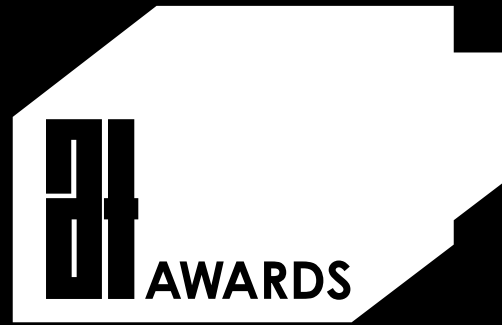




SPECIAL EDITION

# Architectural Technology Journal

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# Thank you to all our entrants and congratulations to all our Finalists

AT Awards 2024 open  
on 5 February 2024

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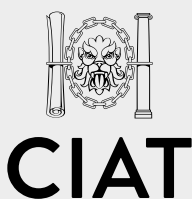
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## Editor's welcome



The AT Awards are always an exciting, celebratory and humbling part of the year and we have just enjoyed the Awards show presented for the last time at the Village Underground in London.

The AT Awards are a fantastic celebration of our amazing discipline – once more we have seen the remarkable skillsets of our graduates and the work that is being carried in practice. Ably presented by our MC, Matt Allwright, the AT Awards were announced and presented on 20 October.

Combined with high production values from Voytek, our production company, we can certainly say that it was the usual highlight of the year and we now look forward to the AT Awards 2024. This bumper special edition of the Journal showcases all the Finalists for the AT Awards and you can discover further about their projects and reports.

The AT Awards 2024 open in February so please do consider submitting an entry or nominating a fellow member or affiliate – these are the pinnacle Awards for Architectural Technology so please do take advantage and gain recognition for your work.

We also have our Institute events review call for evidence currently out for consultation. This is a holistic review of both the AGM and AT Awards events so please do ensure that you complete your viewpoint on what your Institute should be doing and have your voice heard. We need to know what we are doing well and not so well! Please contact Joanne Rowlands, Project Management Executive, for the link to the consultation – [j.rowlands@ciat.global](mailto:j.rowlands@ciat.global)

Now to an apology and a correction for the last issue of the Journal. Denise Germaine MCIAT got in touch regarding Dan Rossiter's article The A Word. In paragraph four, he stated that "outside of the UK, 'architect' is not restricted by statute." As Denise has correctly pointed out, this statement is incorrect as the use of the title 'architect' is also restricted by statute in the Republic of Ireland. We apologise for this error.

It is with sadness that we report another loss to the Institute and the death of Edgar Jones PCSAAT. A full obituary can be found on page 58.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and to our media partners, who all appear below, for their support of the AT Awards.

Central Office has now reopened after a seven month refurbishment with hot desking facilities and three meeting rooms.

Until winter

Adam Endacott  
Editor



Barbour ABI



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EMERGING TALENT IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF ARCHITECTURE AND  
CHARTERED ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR

## Meet the Judges

### Chair: Alex Naraian PPCIAT MCIAT



Alex is Group Head of Technical for Churchill Retirement Living – a national developer of Retirement Living Properties, employing over 700 employees across the group. A proud, respected and adept Chartered Architectural Technologist with over 35 years in the industry, he is an expert in delivering complex projects in the private sector. His knowledge and understanding lies in technical design, contract delivery, team and project management, client representation, research, interpretation of and application of current regulation and influencing future regulation. His clear thinking and excellent communication have led to a proven track record of process improvement.

As well as previously serving as the South East Regional Councillor and Chair for the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists, he was also its President from November 2017 to November 2019 and is an Honorary Fellow of Solent University.

Alex has also sat on various Accreditation Panels for universities offering Honours Degree programmes in Architectural Technology. As a mover and shaker in the industry, he currently sits on the NHBC Technical Forum and the HBF's National Technical and Sustainability Committee and is involved with the Future Homes Hub work on embodied and whole life carbon.

He is people focussed and this drives him as an ambassador for gender balance, equality and inclusivity in the built environment. It also extends to him being known as a true collaborator. A strong believer that holistic design equates to great design, fosters a passion and respect in him for fellow, complimentary professionals and partner institutes driving him to forge solid and lasting relationships both in the UK and internationally. Alex has been a judge for the Building Innovation Awards, the WICE Awards, Association of Project Safety Awards and the LABC Awards. This year he has been invited as an industry leader to be a

judge for the British Construction Industry Awards which he has accepted.

As a public speaker, Alex has delivered talks across the UK, Europe, Middle East, and Asia. His thought leadership articles continue to be published in publications and across social media.

### Paula Bleanch MCIAT



Paula studied Architecture and Construction Project Management and her main field of expertise is in design management.

Much of her work in industry concerned the design and build of large PFI (private finance initiative) projects, including award winning schools, offices, hospitals and library buildings. In 2008 Paula left industry to join the teaching team at Northumbria University where she was final year tutor. She is now based in Denmark.

She has previously undertaken mentoring training as part of a scheme set up by the National Association of Women in Construction and has particular experience working as a female in the built environment sector.

### Bharat Gohil MCIAT



Bharat is both a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Chartered Construction Manager. With over ten years in design and construction,

Bharat specialises in offsite superstructure design and manufacture for construction. His solid technical background has assisted his development in the built environment, leading him to consulting designers and engineers in best practice for offsite design.

Bharat has leveraged his industry experience and technical knowledge to focus on digital construction. As part of his role as a Technical Specialist at Autodesk, he is driving change with sustainability whilst ensuring construction projects meet and exceed industry standards and expectations.

### Gary Mees PPCIAT MCIAT



Gary has 49 years working in the industry and has been running his own practice for 19 years, a Past President of CIAT and now holds the position

of the Construction Industry Council's Health and Safety Champion along with this, Chairing Keeping Pace With Change Working Group which is a Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC) initiative.

His contributions externally have included a presentation at the Association for Project Safety 2013 Convention, in Belfast, on the potential implications of the CDM Regulations on designers and as part of a Panel for The Build Show held in October 2015. He has been a judge on the APS Student Award Scheme and an External Examiner for Robert Gordon University.

### Chris Yorke MCIAT



Chris is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Chartered Building Engineer who runs a small practise (currently five staff) in Worksop,

Nottinghamshire. Having started out as a trainee quantity surveyor, Chris made the move into architectural practice in 1988, initially working on large scale housing rehabilitation projects and later widening his experience to schools, sports pavilions, children's care facilities and heritage projects. Working up through the ranks, he ran countless successful projects from inception to completion and was a team leader (Principal AT) before leaving in 2006 to start his own practise. He has also worked as a client-side advisor and facilitator on larger housing regeneration projects involving affordable housing and mixed development, which included working alongside senior representatives of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Winner  
2023EMERGING TALENT IN THE  
TECHNOLOGY OF ARCHITECTURE

# 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 clarinetist, 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.

Rosie's work for social good has left a legacy at FaulknerBrowns and within the industry. She personally leads the practice's charitable giving, organising fundraising events and donations which have raised over £14,000 in the last year.

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 technologists 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. She has even championed a change in our mentoring processes, by setting up a new assessment scheme for personal development at the practice.

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. ■

Winner  
2023CHARTERED ARCHITECTURAL  
TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

# Craig O'Halloran FCIAT

Words by Róisín Ní Chatháin FCIAT, Chartered Architectural Technologist

The Award is for an individual's contribution in achieving excellence as a Chartered Architectural Technologist in the profession and discipline of all areas of Architectural Technology.

Craig O'Halloran FCIAT is an accomplished Chartered Architectural Technologist with over twelve years of experience. As a Studio Lead and Design Manager at Gensler, he co-leads a dynamic team focused on projects for clients in the workplace sector. As the North Central Region Professional Services Practice Area Leader at Gensler, he oversees projects in Chicago, Detroit and Minneapolis markets, ensuring exceptional outcomes and fostering strong client relationships.



Craig joined Gensler's London office in 2014 as an Architectural Technologist. Shortly after becoming Chartered, Craig transitioned into the role of Design Manager. For Craig, becoming Chartered demonstrated his competence in the industry of design and construction. Craig believes that his strong technical foundation that he has developed through Architectural Technology has allowed him to flourish on the world stage.

Craig has been blazing a trail for the discipline of Architectural Technology in the United States since 2016. Although the discipline of Architectural Technology is not formally recognised in the US, this has not stopped Craig from gaining a significant role in projects, his firm and in the industry. His point of view through the Architectural Technology lens has allowed him to lead clients through transformational change in all his work. From his leadership of a large

studio to still rolling up his detailing sleeves, he brings impact to all his projects and those around him. Through the very successful 'Where it's AT' video series, Craig worked with CIAT to ensure that the discipline of Architectural Technology has a spotlight on it. Craig is an asset for CIAT when it comes to the promotion of the discipline and institute on the global stage.

In Industry he has always seen himself as a connector between the traditional view of design vs. technical expertise. Demonstrating this connection in 2015, his design team won 'Best Conceptual Project' at the London Planning Awards for 'The London Underline'. This revolutionary project focused on disused London transport infrastructure and how it could be used as a catalyst of culture, retail, transportation and sustainability. The project received worldwide attention.

When moving to Chicago in late 2016, he was keen to keep inspiring others and to raise the profile of Architectural Technologists in the US and he joined The Americas Centre Committee.

He is a founding member of BIG CHI (Building Intelligence Group Chicago), a networking organisation with monthly meetings to help educate, support and deliver intelligent commercial building solutions. In 2019, he presented the Gensler US Workplace Survey, along with an introduction to Gensler and his projects to the June quarterly meeting of BIG-CHI, with over 40 attendees. Craig's US project work has garnered recognition, including awards such as the 2023 American Institute of Architects Awards for Interior Architecture for the Willis Tower Repositioning Project. From street to sky, the repositioned building provides inviting hospitality on an unmatched scale, dissolving the borders between work and life, and fostering a collaborative, warm atmosphere. Named "Catalog," an homage to the building's original



Craig's deep emotional intelligence allows him to lead and mentor a large spectrum of colleagues, from interns to senior managers, while he constantly serves as key partner for his clients



Massimiliano Sevi,  
Associate Director, Consulting – JLL

tenant, the Sears Roebuck Company, the reimagined base of Willis Tower connects Chicagoans and visitors with five levels of retail, dining, shopping, and immersive entertainment.

As a Project Lead for the repositioning work of the project, his workplace design and delivery, building intelligence, technical acumen and Passive House Design approach heavily contributed to the success of this project.

Craig's current firm, Gensler, has had made a commitment by declaring all their work will be completely carbon neutral by 2030. He has brought this initiative into hyper focus with one of his longstanding clients, BDO USA, LLP as well as leading the conversation with his studio.

Over the past year, working closely with BDO, Craig's team has aligned their Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance goals. Craig has worked tirelessly with the BDO Real Estate Team to focus on a new product selection that aligns to BDO's ESG goals, from insulation to fabric selection. To reduce embodied carbon, only materials/products that are manufactured in North America are selected. Most importantly, material choice at its base level allows for some of the more impactful decisions up front that can start to move the needle as

it relates to the environmental output. Selecting natural stone instead of plastic, using silica leather instead of real leather or choosing wood over VOC (volatile organic compound) wallcoverings.

This extends to some of the larger products and finishes used within interior office fit outs. All carpet and resilient flooring used is certified carbon neutral, even the carpet glue is non-toxic. Energy-efficient LED lighting with dimmable controls and daylight harvesting (uses less energy during the day) is used throughout. The introduction of a plant strategy throughout the office goes beyond improving air quality but brings positive impact to the staff using these offices.

Craig has now completed projects for over 65 unique BDO locations across the United States from Anchorage, Alaska, to Miami, Florida and from San Diego, California to Boston, Massachusetts.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Craig and the team have worked closely with BDO on defining the future of their offices, creating flexibility within the office for future alternations but also in the short term, making sure all spaces were highly functional for what the employees need to be most productive and engaged. From the introduction of rooms with divisible partitions to ensuring "day two" design/construction projects could take place with minimal disruption to the existing office, this approach has allowed for less space to build in the interim while creating offices that work better for employees and clients alike. Craig construction knowledge has been critical to the success of this built in flexibility.

In March 2020, Craig's team were already in the middle of construction for a new floor as part of LinkedIn's Chicago Office, located at 525 W Monroe in Chicago. Over that summer, Craig led his team working with LinkedIn globally on defining their future of workplace. These learnings were then directly applied to their entire campus in Chicago and to all LinkedIn offices globally.

Restart and refresh standards were implemented to the previously permitted fifth floor expansion of the existing office. The space was designed to be more flexible, while also providing privacy, and as with all LinkedIn projects, there was a heavy focus on using the most cutting edge environmentally friendly available materials and projects. Craig led his team while working closely with LinkedIn and engineering partners to ensure the project was constructed to allow for the best possible outcomes, and in 2023, this project was certified LEED Gold.

"He is personable and relatable. His teams and clients really enjoy working with him because he also makes it fun. He creates a great atmosphere and his teams are able to get through major deadlines and challenges very smoothly."

Lena Kitson, Principal – Gensler

Known for his proactive and positive approach, exceptional communication skills, and a keen eye for aesthetics, Craig is a visual communicator who excels at translating complex ideas into compelling designs.

He co-leads a studio of 30 team members consisting of architects, interiors designers and project managers. The studio is responsible for cutting edge office projects in Chicago, across the United States and globe. His impact in the field of Architectural Technology has been on the global stage. He is a sought-after design expert, thought leader, and collaborator across Gensler, with projects in the United States, Costa Rica, Ireland, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Japan.

Craig believes in creating equal opportunities for all and works very closely with studio leads across the Chicago office, as well as regionally with the Minneapolis and Detroit offices.

With a diverse educational background in transport operations and technology, Architectural Technology and urban design, Craig brings a well-rounded and unique perspective to his role. Prior to joining Gensler, he gained valuable experience at renowned firms in Dublin and London. These experiences and focus on Architectural Technology allow for Craig to bring a different point of view to his work and mentorship within the United States.

Craig was awarded Fellow Membership in 2021 for significant contribution to and excellence in Architectural Technology. As a result of his significant influence in the realm of Architectural Technology on a worldwide scale, and his unwavering dedication to elevating the recognition and prominence of Architectural Technologists within the United States. As a Fellow, he continues to push the boundaries of the industry, maintaining that role as critical connector, and most importantly continue to inspire the next generation of Architectural Technology talent. ■

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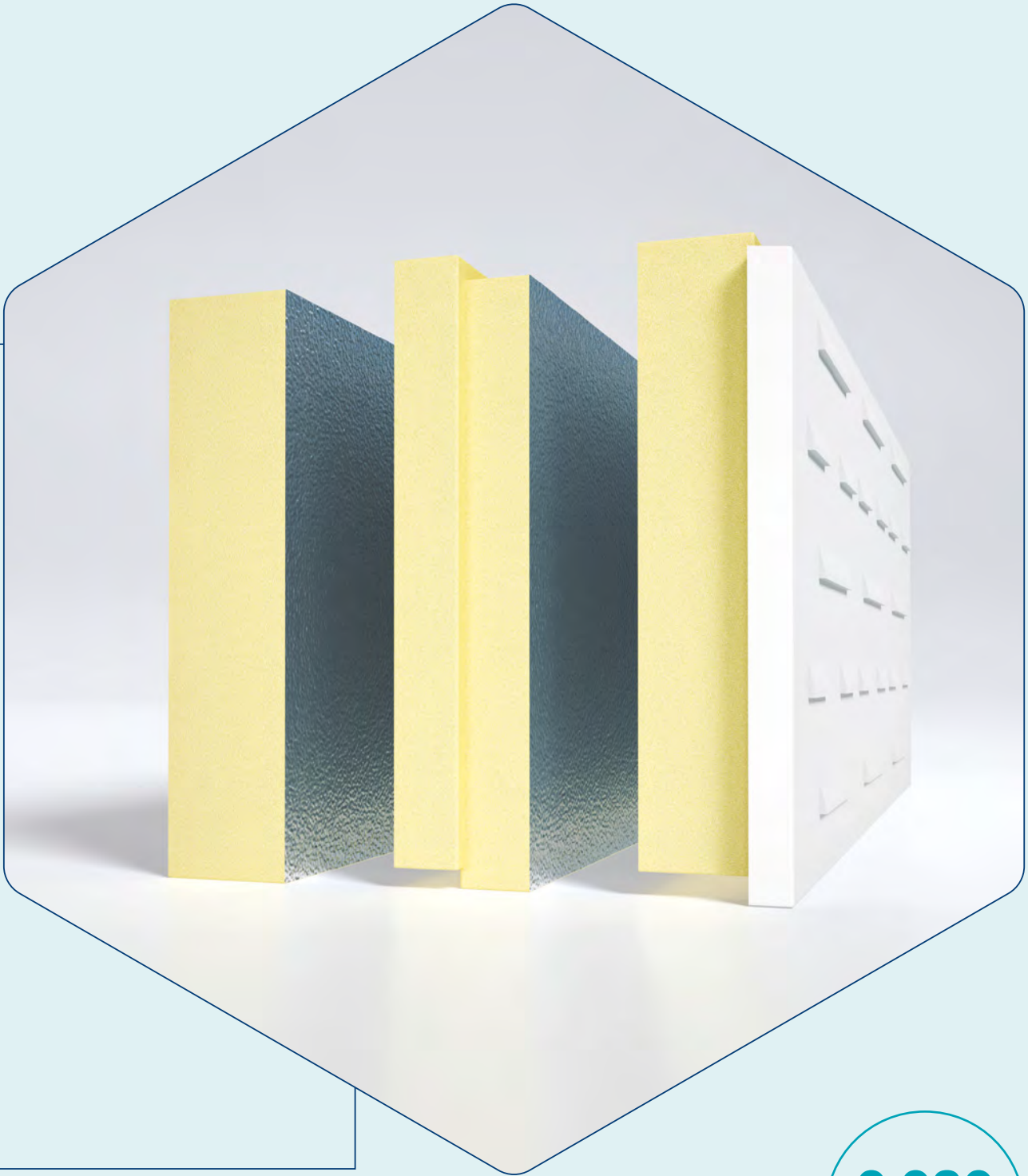
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Inside



Commended  
2023

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY | REPORT

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

Words by Jack Fleming, Atlantic Technological University

We live in a world that is increasingly conscious of the need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and limit carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. The construction and built environment sectors account for around 37% of Ireland’s carbon emissions, equaling that of agriculture. This 37% of emissions is made up of approximately 23% operational emissions associated with the energy we use to heat, cool and light our buildings.



The further 14% of the emissions consist of embodied carbon emissions from the production and transport of construction materials, the construction process itself, and the maintenance, repair and disposal of buildings and infrastructure. Clearly, there is a pressing need to transition to building techniques and materials that emit less carbon dioxide during their manufacturing process and use. There is a need for truly sustainable insulation materials; ones that are produced locally to where they are used, use renewable raw materials and use the least amount of energy in their production and utilisation. Hemp lime composite (hempcrete) is one such material. A combination of the chopped stalk of the hemp plant, and a lime-based binder, hemp lime composite provides a healthy, sustainable, natural, low embodied energy building material that can truly claim to be better than zero carbon. Architectural Technology is the application of science and technology to the art of designing and constructing

buildings. It encompasses a range of tools, techniques, and methodologies that enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and functionality of architectural projects. In this report Architectural Technology was employed by analysing the characteristics on a hemp lime composite mixture in a hope to further understand this unique natural building material.

Some of the main features of interest when writing this report included the sustainability and environmental benefits associated with the material, the health benefits that are introduced when buildings are constructed with the material, the plants farming potential and ease of production, and lastly the economic efficiency that the material can provide.

**Sustainability and environmental benefits** - hemp lime composite is a renewable, environmentally friendly building material with a high capacity for carbon sequestration. One hectare of hemp sequesters 9 to 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide, similar to the amount sequestered by a young forest, but it only takes five months to grow. Hemp lime composite offers a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional construction materials. Its low carbon footprint, renewable nature, energy efficiency, and biodegradability make it a valuable choice for green building practices and contribute to reducing the construction industry’s overall environmental impact.

**Health benefits** - lately there has been a resurgence of interest in older, more natural building materials and methods as a result of our growing awareness of the risks associated with an overreliance on fossil fuels and our increasing understanding of the detrimental side effects of synthetic building materials mass produced by highly industrialized processes. Using hemp lime composite as

a building material promotes indoor air quality, reduces exposure to toxic substances, enhances thermal and acoustic comfort, and contributes to a more sustainable and eco-friendly living environment, ultimately benefiting the health and well-being of building occupants reducing the risks of Sick Building Syndrome (SBS).

**Farming** - The Irish climate and soil have proven to be ideal for hemp growth and production. It breaks the cycle of disease when used in crop rotation, it prevents soil erosion, and it requires low or no use of pesticides. Its low environmental impact and diverse uses make it an attractive option for farmers looking to make a positive impact on both their farms and the broader agricultural and industrial sectors. To encourage more widespread development, existing regulations and legislation must be amended and better payment schemes must be offered.

**Economic efficiency** - Hemp can be grown in diverse locations with few resources. It provides a more cost-efficient alternative for construction. The introduction of widescale local growth would provide widescale local benefits. Hemp lime composite offers economic benefits through cost-effective production, energy efficiency, reduced carbon emissions, and long-term savings in construction and maintenance. Additionally, its versatility and compatibility with sustainability incentives make it an attractive choice in the evolving construction industry.

The report investigates the hemp lime composite material through both primary and secondary research. Material from both internet and book research has been used in the secondary research, which has been done utilising a mixed media strategy, identifying the technical design report's objectives. An extensive analysis of literature from academic and governmental sources, including peer-reviewed studies, and international and European standards. Primary research was conducted at Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Galway, Dublin Road campus under the supervision and guidance of lecturers and technicians.

All tests were conducted in the ATU concrete laboratory using standardised methods and equipment where possible. The following tests were conducted:

**Elemental analysis** - the primary research includes an analysis of hemp shiv and prompt natural cement. It

highlights the characteristics of hemp shiv, such as its elasticity and compressibility, and the properties of prompt natural cement.

**Hygroscopicity testing** - this test measures the water absorption capacity of hemp shiv, demonstrating its porosity and potential for thermal insulation due to its high absorption.

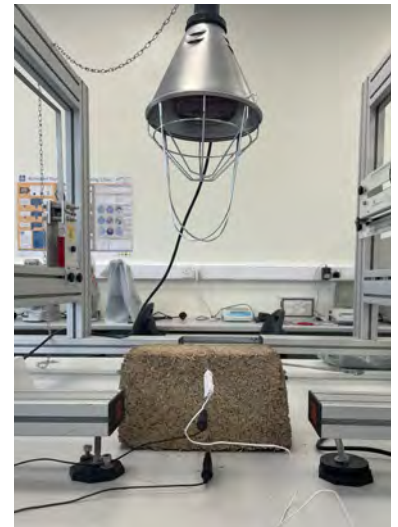
**Slump test** - evaluate the workability of the mixture.

**Rate of evaporation test** - the report discusses the time it takes for hempcrete to reach stable weight and the recommended drying period for applying finishes to hempcrete walls.

**Cylinder break test** - evaluate the compressive strength of the mixture after it has reached a dry state, revealing its lightweight nature compared to conventional concrete.

**Thermal analysis** - the report includes thermal analysis results comparing hemp lime composite to a sand-cement mixture. It highlights hempcrete's heat absorbing and heat retaining properties.

In conclusion, Architectural Technology is at the forefront of modern architectural and construction practices, offering innovative solutions to design challenges while promoting sustainability and efficiency. Despite limitations, the report anticipates hemp lime composite becoming a significant part of the Irish construction market, particularly for proposed walls, due to its eco-friendly nature and potential for locally sourced materials. Hemp lime composite has the potential to reshape the built environment of today and tomorrow.



#### Judges' comments

*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.*

*The Judges liked this project for the ample evidence of the practical approach to and depth of research and reading contributing to this work. They particularly liked the thorough approach to his testing. A well-documented and clear methodology with well documented and clearly explained results.*

*Judges were very complimentary about Jack's approach to the work and would like to congratulate him on being very clear in his writing style and inciteful, clear and to the point in his conclusions. The work is aspirational in its conclusions in highlighting a low-tech solution that can use locally sourced materials to provide an environmentally sustainable construction product in an industry that often looks to high tech solutions to create more sustainable buildings.*

*It was agreed that the research discussion was built from very strong knowledge foundations, with appropriate background research, excellent literature review and use of robust testing methodologies. Jack's report will be of significance to anyone within the Architectural Technology discipline. ■*

Highly  
Commended  
2023

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY | REPORT

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

Words by Saif Wasim, Ulster University

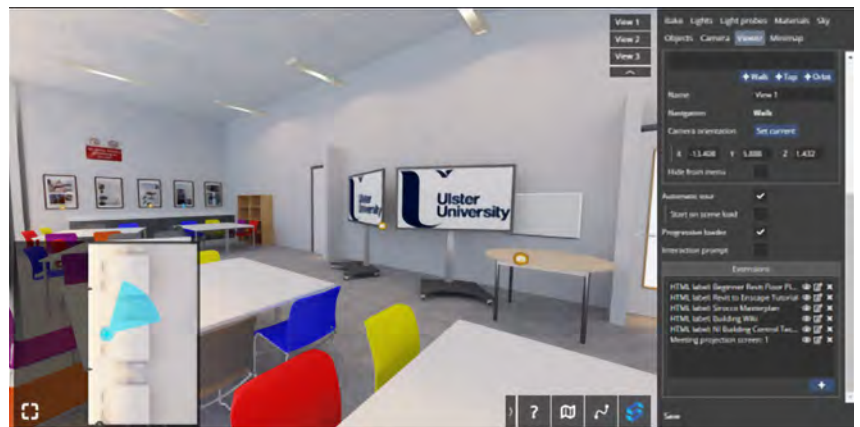
Digitalisation within the building construction industry has rapidly progressed over the last decade in terms of new technologies introduced to aid communication within the construction process. The conceptual idea of this research is to develop a different perspective on how communication platforms used within the building industry can be utilised to aid other industries' purposes such as the higher education system.



Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, not only redefined our natural way of communication but also severely affected individuals' mentality within their workplace. At the time of this development, this forced industries to resort to any form of online communication, including the education sector to utilise online platforms as such Zoom, Microsoft Teams etc. While higher education has utilised blended learning and online learning to deliver their teaching, this put online learning to the limit and beyond in order to still provide similar student satisfaction and academic performance compared to verbal, face-to-face learning experience. While students and lecturers can have a strong rapport in an online space, lecturers can only do so much due to the lack of interactive experience in online environments. As statically stated by ONC (Office for National Statistics, the percentage of second, third, or higher students who reported being 'satisfied' with their academic

experience dropped drastically between both the academic year which began before COVID-19 (2019-20) and the academic year which was most affected (2020-21), from 56% in 2019-20 to 27% in 2020-21. Without the practical and engagement experience, the online communication experience becomes lacklustre for all end-users, and it is highly important to maintain the drive of engagement to help inspire the future generation. This led to utilising online virtual spaces as a working environment for students to improve their attention/focus span during online teaching for the betterment of their social and mental well-being. As we continue to evolve with technology, this is important to adapt and refine engagement of online environments for the potential of the new norm for higher education.

To enhance online teaching engagement, understanding disengagement is critical. The research follows a structured 3-Dimensional Model of Student





Engagement that is credited to Pickford, R., 2016. Student Engagement: Body, Mind and Heart who expanded the knowledge from the original Fredricks, J. School Engagement: Potential of the Concept. The three components of engagement are as follows:

- Engagement of emotion (Happiness, anxiety, interest)
- Engagement of behaviour (Effort, participation, attention)
- Engagement of cognitive (Invested in learning, self-learning, metacognition)

The main framework is to believe that three main factors of engagement are to be met in order to successfully gain students' attention and improve their academic performance, which it is believed that teachers/lecturers follow this similar framework for teaching. The limitation of online environments prevents these components from being implemented into teaching and leads to poor academic performance/satisfaction.

What is the proposed solution to this particular problem? Utilising Shapspark virtual spaces to enhance the interactivity and immersive experience between students and lecturers. Shapspark is an intricate communication/visual tool used in the AEC industry to showcase designs, virtual spaces, and refine spaces for clients. This tool can be connected to AEC software such as Autodesk Revit, 3DS Max, Maya, and other formats aligned with the range of COLLADA, FBX or OBJ. 3D models are imported to Shapspark which can hold 3D virtual meetings with clients and showcase presentations, images, and video tutorials by providing avatars, face cameras and microphones while forcing clients to move within the space. When students are familiar with their learning environment, this allows them to be more open and comfortable further allowing them to become engaged, what if the spatial environment can be recreated into Shapspark for online learning? This mentally triggers students to not only engage in their lectures but also involves students to interact with their movement of space and invest their time in learning.

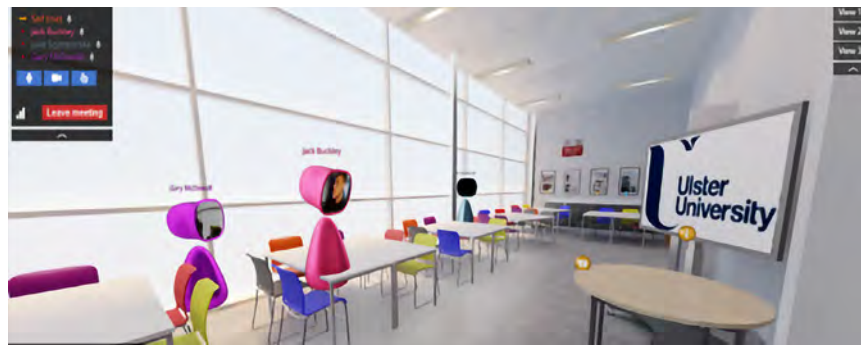
In terms of methods of methodology, a case study and a focus group were conducted. The case study utilised a medium-sized spatial environment of Ulster University Belfast within the Faculty of Built Environment utilised by ATM students (Architectural Technology & Management). Creating a workflow for this research consists of the usage of laser scanning the ATM studio with Leica RTC360 Laser Scanner to capture accurate data collection of the space. This data is imported and edited into Leica Cyclone Register 360 software as this is for dimensional reference to point cloud format to generate a 3D model of the studio. These cloud points collect highly accurate references of the studio in order to further be utilised as the foundation scale for 3D space when imported into Autodesk Revit. Revit is to be utilised like every other AEC project, to create an accurate representation of the ATM studio which includes all furniture to be self-modelled, all walls, ceilings and floors to hold the exact material map pattern, etc., with the addition of importing teaching materials into the space. Once imported into Shapspark, this takes a step further and enhances the space with more realistic lighting and materials refined. This also allows to addition of video tutorials and live-streaming presentation links for the space to be utilised as an actual teaching space which then can be shared with students to join. Conducting a qualitative focus group data collection creates a deep understanding of information/concepts generated with an open response format for both students and lecturers henceforth the method utilised.

As previously mentioned, why is communication, engagement and interactive experience important? This

research is not only beneficial for Ulster University but to the whole of the UK to integrate this study into their blended learning which can overall improve communication, engagement, and students' learning experience. For any discipline that utilises online/hybrid work, this can be beneficial for workshops, presentations, focus group collaborations, board meetings, etc., as this provides a light-hearted and immersive experience for all industries and not just building construction or higher education. This research is aimed at the betterment of work ethic, social and mental well-being to simulate and adapt online communication just as on-site, verbal, and face-to-face communication would be.

To be put into perspective, the building construction software/equipment can be utilised for so much more than utilised within their disciplinary as this research is to be an example for future generations to think outside in order to further meet their end-users requirements; "The design solutions will consider and handle concerns relating to people utilising the building or space's social well-being, health & safety, welfare, and morality." - CIAT.

The design solutions will consider and handle concerns relating to people utilising the building or space's social well-being, health & safety, welfare, and morality.



#### Judges' comments

*While the focus of the work was on virtual teaching environments. Saif has selected a subject area relevant to both the mainstream Architectural Technology professional and very pertinent to the future of how we all work.*

*With a clear method and well-defined aims and objectives, this work challenges us all to learn from the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that affected business on a global scale and adapt work practices to protect our livelihoods from the impact of any future events of this type.*

*A methodical and well-articulated report on the use of virtual meeting environments. The Judges could clearly see the amount of work that had gone into the research. They complimented the work for its systematic approach and natural flow from its introduction to highlighting the importance of the work through to its clear analysis and inciteful conclusions.*

*A good mix of information types and particularly useful renderings of virtual meeting environments clearly articulate the message of the work. The Judges particularly liked the case study which they felt further reinforced the practical approach and nature of this work.*

*Saif's has an excellent writing style, he is clear, inciteful and to the point in his conclusions. The Judges found the report a fascinating piece of work which will be of significance to everyone in all the built environment disciplines. ■*

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.

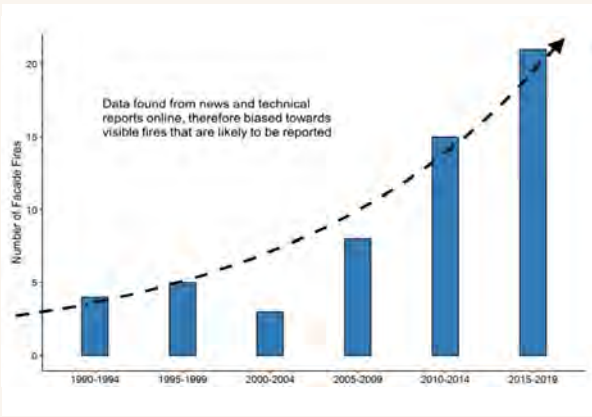
One such technology is Automated Code Compliance (ACC) software, which aims to automate the regulatory checking process for building designs. While attempts at ACC software have been made over the past two decades, the challenge of encoding complex regulatory texts into computable objects has hindered 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, 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

integration with facade designers. Ultimately, this collaborative approach facilitates the creation of safe, high-performance facades with enduring efficacy.

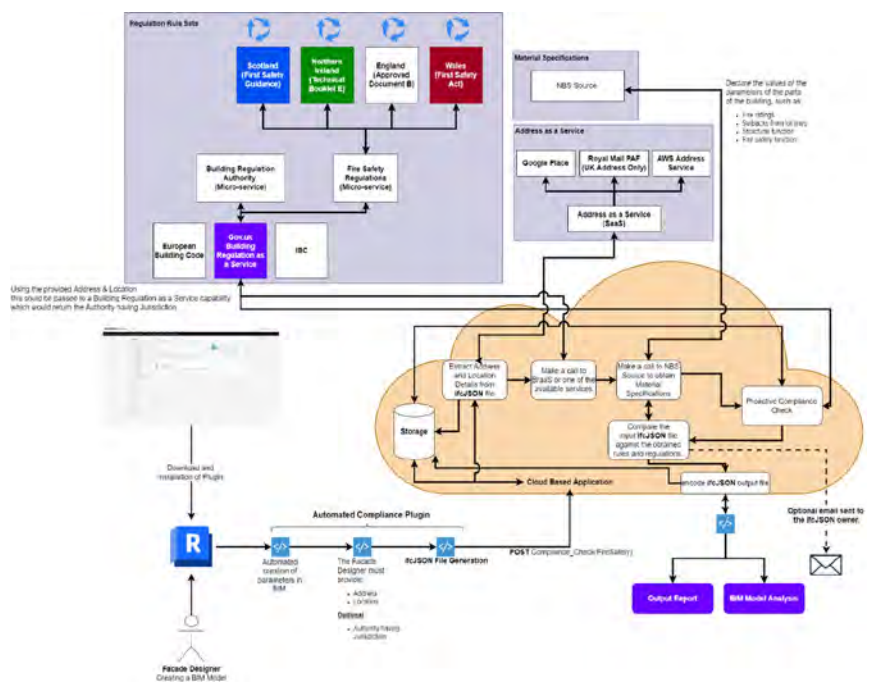
**Judges’ comments**

*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. ■*

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Finalists

 STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
 IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY | REPORT

# 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

David Blackburn, Coventry University



Rammed Earth (RE) is a traditional construction method, which produces aesthetically pleasing, tactile and breathable.

The use of on-site materials and lack of chemical content suggest this is a highly sustainable material; however, unstabilised Rammed Earth (URE) lacks durability, leading to high maintenance and low robustness. The modern alternative is Cement Stabilised Rammed Earth (CSRE), which overcomes the structural limitations of unstabilised Rammed Earth; however, Cement production is energy intensive and polluting, accountable for 8% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

This experimental paper tested the impact of waste product stabilisers, aggregates and additives on the unconfined compressive strength and surface durability of RE, aiming to discover functional and sustainable alternatives to CSRE that could be implemented into a medium secure child and adolescent mental health unit. An accelerated erosion test and unconfined compressive strength test, two industry standard tests, were used to quantify these mechanical properties.

This investigation addressed the environmental impact of CSRE, in comparison to URE, and examined waste product additives as a means of improving physical properties. The three alternative mixes indicate that RE durability can be improved sufficiently using a range of waste materials, without the use of cement. URE performed worst in an AET and had the second worst UCS, whilst CSRE performed the best in both tests. However, there was no correlation between UCS and durability for the three alternative mixes; this supports previous conclusions that UCS should not be used as an indicator of durability.



Failing both tests, it is evident that URE is not a viable construction method in the UK and would therefore be unsuitable for use in a healthcare setting, especially one with the robustness requirements of a medium secure CAMHS Unit (the design project that this research was based upon). At present, CSRE is the only proposed SRE mix suitable for this purpose, as it was the only mix to pass both tests in the RE standard. Whilst the inclusion of cement reduces environmental sustainability, CSRE is durable, robust, provides a sensory experience, and utilises on-site materials, which suggests it is more socially and environmentally sustainable than its closest alternative, concrete.





STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| REPORT

## Meet the Judges

Chair:  
Paul Laycock MCIAT



As a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Chartered Builder, Paul specialises in excellence in technical design of all types and sizes of buildings with a special interest in sustainable solutions, healthy indoor environments and successful buildings for all users at all stages of a building life cycle.

His involvement with CIAT has spanned many years and many tasks and roles. Previous Vice-President Education, Member Panel Moderator, Professional Interview Assessor and Accreditation Panel Chair amongst those.

As an academic, Paul's main role is in inspiring and shaping the future professionals that will be the next generation of the built environment sector.

Dr Suha Jaradat FCIAT



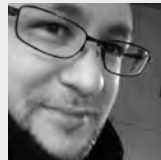
Dr Suha Jaradat is Associate Professor at the School of Engineering and the Built Environment and

Programme Leader for Architectural Technology at Edinburgh Napier University. She leads the strategic development and delivery of a suite of postgraduate, undergraduate and graduate apprenticeship programmes in a wide range of built environment disciplines, including Architectural Technology.

Dr Suha is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Fellow Member of CIAT. She completed her PhD at the Design Innovation Research Centre at the University of Reading, which investigated the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in interdisciplinary practices in the UK and USA.

She is an Advisory Group Member for QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Architectural Technology and holds External Examiner positions at national and international institutions to support the development of programmes in Architectural Engineering, Building Technology and related areas; and examine a range of academic perspective in Architectural Technology and Design.

Dr Jonathan Scott FCIAT



Dr Jonathan joined Robert Gordon University in 1992, completing an HND in Architectural Technology. He went

on to complete a first class honours degree in the same subject, graduating in 1998. Except for a short stint in industry, Jonathan has worked in research and teaching for The Robert Gordon University on a variety of projects, developing his interests in the areas of environmental design, energy monitoring, life cycle analysis, social and occupancy evaluation. In addition, Jonathan is also interested, in a research and educational aspect, in CAD, surveying technologies and historic conservation.

Since 2000 Jonathan has undertaken a PhD (an EPSRC funded studentship), the title of which is "Optimising The Relationship Between Passive Solar Design Of New Housing And The Economics Of Construction and Land Value", in the field of environmental design, creating a decision making tool for the selection of detached homes. He completed successfully in 2004, and he has since been employed as a Research Fellow at The Robert Gordon University.

Ann Vanner FCIAT



Ann is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Fellow Member of CIAT, architect, an educator, a practical

researcher and academic. She brings an unconventional and unwavering passion for the built environment sector and detailed construction knowledge, as well as project management and problem-solving abilities. Practical creativity is her starting point and approach. This fosters the idea of learning through doing and inspirational pragmatism. She is passionate about the importance of design detailing – believing that for a building to function well, so must its details.

She was a senior lecturer and teaches on the Architectural Technology and architecture programme at undergraduate level and at Masters level on the MSc in Conservation and Adaption at University of Central Lancashire. Ann is now back in practice.

In addition to her architecture and research work, she is involved with a not-for-profit organisation, ACT for Housing, which aims to work with key anchor organisations in Lancashire to develop sustainable housing for local community groups.

Ann's involvement with CIAT includes the MCIAT Professional Assessment as a Panel Moderator and as a Committee Member for the North West Region in her role as Regional Educational Officer for universities.

# Delve into the World of Rainwater Systems

With a rich history spanning decades, ARP stands at the forefront of aluminium rainwater and roofline product design, production, and installation. Our unparalleled expertise has culminated in an industry-leading CPD module: Correct Design, Construction And Maintenance Of Rainwater Systems.

This training programme meets the unique needs of Architectural Technologists and their pivotal role in specifying aluminium-centric building products. As the architectural landscape continually evolves – influenced by shifting legislation, climate dynamics, and market trends – specifiers must stay abreast of the latest standards, design paradigms, and best practices.

ARP has been the trusted partner for architects and specifiers for over three and a half decades, delivering bespoke design solutions for projects ranging from quaint structures to architectural marvels.

We're conscious that specifiers sit through similar presentations regularly and were keen to avoid delivering a boring seminar that would be forgotten soon afterwards, serving only as a box-ticking exercise for CPD points.

Our rejuvenated CPD dives deep into the intricacies of rainwater systems. Equip yourself with insights into design considerations, precise rainwater calculations, and the environmental ramifications of material choices. And the best part? We bring this knowledge-packed session to you. Dedicate 45 minutes, and if it's over lunchtime, we'll buy you lunch!

**Any CIAT members interested in taking advantage of this special CPD course can contact us on 0116 289 4400 or fill out a form on our web site at [www.arp-ltd.com/services/cpd/](http://www.arp-ltd.com/services/cpd/)**



## Unleashing the Potential of Aluminium in Architecture with ARP

Nestled on Guernsey's east coast, Irwin Place is a testament to modern coastal architecture, masterfully designed by The Drawing Room architects. This renovation seamlessly integrated ARP's bespoke architectural aluminium systems, chosen for their resilience and aesthetic appeal. Collaborating with Sarnian Roofing, ARP designed bespoke aluminium fascia and coping to the property's unique specifications, ensuring a blend of style and sustainability.



The result is a coastal gem that showcases the brilliance of harmonious design and material choice.



The new Blind Veterans UK centre in Sussex showcases the unparalleled versatility of aluminium. ARP worked with County Gutters, manufacturing bespoke post cappings, aluminium soffits, skylights and radius copings. The newly refurbished centre stands as a beacon of modern design and functionality.

## More than Just Guttering: Bespoke Architectural Aluminium Tailored to Your Vision

While ARP might be synonymous with guttering and roofline products – a reputation we wear with pride – our expertise transcends the confines of the roof. Based in the heart of Leicestershire, our state-of-the-art manufacturing plant is a testament to our passion for aluminium, allowing us to create a diverse array of architectural marvels beyond just guttering.

Aluminium stands as the epitome of contemporary building materials. It embodies sustainability, energy efficiency, and minimal maintenance, all while offering unparalleled design choices. Whether envisioning a sprawling commercial complex or a cosy residential abode, aluminium is adaptable and fits seamlessly into any architectural narrative.

At ARP, we harness this versatility to manufacture bespoke components to your specifications. Our offerings extend to:

- **Soffits & Fascias:** Aluminium fascia and soffits accentuate the façade of any building
- **Copings & Cappings:** Perfect for highlighting the architectural beauty of any property
- **Window Pods:** Elevate window designs with custom pods and surrounds
- **Column Casings:** Disguise structural supports or enhance the features of your project
- **Door Canopies:** Combining modern aesthetics and functionality

Each component is finished with a durable powder-coated finish, available in over 200 RAL colours, ensuring longevity and vibrancy for decades.

**ARP has a range of aluminium, cast iron, and steel rainwater systems to suit any project.**

# ARP | Your Partner For Metal Rainwater and Roofline Products



**Our rainwater range includes aluminium, cast iron and steel gutters, downpipes and hoppers. Aluminium copings, fascia and soffits complete the set, along with bespoke canopies, window surrounds and casings.**

All our systems are backed with technical support, design assistance, and a full bespoke manufacturing capability.







Commended  
2023

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| PROJECT

# The Hex Building

Words by Dylan O'Connor, South East Technological University

Sustainability in modern times is of utmost importance, with rising temperatures and global warming throughout our beautiful planet - even making a small change in construction materials can make the world a greener place.



Architecturally the idea was to create a one-of-a-kind structure that looked like a great blanket of stone and moss fell from the sky and landed on a glass shell. Being constructed to the BREEAM principles, the building was designed to look as natural as possible while still being quite modern in terms of the materials and products used throughout.

The Hex Building was designed entirely with sustainability in mind, The building's innovative façade is made of low-carbon concrete, green walls, and recycled plastic panelling. The titanium oxide paint on the recycled plastic panelling, which has a 25-year lifespan, converts carbon dioxide into oxygen in a manner similar to how the green wall acts as a carbon neutral element thus making the building not only greener but alive. The green walls and recycled plastic titanium oxide panels act as the building's lungs, cleaning the air within and around the building. The idea was founded on a combination of BREEAM and creative facades. The entire carbon footprint of the building was lowered to virtually zero by using

sustainable materials, such as those described above and recycled composite cladding. The building's BREEAM rating at project's completion was 82% (excellent) by just using four of the BREEAM principles - water, energy, health and wellbeing and materials got the building just 3% shy of the prestigious 85% outstanding BREEAM rating.

ICF, which is particularly outstanding in terms of buildability and assembly, is used to create the building. The use of ICF allows the structure to be as airtight as possible, and if it were theoretically constructed, it would be incredibly quick and simple to put together, with other similar projects only requiring a few months to complete even with the scale and intricacy of the building. With the use of a 200mm upstand within the ICF walls, the building's entry points were all built to have level access due to the diversity and wide range of sizes and forms of ICF. This enables everyone, regardless of ability, to utilise the building freely as they see appropriate. As a result, the building is level with the surroundings, nearly creating the impression that it has just erupted from the earth. Since



the building is part of a university, the flow and circulation around the building needed to be of major importance. Seating has been thought through with many places for students to sit and study or just to relax. The university's main campus has sufficient amounts of seating for the students and lecturers who pass through the main lobby, so this inspired the design of the seating and furniture plans of this building.

The building's interior design had a significant role since it related to my dissertation, which I wrote about the effects of remote working on office-based construction industry professionals. As can be seen from the designs and renderings, the interior of the building was planned to encourage good health, productivity, and stress reduction. Materials, plants, and HVAC systems that regulate air quality all play a part in this. Due to the project being based around BREEAM - finishes are limited in the building, most of the materials used are natural and or water based such as the paint used in the building's main office spaces. BREEAM's material principles allow for certain materials to be used, these materials must be locally sourced and have a low carbon footprint.

The interior walls were constructed of ICF due to the structural requirements needed, while they were finished in earth plaster which gives the building its unique interior aesthetic. The decision to use this interior finish was not just by choice, it was decided not to use paint or other harsh materials on the interior to keep the building as natural as possible while also abiding by one of the BREEAM principles which is to limit the use of harsh finishes. The floor finish in the building is all polished concrete to limit materials used. The ceilings in the building are proposed to be made from repurposed or recycled timber, most suspended ceilings are made from either gypsum or plasterboard which is very bad for the environment. Recycled timber on the other hand is greener and more sustainable since its re-uses timber that would just be thrown out and never used again.

Due to the site orientation, the construction technique, and the appropriate material usage, the building's services were improved in many ways. There is natural stack ventilation in the crucial sections, such as the lobby and robotics laboratory. HVAC systems are utilized to generate excellent indoor air quality in smaller spaces like studios and administrative offices, which promotes productivity and good health. PV arrays on the roof produce over 35% of the building's energy requirements, thus making it greener.

The drip pipes that connect the ICF wall to the concrete façade and feed the building's green walls with water come from the rainwater harvesting tank as well as extra water that collects on the roof and the nearby pathways. The pumps that are used to get the water from site level back to the roof are powered by the PV array again reusing resources that are of great abundance in Ireland.

The proposed building will form part of the existing built environment department of SETU but will act as an extension to the existing college campus also. The main purpose of the building is for research and teaching of students in the built environment. In all of my four years in college there is not a building I am prouder of than this one, the unique design functionality and presentation the building provides greatly outweighs any previous projects I have completed. Not only does the building function in a university aspect but its aesthetic function would bring many visitors to the university just to witness the amazing design of the building, this is the reason I decided to share this project.

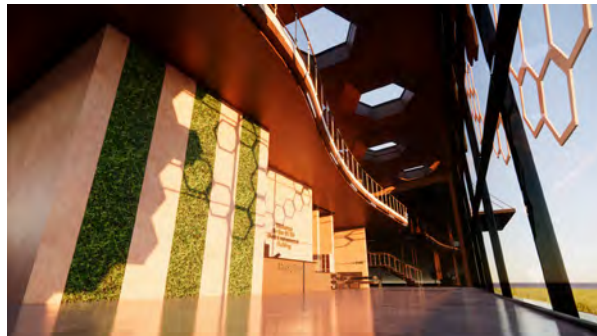
### Judges' comments

*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. Using these and many other innovative sustainable features and an exceptional level of detail devoted to thermal bridge mitigation, the proposal hopes to reduce the buildings overall carbon footprint to almost zero.*

*Judges commented on the exceptionally high standard of the model, and the presentation sheets are effectively utilised to complement the plans, showcasing various angles that highlight the architecture. The plans have been developed with immaculate attention being paid to the spatial layouts and organisation. Equally the sections and elevations are lively and included in the process of the design development, with the approach to developing the detail very well-thought and well-linked to the BREEAM score system.*

*It was also good to see the care taken in developing the running details. Judges made particular comment on the quality on the feature handmade detail and how this provides a link between the initial design development and the final detail presentation. All of this alongside the use of 3D visualisation inside and out is a great plus, making this submission technically robust and exhibiting thoughtful design considerations.*

*Dylan should be proud of this project and for his inclusion of a range of sustainability initiatives with its unique design functionality. ■*







Highly  
Commended  
2022

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| PROJECT

# Sirocco Quays: Multi-Generational Residential Scheme

Words by Jack Buckley ACIAT, Ulster University

Nestled along the banks of the River Lagan, just beyond the bustling heart of Belfast's central business district, the Sirocco Quays masterplan represents an ambitious endeavour that seeks to redefine the East Bank of the River Lagan.



This visionary redevelopment project is poised to breathe new life into this waterfront area, 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.

The Sirocco Quays masterplan is envisioned as a comprehensive intergenerational housing complex comprising 100 apartments. These apartments include a mix of 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, and 3-bedroom units. In addition to residential spaces, the ground floor and mezzanine levels are allocated for retail spaces, enriching the local community's convenience and amenities. Shared amenity facilities, such as quiet study areas, social lounges, and a gym, are thoughtfully included to foster a

sense of community and well-being. Landscaped public spaces, bicycle storage and garden terraces further promote healthy living, and underground car parking ensures a seamless living experience. A diverse range of residential units is on offer, catering to a spectrum of housing needs, encompassing affordable and market-rate apartments. Notably, the market-rate apartments find their place within a distinctive tower structure, setting them apart in style and functionality.

From its inception, sustainability has been a fundamental pillar of the project's design and execution. A commitment to eco-friendly construction methods and materials permeates the entire endeavour, ultimately reducing the project's carbon footprint. One of the standouts features of this development is its commitment

to promoting healthier living for its residents. Intensive green roofs and 'green' areas on curved balconies inspired by its seaside location are thoughtfully integrated into the design. These green spaces serve a dual purpose: they enhance air quality within the urban environment and provide residents with healthier and more pleasant living spaces. The project also embraces modular construction elements, such as steel balconies and bathrooms. This approach offers the advantage of not being weather-dependent, a significant consideration given the project's location in Belfast, where weather can be unpredictable. It contributes to smoother construction progress and timelines.

Resource optimisation is a key objective for the Sirocco Quays masterplan. This is achieved through the strategic integration of rainwater harvesting and solar panels, aiming to reduce the environmental impact while promoting responsible resource utilisation. The project seeks to become a beacon of sustainability by making efficient use of available resources.

Incorporating natural light is another design hallmark of the Sirocco Quays masterplan. The project seamlessly integrates extensive glazing with Aluprof curtain walling and Sunguard Superneutral SN70/41 glazing. This not only maximises natural illumination within the building but also minimises solar heat gain, contributing to energy efficiency and occupant comfort.

The development does not stop at sustainable construction and resource management. It goes a step further by embracing wildlife through native planting around entrances and shared roof terraces. These green spaces serve as vital ecological havens in the heart of the urban environment and encourage social connections among residents. Additionally, these green roof systems effectively manage excessive surface water runoff, contributing to the sustainability goals of the project.

The project incorporates AkzoNobel Aluminum brise soleil to provide effective solar shading to apartments that are exposed to solar radiation. Beyond its functional benefits, this element serves as an aesthetic feature that enhances the project's overall design. The project also relies on thorough sunlight exposure analysis to determine the most suitable locations for the installation of PV solar panels, further contributing to its sustainability objectives.

In essence, the Sirocco Quays project is a testament to forward-thinking urban development. It seamlessly blends sustainability, community engagement, and

contemporary living, all within the picturesque backdrop of the River Lagan. This transformative project aims not only to revitalise the physical landscape but also to create a vibrant and inclusive urban community where residents can thrive and connect with the environment.

The Sirocco Quays Project stands as a shining example of how thoughtful design and sustainable practices can converge to shape a better future. It is not merely a redevelopment project; it is a vision for a more sustainable and harmonious urban lifestyle that can serve as a model for future endeavours. As it takes its place along the banks of the River Lagan, it will serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for those who seek a brighter, greener future for our cities.



#### Judges' comments

*The Sirocco Works project showcases an aesthetically pleasing architectural design including a thorough site context analysis and well-crafted design introduction. Along with this there is a meticulous massing exercise platforming expansive green roofs for enhanced quality of life, rainwater management, vividly depicted with clear imagery. Additionally, a sunlight analysis is incorporated, along with a proposal to utilise photovoltaic panels on the roof terrace for supplementary energy performance. The solar study culminates the exercise effectively, offering a robust technical analysis that bodes well for the scheme.*

*Judges commented on the project's strategic departure from conventional design through the proposed integration of modular elements demonstrated a thoughtful approach to the construction phase of the project. The assembly of materials, along with the rationale behind each selection, exemplified through illustrative images was thought to be particularly impressive. As was the inclusion of hand-sketched details showcasing the design thought process for the project's technical zones and regulations.*

*The presentation slides are lucid, featuring a notable illustration of the project's main balcony details, with prominent feature blades complemented by detailing that has been developed with due and careful attention paid to buildability, choice of materials, components and sequencing; and a range of effective images to create a good balance of image types.*

*The Judges particularly commented on the attention paid to the use of alternative and renewable energies throughout with a variety of applied and practical solutions that were very well thought through and congratulated Jack in his choices and good execution of materiality. ■*







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 own 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 Graz in g 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, are 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.

Passive raft found meticulously detailed with the structural engineer to considerably reduce the volume of concrete while avoiding excessive disruption via a pile foundation.

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.

Rammed earth walls line the central channel of The Hide. Chosen for the materials high thermal mass, low GWP (9.3kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq/m<sup>3</sup>) and unique stratified appearance, sourced from surrounding sand and clay soils.

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 12209.4kgCO<sub>2</sub> eq/m<sup>3</sup>, VmZincs 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 O36 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.

#### **Judges' comments**

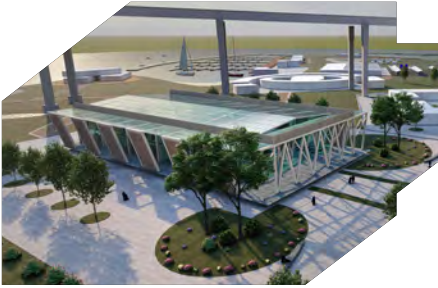
*Callum's entry distinguished itself from the other submissions by its accomplished explanation of the project, with impressive overall presentation and a consistent thematic approach throughout. The Judges were unanimous in considering that the choice of materials aligned well with the location and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

*The inclusion of thermal targets through the inclusion 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 Judge's selection of this work as the standout winner for the Student Award | Project. ■*

Finalists

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| PROJECT

## 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. This picturesque city, renowned for its burgeoning community and thriving tourism industry, has long yearned for a landmark that encapsulates its cultural richness and befits its status as a regional capital. The existing facilities within the area have failed to convey the civic prominence expected of a city globally celebrated for its heritage. The local Inverness council's ambitious aspirations to reclaim and revitalise the waterfront area served as an inspiration for this ground-breaking project. This objective, which served as the basis for the project brief, has subsequently developed into a compelling response to the city's problems that offered both economic and cultural progress.



## Green View Park



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

Green View Park is a sustainable social housing project that was created during their fourth semester at VIA University College in Aarhus, Denmark. As Denmark aims to become a frontier in sustainable and inclusive design, these practices are promoted from the early stages of our studies and they were treated as core principles throughout the design process. It is important to note that due to the Danish educational structure, the project was completed within three and a half months. Out of the three buildings one was brought forward after the outline proposal phase for further analysis and detailing. This house is called 'Hjørnehuset' which is Danish for 'The Corner House'. This name was chosen to indicate through a metaphor, that this building is to serve as the future cornerstone for community development and sustainable architecture in the neighbourhood.



## 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. Achieving equilibrium among social, economic, and environmental considerations is paramount, necessitating the completion of the city centre, the rejuvenation of the waterfront, and the promotion of sustainability. It is a project of mid- and tall-rise mixed-use buildings with a variety of housing ranges. It is a hypothetical project based on a master plan proposed by Carvel Group.



STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| PROJECT

## Meet the Judges

Chair:  
Paul Laycock FCIAT



As a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Chartered Builder, Paul specialises in excellence in technical design of all types and sizes of buildings with a special interest in sustainable solutions, healthy indoor environments and successful buildings for all users at all stages of a building life cycle.

His involvement with CIAT has spanned many years and many tasks and roles. Previous Vice-President Education, Member Panel Moderator, Professional Interview Assessor and Accreditation Panel Chair amongst those.

As an academic, Paul's main role is in inspiring and shaping the future professionals that will be the next generation of the built environment sector.

Christopher Day MCIAT



Christopher is a Chartered Architectural Technologist with over 16 years of professional experience spanning complex design refurbishments in Central

London, UK and most recently leading a one-billion dollar mega build project in the DIFC, Dubai, UAE, designed by Foster and Partners.

For Christopher, each project is a puzzle that requires time to process and logical thinking to be completed successfully. This focused commitment and competence towards each project has given him scrupulous ability to simultaneously manage design development, technical coordination, risk mitigation, BIM delivery and programme tracking.

Reputable for leaving no stone unturned when leading successful design and construction packages, he is also a firm advocate for embedding lessons learned into company standards and aims to raise the industry standards overall. Christopher's future-thinking has seen him provide invaluable mentorship to

developing Architectural professionals, where they themselves have climbed the ranks under his guidance and work ethic.

Róisín Ní Chatháin FCIAT



As a Partner at architecture and planning practice BPTW, Róisín plays a leading role in the delivery of large-scale residential, mixed-use and regeneration projects. Her ability to manage multiple pre- and post-planning stage projects, successfully lead design and consultant teams, and her strong understanding of the technical aspects of projects has led Róisín to develop excellent working relationships with clients, contractors and consultants.

A Fellow Member of CIAT, in 2020 Róisín's exceptional talent and architectural ability coupled with her dedication to the profession and endless support for her fellow Architectural Technologist was recognised when she won the Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year at the AT Awards. In 2021, she was also awarded the Alumni of the Year award from Edinburgh Napier University for her dedication to the profession, and in recognition of her efforts to further the careers of the next generation of Architectural Technology professionals through a number of mentoring schemes.

Dr Poorang Piroozfar FCIAT



Dr Poorang is the Subject Lead for the Built Environment and experienced principal lecturer (associate professor) in Architectural

Technology at the School of Environment and Technology, University of Brighton. He has a demonstrated working history in the higher education industry on three continents. Dr Poorang is highly skilled in BIM, sustainable design, sustainable development, architectural design and urban planning. He is a strong professional with an MArch focused on urban regeneration and mixed-use/multi-

function design and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) focused on mass customisation and personalisation in architecture, with a proven track record of research in design, architecture, the built environment and construction.

Usman Yaqub FCIAT



Usman is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Fellow of the Institute. Since 2007, he has worked in professional practice going on to

establish Studio Yaqub in 2014, which is an award-winning CIAT Chartered Practice.

Usman has worked in all sectors and specialises in working on challenging sites whether they be residential or commercial. In addition, Usman is an Associate Lecturer at the University of West England (UWE) having originally studied there and now involved with a range of architectural programmes, particularly Architectural Technology. He has also been actively involved in the Institute at a local level since 2018 and is currently Regional Chair and CPD Officer for the Wessex Region.

In 2021, Usman received the Institute's prestigious Gold Award, as recognition for his significant contribution to the Wessex Region and Institute with his implementation of a newly reinvigorated CPD series which has significantly impacted engagement within the Wessex Region and on both a national and global scale.





Highly  
Commended  
2023

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| SMALL TO MEDIUM

# Plot 9, Caxton

Words by PiP Architecture



PiP designed a stunning contemporary take on the local agricultural vernacular which fits pleasingly into its rural surroundings. The completed home consists of a two-storey barn clad in corrugated metal with simple aluminum framed openings and striking Corten features, linked to a steeply vaulted, timber clad open plan kitchen-living-dining space. Plot 9 was a 0.4-acre plot on the site of an old farm.

The minimalist aesthetic and strong material palette that PiP delivered perfectly translates the clients' detailed brief and required meticulous attention to detail to achieve such a clean, high-quality finish. PiP provided detailed technical drawings and were actively on-hand throughout the project with creative solutions to hide the complexities of the build behind a deceptively simple façade, such as concealed lighting, bespoke ventilation system and slim-framed, large glazed openings.

PiP designed the building with a steel frame and stick-build construction with timber infill. This construction technique allowed quick and easy erection of the main structure and ensured it reached a weather tight point more quickly than traditional construction methods. It also allowed materials with low embodied energy to be supplied by small scale local traders which reduced the carbon footprint and also mitigated access challenges caused by a narrow country lane.

The client's initial brief was for a New Zealand 'bach' inspired, design-led but practical home that will

comfortably accommodate this young family as they grow. The New Zealand 'bach' is a low-key, paired back holiday home, often a black corrugated metal hut with lots of interior plywood.

A sense of flow is achieved by the internal layout that PiP designed, providing separate spaces without a feeling of disconnect. An early design included just one barn form, but the second was added forming an L-shape to allow for the bedrooms and offices to be divided from a more communal open plan kitchen-dining-living space. The two distinct forms offer the different types of accommodation the client requires, from large open family spaces to self-contained guest, master and office suites. Additionally, glazing was used to allow a line of sight from one space into another and internal sliding doors open up or close off different zones, such as a family snug and pair of offices.

Externally, the main barn has a corrugated metal façade, vertical timber boarding and metal standing seam roof. It is punctuated by simple aluminum-framed windows varying in dimension to reflect an agricultural building



and create a pleasing overall composition. The window positions provide naturally well-lit comfortable spaces encouraging a pleasing connection between inside and outside, while optimizing the south and westerly aspect of views across the countryside. Dramatic Corten features, including an oriel bay window and L-shaped canopy porch over the front door, offer accents of architectural interest.

Internally, the second barn has a steeply vaulted ceiling to create an architecturally dramatic feature and create a generosity of space. The ceiling is clad with large plywood panels with strip lighting running the length of the apex and under a surrounding plinth. Elsewhere in the home, this height is repeated in bedrooms and hallway to continue a minimalist, open experience.

Throughout the completed building, generous proportions and large internal and external openings provide inclusive accessibility. Level thresholds between rooms and from inside to outside, and flush shower trays, exceed Part M requirements. The building will be adaptable to changing need as the client grows into old-age, including for example a ground floor bedroom suite with shower room.

PiP adopted a fabric first approach, using premium building insulation, high performance glazing, low energy lighting and implementing extremely airtight construction to produce a high performing building.

External areas have been finished with permeable hard landscaping to allow for sustainable drainage. Native hedgerows have been planted around all boundaries to encourage wildlife. The garden has initially just a simple lawn to blend with the rural context as the client wants to develop their garden over time once they have got to know the site.

Bespoke plywood solutions have been integrated throughout the building providing a clean finish and extensive built-in storage. This was delivered in partnership between PiP's design and a local joiner's craftsmanship.

All materials chosen for this build are long lasting and maintain appearance for lifetime duration. For example, Corten requires no maintenance as the surface develops



a stable, rust-like exterior which forms a protective coating preventing future corrosion. The GreenCoat black corrugated metal cladding used is the most sustainable product of high quality colour coated steel available for exteriors, made of recycled material and highly resistant to corrosion, UV radiation and scratches.

Sustainability was prioritised from the outset of this project. A fabric first approach, meticulous attention to detail and quality craftsmanship has ensured an airtight construction that minimises thermal loss, supported by MVHR.

High performance glazing and the natural light provided by the well-placed windows supplemented by low energy lighting minimise energy usage and heating is powered by an air source heat pump. The steel structure has enabled use of environmentally friendly insulation and prevents cold bridging through use of PIR.

**Judges' comments**

*This ambitious new rural self-build residential project applies slick minimalist detailing to contemporary materials and building technologies to provide a two-storey traditional barn inspired home. With its choice of materials reflecting the vernacular and the need for a relatively simple assembly, this project clearly meets the brief with design choices that make for a visually interesting and stimulating structure. The project is a great fabric first approach with clear use of the sustainability issues addressed in both the building and the site. There was innovative detailing, especially around the use of some of the materials, and a great consideration of robustness for these and the design, from lifespan, maintenance and end of life. The use of steel frame and stick-build construction facilitated a quick and*

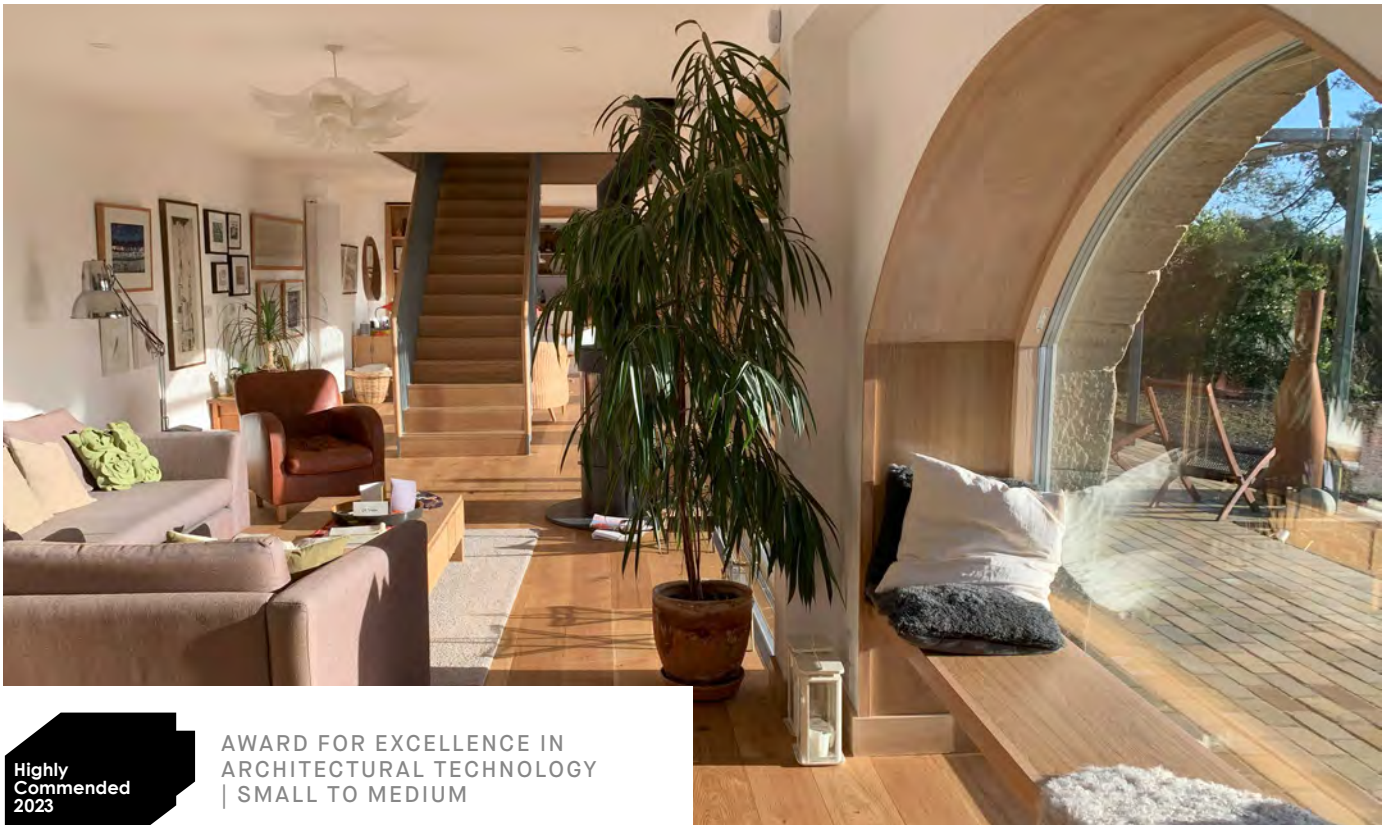
**There was innovative detailing, especially around the use of some of the materials**



*efficient erection of the main structure while reducing the carbon footprint. The design team delivered minimalist aesthetic and strong material palette to translate the clients' brief with attention to detail to achieve a clean, high-quality finish and provide a flexible layout that can adjust as family needs change. ■*






 Highly  
Commended  
2023

 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| SMALL TO MEDIUM

# Holly Hall Barn

Words by JDDK Architects



Holly Hall Barn is a residential barn conversion nestled in the beautiful rural landscape of Northumberland. It sits on a hillside overlooking the historic village of Corbridge and provides stunning panoramic views of the Tyne Valley. It was in this setting that JDDK Architects were appointed to breathe new life into this previously converted agricultural building.

The building itself sits within a greenbelt and was originally converted from a barn to a single dwelling in 1977. Not much had been done with the property since 1977 so the new owners decided now was the perfect time to bring the traditionally built building into the modern era.

The site topography steeply slopes from the north facing entrance level down to the south facing garden level, this means that the main entrance is located on an 'upper ground floor level', the staircase then leads you down to a long living space located on the 'lower ground floor level'

Prior to this refurbishment project the entrance hall of the house was no more than a

1.2m landing width in front of a Georgian wired glazed screen and the top of a spiral staircase. The space was dark, unwelcoming and restrictive and was completely transformed into a bright, airy, characterful entrance hall.

There is now space to gather and greet guests, the staircase gives access to the main living spaces below. This was achieved by removing an existing WC/shower

room (this was replaced elsewhere) and moving one of the first-floor walls. The flat ceiling was removed, the existing timber roof trusses and purlins exposed (insulation installed between and below rafters with a new VCL) and two large conservation style roof lights installed one on either side of the ridge, bringing light and sunshine to this previously gloomy and north facing space. The previous narrow and

impractical single glazed double doors into the house have been replaced by a generously wide single high performance composite entrance door, with vision pane

Functionality of the house has been further enhanced by the creating of a new "boot room" in part of the extension built on the front of the old garage. There is a glazed side door into this space and a connecting door from it to the upper ground floor accommodation to ensure that it is easily accessible from the entrance hall.

The spiral staircase was dangerous with such narrow treads at its centre and impractical for ease of movement between the two levels. This was removed (the solid





beech treads retained by the client for use in furniture making) and the floor was opened up to accommodate the new Part K compliant zig zag staircase.

The previous floor to ceiling sliding doors and fixed windows in the long living room and kitchen were all single glazed and set inside of the stone arches of the barn.

The thermal performance of that elevation was very poor and that space was often uncomfortable to be in.

The refurbishment replaced the sliding doors and fixed windows of the central four arches with a high-performance triple glazed door/window system from Internorm. The thermal comfort of the space has been transformed whilst the joy of sliding whole sections of the external wall open behind the arches remains, blurring the boundary between inside and out.

The two end arches have been treated differently by setting high performance triple glazing into the arches, lining the arches internally with oak faced ply and constructing a 'floating' oak window seat spanning the width of the arch. This has brought increased width to either end of the relatively long and narrow space. This extra width has made the kitchen more commodious and the window seat a fantastic addition to this social space. Both window seats provide inviting and comfortable spaces to sit and look out onto the stunning views over the Tyne valley. Setting the floating seat in front of the glazing, it means that the purity of the arch is left intact, this is particularly visible when viewed from the outside.

The existing garage which was built in the 1970's looked from the outside like a double garage. In reality the two arched openings were too narrow for modern day cars and the angled rear wall meant that there was insufficient length in the space for a car.

The refurbishment included taking down the front wall of the garage, inserting a new roof truss and roof structure and adding an extension on the front finished with the same timber cladding as the new hobby workshop adjacent. The property now has a garage that has enough room for a car as well as practical storage and a generous space for the wood pellet boiler, water tanks and booster.



During the design development process, we worked with our client to consider a number of aspects around low carbon and sustainable design that could be incorporated into the scheme. Pros and cons were considered carefully, taking into account such matters as practicalities of the existing spaces and budgets. For example: air source heat pumps were considered, however the overhead electricity supply would need to be upgraded to serve the two pumps that would be needed and the difficulty of fixing solar panels/PVs to the historic stone tiled roof.

The refurbishment did incorporate the following:

- High performance wood pellet boiler replacing the previous oil fed boiler.
- Completely new heating system including efficient heat emitters, TRV's and zoned controls.
- High performance double and triple glazed windows and doors throughout.
- Insulation added to the existing ground floor construction.
- Early in the process we explored thermal upgrades to the existing fabric which included the installation of a 40mm breathable wood fibre board to the external walls to give a U-value of 0.63W/m2.K however due to the cost of the system this was removed from the contract in lieu of a breathable mineral wool. The external walls were upgraded using a breathable mineral wool insulation and a breathable lime plaster to solid stone construction. The new insulated fabric was designed to achieve low U-values and low Psi values at the junctions.
- 400mm loft insulation
- PV's generating electricity on the garage roof
- Utilisation of timber structural elements where possible (lower embodied carbon than steel)

To ensure a high performance and robust construction detail drawings were produced in Revit with the new build junction PSI values calculated using the Flixo software. Using this software we were able to ensure that the junctions performed better than the accredited details at the time.

The heated workshops fabric first approach used low u-values to new thermal elements.

Approximate Project Costs: 500k  
 Architect: JDDK Architects  
 Project Technologist: Tristan Cooper MCIAT Year  
 Completed: 2022  
 Structural Engineer: Fairhurst M&E  
 Engineer: Armstrong Rhead  
 Contractor: DP Builders

#### Judges' comments

*This comprehensive rural barn conversion with access via a single car laneway posed many challenges to the design team. Extensive consultation and coordination were required with the contractor, suppliers and engineers to ensure all components could be physically delivered to site. The conversion of an outdated property into modern home with greatly improved thermal efficiency was the main focus of this project. A fine attention to detail with thermal modelling and a detailed focus on PSI values was the driving force behind this sustainable design. Innovative structural solutions involving existing stone buttresses and new metal tie rods have been sensitively designed into the original 1860 barn's structure. ■*

A fine attention to detail with thermal modelling and a detailed focus on PSI values was the driving force behind this sustainable design





# Irish Life Sciences Global HQ

Words by Mel McGerr FCIAT, MMA Architects

The adaptive reuse of an existing warehouse, which had already been previously used for many years in Scotland, offered a superb opportunity for MMA Architects to demonstrate that our existing building stock should be the building blocks of our future.

Mel McGerr FCIAT, was approached in early 2019 by a new Athlone company, Irish Life Sciences, to design a state-of-the-art facility for their new venture. The brief required a striking building that would reflect this new and innovative company on the international life sciences market. They had an immediate requirement for a building to have multiple purposes.

As the core market of this business was based internationally, particularly in North America, the client was keen to develop a building that portrayed their commitment to carbon neutrality and energy efficiency in their manufacturing processes. The client owned a site with an existing warehouse on it and wished for this to be the site of their new facility.

We identified that this existing structure offered a unique opportunity to challenge the common notion of demolition and rebuild. Instead, we sought to adapt and reuse - immediately reducing the carbon

footprint of the project. It was through detailed engagement with the client that we learned the original steel structure had previously been a warehouse in Scotland, and had been dismantled and relocated here in the mid 1990's.

With the requirement for an economic design, that portrayed the sustainable credentials of the building a must, we quickly agreed with the client that the reuse of the building was a major opportunity to achieve these goals.

Budgetary constraints meant that ratings such as LEED or BREEAM were not sought but a pragmatic and innovative approach led to sustainable targets being identified and achieved, and compliance with Part L of the Irish Building Regulations. Despite working within a tight budget and a restricted site, this project was highly innovative in its aspiration to show that it is possible to positively contribute to a sustainable future.



Simplicity and buildability were at the fore of all design and detail decisions. We took a proactive approach, working closely with the main contractor to agree detailing and finishes. There was significant complexity where the new extension met with the existing structure – particularly at roof level. This was dealt with by using a simple parapet structure and hidden gutter assembly.

Whilst the options of lower carbon structural material such as timber were examined, we decided to proceed with a steel structure.

Reusing the existing warehouse reduced the carbon footprint of the new construction by minimising the need for new materials and resources to be used in the construction process. By repurposing the existing structure, the embodied energy and emissions associated with the production and transportation of new building materials were avoided. Additionally, the reuse of the existing structure reduced the amount of waste generated from the construction activities that traditionally would have gone into landfill, further reducing the environmental impact.

We insisted on using as much of the existing structures and materials as possible. Where cladding was removed, it was salvaged for reuse on other buildings (shed repairs etc.) whilst a portion was also used on one of our other projects to act as a temporary roof during ongoing works.

Another major carbon saving was the repurposing of an extensive existing steel mezzanine structure. Originally positioned to the north of the warehouse, it was dismantled and rebuilt to the east, housing toilets and stores on the ground floor and additional stores and warehouse staff facilities at first floor level. Reuse of the materials also contributed hugely to keeping within budget!

The manufacturing machines housed in the clean room are high energy users and this created a significant carbon footprint. From an early stage it was agreed that PV would offer the optimum opportunity to reduce electricity consumption from the grid and develop the buildings carbon credentials in a meaningful way. We worked with Urbanvolts engineers to maximize the efficiency of the roof space for a PV Array. The result was an installation of 447 solar panels to generate clean energy for Irish Life Sciences.

Since installation of the solar panels were completed on 28 January 2022, the solar array at Irish Life Sciences has produced over 88 thousand kWh of solar energy, which is the equivalent of preventing over 62 thousand kilograms of carbon from being released into the atmosphere each year (as of April 2023).

It is expected the future PV Generation and consumption of the Irish Life facility to be over 145 thousand kWh per year on average. The solar system installed was designed to meet these future demands. This will be the equivalent of preventing over 102 thousand kilograms of carbon being released into the atmosphere annually.

Another small but innovative addition to the energy efficiency of the design was the use of a thermodynamic solar panel to provide hot water for the office spaces. This is a system that works on similar principles to a heat pump but with a small external panel (similar in looks to a pv panel) that extracts heat from the atmosphere to heat the water. This meets the needs of hot water for staff showers etc. where previously electric or gas would have been used.

The critical part of this building is the cleanroom manufacturing facility, as this is what drives the

company. This was designed to ISO 8 within the ISO14644-1 classification standard for cleanrooms. Initially 7 no. moulding machines were installed, but with extra space and capacity for up to 15 as manufacturing increases.

For improved efficiency and functionality, these machines were located at ground level in the new section next to the warehouse that holds the raw materials for manufacturing. Provision was made for the future connection of silos, to more efficiently supply raw materials to the machines.

The entire first floor level has been left fallow for future expansion. This area has been earmarked as a research and development facility to create new products. We have designed the space to ensure it meets future functional requirements.

Irish Life Sciences are a new and innovative company, providing highest quality products to the international life sciences market. When recognising the need for a new facility they saw the opportunities to be innovators and leaders in construction too. This drive for quality and innovation combined with MMA's knowledge in the field of Architectural Technology led to the delivery of a highly innovative building built on sustainable principles.

Contractor: Dermot O'Rourke Construction  
Construction Cost: €1.8m

The MMA Architects Project Team:

Project Lead Designer: Mel McGerr FCIAT MRIA(Ir)

Senior Project Architectural Technologist: David

McGourt MCIAT

Architectural Technologists: Paul Mee, Aine Gallagher.



#### Judges' comments

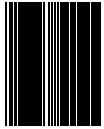
*Redefining construction through adaptive reuse, the Irish Life Sciences Global HQ is a prime example of excellence in Architectural Technology. The design seamlessly integrates state of the art facilities within the original 1990's structure, balancing economic viability and sustainability through thoughtful material selection setting a high standard for responsible development and significant carbon reduction. An impressive range of sustainability measures has been integrated from the repurposing and re-use of existing materials to the extensive use of PV arrays and thermodynamic solar panels. The approach and exemplary technical detailing assists in future proofing the building, allowing it to adapt to further needs of the client as and when required. All these combined have created a striking new building, to be enjoyed by all users, which make it a worthy winner for the Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology, small to medium. ■*

Finalists

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| SMALL TO MEDIUM



Bekstone House



STUDIO11  
architecture

Studio 11 Architecture

The brief was to create a family home designed around the needs and desires of the clients who wanted a home encompassing of their lifestyle and their love of Californian mid- century architecture, better known as Desert Modernism. Studio 11 developed a building with a form and materials echoing the rural agricultural and industrial architecture surrounding the site. The proposed modern home boasted the large open spaces, and vast glazed areas the couple craved with a modern mix of traditional materials and sustainable elements, reflecting their desire to create a sustainable forever home.



Chatterpark



16A Architecture

16A Architecture were approached by the owners after they had failed to gain planning permission for a replacement dwelling on their site. A brief was developed to renovate and improve the existing structure and extend to provide a larger kitchen family space. Given the history of the building and its inclusion on the local list of heritage assets we were keen to ensure the form and features of the existing were retained as much as practicable and that the extension would respect the form of the existing dwelling. The design for the extension focused around the dwelling and the garage to allow for the construction of a new extension and garage. The new garage mirrored the form of the existing and is linked to the original part of the house by a rendered parapet wall concealing a single storey flat roofed extension with the two-storey extension being set further back.



New Build Contemporary House, Guildford

LytleAssociates  
ARCHITECTS

Lytle Associates Architects

A private dwelling on the outskirts of Guildford, on an exclusive road of high value properties with unrestricted views of the Surrey Hills. There was an original 1960s bungalow on the site with brick facades and a low-pitch roof of concrete tiles. This dwelling did not meet the space nor sustainability needs of 21st Century living and was demolished to allow for a highly sustainable contemporary home with an increased internal floor area on the existing footprint. From the road, the proposed two storey dwelling has the appearance of a bungalow as the ground floor is submerged into the slope of the land and is only visible from the south elevation.



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Commended  
2023

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| MEDIUM TO LARGE

# Blythe Rose

Words by A P Architecture Ltd

The overarching vision for this project was to create a state-of-the-art care home, that could enhance the quality of lives of those living with progressive brain conditions that affect memory and thinking skills, including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia and Lewy body dementia.

The core aim was to ensure, the design and technologies introduced would allow individuals to lead happy and fulfilled lives, supporting them to retain their independence for as long as possible, within a safe and homely environment in which the residents can feel a sense of belonging within small 'family' communities.

Whilst the design of the development looked to exceed the building regulations and provide enhanced U Values, the SBEM ensured that this was the case and would further reduce the developments energy requirements, and carbon footprint. The design emphasis was on the technologies, which could have a significant impact upon the lives of the residents, whose home this would be and the staff who have to work there.

The site presented its own issues due to its location, adjacent to a nature reserve and the significant level changes across the site, which would eventually result in a positive benefit for the design of the home, allowing the main entrance to the home being at a lower level allowing the whole of the reception area to be open, off which the shop, cinema, hairdressing salon, coffee bar and reception could be accessed, with no restrictions.

The design of the home adopts a contemporary aesthetic with contrasting colours and materials, to accord with what the local planning authority wanted, and complemented that of the surrounding area.

The internal design layout and interior design was fundamental to the project if it was to achieve the client's vision of enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of the residents.

'Small details can make a world of difference'

It was essential to break such a large home down in to six smaller self-contained lodges, with no more than 15 residents to a lodge, with each lodge offering different levels of care to meet the needs of the individual residents, whilst helping residents to retain a sense of identity and autonomy within a calming and relaxing environment.

The lodges are designed to be self-contained, with lounges, dining areas, kitchenettes and an activity area, along with residents' individual bedrooms, which included knockers on bedroom doors, so as to encourage the sense of privacy for residents within their own rooms.

From within the lodges, they do not appear to have any



corridor doors, as these have been constructed, and decorated in such a way that they appear as walls, so as to avoid any dead ends and the frustrations and issues that can arise from being presented by a locked door. The control of sensory stimuli is essential and was carefully considered so as to provide a calming visual colour palette throughout, with the use of 'natural' lighting where possible along with noise control.

Another aspect that plays an important part in the design of the home is bringing the outdoors in, and as such the corridors, communal areas and bedrooms contain points of interest, such as wall art featuring greenery, landscapes and a map of the local area to promote calmness and wellbeing. It was essential that access to the real outdoors was available to every lodge with balcony areas and communal garden spaces provided with level access, to a safe and secure area, where residents can go unaccompanied.

A number of bedrooms are provided with direct access to the balcony areas, and has been designed to allow for beds to be moved outside should the residents needs determine that this is the only way that they could go outside, particularly for those residents receiving palliative end of life care.

As part of the design process, it was essential that the residents of the care home could be encouraged to maintain a sense of normality, as far as possible, assisted by 'homemakers', where the residents will be encouraged to cook, clean, and do everyday household tasks, eat together family-style and enjoy social times safely. The lodges therefore need to have suitable kitchens where they could participate in the preparation of meals, and undertake their personal clothes washing.

To this end a shop was introduced within the main reception area, where residents are encouraged to visit with a 'housekeeper' to collect the ingredients etc for the meals they are going to prepare, that day. This gives the residents a purpose, and they feel they have been out to the shops, something which enhances their experiences and provides some normality. The design provided each pair of lodges with a themed memory family room, where residents could meet their families, and prepare a meal or have a party.



The mechanical extract system to the kitchen areas included higher than normal filtration systems, which included the injection of ozone into the extract system to ensure complete neutralisation of any odours, from the home, with any excess ozone being captured via a set of inline carbon filters prior to discharge into the atmosphere, which could otherwise impact upon the surrounding area, and nature reserve.

The care home has a mechanical ventilation system installed to the corridor areas, so as to create a positive pressure in these areas, with the input air passing through heat exchangers to pre heat the air if the incoming air temperature is below the internal temperature. This ensures that fresh air flows through the home into the bedrooms, and extracted via the ensuite extract system.

The external lighting was specifically selected so as to ensure any light spillage from the site was minimal so as to ensure as little disturbance to the adjacent nature reserve, and the bat colony, with bat boxes integrated in to the design of the home, so as to enhance the availability of suitable nesting places for the local bats.

Blythe Rose recently won a national Pinders Healthcare Design award, following three judges visiting the home, where one of the judges was moved to tears. After the awards ceremony one of the judges said "It is a special place ... where dementia residents' lives are being transformed." and the other said "yesterday, I could not have said where the best dementia home was, today I can".

Such great accolades from specialist care consultants, about what we think is an outstanding facility, which looks to make the lives of residents the best it can be during what is a very difficult time for them and their families.

This is what the practice aims to achieve with all their developments, as design is more than just the fabric of the building but is also how the development will function so as to have a meaningful impact upon the lives of the residents and staff at what can be a very difficult time.

Development Cost: £6.25Mil

Project Team:

Architectural Technologist: AP Architecture Ltd

Structural Engineer: CT Design Consulting Engineers

Quantity Surveyor: KP Partridge Associates

Main Contractor: DC Construction Ltd

#### Judges' comments

*This state-of-the-art new build care home has been designed to enhance the lives of those living with progressive brain conditions that affect memory and thinking skills. The Judges were very impressed with the integration of modern solutions to both improve the patient and staff experience and consideration of the setting and surroundings. Clearly a great deal of research has been employed in ensuring that the building meets the clients needs and the needs of residents with a solid fabric first approach to design and good attention to detailing. Superb functionality and inclusivity, there is a good mix of high technology and passive ecological systems which is an exemplary demonstration of specification for a particular set of circumstances. The design of the home and the technologies introduced allow individuals to lead happy and fulfilled lives and supporting them to retain their independence for as long as possible, within a safe and homely environment. ■*

'Small details can make a world of difference'





Highly  
Commended  
2023

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| MEDIUM TO LARGE

# Specialist Veterinary Referral Hospital

Words by Sheerin Bettle Architecture

In an ideal scenario, constructing buildings on expansive, undeveloped land with unlimited resources and minimal regulations would be a desirable endeavour. However, the Forest Corner Farm project was a stark departure from this vision, presenting a myriad of obstacles that had to be surmounted to achieve its goals.

This article delves into the complexities of the project, detailing the challenges encountered, design considerations, sustainability initiatives, and the resulting state-of-the-art medical facility.

Forest Corner Farm, a cluster of structures of varying sizes and conditions, was situated on the grounds of a former farmyard. Originally housing battery hens and later transitioning to intensive pig farming, the site's historical significance was coupled with its location within the Western Escarpment Conservation Area of the New Forest National Park, characterised by sloping terrain. Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists, the client, had been operating at the site since 2008, initially occupying a single unit and gradually expanding to meet growing demand. However, the existing infrastructure could no longer support the hospital's needs, prompting the need for a comprehensive redesign.

The primary challenge lay in the site's restrictive planning regulations, necessitating a design that harmonised with the National Park's aesthetic while

considering environmental preservation and minimising light pollution. Despite these constraints, the project team innovatively crafted a design that married historical agricultural elements with modern functionality. This included demolishing subpar structures and replacing them with new buildings that adhered to the architectural character of the area.

Unit 1, a former grain store, was reimagined as a two-storey structure reminiscent of a traditional threshing barn. Its design featured opposing gables, barn door openings, and other agricultural elements, preserving the essence of the region's heritage. Units 2 and 4 were replaced with a single-story rectangular building that maintained consistency with the site's existing structures. Though it appeared as two separate edifices, the design cleverly concealed their unity.

The new structures' internal design prioritized efficient workflow and the unique needs of a veterinary practice. Collaboration with the clinical team ensured that the design catered to their specific requirements. The



revamped layout optimised workflow, both within the new building and in relation to the existing units. The crowning achievement was the creation of a welcoming and spacious reception area that served as the practice's public face. Clients encountered a landscaped parking zone before entering a reception space that offered a blend of communal and private zones. Special waiting rooms and dedicated communication facilities were tailored to varying client needs.

The facility's medical components were meticulously planned, with a state-of-the-art surgery suite that accommodated various specialties. High infection control standards were achieved through careful layout planning and material selection. The surgery theatres were equipped with positive pressure ventilation, closed-theatre protocols, and radiation protection measures.

Sustainability was a cornerstone of the project. The design team strategically integrated energy-efficient technologies and building practices. While budget constraints initially prevented the inclusion of solar panels, the roof's design was future-proofed to accommodate their installation. The building envelope exceeded energy efficiency standards, resulting in substantial CO2 emissions reduction.

Forward-thinking infrastructure was incorporated also. Electric vehicle charging stations were prepped for potential future implementation, underscoring the commitment to environmental consciousness and evolving transportation trends. The innovative approach extended to the use of medical gases, where a transition to bulk cryogenic oxygen storage was planned to reduce both environmental impact and safety risks. Although budget limitations temporarily prevented its implementation, the groundwork was laid for future sustainability.

The selection of materials played a pivotal role in achieving the project's goals. A careful balance between performance, durability, construction speed, economics and environmental impact drove the decision-making process. The exterior design, resembling a traditional

threshing barn, was achieved through a combination of brickwork plinth detail and timber cladding. These materials, combined with advanced construction techniques, created an aesthetically pleasing and functional outcome. The interiors were designed to withstand the demands of a medical environment, with careful consideration given to infection control, robustness, and ease of maintenance.

In conclusion, the Forest Corner Farm project encapsulated the challenges, innovations, and commitments to sustainability inherent in modern architectural undertakings. Overcoming planning constraints, marrying traditional aesthetics with modern functionality, and prioritizing sustainable practices were integral to the project's success. As a result, a cutting-edge medical facility emerged, seamlessly integrating into its historical and natural surroundings while providing top-tier care and patient experience.



#### Judges' comments

*The project successfully navigated challenges posed by the sloping topography and planning restrictions in a conservation area with the buildings carefully designed to replace existing structures and incorporated traditional agricultural forms while using modern and energy-efficient construction methods. Utilising a lightweight steel frame structure with industrial detailing clad to blend into the agricultural farmscape, this building is creatively designed in relation to buildability and assembly. The choice of construction has been expertly considered for the site, aesthetics and use of the structure. With fine consideration of inclusivity for both staff and visitors with care taken to lay out spaces to suit a variety of requirements. Superb detailing for M&E services and veterinary requirements with essential thought around containment, infection control and sound proofing. The exemplary consideration of sustainability, sometimes out of the box, with further emphasis on deliveries and storage. The design team has clearly pushed hard to make the building sustainable in a high energy consuming environment and the choice of materials for re-use, adaption and recycling. The project's innovative use of materials and technology complement the sustainability and continued use of the premises. The Judges' particularly liked the mix of industrial/agricultural type prefabricated cladding with softer finishes and additional details to satisfy planning constraints along with the design team's approach to the brief. A great project that achieved the client's objective to enhance their working environment and improve workflow. ■*





Winner  
2023

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| MEDIUM TO LARGE

# Guinness Storehouse Gravity Bar Expansion

Words by RKD Architects

The Guinness Storehouse is a protected structure. The original building was constructed in 1904 and was the first mild steel building in Ireland and one of the first in Europe. The Storehouse visitor experience was designed by RKD in 1997 and opened to its first visitors in 2000.

Since opening, over 20 million visitors have passed through this world-class tourism venue, learning about one of Ireland's most iconic brands, Guinness. The experience unfolds across seven floors, concluding with the highlight, the iconic Gravity Bar, Dublin's highest bar, where one can enjoy panoramic views of the city.

In 2017, the client commissioned RKD to design, detail and contract manage the expansion of the existing gravity bar over the existing Storehouse building and infill approximately 15% of the floor plate at 5th floor level. The client required the existing Storehouse to remain fully operational during all construction works.

Located on the seventh floor of the Guinness

Storehouse, Gravity Bar is a fully glazed circular structure that sits on top of the original industrial building. Taking advantage of the height of the massive former fermentation house, visitors to Gravity Bar can enjoy the stunning near 360-degree vista that embraces all of Dublin, from mountains to the sea, while enjoying a pint of the famous stout. Such uninterrupted and breath-taking views are prioritised through steel frame construction with floor to ceiling glass walls. Access is by two glazed lifts, which rises through the centre of the Storehouse building.

The client's brief was based on the Storehouse building operating at capacity in terms of visitor numbers, within the existing fire safety certification. When the

figures were analysed, it indicated that there was a maximum capacity of 270 persons in the existing Gravity Bar. From survey information taken from customers it noted that comfort levels in the gravity bar are regarded as poor when numbers are approaching capacity. It was considered that when the numbers go above 200 persons in the Gravity Bar comfort levels began to decrease.

The proposal to extend the Gravity Bar as per the plan drawings submitted was to relieve the pressure on the existing Gravity Bar. With the proposed expansion consideration was also given to increasing the availability of enhancing the corporate hospitality offers, thus an increase in the service areas attached to the Gravity Bar. This was achieved by the introduction of the kitchen and toilets at Level 5.

The development comprises of an extension west of the existing Gravity 1 Bar at Level 7, consisting of a new circular in plan gravity bar located and supported directly above the existing vertical stair B and passenger lifts. The existing stair and passenger lifts were extended up to serve the new gravity bar expansion. Gravity 2 is linked at level 7 to the existing Gravity 1 via a smaller circular transition space, which houses the existing stair A and glazed passenger lifts. The two new circular spaces are constructed in a similar manner to the existing gravity bar, i.e., steel frame construction with floor to ceiling glass walls as noted in the Buildability & Assembly text. The new expanded Gravity Bar 1 and 2 are now served by 4 no. passenger lifts greatly improving the accessibility of the area for public use.

The architecture of the extension integrates successfully with a strongly established architectural form of the existing Gravity 1 Bar. As part of the project the interior of Gravity 1 was upgraded to reflect the interior of the new Gravity 2. The extension creates a holistic solution that perfectly integrates with the existing, taking into consideration both form and finishes materials to ensure a seamless connection and intervention.

There were numerous structural challenges in developing what is now appears as a relatively simple curved façade detail. The principal challenge of the façade was to ensure that the top and bottom curved PFCs were connected at the exact level of the existing PFCs. Gravity 2's radius is 11,000mm some 2000mm larger than Gravity 1. Gravity 2 is supported off a circulation core and 4 strategically placed columns, which penetrate the existing Storehouse building. Primary diagonal beams span 13,700mm and support cantilever beams of 3500mm in length, which taper to 255mm ensuring a continuous slim edge detail to the perimeter. 800mm deep fabricated box girders are utilized as the primary support beams ensuring the façade deflection criteria was achieved for the large faceted glazed panels.

The roof, a single ply membrane on semi-rigid insulation with a continuous circular recess for drainage, leading to rainwater downpipes concealed within the perimeter columns, allowing for a cleaner aesthetic. A 50mm diameter steel section curves around the top perimeter PFC which has the double function of support abseiling for maintenance and visually reducing the mass of the parapet upstand.

The glazing consists of laminated extra-clear annealed glass of 19+15mm in thickness, supported by continuous stainless-steel angles top and bottom.

The floor comprises of wide engineered timber planks fixed to plywood on concrete base supported by the extensive steel structure below, all fully concealed by a radial designed zinc soffit.

Value of Construction Contract: **£9.75 million**

Design Team:

RKD – Architects, Design Team Lead, and Assigned Certifier

ARUP – Civil & Structural and Façade Engineers

ARUP – PSDP (H&S Consultant)

Eamon O'Boyle & Associates – Disability Accessibly Consultant

Howley Hayes Architects – Conservation Consultants

Linesight – Quantity Surveyor

Michael Slattery Associates – Fire Safety Engineers

O'Connor Sutton Cronin – Mechanical & Electrical Engineers

O'Donnell O'Neill Design – Interior Designer

RPS Group – Planning Consultant

Main Contractor – PJ Hegarty

#### Judges' comments

*22 years after the main Guinness Storehouse renovation project won Highly Commended, this new roof top expansion to the existing gravity bar is this year's outstanding winner for the medium to large category. The sympathetic modification of the current structure is sustainable in terms of energy, history and culture and should be applauded. It's an exemplary illustration of integrating a new structure with an existing functioning building. With fantastic technical detailing, the project showcased excellent buildability and assembly techniques which allowed the expansion of the Gravity Bar whilst keeping the Guinness Storehouse fully operational. Complex structural challenges were overcome, including connecting new curved PFCs to the existing curved PFCs at roof top level and then threading the new structural loads down through the existing listed main building.*



*The building functionality has been greatly improved for all end users and completely accessible. Material choices were well considered for the environment and complement the existing historical setting. Sustainable measures included enhanced building envelope insulation, LED lighting and automatic lighting controls with thermal values exceeding Building Regulations. A fantastic project truly celebrating Architectural Technology through the use of multiple design and construction technologies. ■*





Highly  
Commended  
2023

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| LARGE TO MEGA

# Sutton Rose

Words by A P Architecture Ltd

The client's vision was to create a community facility which allowed residents of the care home to become part of the wider community, along with the residents of the assisted living apartments, which would become a focal point within the 'local community', as a go to place. A scheme providing a care home, assisted living apartments and community facilities, was agreed, and developed, with the support of the local community.

A contemporary aesthetic with striking bold contrasting colours and materials was adopted, whilst looking to encompass references from the local vernacular, and adjacent commercial property. The client required a development which would be fully encompassing, allowing all parties to come together as a family, whilst maintaining the security and safety of the residents both within the care home and the assisted living apartments.

To develop the site to its full potential it was necessary to locate all of the required 78 parking spaces within a basement area, which required over 35,000m<sup>2</sup> of material to be removed from the site. As part of the design process, it was essential that the various uses of the development could work independently, whilst allowing all residents, and the community to come together. To this end a bistro, along with a community gym, library/activity and hairdressing salon area was introduced within the scheme, with both having direct internal access to the facilities.

The design of the home was such that secure access

could be maintained for the care home and apartments, whilst providing open access to the community facilities when required. From the initial design concept, MACC Care have been passionate about developing a state-of-the-art facility, using cutting edge technologies where appropriate, to enhance not only the build process, but also ensures the home fulfilled the specific requirements to ensure the lives of all of its residents are as fulfilled as possible within small 'family' communities.

The use of LED lighting throughout the home, is now considered a standard requirement, in this instance, the use of circadian lighting was considered, for specific areas, as it has been proven to significantly improve the sleep/wake cycles for general health and wellbeing of the residents, whilst improving daytime cognition and engagement.

The use of an underfloor heating system to provide a lower and more consistent temperature for optimal thermal comfort and energy efficiency, ensures that the

home maintains a suitable environment without any exposure to hot surfaces for the residents.

It was essential to break the care home down, into three units, which could offer different levels of care to meet the different needs of the residents, with each floor being designed to be self-contained, with lounges, dining rooms, kitchenettes and an activity area, along with residents' individual bedrooms, with each floor having access to external areas.

The assisted living apartments were built as one and two-bedroom units, with a visitor's room, to provide overnight family accommodation if required and a communal lounge/ activity area and gym.

The whole development was fitted with a MESH Wi-Fi system throughout, as all staff would have a state-of-the-art care planning hand-held devices, which have been introduced to remove the need for paper records, through which all alerts, reports etc would be issued and controlled, so as to remove the continual sound of alarm calls going off, which would prove very disturbing for residents. The currently available technologies have been utilised to its fullest to aid the staff and provide better care for the residents.

Each bedroom room has been installed with acoustic and movement safety monitoring, along with CCTV camera linked to the nurse-call system. A balance has been achieved with regards to the privacy of the residents and safety by record that is stored for a fixed duration before and after the incident triggered by motion sensors. These can be customised to the individual need and resident choice from a central console. All en-suites have passive infrared sensors which will not only aid the resident but also the staff during provision of personal care.

Another aspect that plays and important part in the design of the home is bringing the outdoors in, and as such the corridors, communal areas and bedrooms contain points of interest, such as wall art featuring greenery, landscapes and a map of the local area to promote calmness and wellbeing. It was essential that access to the real outdoors was available to every floor, with balcony areas and communal garden spaces provided with level access, to a safe and secure area, where residents can go unaccompanied.

As part of the design process, it was essential that the residents of the care home could be encouraged to maintain a sense of normality, as far as possible, assisted by 'homemakers', where the residents will be encouraged to cook, clean, and do everyday household tasks, eat together family-style and enjoy social times safely.

A fabric first approach to the design was adopted to ensure the U-values significantly exceeded the building regulations throughout the building with mechanical ventilation provided to specific areas, along with heat recovery systems. Sensors fitted to all taps, showers etc,



to avoid both contact and taps being left on, which is particularly important with dementia clients. The bedroom layout had to ensure that the WC, within the ensuite, was visible from the bed.

The noise attenuation was paramount and the use of ultra quiet extract fans to all fittings, including kitchen extract, laundry and ensuites, meant that the external noise was reduced to an absolute minimum as required by the local authority, so as to reduce any possible disturbance to the adjacent housing.



The care home has a mechanical ventilation system installed to the corridor areas, so as to create a positive pressure in these areas, with the input air passing through heat exchangers to pre heat the air if the incoming air temperature is below the internal temperature. This ensures that fresh air flows through the home into the bedrooms and extracted via the ensuite extract system. The external lighting was specifically selected so as to ensure any light spillage from the site was minimal.

The home has been fitted with a pumped high pressure sprinkler system throughout so as to provide significant fire suppressant, in the event of a fire, which will provide an immediate response.

Development Cost: **£13.5Mil**

Project Team:

Architectural Technologist: AP Architecture Ltd

Structural Engineer: CT Design Consulting Engineers

Quantity Surveyor: KP Partridge Associates

Main Contractor: DC Construction Ltd

#### Judges' comments

*Transforming a former adult education facility into a modern community facility can be challenging but this exemplary project includes a care home, assisted living apartments and community facilities. Accessibility is at the forefront with use of traditional materials with a combination of brick/blockwork, reinforced concrete columns, precast concrete planks and a steel frame. The design of the home and the technologies introduced allows individuals to lead happy and fulfilled lives through very thorough design and great attention to detail. The genuine fabric first approach with a strong emphasis on the thermal performance has a very detailed use of innovative technical solutions to enhance the 'care' environment with strong modern M&E solutions, including detailed fire, ventilation and acoustic considerations. ■*

'Small details can make a world of difference'







Winner  
2023

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY  
| LARGE TO MEGA

# Mildenhall Hub

Words by Concertus Design and Property Consultants Ltd

Mildenhall Hub is a national exemplar project, replacing outdated facilities with a modern, multi-million community hub which combines education, health, leisure, blue light and community facilities under one roof.

This innovative development brings together an academy, pre-school, leisure centre, public library, health centre, and offices for Suffolk Police, the NHS, DWP, CAB, central government, West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council. The leisure facilities include two swimming pools, a gym, 3G pitch, fitness studios and a sports hall.

This project's aim was to reduce overheads and create better cost and environmental efficiencies, whilst modernising facilities and provide flexible accommodation that could easily adapt to future changes. We were asked to design a single building which would accommodate a range of sustainable and economical facilities. This building needed to be sensitively zoned to guarantee safeguarding and ensure security is maintained in key areas. The services had to be accessible and welcoming to the public, whilst ensuring overall footprints were condensed.

By using the full functionality of our 3D modelling software, we developed a co-ordinated BIM model to run clash detection simulations at the design stage, thereby reducing clashes and queries on-site. This provided a more efficient and collaborative working environment in planning, technical design and construction, thus overcoming the challenges of design co-ordination. The 3D model also allowed us to produce a series of visuals to present at public consultation events and client presentations, enabling a greater understanding of the design concept, thereby reducing the number of design changes.

The design has provided optimal space for future advances in service delivery and population needs, as well as ensuring the building works well within its environment. This involved designing in accordance with scale, mass, flow and architectural rhythm.

This unique project has regenerated the area by





supporting the growth of businesses, providing employment opportunities and attracting people who are keen to use the fantastic facilities. In addition to providing improved facilities for the residents and wider community of Mildenhall and surrounding villages, the Hub demonstrates the benefits of having shared facilities on one site.

By having a range of organisations under one roof, facilities can be shared. For example, the pupils at the Academy can use a wide range of the public services located on the same site. Mildenhall Hub required collaboration between public sector partners to jointly combine funding to generate a suitable capital budget for a scheme of this scale. The scheme benefits from economies of scale, both in terms of capital and operational expenditure.

The Academy, Leisure Centre and Health Centre have been designed with a future expansion phase in mind. Mildenhall Hub needed to have flexibility in its design to allow it to adapt as public and user requirements change over time.

Mildenhall Hub has combined public services and created a united community. It has been designed for a wide range of people so every age group can benefit. Shared spaces reduce maintenance and running costs – for example the leisure centre shares first aid rooms with the health centre and the Academy's academic hall is used by the Council after hours.

Our team adopted a fabric first approach to reduce energy consumption, thus providing a low energy and efficient building. A combination of renewable technologies such as photovoltaic (PV) panels, ground source heat pumps (GSHP), combined heat and power (CHP) and battery storage have been integrated into the design. A dynamic simulation model (DSM) for the proposed development identified the main energy consumers as the leisure centre and Academy. As part of the building strategy, renewable technologies are utilised for heat and power generation, reducing reliance on fossil fuel consumption and benefiting the wider development.

DSM was used to assess how to optimise passive strategies, including solar control glazing, optimum performance fabric, natural ventilation and building orientation. Solar control glazing was installed for extensive glazing on South facing areas to reduce solar heat gain.

An optimised Central Building Management System manages and monitors performance, ensuring maximum efficiency. Greenhouse gas emissions savings are expected to be 2,300 tonnes over the 20-year lifetime for the plant.

Having a centralised plant room serving all facilities under one roof allows for integration of services, resulting in an economical and energy-efficient solution. The sustainably built environment has been future proofed to maximise the energy efficiency throughout its life.

Mildenhall Hub is a national exemplar project and the first of its kind in the UK to have as many community services under one roof. The project achieved its aim in reducing overheads and creating better cost and environmental efficiencies. Our design, both internally and externally, met the client's brief and requirements, as well as providing a practical and aesthetically pleasing community hub. The client and end users are extremely pleased with the project, which demonstrates what can be achieved by working collaboratively with multiple stakeholders.

Client: West Suffolk Council  
Project Value: £39 million  
Contractor: R G Carter

Mildenhall Hub is the model for how many towns and cities will provide their school, leisure and other public services in the future and I feel it is something that we will look back at in years to come and feel proud of.



James Waters, Councillor  
and Leader of Forest  
Heath District Council



#### Judges' comments

*The project should be applauded for combining what might have been several different developments into a single entity with associated benefits from being in one location. The Hub reflects the client's aspiration for a multi-user facility with sustainability and efficient operation. This is a unique project that offered a regeneration opportunity to the area by supporting the growth of businesses. The use of Building Information Modelling to assist the design process provided a more efficient and collaborative working environment in design and construction and great visuals for public consultation. Mildenhall Hub is an excellent use of procedure and software to ensure issues of buildability (clash detection, design modelling) and assembly can be captured within the budgetary constraints. Fantastic attention to detail in relation to the functionality of spaces including centralised 'community' style heating arrangements, PV's, GSHP and battery storage that indicated a high attention to the future running costs of the premises and carbon use reduction. This was plainly a very complex project and recognition is given to the design teams handle on bringing everything together into a successfully constructed building. With a fine use of phased construction and a complex technical brief, all elements combine to make this the winner for the large to mega category. ■*



AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY

## Meet the Judges

Chair:  
Justin Kelly FCIAT



Justin is a partner at BPTW, an award winning CIAT Chartered Practice which is design-led with over 125 Architectural Technologists and architects with studios in London and the Midlands.

He acts as the lead Architectural Technologist at BPTW and has been an examiner at the Architects Registration Board, Secretary at the RIBA South East London Society of Architects (SELSEA) Branch and is currently a Professional Interview Assessor for CIAT.

Having previously lived and worked in Rotterdam, Justin has gained experience on various residential led developments in both Rotterdam and Amsterdam. He completed a Diploma in Sustainable Urban Design from the International Institute for the Urban Environment in Delft, the Netherlands.

Dr Gihan Badi FCIAT



The founder of GB Atelier, CIAT Chartered Practice for architectural services, with more than 20 years of experience in the built environment sector and academia in both the United Kingdom and the Middle East. As sole practitioner, Gihan has gained experience on various residential and commercial led developments in both the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Gihan is a Fellow Member of CIAT and a Chartered Architectural Technologist, also she is a Fellow Member of Higher Education Academy with Doctor of Philosophy degree in Planning, Housing and Human Geography.

In addition, Gihan is an Assessor for CIAT and has been a member of the Yorkshire Regional Committee for many years, and she is actively involved with her professional institute at local and national levels. Gihan was previously the Regional CPD officer (2014-17) and the Regional

Committee Chair (2017-19). In 2017, Gihan was a Finalist as Best Architectural Technologist in the European Women in Construction and Engineering.

Dan Clements MCIAT,  
Vice-President Practice



Dan is a Chartered Architectural Technologist with many years' experience in the design and detailing of domestic and non-

domestic properties. With a strong design background, Dan has built a reputation for providing creative solutions to a variety of briefs.

Dan set up CIAT Chartered Practice Aditus Architectural Services Ltd in 2015 to specialise in both private and commercial architecture. As a former CDM-c, Dan is fully qualified to act as 'principal designer' under the 2015 CDM regulations. He recently acted as principal designer on the high-profile demolition of the Central Plaza Hotel in Carlisle, working for Carlisle City Council.

Dan is the current Vice-President Practice for CIAT and sits on the Institute's Executive Board.

Hadeel Saadon FCIAT



Hadeel is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Fellow Member of CIAT. She works as a Building Information

Manager for Coventry University Estates Digital Services team, leading the implementation of BIM and digital technologies in building maintenance, development and refurbishment projects, construction of new campus buildings and student accommodation projects.

Hadeel also manages the creation of the Coventry University digital campus and the retrospective modelling of existing buildings and also the establishment of the Common Data Environment for the university group.

Alongside being an ambassador for Women in Construction, she is also the Chair for BIM4Estates group, UK BIM Alliance communities lead, Regional lead for Women in BIM, and Regional Co-Chair for the West Midlands Region.

Anthony Walsh FCIAT



Throughout his career, Anthony has acquired a varied but extensive knowledge within most sectors of the construction industry

and through the diversity of the projects that he has been involved with has attained considerable experience in a wide range of government, residential, retail, commercial, leisure, industrial, educational and health care developments. He is able to work from feasibility and inception through all the various stages of design and specification process and utilising his excellent presentation and technical skills is capable of working to strict budgets and timescales. Combine this with his valuable on-site job running expertise, Anthony forms an important link in any team.



# Congratulations

to all the Winners and Finalists  
of the AT Awards 2023!

from everyone  
behind the scenes







Winner  
2023

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL | EXTRAORDINARY  
DISTINCTION AND/OR EXCEPTIONAL  
CONTRIBUTION TO ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY

# Gary Mees PPCIAT MCIAT

Words by Kevin Crawford PCIAT

The President's Medal recognises and celebrates an extraordinary distinction or exceptional contribution to Architectural Technology and the profession. It is awarded once in any one Presidential term (a maximum of one every two years) and at the discretion of the President.

The Award is for an individual's contribution having made a tangible difference to the profession and discipline and demonstrates how the recipient has or have given an exceptional contribution to Architectural Technology and the profession. It excludes work undertaken on behalf of the Institute.

The recipient is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and selected by the President.

The second recipient of the President's Medal is Gary Mees PPCIAT MCIAT.

With every generation of Architectural Technology professionals, there are those who automatically stand out, those with great humility with an immense

generosity of spirit and ultimately seen as an inspirational figure. I have observed these combined characteristics time and time again with this year's recipient of the President's Medal. Gary Mees is an individual who acts as an exemplar of what professionalism is and this Award recognises his continuing significant contribution to the profession and discipline of Architectural Technology; he has been a role model for me and I'm sure for many of my colleagues.

Gary has been embedded within the world of Architectural Technology for as long as most can remember. As such, he is a fountain of knowledge, constantly moving with the times, a creative thinker and promotes collaboration as the tool to keep our sector relevant, progressive and ahead of the game.

There are many examples which could be used to demonstrate Gary's achievements for Architectural Technology, the discipline and profession, both past and present, and activities he is involved in to ensure the profession is at the forefront within the sector. Gary has, and still, sits on many adviser groups to the Scottish Government and building standards and is contacted regularly when the Building Standards Division are

looking for an expert in Architectural Technology within the built environment.

One of Gary's key achievements has been his position within the advisory committee CONIAC (Construction Industry Advisory Committee) and his role as Vice-Chair of the Keeping Place with Change Group which has developed and instilled the embedding of CDM within the sector. As part of this, he has been instrumental in the work of the CDM 2020 Vision – Changing the Culture document and heavily involved with the development of the suite of design risk management documents which are open sourced in a format that are readily available to those in the industry.

Gary was the Health & Safety Champion for the Construction Industry Council (CIC) where he shaped policy and addressed and developed initiatives and responses on behalf of CIC and built environment professions. He was the CIC Health & Safety Committee Chair; a commitment which saw much activity surrounding the new building safety regime and the Building Safety Act. In addition, Gary sits on various BSI committees, the CIC Scotland Regional Committee and is a part of the CIC BIM Hub. He is a member of the RIAS Energy Certification Scheme Panel and was a member of the Building Standards Advisory Committee (Scotland). His exposure externally, representing the discipline, has included numerous presentations across the world, a judge for many award schemes and as an External Examiner for universities with a CIAT Accredited degree programme.

Where Gary stands out to me, and demonstrates his true character, is not in front of an audience but in private and his day-to-day actions when he has the opportunity to provide mentoring and support where it is needed. An example of which happened in 2008 in the last financial crash and a large proportion of the community lost their livelihood overnight. I was no different. I took the decision to start my practice and it was a slow and difficult time. The one saving grace for me was the countless calls with Gary where I was able to have open and honest conversation about what was going on – it got me through some very dark times in a two-year period. That is Gary – an honourable and trustworthy man.

I am honoured to present the President's Medal and to its second recipient – Gary, for his extensive contributions to Architectural Technology, as a discipline and a profession.



Gary with Kathy Thurman MCIAT (2nd right) and ABS representatives





# Certificates of Accreditation and Centres of Excellence 2023

CIAT is delighted to report on this year's successfully Accredited programmes and Centres of Excellence. Accreditation and Approval of academic programmes, as well as Centre of Excellence status, enable the Institute to recognise our important partnerships with educational establishments, and support the development of AT as an academic discipline. All education establishments who offer Approved or Accredited programmes are essential in delivering the fundamental underpinning knowledge which provides a foundation for the AT professionals of the future.



## Certificates for Honours degree level Accreditation

Accreditation at Honours degree level is a demonstration of an education establishment's commitment to delivering learning of a high standard by preparing talented individuals to enter the growing Architectural Technology community. The following educational establishments have attained programme Accreditation for the first time:

- Ain Shams University  
*BSc (Hons) Environmental Architecture and Urbanism*
  - London South Bank University  
*BSc (Hons) Design and Construction Management – the first Accredited apprenticeship in England*
- The following educational establishments have attained programme re-Accreditation:
- Anglia Ruskin University  
*BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology*
  - University of Derby  
*BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology and Practice*
  - London South Bank University  
*BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology*
  - Solent University  
*BA (Hons) Architectural Technology*
  - University of Westminster  
*BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology*
  - University of the West of England, Bristol  
*BSc (Hons) Architectural Design and Technology*



## Centres of Excellence

Centre of Excellence status is awarded to an educational establishment that demonstrates the highest commitment to the academic discipline of Architectural Technology and the professional development of Chartered Architectural Technologists. Edinburgh Napier University and University of Derby both received this recognition as a CIAT Centre of Excellence.





# Honorary Officer elections 2024: your opportunity to influence your profession and discipline

The election process and how you could become influential within your Institute, shape its future and that of your profession.

For the effective operation for any professional body, it is essential that it elects positions from amongst its membership to allow it to function within its Charter. These positions are open to Chartered Architectural Technologists who are invited to give their enthusiasm, experience, strategic leadership, skills and time in a voluntary capacity to the work of the Institute set within the Strategic and Corporate Plans, as approved by Council. Contributing in such a capacity is two-way and Chartered Architectural Technologists who have been involved have benefited and learnt from their experiences.

Within the Institute's governance, there are a number of core roles collectively known as the Honorary Officer positions. These are the President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Vice-President Education, Vice-President Practice and Vice-President Technical. These are all undertaken by Chartered Architectural Technologists in a voluntary capacity other than expenses which are paid for by the Institute.

For 2024, there are three positions for election which are now open for nominations:

## President Elect/President

President Elect is a twelve-month role prior to succeeding as President. The President Elect position provides the elected Chartered Architectural Technologist the opportunity to gain an insight into the activity and role of President, working with the incumbent President, fellow Honorary Officers and the Executive Board. The Chartered Architectural Technologist becomes President Elect from the close of business at the AGM in the year they are elected.

## President

The President is the principal external face and figurehead for the discipline, the profession, members and affiliates and the Institute. The Institute operates as a team and the position leads the team working with Council, the Executive and the Chief Executive implementing the Strategic and Corporate Strategy.

One of the key activities for the President is external engagement, with members and affiliates, fellow professionals and organisations at local, national and international level as necessary, both in person and remotely.

Serving for a period of two-years, the President will, amongst other functions:

- Chair the AGM (x2) and Council meetings (x4);
- Chair Executive Board (4 per year);
- attend as a guest and representative of the Institute at various industry events;

- meet with Presidents, senior officials, industry bodies and Government Ministers (from different nations) and personnel;
- visit and/or network with the Regions and Centres ; and
- present on the Institute's key strategies and the Strategic Plan.

Chartered Architectural Technologists who undertake this position must possess strong analytical skills and the ability to make informed decisions and considered judgments. The ability to interpret and understand information along with excellent communication and presentation skills.

## Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer's principal role is as Chair of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, works with the Chief Executive and the Finance Department, to oversee the financial matters relating to Institute business such as the budget, the setting of subscription fees and reviewing and approving the independently audited accounts. The Committee make recommendations regarding finances and financial policies to the Executive Board.

The Honorary Treasurer working with the Finance Department liaises with the Regional and Centre Committees and aspirATIOn Groups in relation to their budgets, returns, reporting mechanisms and policies. The Honorary Treasurer presents to members and affiliates at the AGM.

Chartered Architectural Technologists who undertake this position must possess strong analytical skills and the ability to make informed decisions and considered judgments. A good understanding of financial processes and ability to disseminate financial statements.

The Honorary Treasurer, with the Finance Department and Chief Executive, ensures the Institute achieves its strategic aims with financial support set within the approved budget and in particular Aim 5, 'remaining an effective and financially viable Institute'.

## Vice-President Technical

The Vice-President Technical works closely with the Vice-President Practice, Practice & Technical Director and Practice Department and its relevant Taskforces in overseeing the technical issues relevant to the Institute, which ensure the maintenance and improvement of technical standards within Architectural Technology and the built environment sector. The role also embraces current industry issues, impacting the nations in which CIAT has a presence.

The Vice-President Technical works to develop Institute

position papers on issues affecting the profession and the built environment sector. They lead on consultations which affect practising Architectural Technology professionals and represent the Institute externally, as necessary. The Vice-President Technical reports to Council and Executive Board on the work relating to technical issues from the groups and their output and that of the Practice Department, within the Strategic and Corporate Plan.

In carrying out these activities it is essential that the Vice-President Technical:

- represents the members and affiliates externally relating to technical issues, lobbies for change or improvement and lobbies and promotes on behalf of the discipline;
- ensures the necessary documentation is produced for the benefit of members and affiliates on changes in legislation or regulations; and
- ensures the appropriate guidance is available to assist members and affiliates both in implementing and complying with legislation and regulations in their work and complying with the Institute's policies and Code of Conduct.

A Chartered Architectural Technologist undertaking this position must be a practising Chartered Architectural Technologist and have knowledge of the technical aspects of Architectural Technology with an understanding of legislation and regulations. They must also be confident and able to represent the discipline at the highest level which includes Governments.

**All candidates must be able to undertake business via email or other electronic mediums.**

#### What do these positions involve?

With each of these positions, you will become a Trustee of CIAT and a member of the Executive Board, which is responsible for the implementation of the Strategic and Corporate Plans, found on our website. The Board makes guidelines for the conduct of business of the Institute, in line with the rules of the Institute and policy. You will become a member of Council, which is the Electoral College and Strategic Forum for the Institute. You will be expected to contribute to the policies and future strategic development of the Institute.

#### What does being a Trustee involve?

Trustees have an overall legal duty to the Institute and are the individuals who take decisions. Trustees have specific duties and operate within the rules of the Institute. Trustees work collectively as the Executive Board and once a decision has been collectively made – all Trustees are bound to support that decision. A Trustee's primary duty is to the Institute and its Charter under which it is established, as such Trustees must act with integrity and adopt the values which helps CIAT achieves its strategic aims.

#### What are the time commitments to these roles?

You should be looking to commit up to five hours a week (approximately) but this will depend on the nature of the work, meetings, providing views and advice on documents, the time of year and external representation on behalf the Institute that may be necessary. It is essential you are proactive and reactive dependent on the project work required. With all the positions, you will be working closely with a staff Director at Central Office, and their departmental team and be expected to respond to queries speedily at times; this could be within a couple of hours. There will be specific meetings or working groups that you may need to participate in and possibly chair. As an Honorary Officer, you will be expected to attend

two Council meetings (normally on a Saturday in March and September) and a minimum of four Executive Board meetings (two of which run in tandem with the Council meetings) as well as the AGM (normally in November) and the AT Awards event (October). The positions, excluding President Elect/President, are two-year terms, which become effective from the close of the 2024 AGM in November to the close of the 2026 AGM.

#### Representing the Institute and discipline

As representatives of the Institute, these positions require you to attend events and meetings on behalf of the Institute, for example, Construction Industry Council meetings, Award presentations, university Council meetings, Award presentations, university events, or Government led steering groups, presenting at conferences etc. There will be specialist meetings which you will either have to attend/chair or contribute to, and you will need to report back to Central Office on these. The staff Director will work with you to ensure that you are properly briefed and prepared for these meetings where you will be expected to speak on behalf of CIAT and the discipline of Architectural Technology.

#### Social media

You would work with the Communications Department in relation to social media engagement.

#### What do I benefit from taking on a position?

You will have the chance to shape the future of your discipline, profession and the Institute at a strategic level. If you have ever wondered why something has or has not been done then now is your chance to do something positive about it. You also get to network extensively with peers and fellow professionals, gain a greater insight behind the scenes at Institute, Governments and sister institute levels and it contributes to your CPD obligations.

#### How can I be nominated?

To be nominated for any of the positions, a fellow Chartered Architectural Technologist must nominate you in writing to the Returning Officer, who is the Chief Executive. Any Chartered Architectural Technologist is eligible to propose a candidate, although no nomination is permitted without obtaining the prior consent of the nominee. Any Chartered Architectural Technologist can stand for any position in these elections. No prior experience is required of the Institute – just a passion for Architectural Technology and the Institute.

#### What happens once I have been nominated?

Once a nomination has been received, you are then asked to formally accept or reject the nomination. You will then be asked to supply a manifesto. Once all the manifestos have been received, they will be issued to the Regional/Centre Committees for their review, consideration and action. It is then your responsibility to actively organise and carry out your election campaign (at your own cost) to all members and affiliates, this will be via the Communications Department and direct liaison with Regional and Centre Committees. Your campaign can be by a variety of mediums which is for you to choose. We provide you with the contact details of the Regional/Centre Committees. Hustings are also held.

You will need to prepare a full manifesto for publication and distribution via the Institute's media channels; details of what we would be looking for in the manifesto will be included in the election section of the website and information pack. It will also be featured in the spring issue of AT Journal.

We will provide further clarification on the election



process and information required. Over the election process, and the lead up to the elections in September, we will be issuing some election special ealerts providing reminders and updates together with profiles of the candidates standing for the positions etc.

#### If I stand how do I promote my candidacy?

There are a number of ways in which you can put yourself in front of the members and affiliates during your election campaign.

There is the traditional manifesto which will outline your policies, thoughts and aspirations for both the role you are nominated for and the Institute. This should not be a CV but a formal written document which grasps your key objectives and aims. Alongside this, you can create a profile which showcases you as a person, captures your personality and strengths and puts across the real you to people who do not know you and want to know more about the person seeking election.

In this technological and social media focused world, you can create Twitter or Facebook accounts, videos, podcasts, blogs or a series of short films which support your manifesto and profile. You can get your message across simply and they can all be easily accessed.

You could arrange for a Q&A with members and affiliates online or at a location and venue that is accessible and could have visits to Regional and Centre Committees and meet with Council, those who will be voting on the day. There are a number of different mechanisms which will be covered in the information pack.

#### What is the voting procedure?

- Regional/Centre Committees are encouraged to meet and discuss their preferred candidate, in an open forum which takes into account feedback from the members and affiliates in the Region/Centre.
- It may be that you wish to proactively engage with the Regional/Centre Committees to present your manifesto and respond to questions.
- Regional/Centre Committees advise their Councillor of their preferred candidate.
- The Councillor is expected to vote in accordance with their Regional/Centre Committee's decision; however there may be exceptions where they may change their vote as per their Committee's instructions. These could be based upon the candidate's response at the autumn Council meeting or other factors, for example, if the candidate withdraws from the election at very short notice that would not allow a Councillor reasonable time to refer back to their Regional/Centre Committee.

#### How is the vote taken?

Elections are held at the autumn Council meeting:

- All candidates are invited to attend the autumn Council meeting to respond to questions brought by a Councillor from their Regional/Centre Committee or to debate a particular issue in relation to their manifesto.
- Council confirms and agrees the method of the election – which has traditionally been by secret ballot.
- Councillors represent their Region/Centre – either using their agreed Committee's vote or changing their vote as per their Committee's instructions based upon the candidate's presentation or other factors.
- Honorary Officer members of Council have a free vote according to their preference (as Trustee) and considering the best interests of the Institute and its Strategic Plan.
- Council votes on the candidate and/or candidates and the election takes place.

- Council policy is that a candidate who is also a serving member on Council may not vote if there are other Candidates standing who do not sit on Council, this includes Honorary officers.
- Council policy is that Regions/Centres do not have the right to send a proxy vote if their Councillor is standing for a position.
- It is the Councillor who carries the vote, or their deputy, in their absence. A serving Honorary Officer who is standing against a candidate who is not a member of Council forfeits their vote. This ensures equity and fairness.
- The President, as Chair, has the casting vote if there is a tie.
- The elected Chartered Architectural Technologist assumes the Officer position from the close of that year's AGM (normally in November), unless an Officer resigns from their position early, in which case the assumption is either immediate or from the date of resignation if later.
- The results are then reported to the members and affiliates via the weekly ebulletin, AT Weekly and Regional/Centre Committee.

#### When would I assume the position if I were elected?

All three positions take effect from the close of the 2024 AGM on 16 November 2024.

#### Key dates summary

- Call for nominations close  
*14 December 2023*
- Acceptances (or rejections)  
*20 December 2023*
- Manifestos/profile received  
*2 February 2024*
- Issue of candidates and their manifestos to all members and affiliates via an ealert/update of election section of the website  
*1 March 2024*
- Issue of candidates and their manifestos to Regional/Centre Committees  
*1 March 2024*
- Presentation at Council  
*9 March 2024*
- Campaigning by candidates  
*1 March – 13 September 2024 inclusive*
- Election ealerts and updates on the website  
*1 March – 13 September 2024 inclusive*
- Election at Council  
*14 September 2024*
- Candidates advised if not in attendance at Council
- Ealert announcing the election results  
*11 September 2024*
- Assumption of position  
*16 November 2024 close of 2024 AGM*

#### Further information

For further information or clarification contact Adam Endacott, Editor, a.endacott@ciat.global



# GREENWASHING - WHAT'S TRUE AND WHAT'S NOT, AND DOES IT MATTER?

Futurebuild and The Anti-Greenwash Charter have conducted an industry-wide survey to help understand the impact greenwashing has on businesses. This survey entitled 'Greenwashing - what's true, what's not, and does it matter?' considers businesses' experience with 'greenwash' across the construction industry and offers invaluable insights into the pervasive issue of greenwashing that undermines genuine efforts towards sustainability.

For the industry to truly evolve, green claims must be substantiated by evidence. A lapse in this area can be detrimental, causing a significant decline in customer trust—a risk no brand can afford. Through this report, we hope to set a new standard in responsible marketing and communication practices, ensuring that sustainability becomes the norm, not the exception.

Together, let's build a future that we can all be proud of.

DOWNLOAD  
REPORT



## GREENWASHING WHAT'S TRUE, WHAT'S NOT, AND DOES IT MATTER?





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**STAND**  
FOR A BETTER  
BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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Futurebuild provides the stage for inspiring ideas, innovative solutions & knowledge sharing to drive sustainable construction and help us reach our goal of net zero. The exhibition brings together the entire supply chain to showcase, debate and understand the advancements in sustainable construction and the emerging technologies that will make net zero possible.

Futurebuild is taking a stand for a better built environment and is urging companies and professionals throughout the construction supply chain to make a similar commitment by 'taking a stand' on an issue they passionately believe will help propel the industry towards a more sustainable future. Join us in taking a stand.

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by EASYFAIRS



# Edgar G Jones PCSAAT

14/03/1941-25/07/2023

Words by Adam Endacott, Editor

Edgar was a real character and gentleman with a tremendous passion for both Architectural Technology and the Institute. With the death of Edgar, CIAT mourns another great loss this year, so soon after Richard Houseago, as another Past Chairman leaves the stage. Edgar was always super company and had many stories about the formative years of the Institute, told in his distinctive Welsh tones. He was encouraging and supportive whenever we met and was not only a friend to me but so many other colleagues in the Institute.

Proud of his Welsh heritage, Edgar was the first, and to date the only Chairman/President to come from Wales and also the youngest, as the leader of SAAT at the age of 35. Taking on the role in 1976, he followed the Chairmanship of Bruce Sheerin who handed over the Chain of Office at the Society's first AGM. Edgar with his strong values and dedication continued the work to further the recognition for Architectural Technicians and increase the visibility of SAAT. He oversaw the selection and presentation of the Society's first Honorary Member, Tom Lilley and the introduction of a membership grade for students. Working with Honorary Secretary, Dudley Hewson, Edgar also secured the Society a new home at 397 City Road – where the Institute still remains today. During his time for the Institute, he was Councillor for the North West Region,

1970-75 and Vice-Chairman (without portfolio) 1974-76 and sat on both Conduct and Finance Committees amongst others.

Edgar died peacefully at St David's Hospice, Llandudno. Our thoughts are with his widow Averil and family.

**Tributes**

He was a great Chairman at a difficult time in our Institute's development and entirely responsible for persuading me to become a Regional Councillor.

Graham Jackson PCSSAT PPSAAT MCIAT

Edgar Jones was a dear colleague of mine back in the SAAT days. We were both PCSAAT. He was a very proud Welshman and I will always remember his reassuring 'Welsh personality'. His sensible approach to life was reflected in the way he steered SAAT into purchasing City Road. One of our founding fathers has past. RIP dear Edgar in the knowledge that CIAT has prospered and continues to evolve.

Paul Newman PPSAAT PPBIAT MCIAT

I have fond memories of Edgar - I remember him well.  
Bob Kay MBE PPBIAT MCIAT

## Membership news

**Chartered Architectural Technologists**

We would like to congratulate the following who successfully attended their Professional Interview and are now Chartered Architectural Technologists, MCIAT:

- 031483 **Rory Bell** Northern, 01
- 026072 **Claudia Bland** Northern, 01
- 032285 **Emily Thompson** Northern, 01
- 033763 **Jamal Alabid** Yorkshire, 02

- 031429 **Callumn Beattie** Yorkshire, 02
- 032686 **Daniel Bertenshaw** Yorkshire, 02
- 036735 **Benjamin Lysiak** Yorkshire, 02
- 018833 **Alan Porter** Yorkshire, 02
- 031712 **Will Thomas** Yorkshire, 02
- 035810 **David Whalley** Yorkshire, 02
- 015049 **Rebecca Barwise** North West, 03
- 035137 **Eric Houghton** North West, 03







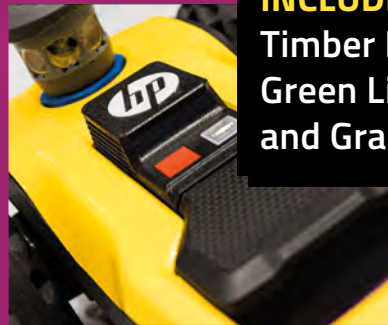
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