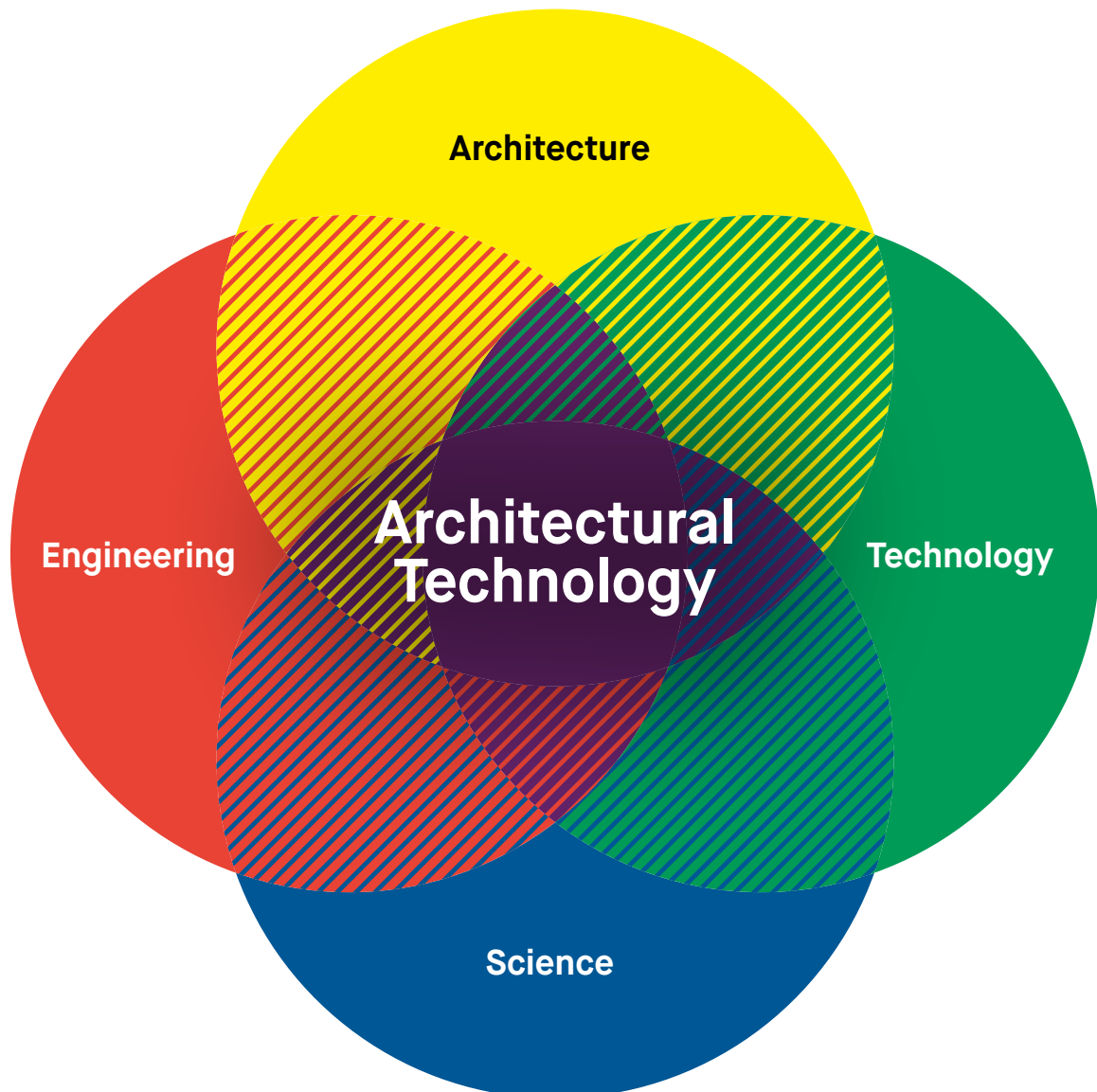Architectural Technology

CIAT

What is Architectural Technology?

Architectural Technology is a design discipline for building projects, combining technical and aesthetic expertise. It focuses on the form, function, and performance of the building. A future-focused discipline, it is essential when ensuring newly built projects are sustainably constructed, and existing ones are conserved, maintained, or retrofitted.

It lives where architecture meets engineering, science, and technology – Architectural Technology is at the heart of it all.

The profession is practised by Architectural Technologists (ATs), who, after gaining a significant level of knowledge, experience and competence, may qualify as Chartered Architectural Technologists.

The role of the Chartered Architectural Technologist is to ensure their building projects are treated with the technological respect they need and are maintained or built to the highest standard. Using both innovative and traditional methods, they make sure the built environment meets the needs of both people and planet, from accessibility to sustainability.
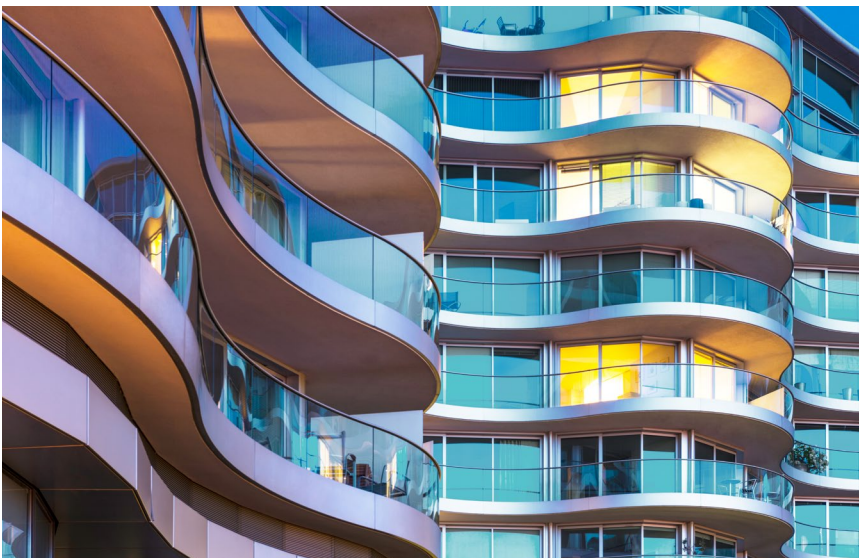
What is a Chartered Architectural Technologist?

Chartered Architectural Technologists are leaders of technological design, forming the link between concept, innovation, and realisation. They are qualified designers who lead a range of built environment projects large and small – from schools to sports stadiums to high rise buildings.

Chartered Architectural Technologists work in many environments: in practice offices, on construction sites, for local authorities, or leading their own architectural practices in their own offices and homes. They work collaboratively with other professionals across the built environment sector, such as architects, surveyors, planning professionals, contractors, and engineers. Chartered Architectural Technologists are recognised and can practise where regulation permits, their skills and expertise highly sought-after around the world.

'Chartered Architectural Technologist' is a protected descriptor, designation and regulated professional qualification that recognises an individual's skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours. It demonstrates commitment to the highest professional and ethical values in Architectural Technology.

Only the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT) can award the esteemed 'Chartered Architectural Technologist' qualification and the designations MCIAT (Chartered Membership) and FCIAT (Fellow Membership) for Chartered Architectural Technologists who have made a significant contribution to and/or demonstrated excellence in the discipline.

What is CIAT?

The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT) is the leading professional membership and qualifying body for Architectural Technology. It is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to lead, represent, and promote Architectural Technology and set the discipline's education, practice, and professional standards.

The Institute ensures its members and affiliates abide by its Code of Conduct and has a robust disciplinary procedure for those who do not. The Code of Conduct includes the obligation that members and affiliates undertake continuing professional development, ensuring they remain at the forefront of their discipline.

CIAT not only provides the esteemed Chartered status and designations to its membership, but also professional support, networking and CPD events, and the opportunity for ATs to showcase and celebrate their skills through the annual AT Awards.

Studying and qualifying with CIAT

CIAT's role

CIAT works in partnership with universities and colleges that offer undergraduate and postgraduate degree level programmes in Architectural Technology and other programmes relevant to the discipline. As a body, CIAT also accredits and approves qualifications and educational programmes.

Accreditation is awarded to those educational establishments that have shown commitment to delivering a high standard of learning to students looking to enter Architectural Technology. Approval is when this commitment is shown in qualifications that are below UK Honours degree level, such as foundation programmes, diplomas, and associate degrees.

The Institute offers support for students, graduates, and newly established professionals in the discipline, offering access to 'aspiration', an exciting and innovative community for new and emerging Architectural Technology professionals. This initiative was established both to support aspiring professionals as well as to help shape the future of the profession. It is a vibrant hub providing an invaluable source of peer-to-peer support, information, resources and networking opportunities. aspiration host events such as site visits, practice interviews, networking events and social gatherings, and aspiration Groups engage regularly with schools and universities through presentations and careers fairs.

Support from CIAT continues for its members and affiliates beyond early career, with the Institute further offering professional progression, CPD courses (which can be found through our AT CPD Register), technical guidance, the opportunity to contribute to legislative and standards development, events, access to a quarterly journal, and specialist support via Mentor Match Me, its mentoring service, and the AT Knowledge Exchange.

Chartered Architectural Technologists who work for themselves and provide services to the public must register themselves as a Chartered Practice, which is a protected descriptor issued under CIAT's Royal Charter.

Qualifying as a Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT

Depending on their status, Architectural Technology professionals follow one of three pathways towards Chartered Membership.

If they are studying to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist, they may first become a student member. Student membership is free, and students may join whether they are studying full-time, part-time, or as an apprentice.

If a prospective member has already completed their studies and has attained a recognised qualification within the built environment sector, they will first become an Associate member. They can do this whether they are an employee or still seeking employment.

Those interested in membership who are self-employed, without a formal qualification, or who have an unrecognised qualification, should seek affiliate status to start on the path to becoming a member.

Student members, Associates and affiliates must pass CIAT's qualifying process, the MCIAT Professional Assessment, to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist. CIAT's Professional Standards Competency Framework (PSCF) sets the standards for education, practice and professionalism.

There are three stages to passing the MCIAT Professional Assessment:

Stage 1:

Educational Standards.
Prospective members must demonstrate that they have the necessary underpinning knowledge required of a Chartered Architectural Technologist. Graduates from CIAT Accredited programmes are exempt from this stage.

Stage 2:

Practice Standards.
Prospective members must demonstrate their experience by outlining the type of projects they are involved in. Their experience must satisfy four areas: designing, managing, practising and self-development.

Stage 3:

Professional Standards.
Prospective members must pass a professional assessment interview that examines their ability to engage, communicate and interact in a professional, ethical and knowledgeable manner.

CIAT

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