



# aspir**A**Tion

ISSUE 5  
AUTUMN/WINTER 2015



# In this issue

- 3** Professional bodies' codes of ethics: do they reflect moral responsibilities adequately?
- 5** What is it REALLY like to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist?
- 10** Become involved: share knowledge and develop professionally
- 13** Job seeking, boosting employability and entrepreneurship: contradictory or complementary?
- 16** Why should future professional Architectural Technologists form a networking group?
- 18** Summer learning at Capita – why work placements are invaluable!
- 20** 50 Years of CIAT
- 21** Student Award Winners Interviews

Cover: Top: The Glen Hotel by Cian Gilligan winner of the Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology project. Below: Sharrow Lane Health and Therapy Centre by Joshua Slingsby, Winner of the Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Report).

# Editor's foreword

2015 has been a BIG year for CIAT; we celebrated our 50th anniversary in style with a celebratory Luncheon at The Savoy in London. In this issue we get a little peek at the Luncheon with some of our favourite pictures. We also talk to some of the Student Award winners and get their thoughts on winning as well as their future plans.

We also hear from graduates who have just become Chartered Members of CIAT and gain some insights into how they did it, what they are doing now and their future aspirations. We talk to current students who went on work placements to find out about their experiences with the hope that this inspires more of you to undertake work placements while still at university.

## Also in this issue

Will Price, MCIAT and Chair of the Wessex Region shares his thoughts on why aspiring Architectural Technologists should grow their network of professional contacts as early as possible.

## Jack Wilson

Education and Membership Administrator

For further information on the articles featured, or to contribute to aspirATion magazine, contact Jack Wilson Education and Membership Administrator. Email [jack@ciat.org.uk](mailto:jack@ciat.org.uk)

---

**Keep up to date with all the latest news and events from the Institute by following us on our social media channels**

**Twitter:**  
[@CIATechnologist](https://twitter.com/CIATechnologist)

**Instagram:**  
[ciatechnologist](https://www.instagram.com/ciatechnologist)

**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/CIATechnologist](https://www.facebook.com/CIATechnologist)

**LinkedIn:**  
[Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Chartered-Institute-of-Architectural-Technologists)

**YouTube:**  
[www.youtube.com/CIATechnologist](https://www.youtube.com/CIATechnologist)



aspirATion is published by The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists  
397 City Road London EC1V 1NH UK Tel. +44(0)20 7278 2206 Fax. +44(0)20 7837 3194  
[info@ciat.org.uk](mailto:info@ciat.org.uk) [www.ciat.org.uk](http://www.ciat.org.uk)

# Professional bodies' codes of ethics:

## Do they reflect moral responsibilities adequately?

By **Issac Brown**, CIAT student member studying on BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology at the University of Westminster

The Edge Commission Report - which was an inquiry by some professionals into the future of professionalism - has called for a higher level of 'joint action' and the creation of a 'shared code of conduct'.<sup>1</sup> My university, the University of Westminster asked its students to pool their thoughts on what professional practice was and how it should be defined in a code of conduct for all disciplines within the construction industry.

I began by looking into each of our Accrediting bodies for inspiration as to what would go into a joint code of conduct. CIAT's Code of Conduct does recognise the need for 'Members shall...act with integrity so as to uphold the standing and

reputation of the institute' (CIAT Code of Conduct, 2014) as detailed in Clause 1. This is well intentioned by design to allow for flexibility and freedom, however the clause is vague and what one considers 'integrity' others will not.

The question of whether architects as designers of our built environment should re-evaluate their ethical code to include a more defined morality is one that has been brought to light in recent years. Currently the RIBA's Code of Conduct (2005) specifies that members have to 'balance differing and sometime opposing demands (for example, the stakeholder's interests with the community's' as detailed in Clause 2.1.



1. Morrell, P. (2015) 'Collaboration for Change The Edge Commission Report on the Future of Professionalism', The Edge, pp. 6-8



I would say it is fair judgement that building in countries with harsh regimes and with appalling track records on human rights issues wouldn't count as having a positive effect on the local community. Stephen Hodder MBE (Previous RIBA president 2013-2015) was charged with the controversial issue of condemning architects in the Israeli Association of United Architects (IAUA) of building illegal settlements; which was previously brought to light by Angela Brady (RIBA President 2011-2013) in conjunction with Desmond Tutu.<sup>2</sup>

This has since been revoked following international backlash, most notably from the *Jewish Chronicle* (2014) accusing the RIBA of anti-semitism. The question is whether this constitutes a need for a change in our policies protecting our values and making clear our stance on issues of international importance.

Even in the UK protests have been held by Fight4Aylesbury and Architects for Social Housing at the AJ120 Awards, livid at redevelopment of an estate that reduces the amount of social

housing. They have likened this to 'social cleansing'.

Another seeming break in RIBA's code was reported on by *The Guardian* concerning the 'phenomenon being dubbed poor doors'<sup>3</sup>; the segregation of affordable housing entrances and facilities in new developments. This is done at a stage where the designer has actively created this needless inequality.

These events are causing the industry's division over ethics in architecture. Is this a signal to us as designers as well, to take into account our global profession and the responsibility of upholding our values of human rights and the wider community alongside our professionalism?

## These events are causing the industry's division over ethics in architecture

2. Mark, L. (2014) 'Desmond Tutu urges UIA to suspend Israeli Architects Association', *Architect's Journal*.  
3. Osborne, H. (2014) 'Poor doors: the segregation of London's inner-city flat dwellers', *The Guardian*.



A universal set of ethics principles

## The only way is ethics...

CIAT is a member of the International Ethics Standards Coalition. The Coalition was established in 2014 to address the inconsistent approach to ethics within the real estate and related sectors which now includes the built environment. It is comprised of leading professional bodies from all over the world.

The main purpose of the Coalition is to develop a universal set of ethics principles which can be adopted by professional bodies and their members within the real estate and related professions. This common International Ethics Standard will complement and underpin existing codes of conduct currently being used by these professionals.



# What is it REALLY like to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist?

**Joe Donovan MCIAT** and **Lindsey Ford MCIAT** tell us about their progression from students to Chartered Architectural Technologists.

**If you are reading this, there is a good chance you already have an opinion of what makes a Chartered Architectural Technologist. Whether informed by your tutors or peers you are probably pretty confident as to what you're heading into.**

**J**oe Donovan (JD) and Lindsey Ford (LF) from Alan Camp Architects graduated in summer 2013 and recently qualified as Chartered Architectural Technologists. Below are two accounts, and it might surprise how much variety you will find when you begin your career as an Architectural Technology professional.

**JD:** Though from different backgrounds we both started our Architectural Technology career path at Nottingham Trent University, whose Architectural Technology Honours degree is Accredited by CIAT.

Before university, I had never heard of a Chartered Architectural Technologist. I had just finished a construction BTEC and wanted to be an architect but I was told I couldn't because I didn't have a background in the Arts. Architectural Technology was pitched to me as 'approaching architecture in the same way as an architect, however from a more technical angle'. Knowing what I know now, I'd say that was a fair assessment.

Four taxing years later of late nights studying, a placement year and adopting the university library as a second home, we both graduated with first class honours degrees. Finding a position in such a fast paced and competitive field was surely going to be a challenge, competing for positions with Architectural Technologists but also architects, Part 1 and Part 2 qualified trainee architects.

**LF:** People always tell you the importance of networking and putting yourself out there early. This couldn't be more true. With the industry recovering from a recession finding a job wasn't easy. The key is to be organised. Several people from our course, including Joe had been actively job searching since before graduating in July, having interviews whilst still at university. Lesson learnt!

At graduation Joe told me about an opening at his practice and gave me a name to contact. Within a week I had an interview, and two weeks after that I had moved down south and started my first day.

Before university I had never heard of a Chartered Architectural Technologist

The role of an Architectural Technologist was a fairly new discovery for our practice. Our university education had not only given us that technical aspect great for a construction based role, but also planning skills such as looking into initial feasibility sketch designs alongside producing design and access statements and visuals. We were introduced into the company based on the skills presented in our interviews and portfolios.

## A CIAT- Accredited programme prepares students for the challenges they are going to face in the industry

**JD:** Initially the practice had no idea how to quantify us, we have essentially the same amount of training as a Part 1 architect and covered elements of the Part 2 syllabus, but we had a far better grasp of the technical side coupled with the design side. It wasn't long before our adaptable skills were recognised and we were co-ordinating and running projects. One of the main benefits of studying on a CIAT-Accredited

programme is that it prepares students for the challenges they are going to face in the industry, being more focused on the day to day running of a practice compared to architecture, getting a background in contract law and dispute resolution has given us a high level of understanding of the construction process.

I've just passed the two year mark at Alan Camp Architects and I can say there is never a dull moment! I am constantly being challenged. I currently work in the Construction Team of the practice taking projects from RIBA stage 4 to completion. I've just had a 90 unit scheme near Gatwick handover and complete as well as having four projects on site at different stages. It's quite a high pressure environment but having a good team around you helps.

My day is pretty varied depending on what project I'm working on, I could be attending a site for design team meetings, or sitting down workshopping with subcontractors. I'm also the first point of contact for any of the projects I'm leading on so any queries come straight to me. Any drawing updates will have to be signed off by myself and I have to liaise with all statutory authorities like planning and building control. I'd be lying if I said it wasn't stressful, but the satisfaction I gain from leading a project, and working with talented individuals is second to none.



Lindsey Ford Landscaped Garden Visuals

The importance of finding the right practice is paramount in your development as becoming a Chartered Architectural Technologist, being able to progress our membership with the support and encouragement of our team has been a major factor in our progression, having two other ATs in the practice also going through the same process motivates you to continue.





**Masterman House, an ongoing project**

**LF:** My current role as a Chartered Architectural Technologist sits on the 'Small to Medium Project Planning and Construction Team'. This is a team of seven people, predominantly working on planning applications and construction packages for residential projects from one off housing to 120 unit schemes, ranging from £0.6 to £12million.

On a daily basis my workload covers all stages of the RIBA Plan of Works, juggling projects in both design and construction phases. I regularly provide a supporting role to the partner but since the lead up to my MCIAT status I have already had the opportunity to lead some projects, picking them up both from the initial planning and construction stages.

I have always been torn between the creativity of design and the practicality of construction and through my role I have the opportunity to be involved from the initial tender bid right through to practical completion.

I have only worked here for just shy of two years but now that I have MCIAT status I would like to see a project through all stages as project leader. I can imagine nothing would be more rewarding.'

**JD:** Chartered Membership was a major milestone within our careers and as the first two Architectural Technologists within our company we were very keen, with full support and encouragement from our employer, to gain our MCIAT status.

It is a way of not only progressing within our careers, providing self-motivation and assurance of personal progression, it is always nice to know you are doing well, but it is a global status that is recognised worldwide and well respected amongst other professionals in the construction industry.

The Professional Assessment process is somewhat daunting at first, but let's face it you already have three years of university experience, coupled with a sandwich year work placement and any time in practice since graduating university under your belt, two and a half years in our case.

The format of the application is open and sympathetic to the varying roles available to prospective Chartered Architectural Technologists, making the process somewhat less stressful!

The hardest part was ensuring to record all of our experiences and collating the supporting references. We were fortunate enough to have individual mentors within the practice who were able to help us through this process.

As illustrated well on the CIAT website, the Professional Interview process is relatively enjoyable. As we were often reminded, we had already done the hardest part by passing the Member Panel Assessment of the Professional Assessment application and evidence.

Now that I have MCIAT status I would like to see a project through all stages as project leader

The Professional Interview is the Institute's opportunity to meet you in person, discuss your experiences, assess your professionalism and determine suitable communication skills. Instead of character assassination and on the spot quick fire questions, the Interview Assessors take a genuine interest in you and your work, and are keen to learn about how your role as an Architectural Technologist demonstrates your sphere/s of practice.

**LF:** During my final year of university I found the help of external lecturers and professionals invaluable. Their mentoring offered a fresh perspective to projects, and most importantly brought in a wealth of knowledge straight from the industry. Now that I have achieved Chartered Status, I hope one day I will be able to do the same.

I have also been fortunate enough to be invited to join the Greater London Region CIAT Committee. I look forward to being involved, helping to organise their program of events which are taking place over the coming months.

**JD:** We work in a fantastic practice with amazing people in the centre of London and are challenged professionally every day. I can think of no better place to start my journey as a Chartered Architectural Technologist. As with Lindsey I would like to be more involved with CIAT, most people in industry are still unaware of what to expect from a Chartered Architectural Technologist and we hope that we can help dispel some myths and promote the degree and profession.

Our journeys have so far been exciting, and the future promises so much more. Whatever role you find yourself in, try to understand how your design decisions correlate within the wider picture, be it within design, technical or both. There is no shortage of innovative and inspiring career paths available for any Architectural Technology professional. Most of all be proud of your qualifications and profession. As a CIAT member, you are part of an organisation that has helped mould the built environment around you for the last 50 years. You are the future of CIAT.



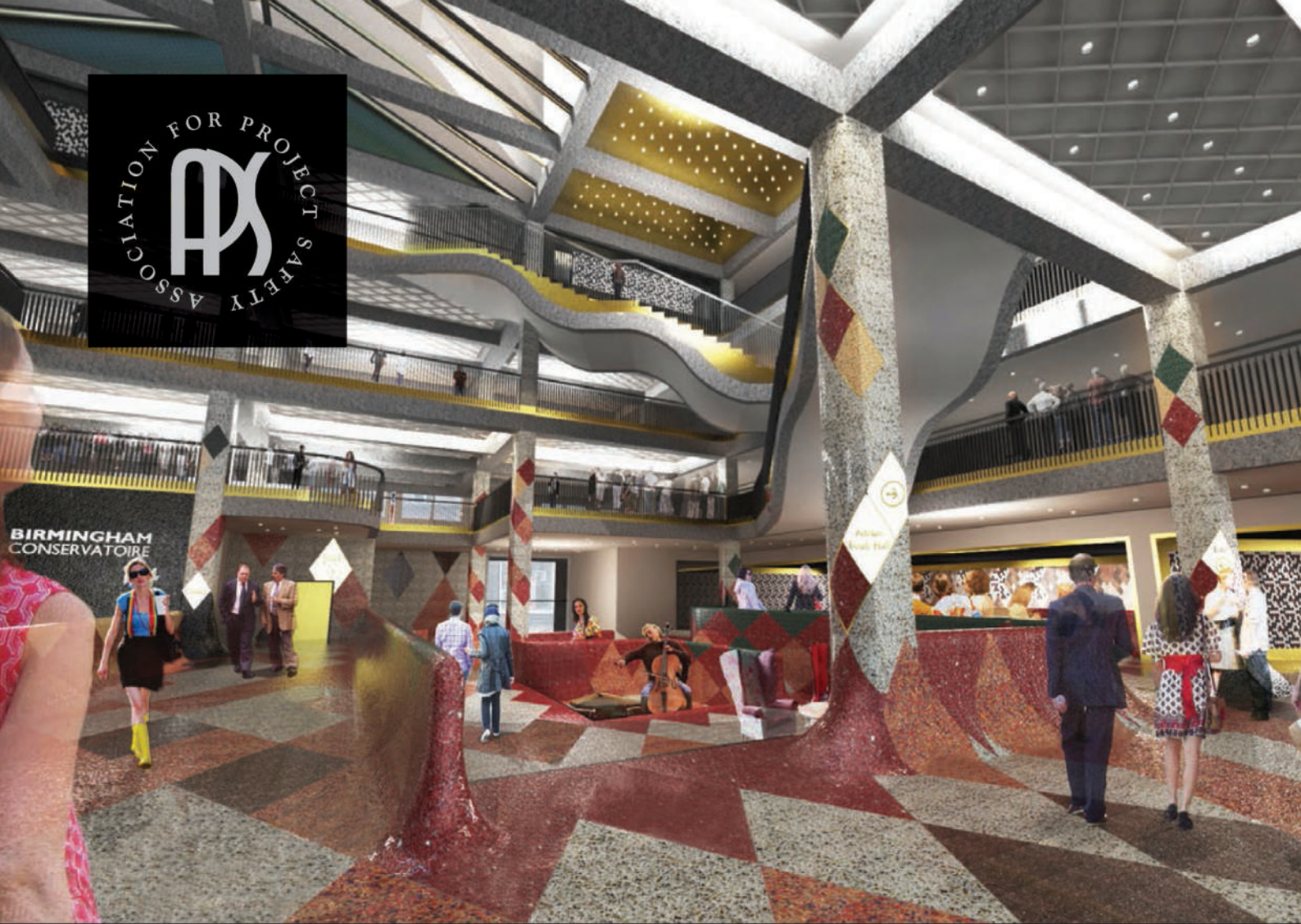
**Newman House, finished project**

The Interview Assessors take a genuine interest in you and your work

Alan Camp Architects are part of the CIAT Group Membership Scheme.

[www.ciat.org.uk/en/Join\\_CIAT/benefits/gms.cfm](http://www.ciat.org.uk/en/Join_CIAT/benefits/gms.cfm)





## About the Association for Project Safety

The Association for Project Safety (APS), is a not for profit membership body, made up of professionals representing all the major disciplines in the construction industry, whose aim is to shape and share best practice in Construction Health and Safety Risk Management as related particularly to the CDM Regulations 2007.

Student membership is free and open to any individual in full time education of any discipline in the construction industry. Upon graduation, student members will be invited to progress through the APS membership structure.

### Benefits of Student Membership include:

- Access to the student area of our website where copies of our Practice Notes, Digest magazines and best practice examples are downloadable free of charge;
- Discounted publications;
- Entry to Regional CPD events free of charge;
- Notification of National CPD events;
- Entry onto the APS Directory of Student Members;
- Enhanced CV giving students a commercial advantage when looking for employment.

For further details about APS membership and an application form go to:

<https://www.aps.org.uk/student-member.html>



# Become Involved: Share Knowledge and Develop Professionally



**Robert Hill MCIAT**, Vice President Education, introduces CIAT's mentoring scheme.

As Vice-President Education, I am very pleased to announce that the Institute is piloting an online mentoring scheme for use by all members which will run from now until the end of February 2016 with a possibility of being extended dependent on member activity and involvement.

MentorMatchMe is an online mentoring platform, which allows experienced members who act as the mentors, to assist other members working in the industry in a variety of areas by providing a range of support, advice and guidance, the mentees. The platform also encourages e-learning. It supports a wide range of learning and development resources. All of these are accessible from your smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

Online materials include: The MentorMatchMe Guide to Mentoring; a learning diary; and a range of learning resources. All members can benefit in a variety of ways by joining as a mentor or a mentee such as:

## **Membership progression/qualifying**

Guidance and support is available on membership progression, routes to qualifying and assistance on various areas/standards when completing the qualifying processes such as the T/MCIAT Professional and Occupational Performance (POP) Record or the MCIAT Professional Assessment from staff, Member Panel and Interview Assessors and possibly recently qualified Members.

## **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Support and guidance could be available if CPD is required on numerous relevant industry topics.

## **Education/careers**

Members looking to study at an Accredited Honours or Masters degree level programme or requiring general guidance on Architectural Technology courses available. Careers advice available for those members who may be looking into diversifying their skills.

## **Setting up in practice/offering services**

If you are looking to set up on your own in practice and need guidance then further information is available. There are a number of information sheets and guidance documentation to assist you in ensuring that you are in compliance with the Code of Conduct and elaborate on considerations to be made when setting up and considering commissions. Chartered Members also benefit from the Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme run for us by CIAT Insurance Services, which offers both competitive rates and a first class service, as well as a legal helpline. Those who are already practising may benefit from the practice services available – outlined in the Practice Services, Information and Guidance document.

## **Employment/jobs**

Guidance could be available from members/employers on how to develop your employability skills and prepare for interviews etc. Jobs cannot be advertised on MentorMatchMe but can be done through CIAT jobs in collaboration with RIBA Appointments and CIOB Jobs.

## **International – support from our Centres**

Help and advice on living, studying or working overseas, including legislation and education or procedures involved in setting up a practice.

## **Media/PR**

Writing articles or case studies promoting the discipline, projects and good practice etc

## **Awards**

Support if you are considering or keen to enter one of the Institute's Awards:

- The Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology
- The Alan King Award,
- Student Award for Excellence (Report) and
- Student Award for Excellence (Project)
- An opportunity to look at the work of previous Award winners

## **Building Information Modelling (BIM)**

Gain insight or share knowledge from members who work with BIM in SME's through to large practices on their experience of BIM implementation and collaboration

## **Leadership/management**

General guidance is provided for members on leadership and management.



### How you could benefit as a mentor (open to all members)

Remember you could have a particular skill or experience which could be invaluable to other members; as a professional you are encouraged to give something back to your profession. Benefits could include:

- Developing your coaching skills.
- Satisfying part of your obligation to undertake a minimum of 35 hours Continuing Professional Development (CPD) per year.
- Sharing your experience as an employer or employee whilst broadening your own experience.
- Developing and sharing your perspective on your professional and personal experiences.
- Passing your industry knowledge to others.
- An opportunity to network with fellow members within the industry.
- For academics/or guest lecturers to have the opportunity to mentor students or academic colleagues in relation to knowledge sharing, teaching, providing support for site visits, research or organising/presenting at Architectural Technology-related events or working with the Institute to promote the discipline and membership.

### How you could benefit as a mentee (open to all members)

Any member may choose to become a mentee and gain additional knowledge. Mentees may not just be students, profile candidates or Associates working to become a competent professional (MCIAT or TCIAT), for example a Chartered Member with many years of experience holding a senior position may wish to become a mentee in relation to another area of practice. Benefits could include:

- Gaining guidance on qualification/progression from those who have been through the system or have experiences to share.
- Receiving independent guidance and support about your expectations and career plan.
- Learning about setting up your own CIAT Registered Practice from experienced practitioners
- Developing the capabilities and skills needed to succeed in a dynamic global economy
- Identifying your strengths, weaknesses and the best way to work with these in your career
- Developing a structured CPD plan

### Joining as a Mentor or Mentee

1. You will need to create an account by signing up to [www.ciat.mentormatch.me](http://www.ciat.mentormatch.me)
2. You are required to specify at this stage whether you are volunteering as a mentor or registering as a mentee and provide your membership grade and number.

Once your account has been set up you will be prompted to complete a profile form, which will enable mentors and mentees to be matched based on areas of common interest and experience. When matched, we encourage you to meet (face to face or via an online meeting facility) for a couple of hours each month. If you wish to be a Mentor and a Mentee, you must register twice using separate email addresses.

### Further information

If you have any questions about the platform do not hesitate to contact James Banks, Membership Director ([james@ciat.org.uk](mailto:james@ciat.org.uk)) who is overseeing the pilot. The pilot will run until 1 March 2016 at which time member involvement will be evaluated.



We very much hope that you will take part in this pilot and assist in helping us progress this for permanent use. We also welcome any comments or feedback.



# Jobseeking, boosting employability and entrepreneurship

## Contradictory or complementary?

By **Chris Chesman**, CIAT Student member and final year student at the University of Brighton

### Background

I was an ESTATE AGENT. There, the cat's out of the bag.

I enjoyed it mostly, but cringed inwardly when asked 'what do you do for a living?' However after five years of opening doors to hear people whine about property standards and what little the hefty price tag bought, I started thinking - maybe I could make better property myself.

### The story

Aged 30, I became a student again to study Architectural Technology at the University of Brighton. Wanting to ensure I graduated with good options for employment, I decided I should be proactive about building employability and finding work whilst still studying. I would like to share some of my own experiences – and hope they help inspire other students to better shape the direction of their own career path, with both intended and unintended consequences.

On starting my degree, I looked at job descriptions of positions I imagined applying to upon graduation, to identify criteria employers sought. Some skills my degree would provide (eg CAD familiarity), others I thought I could create myself.

I wanted to take advantage of the university's extra-curricular resources (and get added value from £9000 tuition fees) and do something to help other students have a better experience

that evidenced motivation and problem-solving. The university offers grant money to get student ideas off the ground, entrepreneurial workshops, mentorship programmes – I chose the Springboard grant scheme.

Having worked previously in residential lettings, I read the university's existing house-hunting advice handbooks and felt they could be improved upon. I contacted and discussed the idea of writing a new guide with the accommodation office and the student union, who both agreed to contribute financially to the project and help promote it. I successfully bid for grant money, wrote the guide and employed a designer to produce a print layout. Several thousand were subsequently printed and distributed via the university, both online and in print. Unexpectedly, my guide was shown to a London university by the accommodation office, who contacted me asking if they could adapt it for their own use.

I was delighted with the result; I felt good that I had helped my fellow students, and I also had a great item for my CV. I encourage you to look around your own university at what resources are available, and then start making them work for you whilst also giving something back.

On reflection, I noticed what I'd done, rather intuitively, was of an entrepreneurial nature which was rooted in my previous professional work. Contemplating how I felt about the project's

success, I decided this was a pathway I'd like to follow in my professional career as an Architectural Technologist. But I realised that to do that, I needed much deeper exposure of what an Architectural Technologist was supposed to do. Now with an appetite to follow on from what I had started, I decided I should do something more in depth with my degree discipline so I could continue building employability and confidence in my academic learning, with this overall entrepreneurial strategy for my future.

### The journey on

In my second year I managed to gain work experience helping refurbish a dilapidated cottage. The work was basic and the pay was dreadful. I made a lot of mistakes but realised that I do NOT have a future as a plasterer! But, I had a go at plastering, plumbing, carpentry and kitchen fitting, and all of these taught good lessons I could translate into my academic work when drawing construction details, and understanding building services.

Don't have a property to work on? I've found friends and family often appreciate a keen amateur for home DIY projects. Perhaps a local community group with a restoration project, or a voluntary consulting opportunity? I've often let lack of experience or confidence hold me back, but once begun you find momentum and looking back it doesn't seem so difficult. *(See box overleaf).*

Carve out  
experience  
that  
professionally  
helps you  
network

I would say, think creatively; carve out experience that professionally helps you network, gives insight into a previously unknown field and offers personal reward and satisfaction. If it is enjoyable learning comes easier, if it builds your CV and contributes

something to others, even better.

This summer – before starting my third year – I decided I would benefit from working in an architectural practice. I wanted to see what a working practice was like, so I had experience to draw on when considering my career direction while I completed my final year.

I speculatively approached five practices; four that I was aware of through my own research and awareness of local projects, and another through my course leader. Only two stated positions were available – which were full time – this did not put me off asking for temporary work. I received two responses – one from a practice I had researched – 'Practice A', and the other from 'Practice B', a practice my course leader told me of. Both were invitations to interview, which coincidentally took place on the same day.

Practice A unfortunately were unable to offer me anything but were clear this was due to my lack of experience with the drawing software they used in-house. They encouraged me to contact them again after graduating. Practice B offered me a summer placement which I accepted – and was subsequently offered further work with them at the end of the summer.

However, a week into my employment with B, another of my speculative enquiries emailed, inviting me into interview. I advised I'd already secured work but would love to meet to discuss future opportunities. We met and I presented my portfolio of coursework. I was fortunate – one of their architects had been part of the critique panel for our end of year presentations, and

I made a lot  
of mistakes  
but I realised  
I did not have  
a future as a  
plasterer!



remembered me from both my work, and a subsequent conversation we had together after I connected with her on LinkedIn.

The interviewing directors took her comments on board and offered me a flexible position, which entailed two days a week to be worked around my studies – essentially, a job with hours I was able to dictate myself in order to balance my work and study commitments. Needless to say, I jumped at the chance.

### Learning

What can be learned? Opportunities may come your way, but you can create them yourself with some initiative and positive attitude. Perhaps they have unexpected outcomes but those can be better than first planned. Network – people

like helping people. Cultivating an attitude of willingness and energy helps with becoming flexible and resilient. Have a good sense of adventure about it all. Have fun – but don't forget the bigger picture.

Remember you are an Architectural Technologist, have 'aspirATions' and continue working towards them. Good luck!

Cultivating an attitude of willingness and energy helps with become flexible and resilient

## CIAT: Raising the profile

### What you should know if you are a student providing services to clients

The Institute fully supports student members who are providing architectural services and/or advice to clients whilst they are studying, but they are also reminded that if they are providing services and/or advice to clients – and this includes family and friends, whether the work is full-time/part-time/as-and-when, or whether they are paid or unpaid for what they do – they are required to register these details with the Institute to ensure compliance with our Code of Conduct.

When they register these details they will become profile candidate students and will not have to pay any subscription fees whilst studying. The only thing that they will have to pay for is professional indemnity insurance to cover them for the work and/or advice that they provide. If there are any student members who are providing architectural services and/or advice to clients whilst they are studying, please contact the Institute's Practice Department who will be happy to assist.



# Why should future professional Architectural Technologists form a networking group?

**Will Price MCIAT**, Chair of the Wessex Region shares his thoughts on why aspiring Architectural Technologists should grow their network of contacts as early as possible.

I undertook an Architectural Technology part-time degree almost 10 years ago and my year was one of the first years of a degree course when the inter-professional group based assessment formed a major project in the final year.

Ability to understand the dynamics of a live project is crucial

Not only did this bring together Architectural Technologists, building design managers, construction managers and project managers through connections between CIAT and the CIOB, but it also allowed for interaction with part-time and full-time students.

This real world situation was enhanced by a design brief delivered by the local council, giving the project meaning with the team, allowing for a real sense of value in the work we were doing as well as learning from each other's experiences. This approach however missed out on some fundamental key design considerations but only with recent hindsight do I have an appreciation of the full breadth of decision making that goes into one project.

Reflecting on that project after all these years, it seems almost unthinkable that prior to this point a student might conduct a design project in isolation from other disciplines. I ask myself, can design be conducted in isolation without consideration for land values, development yield, local agency demand, and facilities management input? Not to mention various planning and engineering specialisms.

That said, I do have an appreciation that there are core topics that need to be covered in academia and it can be hard to cover every aspect and much too big a task for a degree alone so how do we as an Accrediting institution help CIAT members across the board have an extended appreciation for the wider built environment?

In my opinion, students can maximise employability by ensuring the transition from education to professional practice is as seamless as possible, and that ability to understand the dynamics of a live project is crucial. So how can a scaled down version or a live project turn into a venture that has the benefit to expand on some of the principles and concepts touched upon for aspiring Architectural Technologists?

Future professionals need to focus on adding value through networking and building on our relationships between other construction-related professional institutions. We need to ensure that no other property related professional enters professional practice without an appreciation of the role of an Architectural Technologist and vice versa.

Future professionals need to focus on adding value

The aspirATion Group therefore has a key and fundamental role in developing CIAT over the next 50 years. There is no better place to integrate and build relationships than university and the early years of professional practice. *(Continues overleaf)*

The empowerment of regional groups to network, share knowledge and build inter-professional relationships is something that cannot be taught, yet networking builds confidence and opens doors.

But it is not all work, far from it, the aspirATion group can be whatever you make of it meaning that as potential chairmen, committee members and so on you have the ability to shape the people you influence, be it supplementing formal education through CPDs and site visits, providing social events to bring together friends and acquaintances, enjoy some friendly competition or give back through charity, fundraising or imparting your knowledge onto the next generation through initiatives like STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) . Organising and planning events can bring wider benefits to your

CV, making connections with potential employers and building your knowledge base.

We have just come through a recession where work placements were limited and job opportunities few and far between but the signs are encouraging, through diversification and reacting to changing industry dynamics Architectural Technology professionals have the skills to adapt and become a key member in all construction projects.

Though a greater understanding of all aspects of development and construction and working together as an industry we can carry on improving the quality of design, provide sustainable buildings for the future and create safe places to live and work.

## Calling all recent and future AT professionals

CIAT is launching its new Group for future AT professionals; the aspirATion Group. We are looking for forward-thinking aspiring professionals to be part of it. The Chairs of the local Future AT Professionals Groups will then form the overarching aspirATion Group.

The local Future AT Professionals Groups will operate at Regional/ Centre level, working with Accredited universities, Approved colleges and industry professionals in the area and will report directly to the aspirATion Group, the Regional or Centre Committee and CIAT staff.

The Terms of Reference of the aspirATion Group are to:

- Provide a focal point for the Institute's activities and objectives with respect to all Future AT Professional members.
- Maintain a dialogue between the aspirATion Group and the Institute's other Groups and Committees regarding any issues that may affect Future AT Professionals members and to ensure that Future AT Professionals members are not adversely affected by any of these issues.
- Raise awareness of Institute activities, objectives and constitutional processes.
- Increase the potential for participation among current students.
- Increase awareness of the Institute to potential Future AT Professionals and other associated professionals.

The aspirATion Group will meet no more than twice a year. CIAT will cover reasonable expenses for the aspirATion Group meeting(s).

If you want to get involved with the aspirATion group or to find out who your regional chair is please contact Dr Noora Kokkarinen, Assistant Education Director (noora@ciat.org.uk).





# Summer Learning at Capita

## Why work placements are invaluable!

By **Sam Steer**, CIAT student member at Southampton Solent University

In June 2015, at the end of the second year of my Architectural Technology degree programme, I was fortunate enough to benefit from the close industry links between Southampton Solent University and the Property and Infrastructure division of Capita by completing two weeks' work experience. At the end of this period I was offered the opportunity to stay on with the architecture team and complete a three-month paid work placement over the summer. Having now returned to university for my final year, I currently work for Capita a couple of days a week and am keen to move on to their graduate scheme once I have finished my studies.

Being my first opportunity to gain real-life industry experience, the work placement has provided me with a fantastic range of experience with architects, engineers and surveyors, and also the opportunity to practice and develop the knowledge and skills that I have gained from my university studies so far.

The work placement has provided me with fantastic experience

As Capita currently hold strategic partnerships with both Southampton and Oxford councils, I was fortunate to work on a variety of projects predominantly involving the expansion of primary and secondary schools.

I worked on tasks which covered various stages of the RIBA Plan of Work and provided with responsibility and the opportunity to use my

AutoCAD and Revit skills on technical detailing and construction drawings. I also honed my software skills such as Adobe Photoshop and In Design during the preparation of feasibility studies. I frequently researched manufacturers' products and standard details, as well as relevant Building Regulations, offering knowledge and opinions regularly.

One particular project involved the production of technical details and schedules for the tender stage of an extension to a secondary school in Oxford. This was a great experience as it really made use of the technical knowledge and design skills which I have learnt from my course so far. The opportunity to take copies of my work and record it as evidence towards my portfolio for Chartered Membership of CIAT has been a great benefit of this work placement.

Needless to say, my time with Capita over the summer has been incredible and I feel very fortunate to have had the experience. Whilst the degree programme is broad and interesting, there are elements of the role of an Architectural Technology professional that I believe only industry experience can teach, such as working practices and environments, client interaction and professional relationships.

The work placement has been interesting and enjoyable and I would highly recommend it to all Architectural Technology students who are looking to boost their employability and career prospects after graduating. It can be difficult and disheartening to find a placement, especially in the first year or two of studies, but patience and persistence is the key.

I would highly recommend it to all Architectural Technology students who are looking to boost their employability

## Capita investment

**Jack Wilson, Education and Membership Administrator invited Capita to give their view on work placements and how they found working with Sam and students in general.**

'Sam joined us on a work experience placement for initially two weeks at Capita this year. The initial placement extended to working through the summer on a variety of projects with different teams, including architects, civils, landscape and drainage. The main opportunity was to assist in the development of details for a new build primary school and Capita then extended Sam's employment to two days per week when he returned to university in the autumn.

Due to the diverse range of teams in the Southampton office and Sam's keenness to gain a broad range of experience, he is currently assisting the Building Surveying team in Southampton. Sam has a diverse range of skills, developed through his studies at Solent University and his background as a carpenter and joiner which has proved adaptable and useful in the design environment.

At Capita we have close links with the local university and schools – we offer work experience placements and mentoring from secondary school age through to university level. It is always good to extend this experience further by creating opportunities for development and employment whenever possible.'



# Search the archives

Back issues of aspirATion are available to view online or download in PDF format, free of charge, at

[www.ciat.org.uk/en/media\\_centre/aspiration/](http://www.ciat.org.uk/en/media_centre/aspiration/)

# 50 years of CIAT

The Institute's 50th year is coming to an end and what a year it has been! The Regions and Centres held their own celebrations, there was the Annual General Meeting [AGM] and Presidents' Ball in Edinburgh, the Architectural Technology: Design Futures Reflecting and Projecting Symposium hosted by the University of Westminster; and arguably the most memorable of these events was a celebratory Luncheon at The Savoy, which took place on 25 September. Founding and new members, people who have shaped the Institute over the years, industry partners, Programme Leaders, and students alike joined to celebrate in style.

We would like to congratulate our student winners who were:

## **Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project)**

Cian Gilligan, Waterford Institute of Technology (WINNER)

Katherine Morrison, University of the Highlands and Islands (HIGHLY COMMENDED)

James O'Neill, Ulster University (COMMENDED)

## **Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Report)**

Joshua Slingsby, Sheffield Hallam University (WINNER)

Petra Schwarczova, Sheffield Hallam University (HIGHLY COMMENDED)

Samuel Trevor, Sheffield Hallam University (COMMENDED)

Here are some of our favourite photos from the day!





# Student Award Winners

**Jack Wilson**, Education and Membership Administrator spoke to some of this year's Student Award Winners and asked them some questions about winning this award and their achievements.

## Joshua Slingsby ACIAT



**Name:** Joshua Slingsby

**Age:** 22

**Education Establishment:** Sheffield Hallam University

**Programme:** BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology

**Winner of Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Report)**

Joshua Slingsby receiving his Award from Karl Grace PCIAT, President of CIAT.

### How do you feel about winning the Award?

Overwhelmed and surprised, I really didn't expect to win, especially against the quality of work by of the other submissions.

### What was the greatest challenge you faced within the winning report?

I struggled with the format and layout for quite a while, I had never written a report of this nature before.

### What part of the winning report are you most proud of?

I am rather proud of how my technical details developed and were resolved but that is more

personal because of the trouble I had with them originally, but I don't like to read through the report now because I still see things that could be amended.

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

The brief has got to be the main consideration, you could be creating absolute genius but if it isn't in line with the brief then it could be wasted. Whether it is a set brief or one you have altered, always keep in mind what you are trying to achieve and constantly check back to it.

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

Throughout my projects at university I have steered towards timber and the principles of pre-fabricated systems as there is so much potential there from architectural design, structural and sustainable design.

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

There were many influences to the design and specifications but the real inspiration was one of my lecturers. Her passion, excitement and confidence in everything sustainable really rubs off and gave me the drive in the report.

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

Never do a circular plan.

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

A reason for choosing the course I did at Sheffield Hallam was its Accreditation with CIAT, I wouldn't say I was as aware of CIAT as other institutes in my earlier education but it is a core drive within CIAT which to improve and increase Chartered Architectural Technologists recognition through students and education as a profession. This influences me greatly as I am definitely more of a technical designer and thinker, a Technologist.

**Do you plan on furthering your membership with CIAT and become a Chartered Member?**

After working on this submission and report, to become a Chartered Member is my next professional goal.

**What made you want to become an Architectural Technologist?**

My enjoyment in technical design and architecture, it is more than just design.

**What are you doing now you have graduated from university?**

I recently began working for a civil and structural engineering firm.

**Are you working in industry?**

I have worked previously for my current employer so there was a relationship already there for me to re-join the team. It appears there are jobs available but competition is always high.

**What are you working on at the moment?**

High voltage on shore substation design for off shore wind farms and BIM integration.

**What are your other interests?**

I'm a middle distance runner, big Leicester City fan and recently taken up climbing.



Access road view from Joshua's winning report.

# Cian Gilligan



Cian Gilligan receiving his award from Karl Grace PCIAT.

**Name:** Cian Gilligan

**Age:** 21

**Education Establishment:**

Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland.

**Programme:** BSc (Hons) Architectural and BIM Technology (Due to complete in May 2016)

**Winner of the Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project)**

## How do you feel about winning the Award?

Overwhelmed! I was delighted to even be shortlisted so to have gone on to win such a prestigious award was an excellent feeling. I was fortunate that this year's awards were held in conjunction with the CIAT 50th anniversary Luncheon at The Savoy Hotel in London. I met some great people and to have your hard work and effort marked with such a fantastic event is a memory that I will never forget!

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

The project brief raised a number of challenges. Firstly the project was a retrofit, an existing concrete structure had to be retained and used as the base for the design. There was limited space between the existing columns and designing a suitable arrangement for rooms within the hotel proved quite difficult.

Secondly, the site was within a city and was located just off a main junction out of the city. This limited the size and shape that the building could be and also brought a number of other factors into play such as ease of access and traffic noise for customers.

Lastly, and I think one of the toughest challenges in this project was the timeframe we had. Over roughly 12 weeks we had to supply all drawings needed for tender stage, including GA drawings, Fire and DAC drawings, Site Planning, Sketch Details, Detail Design (incorporating 3D detailing) and also a number of rendered sheets that presented our project to our fellow classmates.

In this profession we are constantly working to a multi-disciplinary design and to strict deadlines and I found this project to really test us in a way that replicated the 'real life' industry.



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

I am most proud of the aesthetics of the building. Designing an impressive, welcoming façade whilst still maintaining the buildability of it was a main goal on this project. The twin skin façade proved a huge factor in the overall running of the building incorporating solar gains and wind proofing but as the design process developed the external look of the projected glazing proved quite attractive. The thought process involved in coming up with this design is what I'm most proud of. Every design decision had a knock-on effect and the hours put into the detailing of the building paid off in the end.

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

The buildability and sustainability of the project are always key. If the building is designed whilst taking into account how it is built it can save a lot of time down the line. Sometimes too much focus can be driven toward the aesthetics of the building and not on the practical side. There are some fantastic buildings out there that are extremely appealing to look at but do not work from a technology perspective and vice versa. Overcomplicating a design can always cause problems but I find if the time is put in you can have both the aesthetics and building use in tandem.

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

For the majority of projects I've done throughout college I have tried to incorporate a twin skin façade. I love the whole concept of using it as a buffer zone for the building whilst keeping out noise and wind loads. The system works well in Ireland's climate and can also look very appealing on a building. I will make reference to a very impressive Eircom building located in Dublin city which uses a twin skin façade system. The system has become quite a trademark in a lot of my projects and has proven very effective with this winning project in particular.

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

From analysing the brief I knew the project was going to be of large scale and was going to take a lot of time and effort to complete. This was a huge influence to step up to the mark and show what you were capable of. The fact that I was a third

year and a big effort on this project would give me a sufficient grade to progress to the fourth year of the course was another influence.

I didn't have a specific building or case study that inspired the look of this building however I was inspired by my lecturer Gordon and my classmates. Gordon guided me through a lot of the design work and detailing. We would sit down in meetings and go through different options to try cement down an idea that would work.

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

If I was to start this project again I would set it out in the same way. I think the goals I set before doing this project were all reached. However, the course has a great emphasis on BIM (Building Information Modelling) but due to the sheer quantity of drawings that had to be produced in such a short period of time I did not get to build the BIM model with all the information I had originally wanted. This is something at some stage down the line I would like to revisit.

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

I've known of CIAT since I started Architectural Technology in college. We were told to sign up as student members as it would aid our development through college. Knowing the status CIAT holds in the industry, I knew it would help me after college to find a clear path to progressing into the industry.

Becoming Chartered with CIAT starts with becoming a member as a student. The award that I have received has given me the first stepping stone into becoming a Chartered Member which in turn will help me gain professional recognition.

### **Do you plan on furthering your membership with CIAT and become a Chartered Member?**

I do indeed. A main goal in the next few years is to become Chartered and further my expertise in the industry.

### **What made you want to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist?**

From a young age I was actively involved in building. Whether it was Lego blocks when I was three or 'banging' kitchens together in my dad's kitchen workshop when I was 12 you could always

## The Glen Hotel, Cian's winning project.



find me making something. When I hit secondary school I continued my interest in woodwork and from there developed a large interest in construction. After achieving top grades in these subjects and continuing on to the college course I discovered it was something I was good at. If you're good at something, you enjoy it. If you enjoy something, you're going to be happy doing it week in, week out.

### **What are you doing now you have graduated from university?**

I haven't graduated yet! Due to unforeseen circumstances in my final year I had to defer my second semester. The project awarded is one I completed in my third year of studies. I am due to return this January and complete my thesis and I have high aspirations to finish college with a first class honours degree.

### **Have you found a job in industry?**

In the months I have been waiting to return to college I have managed to find a job within a leading Irish firm that specialises in large scale commercial, retail and residential (RKD Architects). I have acquired great experience of a large range of different projects with this company.

### **What are you working on at the moment?**

At the moment I am working on a dual project located in Sir John Rogerson's Quay in Dublin City.

The project contains an eight storey office block beside a nine storey residential block with a shared basement car park. The project is being done in Revit and I am one of a team of six producing the drawings.

### **What are your other interests?**

I play Gaelic football. It's my way of keeping active and is a great way to relieve stress. I also play golf at the weekends and do enjoy a few pints with my friends.

### **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

Firstly I would like to add a huge thank you to my parents who are currently helping me to get through college. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't have received this award. Secondly I would like to thank all my lecturers at Waterford Institute of Technology. They have put me on the right path and to receive this award is a credit to their time and effort also.

Lastly I would like to thank CIAT. These awards create a memorable experience and mark the hard work that students have put in. Being invited to the 50th anniversary luncheon. A huge thank you to the panel of judges for choosing my submission as this year's winner. *Go raibh maith agat!!*

# Kate Morrison



**Name:** Kate Morrison

**Educational Establishment:** University of the Highlands and Islands

**Programme:** BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology

**Highly Commended Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project)**

## How do you feel about being Highly Commended?

Delighted, I only entered it at the suggestion of my lecturer and I was very surprised to be shortlisted, having my work Highly Commended made me very proud.

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

Achieving section 6 compliance. All of the internal fittings of the building had been stripped out and I wanted to recreate as much of the character of the original building as possible, it was difficult to achieve this at the same time as meeting energy performance requirements.

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

The living area, I think I achieved a luxurious feeling within the building, which uses the space well and shows the features of the church such as the roof timbers and the south facing windows. I love the long roof lights that allow light to filter through the roof timbers. I would love to live there!

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

The work that had already been done on the building. The previously granted building warrant meant that some work has actually been done; the position of the foundations in the floor slab was a major constraint on the design. Within the project scenario the economic feasibility of the works was also a large consideration, so working with what had been done already was necessary in order to constrain costs.

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

I like traditional buildings, and the technical challenges that they present. The use of natural materials to enable buildings to breathe is my preferred methodology.

## What was your greatest influence on this project

I looked at a lot of church conversions in my initial research, two that I particularly liked and which



influenced my design were the Church of Psalms in Brisbane, converted by Willis Grenhalgh Architects; and a more local one, Church of Urquhart, near Elgin which is used as a bed and breakfast.

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

I would change the heating in the first floor, I specified radiators but on reflection I think underfloor would be a better option to ensure the comfort of guests. I would also look more carefully at how to ensure there is no water ingress at the quoins on the roof. I like the design though; I don't think I would like to change any of that.

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

We were encouraged to join CIAT as student members from the beginning of our course, so I was aware of it from that point, I registered as a Profile Candidate at the end of my third year after a friend asked me to help with a planning application.

**Do you plan on furthering your membership with CIAT and become a Chartered Member?**

Yes, I would very much like to progress to Chartered Membership.

**What made you want to become a Chartered Architectural Technologist?**

My ex-partner is a joiner, when we moved to the Highlands in 2004 we took on the renovation of two derelict croft houses. Our budget was very tight and as I could use a computer and had done technical drawing at school, I borrowed a copy of a drawing package (Microsoft Visio).

I then did the drawings for our listed building consent, planning permission and building warrant applications, with my ex-partner explaining what we were going to do.

I really enjoyed doing the drawings, in particular the technical parts of how you actually construct the building, and how to illustrate that, so I signed up to do a part time HNC in Architectural technology at the nearest college (Inverness), which led to me working towards a degree.

I like traditional buildings, and the technical challenges they present

**What are you doing now you have graduated from university?**

I work part time for a small architects practice, CH Architecture; and have a couple of small projects that I am working on myself as a profile candidate. I have also just completed my training as an On Construction Domestic Energy Assessor, and am waiting for my accreditation to be approved.

**Have you found a job in the industry?**

Yes, this grew from my doing a few hours work experience a week with a local practice during my final year at university.

**What are you working on at the moment?**

I am lucky that as the practice is small, I get to work on a lot of different projects, and get to use lots of the skills I learned during my studies. The live projects that I have been working on recently include: planning permission application for a rural house for a couple with a young family; listed building consent for alterations to a converted water mill and the construction of a small potter's studio in the garden; and a couple of office fit-outs in London.

I am also working on a building warrant application for the conversion of a small stone barn into a



**Kate's Highly Commended church conversion..**

library for a retired gentleman who lives close to me.

### **What are your other interests?**

Before I went back to studying I was working towards a 'Good Life' in my little croft house with my three children, I had a kitchen garden for fruit and veg, chickens for eggs and had been considering acquiring a pig.

The garden is looking rather neglected and the chickens now take free range to the extremes, the pig never materialised. I would very much like to use some of my now spare time to get the garden back under control.

I have also been a keen motorcyclist for over 20 years, this has been on the back-burner while studying due to financial constraints, it isn't possible to put three kids on the back of a motorbike, nor is it possible to run a car and a motorbike at the same time on a student loan.

Now that I am working, I plan to reinstate the bike, and spend some time touring the Highlands.

### **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

The last four years have been a lot of hard work much more than my first degree 20 years ago. I live 70 miles away from the university, and commuted each day I had classes, which entailed some fairly scary snowy journeys during the winter months.

I am a single parent, and have been for the duration of my studies. I started my HNC when my youngest daughter started nursery, and my son was working towards his standard grades. Finding childcare, parenting young children and supporting a teenager through exams at the same time as studying felt a bit like an endless battle at times. I attended the anniversary lunch to receive this award the day after I graduated, and the two events really underlined how worthwhile all of the hard work was.

# James O'Neill



**Name:** James O'Neill

**Age:** 24

**Educational Establishment:** Ulster University

**Programme:** BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology & Management

**Commended Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project)**

## How do you feel about being commended?

I feel honoured winning a prestigious award from a well renowned organisation, being chosen by professionals from the industry has been incredibly uplifting. Additionally, I'd partly felt relieved knowing that the hard work that I have put in the project has paid off!

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

The greatest challenge was ensuring that the building was realistically buildable, functional, and maintainable while being aesthetically pleasing. Creating a balance between those factors within the parameters of the client's brief was challenging.

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

Generally, I'm proud of my whole Harley-Davidson Centre but working on the details and visualisation allowed me to showcase my vision of the project. To see my creation evolve from scribbles and sketches to final design on paper, has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

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

Although there are other obvious examples such as the buildability, I believe other lesser mentioned considerations such as maintenance of a building is an important factor to be aware of especially when in the design phase. I believe there's a lack of proper maintenance plan that is not always considered enough for operators to safely work in the real working environment. Furthermore, looking for sustainable methods and opportunities to incorporate green technologies should always be imperative to reduce the carbon footprint of a project.

## Does your project have any trademark features and how is this reflected in the commended project?

One of the consistent features of my projects is the seamless integration of green technology and incorporation of passive solar and ventilation. These features heavily influence the aesthetics of



my projects heavily such as the Harley-Davidson Centre.

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

I do not particularly have one great influence, rather I have a smorgasbord of things that inspire me, images, drawings of rough sketches and scribbled down thoughts. I then create what I call an inspiration map, to collect my thoughts on paper in a linear manner. This process is entirely natural for me, and not only strictly tailored for my projects but my everyday life.

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

There will always be changes as perfection is unattainable, however it does not mean I will not strive towards it.

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

Yes, I have always been aware of CIAT in the industry, I believe that CIAT is the hallmark of professionalism in my field, to which I continually aspire to.

**Do you plan on furthering your membership with CIAT and become a Chartered Member?**

Yes, I believe furthering my membership will show my commitment to the industry.

**What made you want to become an Architectural Technologist?**

I found that Architectural Technology is a balance between the science and aesthetics of the study of buildings. It convinced me to pursue a career in that field of study.

**What are you doing now you have graduated from university?**

I work for WDR & RT Taggarts in Belfast, a large, multi-disciplinary practice involved in construction design and consultancy. I feel privileged to be working alongside part of the team that won the award for Best Architectural Design and Presentation (Best use of BIM for Design, Drama and Excitement) at Build Newcastle Live.

Architectural Technology is a balance between science and aesthetics

Below: inside the Harley Davidson Centre



### What are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working on several large commercial retail projects with a small team.

### What are your other interests?

I'm a copious book reader; as a mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge. I enjoy a lot of walking and hiking occasionally getting lost 'walking' into deep thoughts, I personally believe it allows one to solve problems creatively. Furthermore, I sketch and doodle to relax but also kayak, surf, body board and play hurling from time to time for a bit of a thrill. I'm currently in the process of building a computer as one of my side pet projects.

### Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to thank my lecturers David Comiskey, Gareth Alexander and Raymond Irvine for their infinite depth of wisdom in the past two years I have attended Ulster University. I also would like to thank all my lecturers from the Foundation Degree in Architectural Technology and Sustainable Design in South West College, Omagh.

I'm eternally grateful for all the support especially the Young Architectural Technologists Network (YATN) who provide a great job in providing the necessary support to students, past student alike but also future students in the years to come.



## Free Associate or profile subscription

Once you have finished your course and received confirmation of the result, you can continue with your membership of the institute by upgrading to either Associate (ACIAT) member or profile candidate.

To help in the difficult year after graduation, CIAT is offering your first year Associate or profile subscription for FREE. You only need to pay the £60 application fee. This could be a maximum saving of £185. If you are currently unemployed we will reduce this fee even further to £30. Completion of a concessionary application form and proof of unemployment is required. The promotional fee will pay your membership until 30 April 2016.

The onus is on you to upgrade your membership and the sooner you upgrade, the more you will benefit and save.

We do not want to lose touch with you, so if your personal, employment or course circumstances have changed or you have recently moved or about to change your address or contact details, then you should inform CIAT immediately so that you can still continue to receive information from us.

For an upgrade pack please contact [membership@ciat.org.uk](mailto:membership@ciat.org.uk) quoting reference STUP16. We look forward to you completing your course, gaining suitable employment and upgrading your membership and qualifying as a Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT, or a professionally qualified Architectural Technician, TCIAT, in due course.

A suite of films about the qualifying process can be viewed on our YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/ciatechnologist](http://www.youtube.com/ciatechnologist)