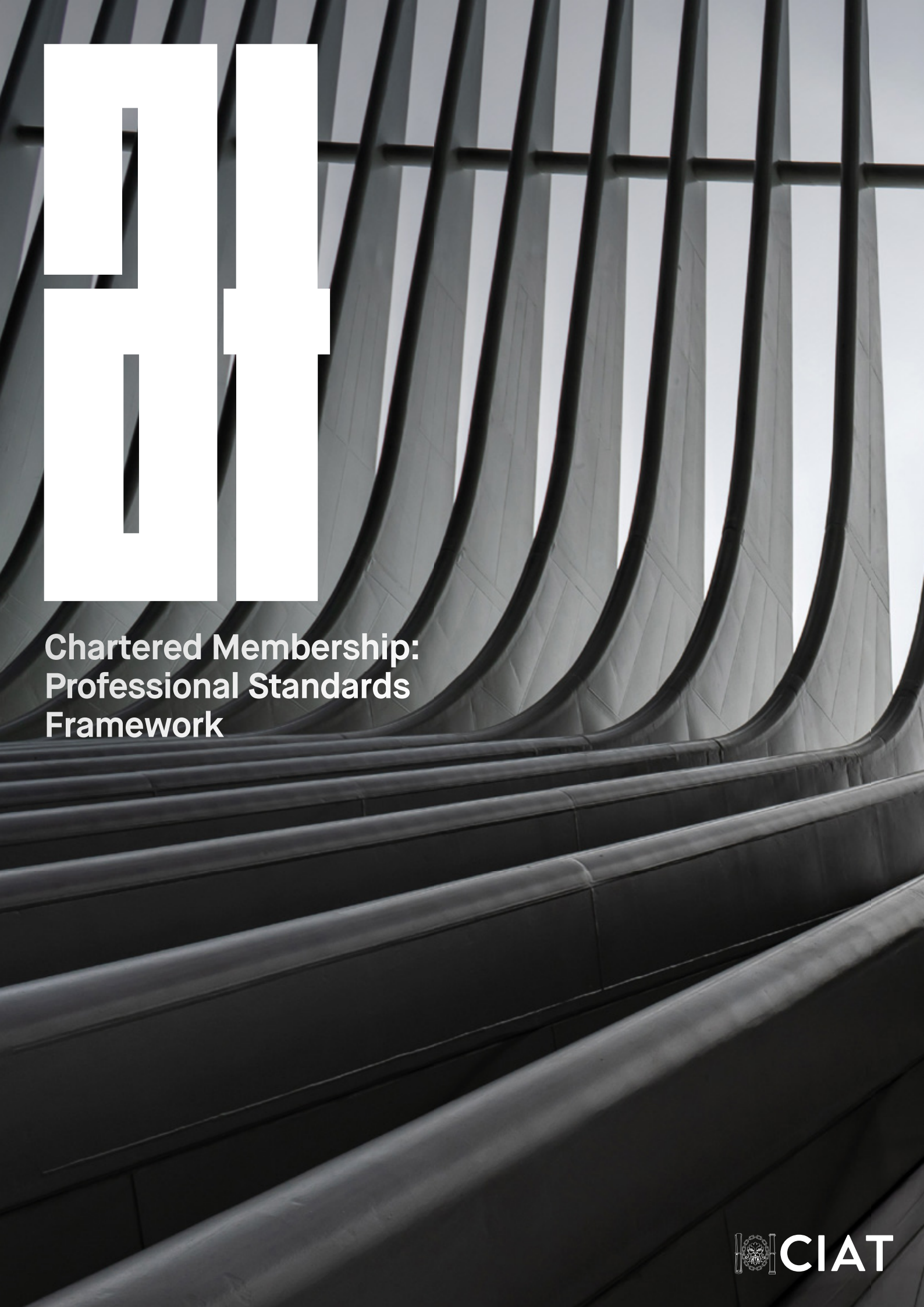


Chartered Membership: Professional Standards Framework

CIAT

Foreword

The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT) is the lead professional body for Architectural Technology and the UK Competent Authority for Chartered Architectural Technologists under the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC), and represents those practising and studying within the discipline.

CIAT works with universities in the UK and worldwide and it Accredits undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Architectural Technology as providing the necessary underpinning knowledge to allow graduates progressing to Chartered Membership. All CIAT Accredited degrees must also comply with the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statement for Architectural Technology.

CIAT qualifies Chartered Architectural Technologists, MCIAT and as such sets, assesses and monitors the Chartered Membership standards for education, practice and professionalism. The Institute was Incorporated by Royal Charter in 2005 as formal recognition of the standards set and maintained by CIAT and the integrative role, skills and expertise of its members. The Chartered Architectural Technologist descriptor is protected and regulated by CIAT.

Under this Royal Charter the objectives of the Institute are:

- to promote, for the benefit of society, the science and practice of Architectural Technology;
- to facilitate the development and integration of technology into architecture and the wider construction industry to continually improve standards of service for the benefit of industry and of society;
- to uphold and advance the standards of education, competence, practice and conduct of members of the Institute thereby promoting the interests, standing and recognition of Chartered Members within the industry and the wider society.

The profession of Architectural Technology is both a creative and innovative profession and essential to the design of buildings and structures underpinned by science and engineering knowledge to achieve optimum functionality, efficiency and effectiveness in construction and robust, durable and sustainable design solutions that perform over time.

Architectural Technology encompasses the impact of changing social, economic, legal, cultural, environmental, technological, business and political frameworks on the built and natural environment in a global context. Chartered Architectural Technologists are engaged in projects globally and many spend time working both nationally and internationally.

Chartered Architectural Technologist professionals are responsible for ensuring that their designs result in buildings and structures that are functional, constructed economically and perform efficiently and effectively within the context of user needs, environmental sustainability, regulatory and budgetary requirements. Chartered Architectural Technologists may work within a team or as the project lead and are often company Partners or Directors.

This document sets out the Professional Standards Framework for Chartered Architectural Technologists and provides information and guidance on the educational, practice and professional standards for Chartered Architectural Technologists as assessed and ratified by CIAT. A Chartered Architectural Technologist will have satisfied the Professional Standards Framework for Chartered Membership and will have demonstrated achievement of the educational, practice and professional standards.

Purpose and use

The purpose of the Professional Standards Framework document is to provide comprehensive information and guidance for a range of audiences including:

- Those involved in the design, delivery and review of the academic provision and standards of Architectural Technology education;
- Prospective students considering studying Architectural Technology, or current students;
- Prospective Chartered Members;
- Employers, organisations, clients, public bodies or professionals seeking information on the knowledge, skills and standards generally expected of Chartered Architectural Technologists;
- Members of CIAT seeking guidance on continuing professional development;
- Members of the public and society.

The document is set out in three distinct stages and illustrates the qualifying process and mandatory standards an applicant must satisfy to achieve Chartered Membership status and use of the protected title, Chartered Architectural Technologist.

- Stage 1: Educational Standards. CIAT Accredited Honours or Masters degree (or equivalent).
- Stage 2: Practice Standards. Practice Assessment.
- Stage 3: Professional Standards. Professional Interview.

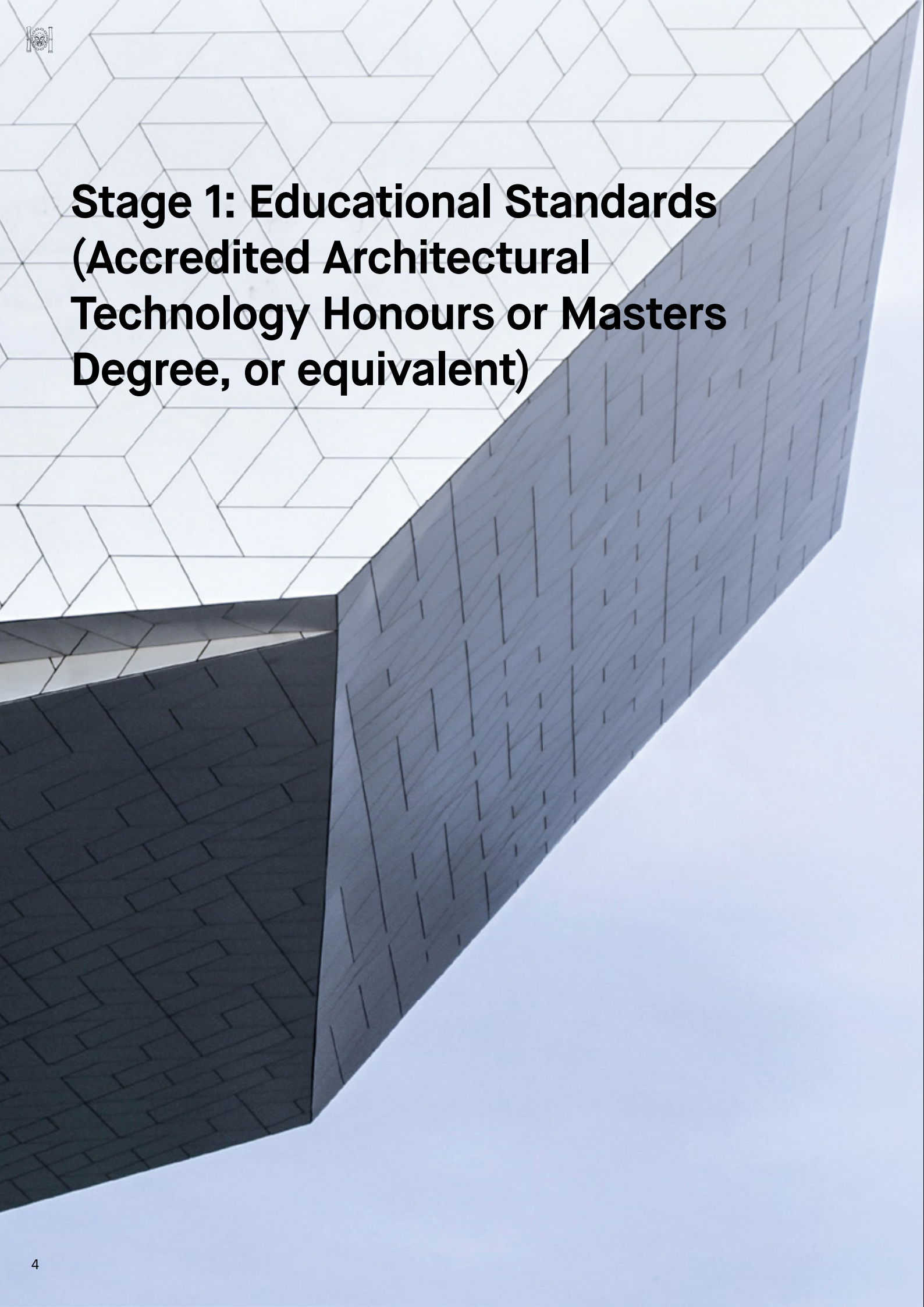
The educational standards have been developed in conjunction with the UK QAA for Honours and Masters degree level qualifications in Architectural Technology. Such programmes are designed and delivered by universities or equivalent establishments and are Accredited by CIAT nationally and internationally.

The practice standards are measured through the Professional Assessment which is an evaluation of prospective Chartered Members' knowledge, experience, skills and professionalism.

The Professional Assessment Interview process is designed to reflect the broad nature and range of professional practice within Architectural Technology.

The professional standards are the manifestation of the educational and practice standards. They determine a Chartered Member's ability to engage, communicate and interact with affected parties in an appropriate, professional, ethical and knowledgeable manner. All Chartered Members must be aware of their professional limitations and obligations in relation to the Institute's *Code of Conduct*.

Stage 1: Educational Standards (Accredited Architectural Technology Honours or Masters Degree, or equivalent)



The ever-increasing impact and influence of Architectural Technology on building design, construction processes and the science and engineering of buildings have seen rapid growth and change.

These changes impact on the broadening and deepening of the underpinning knowledge of Architectural Technology and the need for specialisation and diversification above an Honours degree level into Masters degree level and beyond.

Chartered Members are required to identify, investigate, research and evaluate differing needs, functions and aspirations of society within the built environment to ensure that projects are designed and constructed to be economical, environmentally sustainable and robust, and perform efficiently and effectively within their planned life.

These requirements must also recognise how client and social needs influence the design and construction process which includes users' experience of the completed building or project. In doing so, modern design and construction involve the use of Architectural Technology through new materials and components, the development of new concepts, modelling, techniques and strategies, together with management of the project. Design and construction of a project may also include reuse, refurbishment, renovation and maintenance.

Adding to this is the impact of information and communication technologies, building information modelling and modelling the whole building life cycle process, procurement strategies and extensive service installations and their influence on the design and construction process.

The design and construction functions have therefore become more complex and Architectural Technology is a key and professional discipline with a primary focus on designing for building performance and the construction and production of building projects through and by the management and integration of technology.

Chartered Architectural Technologists should have successfully completed a CIAT Accredited Honours or Masters degree level qualification or equivalent to demonstrate that they have the necessary underpinning knowledge required of an Architectural Technology professional.

While it is acknowledged that the depth and breadth in which individual aspects are treated may vary within the nature of specific job roles of the Chartered Architectural Technologist, all Chartered Members must be conversant with the main aspects relating to design, technology, management and practice within a national and international context.

The following standards are extracted from the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Architectural Technology, for graduates of Honours and Masters degrees. These criteria form the mandatory threshold education standards that all Chartered Architectural Technologists must be able to demonstrate:

- a systematic understanding and critical awareness of topics which are informed by the subject of Architectural Technology;
- a critical awareness of the history and context, and the political, economic, environmental, social and technological aspects that inform and influence the practice of Architectural Technology nationally and internationally;
- an ability to problem solve and to identify appropriate methodologies to deal with complex problems and realise design into built form through the generation of detailed design solutions that respond to familiar, unfamiliar and unpredictable situations;
- an ability to successfully complete substantial sustainable and inclusive design and research projects, systematic review or systematic case study informed by wider current understandings in the subject;
- an awareness of building elements, components, systems, and methods used for different building typologies;
- an awareness of current topics and practices which inform the discipline of Architectural Technology including new and emerging technologies;
- an awareness of project and design management, project procurement and process, construction and contract management;
- an ability to identify hazards and risks and develop and maintain safe systems of work and legal and relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks;
- an ability to develop critical discussion and analysis of complex concepts and to work independently with some originality and as a member of a team identifying personal development needs and to plan to meet these needs through relevant and appropriate methods.

The educational standards required of a Chartered Architectural Technologist as illustrated above are based upon the requirements for CIAT Accreditation of Honours and Masters Degrees in Architectural Technology and as such holders of these awards are recognised as having achieved the necessary standards through study.

Those applicants for Chartered Membership who do not possess an Accredited award must demonstrate how their educational awards and/or experience satisfy the criteria above when undertaking the MCIAT Professional Assessment.

Stage 2: Practice Standards (Practice Assessment)

Architectural Technology is both a creative and innovative profession and is an ever-evolving design discipline. It embraces and incorporates a wide variety of professional functions that are underpinned by knowledge, skills and experience within the built environment sphere; some of which are highly specialised. CIAT and its Chartered Members are comprised of professionals practising in a variety of roles which sit within the discipline.

To recognise the diversity of activities undertaken by practitioners within Architectural Technology, the Practice Assessment process assesses the performance of practitioners that work across a range of functions and allows candidates who have applied for Chartered Membership to use their experience in their chosen field to demonstrate their competence.

Chartered Members will have demonstrated their experience in relation to their area(s) of practice to illustrate the type of projects in which they are involved. Each prospective Chartered Member's application will therefore be tailored to the individual and must directly correlate to the four core areas identified by CIAT, of designing, managing, practising and developing (self).

An example of this is as follows:

Designing

- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of Architectural Technology in relation to candidate's area of practice/employment including building standards (planning, building control regulations, etc) and the principles, techniques and methods used in relation to construction materials.
- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of design related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology. Consideration given to: user and market needs, cost, quality, environmental impact, safety, reliability, appearance, fitness for purpose, life cycle, maintenance and refurbishment.
- Evaluate effectiveness of design solutions against original specification.

Managing

- Demonstration of an ability to work as an individual or as part of a team, which may include leading and managing budgets, people or projects.
- Demonstration of evidence of conflict resolution.
- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of customer service by identifying the customer and their needs and demonstrate interaction with professional and non-professional colleagues and clients with regard to providing information and advice relating to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.

Practising

- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of new and emerging technologies, processes and applications of sustainability, as well as research and continuous improvement relating to innovation in candidate's area of Architectural Technology. Consideration given to: economic, social, environmental, technological and legal issues related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.
- Identification of factors affecting project implementation including resource management, negotiating and agreeing terms and conditions of contracts or agreements and controlling budgets.
- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of Health and Safety and an ability to identify hazards and risks and develop and maintain safe systems of work related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.
- Demonstration of a knowledge, understanding and application of other relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks.

Developing (self)

- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of continuous improvement and quality assurance techniques related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.
- Demonstration of an ability to identify personal development needs, plan to meet these needs and achievement of these aims.
- Development of personal continuing professional development (CPD) goals.

Stage 3: Professional Standards (Professional Assessment)

On successful assessment of Stages 1 and 2, a prospective Chartered Member will be invited to attend the Professional Assessment Interview.The Interview is primarily based around the information provided in the candidate's MCIAT Professional Assessment application (Stages 1 and 2), their practice background, knowledge of the construction process, relevant experience in their field of Architectural Technology and their overall experience in the industry and their professionalism.The Interview is assessed by a panel of Chartered Architectural Technologists trained and moderated in the assessment of candidates.

The Interview is a peer to peer assessment in the form of a professional discussion and is designed to enable the Institute's Assessors to make a judgement regarding an applicant's professionalism and suitability to represent the Institute as a Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT. Candidates for Chartered Membership are required to provide a portfolio of evidence to support their application and its relevance to demonstrate their professionalism.

The Professional Interview is assessed using the Institute's *Code of Conduct* and Chartered Architectural Technologists will have demonstrated that they meet the requirements and their ongoing obligations to abide by it.

Code of Conduct

All Chartered Members must adhere to the professional *Code of Conduct* which includes the requirement to obtain and maintain adequate professional indemnity insurance when providing services directly to a client. Members must undertake the required minimum time of continuing professional development per annum, keeping themselves informed of current practices and developments appropriate to the type and level of their responsibilities. The professional *Code of Conduct* places obligations on Members to perform in a professional and businesslike manner. Members are required to:

- endeavour to ensure that the services offered are appropriate to the client's requirements and that their terms of engagement are given in writing and have been accepted.
- act with integrity, faithfully and honourably.
- ensure that they have adequate resources to meet the client's requirements and not misrepresent the services available.
- obtain and maintain adequate professional indemnity insurance if providing services directly to clients. Professional indemnity insurance is an important provision for peace of mind for the Member and their client. It is an insurance against professional negligence to protect the client in the unlikely event of such certain issues occurring; and
- only offer and provide services within their professional capabilities and decline to offer and/or provide a service to a client if they knowingly lack adequate resources or if appropriate, advise and recommend the necessity of assistance from a suitably qualified professional.

Chartered Membership sets the standard for professional conduct in the discipline of Architectural Technology. In this way, CIAT serves as a benchmark for anyone seeking to commission the services of a Chartered Architectural Technologist. In the unlikely event that any member fails to reach the required standard of professional practice, the Institute has a procedure to deal with these occurrences.

For further information about this document or about becoming a Chartered Architectural Technologist please contact **membership@ciat.org.uk**

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