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Editor's foreword

2015 is a big year for CIAT! The Institute turned 50 on 12 February and with such a milestone there will be plenty of celebrations and promotional events.

To coincide with the 50th Anniversary, we are holding a celebratory lunch which will include the announcement and presentation of our Award winners. This will be held at the world famous Savoy Hotel in London on Friday 25 September. Why not enter into one of our Student Awards for Excellence in Architectural Technology for the chance to secure an invitation and win one of six cash prizes? The top prize is £800. Get inspired by last year's winners on pages 9-15.

If you've wondered if there is 'light at the end of the tunnel' read Daniel Wood's experiences on what it has been like working, as opposed to studying Architectural Technology on pages 7-8. While studying itself is a demanding, and at times, challenging commitment, there are the added pressures of financially supporting yourself as well as gaining relevant work experience. Darius Beck did just that and gives you an insight on pages 17-19.

Also included in this issue are reflective pieces on multidisciplinary work, and conceptual designs from other student members.

Dr Noora Kokkarinen
Assistant Education Director

For further information on the articles featured, or to contribute to aspirATion magazine, contact Danielle Jombla, Education and Membership Administrator at danielle@ciat.org.uk.

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aspirATion magazine is published by The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists, 397 City Road, London, EC1V 1NH UK, T: +44(0)20 7278 2206, E: info@ciat.org.uk, www.ciat.org.uk

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Working on a multi-disciplinary project

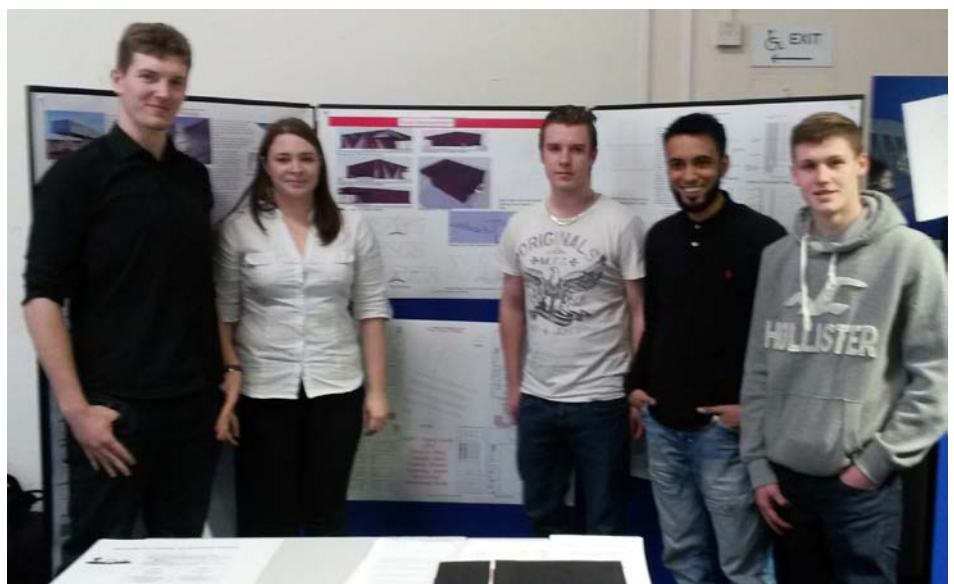
A multi-disciplinary project involves time management, communication and above all determination, as Abby-Jane Cassady, a student member on the BSc (Hons) Architectural Design and Technology course at the University of Salford, found out.

At the University of Salford, students in Years 1 and 2 on different courses within the School of the Built Environment are required to undertake a multi-disciplinary project. The Architectural Design and Technology, Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying, Project Management and Construction Project Management students form mixed-discipline groups consisting of between five and eight students.

The tasks that we work on in the multi-disciplinary project are live, and we receive briefs from a client to work towards, with the possibility that one of our designs might be accepted and developed into an actual building. The project outlined in this article is the development of a new sports centre for the university.

Working in a group can be a challenge, yet also very rewarding! This article explores my own personal trials and tribulations along with those of other groups within the university.

It all began at the dreaded first meeting! The names went on the board and everyone then frantically searched for their group members. Just like in 'The Apprentice', the interviews commenced: a quick 30 second snapshot of everyone's lives and experiences, whilst trying to determine who was best suited for the position of Project Manager.



Abby-Jane Cassady and the project team from University of Salford

Each group's Project Manager then collected the initial project brief. Some students were elated at their new role, others seemed disappointed that they had missed their big opportunity and equally there were those who were relieved they were not chosen to be the Project Manager.

Working in a group can be challenging but also very rewarding

The next two weeks were the 'honeymoon period'; when we got to know each other and identified the strengths and weaknesses of the group. During this time it was made apparent that many of the Architectural Design and Technology (ADT) students felt under pressure to have the most impressive design that would meet all of the criteria. There was an undercurrent of competition in ensuring their group presented the best project.

It was recognised that time was precious, particularly for the ADT students to prepare the designs before other members could even start their contribution. I often heard 'how can the quantity surveyor price the project up when we don't know what we're building?' There was of course an easy solution to this - communication.

Throughout the design process, keeping the group constantly informed on the planning for the design ensured the quantity surveyors and building surveyors could start doing research of similar projects almost straight away. We even went to see comparable projects together so we all knew what we were working towards and a collective vision was built. Holding regular team meetings helped to maintain everyone on track. These meetings also highlighted members of the group that were struggling with the work load and we all grouped together to help out where we could. Action plans were put in place to keep everyone on target for the presentations.

As the weeks went by and we started to approach the initial presentation deadline some quite strong bonds were formed within the group, all having the common goal to achieve. There was also the challenge of those students who were not working to the same standards as others. This was when the Project Manager had to step up and motivate, ensuring everyone was working as a team. At this point the strength and effectiveness of the Project Manager became apparent and was vital in the team's success.

All challenges and obstacles had to be put aside and true determination kicked in at the point of the initial presentation. Presenting was not for everyone and one of the team had difficulties presenting with the cringe-inducing moment of awkward silence when their minds went blank. This was another time for the Project Manager to take control and assist the team, these moments can also be reduced by plenty of rehearsals beforehand. Everyone waited eagerly in anticipation for the first presentation feedback, which led to a return to the drawing board for some.

With a couple of weeks to wrap the project up and deliver one final knockout presentation, the atmosphere was tense and time was crucial. Assessments had been made as to where the team could improve and changes

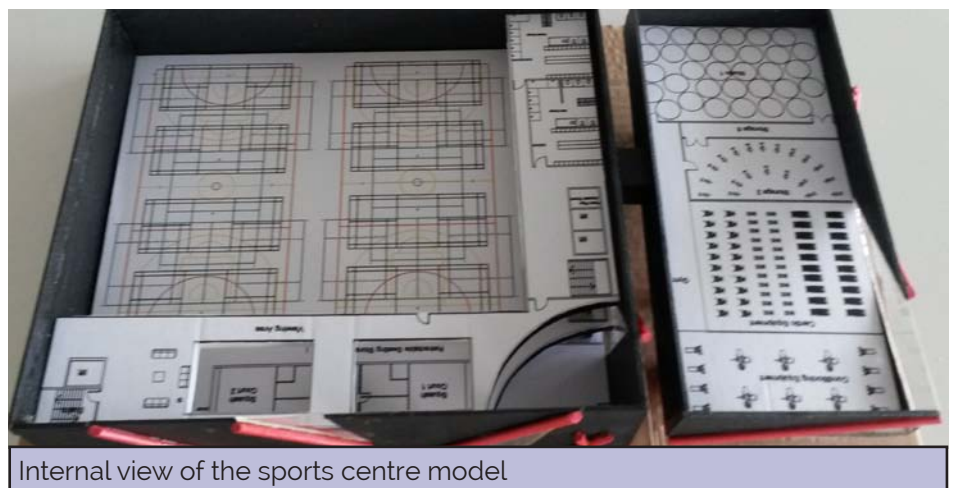
discussed on how to ensure a cohesive result by the end. My team now has two weeks until the final deadline, and with some challenges to overcome, I am confident that my group is finally on track. Plenty of work is still to be done

but with good feedback so far, the changes should ensure that our project is successful and stands out for all the right reasons. Although team work can be daunting, practice is the best preparation for what we, as future professionals, will do frequently.

Team work allows for more views and ideas to be mulled over as well as to build a knowledge base as a group from which to build on. It also builds social skills and confidence. Effective communication (both verbal and written) is an invaluable skill. It is important to consider differences in personalities, opinions and ways of working as this impacts on the final outcome. In a multidisciplinary project like this, it allows you to also understand the way in which other disciplines approach the same topic. Any shortcomings or conflicts can be managed by strong and effective leadership which can also motivate and bring out the strengths of individuals in the group.



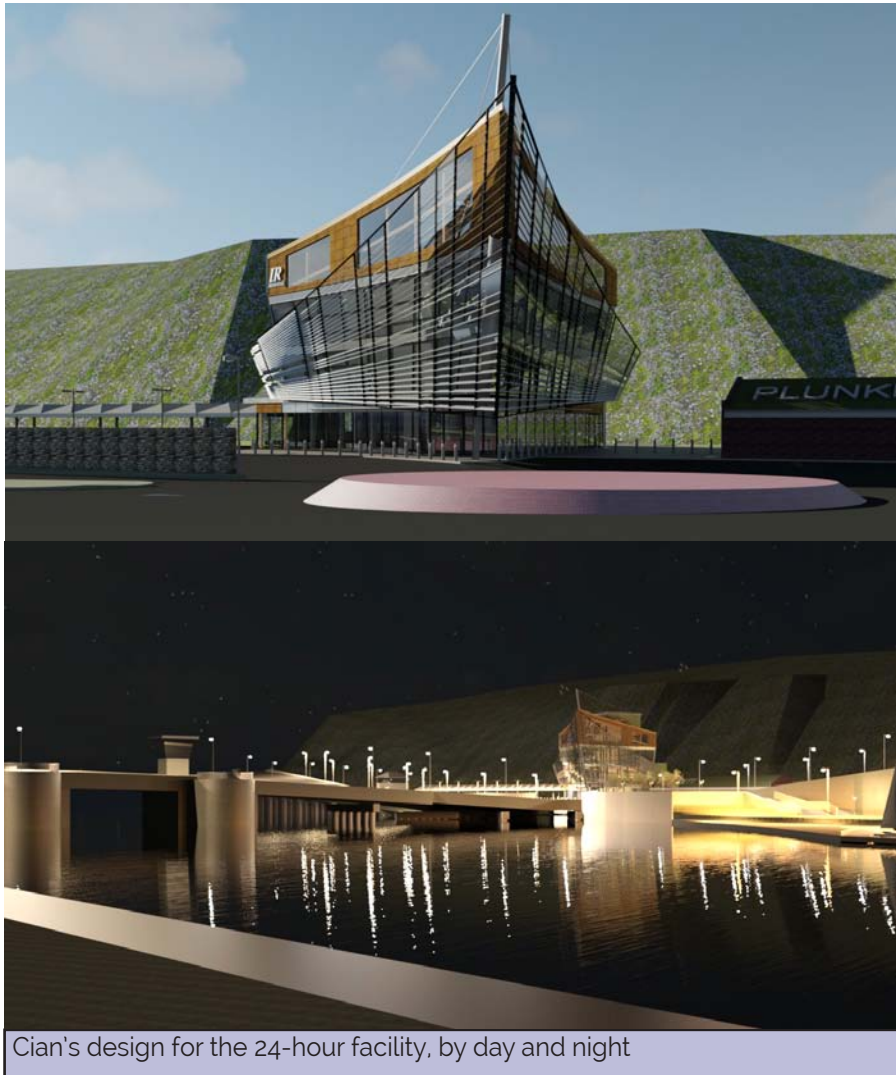
CAD model of the project's proposed sports centre



Internal view of the sports centre model

Fast track to great design

Student member Cian Gilligan talks us through his concept for a railway headquarters in Waterford in the Republic of Ireland.



As the course at Waterford Institute of Technology has evolved to incorporate more Building Information Modelling (BIM), I was required to use a collection of BIM software during the design and presentation stage of my project for a railway headquarters.

Primarily Autodesk Revit was used for the modelling and renderings. Over 15 weeks we were to propose a new train station and justify our design with a final year presentation.

The existing station contains two listed protected structures (red brick 1 storey building and the platform shelters). The site is located between a cliff face, main road junction and the River Suir. It lacked attraction, but was a potential recreational area that could encourage people to travel across from the city and use the facilities. These were the main factors that influenced my design process.

My design was to accommodate four storeys. The ground and

first floors to accommodate all Iarnród Éireann (Irish Railways) facilities, the second and third floors to be viewing areas across the river towards the city and could also be rented out for functions and the protected red brick building was to accommodate a traditional themed bar/restaurant.

It is probably very obvious that the south facing facade is very similar to the bow of a ship. This was intentional and helped me tie my building back in with the historic area known as the Waterford Viking Triangle and the river. Also, as this is a 24-7 facility, it meant freedom with materials and lighting to create the most attractive facade possible for both day and night. My main aim was to create a more welcoming attractive facade and I believe this was achieved.

Being a student of Architectural Technology, this project was brilliant to take part in. The multidisciplinary challenges that were involved will definitely stand me in good stead in the future. After doing such a technically guided course for the last three years it was great to have the freedom to design such a building, at the same time keeping in mind its construction and 'buildability'. There was a knock-on effect for every decision made which kept me focused on the design.

A new chapter

Daniel Wood gives a personal view of his career so far after graduating from Northumbria University.

After university it seems there is less assignment planning, fewer deadlines to complete and little regular routine. We are left to our own devices and unsure what direction to explore. Time continues to tick. Progression and personal development are characteristics which must be crafted and maintained individually post-university.

The journey has so far been exciting and I would like to reassure Architectural Technology students that there is light at the end of the tunnel; and many opportunities which can develop into a unique, exciting and innovative career. I have been working in the construction industry now for a decade, developing technical drawings for execution of large scale projects.

In July 2014, I stepped down from the position of Chair for the CIAT Student Group. This was followed by a graduation ceremony later that month to celebrate attaining my BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology degree. I was also presented with the 'Outstanding Graduating Student for CIAT' Award; a proud day.

From my last assignment deadline to full-time employment there was only a two week window. I departed the North-East for the 'Big Smoke' AKA London, to work for Adamson Associates at their practice based in Canary Wharf. The job involves working with the Design Architect through all stages of project development with the goal of developing, enhancing and delivering the vision that they and the client have established. Adamson Associates have had the privilege of collaborating with some of the world's most acclaimed Design Architects on prestigious projects such as the Shard, London, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Petronas Towers, Malaysia. A current project I am working on is Newfoundland Tower, a 60 storey residential block in London's Canary Wharf.



Newfoundland Tower Project

I am situated within a team with a wide range of experience. The projects are challenging at times but my skill-set is constantly expanding as I am gaining years of industry experience from my colleagues. I take great pride in this. I feel humbled to be part of a great collection of individuals. The continuous learning and concise decision-making, which is required on a demanding and innovative building is one of the pleasures of the work.

The projects are challenging at times but my skill-set is constantly expanding

I am a firm believer in understanding the finer details; it is key to fulfilling your job role understanding how your technical design decisions correlate with the various consultants and individuals on a project. Duties on the project include: production of information, Revit architecture modelling, technical research, process/flow of information and contracts/responsibilities.

Another important aspect of my career is progression to MCIAT Chartered status. A considerable level of knowledge is required to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist. It has been a goal since I started on my Foundation Degree in 2009.



Student Awards 2015

Apply today for your chance to win!

The Student Project and Report Awards for Excellence in Architectural Technology are now open. These Awards recognise outstanding design and research from final year students.

Those shortlisted will receive a free place at CIAT's 50th Anniversary Celebratory Luncheon at The Savoy.

The Winner of each Award will receive a cash prize of £800. Shortlisted entrants will also be rewarded.



For more information, please visit:
www.ciat.org.uk/en/awards/student-awards

The closing date for submissions is 26 June 2015.

Student Awards: meet the winners

In this extended feature a selection of those recognised in the 2014 Student Awards spoke to Danielle Jombla, Education and Membership Administrator, about their achievements.

Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Report)

This Award recognises outstanding achievement in Architectural Technology from a dissertation or research assignment.

Winner - Tom Wragg ACIAT, Sheffield Hallam University for 'Modified Wood: investigating the properties of modified wood for use in external cladding'.



How do you feel about winning the Award?

It was a fantastic feeling to have been initially short listed for the Award, so to have actually won it is even better! The annual Dinner Dance was a great evening and to have been placed first among my fellow nominees was both a surprise and a privilege.

What was the greatest challenge you faced within the winning project?

I would say the greatest challenge I faced within the project was actually selecting the subject itself. It was key for me to do some initial investigation into the subject matter. This was to help me ascertain if there was enough scope and existing material to be able to produce a thorough report. This initial investigation really took my interest and as a result I very much enjoyed researching and producing the report.

What part of the winning project are you most proud of?

I am most proud that I was able to research a subject in depth and produce a cohesive, interesting report that produced some solid conclusions. I am also proud that I now have a high level of knowledge about a subject that I never would have had before! I can now take this knowledge with me into the rest of my career.

When working on a project, what are the main considerations that you always take into account?

I think for a report the key consideration prior to researching and writing should be that you have a keen interest in the subject. Having a keen interest will mean that you want to find that little bit more, you want to push the research a little bit further and that should result in a well rounded study with strong conclusions.

Do you have any trademark features and is this reflected in the winning project?

If I do have a trademark feature, then I feel that it is my attention to detail and precision in my presentation that is most obvious. I think this was evident in my winning project as it was aesthetically very good which provided a great backdrop to engage the reader in the subject matter.

What was your greatest influence when working on this project and how did it inspire you?

The greatest influence on this project was my desire to learn about something new and highly relevant to the construction industry today. The report touched upon a broad spectrum of other subjects, specifically environmental ones, which has inspired me to further research into those areas. This can only be of benefit now and in the future as all buildings that we design should have environmental design principles at their core.

MODIFIED WOOD

INVESTIGATING THE PROPERTIES OF MODIFIED WOOD FOR USE IN EXTERNAL CLADDING

- Contents
- Introduction
- Identification of Subject
- Material Evaluation
- Environmental Credentials
- Design Decision
- Product Information
- Performance
- Integration for Design Co-ordination
- Conclusion
- Reflection
- Bibliography & Referencing

G.14 - Product Information Analysis

Timber Used

- All of the modified woods use FSC and/or PEFC certified timber from sustainable sources.
- Kebony and ThermoWood use timber that is locally sourced (Norway and Finland respectively).
- Accoya uses Radiata pine sourced from New Zealand. This will greatly increase the embodied energy involved in Accoya production due to large transportation emissions.
- Oak, larch and western red cedar (WRC) are all European and/or British grown and so can be reasonably locally sourced.

Modification Method

- Accoya and Kebony are chemically modified.
 - Accoya uses acetic anhydride as the modification chemical. It is a naturally occurring substance in wood.
 - Acetic acid is produced as a by-product. Any residues left on the wood could cause issues.
 - Kebony uses furfuryl alcohol as the modification chemical. It is a bio-waste made from corn cob or sugarcane.
- ThermoWood is thermally modified and chemical free.
- Accoya and ThermoWood are modified throughout the wood section. Kebony is not.

Availability

- All modified and natural woods are available in the UK.
 - Accoya ThermoWood, oak, larch and WRC are available at several timber merchants across the UK.
 - Kebony is only available at a single timber merchant.

Cost

- Please refer to Fig. B.14.a - Cost Graph (£ per m²) for analysis of costs.
- Accoya is comparable in price to oak.
- Kebony and ThermoWood are comparable in price to WRC.

Quality

- All of the modified woods go through rigorous grading and quality check systems prior to production and manufacture.
- All of the natural woods are affected by their growth conditions.
 - Oak has varying quality dependant on growth location.
 - British grown larch is usually of an inferior quality to European or Siberian grown larch.
 - British grown WRC is usually of an inferior quality to North American grown WRC.

Strength & Hardness

- The effects on the strength and hardness of the woods varies with each modification method.
- Please refer to Fig. B.14.b - Density Graph for analysis of density.
- Please refer to Fig. B.14.c - Hardness Graph for analysis of hardness.
 - Accoya and Kebony considerably increase in density and hardness and in turn, weight.
 - Janka hardness for Kebony could not be obtained however Binell hardness could and states a large increase.
- This is because after modification the wood is in a permanent swollen state.
- The ThermoWood Handbook (2003) states that there is a strong correlation between wood strength and density, this means the strength of Accoya & Kebony may increase after modification. However the difference is likely to be negligible.

Fig. G.14.a - Cost Graph (£ per m²)

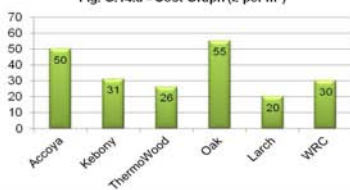


Fig. G.14.b - Density Graph

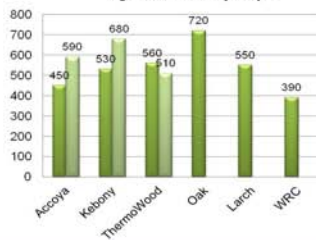
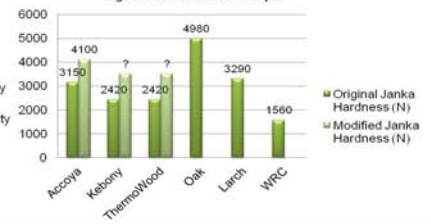


Fig. G.14.c - Hardness Graph



THOMAS WRAGG

TECHNICAL REPORT

PAGE 12

Have you always been aware of CIAT and its role within the industry? How does it influence you and the wider industry?

I have been aware of CIAT from when I started the Architectural Technology course at Sheffield Hallam University. Upon beginning the course it was made clear to us the role that CIAT would play in our development through university and our careers and also its place within the wider industry. Being made aware of CIAT gave us a clear route of career progression and something to aspire to long term. Being a Chartered Member of CIAT gives you professional recognition, and that all starts by becoming a student member at the earliest opportunity.

Having a keen interest in the subject will mean you want find out a little bit more

What are you doing now you have graduated from university?

Now that I have graduated from university I am working full-time as a Graduate Architectural Technologist at CHQ Partnership. CHQ are based in Baldock, Hertfordshire but also have offices in London and Manchester. The company has vast experience within the construction industry and an impressive portfolio of work.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time at CHQ so far and aim to gain as much experience as possible in the role of an Architectural Technologist.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to thank CIAT for providing the opportunity for its student members to win Awards such as this. Being invited to the annual Dinner Dance was a memorable evening. In addition to that, it was a fantastic celebration of being an Architectural Technologist. I would also like to thank the tutors at Sheffield Hallam University for all of their hard work over the last few years and last but not least, my fellow students, all of those late nights were worth it in the end!



Highly Commended - Magdalena Blazusiak ACIAT, Robert Gordon University for 'Preserving the existing built environment through building refurbishment of residential sector utilising low carbon strategy'.

How did you feel about receiving the Award?

Working to the best of your ability can prove to be incredibly daunting, but it can also come with unexpected rewards. At the beginning of our careers, when we're still so insecure and unsure of what the reality will bring, recognition within the industry can help overcome the fear of the unknown on our career path. Needless to say, it was a proud moment and a much unexpected one too.

What has been your proudest moment in your career so far?

The past four years have been extremely eventful for me starting from being accepted by the university, through securing a placement within the industry, graduating with first class honours and finally finding a job that will provide me with endless opportunities for development. But I think the proudest moment was being recognised by the Institute for my research work, which represents everything I stand for.

What or who have you found most supportive?

During my time at university I have been extremely lucky to have a spectrum of most supportive lecturers and course leader. By the end of the final year they knew exactly how to spark my imagination and use my frustration to push boundaries and explore. Moreover, what in my eyes is equally important, I had a full support from my loving husband.

Recognition within the industry can help overcome the fear of the unknown on our career path

I have been aware of CIAT ever since I started my course when I first joined as a student member. I think it is extremely important for the industry members to be able to share their ideas and concerns through institutions like CIAT. Being a member of the Institute helps us to be recognised by the wider audience.

What did you enjoy about the Architectural Technology course?

Architectural Technology is often a second choice when at university, sometimes because people applying do not understand what it entails. I also started the first year with a thought of transferring onto the Masters of Architecture course as many other people did. This never happened! I enjoyed the course so much, that I stayed on and graduated with the first-class honours. With the AT course you get an opportunity to go out into the industry in your third year and often it's the hardest part of the entire course - to face the reality and use the knowledge you've gained during the first years at the university. I secured a placement with the estates section at the University of Aberdeen and stayed there during my last year of studies on a part time basis. I loved working with existing buildings and being challenged by the projects where 'one size fits all' never applies. This gave me a completely different perspective for the future project and any research I undertook in my final year. Working with industry professionals also gave me much needed confidence. I very much enjoyed research. I found that people often underestimate the importance of this part of reflective study that will give you most knowledge of all.



Have you won other awards?

Those are my first industry related awards and by far my greatest achievement so far. I have won several awards before, when still in school, one of them being a second place for my ecology awareness report in a nationally recognised competition, which for sure had an effect on my current work.

How long have you been aware of CIAT?

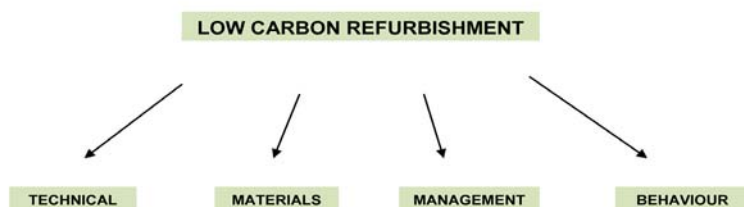
The graph below demonstrates how particular measures can contribute to increase carbon reductions in buildings.



FIGURE 01. Carbon reduction measures in building. (Carbon Trust, 2008)

The approach described above creates however a problem with assessing the performance with a certain need of translating it into measurable terms in order to control and support refurbishment process.

Figure 02 divides low carbon refurbishment measures into four main areas.



Areas of low carbon refurbishment (by the author).

I loved working with the existing buildings and being challenged by the projects where 'one size fits all' never applies

Other winners included:

Commended

Jacob Handford ACIAT, University of Plymouth for Significance of Thermal Comfort in a Passivhaus School: A Case Study of Montgomery School, Exeter

Daniel Owen ACIAT, Anglia Ruskin University for Passivhaus Standard: A Comparative Study into the Cost of Passivhaus in the UK

Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project)

Highly Commended

Gihan Badi ACIAT, Leeds Beckett University, Primary School, Kirkstall Forge

Commended

Jacob Handford ACIAT, University of Plymouth for Vocational Construction College, Ivybridge

You can watch further details for these Awards on our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/CIATechnologist

What are you working on at the moment?

Now, having graduated and with so much free time on my hands, I have started working towards my MCIAT application. I secured a position of Senior Architectural Officer at Aberdeen City Council and I have been extremely lucky to join a fantastic team of friendly and supportive professionals.

Most of the projects I work on are refurbishments. Therefore, I can implement what I have learnt along the way on sensitivity of existing structures and effects of designer's decisions. Some of the buildings are listed properties, which gives me an opportunity to develop my interest in building conservation. I really do enjoy my work and feel that it is an important task to take care of the city's rich heritage.

What are your other interests?

Coming from an artistic background, I learnt appreciation for art in my early days. I like experiencing other cultures through travelling and books. I enjoy the hustle and bustle of large European cities almost as much as I enjoy relaxing in the peaceful locations of wild mountains. I also share passion for motorcycles with my husband.

Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project)

The Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project) is the premier accolade which recognises outstanding design achievement in Architectural Technology based upon a university or college assignment.

Winner - Shane York ACIAT, Sheffield Hallam University for 'Millhouses Works'.

How do you feel about winning the Award?

I am extremely grateful for the nomination and as a student, this is the pinnacle Award to win. This is a very proud achievement and I was fortunate to achieve this goal as an Architectural Technology student. If I am honest, I still have to pinch myself that it was me who won, rather than one of my peers, who also produced some really good work.

What was the greatest challenge you faced within the winning project?

The brief for the project raised a few challenges which needed to be addressed. The greatest was creating something that the local community would be able to enjoy, but with commercial viability being the key driver. The concept brief to integrate all the clients requirements onto a small sloping site was another challenge, as we needed public connection access from the road linked to the lower level areas, due to the contoured land.



As part of the brief the client required a cricket pavilion, an artisan food school, a retail area and a café to sell the food that was being made by the students. It was a challenge to maintain the separation of the school from the public, but provide access to the retail /café area to sell the food.

When working on a project, what are the main considerations that you always take into account?

Sustainability and buildability are the fundamental considerations in any project. In my approach to any design, I am keen to create a building that naturally responds to the dynamics of the local environment, while ensuring it is possible to use a selection of renewables to reduce the consumption of energy. I like to explore the passive environment strategies, addressing both passive and active design features. My passion is to not over-complicate the design process, finding the best solution to the problem. I think sometimes too much focus can be on the aesthetics and not on the building use.

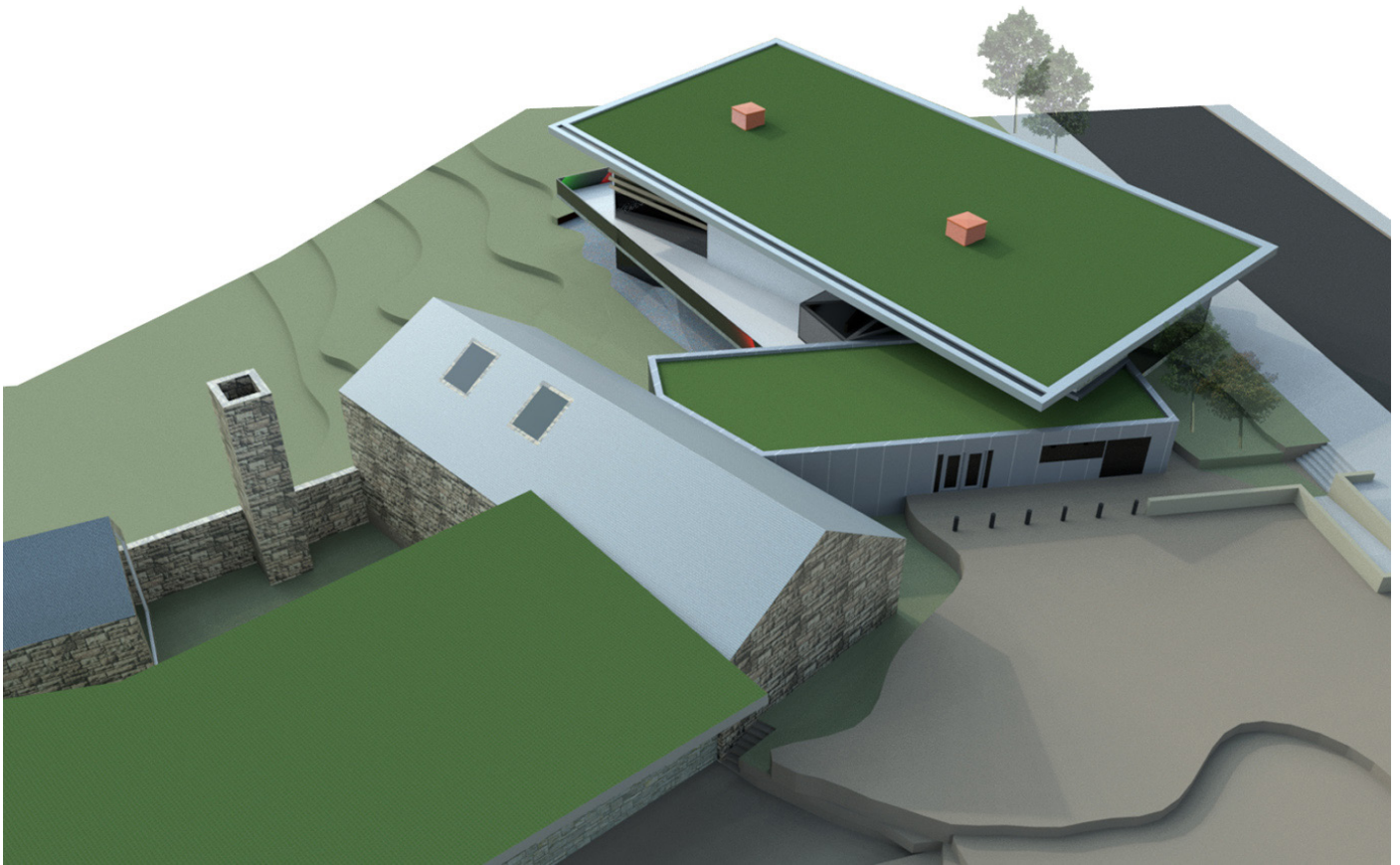
Sustainability and buildability are fundamental considerations in any project

If you could revisit the project, is there anything you would change?

Of course. Although I am very proud of the final design, I think you could always improve on elements – big or small. My original intention for the building was to integrate an algae façade, similar to the BIQ house - a smart material building in Germany.

What was your greatest influence when working on this project and how did it inspire you?

My biggest influence for this project was working with tutors from Sheffield Hallam University and my team leader at my workplace - Shaun Bennett. Being able to talk through my various designs, integrations and concept ideas allowed the project to grow into what was submitted. Working alongside colleges during my studies has allowed me to be trained in providing clients with an exceptional building, in the most simple and cost efficient form.



My biggest influence for the project in terms of a case study was a project which my workplace (LHL GROUP LTD) was heavily involved with - The Star Inn the city, Lendal Engine House - York.

What are you now doing having graduated from university?

I have always been a part-time student so have attended university one day a week. I am now working full time in my employment, working for LHL GROUP LTD.

Can you tell me any projects that you are currently working on?

I am currently working on a wide range of commercial, residential and industrial projects throughout Hull, Doncaster and the York area. I am currently involved with: designing a bespoke residential dwelling which we have submitted for planning approval, regeneration of a large industrial site, providing new sustainable commercial units and working with other team members on a racecourse project.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to say thank you to Sheffield Hallam University for the guidance and for the nomination, all my colleagues at LHL Group who have been really supportive and have witnessed the concept grow and CIAT for choosing my project as this year's winner.

I would like to show my appreciation to my wife and family. We have a one year old son and trying to get the work done in my final year was really difficult at times. If it wasn't for the amazing support I received, the outcome could have been different.

In my approach to any design, I am keen to create a building that reponds to the dynamics of the local environment

CIAT Award for Outstanding Graduating Student

The CIAT Award for Outstanding Graduating Student is presented to the graduating student from the Accredited Architectural Technology Honours degree programme at each Accredited university who, in the opinion of the programme leader, worked the best to their abilities, putting the greatest effort into their work. Cardiff Metropolitan University recognised **Nicholas Price**.

How do you feel about winning the Award?

It's a great endorsement and as a student, I guess there is no higher praise than winning an award. It was a really nice way to end the final year.

Who has been your greatest influence whilst in education and how have they inspired you?

My family were very supportive and have always been a great influence for me, but I have to credit the lecturers at Cardiff Metropolitan University for the guidance and support they all showed during my time there. They were all very encouraging and gave me the belief that I was capable of doing very well if I put in the effort. It was their guidance that inspired me to work hard and as a result, I achieved a first class degree and a CIAT Award.



What are you now doing having graduated from university?

I was fortunate enough to have an interview the week after I finished university and I started working at that company a week later, so I was working in an architectural practice only two weeks after handing in my final university project. I started at a different company to progress further within the architecture industry and I am looking forward to the new challenge ahead.

What projects are you are currently working on?

I have been working mainly on an educational project; a secondary school in south Wales as well as a few Royal Mail and residential projects. I have been informed that when I start my new position in January, I will be working as part of the team designing another school in South Wales, so it's very much education based projects at the moment.

Ulster University Tours

First year Architectural Technology & Management students recently had a number of interesting study tours in semester one, which included visits to the Belfast Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC) and Belfast City Hall. The award winning MAC building was designed by local practice Hall McKnight (formerly Hackett Hall McKnight) and David Black, a graduate from the Architectural Technology and Management programme at Ulster University who worked on the project, gave students a guided tour. The group used the many interesting views and details within the building to develop their sketching skills and understanding of key design elements.

The visit to Belfast City Hall provided an insight into one of the most important and historic buildings in Belfast as well as giving the students an appreciation of the many materials used in its construction. Students were able to view the original designs for the building and were given a tour, which included access to the Council Chamber.



Fresh from the box

Ruhi Shah, an Architectural Design Technology student at the University of Salford and student member created an innovative design for a visitors' centre, based on a broken box

My project brief was to design a Visitors, Information and Resource centre for the University of Salford. It was designed with simple aesthetics to blend in with nature while opening up to the landscape surrounding it. With the functions mainly concerning the provision of information about the University, I designed a space that was easily accessible and yet spacious with a blend of nature that seeped through the building.



I tried to make the space communal but at the same time keep it discrete. The concept was triggered by 'the black slit house' founded in Japan and 'an open box' located on the outskirts of Spain. These two buildings inspired my idea of broken and scattered boxes. The landscape and the building went hand in hand as I used glass throughout my building to let the nature in while also creating a more abstract view to it with the cladding. This also helped balance out the light and heat in the building.

The challenges I faced while designing was how to make a simple box look well-engineered and

aesthetically pleasing but yet serving its function. This also led me into thinking of how the space would be designated to provide enough room for each activity to be undertaken comfortably.

How I achieved my building design:

The shape to my building was achieved by a broken box that was simply attached together to make it look abstract. This effect was mainly achieved through the cladding that was uneven to make it look like boxes stacked on top of each other. The use of glass and the timber cladding allowed the building to make use of maximum natural light but not so much for the building to overheat. The building incorporates passive ventilation making it more sustainable.

While the design was evolved through sketches and model making, the inner spacing was difficult as I wanted the function of the building to be achieved by making it easily accessible while also achieving a public space yet being fairly private. Through the process I learned that with the limited space of 200msq the spaces should be smartly assembled to provide function while also being aesthetically pleasing. I started to draw bubble diagrams to represent my floor plans and did further analysis on the building i.e. solar and wind analysis and with that I finally came up with a plan that would keep the building functionally active yet aesthetically pleasing.

The best of both worlds

In this article Darius Beck, student member and Architectural Technology student at Southampton Solent University writes about the advantages of embarking on work experience while studying full time towards degree qualification.

After leaving school, I wanted to learn a trade and went to a local college to study for a BTEC Electrical / Electronic Engineering but as the recession had begun, I couldn't find a job afterwards. I decided to take an advanced apprenticeship in fabricating welding. Three years later I finished the apprenticeship and worked for a while in the industry before finally deciding to follow my passion, architecture, whilst I still could.

I have always had a keen interest in architecture, especially classical. Architectural Technology strongly appealed to me as the most suitable degree course as it combined my background in engineering with my enthusiasm for architecture, allowing me to explore the future of design.

Southampton Solent University was recommended by friends and family and before I had chosen a university, I managed to get a weeks work experience at a local architectural practice where many of the staff were former Solent graduates who highly recommended its Architectural Technology course.

Before embarking on the course, I did not know what to expect and had many anxieties as I have been out of education for a long time. However, my worries proved to be unfounded as a result of the support I received from the lecturers. Furthermore, I was lucky enough to be in a year with a good group of fellow students, some of whom were also mature students so I didn't feel like I was the only one, and settled in very quickly.



What I enjoy most about the course are the design projects. We work on a variety of projects including residential, commercial and healthcare buildings. I like the freedom we have, albeit to a certain degree dictated by the fact that all our projects are based on real world scenarios, working closely with practitioners. It is a really good way to learn the application of the vast choice of products and materials. With the help from lectures, we can create buildings from concept stage right the way through to detailed design.

Towards the end of my second year, I managed to secure work experience with a local architectural firm. At that time, I was spending most of my free time working in the studio, and it was while I was finishing off the technical details for our second year project that I had the opportunity to show some of my work to a former graduate from the course when he came in to see my course leader, who in turn wanted to show him some examples of our work. He was impressed with my CAD and technical skills and asked me to go in for an interview for a summer placement.

The company, Stride Treglown, is an Architects' Journal top 10 architectural practice. They are a well established, multi-disciplinary, multi-award winning team who work on national and international projects across a variety of sectors including hotels, leisure, commercial, education and retail. The Southampton office, where I am based, is undertaking the huge refurbishment of a number of cruise terminals in Southampton docks and the ferry port.

On my first day of work experience, I was extremely nervous as this wasn't the classroom anymore; this was the real world

On my first day of work experience, I was extremely nervous as this wasn't the classroom anymore; this was the real world. As soon as I completed induction procedures, I was straight into work on current live projects with guidance from the team of professionals. Soon I was so busy, there was no time to be nervous! The help and guidance I received was great; I learned so much and this really boosted my confidence. In addition to a great team of professionals, there were a few new graduates who helped me settle in. They were extremely welcoming, understanding that I was still learning and extremely helpful with advice and expertise.

Your university work could find you a job at any time so keep this in mind when rushing to hand in!

In the first few weeks, I was working on several projects in retail and transport. This involved work on producing drawings and details. I was introduced to the company system for filing and learned a lot about the software from experienced colleagues. I was then sent on an advanced Revit course, which is increasingly becoming the main software for our projects.

For the City Cruise Terminal and Mayflower Cruise Terminal, Southampton, I was involved at RIBA Stage 3 Developed Design to Stage 5 Construction. In the Next retail superstore I was involved in the later Stage 5 to Stage 6 Handover and Close Out. This project was exciting for me as it is located in the area I grew up in and it is nice to see it every time I drive past. Working on the projects at different stages has allowed me to learn a great deal of the process of construction projects and the issues faced by the design team.

I found the computer-based CAD and Revit skills I had learned on the Architectural Technology degree course helpful in the workplace as I could complete tasks required and further my skills with advice from colleagues. Being able to understand and produce construction details was extremely important. Moreover, the portfolio from my university projects was very handy at my interview as I was able to use samples to demonstrate my design, technical and CAD skills.

Since starting the work experience, I have been involved at RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design for an arts university refurbishment project which was very rewarding as I prepared the drawing package for this project and I was able to contribute to the design of the building ladder.

After my summer placement, I was awarded one of the company's few scholarships including a bursary for my contribution over the summer and help with my studies in my final year, with the view to return full time after graduation. Currently I work at least one day a week during term time and more over the holiday periods. I am lucky because my employers understand how important it is for me to complete my degree course and get the best possible results, and are therefore happy to allow me to work around my timetable.

My advice to fellow students is to listen to your tutors. Their contacts and experience are worth it. Get as much work experience as possible whilst studying as it will help with your university work and allow you to gain knowledge of the industry first hand. If possible, try to come to an arrangement whereby you can study and work at the same time, this way you will get the best of both worlds: gaining valuable professional experience to add to your CV whilst working towards your degree. By the time you graduate you will already have put your foot on the career ladder.

Finally, your university work could land you a job at any time so keep this in mind when you are rushing to hand in!



What can CIAT do for me?

If you are nearing completion of your degree course, you should think about your career progression and professional development options. Dorota Fitzpatrick, Membership Administrator looks at what is available from CIAT.

As a student member, once you have completed your course you can progress your membership by upgrading to an Associate member at a special fee of £60 (normally costs up to £240). This offer is only valid in the same year as your course completion. Upgrading your membership couldn't be easier - all you need to do is complete the membership application form and return it to the Membership Department along with proof of qualification/s, a copy of your CV and upgrade fee.

You may ask yourself, why should I upgrade my membership? What are the benefits of being affiliated with CIAT and how will that help my future career?

There are numerous benefits, which will hopefully make your decision to upgrade easy! You will be able to use the ACIAT designation after your name, which will demonstrate to your current/potential employers that you are a member of a professional institute and that you are serious about your professional career development and achieving Chartered status in time. You will receive a certificate confirming your membership.

One of the aspects that most members find extremely useful is the opportunity to network with fellow members and professionals in the industry. You can start off by getting involved with your local Region/Centre and you will be surprised how many 'doors' this may open for you! You will be able to keep abreast of changes and developments in the industry by attending many Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events on a variety of subjects and current issues.

The opportunity to network with fellow members and other professionals

You will also receive the quarterly magazine Architectural Technology, where you will find interesting articles written by and for members. Weekly ebulletins from the Institute will also keep you up to date with the latest news and events from the Institute, the profession and industry.

However, it does not stop there! Once you have taken that first step to upgrade to Associate, you will then have the option to progress your membership further. The ultimate goal for all Architectural Technology professionals is to qualify as a Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT. The descriptor and designation are protected. It is worth noting that Chartered Architectural Technologists are qualified to a comparable level to their fellow Chartered professionals and can lead projects from inception to completion. CIAT will provide you with advice and guidance throughout the process. Central Office has an approachable, friendly and efficient membership team, so don't be afraid to contact us with any queries you might have!

Last but not least, you will have an opportunity to have your hard work and skills recognised by entering various Awards, such as the Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology and the Alan King Award, both of which come with monetary prizes.

We look forward to welcoming you as an Associate member of the Institute very soon! However, if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team below:

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