lot more to it than simply a Revit competition! Each task is designed by current leading industry professionals and updated every year to test the knowledge and skills that they require their own employees to have. The training resources have been designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to compete at the highest level. However, they're also a great way to benchmark the skills you learned on your programme against those required by industry.

Before and during the first regional competition, my aim was simply to take part, and while May is a very busy time for students with assignment deadlines, I dedicated what time I could to learning the new skills I needed to compete. I qualified in the top 8 in the UK and was invited to take part in the UK National Final.

Whilst attending the training weekend for the national final, hosted by WorldSkills UK, my ambitions grew as I learnt the steps needed to complete each task. These early stages of competition gave me new-found skills, techniques, and increased self-confidence that I used throughout the remainder of my Accredited degree, and allowed me to achieve a Highly Commended result.

Having competed in 2021, I felt I had improved understanding, knowledge, and skills, so I registered again for 2022. I put a lot more time into training and finished in 2nd place with a Silver medal. Another difficult part of the experience was believing the level that you're at. It wasn't until this second cycle that I realised I should have the confidence to say what I had achieved and worked for – being one of the best eight young people/trainees in the country.

WorldSkills international competitions have an age limit and as I was only 21, I was invited to join Squad UK. This consists of the top three scoring young people from the UK National Final who are invited to train together. Training for Squad UK involved learning a range of new skills at the highest level such as 4D construction sequencing, quantity takeoffs and model coordination through Autodesk Construction Cloud (ACC). A benefit of joining Squad UK is having access to some of the most talented professionals in the UK as well as past competitors. Training weekends involved multi-day competitions, sometimes working until midnight on full 6 hour or smaller 40 minute tasks. The focus was often on improving speed, accuracy and efficiency of earlier competition tasks, such as architectural modelling, to elevate us to world class standards in order to medal against other countries.

In March 2023, Michael designed a competition to decide who would represent the UK at EuroSkills – I was incredibly relieved to learn that I had been selected to go. I couldn't contain my excitement; years of training, hard work, and sacrifice had been worth it just for the opportunity to compete internationally and I was going to make the most of it! Michael, my Training Manager, told me when I arrived in Gdańsk that I had to be the best version of myself I could be. If anyone beat me, they deserved to, but I was going to make it difficult for them by practising.

The EuroSkills competition involved a familiarisation day, followed by three full days of competition split over 7 modules. Familiarisation provides the competitors with an opportunity to complete their set up and get used to the working environment. With thousands of spectators

attending, it was important to acclimatise to being watched as you compete.

The first day began with Common Data Environment (CDE) set up using ACC to create folder systems, assign permissions and initiate document approval workflows. Following this, module two was the biggest task of the week – architectural Revit modelling. Both the longest and highest scoring task, it was an opportunity to pick up points early on by following construction drawings to accurately model a building under tight time conditions. For each task, the same BIM Execution Plan (BEP) is followed as it contains all information about the project. Particularly crucial are the data drop timings for information exchanges; if your models and documents aren't in the correct folder by the required time, your work won't be marked, so time management is key.

The modules for the following two days included structural modelling, clash detection and assigning Uniclass asset data to model elements for COBie export.



The experience of competing in Gdańsk was unbelievable. The scale of the venue was immense and meeting other competitors outside of your skill and country made you feel part of something much bigger. Before the results, I was proud of my progress, my experience and the work I'd put in. Every competitor was the best in their country and made it difficult for others to beat them, and while we were competing against each other, we also let down our barriers and quickly realised we were all like-minded people who would make great friends.

Waiting for the results was the most nerve-racking part. During the competition days and evenings, I surprised myself with how calm I was; I had practised and practised and knew I was ready to show what I could do. It was comforting to be sat as Team UK. We were ready to support each other no matter the result, after becoming a close-knit team during a week of travelling and competing, sharing all our highs and lows.



Isabelle with WorldSkills UK Training Manager, Michael McGuire

And so, from the stage, they announce the three medallists. Poland, Germany and the UK – I had done it! It was an extremely emotional moment as I headed up. Bronze for Poland, so I had at least Silver. Could it be Gold? Then Silver was announced...Germany! As soon as I heard it, I began shaking before I took the first place on the podium and was presented with the Gold medal.

Overall, Team UK came away with an impressive 9 medals and the most incredible memories that we will treasure forever. It was an honour to represent the UK and I will be forever grateful for this opportunity and to everyone who has supported me on the journey.

Now that EuroSkills has come to an end, I look forward to the next stages of my competition journey fighting for a place in Team UK for Lyon 2024. This will involve a lot of training and focus with the rest of Squad UK to push each other to improve ahead of the next international competition. This time round, I want to use this unforgettable experience to focus my training but also to strike a balance outside of WorldSkills and my career, to take breaks for other aspects of my life.

Beyond competing for WorldSkills UK, whether I make Team UK for Lyon or not, I plan to stay involved by helping to develop the future competitors from the UK, both nationally and internationally, by supporting my Training Manager and our new training team. I also hope to encourage young people, students, aspiring Architectural Technology professionals, and trainees to get involved with the competitions and show them the value of taking part.

Finally, I would like to finish by saying, if you are a student reading this and thinking about entering, definitely do it! No matter what, you'll make some great memories as well as learning the best skills you could possibly know, all while making you very visible to future employers. ■



The role of mentoring in helping to attain Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT status

Words by PLD Mentoring

Achieving Chartered status inspires high levels of trust. According to a paper on professionalism by the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), the majority of consumers say that they would have more trust in advice from a Chartered professional than one who is not Chartered.

Chartered members of CII said that the two biggest motivators to achieving Chartered status were "satisfaction of reaching the top of my profession" and "demonstrating commitment to delivering a professional service".

Therefore, the benefits of becoming a Chartered Architectural Technologist are clear. Whether you have already embarked on becoming Chartered or are still at the consideration stage you probably have lots of questions. This is where a mentor can be helpful.

Mentoring involves a reciprocal relationship typically between two individuals in which one person shares their knowledge, skills, and experience with another individual to help them progress personally and/or professionally. Working towards Chartered status with a mentor by your side who has already been through the process and achieved their status can be invaluable.

The sharing of knowledge is an important part of mentoring relationships. Through mentoring, both mentor and mentee can learn to understand the wealth of knowledge that makes up their professional expertise. Their reflection and interaction will lead to increased competence and the

Working towards Chartered status with a mentor by your side who has already been through the process and achieved their status can be invaluable.

mentoring will help to fundamentally alter a practitioner's view of what it is to be a professional.

If you are at the stage where you believe qualifying as a Chartered Architectural Technologist could improve your career but are uncertain what is involved then a mentor who has already achieved their Chartered

status could answer some of your questions about the reality of what is involved and help you to understand the level of commitment. They could also be able to share with you their experience of the benefits of achieving Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT status.

Once you have made the decision to move forward, the first area that a mentor could be of help is in understanding

and preparing for the MCIAT Professional Assessment application process. It is not the mentor's role to do your application for you, but they can certainly use their experience to give you pointers on the type of things that they covered in their application and indeed guidance on any areas where they may have initially struggled and any areas you are struggling with.

Your mentor can also give you support, guidance and motivation to move forward in gathering the evidence you require for the Professional Assessment and provide a sounding board for ideas on how you wish to present the information in a way that is expected.

A mentor can act as a non-judgmental sounding board for your ideas and can focus on helping you overcome any challenges that you encounter and to develop any new skills and knowledge that may be necessary in order for you to achieve your Chartered status. Whilst a mentor can help you achieve your Chartered status, ultimately you are in control of your application and need to take the necessary action.

A mentor can help you to gain impartial advice and an alternative perspective, but one that is based on the experience of having gone through the process themselves. A good mentor can then help to lift you up and give you the tools you need to succeed. ■



Mentor Match Me

CIAT runs an online mentoring scheme for use by all members and affiliates, which allows experienced members and affiliates to act as mentors and assist you in a variety of areas by providing a range of support, advice, and guidance.

Choosing to become a mentee will allow you to gain additional knowledge and insight. Benefits include:

- **Gaining guidance on the qualifying/progression processes**
- **Identifying your strengths and weaknesses and the best way to work with these in your career**
- **Developing a professional network within CIAT**

To learn more and if you haven't already set up an account as a mentee, register at ciat.mentormatch.me

If you have any questions about the platform, please contact membership@ciat.global

Ready to qualify as a Chartered Architectural Technologist?

Architectural Technology Professional Career Development is a free online short course for aspiring Chartered Architectural Technologists, MCIAT.

LOOK OUT FOR NEW DATES IN 2024





CIAT student member leads team to construction award excellence

Words by Abi Inskip, CIAT student member, London South Bank University & Assistant Design Coordinator, Wilmott Dixon Interiors

Wilmott Dixon Interiors' green-focused trainee challenge was honoured at this year's London Construction Awards. 'The Power of Green', which focused on creating accessible green spaces for local communities, won the Excellence in Community Engagement award.

The Trainee Challenge, which takes place annually, was led by Abi Inskip, CIAT student member and an Assistant Design Coordinator for Wilmott Dixon Interiors, currently on her final year of the CIAT Accredited Architectural Technology (Design and Construction Management Apprenticeship) programme at London South Bank University. Abi managed a team of 18 trainees tasked with investing in environmentally sustainable projects in London's Waltham Forest borough and Alum Rock in Birmingham. The projects were also designed to educate people on the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the built environment.

Walthamstow

Project Zero – a centre supporting local people and refugees. They decorated a previously empty car park on site, painting



brick walls, adding benches for visitors and planters to encourage wildlife and improve the aesthetics. They also built a shed for sports equipment storage and decorated an internal room which will be used to host sessions on sexual and mental wellbeing, drugs/alcohol awareness and first aid.

Langthorne Park – a pavilion run by the E17 toy library which supports low-income families. The team of trainees, led by Abi, cleaned and de-weeded the local amphitheatre and added planters to the outdoor area for growing fruit and vegetables. As well as this, they refurbished the kitchen area which allows the delivery of cookery classes and supports the charity's aspiration of running a café. Old kitchen appliances were shipped to Uganda to support a small family restaurant.

Lime Academy – a special educational needs and disabilities school. They have transformed a large unusable open space into a small school farm containing animal enclosures, over 35 planters, six bug hotels and a large sensory garden with level flooring. It provides outside space for many students who do not otherwise have access to a garden and/or family pets.

Birmingham

Norton Hall – a community centre with a nursery facility that supports local young people, young mothers and those with special educational needs and disabilities. Wilmott Dixon Interiors transformed the centre's previously unusable, overgrown outdoor space into a memorial garden, with a quiet area for reflection and downtime, added benches and planters, removed undergrowth, and cleaned graffiti. They also ran an associated landscape design competition for undergraduate students at Birmingham City University.

In the delivery of these projects, the team of trainees took on challenges that many have never faced before. From engaging with senior managers, as well as staff at both Birmingham City University and London Borough of Waltham Forest Council, to liaison with local community stakeholders, they reached far beyond their collective comfort zones in the pursuit of one overarching goal: to enhance green spaces and improve people's access to nature.

Abi and the trainee cohort invested six months in project planning, with works taking place during a six-week period to August 2022. Some 2,300 hours of effort went into planning and delivery, with 85% of employees involved during the project lifestyle; a social return on investment of more than £110,000 in staff time alone. The trainees engaged the support of c.100 supply chain partners and consultants, who donated time, money, and resources equating to c.£35,000.

Helen Crockford, manager of E17 Toy Library, said: "There was great communication in the lead up to the event. It was incredibly well organised before, during and afterwards. The team were so professional, had good humour and were great at problem solving. I loved that the theme was 'The Power of Green' and that the process was as sustainable as possible, reusing materials, green fuel, sourcing things locally etc. This is what the Toy Library is all about, so it was great that our ethos matched theirs."



Collaboration and legacy

The project led to the development of the Building Green programme, creating an avenue for the delivery of sustainability and social value for projects. Its legacy is not only supporting local communities but enabling customers to meet their ESG objectives too.

As holistic lead, Abi successfully managed a project and the team responsible for its delivery. Her colleagues have had the chance to perform roles as operations and/or commercial leads, while learning important skills as part of a team. Everyone involved enjoyed the rewarding experience of witnessing the difference these projects make to the communities we work in. ■

Upgrade your student membership with CIAT

If you have recently completed your studies, we want to demonstrate our ongoing support and commitment to your future career and professional development.

We are also here to support you in furthering your career and professional development after you graduate and begin the next part of your journey as an Architectural Technology professional.

CIAT has collaborated with recruiter Hays to create an **employability guide** [here](#) which provides helpful tips and information regarding creating your CV and developing your portfolio, how best to apply for jobs and prepare for interviews, as well as advice on being offered the job and building a successful career. In addition to this, the Institute has its own jobs board - **AT|jobs** - and there are other recruitment agencies which can advise and support you.

Next steps

Once you have graduated, we invite you to take your involvement with CIAT to the next level and upgrade to either Associate, ACIAT or affiliate status. Upgrading with CIAT will demonstrate to potential/future employers your commitment to your career progression.

Should you upgrade in the same year as programme completion, we offer a supportive two-year staggered subscription.

The 2023/24 rates are:

Year 1 - **£155 (instead of standard rate £315)**

Year 2 - **20% off standard full subscription rate**

To take advantage of this, you can upgrade online at architecturaltechnology.com/membership/join.html and use code **SA23** to receive your staggered subscription rate.

A suite of films about the qualifying process can be viewed on our YouTube Channel at youtube.com/CIATechnologist

For any queries related to upgrading, registration or qualifying, please do not hesitate to contact membership@ciat.global

4 reasons to upgrade



Demonstrate your commitment to the highest professional and ethical standards in Architectural Technology.



Attend CPD events through our AT CPD Register and receive specialist support via Mentor Match Me and Technology Network.



Engage with your peers and fellow professionals. Make new contacts, exchange ideas and expand your professional and social networks.



Dedicated support with professional progression and a range of information and resources.

First CIAT Accredited apprenticeship in England offered by London South Bank University

Words by April McKay, Web & Communications Lead and Editor, *aspirATIOn magazine*

CIAT is pleased to announce that London South Bank University (LSBU) is the first higher education institution in England to have its apprenticeship Programme Accredited.

The University has been awarded Accredited status for its BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology (Design and Construction Management Apprenticeship).

An apprenticeship is a route into a profession which provides individuals the opportunity to combine working in a relevant field with studying for a formal qualification. Due to the vocational nature of the built environment and the Architectural Technology profession, apprenticeships are a valuable way of gaining relevant work experience as well as the necessary underpinning knowledge to become a valued, competent professional.

Those enrolled on the Design and Construction Management Apprenticeship at LSBU will gain a BSc (Honours) Architectural Technology degree which is three years in length and contains a mixture of lecturers, tutorials, and practical experiences.

Jennifer Hardi MCIAT, Programme Leader, says: "We are delighted to be the first educational establishment in England to gain CIAT Accreditation for our Architectural Technology apprenticeship Programme. This Apprenticeship allows learners to combine work with study which is a great way to put theory into practice immediately. It also allows them to acquire valuable skills and hands-on experience within the sector.

"The Programme aims to provide an education centred within the built environment that recognises the important role of various professions in the industry and to act as the link between design and construction teams as well as project stakeholders."

Apprentices are eligible for free CIAT student membership and on completion, will be able to apply for Associate membership, ACIAT. They will also be entitled to exemptions against Educational Standards of the MCIAT Professional Assessment when progressing to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist.



Jennifer Hardi MCIAT (second right) and Professor George Agyekum-Mensah (second left) receive Certificates of Accreditation for BSc (Hons) Design and Construction Management Apprenticeship and re-Accreditation for undergraduate programme, BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology, at the AT Awards 2023 in London on 20 October.

London South Bank University's programme can be [viewed here](#).

For more information on Architectural Technology related apprenticeships, please email education@ciat.global ■

How to prepare for an architectural job interview

Words by Aylin Round, Founder, ArchJobs

So, you received an interview invite – now it is time to make sure you get that offer. Now you might be thinking: how do I prepare for a job interview? What are the most common interview questions? How much research should I do before interviewing? Should I ask them questions at the end?

When doing your interview prep, remember that your first impression counts. This means doing your research about the company, their products, who is interviewing you, and making sure you have reasons why you are a suitable fit for the role/company. The company's website, LinkedIn and Glassdoor pages will become your best friend for researching this information, as well as any news or social media from the company.

Types of interview

First, you need to know what type of interview you will attend and ideally how many stages they do. Here are some of the most common interview types, and some advice on how to prepare.

Telephone – a telephone interview is often used as the initial step. This will help the recruiter or hiring manager filter candidates and decide which people they would like to invite to an interview. Make sure you have a quiet place to talk with good reception, and that you're comfortable speaking on the phone for at least 20-30 minutes.

Face-to-face – this is by far the most traditional way of interviews. Not only is it easier to read each other's body language but you can also present your portfolio, see the studio, get a taste of the commute and meet the team. I would suggest turning up for a face-to-face interview around

10 minutes before. That will give you enough time to settle down, have a glass of water and gather your thoughts.

Video – this could be via Teams/Zoom/Skype. Doing a video interview can be very convenient for candidates with a busy schedule or if they're working from home. If you are interviewing via Teams/Zoom, try to join the meeting a couple of minutes before and ensure your microphone and camera are on. You might also want to try and have a "practice run" to check all your equipment works the day before.

Preparing for different types of interviews

Familiarise yourself with Teams/Zoom

If you received an invite to attend a Teams/Zoom meeting, first check your emails and make sure you confirm the invite (also, check if the date and time are correct and double check your junk folder in case an invitation ends up there). Once you accept the invite, you could ask a friend/family member or your recruiter to do a quick test run with the software. Test if your camera and microphone are working, familiarise yourself with the menu – make sure you know how to share and unshare your screen, and how to potentially change your background or add background blur.

Preparing for a face-to-face interview

I enjoy face-to-face interviews as it is the easiest way to read people's body language, hold eye contact, get a feel for the company culture, try the commute and leave a better impression behind. However, before you attend your interview, check how you get there. Would you use public transport – if so, what's the best route? The same goes for driving, how long it will take and where you can park.

I would suggest leaving an hour before you actually have to. Not only will it give you a bit more time in case you are stuck in traffic or you missed a bus/train but it will also give you time to gather your thoughts and not feel rushed.

Do you research on the company and interviewers

It might sound obvious, but do your research on the company and the people you're meeting. Read about

the practice, check their website, find any news articles and see if they won any awards etc.

The same goes for the interviewers. If you don't know who you're meeting, confirm with the hiring manager or recruiter. Ideally, you want to know the current position they hold within the business, how long they have been with the company, which projects they worked on and even where they worked before. Not only will that show the interviewers you have done your research, but it could also help break the ice.

Read through the job brief

Go through the job description and familiarise yourself with the role, what skills they are looking for and how you can match them. This is very important as you can match your personal skill set to the role and think of reasons why you are a good fit for the job – you need to show them you can do the job. Depending on if you work with a recruiter or hiring manager, you could always ask for a more detailed or updated job brief.

How to prepare for potential interview questions

Having gone through the job description you should have a rough idea of what sort of questions they might ask you. Depending on the position, they might ask you specific questions about your design, presentation, team leader, management and/or technical skills.

Here are some of the most common interview questions:

- Tell us about yourself
- Describe your design style
- What other experience do you have that makes you a good fit for this role?
- What was your biggest achievement to date?
- What aspect of the job do you find the most rewarding?
- Tell me about a time when you missed a deadline. How did you overcome this obstacle?
- Why did you leave your previous job?
- What do you know about our company?
- What are your salary expectations?
- Do you have any questions for us?

How do I answer the dreaded "Tell us about yourself" question?

I find it helps to rephrase this question – tell us about your current and previous work experience and explain how your skill set matches our job brief. Easy.

What they don't want to hear is your entire life story or what you had for dinner last night. Go through your current and previous work situations, responsibilities (if applicable), work highlights, awards and education. Make sure you know your working history, job titles, dates and responsibilities. Start from your most recent experience rather than in chronological order, as that is likely to be the most relevant to the role.

How to structure your interview answers: the STAR method

When answering competency or behavioural questions, use the STAR method. It will help you to structure and give a

Go through the job description and familiarise yourself with the role, what skills they are looking for and how you can match them. This is very important as you can match your personal skill set to the role and think of reasons why you are a good fit for the job – you need to show them you can do the job

detailed answer. STAR stands for:

Situation – the situation you had to deal with
Task – the task you were given to do
Action – the action you took
Result – what happened as a result of your action and what you learned from the experience

Example

Tell me about a time when a design didn't go to plan. How did you overcome this obstacle?

Situation – "I once designed a building but there was an error in the initial measuring

of the design, meaning that the final drafts and blueprints didn't work to fit the actual available space.

Task – I had to solve the issue as soon as possible.

Action – I edited the design by updating the measurements. Then the construction team could begin building.

Result – As a result, my company was able to create a building that complied with safety protocol and fit the available space. After that project, I started to regularly double-check my measurements before submitting a building plan, which has improved the overall accuracy of my designs."

Go through your CV and portfolio

Familiarise yourself with your CV and go through your working history, job titles, dates and responsibilities. Write down your key achievements, identify your selling points and note some results/outcomes of your successful projects to date.

If it's relevant to your role, the same goes for your portfolio – be ready to present and go through two to three projects. This will not only show your presentation skills but will also test your communication skills.

Should I ask questions at the end of the interview?

Usually, at the end of an interview, you might be asked, "Do you have any questions for us?" and the answer is YES.

Whether you could see yourself working there is a big decision. Before you receive an offer, you should understand the team fit, company culture, responsibilities, and much more.

Questions to ask

Can you please share some potential projects that I would be working on?





Improved Design Management for effective BIM implementation

Words by Daniel Grimes ACIAT, Design Manager, Dart

Design Management (DM) has recently been recognised as critical to managing multidisciplinary design information. Traditionally, project success has been measured using hard metrics such as cost, schedule, and quality, simplifying the dynamic project environment.

Subjective, soft metrics like client satisfaction, interpersonal relationships, and project team cooperation are crucial to today's understanding of project success. Design management and multidisciplinary design are complex social processes; therefore, they must be managed effectively to guarantee overall design quality. To ensure continuity within a design process, it is essential to maintain a consistent flow by identifying the dominant stakeholders in each design phase. Timing is essential to creating flow, ensuring that the right people are introduced to the design at the right time, communicating with each other at the right time, and having the 'right' conversations. The more transparent and timely information flows are, the more efficiently the team can solve design management problems through shared intentionality.

among stakeholders, thus allowing for early resolution and avoiding delays or setbacks. Figure 1. presents an example of dominance clustering.

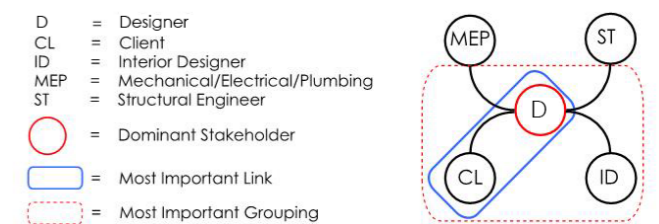


Figure 1 Dominance cluster in design

Dominance clustering is a DM technique that categorises project stakeholders based on their influence on the project. It helps establish relationships among them and allocates efforts during the design phase. Design managers can utilise stakeholder analysis to determine the most efficient ways to engage stakeholders in the design process and utilise all their expertise and knowledge as efficiently as possible. By conducting this evaluation, design managers can ensure all stakeholders are appropriately included and fully utilise their expertise during design processes.

As illustrated in Figure 2, dominance clusters change as a design evolves. In the early stages of design, design can flow through iterative reciprocal loops to find the best solution where all parties are involved to a greater or lesser degree. However, the relationship between the architectural technologist, interior designer, and client is essential in this phase to realise the client's vision and the project's needs.

By communicating, collaborating, and sharing efforts among stakeholders, the focus is on the needs of the dominant stakeholder and identifying potential conflicts

As the flow starts to narrow from Concept Design to the Initial Design Fix and on to the Final Design Fix, a more defined vision evolves, and the cluster changes to more technical input from structural and mechanical until the design has reached its fixing point. From the Final Design Fix, the client is no longer within the clusters as the design

- ✓ What would be your expectations for my first 3-6 months?
- ✓ What would you say are the three most important skills needed to excel in this position?
- ✓ Which particular problem are you trying to solve by hiring for this position?

Questions to avoid

- ✗ How quickly could I get promoted?
- ✗ Who are your main competitors?
- ✗ Are you going to contact my references?
- ✗ If I'm hired, when can I start applying for other positions in the company?

An interview should never be one-sided. One thing I always mention to my candidates is, "Don't forget, it's a two-way street. It's not all about selling yourself to them, they need to prove to you why you should join their company". You need to interview them as much as they interview you, and make sure you can really see yourself working there.

Should I mention my salary expectations?

Before you enter an interview, do your research on the salary ranges for that sort of role. Unless you are working with an agency recruiter, you most likely have to negotiate your salary and benefits package.

The hiring manager might ask you, "What are your salary expectations?" and most people panic when they hear the question. Why? Because you don't want to give them a number that is too high or too low.

To handle that question, you can say, "Having done more market research, the average salary for this role in this area is between 37.6-41.3k (give them some uneven numbers - sounds better than 35-40k) and having learned more about the responsibilities, and workload, I'd be looking at the higher end."

Don't leave it to the last minute

Whichever interview type you might attend, don't leave it to the last minute. The better prepared you are, the better the interview.

Conclusion

Congratulations on receiving an interview invitation! To master the interview and secure the job offer, thorough preparation is crucial. Research the company, interviewers, and position, using the website, LinkedIn and Glassdoor. Understand the interview type – telephone, face-to-face, or video – and practice answering common questions using the STAR method.

Review your CV and portfolio, highlighting achievements. Prepare thoughtful questions to ask the interviewer. Research salary ranges to confidently discuss salary expectations. Lastly, start preparing early to ensure you're confident and ready on the big day.

If you haven't had an interview in a long time, or if you're new to interviews and feeling nervous, unsure about how to answer certain questions, or how to present your portfolio, consider booking a tailored interview session with me. I'll help boost your confidence, provide guidance on negotiating a better salary and benefits package, and equip you with the knowledge you need. ■

Aylin Round is the founder of ArchJobs. She has nearly three years of experience as a senior recruitment consultant specialising in architectural recruitment across the north of the UK.

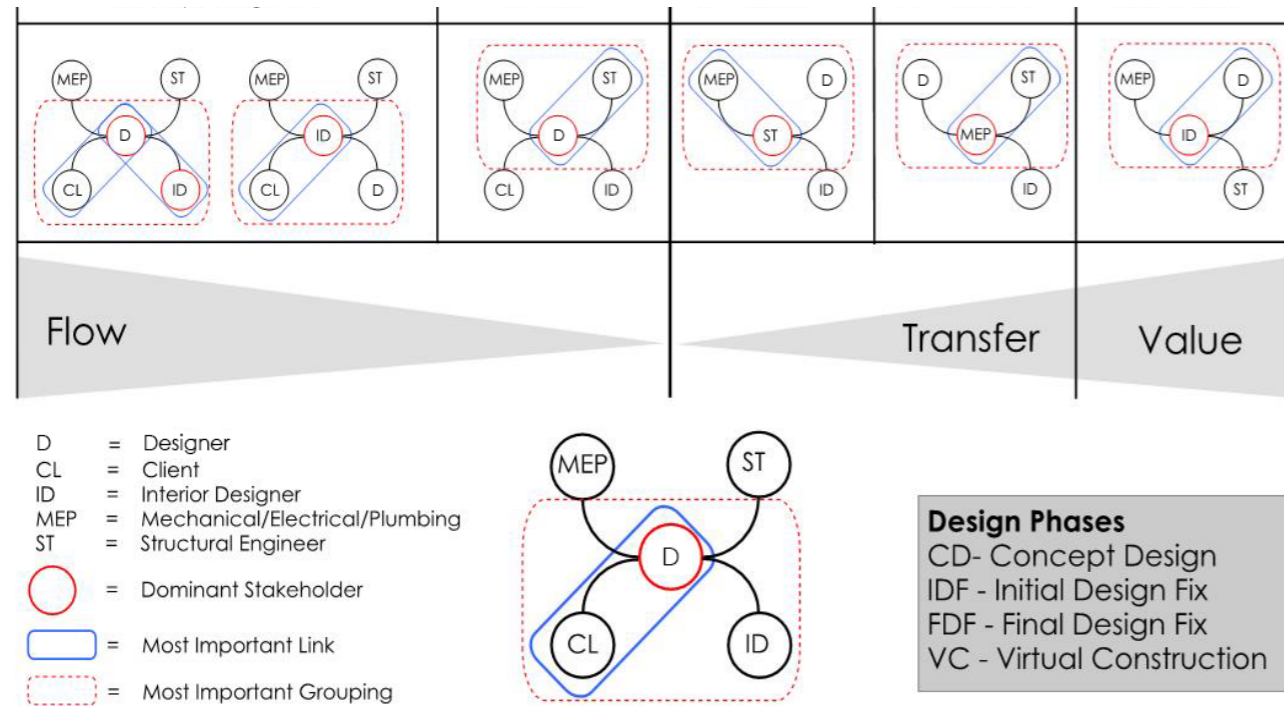


Figure 2 Dominance cluster within a design process

brief's requirements have been satisfied. The transformation phase is where the design process becomes more sequential and technical. 3D Model element ownership is transferred to the next dominant stakeholder in the cluster – in this example, the structural engineer – and supported by the other stakeholders.

It is imperative to note that to prevent wasteful rework, the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) consultant must work at a relatively low Level of Development (LOD), not overworking or underworking the model but supporting the modelling effort of the structural engineer. The process flips in the next phase to the MEP and is supported by the structural engineer, who fine-tunes penetrations to allow the MEP model to interface with the requirements of the LOD of the phase. With the value phase, where the interfacing and technical aspects are concluded, the internal and external finishes can be layered and refined, with minimal changes likely to affect the design and the final deliverable being an accurate and technical representation of the design brief.

Dominance clustering is a mechanism of support from the design team to the dominant stakeholder to meet their LOD requirements for the design phase before transferring to the dominant stakeholder in the next phase. Design managers can make informed decisions to facilitate effective collaboration, minimise the impact of potential conflicts, and ensure that design decisions are jointly considered concerning the relationships between stakeholders and their respective contributions to a particular design phase. ■



Words by Dr Colin Stuhlfelder FCIAT, North West Regional Chair and Programme Leader, Architectural Design & Technology, University of Salford

The North West Region hosted a one-day conference on 27 October at Spaces on The Spine in Liverpool, a venue at The Spine, the new northern base of the Royal College of Physicians to celebrate regional projects, practices and practitioners.

The Spine, designed from the Manchester office of AHR is described as "...a groundbreaking, world-leading example of biophilic architecture, and was designed to meet the principles established in the WELL Standard, supporting mental and physical wellbeing for staff and visitors." (RPC, 2023)

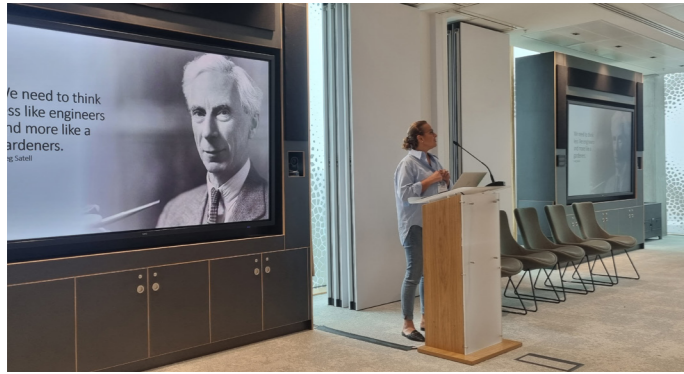
For these reasons, The Spine was selected as the location for the conference as a leading regional project with national renown designed by a regional practice. Sitting at the top of the city, in the Knowledge Quarter formed by two of the city's universities and both its cathedrals, this 13-storey tower offers breathtaking views out to the hills of Wales and the Pennines, the miles of historic docks along the Mersey and of Anfield, Goodison Park and the new stadium emerging at the river's side.

Or, at least that was the plan. A thick fog on a cold Liverpool morning had other ideas, and the building as well as its views were shrouded from us as some 70 CIAT members,

affiliates, students and other professionals gathered to engage with presentations relating to the themes of sustainability, adaptation and wellbeing. While we could argue this prevented attendees from being distracted by the views, the content of the morning presentation would surely have kept their attention far more than the birds-eye views.

Opened with enthusiasm by then outgoing CIAT President, Kevin Crawford PCIAT, Robert Hopkins, Director of AHR delivered the first project presentation detailing the efforts necessary to meet the brief for The Spine and the expectations of creating a building able to meet the Platinum rating of the International WELL Building Institute's WELL Standard. This was followed by Cathy Hardman, Workplace Manager of the Royal College of Physicians sharing the lived experience and management of The Spine.

Closing the opening session, Nooshin Akrami MCIAT, previous Councillor for the North West Region, provided a valuable insight into the sustainability of all our lives, as well



examples of adaptive reuse where heritage and listing (and indeed aesthetics) are not the driver for reusing building stock to meet carbon reduction targets.

Ann Vanner FCIAT of Habitat Architects and new Councillor for the North West Region delivered a robust explanation of how we should be designing better houses and living better in our homes, extending to them the holistic approach other professions try to bring to health and wellbeing. From this perspective, the final presentation by Priti Gadani of Raddi Planet Group struck a deeply personal and starkly insightful evaluation of the liveability of a cancer ward her family are dealing with, as a space designed for health and wellbeing but not necessarily succeeding on either count.

By the time we welcomed then CIAT-President Elect and Architects Benevolent Society (ABS) President, Eddie Weir PPCIAT MCIAT to close the conference, the city had emerged from the fog, and with clear views and minds full of a range of presentations on schemes from small interventions through to multi-million pound redesigns, Eddie ended the day with aplomb, reminding us all that we are a community here to support each other.

The North West Regional Committee would like to thank everyone who attended and participated. The presentations will be made available in due course and we welcome the engagement of regional members and affiliates in planning another event in the next 18 months. ■



as the sometimes arbitrary reasons why some of us succeed in the goals we set and the lives we envisage.

The second session brought three major regional practices together to discuss projects undertaken around the wider region, opening with Colin Savage FCIAT, Director of AEW Architects, demonstrating how The Spindles, Oldham, a 1980s complex of buildings is being given new life as part of the wider generation of a town centre, including the adaptive reuse of a shopping centre into a modern workspace for the local authority.

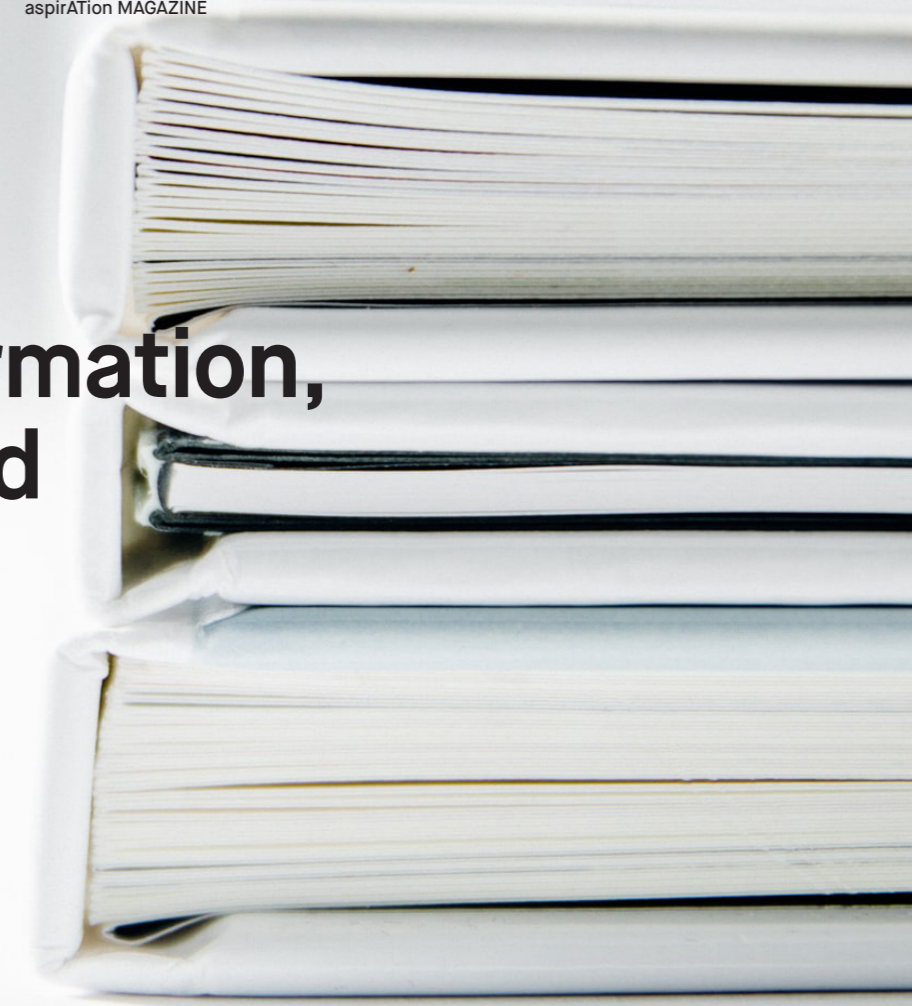
Quentin Keohane, Director of Falconer Chester Hall and Associate Architect, Alexandra Harrison delved into the complexities of ensuring inclusive design expectations are met in the refurbishment of the 1930s Grade II* listed structure, the India Building, Liverpool on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs, including ensuring all entrances are accessible to avoid staff with mobility challenges having to use a single means of access.

Chartered Architectural Technologist and CIAT-Accredited Conservationist, Alex Scrimshaw MCIAT and Senior Architect, Lucy Ashcroft of Buttress closed the session evidencing how the sensitive interventions at the Grade I listed and Scheduled Monument, Caernarfon Castle can make the King's Gate, designed to prevent access to a fortress, a modern entrance and structure for allowing everyone to the castle and experiencing the adjoining battlements regardless of the physical challenges they live with. Their interventions, designed to be entirely removable, preserve the integrity of a site of national importance to Wales and as a UNESCO World Heritage Site by working with the forms and shapes designed and built several centuries ago.

It will come as no surprise to those who attended that yours truly may have been somewhat excited about the Buttress project, coming as I do from Caernarfon. What should be noted and celebrated about the three projects though is the fact they all featured the adaptation of existing structures and buildings to meet new expectations and bring new life to them. Each one demonstrated a commitment to working with the existing built fabric of our built environment at a time where global climate challenges are engaging the built environment sector in the need to be less wasteful and to work with what we have where we can.

Neatly continuing these themes, the first of the afternoon sessions was opened by myself who examined Liverpool

Practice information, education and guidance



Is running your own practice a career aspiration? Is it your goal to run your own business as a Chartered Architectural Technologist or in partnership or co-directorship with others?

To give you a flavour, we have produced some information on what it requires, what CIAT provides you as a practising Architectural Technology professional, and how you would establish your own CIAT Chartered Practice.

Please visit architecturaltechnology.com, log in to the My CIAT area and select *Practice information, education and guidance*.

