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CIAT60
60th Anniversary 1965-2025

2025

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

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Editor's welcome

Taking place on 26 September, the AT Awards 2025 celebrated the best very best of Architectural Technology as well as highlighting 60 years of CIAT – our diamond jubilee, so to speak. In this sense, the impressive work and careers on display in our nominees and our winners doubled up as a showcase of how far the discipline has come in just over half a century. Who knows what the next sixty years will bring for AT? One thing is for certain: with this level of talent and dedication on display, the future is looking bright.

This year, the AT Awards took place at the grand, regal One Marylebone, the first floor of a Grade I listed former Anglican church. Designed and built by Neo-Classical architect John Soane in 1828 and known as Holy Trinity Church, the venue has seen a lot of tenants throughout the years. From its use as Penguin Books' warehouse in the 1930s, to the location of the world's first wedding department store, to events like these that celebrate the best of a cutting edge, forward-thinking industry – it's been a versatile two hundred years for the venue!

Submissions to next year's AT Awards open in January, so jot it down in your diary for your chance to be celebrated for your excellent work. You can also nominate a fellow member or affiliate so get thinking about whether there's anyone you'd like to be honoured besides yourself or your company, too.

Speaking of such celebrations, there are still tickets available for this year's AGM on the weekend of the 21 November in Dublin. There, we will wrap things up in spectacular fashion with the event everyone has been waiting for: CIAT's 60th Anniversary Celebratory Gala. Get your tickets quick!

This issue also marks another anniversary: the first anniversary of CIAT's Policy and External Affairs Team. It was in the autumn issue last year that we introduced them to you, our wonderful members, and what a year it's been. To celebrate, we're giving Jack from the team his very own spot in the editor's welcome to update you on the work the team has been up to and all the policy updates you need to know to be in the know.

Hope you enjoy this issue; it beats out last year's AT Awards special to take the crown as our largest ever!

Tim Fraser
Co-Editor



ATJ Policy & External Affairs Update – autumn 2025

This edition of the *AT Journal* is rightly celebrating the great work of the membership. But CIAT's work to influence government continues. Here are some of the headlines from recent months.

In June, the Government announced that the **Building Safety Regulator** for England and Wales will be moving from the Health and Safety Executive, to an independent body under the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, as part of wider reforms. A "fast-track" process for new build applications is being established, and more staff hired to tackle ongoing delays to Gateway 2 approvals. Government is also progressing its **review of the Approved Documents** for England, with Dan Rossiter FCIAT, Vice-President Technical, appointed to sit the review guidance panel.

In Scotland, CIAT is closely involved in the ongoing development of the new **Compliance Plan Manager role**, while in the Republic of Ireland, CIAT continues to advocate for government to adopt the Architectural Technologists' Register, enabling registrants to provide Design and Assigned Certifier services under the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

The Westminster Government remains committed to **delivering 1.5 million homes** this parliament, with the Planning and Infrastructure Bill moving through parliament. CIAT wants to ensure that a focus on housing quantity does not mean lower quality standards. The Institute is backing a RIBA amendment to the Bill, which would require that new Spatial Development Strategies include a design vision. CIAT has also called for the urgent implementation of the **Future Homes Standard**, to ensure new homes can achieve net zero operational emissions.

By the time you read this Journal, political party conference season will be in full swing. CIAT will be attending conferences to promote the profession and our priorities for the built environment, and to strengthen our network of supporters. With a bit of luck, we will also get to meet the appointed Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Steve Reed MP.

Jack Fleming,
Policy & Public Affairs Executive
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Certificates of Accreditation 2025

CIAT is delighted to report on this year's successfully Accredited programmes.

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 establishment has attained programme

Accreditation for the first time:

- London Metropolitan University
BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology



The following educational establishments have attained Full Accreditation:

- Atlantic Technological University
(Donegal Letterkenny)
BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology
- Middlesex University
BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology



The following educational establishments have attained programme re-Accreditation:

- University of Salford
BSc (Hons) Architectural Design and Technology
- South East Technological University (Carlow)
BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology



The following educational establishment has attained programme re-Approval:

- South East Technological University (Waterford)
BSc Architectural Technology

2025


Winner
2025

SMALL PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

ZED
PODS

Fortis House by ZED PODS

Words by ZED PODS

Fortis House is the UK's first fully net-zero operational, volumetric modular social housing scheme, developed by ZED PODS in partnership with Ashford Borough Council (ABC). Built above an underutilised car park in an active Flood Zone 3A, the 23-unit development demonstrates how offsite manufacturing, digital construction, and architectural design can combine to transform otherwise undevelopable brownfield land into a sustainable, zero carbon, urban inclusion high-quality housing.

Responding to complex site constraints, ZED PODS delivered a design-led solution rooted in precision and resilience. Homes were elevated 2.4 meters on a steel podium, mitigating flood risk and integrating SUDS features. A grid-based, parametric layout enabled design adaptability while maintaining repeatable construction elements.

The homes exceed Future Homes Standards, with SAP scores above 100 A, MVHR Integrated air source heat pumps, rooftop solar panels, and min 5kW battery storage in each dwelling—qualifying for Octopus Energy's "Zero Bills" programme as one of the first

project capable to offer 10 years zero bills guarantee.

Beyond environmental excellence, the project exemplifies social value delivery. All homes are built offsite by day release prisons under the Prisoners Building Homes (PBH) programme, providing NVQ level 1-4 training to 14 day-release prisoners—achieving a 0% reoffending rate—and upskilled 36 local SMEs in BIM and MMC.

Construction was completed in just 13 months—twice as fast as conventional builds—thanks to 85% PMV and concurrent offsite and onsite workflows. Scheduled module drops reduced vehicle traffic by up to



75%, minimising disruption near the adjacent fire station. The aesthetic design challenged modular stereotypes, incorporating cantilevered balconies, rainscreen cladding, recessed glazing, and vibrant façades to create contextual, character-rich architecture.

Client satisfaction is evident: all units were occupied within two weeks of handover, and professionals scored it 9/10 on design quality. As Cllr Noel Ovenden remarked, “This is a beacon of hope and progress for our borough.”

Through cutting-edge MMC, digital precision, and a fabric-first approach, Fortis House redefines the possibilities of modular housing. It sets a replicable benchmark for sustainable, affordable, and dignified living, already being adopted for 11 further projects. Fortis House proves that design excellence, environmental responsibility, and social impact can coexist in a single, scalable solution.

Collaboration

Fortis House exemplifies the power of collaboration, from concept through to completion, in delivering an architecturally led, technologically advanced and socially impactful housing scheme. As the UK’s first net-zero (operational) volumetric social housing project, it was born from a shared ambition between Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and ZED PODS to address urgent housing needs, transform an undevelopable brownfield car park in Flood Zone 3A, and pioneer sustainable modular delivery.

Digital

Fortis House stands as the UK’s first fully BIM-integrated, net-zero (operational) modular housing scheme for the social rented sector — an architectural and technological milestone. Delivered by ZED PODS in collaboration with Ashford Borough Council, the project redefines how digital technology can drive function, performance, and delivery excellence on highly constrained brownfield sites.

The project demonstrates the power of digital innovation in Architectural Technology to deliver high-performance, climate-resilient homes on complex urban sites. All 23 homes were occupied within two weeks, with post-occupancy analysis confirming ultra-low running costs. A fully coordinated BIM model was central to the process, driving precision in design, offsite manufacturing, and on-site assembly. The model was integrated into the council’s Springboard portal, providing real-time access for maintenance and asset management teams. This established a clear golden thread of information, ensuring long-term safety, efficiency, and accountability—setting a new benchmark for future-ready, digitally enabled social housing.

Safety

Fortis House exemplifies how precision-engineered architecture can embed safety, inclusivity, and performance at every stage of delivery. Achieving

Secured by Design Gold Standard, the project was conceived not just as a housing solution but as a secure, robust, and socially inclusive environment, carefully integrated into its urban context.

Sustainability

The building stands as a national exemplar of climate-resilient, net-zero social housing. As the UK’s first volumetric modular social-rented development to surpass the Future Homes Standard, it pioneers sustainable architecture in the social sector. Drawing on comprehensive in-house life-cycle assessments, manufacturing Environmental Product Declarations, and ICE V3 analysis, the project integrates a fabric-first passive design with precision engineering, maximises use of low-embodied-carbon materials, and implements advanced renewable energy systems. Rigorous quality control and social value commitments ensure high performance. The scheme exceeds LETI 2030 targets, achieving an A++ WLCA rating of just 115 kg CO₂e/m² (Including 60 years carbon savings under B6 Operation Energy).

Summary

Fortis House redefines what’s possible on constrained brownfield land. Built in Flood Zone 3A, the project transforms an underused car park into high-quality, net-zero social housing, and “Zero Bills” eligibility. Our design-led MMC approach overcame complex challenges such as contamination, archaeology, and nutrient neutrality, turning barriers into innovation.

We challenged modular stereotypes through expressive, context-responsive architecture—featuring bold façades, triple glazing, and dual-aspect layouts on a resilient steel podium. Built with >85% PMV and ISO 19650-compliant BIM, Fortis House sets a benchmark in build quality, safety, and digital asset management.

Social value was embedded from day one—training 14 day-release prisoners (0% reoffending), upskilling 36 local SMEs, and delivering long-term community benefit. Already adopted across 11 future sites, Fortis House is a replicable, scalable, and future-proof model—proving that small projects can deliver exceptional environmental, social, and architectural impact.

Judges’ comments

A landmark net-zero modular project combining sustainability, social value, and digital innovation, Fortis House is technically advanced, socially conscious, and highly replicable. It delivers net-zero social housing on a flood-prone brownfield site, overcoming environmental and technical barriers through design-led MMC innovation. The scheme sets new standards in modular architecture, build quality, and community value, including prisoner rehabilitation and SME engagement. Its replicability affirms its relevance as a future-proof benchmark in sustainable development. ■

Client satisfaction is evident: all units were occupied within two weeks of handover, and professionals scored it 9/10 on design quality.



Finalist
2025

SMALL PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

newspace
ARCHITECTURE



The Nab by New Space Architecture

Words by New Space Architecture

The Nab is a replacement dwelling located on the waterfront in Topsham, Devon, designed for clients Gareth and Kirsty Helm as their future home in retirement. With grown children and plans to travel, the brief was to create a high-quality, low-maintenance, lock-up-and-leave home; private yet welcoming for returning family.

The project began in late 2018 under 16A Architecture, a CIAT Chartered Practice consisting at the time of two team members: Vaughn Allington MCIAT and Jacob Handford MCIAT. Zac May (CIAT student member) joined in 2020, creating a core team of three. In October 2023, mid-construction, 16A Architecture was acquired by New Space Architecture, and the practice now trades under this name.

The site and project posed significant technical, environmental, and logistical challenges. The plot previously housed a 1960s bungalow but was historically part of Topsham's active wharf network. It lies within a conservation area, immediately adjacent to two Grade II listed buildings and has a listed boundary wall. To the west, the boundary meets the River Exe, a designated SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), SPA (Special Protection Area), and Ramsar site.

Environmental constraints were particularly demanding. The site is within Flood Zone 3 and subject to fluvial and surface water flood risk. Its estuarine edge brings severe exposure and marine environmental considerations. Ground conditions consist of made-up land, and the narrow historic narrow streets of Topsham and shared access drive presented complex buildability challenges.

Although the site appears generous in size, it is constrained by access rights, view protection covenants, and sensitive neighbour relationships; particularly regarding daylight and estuary views for

residents of the adjacent Halyards development. These constraints required diligent site analysis, neighbour engagement, and careful spatial planning.

The architectural response was grounded in context. Taking inspiration from Topsham's historic wharfside buildings, the design features a contemporary interpretation of linear, working waterfront forms. Clean, minimal elevations emphasise simplicity, requiring precision in material selection and detailing—particularly in cladding, brickwork, and junctions.

Planning presented further complexity: flood mitigation strategies, conservation sensitivities, ecological impact, and extensive consultation with local stakeholders all demanded a robust, evidence-led approach. The process was further impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed decision-making. Full planning permission was granted in July 2021. However, construction was delayed until December 2022 due to volatile post-pandemic material and labour costs. This period was used productively to resolve technical design in full and discharge all planning conditions.

Spanning nearly five years from inception to completion, The Nab is a technically rich, site-responsive, and architecturally refined project that embodies the core principles of Architectural Technology, combining performance, precision, and contextual sensitivity at a modest domestic scale.

The Nab showcases Architectural Technology at its best: innovative, precise, and contextually sensitive. Situated on Topsham's challenging waterfront, the site required solutions to flood risk, exposure, and conservation constraints; all resolved by a small team of Chartered Architectural Technologists.

Designed and delivered by 16A Architecture (now part of New Space Architecture), the project combined technical rigour with clean, modern aesthetics. The minimal elevations and exposed nature of the site demanded flawless execution and exacting detailing; all solved through a robust and collaborative technical process.

Assisted by various consultants, our team led every stage from feasibility and planning to technical design and contract administration, demonstrating the value of technologists in delivering high-quality architecture.

With design integrity preserved throughout, The Nab is not only a functional, low-maintenance home for our clients, but a testament to how technology-driven design can meet real-world challenges and still deliver beauty, performance, and lasting value. ■



Finalist
2025SMALL PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

DL DesignStudio



Cantine Dell'Angelo and Bar Gigi by DL Design Studio

Words by DL Design Studio

Cantine Dell'Angelo and Bar Gigi is a striking example of how Architectural Technology can breathe life back into underused historic spaces, even on a modest budget. The project transformed a Grade II listed building in Nottingham city centre, including a disused first floor and a completely inaccessible medieval cave network, into two atmospheric hospitality venues that now operate alongside the client's existing retail space.

At its core, this project exemplifies the Small Project of the Year category by delivering technical excellence at a modest scale. Every stage of the process, from initial concept to final fit-out, demanded precision, creativity, and a practical approach. The result is an inspiring demonstration of what can be achieved when strong vision meets the intelligent application of Architectural Technology.

The building is part of Flying Horse Walk, a historic shopping arcade in the heart of Nottingham. Beneath it lies part of the city's extensive cave network, carved into sandstone and dating back to medieval times. Nottingham has over 500 known man-made caves, and this network has been used variously as storage, workshops, and even wartime shelters. In this case, the caves had been filled with rubble and debris for decades, effectively sealing them off from public access.

Above ground, the first floor had been unused for years, with architectural details hidden behind false walls and storage fixtures. The client, Angelo Trivigno, owner of high-end fashion retailer Gigi Bottega, envisioned not just opening these spaces, but transforming them into venues that could complement and enhance the existing retail business. His idea was to create a self-supporting commercial environment in which each element could operate independently, yet all would benefit from their proximity and shared character.

The project's success relied on the careful and

intelligent application of Architectural Technology to overcome the site's physical, environmental, and regulatory challenges.

Physical constraints were extreme. With no mechanical access to the caves, over 220 tonnes of rubble were excavated entirely by hand, bagged, and manually removed. The process required meticulous planning to maintain structural integrity and ensure the safety of those working in confined underground spaces.

Phased construction allowed the project to progress in manageable sections, with regular monitoring to assess the impact of excavation on the surrounding structure. This approach minimised disruption to the client's retail operations on the ground floor.

One of the most innovative aspects of the project was the adaptation of the original barrel-drop hatch in the shop floor. Historically used to deliver goods to the basement, it was re-engineered to serve as a compliant secondary means of escape from the caves directly to the street. This solution satisfied fire safety requirements while preserving an authentic architectural feature, seamlessly integrated from the caves to street level.

The caves naturally maintain a stable temperature of 15–16°C, making them ideal for wine storage in their new function as Cantine Dell'Angelo. During early use, condensation developed caused by temperature differentials between the warm external air with the cooler cave atmosphere. The design team implemented temporary mechanical ventilation and dehumidification to stabilise the environment, after which it returned to passive stability without further intervention.

Heritage conservation played a key role in the project. Many original features were revealed and restored, including timber beams, fireplaces, and stone detailing. Where new materials were introduced, they were selected for durability, compatibility with the historic context, and low maintenance requirements, ensuring the finished spaces could withstand high public use without compromising authenticity.

While modest in budget, the project also made effective use of digital tools. English Heritage carried out multiple 3D scans of the cave network, providing highly accurate spatial data. This was invaluable in visualising constraints, understanding the relationship between the caves and the building above, and guiding fire strategy planning. The scans were added to the National Heritage Record, contributing to wider knowledge of Nottingham's subterranean architecture.

Sustainability was embedded in the approach. The decision to repurpose existing spaces avoided the carbon cost of demolition or heavy construction. Passive environmental control in the caves eliminates the need for mechanical systems, reducing operational energy use.

Cantine Dell'Angelo and Bar Gigi stands out as it shows that small projects can deliver big results when Architectural Technology is applied with creativity, discipline, and respect for heritage. ■

Finalist
2025

SMALL PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

Glen Smith Partnership Ltd

ARCHITECTURE | ENGINEERING | PLANNING | DEVELOPMENT



Oakenway by The Glen Smith Partnership

Words by The Glen Smith Partnership

The Glen Smith Partnership were approached to design a bespoke property, known as Oakenway, within the heart of the former Royal National Forest of Cannock Chase. The brief was for the replacement of an existing mid-20th Century bungalow, with that of an innovative contemporary design, that would add too, rather than detract from, its natural surroundings.

The existing property sat within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Green Belt & Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with the site and surrounding woodlands protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

In order to protect the openness of the Green Belt, and after consultation with the client, it was agreed that a predominately glazed skeletal two-storey detached dwelling would be appropriate for the site.

The dog-leg footprint design was heavily influenced by the Client's ownership of additional forest woodlands, offset towards the northeast of the site, with primary outward aspects towards the north and northwest.

The concept was also a modern contemporary design, mirroring the surrounding landscape, which would work sympathetically with the site. By incorporating large surface areas of glazing into the design it would meet the AONB's very special circumstances for development. The proposed development is compact and skeletal in design, much reducing the impact of the urban sprawl of the pre-existing dwelling and outbuildings across the site. In essence, the glazing would reflect and capture the landscape of the surrounding forest woodland and landscaping, creating privacy and a sense of harmony with its natural surroundings.

As the site sits within a Site of Special Scientific Interest and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the

biggest barrier to the project was obtaining planning permission to develop a site located within such a biodiverse area. With the support of proactive Planning and Conservation Officers, and collaboration and cooperation with other relevant bodies and authorities, planning permission was granted.

The property is a two-story building, of around 415 square meters (4456 square feet), as measured internally. It also includes the adaptability to become a three-story property, utilising the loft space as a third floor, subject to further planning consent, without compromising the outward appearance of the property. The structural aspect of the design was intentionally designed with further adaptation in mind.

The project was a self-build and so Community Infrastructure Levy Exemption was obtained, providing a significant reduction in the overall project development costs.

Although the COVID pandemic had an impact on works, working with local trades people and sourcing materials largely within the UK meant, the project was able to proceed on a steady timeframe and budget.

Oakenway highlights how biophilic design can have innovative aesthetic, functional appeal and a positive and sympathetic impact on the surrounding landscape.

The site sits within the UK's smallest mainland AONB and the original dwelling that sat within this location was not in keeping with its surroundings.

Through collaboration and cooperation with the local planning authority, conservation team, National Landscapes, Forestry England, Parish council, neighbours and other authorities we were able to meet the client's needs whilst being sympathetic to biodiverse surroundings.

The client is absolutely delighted with the end product, affirmed by way of a personal invite to, and our attendance at, the client's wedding reception and New Years celebrations last year, both held at the property, and a further commission to design a similar property for the client's son. ■



Finalist
2025SMALL PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

Rose Villas Project by Ikonografik Design

Words by Ikonografik Design

The Rose Villas Project revitalised a neglected Victorian house in a Sheffield conservation area, transforming it into a functional and cherished family home. The client's brief focused on open plan living, improved energy efficiency, and a house extension to provide extra facilities. A crucial aspect of the brief was making the home more accessible for older, less mobile family members who visited frequently. The project also aimed to introduce more natural light into a previously dark area of the house.

The project was delivered in two phases to minimise disruption. Phase 1 was a partial retrofit of the existing solid-walled house, while Phase 2 was a side extension built using modern construction methods with a traditional appearance.

The design approach for the Sale Hill project was to complement the existing architectural style while integrating modern construction techniques and using high-quality, natural, bio-based materials where possible. The clients wanted a sympathetic design that matched the original building, not a modern, contemporary style. A key feature of the upgrade was a side extension that added new rooms like an accessible shower room, a utility room, and a porch. The rear rooms of the original house were reconfigured into a large, open-plan kitchen and living space.

The project encountered several technical challenges, including insulating the solid-walled house, building over a live public sewer, and complying with the Party Wall Act. Despite these obstacles, the project was successfully delivered. The design had to accommodate specific room layouts, which required complex structural solutions. For instance, the side extension used piled foundations to bridge over a deep sewer. The roof of the side extension was designed to move loads to the long side wall, reducing the weight on the sewer below. A 'goalpost' steel frame was used to support the loads

above the new 3-metre-wide French doors.

Collaboration was a key part of the project, especially during the initial design phase in 2020 when COVID-19 restrictions were in place. Since face-to-face meetings weren't always possible, remote technology was used for viewing 3D models and completing design reviews. This ensured the design process progressed on time.

The project also demonstrated effective problem-solving and communication. For example, when the piling sub-contractor tried to change their agreement terms two weeks before work was scheduled, a replacement piling sub-contractor was sourced at short notice. The Principal Contractor was also collaborative, and minor design modifications were agreed upon to simplify construction without compromising performance. The project's case study was published on the Detail Library website to support the discipline of Architectural Technology.

Safety and inclusivity were prioritised throughout the project. Instead of deep trench foundations for the side extension, which would have required 3-metre-deep excavations, piled foundations were chosen. This design change reduced health and safety risks, as well as cost and time.

Accessibility was a key focus, and features included a chairlift, flush door thresholds, and an accessible shower room. Plywood sheathing was built into internal partitions to allow for the future addition of grab rails without further disruption, ensuring the partitions were suitably strong and future-proofed.

The team also carefully managed the risk of unintended consequences, such as interstitial condensation, within the internal wall insulation retrofit. Condensation risk analysis showed that the originally specified thicker insulation would likely cause too much interstitial condensation. The insulation thickness was reluctantly reduced to eliminate this risk, resulting in a revised wall U-value of $0.50 \text{ W / m}^2\text{K}$. This was a conscious decision, as the consequences of condensation far outweighed the perceived energy savings from thicker insulation.

During the limecrete slab installation in the existing building, to ensure the existing walls weren't undermined by the excavations, trial holes were excavated at each corner of the space to check and ensure there was enough wall depth for the limecrete slab buildup. Luckily, the existing walls went deep enough into the ground to make the limecrete slab installation a success.

For the side extension, the proposed glazing exceeded 25% of the floor area, so an Area Weighted U-Value calculator was used. To compensate, the U-values of the ground floor and roof were improved. Initially, a suspended timber floor was chosen for its low embodied energy, but clients opted for a pre-cast concrete beam and block system called Tetris, for its robustness. This system uses high-strength solid insulation blocks, enabling it to easily achieve the required improved U-value. The new limecrete floor slab in the existing retrofit part was also thickened up to compensate for the higher wall U-value. ■

HIGH LOW

**THERMAL
PERFORMANCE**

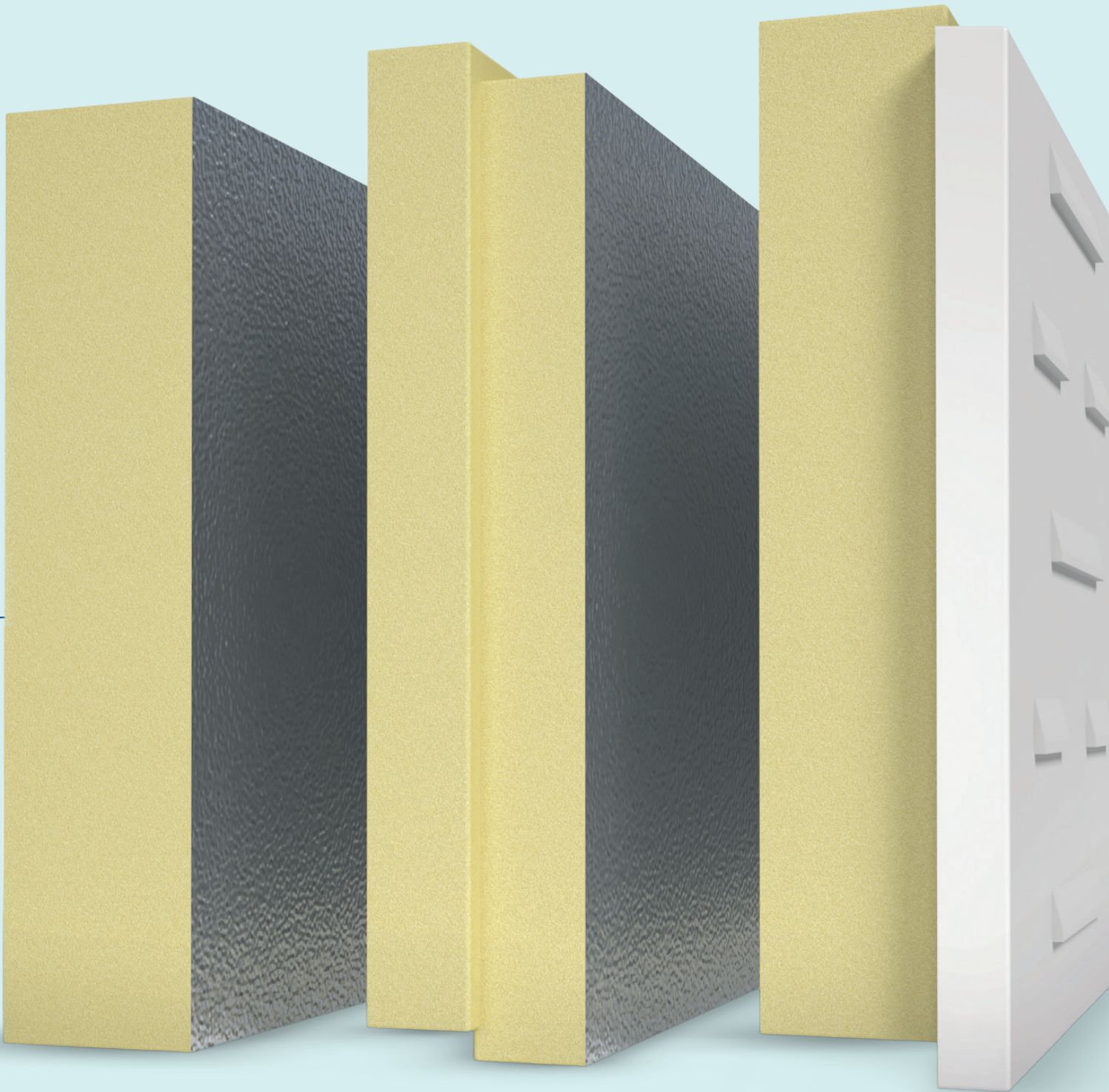
**EMBODIED
CARBON**

AVAILABLE FOR WALLS, FLOORS & ROOFS

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Winner
2025

NEW BUILD
OF THE YEAR

BSBG

The Silk District Phase 2 by BSBG

Words by BSBG

Located in the heart of Whitechapel, East London, The Silk District Phase 2 represents a pivotal chapter in the evolution of the historic district and is a benchmark in Architectural Technology and urban regeneration. Developed by Mount Anvil, this residential-led, mixed-use development blends architectural innovation, technical rigour, and social purpose into a striking urban intervention that meets the demands of contemporary city living. BSBG served as Lead Consultant and Executive Architect, and provided full Construction Supervision services, having been engaged from RIBA Stage 3 through to project completion.

Comprising a 25-storey residential tower and two accompanying low-rise blocks, the development contributes 262 high-spec apartments – ranging from studios to three-bedroom homes – across a mix of private and affordable tenures. At its core, The Silk District Phase 2 is not just about housing, it's about

cultivating an inclusive, community-oriented lifestyle with longevity, sustainability, and quality as guiding principles.

From its inception, Architectural Technology was embedded into the project's DNA, not simply as a technical exercise but as a driver of decision-making,

coordination, and innovation. BSBG's involvement at Stage 3 included the production of all technical drawings and construction documentation, facilitating the integrity and clarity required to deliver a project of this complexity and scale.

A defining characteristic of this project was its commitment to digital collaboration and precise construction sequencing. The use of these methodologies was vital, particularly given the global context in which the project was delivered. BIM 360 was used to connect all stakeholders, from London-based contractors to Dubai-based consultants, within a shared digital environment. This platform ensured consistency across documentation, version control, and model coordination, proving invaluable during lockdowns and travel restrictions.

But perhaps the most groundbreaking contribution to the project's technological narrative was the implementation of BSBG's 4D Sequencing methodology.

Traditionally, BIM's fourth dimension – time – is used at a macro level to indicate site logistics or project timelines. BSBG advanced this concept by applying time-based modelling to construction detailing itself. This innovative approach transformed static 2D drawings into fully sequenced 3D assemblies, simulating the precise, step-by-step build-up of individual components.

This process began with standard 2D details, which were then translated into highly detailed 3D BIM families. Each layer – whether structural, thermal, waterproofing, or finish – was virtually assembled, validated, and documented. The sequence was then visually displaced to create a step-by-step breakdown of the full build-up, allowing contractors to understand not only what to build, but exactly how and when to build it.

The benefit of this approach lies in its clarity. The sequencing allowed for early validation of construction methods, eliminating ambiguity and reducing the risk of on-site improvisation or misinterpretation. This also ensured the protection of design integrity and reduced the potential for errors in multi-trade interfaces.

Unlike traditional detailing or isolated trade sequencing, BSBG's 4D models were developed to the highest level of development, combining multiple trade elements into a singular, coordinated system. The approach acted as a single source of truth for the entire supply chain, enhancing buildability, improving communication, and significantly de-risking the construction process.

The Silk District Phase 2 has been designed not just for now, but for the future-placing emphasis on robustness, safety and occupant wellbeing. The development adheres to the latest British Standards in fire safety and structural integrity, utilising reinforced concrete cores, advanced façade systems, and best-in-class insulation. The project's curtain walling, which spans full height on the tower, not only maximises natural light but is designed for thermal efficiency, security, and fire protection.

Inclusive design principles guided the layout and public realm strategy, featuring step-free access throughout, neurodiversity-sensitive spaces, tactile surface treatments, and well-lit communal areas with carefully balanced surveillance. High-performance glazing also supports both acoustic comfort and psychological security.

The development integrates smart safety features, including interconnected smoke and CO detectors,

secure access control systems, and energy-efficient ventilation systems – all connected to a centralised BMS (Building Management System) that operates 24/7.

Each building within the development features rooftop solar panels, providing clean, renewable energy that reduces grid dependency, while green roofs help lower internal temperatures, reduce stormwater runoff, and promote biodiversity by providing habitats for birds and insects. Speaking of birds and insects, the landscaping strategy includes diverse planting and feeders to support a variety of species, promoting ecological continuity in an urban setting.

Architecturally, the buildings offer a contemporary interpretation of East London's industrial heritage, utilising modern materials in a bold yet sensitive composition. The massing of the low-rise blocks complements the human scale of the surrounding neighbourhood, while the tower acts as a vertical counterpoint, offering city views and daylight access across all levels.

The success of BSBG's documentation and digital delivery standards has led Mount Anvil to formally adopt these protocols as part of their Employer Requirements, setting a new benchmark for future projects. The project not only remained on track and on budget during the most disruptive phases of the pandemic, but also exceeded client expectations in terms of coordination, construction quality, and long-term adaptability.

Today, The Silk District Phase 2 stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when Architectural Technology is used not just to design buildings, but to define how they're made, how they're experienced, and how they stand the test of time.

Judges' comments

This submission showcases technical excellence through BSBG's pioneering 4D Sequencing Initiative, which brought unmatched clarity to contractors and stakeholders. Despite unprecedented pandemic challenges, the team delivered high-quality documentation and used cutting-edge BIM processes to keep the project on track and on budget. The resulting standard has influenced Mount Anvil's future tendering requirements, setting a new industry benchmark. The development's successful reception by both client and residents reinforces its impact. Large-scale housing done with care and precision. ■



Finalist
2025

NEW BUILD
OF THE YEAR



Eclipse Leisure Centre by GT3 Architects

Words by GT3 Architects

One of only four completed Passivhaus leisure centres in the world, and the largest globally in both scale and diversity of facilities, Eclipse Leisure Centre stands as a landmark achievement in sustainable public architecture.

Designed by AJ100 practice GT3 Architects, the £50M centre has raised the bar for low-carbon sport and leisure facilities, blending a people architecture approach with industry-leading Passivhaus design techniques. Hailed as a global blueprint for sustainable leisure, this approach has delivered substantial operational savings, offering an exciting community destination safeguarded from energy price volatility, environmental uncertainty and evolving social trends.

With ambitions to create an exciting new leisure destination flexible enough to meet the evolving and varied needs of the growing community, Spelthorne Borough Council first approached GT3 in 2017. Extensive community consultation followed, including physical workshops, engagement sessions and online and doorstep surveys to ensure the design suited all stakeholders.

Mark Gowdridge, director at GT3 Architects, said, “Any good design starts with active consultation. One of the great successes – before Passivhaus was even mentioned – was prioritising hard-to-reach groups in the community. Understanding why typically underserved groups struggle to use and enjoy traditional leisure facilities led to key design choices, including stronger park connections, accessibility and inclusivity that goes far beyond standard building regulations and environmental concerns across the interior.”

The result is a state-of-the-art facility featuring an eight-lane swimming pool with a 250-seat spectator gallery, and a dedicated learner pool with full-width self-depositing steps, a children’s splash zone, steam

room and sauna. Fitness enthusiasts benefit from a new 200-station gym, three studio spaces, including a spin studio, and two physiotherapy consulting rooms.

Elsewhere, Eclipse offers a six-court sports hall with seating for 200, three adaptable squash courts, a Clip’n’Climb interactive climbing wall, a 100-cover café and soft play areas for community use. Smart spatial planning maximises every level of the site, including four rooftop artificial pitches and dedicated rooftop community gardens.

The design concept draws on local form, colour, structure, and materiality. A stacked layout was adopted to make full use of the 9,000 square metres available, with an integrated interior design strategy ensuring visual consistency throughout. The building envelope features a thoughtful mix of brick, glazing, timber louvres, and metallic façades, while windows are detailed with encased glazing and timber louvres for both function and aesthetic appeal.

Inclusive design elements such as Makaton signage and movable studio walls enhance accessibility, and LED-lit sports courts improve visibility for individuals with visual impairments by clearly highlighting court lines.

Following Spelthorne Borough Council’s 2020 climate emergency declaration, the project brief was boldly redefined to prioritise carbon reduction and long-term climate resilience. After extensive consultation, the council committed to the rigorous Passivhaus standard; widely regarded as the global gold standard benchmark for ultra-low energy construction.

The project’s success centred on the application of Architectural Technology as a core discipline from the outset. Josh Wardle, building biologist, senior architectural technologist and certified Passivhaus specialist at GT3 Architects, said, “We took an extremely detailed approach to make sure we met the high standards required for Passivhaus certification, with more than 500 drawings created and very controlled standards in place.

“Mapping complex technical requirements to such a mixed wet and dry leisure typology was an exciting challenge, and one that pushed us to look at new and better design techniques and approaches. These techniques are now being applied to leisure facilities across the UK – not just those looking to achieve certification. One of the most enjoyable areas was understanding how the technical decisions and learnings needed for Passivhaus could also support the social ambitions and ‘people architecture’ themes agreed at the project’s outset.

“By optimising orientation, glazing ratios, internal thermal zoning and incorporating low-energy systems along with heat recovery processes to transfer energy between zones, the design achieved operational energy savings of up to 60% compared to traditional approaches.” ■

Finalist
2025NEW BUILD
OF THE YEARARCADY
ARCHITECTS

Honeycroft, Lawford by Arcady Architects

Words by Arcady Architects

The Honeycroft development stands as a prime example of excellence in modern construction, seamlessly integrating innovative building techniques, sustainable design, with a strong focus on community well-being. We collaborated with Tendring District Council and Rose Builders, to successfully transform a former brownfield site into senior living homes. Designed to address local housing needs while enhancing the quality of life for elderly residents, Honeycroft represents a forward-thinking approach to housing development.

The scheme provides thirteen bungalows and an onsite community facility which is a social hub for new and existing residents. The hub is specifically designed to be flexible with use, whether it is a doctor/nurse drop-in centre, fitness class, or social event.

The design brief was to implement modern and sustainable construction techniques to improve energy efficiency, reduce operational costs and wastage, and maintain affordable rent levels for tenants. The project focuses on using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) including advanced methods such as Structural Insulated Panels (SIP), pre-insulated concrete floor planks, and air source heat pumps, all integrated within a cost-effective framework to meet the tight budget constraints set by the Council. Our task was to research MMC and educate stakeholders about these non-traditional methods to encourage adoption and replicability across future sites.

The architectural language was developed to integrate with the traditional architecture that characterises the areas in and around Lawford. It incorporated MMC to ensure a functioning building that met the design brief and to create a built form that embraced energy efficiencies.

Our initial conversations with Tendring District Council and Rose Builders evolved from the design brief

to considering alternative options within the remit of MMC, which covers a range of onsite and offsite building techniques that provide alternatives to traditional methods and has the potential to deliver significant improvements in productivity, efficiency, and quality.

Collaboration between the design team members was essential to maximise the benefits of the MMC components and to reduce the build time. An effective relationship between the architect and SIP manufacturer ensured the factory-built buildings were constructed to a maximum 10mm tolerance over the entire site. At all times consideration had to include photovoltaic and air source technologies, Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery (MVHR) and construction detailing such as party wall, fireproofing, air tightness and thermal junctions.

Key to the design was incorporating technology into the building fabric seamlessly, thereby avoiding conflict with the appearance of the buildings and their functionality for the residents.

Timber was considered the best option for cladding because it had the potential to be factory cut and has significantly improved environmental credentials when compared with the manufacturing process for bricks. Timber cladding requires specific design detailing to ensure robust, thermal, and fireproof external skin, so we arranged design meetings with the SIP specialist to ensure compatibility.

The development serves as a model for integrating modern construction methods with a deep commitment to social responsibility. By focusing on sustainable building practices and prioritising the well-being of residents, we have created a development that addresses housing needs and enhances the quality of life for the elderly community in Lawford. This design approach ensures that residents can continue living in their community as their physical needs evolve, by promoting independence, quality of life and helping to combat fuel poverty.

For our practice, the legacy of the Honeycroft development is our increased knowledge of alternative methods of construction and how they can be successfully adopted into practice. We have since promoted this knowledge, using Honeycroft as a successful case study, to other clients with the aim of making a sustainable future. ■



Finalist
2025

NEW BUILD
OF THE YEAR



Norwich City Football Club Recovery Hub by LSI Architects

Words by LSI Architects

The Recovery Hub at Norwich City Football Club's Avant Training Centre was a project that demanded meticulous design and execution. Every detail was carefully considered to deliver a world-class hydrotherapy facility that overcame the complex technical challenges associated with hydrotherapy design through exceptional skill and innovation.

The Avant Training Centre has undergone substantial development since 2018. Located on the outskirts of Norwich, the complex has seen the addition of a new Academy building, a First Team Gym and a new building to house the club's SoccerBot 360 system, as well as upgrades to the existing buildings and infrastructure. The Recovery Hub was the next step in the development of the campus masterplan, a facility specifically designed to support elite level player recovery through hydrotherapy, aiming to significantly reduce the number of player injuries.

The two-lane, 15-metre length swimming pool provides space for general aqua therapy, with the inclusion of a movable floor to provide flexibility for the use of the pool. The hot and cold baths assist in recovery by reducing fatigue. The Hydroworx pool, with an underwater treadmill, resistance jet technology, and computer and camera systems, satisfy the varied demands of physical rehabilitation.

This biophilic approach to design has been followed throughout the building, adopting the architectural language established in earlier phases of the campus development. This continuity not only strengthens the overall design identity but also enhances the experience for building users. Materiality has played a central role in this approach, with a warm and natural palette led by the extensive use of timber, from the glulam structural frame

down to the refined oak joinery details.

The installation of a false timber slatted ceiling between the main beams discreetly conceals power and data wiring. Bespoke joinery houses controls and screens connected to the underwater cameras and their associated wiring. Similarly, bespoke framework was created to provide a 'media wall' visible from all pools in the Hall. This attention to detail and commitment to achieving the right internal environment throughout has culminated in the creation of clean, calm space free from any visual distractions to allow athletes and coaches to focus entirely on performance and recovery.

Through a positive and collaborative approach, the team overcame the challenge of operating on a live campus site where the Club's operations were continuing to take place on a daily basis. Constant dialogue and teamwork successfully managed the impact of construction work on any coaching happening on the site.

It became clear during the early design stages in collaboration with Pool Specialists and MEP Engineers that the extensive servicing requirement meant that the building would require a large footprint to accommodate the necessary plant equipment. The introduction of a deep basement and positioning the majority of this equipment below ground meant that the building footprint could be significantly reduced, limiting the impact on valuable campus space.

The façade is proportionally divided using a vertical split of 2:5 below and 3:5 above, a strategic sectioning that reduces the perceived mass of the pool hall whilst maintaining coherence in form. Deliberate breaks in the cladding introduce strong vertical lines across both structures, referencing the existing visual theme of neighbouring buildings. Curtain walling across the pool hall floods the space with natural light, enhancing the internal environment while simultaneously supporting the effort to break up the external mass.

3D coordination played a significant role in both the development and delivery of the project. All consultants, including specialists for the moveable floor, pool, and sauna, provided 3D models which were regularly reviewed for design development and clash detection. This coordination was instrumental in ensuring the success of the basement plant area in particular, where every detail was modelled to maximise the use of available space, from the largest components down to the smallest pipework and switches.

The key elements were to keep the building warm (with low U-values), keep the water contained (via careful coordination between above and below ground systems and integrating secondary waterproofing techniques), manage the internal environment (by fully wrapping the building in a high-performance vapour control layer), and ensure longevity (through the durability of the materials used). These essential measures combine to help prevent issues arising from condensation and damp, protecting the building fabric and ultimately the club's investment in the facility. ■

Finalist
2025NEW BUILD
OF THE YEAR

Church Lane, Elsworth by PiP Architects

Words by PiP Architects

Occupying a prominent hillside site overlooking a Grade I Listed church, this sustainable, contemporary design enhances the conservation area while delivering net-zero carbon living for a retired farming couple.

Structurally unsound, energy inefficient, and inaccessible for retirement needs, the original 1970s dwelling on Church Lane was beyond renovation. The client required a replacement home that could accommodate visiting family while providing an intimate and comfortable daily living environment.

Building next to a Grade I listed church within a conservation area demanded exceptional design. Narrow village access roads prevented standard construction methods, while the client's vision for zero-maintenance, sustainable living required innovative material choices and systems. The project successfully navigated complex planning sensitivities with a thoughtful approach that addressed potential local concerns while enabling the farming couple to remain on their family land for retirement, maintaining their connection to the rural community. Every decision balanced respect for heritage with contemporary performance.

PiP designed a contemporary barn-inspired dwelling that draws inspiration from the local agricultural vernacular. The house aligns with a diagonal avenue of mature trees, creating a striking 15-mile vista that carries the eye from entrance hall through to the Cambridgeshire countryside beyond.

Carefully designed window placement balances public visibility and private living. West-facing elevations towards the church feature smaller, strategically placed openings that frame views without creating light pollution, while the southeast-facing rear elevation opens generously to private garden views through panoramic glazing.

Site constraints drove innovative construction methodology. Access limited to single-track roads with tight corners eliminated prefabricated timber frame options, leading PiP to specify on-site stick-build assembly. This required early structural engineer engagement to achieve open-plan spaces and large glazed openings without compromising aesthetics.

Maintenance-free materials that shield the heat of the midday sun were chosen, such as powder-coated steel and the Corten steel cantilevered brise soleil. Flint blocks reference the church's historic construction. The careful detailing between different materials demonstrates expert craftsmanship, creating a building that appears confidently contemporary yet respectful of its conservation area setting.

The completed home produces more energy than it uses, achieving an exceptional EPC rating of 102. The generous 4.2-acre site was ideal for installing a ground source heat pump, while solar panels generate electricity which is stored in batteries. South-facing photovoltaic panels are integrated flush within the metal roof system, generating renewable electricity while maintaining clean architectural lines. Meanwhile, an innovative greywater system captures rainwater from the roof in underground tanks, providing pressurised water for garden irrigation through dedicated taps on the roof terrace.

The roof terrace features both intensive and extensive green roof systems with substantial soil depth supporting diverse wildflower meadows. The intensive planting also creates valuable pollinator habitat while offering the client, a keen gardener, productive growing space at an elevated level.

This integrated approach shows how exceptional environmental performance can be achieved by carefully combining proven renewable technologies, sustainable materials and intelligent building controls. The result is a future-ready home that will continue delivering environmental benefits throughout its lifespan while providing a comfortable, low-maintenance living environment for the client.

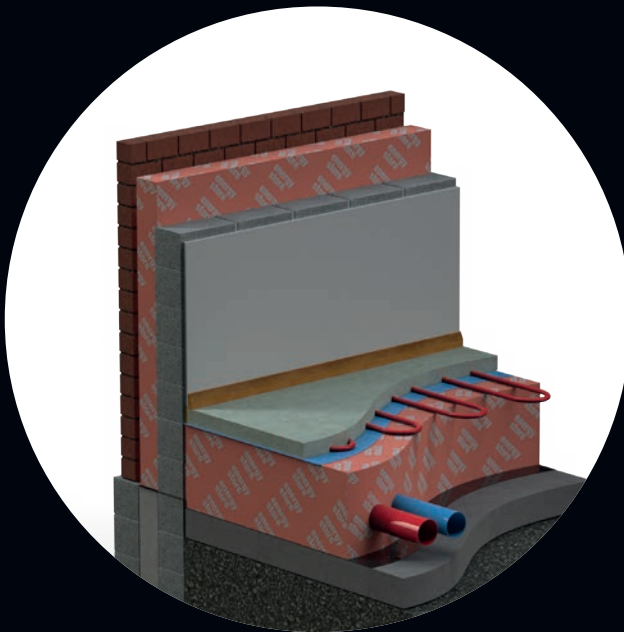
Church Lane represents architectural excellence in challenging circumstances. PiP achieved net-zero carbon performance on a highly sensitive heritage site adjacent to a Grade I listed church, proving exceptional sustainability and contextual sensitivity can coexist. The building demonstrates future-ready design thinking, incorporating accessibility features and adaptable infrastructure for changing needs. It balances intimate daily living for a retired couple with generous family accommodation through thoughtful zoning and circulation design.

Church Lane, Elsworth proves that contemporary architecture can enhance rather than compromise historic rural settings, delivering a zero-maintenance, technologically advanced family home that connects its occupants to landscape and community for generations to come. ■



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Years &
Flowing**





Winner
2025

CONVERSION
OF THE YEAR

ANOTHERKIND
ARCHITECTS
STUDIO

Sherwood Observatory Planetarium & Science Centre by Anotherkind Architects

Words by Anotherkind Architects

The Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society (MSAS) set out in 2014 with an ambition to elevate their site at Sherwood Observatory by delivering a new Planetarium and Science Discovery Centre at their existing home in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. The sole focus of the proposed development was not for commercial expansion, but to rejuvenate STEM education in the district and inspire the next wave of scientists, mathematicians and engineers, and act as an accessible platform for regional and national learning opportunities. This landmark feature is truly unique and has succeeded in putting Sherwood on the map of Planetaria in the UK.

The new visitor attraction seamlessly integrates the old with the new by incorporating the existing subterranean Victorian brick-built reservoir that is located in the centre of the site. Having been disused for decades, reintroducing the 25m diameter, 6m high, underground chamber as an integral part of the exhibition function creates a truly unique and immersive visitor experience and engages directly with Ashfield's local heritage. The development breathes new life into the historic building below by being utilised as a multi-functional exhibition space to not only showcase astronomical and engineering centrepieces but reveal the underground chamber in all its architectural glory. The new construction on top of the reservoir level comprises of the state-of-the-art planetarium, as well as a cafe, meeting room, WCs, and additional exhibition space as part of the circulation.

The building incorporates sustainable materials and energy-efficient systems to minimise its carbon footprint, aligning with the client's commitment to environmental responsibility. Accessibility is at the heart of the design both internally and externally to ensure inclusivity for all visitors, including step-free level access, with lift access to all floors and assistive technologies. Furthermore, fully accessible and self-contained WC's have been included on all levels, as well as a Changing Places facility on the upper floor to provide full inclusivity for all.

Throughout the project, the team used BIMx on a tablet PC to virtually 'walk' around the design onsite. This eliminated the need to print the plans and meant they could conduct meetings onsite with the site manager. During meetings, the model was brought up on screen and the necessary mark-ups could be done in the moment, seamlessly moving between the 3D and the coordinated technical information through this cutting edge software. When you are working with awkward designs on an already complex project, having the ability to interrogate designs in 3D and bring in other people's models saves a lot of time, and aligns with the RICS digital systems construction standards and understanding evolving technology.

Not only did this stellar software help demonstrate effective coordination and enhance the skillset across the team, sharing the information with stakeholders meant that the project became more accessible to everyone engaged with drumming up interest ahead of the opening. In doing so, the team were able to provide tours, talks, and teaching opportunities to young people, potential partner organisations, and funders, supporters, and cheerleaders from across the region and beyond.

Digital innovation was central to the success of the build, and a full 3D laser scan of the original Victorian brickwork was used to inform a detailed Building Information Modelling (BIM) environment, creating a precise digital replica of the structure. This allowed the team to design around the unique geometries of the original reservoir while visualising all interfacing components between new and old elements – reducing risk and enhancing the accuracy of all design and subsequent construction works.

BIMx technology was utilised by Anotherkind and implemented extensively on site thanks to the buy-in from the construction team, enabling them to move between detailed models and technical drawings in real time. It provided a live, interactive view into the building's evolving design, allowing the team to interrogate dimensions, perform clash detection, and respond quickly to any discrepancies, which

significantly improved build accuracy and productivity.

In addition, among the most technically impressive elements was the construction of the planetarium's elliptical interior walls, which sit under a circular dome. These walls were manufactured off-site by LSP Joinery using Computer Numerical Control (CNC) templates using digital prototypes. This not only enhanced construction speed but also improved quality assurance and minimised the environmental impact of the scheme.

The project also involved facilitating the RSA COSMOS system, which is the UK's first planetarium setup of this kind, using 24 laser calibrators to align projected imagery. The engineering accuracy required for this system was achieved through digital linework and laser-calibrated layout points on-site.

From the outset, the team wanted to ensure the project had minimal environmental impact and kept energy costs and carbon emissions low. When designing the planetarium, the firm opted for a green roof to ensure net biodiversity gain and help regulate the internal environment. The building has outperformed expectations, exceeding targets for energy use and achieving net zero.

Embodied carbon on the project is reduced compared to an equivalent new build as the existing Victorian reservoir is being reused. The practice mantra, reinforced here at Sherwood and helping secure the commission, is that the reuse of the buildings is the most sustainable form of development.

After excavating the land around the reservoir, the site team re-used the earth to minimise the volume of waste being taken to landfill, redeploying this on site in earthworks and re-landscaping the site. This was a conscious early-stage decision to elevate the need to balance the budget without compromising on the highest environmental aims. Electric car charging points and cycle storage have been installed, and a travel plan developed to encourage more sustainable travel to the site.

Judges' comments

Sherwood Observatory stands as a beacon of how architectural innovation can drive social transformation. By harnessing advanced construction technologies, the project elegantly fuses heritage with modernity to create a space that's educational, inclusive, and environmentally forward-thinking. A fantastic conversion of an existing subterranean Victorian brick-built reservoir to deliver educational, environmental, and architectural value through innovative reuse, digital excellence, and thoughtful public engagement. With a strong emphasis on health and safety and inclusive design, the team embedded safety throughout construction and public use. ■



Finalist
2025

CONVERSION
OF THE YEAR

DL DesignStudio



Cantine Dell'Angelo and Bar Gigi by DL Design Studio

Words by DL Design Studio

Cantine Dell'Angelo and Bar Gigi is a textbook example of how a well-planned, technically robust conversion can transform redundant, hidden spaces into commercially viable, culturally significant destinations.

This project took a Grade II listed building in the heart of Nottingham and reimagined both its unused first floor and an entirely inaccessible medieval cave network beneath it. The result is a layered hospitality venue comprising Bar Gigi on the first floor, Cantine Dell'Angelo in the restored caves, and a seamless connection to the client's high-end fashion store, Gigi Bottega, at street level.

The achievement lies not only in the physical transformation, but in how the conversion respected the historic character while delivering a safe, compliant, and commercially productive set of integrated spaces.

The building forms part of Flying Horse Walk, a historic arcade in Nottingham city centre. The first floor had been unused for decades, serving only as storage space, while the medieval sandstone caves beneath had been completely filled with rubble.

These caves, part of Nottingham's unique network of over 500 man-made underground spaces, are historically significant. They have been used over the centuries for purposes ranging from food storage to wartime shelter. In this case, they were part of the former Flying Horse Inn, dating back to the 15th century.

The condition of both the upper floor and the caves meant the spaces were inaccessible, poorly lit, and, in the case of the caves, entirely blocked. The challenge for DL Design Studio was to convert them into safe, usable, and attractive venues, without compromising their heritage value.

The most immediate challenge was gaining access to the caves. Over 220 tonnes of rubble were removed entirely by hand due to the absence of mechanical

access routes. The excavation process was carefully phased to avoid overloading structural elements, with continual monitoring to assess the impact on the surrounding building fabric.

Meeting modern building regulations within a Grade II listed structure required ingenuity. One of the standout technical solutions was the repurposing of the building's original barrel-drop hatch. This feature, once used to lower goods into the basement, was adapted as a compliant secondary fire escape from the caves to street level. This intervention satisfied fire safety standards while preserving an authentic historic feature and maintaining visual continuity at street level.

Conversion work on both the upper and lower levels emphasised retention and restoration. On the first floor, hidden architectural details such as timber beams, stone fireplaces, and original wall finishes were uncovered and restored. New materials were introduced only where necessary and were chosen for their durability, compatibility with the historic context, and ease of maintenance.

The project avoided costly or unnecessarily complex digital systems, instead focusing on targeted, practical applications. English Heritage's 3D scans of the caves provided precise measurements and helped the design team visualise spatial relationships between the caves and the building above. This was particularly useful in planning circulation and escape routes.

Cantine Dell'Angelo and Bar Gigi is not a single-use venue, but an interconnected commercial environment, with Gigi Bottega, the client's established fashion retail store at street level, Bar Gigi on the first floor, offering a Milanese-inspired dining experience, and Cantine Dell'Angelo, a wine-tasting venue in the restored caves, underground.

Each space can be accessed independently but also connects internally, allowing customers to move between them without leaving the building. The visual and physical connections between floors are a deliberate design choice, encouraging interaction and enhancing the overall commercial performance of the site.

Cantine Dell'Angelo and Bar Gigi demonstrates how the principles of Architectural Technology can be applied to the challenges of adaptive reuse. It is not simply a renovation or a restoration; it is a full conversion that changes the function and experience of spaces while protecting their heritage value. Every intervention, from the re-engineered barrel-drop hatch to the digital mapping of the caves, shows a balance between technical performance, heritage conservation, and commercial viability.

The project proves that successful conversions are not about imposing new architecture on old, but about revealing and enhancing what already exists and making it work for today's needs. ■


 Finalist
2025
CONVERSION
OF THE YEAR

 A7
architecture


Bunker Six Eighty One by A7 Architecture

Words by A7 Architecture

Bunker Six Eighty One is no ordinary home. Located in the Channel Islands — the only part of the British Isles to be occupied during the Second World War — it was once a WWII German personnel bunker, housing 12 soldiers.

Over five years, the structure was transformed into a contemporary three-bedroom home that combines modern comfort with deep respect for history. And as far as records show, it's the only fully converted WWII German personnel bunker on British soil.

Originally constructed in 1942 as part of Hitler's mission to fortify Guernsey's west coast against allied invasion, the bunker had been left disused and concealed under years of overgrowth. Its two-metre-thick walls, subterranean footprint, lack of windows, and limited access made it an inhospitable environment for modern living — but also presented a fascinating design and technical challenge. The brief was clear: create a contemporary family home that met current performance, safety, and comfort standards, while preserving the building's wartime character.

From the outset, the design intent was to intervene minimally in the external fabric, maintaining the bunker's understated presence in the landscape. The main structural change was a new east-facing extension, its curved walls echoing the bunker's defensive geometry. This addition provided open-plan living space and introduced daylight to the kitchen, dining, and living areas.

Working with such a dense and irregular structure required targeted technical interventions, such as precision concrete cutting, coring mirror-lined sun tunnels through the roof to bring natural light below ground, and retaining the historic fabric by using carefully chosen fittings and original features to create a coherent interior language.

Laser scanning provided an accurate digital record of the bunker's irregular geometry, informing everything from construction sequencing to fine detailing. The 3D model became a shared reference point for all stakeholders, allowing potential issues to be resolved before work began on site.

Challenges emerged when excavation revealed uncompacted hardcore and gravel backfill, unsuitable for supporting new traditional strip foundations. Working with the engineers, the team developed a bespoke solution: a 200 mm-thick reinforced concrete raft foundation, chemically tied to the existing structure with 140 precision-installed 16mm reinforcement bars. This ensured stability, durability, and full integration with the original wartime fabric.

Digital tools, such as laser scanning, 3D modelling, Enscape visualisation and digital coordination, underpinned the design and delivery process. The digital workflow streamlined the transition from concept to construction and was integral to securing planning consent and compliance with building regulations.

The decision to retain and adapt the existing bunker shell offered significant embodied carbon savings. Using the existing thermal mass and structure also avoided the environmental impact of demolition and large-scale new construction.

Key sustainable strategies included a fabric-first approach, high-performance glazing, thermal mass exploitation, local sourcing of materials, soakaways and agricultural drainage channels, and the insulation and waterproofing of the existing structure.

Working with a specialist waterproofing contractor, the team developed a bespoke, manufacturer-backed system that removed the need for a cavity drain installation. Internally, insulation was specified to achieve the highest possible standard within the spatial constraints of the original structure.

As a secondary measure, the external backfill was removed to expose the bunker walls, allowing a liquid-applied tanking membrane to be installed. This was protected with a proprietary protection layer and drainage membrane before the topsoil was reinstated and planted with native species.

The result is a fully encapsulated structure with a continuous protective envelope, ensuring long-term performance and climate resilience without the need for powered systems.

The project spanned five years, facing not only technical and logistical hurdles but also the disruptions of a global pandemic.

Bunker Six Eighty One demonstrates how Architectural Technology can address the challenges of adapting extreme legacy structures. Through precision engineering, digital modelling, and coordinated delivery, a disused wartime relic was transformed into a safe, efficient, and habitable dwelling, while retaining the features that root it in its unique historical and geographical context. ■



Winner
2025

RETROFIT
OF THE YEAR

McLean & Forte
Chartered Architects

Ballymoney Library by McLean and Forte

This article presents the EnerPHit retrofit of Ballymoney Library the first non-residential public sector EnerPHit certified project in the UK as a case study in applying advanced building performance standards within the public estate.

EnerPHit provides a performance-based framework tailored to the retrofit of existing buildings. While less stringent than the Passivhaus standard for new builds, it maintains the same five core principles: high levels of insulation; triple-glazed windows and thermally efficient doors; thermal bridge-free construction; exceptional airtightness; and continuous mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR).

EnerPHit sets a maximum space heating demand of 25kWh/m²/year, compared to 15kWh/m²/year for new builds. Airtightness requirements are also stringent at 1.0 m³/h·m² @50Pa, nearly 10 times tighter than UK Building Regulations.

Certification is administered by the Passivhaus Institute (PHI) in Germany. A certified Passivhaus

Designer leads the process, modelling the building using the Passivhaus Planning Package (PHPP). Design data is uploaded to an online portal and reviewed by an independent Passivhaus Certifier. Once verified, the project is awarded EnerPHit certification.

Constructed in 1970, Ballymoney Library consists of a compact square plan and a distinctive pyramidal roof formed by interlocking steel portal frames. Key issues identified during the condition survey included uninsulated roof and solid floor slab, poor-quality cavity wall insulation, poor quality PVCu double glazing, exposed steel framing causing thermal bridging, and inefficient HVAC systems (oil-fired convectors and retrofitted air conditioning).

Thermal imaging and borescope inspections

confirmed widespread heat loss, seasonal overheating, and inconsistent comfort levels.

A full building envelope upgrade was implemented, including external wall insulation using high-performance EPS with thin coat mineral render and triple-glazed Passivhaus-certified windows and doors. There was also encapsulation of thermal bridges, including at corners and roof eaves, below-ground insulation to mitigate slab edge losses, and specialist thermal break plates and brackets for structural penetrations.

A bespoke airtightness strategy as developed for the project, incorporating membranes, tapes, and sealing systems. On-site workshops and detailed installation sequencing were essential to achieving airtightness of 0.68 ach @50Pa, comfortably within the EnerPHit limit.

The mechanical services strategy centred on a Nilan Compact P unit combining MVHR, air source heat pump, and optional cooling. The unit was installed in a central ceiling void above the entrance and connected to discrete powder-coated ductwork, purposely exposed to highlight the MVHR system. It was designed to deliver optimal thermal comfort and air quality and fully controllable via local panel or app-based interface.

The MVHR preheats incoming air using outgoing exhaust heat, with supplementary heating provided by the integrated ASHP. The system operates continuously, maintaining comfort across all seasons with high energy efficiency.

PHPP modelling informed early-stage decisions, such as the decision to forego insulating the ground floor slab internally. By optimising the building's form factor, enhancing the thermal performance of the roof and external walls, and upgrading all glazing, the design team was able to achieve EnerPHit compliance without the need to remove the existing floor slab, a measure that initial cost assessments identified as financially prohibitive and potentially jeopardising the viability of the scheme.



Modelling also enabled real-time feedback on specification changes for example, adjusting insulation thickness or window size to meet performance thresholds.

Post-retrofit, Ballymoney Library achieved an energy demand of 21kWh/m²/year (down from over 120kWh/m²/year), a DEC rating improvement of an E to an A+, and a measured airtightness of 0.68 ach @50Pa. It was the first certified EnerPHit non-domestic public sector project in the UK.

Environmental monitoring is ongoing via dataloggers to validate in-use performance across temperature, humidity, air quality, and energy use. This post-occupancy feedback will inform future EnerPHit retrofits across the NI public estate.

This project demonstrates how rigorous building performance standards like EnerPHit can be successfully applied to existing public sector assets. Through detailed modelling, high-performance fabric upgrades, and integrated building services, Ballymoney Library has been future-proofed both environmentally and operationally.

The success of this project sets a new benchmark for retrofit delivery in the UK, highlighting the role of Chartered Architectural Technologists in leading technically complex, performance-driven solutions.

Judges' comments

Ballymoney Library is the UK's first public building retrofitted to the EnerPHit standard, marking a milestone in sustainable civic architecture. Through rigorous Passivhaus design principles, the project achieved exceptional energy performance, comfort, and climate resilience. It now serves as a replicable model for environmentally responsible public sector transformation. A transformative overhaul of a 1970's public facility into a 21st Century exemplar of true sustainable design. ■



The success of this project sets a new benchmark for retrofit delivery in the UK, highlighting the role of Chartered Architectural Technologists in leading technically complex, performance-driven solutions.



Finalist
2025RETROFIT
OF THE YEAR

Harrogate Hydro Leisure Centre by GT3 Architects

Words by GT3 Architects

Harrogate Hydro Leisure Centre, situated in the heart of the historic spa town of Harrogate, had long served as a community fitness and aquatic hub. However, over time, the building's outdated appearance, poor accessibility, and functional limitations hindered its ability to meet modern standards or user expectations. The £11 million refurbishment sought to address these issues through a highly collaborative, digitally enabled and sustainability-focused design process.

The overarching vision was not just to refresh the facility but to reimagine it as an inviting, inclusive and future-proofed community asset. The result is a bold transformation that both celebrates Harrogate's heritage and meets the needs of 21st-century users.

From the outset, the project centred on the application of Architectural Technology principles to resolve key challenges related to accessibility, robustness, buildability, and environmental performance. The scheme's success hinged on a thorough understanding of existing conditions, precision detailing, and extensive collaboration with suppliers and contractors.

A critical goal of the project was to make the centre more inclusive and intuitive to navigate. The existing foyer and entrance lobby were demolished and replaced with a striking extension, designed to increase visibility and openness – both visually and physically. Internally, bold colours were employed to enhance wayfinding, while the internal layout was reconfigured to streamline the user journey.

The refurbishment significantly improved accessible changing facilities; a relocated and modernised Changing Places room, a pool pod chair, and regraded flooring in the wet change areas—all aimed at significantly enhancing inclusivity for users with disabilities. Finishes and materials were carefully

selected to comply with light reflectance value (LRV) standards, supporting visually impaired users in navigating the space safely and confidently.

One of the most complex challenges involved resolving longstanding issues in the wet change village, including persistent pooling of water, black mould, and corrosion due to inadequate floor falls and poor material detailing. GT3's Architectural Technologists worked closely with waterproofing manufacturer Mapei and main contractor ISG to devise a robust, multi-product solution that reprofiled the entire 500m² area.

The technical knowledge and collaborative proactive working approach of the Architectural Technologists resulted in a solution that will have a hugely positive impact on those using the centre.

A key innovation was the use of custom-designed cladding panels in collaboration with the cladding sub-contractor. These perforated metal panels utilised a repeating pattern playing with the orientation to provide a totally bespoke façade. In addition, it is oriented to provide daytime privacy for gym users while offering dramatic visual impact when backlit at night.

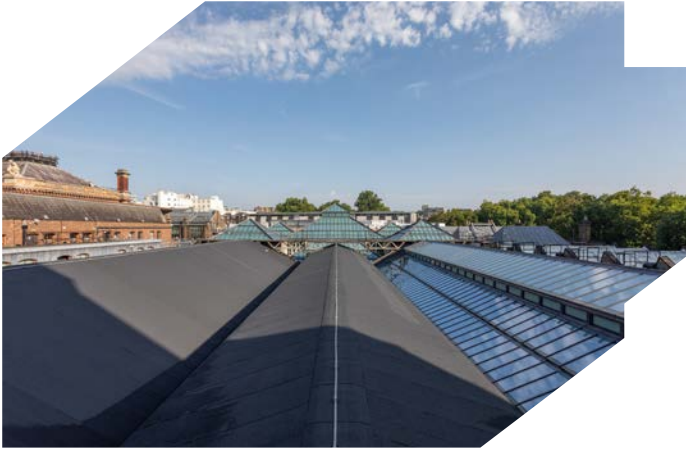
A fabric-first approach was adopted for new build elements by exceeding minimum U value targets and therefore improving thermal performance. Design features, such as first-floor overhangs, shaded glazing on the southern café elevation and reduced the potential for solar gain, lowering cooling demand. These passive strategies were integrated with mechanical upgrades, including pool plant and filtration replacements that enhance operational energy efficiency.

A combination of historic references and modern functionality reinforces the centre's role as a civic community asset – welcoming, distinctive, and designed with people at its heart. The design embodies the ethos of "people architecture", placing user experience at the centre of every decision, from flooring gradients to lighting strategies.

The refurbishment of Harrogate Hydro Leisure Centre is a clear demonstration of how Architectural Technology can transform existing building stock through a combination of innovation, precision, collaboration, and digital advancement. Rather than resorting to demolition and new build, the team focused on intelligent retrofit solutions that met regulatory, technical, and community needs.

From overcoming technical issues in the wet areas to delivering a dynamic and inclusive public asset, this project highlights the role of the Architectural Technologist as both a creative and technical lead. Every decision – from bespoke bricks to digital modelling – contributed to a more robust, accessible, and sustainable facility.

Ultimately, Harrogate Hydro stands as a model for how existing community infrastructure can be reimaged for a better, more inclusive future. ■

Finalist
2025RETROFIT
OF THE YEARwilby
& burnett

The Victoria and Albert Museum by Wilby & Burnett Ltd

Words by Wilby & Burnett Ltd

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London is celebrated worldwide as a cultural and architectural treasure. While its stunning façades and carefully curated exhibitions captivate millions, our recent project reveals that the true marvels lie not just in its exhibits but in the hidden intricacies of its building fabric.

The £7.2M works comprise the refurbishment and repair of the historic roofs to the North & South Courts of the V&A. These works addressed the V&A Estates Department's concerns with long-standing issue of historical water ingress into the gallery spaces, as an essential first step in a wider programme of consolidation and repair to this part of the Museum.

The project consisted of the provision of a roof replacement to the North-East Quarter. When demolition works were initiated, a remarkably detailed and innovative structure emerged.

The proposed design comprised the removal of the non-historic existing single glazed roof covering and ceiling, the refurbishment of the existing beautifully ornate cast iron structure and the addition of high-performance glass roof replacement system.

The intricate lantern structure of the existing roof presented various challenges including the interface of the installation of the new blackout, smoke alarm and rigging systems.

The roof's complex glazed lanterns required the integration of blackout blinds to protect light sensitive exhibits. This introduced a new set of challenges relating to heat build-up, light control, and glass safety. A specialist glass engineer was appointed to evaluate the stresses introduced by the fixed blackout systems. This was to prevent the glass from cracking under the

stress of the heat build-up between the glazing and the blackout fabric.

One major innovation was the decision to remove the external walkway system originally used for gutter maintenance. The original roof design presented a total of 70m length of external walkway at high level to reach the highest parts of the roof. The new roof glazing system would not be able to carry the weight of this external walkway therefore it would have had to pierce the glazed roof at regular intervals to reach the primary structure for support. This meant a higher risk of rainwater leakage.

The possibility of avoiding the walkway structure altogether became an interesting solution to explore. The maintenance regime from those walkways included the clearing of gutters and the cleaning of glass roof panels, if the need to carry out those exercises was eliminated, the walkways would no longer be needed.

By extending the glazing at the eaves and letting the rainwater drop onto lower roofs, the gutters could be completely omitted, and by demonstrating that higher places could be reached with longer cleaning poles, the walkway and its penetrative supports were eliminated. The design was amended through planning consent, in collaboration with the client's retained design team.

Due to the building's historic complexity, standard digital modelling tools proved inadequate for simulating heat accumulation behind blackout blinds. Most modern software couldn't accommodate irregular geometries or non-standard assemblies like bespoke lanterns. As a solution, W&B collaborated with a glass specialist consultant who used an older, more adaptable software to model thermal stresses and develop a bespoke specification that balanced solar control and safety.

The new roofing systems deliver a significant thermal upgrade to the building envelope. Where possible, flat roof areas received high-performance insulation; the glazed roofs were replaced with high-specification double glazing combining laminated and toughened panes. This improves both U-value and acoustic performance upgrading the roof performance as close to current standards as practicable whilst respecting the historic significance of the site.

The challenge of glass safety lay in preventing heat build-up between glass and blackout fabric, especially during the transitional months of October and March when the difference in temperature between the outdoors and the indoors is greater, as it could potentially crack the glass panes. Conventional software was unable to accommodate the geometry of the lanterns, so an adapted modelling approach was taken. This revealed the critical importance of air gaps and passive ventilation.

The result is a museum envelope that enhances environmental performance, reduces maintenance, and ensures climate resilience without compromising its historic integrity. This project exemplifies how sensitive retrofitting of a heritage site can support sustainability goals. ■

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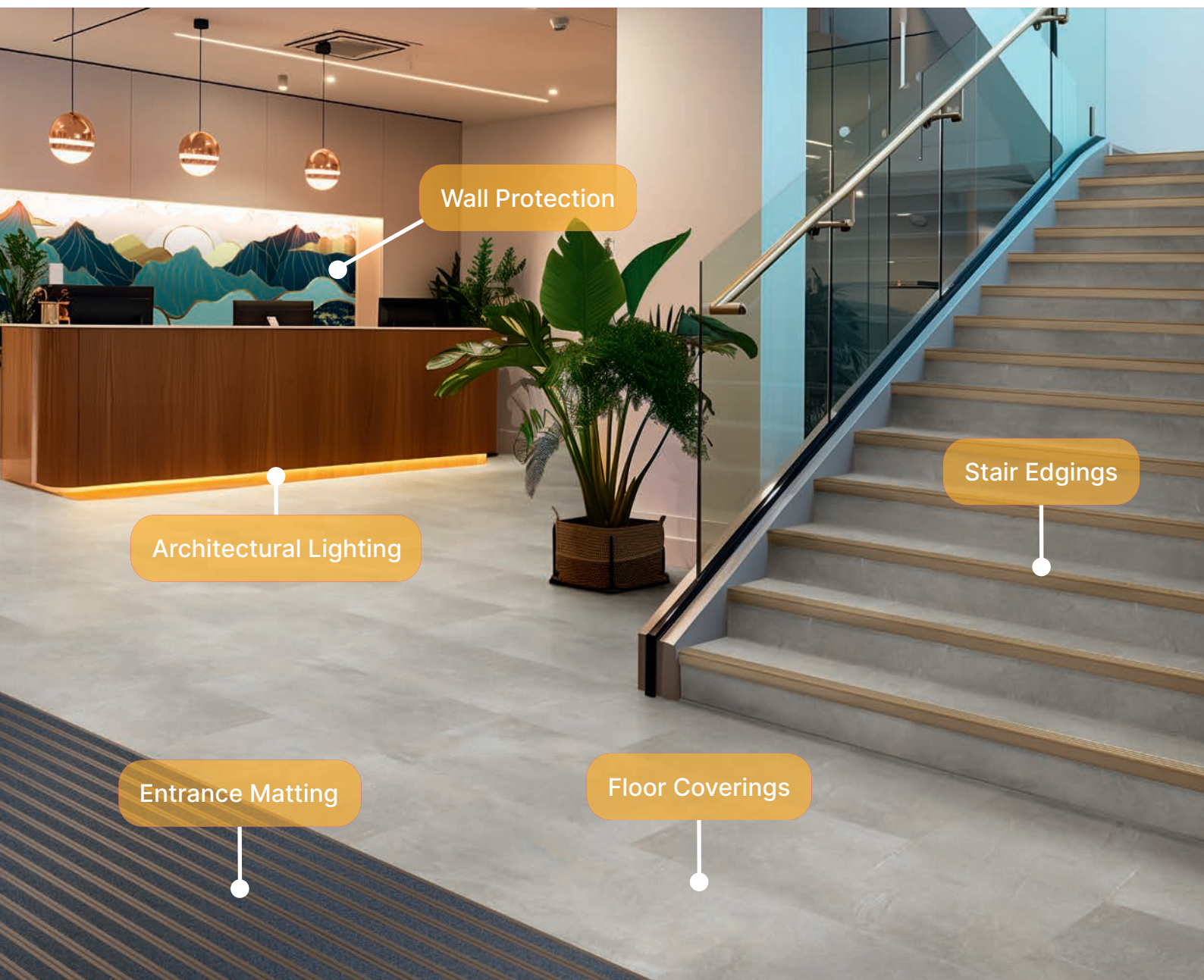
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Winner
2025

STUDENT PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

The Drop, Stratford

Kristin Gray, Middlesex University



Words by Kristin Gray

The Drop, Stratford is a 100-metre mixed-use tower set within Stratford's rapidly evolving post-Olympic context, the proposal responds to the interconnected challenges of density, sustainability, and inclusivity through a technology-led design approach.

The tower is defined by its external diagrid structure, which reduces steel usage by approximately 20% while enabling column-free, flexible interiors that can adapt to future needs. Environmental performance is

underpinned by a holistic strategy of passive and active systems, achieving operational energy demands below 55 kWh/m²/yr and a 22% reduction in embodied carbon compared to industry benchmarks.

Its tapered, aerodynamic form, combined with a double-skin façade, bio-solar roof and vertical green infrastructure, optimises microclimate conditions while delivering over a 10% biodiversity net gain. The project embeds accessibility, wellbeing and circular economy principles throughout, demonstrating how Architectural Technology can act as a central driver in shaping resilient, low-carbon and socially inclusive high-rise development.

The Stratford site presents several challenges,

including high levels of airborne noise from surrounding railway lines and busy roads, overshadowing from nearby high-rise developments, limited baseline biodiversity and uneven ground levels. A detailed environmental analysis highlighted the need for a responsive design strategy to address these constraints.

To mitigate noise and enhance biodiversity, the landscape proposal introduces tree planting along the site's perimeter, creating both a buffer and ecological improvement. The uneven levels were repurposed as a natural drainage strategy, diverting water away from the building, while a mix of stairs and ramps ensures accessibility and ease of movement across the site.

Ecological resilience is reinforced through the integration of green roofs across both *The Drop* and the surrounding site buildings, planted terraces with native vegetation and new green spaces that collectively deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain of over 10%.

Environmental simulations guided the design process, including daylight analysis, computational fluid dynamics for wind modelling and dynamic thermal assessment. These studies shaped the building's massing into a distinctive 'tear drop' form: the narrow tip diverts prevailing winds, while the curved profile optimises natural sunlight penetration. Solar analysis confirmed this geometry as the most effective for achieving consistently high daylight levels.

Spatial planning was developed through bubble diagrams, structured around a central circular core designed in alignment with UK Building Regulations and British Council for Offices (BCO) guidelines. This process culminated in a vertically stratified programme: public and wellness amenities at ground level, flexible office floors through the mid-rise and a hospitality venue at the crown.

Spatial diversity is embedded within the scheme, offering wellness hubs, quiet library zones and adaptable office spaces to support a range of working styles and needs. The hospitality suite at the top of the building contributes to commercial viability while also providing a civic destination with panoramic views.

The structural solution employs an external diagrid steel frame, tied back to a central reinforced concrete core via radial outriggers. This approach was adopted after a conventional structural grid proved incompatible with the building's geometry.

Buildability is further supported through a modular construction strategy: diagrid modules are assembled on-site, composite steel decking standardises floor construction and a panelised façade system ensures precise and efficient installation.

Construction sequencing has been carefully considered to address crane positioning, delivery logistics and the constraints of Stratford's dense urban context. This strategy not only shortens programme length but also reduces waste and ensures the project's design aspirations remain achievable within real-world conditions.

The building envelope is designed as a double-skin façade comprising fully recyclable cladding, modular aluminium panels made from recycled materials and high-performance low-carbon glazing. Given the material intensity of a high-rise – particularly in glass – the use of locally sourced and sustainable materials was prioritised to minimise embodied carbon.

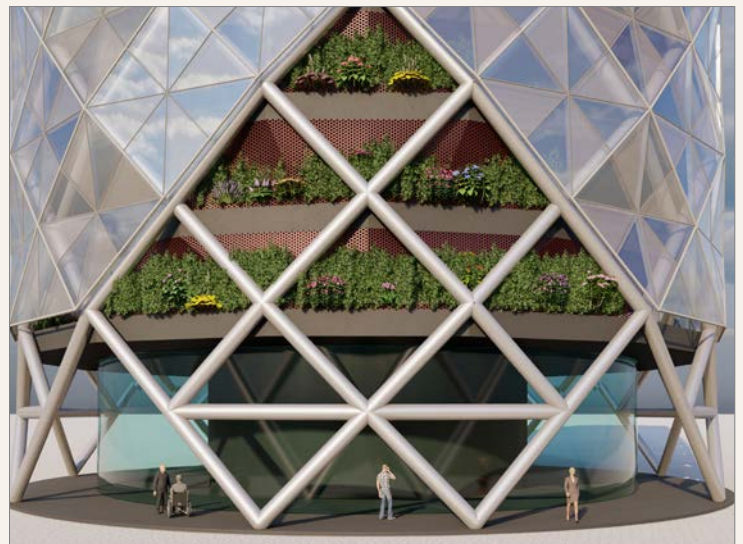
The external skin integrates both fixed and operable blinds to regulate solar gain and enable natural ventilation. Planted terraces, filled with UK-native species, further contribute by filtering air, moderating

the microclimate, and enhancing occupant wellbeing – offering restorative greenery that benefits mental health as well as the overall visual quality of the building.

The Drop illustrates how Architectural Technology can serve as the central determinant of high-rise design. By integrating structural efficiency, sustainable façade innovation, biodiversity, and inclusive design into a coherent and buildable scheme, the project delivers a technically rigorous response to Stratford's post-Olympic urban condition.

Judges comments

The Judges praised the scheme as being rooted in a strong and imaginative concept, with building layouts that are both highly functional and deeply inclusive. The project demonstrates a clear commitment to designing for all users, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity are at the heart of the approach. The thoughtful attention to user experience and spatial planning set the work apart as an exemplar of people-centered design. From concept through to design detail, The Drop captures an energy and vision that speaks to Kristen's talent and potential. Above all, the project reflects a designer with a strong vision, creative flair, and a commitment to designing spaces that are both sustainable and inclusive. This project stands out for its clarity, depth and thoughtful execution, making it a deserving winner. ■



Highly
Commended
2025

STUDENT PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

Harbour Heights, Cardiff Bay

Lucy Warry ACIAT, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Words by Lucy Warry ACIAT

The design of Harbour Heights was born from an ambitious brief: to transform a narrow strip of reclaimed industrial land into a series of twelve mixed-use buildings, each contributing to a new identity for Cardiff Bay. Positioned to overlook the waters of Cardiff Bay and the historic Roath Basin within Porth Teigr, the project set out to create distinctive waterside experiences while embracing the rich heritage of the site.



The Harbour Heights development represents one of twelve phases in this regeneration story, located specifically on Site Two. The scheme centres on a striking 11-storey building designed to inject new life and energy into the area. Its presence will not only reshape the skyline but also provide a place where community and commerce come together in balance.

The concept for Harbour Heights grew from a deep understanding of the site's industrial past and the emerging needs of a new Cardiff Bay community. Brick façades recall the rustic character of the site's former industrial buildings, while the overall aesthetic balances visual textures and contemporary forms. The result is a modern architectural language that respects its heritage yet speaks confidently of the future.

The design has been shaped by a strategy rooted in low-carbon construction methods and passive design principles, with careful attention given to material choices that embrace the circular economy. This means the building not only reduces its impact on the environment but is also adaptable for the long term.

Residential areas have been designed to operate independently from commercial spaces, offering a sense of privacy and exclusivity. Residents will enjoy 24-hour access to high-quality apartments, which include both luxury homes and affordable flats, arranged to create a vibrant and inclusive neighbourhood. A private gym and a generous outdoor amenity space at second-floor level encourage active and healthy lifestyles, reinforcing a sense of community for tenants.

At ground level, Harbour Heights opens itself to the public with a series of thoughtfully designed commercial spaces. A grocery store provides everyday essentials, while smaller units present opportunities for a restaurant and a coffee shop. These spaces are intended not only to serve practical needs but also to foster social interaction, creating new meeting points for residents and visitors alike.

Although external space is limited, with most of the space being used to satisfy the Local Development Plan where this site forms part of a 500 dwelling development area, its design has been approached with the wider community in mind. The ground floor offers all publicly accessible areas, carefully prioritising pedestrians and cyclists. Cycle storage is provided to encourage sustainable travel, while motorists benefit

from the convenience of a nearby multistorey car park.

A Sustainable Urban Drainage System is integrated throughout the site to manage rainwater. Green roofs and landscaped amenity spaces enhance biodiversity and provide welcome moments of softness within the urban fabric. Together, these measures ensure that the building contributes positively to the ecological resilience of Cardiff Bay.

Harbour Heights has adopted a fabric-first approach, designing walls and roofs to exceed regulatory requirements in thermal performance. This allows for generous glazed areas that capture views across Cardiff Bay while maintaining energy efficiency.

Recognising net zero future targets and aiming for a low-carbon building, design was approached through a balance of considering methods of reducing energy demand and incorporating renewable energy systems, including a rooftop photovoltaic array and air or ground source heat pumps. Rainwater harvesting systems capture grey water for reuse in toilet flushing, further lowering the environmental footprint.

A particularly interesting feature would be the 'Pavegen' external pavers which generate electricity from Kinetic Energy. Strategically, these are places where high traffic is expected, not only to maximise the efficiency of said panels, but also to get the public thinking about sustainable living habits.

The decision to avoid render systems was driven by a desire for durability and reduced maintenance. Instead, the project employs the Wienerberger Corium brick-slip tiling system, chosen for its longevity, fire safety credentials, and contribution to the circular economy. With a BBA-certified design life of 35 years, the system ensures Harbour Heights will stand resiliently against the test of time.

As part of a twelve-phase development, buildability was key to minimising disruption to the surrounding area. Lessons from the Grenfell Tower fire and the Hackett Report were integral to material and structural decisions. The building uses a prefabricated structural steel frame, enabling faster and cleaner site operations, alongside in-situ concrete floor slabs, allowing for flexible internal layouts that are adaptable to future needs.

Fire safety strategies are rigorously observed to be compliant with the latest Part B2 regulations. Two firefighting staircases with dedicated lobbies ensure safe means of escape, while residential and commercial escape routes remain completely independent. Fire stops are integrated at every floor level, and robust detailing ensures continuity and reliability throughout the building.

Every element of Harbour Heights has been detailed to exceed the requirements of UK Building Regulations. Structural fire protection is achieved through independent plasterboard cladding of steel members, while we ensure moisture resistance by carefully detailed damp-proof membranes. The acoustic design achieves significant reductions in airborne and impact sound transmission, creating a calm internal environment. Thermal insulation is enhanced by locally sourced Rockwool products, which not only improve performance but also support fire and acoustic standards. Stairs and access provisions comply fully with Parts K and M, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all.

The choice of a brick slip system over full bricks allows for safer and faster installation, especially when working at height. Prefabricated concrete stairs are located on external walls, enabling quicker installation and immediate use during the construction process, thus further streamlining site operations.

Harbour Heights is not a building destined for construction, but rather a student exploration of what sustainable, inclusive design could look like on Cardiff's waterfront. The project has been a chance to test ideas, to balance heritage with modern demands, and to apply technical knowledge in a meaningful way. While conceptual, it represents a small step in learning how Architectural Technology can contribute to shaping better places for people and the environment.

While Harbour Heights remains a concept, it is one shaped by careful thought, meticulous detail, and a focus on practical, sustainable design.

Judges' comments

Lucy's project proposal for Harbour Heights stands out as a well-rounded and impressive submission, demonstrating both creativity and technical excellence. A particular highlight was the depth and quality of the environmental and building performance modelling. The project reflected Lucy's ability to balance creativity with practicality. Lucy should be proud of her project. It has allowed her to demonstrate her not inconsiderable range of skills in creating this unique design. ■

The project has been a chance to test ideas, to balance heritage with modern demands, and to apply technical knowledge in a meaningful way.



Commended
2025

STUDENT PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

New Parish Center Glostrup

Rugile Matijosiute and Tanya Pedersen, VIA University College – Aarhus C

Words by Rugile Matijosiute and Tanya Pedersen

The task was to design a new parish center to replace the existing parish hall and office. Situated directly next to Glostrup Church and its cemetery, the building needed to balance modern requirements with a deep respect for its historic surroundings. Our ambition was to create a parish center that merged faith, architecture and sustainability, while also contributing to the daily life of the community.



From the beginning, our focus was on the material choices, as they had a big impact on the functions of the building, indoor climate, architectural design and overall energy performance. We decided to look into wood as a primary construction material and analyse its benefits in order to live up to our goals for the project and for ourselves. Wood quickly became central to our strategy, not only because of its structural and aesthetic qualities, but also because of its low carbon footprint, its ability to improve thermal comfort and its potential for prefabrication and future adaptability. At the same time,



we worked towards meeting the strict requirements of low climate class and low energy class, which framed the project within the broader context of sustainable construction in Denmark.

Reducing reliance on concrete was a natural consequence of our approach, as it remains one of the most carbon-intensive building materials. The proposal had relied heavily on concrete for both walls and slabs, but in our design, it was retained only where structurally unavoidable, such as in the basement walls, vertical cores and a few partitions. Everywhere else, the structure was redesigned in timber: floors were constructed with CLT slabs, the foyer and larger spans supported by glulam beams and columns, and the remaining walls built from prefabricated timber elements and on-site stud walls. This material shift not only lowered the building's embodied carbon footprint but also aligned it with our broader sustainability goals.

We placed great emphasis on reusing bricks from the demolished parish building, integrating them into the new design to reduce waste and create a direct material link between past and future. This act of preservation ensured that the new parish center carried forward both the memory and material of what came before.



Adopting timber construction also introduced technical challenges, particularly in terms of fire safety. Under Danish BR18 regulations, timber as a combustible material requires stricter compliance. To meet these standards, structural elements were oversized and compartmentalisation was incorporated into the layout. Fire resistance and detailing were carefully developed to ensure safety while maintaining the integrity of the design.

The glass foyer, a defining architectural feature, presented its own set of technical difficulties. The foyer functions as both a welcoming public space and a technically robust part of the building.

Architectural Technology was central to transforming the project from concept to sustainable solution. From the earliest stages, it guided the design process, beginning with material research that drew on references such as Danish TRÆ and Swedish wood to understand the structural properties of timber, its fire behaviour and the detailing of its connections. This knowledge provided the foundation for technical problem-solving, enabling challenges related to fire safety, structural sizing and timber detailing to be addressed through analytical and iterative work. Sustainability was integrated throughout, with life cycle considerations informing material choices and helping the building achieve low climate and energy classifications. In this way, Architectural Technology extended beyond technical solutions, acting as a driver for sustainability, heritage preservation and user-focused design, while providing a framework in which

digital tools could be effectively employed to enhance both design and execution.

A key aspect of the project was the implementation of 4D integration to improve accuracy and coordination. This involved combining NBS Nordic (BIPS integration), Revit and Sigma (a budgeting programme). Integrating these tools allowed us to generate more precise project data and estimations, ensuring closer alignment between design, cost and scheduling.

Additional specialised software tools supported the project, including LCA Byg for Life Cycle Assessment calculations, BE18 for energy frame calculations, and Navisworks for clash detection between HVAC and MEP systems. Together, these technological integrations enabled a detailed, data-driven approach to design, construction and sustainability, ensuring the project's objectives were met with precision and efficiency, and demonstrating how Architectural Technology can merge traditional material and structural knowledge with advanced digital tools to create an environmentally responsible and technically robust building.

Overall, the New Parish Center in Glostrup shows how a contemporary parish building can combine low-carbon design, material reuse and contextual sensitivity. By reducing concrete use, embracing timber, and salvaging bricks from the existing parish hall, the project achieves both environmental performance and cultural continuity.

Judges' comments

The project proposal for New Parish Centre shows a real grasp of technical ability and sustainable innovation. The Judges praised this submission as a strong and thoughtful piece of work that demonstrates both creativity and technical competence. The Judges highlighted the architectural details as being particularly well resolved, noting that the care and precision applied deserved special mention. ■



Commended
2025

STUDENT PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

The Abberton Arc

Ryan Williams, Anglia Ruskin University

Words by Ryan Williams

Sited in the ecologically rich location of Abberton Reservoir, Colchester – which aids its immersive learning and research experience – this project is a shared facility for environmental research and education. The building is a dual-use structure, with one half catering to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (S.E.N.D) school trips and learning experiences, whilst the other half supports environmental researchers, ecologists, landscape architects, and others in the environmental profession, with a work hub based on a site of exceptional ecological significance. The project recognises the urgency of supplying climate responsive, inclusive, and educational spaces that promote sustainability, provide access to nature, and necessitate interdisciplinary collaboration.



Being surrounded by biodiverse habitats, the site presents both unique opportunities and challenges, but ultimately provides a home for architecture to be integrated into the natural landscape with minimal ecological disruption. The design has been undertaken prioritising minimal environmental impact with an aim to harmonise the natural and built environment.

The project required an entirely flexible, durable and sustainable hub that serves two entirely different

user profiles: S.E.N.D students and their educators, and scientific and design professionals studying the surrounding and wider area. The key items for consideration: full accessibility and sensory consideration for S.E.N.D children; long term durability and adaptability; high thermal, environmental and structural performance; low carbon construction and passive control systems; and space for observing, researching, and analysing.

Addressing this means that we could create a building that acts as both a learning tool for the children and a life size experiment for the researchers could be achieved, all whilst aligning and exceeding with modern day sustainability standards.

Due to the differing uses and site sensitivity, deeper analysis was required to gather a full understanding of how all of these areas could be approached. The following key areas were identified for further analysis:

Building Function and User Inclusivity

A full understanding of the sensory, spatial and mobility needs for the S.E.N.D children was needed. This





included wide circulation paths throughout, acoustic dampening, a focus on natural lighting as opposed to harsh, artificial sources (achieved by integrating large skylights in addition to the glazed frontage), and sensory regulation (achieved by specifying underfloor heating to this portion of the building only). Through precedent study, it was identified that S.E.N.D groups would require flexible and adaptable learning spaces in order to achieve an efficient use of their time at the facility, therefore the classroom is an entirely open space with movable acoustic dividers to form up to four smaller classrooms for small group learning.

Environmental Performance

Sun path and prevailing wind analysis were key to ensuring the passive design strategies proposed would work efficiently. A bioclimatic façade was designed, with specific overhangs calculated to prevent direct solar glare and excess heat gain in the summer solstice, in combination with a specific steel tensile cable-net curtain wall to allow deflection under wind loads identified from the prevailing wind analysis. This façade is used to regulate the temperature of the building using mechanical ventilation, with the façade being the primary heat source. A combination of the natural thermal buoyancy and the convection cycle have been utilised to design a passive, self-heating/cooling system for the building.

Buildability

Prefabrication was identified for most elements of the building to minimise the amount of waste produced on site, as well as reducing the impact on the surrounding biodiversity as the amount of on site trades (and therefore the noise that comes with this and the time spent on site) will substantially reduce. A timber first approach was taken, not only for carbon sequestration, but also due to its suitability for prefabrication.

Health and Safety

The design process ensured that all details allowed for a safe assembly and construction process. Not only in the details, but also within the layout of the building, the health and safety of all members involved in the construction and use of the building was considered throughout the design process. Evacuation routes, fire protection time and the use of natural ventilation systems were all key considerations for the health and safety of the end user.

Due to the location of the building, it was vital that the proposed form was sympathetic to its surroundings. The mass of the building has been carefully considered to ensure that upon entry to the site from the existing visitor road, the building appears to 'grow' from the existing topography to minimise creating a new, harsh vista. This begins with a soil bund being formed in line with the site's existing gradient, slowly grading up to the top of a retaining wall, which then seamlessly transitions into a stressed skin green roof. This is formed as a 'stressed skin' roof to allow it to form a saddle bowl shape under tension to suit the natural curve of the soil bund. It then slowly transitions into the curve of the central core which continues across into the main design feature. This being the large, curved glulam arch surrounding the glazed bioclimatic façade with a dramatic timber overhang. This slowly curving and evolving roofline allows for the visitor to enter the site and pass the building as it grows into the site with them.

The material palette was inspired by the vernacular and its ecosystems, with a heavy emphasis on the timber first approach. A mixture of deep coloured glulam beams, and light Accoya cladding provides contrast, whilst allowing for a large three storey structure to seamlessly integrate itself into the natural surroundings.

This project's complexity arrives when considering the details. There are no standardised elements of this building due to the complex interfaces between differing materials. The complex systems – such as the bioclimatic façade, tensile steel cable-net curtain wall, and the timber stressed skin green roof hung from a retaining wall in tension – all require bespoke and thorough resolution to ultimately form a structure with a unique appearance and performance to suit the demands of the site and the user.

Judges' comments

Ryan has taken on this complex dual use brief for The Abberton Arc and provided a clear and logical project solution. The dual use brief for this project is superbly resolved. Safety and practicality are embedded throughout with clear evacuation routes, well considered fire protection times and construction-stage detailing supports safe assembly and confident operation. Meticulous interfaces and bespoke systems complete a project of real ambition, care, and beauty. ■

Finalist
2025

STUDENT PROJECT
OF THE YEAR



The Exeter Opus Harry Humphries, University of Derby

Words by Harry Humphries



In the heart of Derby, next to the river Derwent, the Exeter Opus is designed as more than just a building. It is a beacon of innovation, reflecting Derby's title, the City of Innovation. Conceived as a transitional educational hub, it

supports adults returning to study, learners who struggle in conventional environments and those with learning difficulties. Beyond the traditional academic pathways, the building offers practical vocational training, including trades like electricians and carpenters.

The design brief was rooted in social inclusion. Adults who have been out of education for extended periods, those with disabilities, and learners who find conventional environments inaccessible were identified as key users. This informed decisions around circulation, wayfinding, and spatial variety, ensuring that confidence and independence could be fostered at every stage of learning, while also aiming to create vibrant communities that celebrate heritage and show its innovative nature. The Exeter Opus goes further, transforming site constraints, such as flood risk, into features that enrich the urban landscape. This is achieved through elevated walkways, permeable green zones, and integrated terraced flood walls that combine into a safe and resilient environment for occupants, rather than treating water as a limitation.

Beneath this landscape, reinforced concrete foundations and vertical cores provide structural stability, water resistance, and fire-safe compartments. Two vertical reinforced concrete cores anchor the building, creating fire compartments and protected escape routes while allowing uninterrupted circulation through learning and social spaces.

At the heart of the Exeter Opus is a striking conceptual metaphor: a gently compressed book. The form is expressed through curved façades, parametric geometries, and structural proportions derived from the golden ratio, producing a building that is both symbolic and functional. Like the pages of a book, interior spaces unfold sequentially: quiet study zones, collaborative learning areas, vocational workshops and social hubs are arranged to guide learners through a journey of discovery and skill development.

The Exeter Opus is designed for learners. Workshops, digital skills labs, libraries, auditoria, and vocational spaces accommodate academic study, skills development, and lifelong learning. Clear wayfinding, multi-purpose layouts, and open, flexible interiors foster confidence, adaptability, and community engagement. The concept was also shaped through engagement with local stakeholders. Community representatives, education providers, and local employers informed the building's mix of workshops, digital labs, and social spaces. Their input ensured that the Opus is designed as not only an academic environment but a civic resource, one that reflects the aspirations of Derby's residents and its local economy.

Through this integrated approach, the Exeter Opus becomes more than an educational building. It is a civic landmark, a public asset, a resilient landscape and a versatile learning environment that responds to the diverse needs of its users. From practical vocational programmes to academic study, from quiet contemplation to active collaboration, the design ensures every learner can find a space that supports their growth. Architectural Technology underpins this vision, enabling the building's symbolic narrative to seamlessly merge with its educational purpose.

The Exeter Opus demonstrates advanced structural thinking, combining material efficiency, adaptability and safety. Above ground, prefabricated glulam beams and columns form the primary structural framework.

One of the defining features of the Exeter Opus is its innovative use of prefabrication, particularly in the glulam beams, columns and structural components. By manufacturing these elements off-site in controlled factory conditions, the project achieves a level of precision that traditional on-site construction cannot match. This accuracy allows the building's complex geometries, such as the curved façades and parametric structures, to be fabricated and assembled with confidence, ensuring the architectural vision is fully realised.

In summary, The Exeter Opus demonstrates how Architectural Technology can transform ambitious designing into functional and inspiring buildings. All of these ideas mentioned turn site challenges into opportunities. ■

Finalist
2025STUDENT PROJECT
OF THE YEAR

Blackwall Yard Braydon O'Donnell, Nottingham Trent University

Words by Braydon O'Donnell



Blackwall Yard proposes a vertical farming research and education centre; a flagship facility designed to advancing knowledge in vertical farming technologies. The facility engages with local schools, community clubs, and adjacent communities, providing programmes and workshops to cultivate an understanding of sustainable agricultural practices.

Blackwall Yard provides an opportunity to develop one of the last truly riverfront brownfield sites in London. For almost 400 years, Blackwall Yard was a bustling piece of East London; a thriving community where merchants, traders and the local community lived, worked and played.

At the heart of the site lies a Grade II listed Graving Dock, formally known as the Lower [Eastern] Graving Dock. Constructed in the 18th Century, it is one of the oldest surviving large dry docks on the River Thames and a significant piece of London's maritime heritage.

Blackwall Yard had several key constraints. Aspen Way, to the north, is a significant source of noise and air pollution, although partially mitigated by landscape buffers. Below ground, the Elizabeth Line tunnel, just 36 metres below, as well as the site's classification as a Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area demanded a sensitive foundation strategy employing a minimal impact construction strategy. These conditions, alongside overlooking residential windows, a two-metre no-build zone around the dock, and contaminated soils, shaped both the architectural form and technical resolution.

The project capitalises on its riverfront location, which benefits from unobstructed southern exposure, by integrating solar photovoltaic panels across the

roofscape. These panels provide a renewable source of on-site energy, enabling the building to operate with a significant degree of energy self-sufficiency.

The building incorporates a passive ventilation strategy that leverages both top-hung windows and the high thermal mass of the cast in-situ concrete frame. This combination creates favourable internal conditions, reducing the need for mechanical ventilation and lowering operational energy demand.

The project also exploits its riverfront location by utilising a water source heat pump. Drawing and rejecting heat from the Thames' tidal waters, the system works in tandem with an ambient loop system which eliminates the need for gas boilers, aligning the development with carbon reduction ambitions.

A carefully considered daylighting strategy maximises the use of natural light. Large south facing glazed openings allow daylight to penetrate deep into the floorplate, while internal glazed partitions channel light towards laboratories situated on the north-facing edge of the building. The integration of daylight and movement sensors ensures that artificial lighting is used only where and when required, further reducing energy consumption.

A key principle underpinning the project is Design for Disassembly, ensuring that building elements can be efficiently replaced, upgraded or reused at the end of their lifecycle. The facade system, composed of steel framing system [SFS] panels and prefabricated components, has been specifically detailed to be fixed using only brackets and bolts.

The project's structural frame is ashcrete, an innovative material that substitutes a significant proportion of cement with fly ash, thereby reducing embodied carbon. This choice substantially lowers the project's environmental footprint while maintaining the strength and durability required of a primary structure. Exposed ashcrete has been intentionally incorporated into the design, reflecting the industrial heritage of shipbuilding at Blackwall Yard.

A defining feature of the building envelope is the prefabricated solar shading system, conceived as a series of sculptural 'flags'. In parallel, the specification of hemp insulation provides both technical and symbolic value. Derived from recycled ship rope, the material selection reinforces the project's narrative of continuity between past and present.

The introduction of biodiverse blue roofs forms a central component of the project's sustainable design strategy. These systems not only enhance stormwater management by attenuating runoff but also deliver important ecological benefits by creating habitats for pollinators and other urban wildlife. A carefully curated mix of high-pollinating plant species has been selected to maximise biodiversity value, supporting the broader ambition of integrating ecology into the project. In addition, the layered construction of the blue roof contributes to thermal performance, helping to regulate building temperatures and reduce energy demand. ■



Analysing the Application of Extremely Large Point Clouds (ELPC's) in Real Time Environments using Game Engines

Joel Woodward, University of Wolverhampton

Words by Joel Woodward

As reality capture becomes more widely accessible, the use of point clouds for visualisation applications has become an increasingly important tool within the built environment sector, allowing for highly detailed digital models of the existing buildings to be generated. With integration of immersive technologies, such as Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR), the demand for using Extremely Large Point Clouds (ELPCs) in real-time applications is growing rapidly. These expansive datasets make it possible to capture and represent reality with increased detail and precision, allowing designers and clients to visualise buildings and spaces in a more immersive and intuitive way.



However, as point clouds increase in size and complexity, significant challenges emerge in terms of computational performance, file management and hardware requirements. For immersive visualisation applications, maintaining real-time rendering is critical, with a minimum performance threshold of 60 frames per second (fps) required to ensure usability and avoid issues such as motion sickness.

The aim of this research was to test the feasibility of ELPCs for real-time visualisation in game engines, specifically Unreal Engine 5. The study benchmarks performance across different point cloud sizes, file formats and hardware configurations to provide a practical insight into current strengths and limitations of the technology.

Point clouds are typically generated using LiDAR scanning or photogrammetry, producing millions of 3D coordinates that capture the geometry and surface detail of the built environment. Due to the non-intrusive nature of reality capture, point clouds are widely used in architecture for heritage recording, surveying, and as-built modelling, and increasingly for immersive visualisation through integration with VR platforms.

The 3D spatial data captured provides a range of benefits, as point clouds allow for extreme detail, accuracy and precision. When rendered in immersive environments, they allow users to interact with true-to-life digital representation of the buildings or landscapes. This capability supports greater design decision making, and non-intrusive analysis of historic buildings for future record.

Despite the advantages of point cloud applications, they also present notable challenges. ELPC's are resource intensive which leads to computational constraints for real time applications due to the size of individual datasets. Rendering such volumes of data in real time is demanding even for high-end machines. Previous research has attempted to address this through semantic segmentation and deep learning neural networks which divides classifies each point of the point cloud into their respective categories, making the datasets more manageable. While valuable, these approaches often fail to address practical implementation in real-time environments, with limited focus on point clouds at architectural scales.

This study focuses on experimentally testing ELPCs directly in a real-time environment, to analyse the feasibility of point clouds for rendering applications on an architectural scale. Employing an experimental methodology with Unreal Engine 5.4.4, the research directly tested ELPCs in a real-time context by importing a series of datasets ranging from 3 to 31GB in both .las and .e57 formats to evaluate the impact of file type. Point budgets were systematically adjusted from 100,000 to 100 million points to identify the performance thresholds, providing practical benchmarks for real time rendering applications.

To address the challenges of rendering ELPCs in real time, future research should focus on methods for splitting ELPCs into separate chunks. By separating ELPCs into smaller chunks, this may allow for larger point clouds to be imported without needing a smaller point budget. For example, sample 3 is a point cloud with 543,341,928 points; however, when rendering only 18% of the scene at a point budget of 100,000,000, 15fps is the highest framerate achieved.

Whilst this may be applicable for smaller point clouds, it is important to note that larger point clouds may not be suited. If the point cloud is being rendered

at a 10,000,000 point-budget to achieve the minimum performance requirement, approximately 54 separate chunks would be required which is not feasible. When considering separating point clouds into more manageable chunks, the .e57 may still be the preferred file format compared to alternatives as

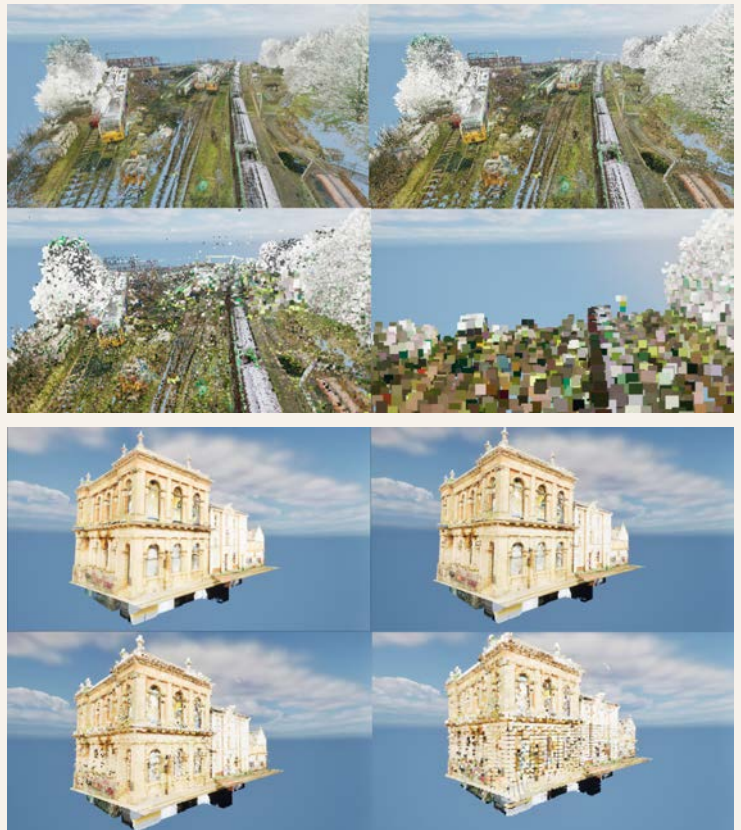
they are compressed without sacrificing performance. However, utilising deep learning for point cloud optimisation remains the key focus for future research.

The aim of this research was to test the feasibility of ELPCs for real-time visualisation in game engines



Judges' comments

The Judges commended Joel's report for tackling a highly relevant and contemporary topic, setting out clear aims, objectives and methodology from the outset. His engagement with recent and relevant literature, including academic publications, demonstrated strong research skills and an impressive awareness of developments in the field. Judges were very complimentary about the approach to the work and would like to compliment him on being very clear in his writing style, inciteful and to the point. Overall, the Judges were unanimous in agreeing that this was an engaging, forward-looking piece of research that demonstrated both rigor and creativity. An outstanding contribution to the subject. The work was a pleasure to read and Joel should be proud of his contribution to the subject and in providing us this exemplar. ■



Highly
Commended
2025

STUDENT REPORT
OF THE YEAR

Tackling Embodied Carbon Within the Retrofit of Historic Structures

Jessica Hakes, Nottingham Trent University

Words by Jessica Hakes

As urbanisation in the UK accelerates, the built environment sector's reliance on high embodied carbon materials has become a major contributor to national carbon emissions. In response, this study explores strategies to reduce embodied carbon through the sustainable retrofit of an 18th Century building located on the author's Major Study Project (MSP) site. The goal is to extend the building's structural lifespan by incorporating low-carbon materials, thus aligning with the UK's national decarbonisation targets.



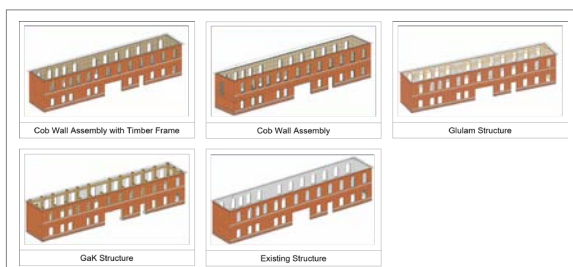
The built environment is responsible for approximately one-quarter of the UK's total carbon emissions. Despite this, much of the decarbonisation focus has been on new buildings, overlooking the vast number of historical buildings. Retrofitting these existing properties is essential as it avoids the carbon-intensive processes of demolition and new construction while conserving architectural heritage. By repurposing and upgrading older structures, we can avoid waste, preserve materials, and reduce the environmental impact of extracting and manufacturing new ones.

To accomplish this, a mixed-methods methodology was employed over three phases. The first phase involved a qualitative literature review of 15 academic sources to analyse five structural materials: glulam, cob, steel,

reinforced concrete and *Guadua angustifolia* Kunth (GaK). These materials were evaluated for their embodied carbon across stages of production, transport and recyclability. From these, three lower-carbon alternatives were shortlisted: glulam, cob and GaK.

The second phase focused on creating 3D models using Autodesk Revit. These included five structural layouts: one replicating the existing material in the building, and four using glulam, GaK, cob and a hybrid cob wall with a timber frame. These layouts were scaled and designed in context with the existing structure, ensuring their architectural and structural feasibility. Each material was modelled realistically; for example, the GaK structure included a concrete footing based on prior studies highlighting its necessity for structural support and durability. This modelling phase set the foundation for quantitative analysis in the next stage.

In phase three, simulation-based research was conducted using OneClick LCA, a Revit-compatible tool that allows for life cycle assessment of embodied carbon. The focus was on key LCA stages, A1- A3 (production), A4 (transportation), and C2-C3 (end-of-life). The existing materials in the building were excluded from calculations since they had already been produced and would not add to future embodied carbon. For materials well-documented in databases, like glulam, data was pulled



Commended
2025STUDENT REPORT
OF THE YEAR

Harnessing Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) for Surface Water Management

Braydon O'Donnell , Nottingham Trent University

Words by Braydon O'Donnell



Flooding is the most serious natural hazard faced in the United Kingdom, with damages estimated at £500 million to £1 billion annually. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable because population growth and high-density developments have led to the degradation of naturally permeable landscapes. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is emblematic of these challenges: it is the most densely populated area in the UK

and has experienced a 22% population increase over the last decade. Limited open green space, combined with its location on the Thames riverfront within Flood Zones 3a and 3b, has made the projects site highly susceptible to fluvial flooding. The research project, Harnessing Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems [SuDS] for Surface Water Management, explores how SuDS can minimise surface water runoff and water pollution. SuDS offer a nature-based approach to managing surface water runoff by mimicking natural water management processes.

The study followed a mixed-methods methodology, combining the benefits of both quantitative and qualitative approaches, resulting in a more comprehensive understanding and verifiable results. Phase 1 critically evaluated existing literature, research, and local SuDS guidance to identify suitable SuDS interventions for reducing surface water runoff and water pollution. From this, 3 suitable interventions emerged: permeable paving, bioretention systems/ rain gardens, and vegetated swales. A secondary outcome of the literature review was the decision to adopt the Flood Estimation Handbook [FEH] method for calculating the sites Mean Annual Flood [OBAR], which was preferred over the older IH124 algorithm, as FEH was shown to

be statistically more reliable, incorporating real-time weather conditions, hydrology, and soil data.

Phase 2 employed the UKSuDS "Greenfield Runoff Rate Estimation" tool to establish the sites baseline conditions. Investigation revealed loamy and clayey soils with naturally high groundwater, characteristics that increase susceptibility to pollution which, as per Tower Hamlets SuDS Guidance, render infiltration based SuDS unsuitable, likely due to the sites industrial history.

The 3rd phase brought these findings into practice using the Storm Water Management Model [SWMM], developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Using SWMM simulations, the author assessed the performance of the shortlisted SuDS under both 1-in-25-year and 1-in-100-year storm scenarios, incorporating a 40% climate change allowance to reflect future conditions. The 1 in 25-year event evaluates performance in moderate, frequent storms, meeting Tower Hamlets requirement for no surface flooding within such conditions. The 1 in 100-year event evaluates long-term effectiveness against extreme weather, as required by the Environmental Agency and recommended by Tower Hamlets SuDS Guidance. Both storms were modelled as 6-hour events broken into 15-minute intervals. Although Tower Hamlets recommend a 2-hour storm, the author simulated 6-hours to better capture peak runoff and reflect worst-case conditions for assessing SuDS performance. Permeable paving, bioretention systems, and swales were modelled individually and in combination, alongside a biodiverse blue roof which was included to reflect Tower Hamlets encouragement for their use due to widespread applicability.

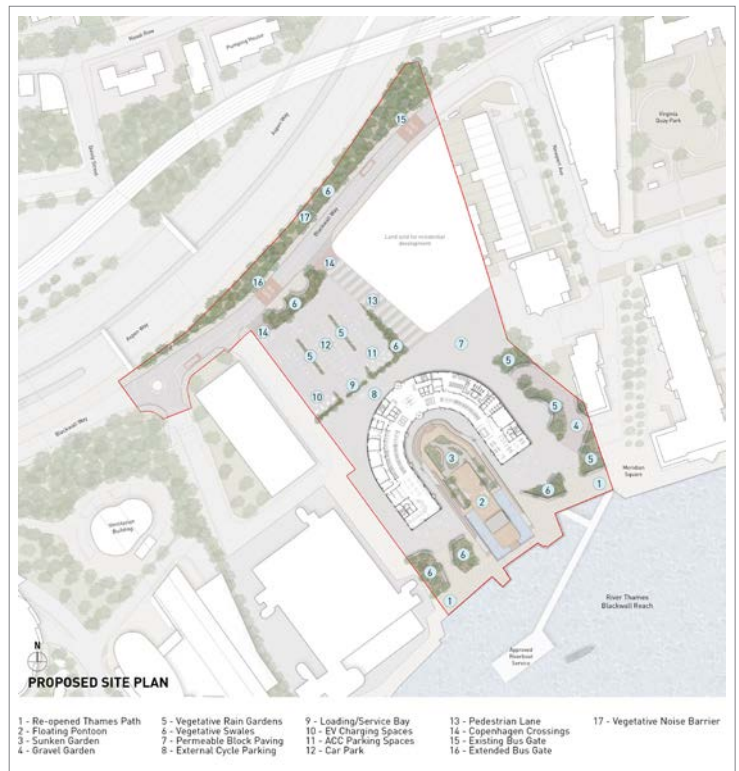
Individually, permeable paving achieved the highest reduction in runoff at 54.4%, largely due to its extensive site coverage. Bioretention systems, whilst

showing lower retention rates across the whole site, outperformed all other interventions when measured by retention per square metre, underscoring their value in space constrained urban contexts. When all four interventions were combined, runoff was reduced by 61.8% in a 1-in-25-year storm and 61.2% in a 1-in-100-year storm. These findings confirmed the hypothesis: a management train is far more effective than isolated measures.

Beyond the retention rates and pollution reduction capabilities of SuDS, this study also evaluated additional benefits of SuDS. Rain gardens and swales introduce much needed biodiversity, offering habitats for pollinators and native species. Blue roofs, meanwhile, support rainwater harvesting strategies and help reduce air pollution. Therefore, showing Su OS are not only beneficial for reducing surface water flooding, but also broader ecological and social value.

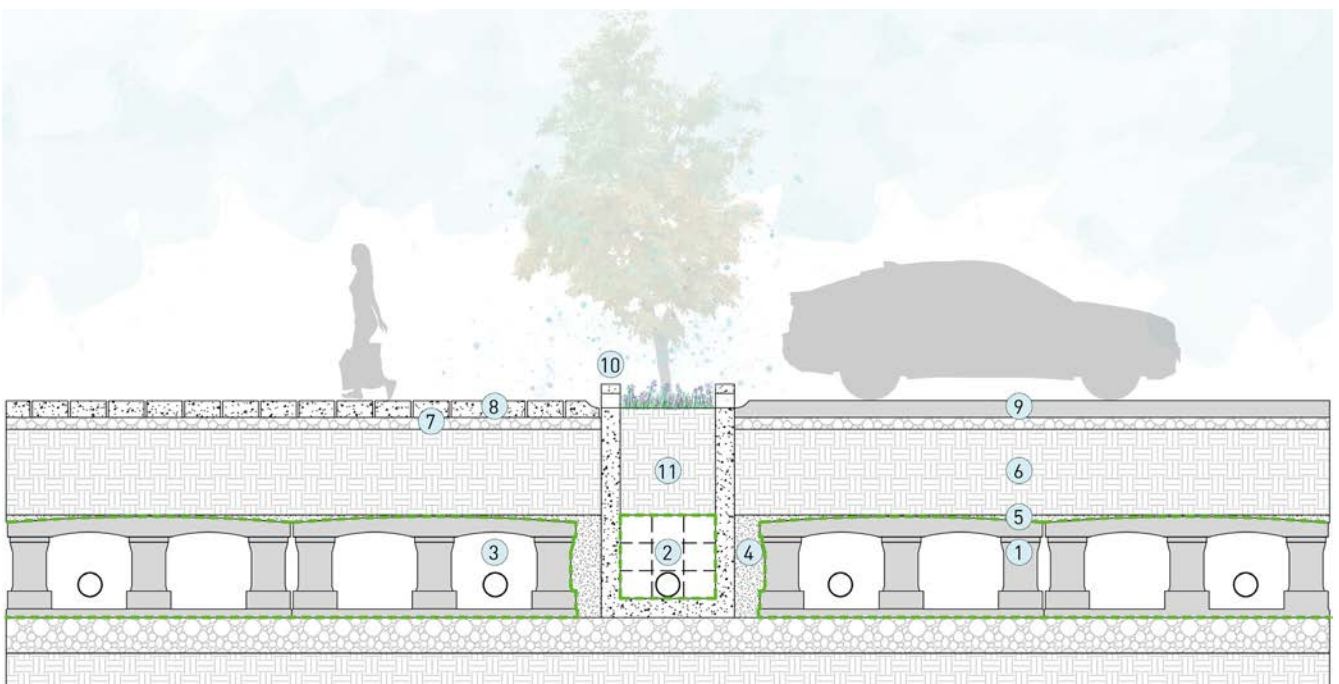
The research is careful to acknowledge its limitations, however. SWMM, while a powerful tool, cannot account for the long-term maintenance requirements that underpin real world performance. Permeable paving, for example, demands regular cleaning to avoid clogging, while rain gardens and swales require ongoing care to sustain vegetation. Costs were also excluded from the modelling, yet capital and maintenance budgets remain crucial considerations for clients in real world applications. These limitations point to the need for further research into lifecycle cost benefit analysis and the role of maintenance in sustaining system effectiveness over time.

In conclusion, the study demonstrates that combining permeable paving, bioretention rain gardens, vegetated swales, and blue roofs offers the most effective strategy for the project site. Such an integrated approach achieves significant reductions in runoff while simultaneously delivering biodiversity, ecological value, and much-needed open green space.



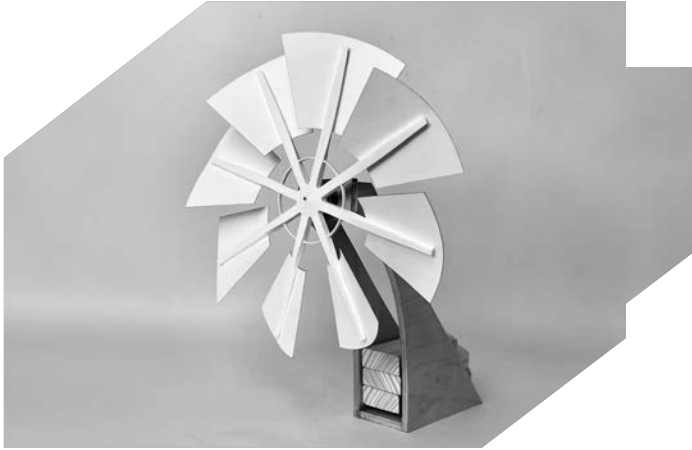
Judges' comments

The Judges commended Braydon's work as a strong and well-structured study that engages with one of the most pressing issues in the built environment today. From the outset, the report set out a clear aim and hypothesis, supported by a concise abstract that provided readers with a strong overview of the study. Overall, the judges described Braydon's submission as a strong, insightful and impactful piece of research with clear practical application. ■



Finalist
2025

STUDENT REPORT
OF THE YEAR



Pulley to Power: Fantail Driven Renewable Energy Anastasia Fedorova, University of Westminster

Words by Anastasia Fedorova



On the way to achieving global net-zero carbon emission goals and addressing the climate crisis, wind energy in particular stands out as one of the most widely adopted measures due to the abundance of its resource, wind and variety of scaling possibilities. In return, this offers new possibilities for sustainable architecture and site-responsive design.

This report explores the integration of contemporary wind energy harvesting technologies with preserving the architectural heritage of historical windmills. Their typically rural locations and irregular energy demands often place them off grid. The presence of installed and specially designed wind-harvesting systems, the sweeps, the fantail, and their deliberately chosen high-wind sites prompts the consideration of repurposing heritage equipment for modern power generation.

This introduces several challenges. Historic windmills cannot generate enough energy through a fantail alone due to low RPM (revolutions per minute) of 30-60 RPM, compared to the input amount required for a conventional generator: 1,000-1,800 RPM. However, with the introduction of a step-up pulley system, to increase the rotational speed before energy conversion, it does become possible.

The Old Smock Mill or Beacon Mill in Benenden, Kent, England was chosen as a case-study building for this research project, as its owner has shown interest in the restoration of the windmill and re-installation of the fantail as a wind-energy-harvesting device on it, making the site and structural analysis and feasibility

study possible. Built in the early 1800's, it was one of a pair that originally stood in the area; the other had disappeared many years ago. It was a working mill right until the Second World War, after which it fell into disrepair. In 2016 it was partially restored (without the cap, sweeps and fantail) by the present owners and today is available on AirBnB. It is a Grade II listed building of The National Heritage List for England (NHLE), protected by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990.

Since the restored cap of the Benenden Mill is intended to remain in a fixed position, it is essential to orient it toward the prevailing wind direction – the direction from which the strongest and most frequent winds originate. To determine this, a site-specific wind analysis was conducted, focusing on wind speed, direction and frequency. To acquire the necessary data, a Meteomatics Weather API (Application Programming Interface) was used, which is a weather and climate API, connected to multiple backend services and databases, allowing the user to make queries via REST API using HTTPS URL requests. Assuming prevalent winds: W-WSW-SSW-SSE, SSE was chosen as the desired fixed fantail position.

With the change of the purpose of the fantail, the requirement for its performance changed, too. High torque, originally intended to turn the heavy mill cap, is no longer necessary. With power generation as a goal, the fantail can be treated largely like a typical vertical axis wind turbine. The final proposed design for the fantail was logically divided into two dedicated areas of analysis: the core and the blade. A vertical-axis wind turbine becomes a functionally independent structural core intended to support the wide blades. The separately fixed wide blades resemble the original fantail blades and tie together the authenticity of the preserved historical aesthetics.

Aluminum, steel and plastic are common materials for pulleys. Depending on the available funding for external encasement of the pulley system, aluminum or steel would be the best options, as they are widely accessible. Aluminum, however, is more suitable due to its great tensile strength, high-temperature resistance and durability with regards to its dimensions, which prevents deformation.

In the end, the outcome is a comprehensive system design that achieves a balanced integration of heritage preservation and technological innovation. By modernising the smock mill's traditional mechanisms while respecting its architectural legacy, the system becomes a functional, future-oriented asset that honors the past while contributing to a sustainable future. It not only extends the mill's functional lifespan but also demonstrates how historical infrastructure can adapt to contemporary energy and environmental demands. ■

Finalist
2025STUDENT REPORT
OF THE YEAR

AI-Driven Automation in Architectural Design: Reducing Time, Enhancing Compliance

Kieran Patel, Nottingham
Trent Universit

Words by Kieran Patel



Architectural design processes remain burdened by repetitive compliance tasks such as drawing checks, annotation and regulatory reviews. These activities consume valuable time, limit creative focus and can inflate project costs. Despite the widespread adoption of digital tools and Building Information Modelling (BIM), inefficiencies persist in the early and technical stages of design.

This research explores whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) automation tools can help alleviate these pressures by streamlining workflows, supporting regulatory compliance and improving design quality. Three advanced AI platforms were evaluated: ChatGPT-4o, Grok and DeepSeek. The study provides evidence of how AI can reduce time and cost while enhancing efficiency and offers guidance for Architectural Technologists considering the adoption of such tools.

The practical testing revealed distinct strengths and limitations across the tools.

Implications for practice

The research highlights both opportunities and cautions for the profession, offering several clear implications for practice:

- **Use AI for early checks**
Tools such as ChatGPT-4o can highlight potential issues quickly, freeing time for higher-value design tasks.
- **Leverage tool-specific strengths**
The evaluation showed differing capabilities. Grok provided highly detailed, regulation-referenced compliance checks, while DeepSeek was particularly effective in reviewing accessibility and user-focused details aligned with Approved Document M and BS 8300. ChatGPT-4o proved most useful in the early design stages, offering fast, high-level summaries to guide iteration.
- **Maintain professional oversight**
A recurring limitation was the lack of UK-specific training within these AI tools, resulting in occasional inaccuracies and 'hallucinated' outputs. This reinforces the need for robust human review, particularly in compliance-critical areas such as fire safety and accessibility.
- **Invest in skills and integration**
Survey participants identified limited software capability and lack of tool knowledge as key barriers. Investment in upskilling, training, and tailored prompt strategies will be essential for practitioners to make full use of AI while ensuring regulatory accuracy.

Conclusion

The results of this study highlight the growing role of AI-driven automation in tackling inefficiencies within the architectural design process. Practical testing demonstrated that tools such as ChatGPT-4o, Grok and DeepSeek can significantly reduce the manual effort required for compliance checking and drawing reviews. Grok proved particularly strong in delivering detailed, regulation-referenced assessments, while DeepSeek offered valuable insights into accessibility and human-centred considerations, supporting compliance with Approved Document M and BS 8300. ChatGPT-4o stood out for its speed and clarity, providing concise summaries that were especially useful in the early design stages.

In summary, this study confirms that AI-driven automation can substantially improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness in architectural workflows, particularly by addressing repetitive tasks such as compliance checks and drawing reviews. The application of advanced AI tools within the AI Research Centre MSP informed design refinements in areas including fire strategy and sanitary layouts, demonstrating the practical value of AI in supporting productivity, regulatory accuracy and user-focused design within Architectural Technology practice. ■

Finalist
2025

STUDENT REPORT
OF THE YEAR



An Assessment of the Feasibility of Energy Piles for Widespread Use Across the UK Built Environment

David Smith, Liverpool John Moores University

Words by David Smith



Energy pile foundations are an example of a green building technology, which incorporate a closed loop ground source heat pump system into deep reinforced concrete foundations, to allow heat exchange to occur between a transfer liquid and the surrounding soil. They provide renewable heating and cooling to the building below which they are installed and can be used in a range of geographic locations and climates with a high level of efficiency, offering long-term carbon and energy cost savings. The technology can be implemented on numerous building typologies, including large scale projects with short payback periods, typically around ten years.

The aim of the research project is to: "Assess the benefits of energy pile use and explore the technical, logistical and financial challenges which hinder the design and procurement process, in order to evaluate the feasibility of widespread adoption across the UK built environment."

The research design forms a clear and methodical pathway to guide the study, utilising a sequential-explanatory mixed methods approach to develop an understanding of both design- and specification-related considerations. This is used to assess the current barriers to energy pile use. Once these are established, the concept of the feasibility of future uptake is addressed. The research is then directed towards

identifying the actions required to overcome these barriers, through the means of primary research, by surveying and interviewing construction professionals across a range of disciplines. Finally, the focus shifts to appraising the likelihood that the required changes can be implemented, in order to understand the true feasibility of widespread energy pile adoption.

The issue of a lack of awareness of energy piles across the industry, which is identified in the seminal literature is also echoed in the interview responses. This unfamiliarity across multiple roles within the AEC industry, including engineers (mechanical and structural), architects, developers, contractors and other consultants, leads to risk averse decision making, which is also reflected in the finance sector, with concerns around insurance and lending.

The lack of long-term performance data and standardised design practices are referenced as contributing factors to these financial challenges by both academic authors and interview respondents.

Despite the challenges discussed, there is clear evidence from both the literature and professional feedback that the industry is open to adopting new technologies where tangible benefits can be demonstrated. Case studies referenced during the interviews show that technical and logistical challenges have been successfully addressed on real-world projects, typically through strong interdisciplinary collaboration and early-stage integration into the design process. Several participants had a positive outlook on the future implementation of energy piles on complex projects such as hospitals, supporting their use as a primary heating and cooling source to meet base loads.

Whilst the research concludes that energy piles are, by no means, a universal solution to the carbon emissions of the UK's building stock, it draws attention to an under utilised technology, capable of making substantial cost and carbon savings, benefitting construction stakeholders in addition to the environmental benefits. Despite being unsuitable for many projects, for the variety of reasons outlined, there is a strong use case for the technology, under the correct site and design conditions, meaning opportunities for long term reduction of operational carbon overlooked on many projects. Although the technology is subject to the limitations described, improved awareness of the technology in the professional field, with efforts to standardise design components and configurations could have a meaningful impact on the overall carbon emissions of the UK built environment in years to come.

More research is required to investigate these ideal conditions for energy pile use and capitalise on their full environmental potential. ■

Winner
2025THE ASPIRATION AWARD FOR
EMERGING TALENT IN AT

Ryan Davies MCIAT

Words by Richard Roberts, Director, Rio Architects

Ryan joined Rio Architects four years ago after graduating with a First-Class Honours degree in Architectural Technology from Cardiff Metropolitan University, where during his studies he demonstrated a high level of passion and technical ability, rightfully being awarded the CIAT Wales Outstanding Graduating Student Award. This early recognition set the tone for Ryan's professional journey, where he continues to demonstrate the same drive, commitment and technical excellence in practice.



One of Ryan's standout qualities is his ability to seamlessly switch between multiple projects at short notice, maintaining a high standard of work while always meeting deadlines. His flexibility plays a crucial role in maintaining project momentum and supporting the successful delivery of complex, fast-paced schemes, upholding the practice's reputation for technical excellence and quick delivery. His consistent dedication and willingness to support others have earned him the respect of colleagues and senior leadership.

Showing a sharp understanding of the growing responsibilities of Architectural Technologists with the introduction of the Building Safety Act, he is actively pushing to build his knowledge, lead coordination on complex projects, and champion the clear, accountable technical information the profession now demands.

While specialising in RIBA Stages 3–5, Ryan has a wide-ranging skill set that extends well beyond technical delivery. He is highly proficient in producing striking visuals through real-time rendering software. He has used this software to walk clients and planners through our schemes earlier in the process. This ability to communicate design intent in this way has proven

invaluable in securing client buy-in and approvals. Helping them fully understand and connect with the vision behind each project.

He has been a key contributor to a wide range of our projects, including a large college in Bridgend featuring a unitised façade system, a high-rise student accommodation tower in Leeds, fire remediation works to hospitals and many others. Whether working collaboratively or leading a project, he consistently takes on greater responsibility and delivers strong results, no matter the challenge.

One of the current schemes he has been leading is a refurbishment of a Grade II* listed Victorian arcade in Cardiff, transforming an abandoned space hidden behind the units into a vibrant, modern food hall. His leadership and vision from developing the spatial arrangement to the Stage 4 tender package demonstrated his ability to navigate the complexities of working within a sensitive historic environment. Being heavily constrained, he expertly balanced the preservation of the arcade's unique heritage with the demands of a contemporary commercial use.

His consistent presence on site has fostered a strong partnership with the contractor. This allowed him to respond quickly and effectively to any unexpected issues, particularly during the soft strip phase, where hidden conditions demanded immediate and flexible solutions. His adaptability ensured that challenges were resolved thoughtfully and efficiently, minimising delays and preserving the integrity of the design. With completion expected towards the end of the year, Ryan has led the design team through this complex project, demonstrating dedication to achieving the highest quality outcome.

Not only contributing to the company through project work, Ryan is also a strong power user of Revit within the practice. He is the youngest member of our BIM team, specialising in our visualisation software plug-ins.

Ryan also prepared and delivered an internal

workshop open to all our technologists, most of them being his seniors, where he walked them through the full CIAT chartership application process. He created an open forum where colleagues could share experiences, discuss the evidence they had, and explore how best to use it for their submissions. Even for those not yet applying, the session proved to be invaluable, providing clarity, encouraging early evidence gathering, and helping them take meaningful first steps.

Outside of work hours, Ryan is highly active within the industry. Regularly attending networking events, where he has built a strong professional network, connecting with industry leaders across the city. Ryan is an excellent young ambassador for our company, consistently representing the practice with professionalism, enthusiasm, and a genuine passion for promoting Rio Architects and Architectural Technology within the wider built environment.

His role at CIAT has allowed him to make a meaningful contribution to the profession. While he has only been the aspiration chair for the Wales region for 8 months at the time of writing, what he has accomplished in this time sets him apart alone. He is extremely passionate about bridging the gap between industry and education, creating opportunities that give students experience-led insights beyond the classroom, exposing them to industry expertise. Ryan has led the development of many new initiatives aimed at strengthening this connection, his vision ensuring the next generation enters the profession better prepared and technically confident.

The best example was the Technical Showcase event he organised for Cardiff Metropolitan University, designed to boost students' technical understanding through live construction demonstrations. The real-time installation of a section of a rainscreen façade and roofing systems, while having the contractor and manufacturers talk through design considerations alongside, allowed students to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. This was also supported by CPDs on the products that were installed and industry-led talks, helping the students gain a clearer understanding of construction sequencing, technical detailing, and the practical

considerations that informs their detail drawings.

The university's feedback was outstanding, praising both the relevance of the topic and the manufacturer's willingness to engage with students. The completed display is still in their studio today, where current and future students will have access to it, and is set to be the subject of future early detailing exercises.

From the event's success, it was featured in Aspiration magazine and will be recreated again this academic year. Ryan has also been working with other aspiration chairs about the possibility to bring this event model to other regions in the future.

Ryan also organised a technical support session for final-year students at Cardiff Metropolitan University, bringing in some of Cardiff's leading architectural technologists to offer expert advice; aimed at strengthening the students' technical submissions and boosting their confidence ahead of deadlines. He also gave up his own time during lunch breaks to host one to one Teams calls for those unable to attend in person and for those at universities further afield, going above and beyond to make sure no one was left without support.

Additionally, Ryan sparked the idea for a second-year student technical competition, which has now been developed with the Aspiration team and is being implemented this academic year. Designed to strengthen students' technical skills and their ability to clearly present and communicate design decisions without an over-reliance on presentation boards and visuals, the competition is already being recognised for its potential to raise the profile of emerging student talent, improve technical confidence, and better prepare students for placement opportunities and professional expectations. They expect it to significantly boost student engagement with CIAT and student membership numbers, and provide universities with a valuable opportunity to showcase their students' technical capabilities on a larger platform.

Ryan has shown outstanding commitment and ambition in Architectural Technology. He has developed the skills and mindset to handle projects of all sizes and complexity, contributing to some of the practice's most technically demanding work. His forward-thinking approach and dedication to excellence mark him as a future industry leader.

With a strong drive to grow, he actively embraces digital tools, pursues professional certifications, attends industry events, and engages with professional bodies, all whilst serving as group chair for CIAT Aspiration Wales, where he is redefining industry engagement with universities.

Working well beyond his years, he is rapidly becoming a highly respected and influential Architectural Technologist. Rio is proud to have him as part of the team. ■

Ryan has shown outstanding commitment and ambition in Architectural Technology. He has developed the skills and mindset to handle projects of all sizes and complexity, contributing to some of the practice's most technically demanding work.



Finalist
2025

THE ASPIRATION AWARD FOR
EMERGING TALENT IN AT



Adam Green ACIAT

Adam Green is a standout emerging talent in Architectural Technology, whose trajectory reflects not only a high standard of technical competence but also a deep commitment to advancing the profession.

A graduate of the University of the West of England, Adam has consistently demonstrated the qualities of an exceptional technologist: rigorous attention to detail, a strong grasp of construction processes, and a remarkable capacity to bridge theory and practice.

One of Adam's most notable attributes is his ability to think critically about buildability. He is not content with conceptual or academic solutions; rather, he consistently works toward deliverable outcomes that meet the real constraints of programme, budget, regulation, and client need. Whether producing construction details, environmental assessments, or coordination diagrams, Adam's work demonstrates a full-spectrum understanding of the role of the Architectural Technologist – balancing aesthetic resolution with practical, safe, and sustainable construction.

He has developed fluency in key industry software including Revit and AutoCAD, enabling him to operate confidently in BIM environments and digital design workflows. Adam's specialist skills lie at the intersection of digital design, technical detailing, and construction methodology. His ability to operate confidently in BIM environments has allowed him to take on high-level tasks from an early stage in his career, including spatial coordination, model auditing, and performance analysis. Also, Adam's detailing work reflects a deep understanding of how building elements come together.

Adam's excellence is not limited to technical ability. His character – marked by curiosity, humility, and integrity – has made a profound impact on those around him. He is someone who leads by example, offering time and support to his peers, and bringing energy and optimism to team environments.

His passion for Architectural Technology is evident

in his extensive voluntary engagement with CIAT.

Adam plays a key role in CIAT's Aspiration and events team, helping to plan, organise, and deliver a range of initiatives aimed at both students and professionals. These include careers events, technical workshops, student showcases, and industry networking sessions. His commitment to these activities reflects a strong belief in community and professional development. Adam understands that Architectural Technology is not just a discipline, it is a profession that thrives on shared learning, mentorship, and continuous growth.

Adam has also taken a leading role in welcoming new student members into CIAT. He regularly supports onboarding initiatives, providing guidance on membership pathways, and encouraging younger students to participate actively in the professional community. His outreach efforts have made a measurable difference in student engagement, helping bridge the often-daunting gap between education and industry. Adam's ability to communicate clearly, inclusively, and with genuine enthusiasm makes him a highly effective mentor and ambassador for the profession.

Adam also demonstrates a strong appreciation of the broader construction landscape. He understands the constraints of procurement and the importance of programme and phasing. He is aware of health and safety obligations, regulatory drivers such as the Building Safety Act, and the increasing emphasis on whole-life carbon and sustainability metrics. This strategic awareness allows him to make informed decisions that go beyond isolated detail resolution and contribute to better overall project outcomes.

Adam Green represents the very best of what an Architectural Technologist can be: technically skilled, intellectually curious, ethically grounded, and committed to the advancement of the profession. He is not only building a career for himself; he is actively shaping the pathway for others by supporting students, engaging with the professional body, and helping define the role of Architectural Technology in contemporary construction.

His achievements to date—across academia, industry, and professional outreach—are underpinned by a rare combination of discipline and generosity. He is already contributing meaningfully to the built environment and professional community, and there is every indication that his influence will continue to grow. Adam approaches every challenge with integrity, creativity, and care. He takes responsibility, seeks collaboration, and consistently strives to raise standards in his own work and the work of those around him.

In short, Adam Green is not just an emerging professional – he is an emerging leader. His excellence is not defined by any single project or achievement, but by the consistency, thoughtfulness, and impact of his contributions across every aspect of his career. For these reasons, Adam is a truly deserving candidate for recognition as an exemplary Architectural Technology professional. ■

Finalist
2025

THE ASPIRATION AWARD FOR
EMERGING TALENT IN AT



Luke Woodhouse ACIAT

Luke Woodhouse is an emerging talent in Architectural Technology who has demonstrated exceptional commitment, leadership, and impact in his professional career. As a key member of DL Design Studio (DLDS), Luke has led significant projects, including complex construction work for major clients, while driving the adoption of BIM and Revit technologies. His technical expertise and innovative mindset have not only transformed his team's capabilities but have also influenced wider industry practices.

At just 28 years old, Luke's ability to balance technical excellence with collaborative problem-solving makes him a natural leader, building trust and lasting relationships across all levels of the business and with clients.

Luke's leadership extends beyond his title. He is currently managing projects for two of DLDS's major clients, leading meetings with experienced contractors and briefing senior colleagues within the team. His ability to balance technical knowledge with diplomacy allows him to navigate complex industry challenges.

In his work with one of the UK's largest housebuilders, Luke has been instrumental in implementing BIM processes, improving efficiency, and reducing errors. Internally, he mentors colleagues in software proficiency, helping DLDS take our use of BIM to another level.

Luke's understanding of building technology, construction processes and commerciality, alongside his software skills, has enabled him to successfully implement efficient processes and systems. Because of Luke, we now streamline our project delivery by integrating Revit and BIM, allowing us to produce high-quality visuals much more efficiently. Luke's drive for innovation has had a lasting impact on how we work and what we can deliver. It's more than just software knowledge.

Luke builds trust and encourages collaboration across all levels. His initiative was evident while working on a 13-apartment new build when a prefabricated

concrete staircase arrived on site and didn't fit. Luke visited site, identified that the ground to first floor had been built three brick courses too high, and quickly proposed a solution. Rather than leaving the issue to the contractor, he suggested reusing the staircase for the first to second floor (where the dimensions matched) and ordering a new staircase for the ground to first floor. This avoided additional costs, delays, and waste.

Luke's proactive approach, cross-checking planning requirements and working collaboratively with the contracts and site managers, turned a potential setback into a practical solution. His willingness to step in, offer advice, and protect project outcomes demonstrates his commitment to collaboration, trust, and problem-solving.

Our clients hold Luke in the highest regard, as one client put it: "We have engineers, a project manager, a builder, a contract administrator, and specialist suppliers on this job. But somehow, Luke is the only one on this project who knows everything about this building. He's the only person I have complete confidence in!"

Despite DLDS being a small practice, Luke works alongside major industry players, including one of the UK's leading Housebuilders and a major Retirement Village Developer, helping drive meaningful change within their organisations.

For our leading Housebuilder client, Luke has played a key role in improving drawing standards and enhancing existing processes and systems by sympathetically upgrading and optimising them; likened to 'servicing and upgrading their car whilst it's still driving on the motorway!' This has maintained consistency while improving output quality. His involvement has been instrumental in developing and controlling an entire regional division's database of house types, which has the potential to be a critical resource for future project delivery. This work will leave a lasting legacy, with clients relying on the systems Luke has helped create.

What sets Luke apart is his unique combination of project running ability, deep technical design knowledge, and BIM expertise. This positions him to understand statutory, and construction demands, critically analyse and recommend efficiencies in both design and process.

Luke has enabled DLDS to reduce reliance on external consultants, strengthen competitiveness, and produce improved design outputs and better design controls for the client. His leadership and strategic thinking have helped position DLDS as an influential player in shaping how larger firms approach architectural delivery.

As DLDS evolves, Luke is positioned as a key part of its future. His technical expertise, leadership, and client relationships are vital to our growth.

Luke's influence is already reshaping DLDS. He is central to the company's ongoing organisational plans of evolution. His legacy will be a practice that is more resilient, informed, and forward-thinking thanks to the sustained change he has delivered. His ability to challenge conventional processes will shape architecture and construction for years to come. ■


 Winner
2025

 CHARTERED ARCHITECTURAL
TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sam Lambert MCIAT

Words by Peter Stead FCIAT, Director, P+HS Architects

Sam Lambert has exemplified excellence in Architectural Technology through his unwavering passion and significant contributions to the profession. Over the past 12 months, his career has been defined by innovation, leadership, and a steadfast dedication to advancing the discipline, leaving a meaningful impact on both the profession and the wider built environment. His efforts, both within P+HS Architects and through CIAT, have been both inspiring and transformative, as well as nothing short of exemplary, meriting recognition as Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year.



At P+HS Architects, we witness Sam's technical expertise firsthand, evidenced by the complex projects that he leads. However, it was through testimonials from his CIAT Aspiration network that we came to fully appreciate the extent of his dedication as Regional Aspiration Chair for the Yorkshire Region. This nomination presents clear evidence of how his skill, commitment, and inspirational leadership have uplifted the profession, supported CIAT's strategic objectives, and motivated peers and emerging professionals alike.

During his three-year tenure as Chair of Aspiration Yorkshire, Sam revitalised a dormant regional group in the aftermath of the pandemic, transforming it into a thriving, dynamic network of over 50 students, graduates, and industry professionals. Although this transformation evolved steadily, the past 12 months have been especially pivotal. Through dedicated personal outreach, engaging presentations, and well-organised events, Sam fostered a welcoming and supportive environment.

A cornerstone of Sam's work is promoting Architectural Technology through industry talks. Over the past year, he has delivered several presentations at universities and colleges across Yorkshire. His enthusiasm for the discipline is contagious and has inspired countless students to pursue careers in Architectural Technology and get involved with CIAT Aspiration, and his presentations have been taken up for promotion of their region's activities and the wider discipline.

Recognising inconsistencies between regional Aspiration initiatives, Sam became the driving force behind the national promotional film *Aspiration: Where it's AT*. He collaborated with production company Voytek Ltd. to create a unified and compelling message about the purpose and vision of Aspiration. Premiering in May 2024, the film has widely been received and promoted by Aspiration chairs at university presentations and awards ceremonies, receiving great acclaim across the board.

Sam led the initiative to standardise the structure of Aspiration on a national level. He helped organised a strategic meeting at CIAT headquarters, where he showcased the Yorkshire regional group and advocated for a clear membership and registration process. He strongly believed that the foundation of a successful regional Aspiration group lies in its structure; specifically, an active committee of like-minded individuals dedicated to planning events and shaping the group's future direction. He believed this structured approach positioned Aspiration as an industry-ready platform to be widely valued on a national scale. His vision was well-received, with several regions now adopting similar frameworks, as highlighted by National Aspiration Chair, Joe Hyett at the 2024 CIAT AGM. Sam continues to support other regional groups through this transition, helping to ensure the longevity and

consistency of Aspiration's framework well beyond the tenure of current aspiration chairs.

In addition to his work with universities, Sam has actively built relationships with regional colleges. Sam's vision is that the first steps into industry as an Architectural Technologist starts at college level. He has also helped connect students to employers offering placements, work experience and apprenticeships. Furthering his support, Sam arranged CIAT Aspiration sponsorship of facilities and physical spaces at these colleges, reinforcing long-term collaborative efforts dedicated to advancing skills, knowledge, and growth within the construction and engineering industries. Sam believes the transition from academia to industry can be daunting, and through a well-structured regional Aspiration network, he has helped bridge this gap. The Yorkshire group thrives on the exchange of knowledge across all levels of experience, offering a continuous cycle of guidance and support.

Sam also played a pivotal role in organising and hosting the first-ever National Aspiration Chairs meeting outside of London, right in the heart of Yorkshire. This historic event featured a site tour of a clinical trials lab, a city walking tour, a lecture from Leeds Beckett University's course director, titled 'Educations impact to AT' and a networking reception. Above all, a meeting was held earlier in the day and gave chance for regional representatives to express their thoughts and opinions on Aspiration events and formality's going forward, ultimately solidifying the structure of Aspiration for years to come. Aspiration chairs left the day feeling energised and inspired by the voluntary roles they were all representing. The day was a resounding success, widely celebrated and set a new precedent for future national meetings to be hosted by regions across the UK which gives the opportunity for all aspiration chairs to get together and express the values of the great network and profession which they represent.

Even late into the evenings, Sam can often be found in the office attending CIAT meetings, handling general administration, and developing presentations and case studies – all in support of CIAT Aspiration. This significant, behind-the-scenes investment of time often goes unnoticed, yet it is a core fundamental behind the success of the Yorkshire Region's Aspiration Group.

At P+HS Architects, Sam has worked closely with Premier Modular on two fast-track healthcare projects, stepping in at a critical stage when additional resources were needed to see them through to completion. He exemplified the core values of an Architectural Technologist, successfully managing both complex schemes through to completion. These included a modular stroke ward at Redruth and Camborne Hospital – highly commended at the MMC Awards – and a decant unit at Berwick Hospital, which required precise design solutions to ensure HTM and Part M compliance on a spatially constrained site.

Aligned with his projects that he manages, Sam is passionate about mentoring younger colleagues and inspiring them to achieve the best of their abilities. With his keen eye for detail, Sam encourages the younger cohort to model efficiently in Revit, notably arguing that a well-developed and detailed Revit model at stage 3 saves time and increases project efficiency throughout stage 4. Equally, Sam actively supports his junior apprentice Tom Best, reinforcing his role as a leader both in the office and across the industry.

Looking ahead, Sam continues to lead the delivery of increasingly complex and technically demanding



projects, all while serving as a role model to junior staff and championing the core values of P+HS Architects and of a Chartered Architectural Technologist. He actively supports professional development within the practice by mentoring colleagues through their Chartership journeys and helping new team members integrate into the profession. At the same time, he remains committed to his own ongoing development, actively pursuing FCIAT and recently attending the Design in Mental Health Conference in Manchester in June.

Sam is set to become the National Aspiration Chair at the upcoming AGM in November – a natural progression given his commitment and accomplishments. As he concludes his term as Regional Chair, this moment serves as an opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind – a legacy marked by passion, structure, innovation, and dedication. A deserving recipient of the CIAT Emerging Talent Award in 2022, Sam continues to embody the values and aspirations of a Chartered Architectural Technologist. His influence will resonate throughout the industry and academia for years to come as he champions Architectural Technology on a national scale whilst delivering technical excellence at P+HS Architects. ■

Aligned with his projects that he manages, Sam is passionate about mentoring younger colleagues and inspiring them to achieve the best of their abilities.



Finalist
2025CHARTERED ARCHITECTURAL
TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lalit Chauhan FCIAT

Lalit Chauhan has dedicated his career to sustainable, detail-driven, and innovation-led design. Focusing on driving the social housing sector towards a greener future, he has enabled the most disadvantaged in society to participate in the low carbon agenda. His visionary approach to design, technology and construction has had a significant impact on the sector. As Design Director at ZED PODS, he has led a team that delivered over 158 net-zero carbon modular homes across the UK, shaping the future of low-carbon, affordable living. His leadership influences not only his team and clients but the wider profession through advancing MMC, digital information, circular economic principles and ethical construction practices. Helping pioneer factory-based delivery models that are scalable and climate-resilient, focused on whole life carbon and social value; Lalit has regenerated brownfield sites into energy-positive communities and helped ZED PODS win 49 awards, including The King's Award for Enterprise.

Lalit is strong in his belief that Architectural Technology has the potential to become the engine room of a sustainable construction revolution. This is implemented and being borne out at ZED PODS. His external communications and wider industry dissemination is showing that his standpoint of industry change will only be achieved if professionals lead with ethics, evidence, and empathy". He strongly believes that as an Architectural Technologist, educating the next generation of designers, clients, and policy makers is critical.

Lalit always aims to strengthen industry collaborations with research institutions, local authorities, and housing providers — shaping the next generation of zero-carbon homes that are cost-effective, customisable, and replicable across urban, rural, and suburban contexts. He is also exploring international opportunities, drawing from his early work in Asia and seeking to export lessons learned in the UK to countries facing similar housing and climate challenges. ■



Taylor Davison MCIAT

Taylor Davison has demonstrated immense capability, sensitivity and strength in the short years since achieving her Chartered status. Whether mentoring junior members of the team, reassuring nervous clients, commanding a site full of contractors, or writing policy that will improve the organisation, Taylor is constantly raising the bar for herself and her colleagues. Her natural aptitude for Architectural Technology suggests that this is still only the beginning of an impactful and illustrious career.

Taylor has proven a natural talent for managing and leading large complex projects. She balances with ease the sensitivity required in conservation architecture and with private clients, and the robust grasp essential for technical design and site management. As a project leader, she has earned a trusted reputation for her depth of technical knowledge, firm yet fair management style and efficient communication. She regularly asks for increased responsibility and is reliable in a crisis.

Beyond project work, she is a generous mentor to members of the team, encouraging knowledge sharing. She also spearheads systematic change within the Environmental, Social and Governance working group to make improvements to the organisation. She cares about our environmental impact, and implements initiatives to improve operations, such as Transport and Waste. She raises the bar for us all. ■

Finalist
2025

CHARTERED ARCHITECTURAL
TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD


John Heaney MCIAT

John Heaney is an exceptional Chartered Architectural Technologist whose leadership, technical expertise and dedication to professional development set him apart. With over 20 years' experience and achieved his Chartered status in 2016, John has led the implementation of the Building Safety Act within ECD Architects — creating templates, guiding clients, mentoring staff, and driving regulatory compliance with clarity and confidence.

A natural leader and mentor, John supports colleagues across all levels, empowering others to succeed and raising overall technical standards. His involvement with the Architectural Technical Leads Group (ATLG) highlights his commitment to industry-wide improvement.

As a certified Passivhaus designer, John has also delivered award-winning sustainable buildings, combining technical rigour with environmental responsibility. Approachable and visionary, he inspires trust from clients and peers alike.

John's influence is felt far beyond project delivery; he is shaping the future of Architectural Technology through his professionalism, advocacy, and unwavering pursuit of excellence.

John is a line manager to several members of staff within ECD. His approachable nature and level-headed temperament make him a fantastic leader to colleagues at all levels. The role of line manager requires regular formal and informal check-ins with colleagues ensuring personal development plans are maintained and appraisals are held to discuss both professional and personal conversations in confidentiality. The importance of having good leaders and mentors within a practice is often overlooked. This skillset within a business can provide stability and growth by nurturing existing staff members to achieve their potential. John has proven to have the fundamental skills to exceed at this role having colleagues listen and learn from him as they develop within the industry. ■



Siobhán Tarr MCIAT

Siobhán leads multiple teams at gcp within the housing sector, focused on delivering excellence from Stage 4 onwards. Her technical knowledge and rigorous approach to detailed design are major contributors to gcp's establishment as a leading housing delivery practice, setting a high bar for project execution.

Siobhán also oversees gcp's extensive CPD programme, supporting the company's reputation for putting learning and development at its heart. This commitment to continuous professional growth inspires colleagues, elevating overall technical proficiency.

Her dedication to learning isn't confined to gcp; Siobhán proactively extends this ethos by arranging regular work experience placements for schools. These offer invaluable practical insights for aspiring Architectural Technologists and architects, directly influencing their early career understanding and nurturing future industry talent. Siobhán's proactive approach embodies a vision of shared knowledge and professional advancement, demonstrating how individual commitment shapes an organisation and the wider architectural community.

Siobhán demonstrates excellence as a Chartered Architectural Technologist through her exceptional technical expertise, significant impact on project delivery and practice standards, and inspiring dedication to nurturing future talent. Her character, marked by a commitment to learning and supporting others, combined with her clear vision for professional advancement, positions her as a leader who not only excels in her current role but also actively contributes to the sustained growth and positive evolution of the architectural technology profession. Her continuous personal development, rooted in curiosity and a commitment to shared knowledge, serves as a powerful force for progress within gcp and the broader industry. ■



Register now for elementalLONDON

Rebecca Pearce, elementalLONDON's Event Director, explains the reasons why you need to attend a new event all about decarbonising buildings.

elementalLONDON is a new event coming to London's Excel on 19-20 November 2025. This must-attend exhibition is focused on the twin aims of advancing building efficiency and decarbonisation.

Here are the key reasons why you should attend.

Engaging speaker programme

Our two-day programme of thought-provoking and informative content includes five theatres and over 200 expert speakers from government, industry and academia.

The elemental Arena will feature keynote speakers and lively debates on decarbonising the built environment and the National Home Improvement Council (NHIC) Knowledge Hub will cover everything you need to know about housing, from the Future Homes Standard to the Warm Homes Plan and anything in-between. The Climate Solutions Theatre will showcase heating and cooling issues and solutions in commercial and public buildings, a key area of decarbonisation.

Keep your eyes peeled to <https://elementallondon.show>, with the full event timetable to be revealed soon.

Big name exhibitors

elementalLONDON will feature 200+ exhibitors, across a wide variety of key industry sectors.

Exhibitors at the event include leading brands operating in the built environment industry, with a wide selection of heating, cooling, ventilation, renewable energy and building management systems and controls suppliers, and more.

A full list of exhibitors is available to view at <https://elementallondon.show/exhibitors>, but make sure to follow us on LinkedIn at 'elementalLONDON' for all the latest announcements of who's attending.

Partnership with CIBSE Build2Perform Live

As part of a long-term strategic partnership, the long running and widely respected CIBSE Build2Perform Live will be aligned with elementalLONDON for 2025 and beyond, offering an enhanced experience for exhibitors and visitors alike, drawing on the expertise of both event teams.

The hallmarks of Build2Perform Live will also be at elementalLONDON through live content sessions, including the CIBSE-approved CPD programme in the two Build2Perform Theatres.

The HAUS

The HAUS is a full-scale two-storey house build that will take centre stage at elementalLONDON.

Designed by award-winning architects IF_DO and built using regenerative materials by Natural Building Systems. The HAUS will act as a focal point at elementalLONDON to demonstrate our commitment to bringing the industry together in a constructive and meaningful way with the common goal of decarbonising buildings.

Our partners

elementalLONDON will be working closely with leading industry associations, including CIAT, to ensure that the message of elemental is delivered to an engaged audience across the wide range of sectors that the show will cover.

Scan the QR code to register for your free ticket to elementalLONDON, or visit elementallondon.show for more information.



Recipient
2025

GOLD AWARD | CELEBRATING
AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER

The Gold Award recognises and celebrates the dedication and commitment of Chartered Architectural Technologists who have demonstrated a significant contribution or outstanding service to the Institute.

There is a maximum of ten Awards presented annually to Chartered Architectural Technologists who have changed, developed or advanced the Institute, by solid, demonstrable and outstanding achievement.

The recipient for 2025 is:

Cornelius ‘Niall’ Gerard Healy MCIAT for outstanding services to the Greater London Region.



Niall became involved with the Greater London Region when he was elected Chair in 2013. Since then, he has become an integral part of the Greater London Regional Committee, bringing both energy and vision, as Chair and Educational Officer. Niall, along with the Head of Membership, visits all the CIAT Accredited programmes at universities across London. As a working professional, he explains the role of CIAT to students, encouraging them to join the Institute as student members and to engage with aspiration, where they have the opportunity to socialise and meet like-minded people. He does this with such enthusiasm, that no one attendee wondered why one would want to become an architect and not an Architectural Technologist?

Following an opportunity to join the academic team of an Accredited Architectural Technology degree programme at a local university, Niall thought that it would be of great benefit for the work of the students to be acknowledged at the end of their studies. Over 250 students have now been involved in the awards since their establishment.

The preparation of the Greater London Regional Student Awards has evolved over the past number of years, with Niall ensuring they ran online during the 2020 COVID lockdown with each university being presented separately. Today, the event is one large celebration, hosted by Niall, with five universities coming together for one evening at the award ceremony. Head lecturers, tutors, students, friends and family, and potential employers gather to celebrate their work and success.

Each year, Niall leads on the preparation for these awards with support from members of the Greater London Regional Committee. The Greater London Region Student Awards have become a template for other Regions to use to create a similar event.

Niall sits on Professional Interview Panels to support Central Office. He also represents CIAT at large events such as Clerkenwell Design Week, Future Build and the Ideal Home Exhibition, informing attendees of the benefits of engaging with a CIAT professional. He also chairs and partakes in discussing issues with other CIAT professionals to provoke discussion with the audience in such environments, wearing his CIAT badge and tie with pride.

His energy and enthusiasm for Architectural Technology and CIAT are infectious. Consequently, he has been asked by potential members to mentor them in their application for membership.

As an individual, his patient, empathic nature and dancing is appreciated by those who meet him.

I believe that the work Niall has undertaken to raise the profile of CIAT, especially within the student environment, is highly commendable and worthy of recognition. ■



HONORARY FELLOWS

Honorary Fellows

Honorary Fellow, HonFCIAT, is awarded by the Institute to a distinguished individual in recognition of their contribution to the discipline and profession. It is the highest accolade that the Institute can bestow on non-members in recognition of their support to the discipline and profession. The Institute is delighted to announce the inaugural recipients:

Diane Dale for:



- work has had a positive impact on Architectural Technology; and
- significant contribution to and excellence in Architectural Technology.

Nominated by Adam Newell FCIAT, Regional Councillor, Greater London Region:

I have had the privilege of working closely with Diane Dale over the past thirteen years during my regular involvement with the Institute. Her enthusiasm for the profession is both infectious and inspiring, and she has continually encouraged and empowered my own further engagement. Diane's involvement with the Institute spans more than three decades, well before my own time, and has witnessed—and indeed driven—many changes. With over 30 years dedicated to promoting the profession as a key player within the built environment, Diane has helped reshape the built environment sector, placing CIAT firmly at its heart. She has made a significant and lasting contribution to the discipline of Architectural Technology through her leadership, dedication and vision during her long-standing tenure as Head of Practice and Technical. Throughout her time at the Institute,

Diane has acted with honour, fairness, diligence and care. She has ensured that the Architectural Technology community is well represented and understood by a wide range of audiences. Her passion is felt by those around her, and she consistently stands up for what she believes in. Her values—both personal and professional—are deeply respected by all who work with her. She brings compassion, strength and wisdom to every encounter.

History with CIAT

Diane Dale joined BIAT on 20 February 1995 as Professional Services Officer & Accounts Assistant. From there, she progressed to the role of Practice Officer before moving into her final post as Head of Practice & Technical. Diane left CIAT on 30 April 2025, having served the Institute and its membership for the majority of her career. Over the course of 30 years, Diane has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the profession of Architectural Technology. She has a proven track record of advancing the industry, giving both the profession and the Institute a stronger foundation in an ever-evolving landscape. Despite not having a background in Architectural Technology, Diane approached the role with determination, investing significant time and energy to build a deep understanding of the technical, legal and regulatory frameworks that shape the built environment. Over the years, she has become a knowledgeable and respected advocate for both CIAT and its membership.

Contributions to the industry

During her time at the Institute, Diane consistently demonstrated an

extraordinary commitment to serving the membership. Often working with limited resources, she nonetheless ensured members received high-quality guidance, practical tools and meaningful opportunities for engagement. She proactively fostered collaboration across the sector by engaging with government bodies, regulators and other professional organisations, significantly enhancing the Institute's influence and reputation. Diane was instrumental in building the Practice Department, leading a small team to ensure CIAT has a voice, whether it is regulatory issues, collaboration with the British Standards Institution, involvement with government working groups or public education efforts—all of this is aimed at protecting clients, our members and ensuring high standards within the profession. Among her most notable achievements is the establishment and development of several taskforces and societies, which have provided valuable platforms for knowledge-sharing, professional development and community-building. These initiatives have empowered members to take ownership of their careers and have solidified CIAT's reputation as a hub for innovation and leadership within the built environment.

The Practice Department as it stands today is a testament to Diane's tireless efforts. Its growth, impact and ongoing relevance are the direct results of her thoughtful and transformative leadership. She has fundamentally shaped how Architectural Technology is communicated, supported and celebrated. Diane has also collaborated extensively with sister organisations such as the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Building Research

Establishment (BRE), influencing major projects, legislation and technical guidance. Her involvement in Government consultations—both within the UK and across Europe—has been exceptional, ensuring documents are accurate, workable and compliant. She regularly worked beyond her contracted hours and devoted personal time to the discipline, the profession and CIAT's 9,500-strong membership. Even after stepping down from her post, she continues to support members and contribute to the Practice Department. Understanding the challenges faced by practitioners, Diane created a comprehensive library of resources and templates to simplify practice management. She also participated in consultation processes and working groups related to the Hackitt Review, contributing to crucial post-Grenfell reform work.

Contributions beyond her role

While Diane had a formal role at CIAT, she consistently went above and beyond her job description. She took it upon herself to elevate the visibility of Architectural Technology and amplify the voices of its practitioners. Diane has helped to place Architectural Technology firmly on the map and remains committed to its continued growth. Though now officially retired from CIAT, she continues to support members and the Practice Department. Granting her Honorary Fellowship would allow her to maintain active involvement in key taskforces, working groups and panels. Her expertise is still sought after, and this honour would ensure her continued contributions are formally recognised and enabled.

Diane has left a lasting, positive legacy. She expanded the scope of her role not for personal gain, but from a genuine desire to support the membership and promote the profession. Her dedication stemmed from a deep-rooted passion for seeing the Institute succeed. To Diane, this was never just a job—it was a career, hobby and lifestyle. The success of the Institute mattered to her just as much as it does to the members whose careers it supports. Diane made a career out of supporting the careers of others. She committed herself to the success of CIAT and its members, and the high regard in which she is held speaks volumes. Her legacy continues, and she remains an invaluable advisor to the team at Central Office and members across the Institute. Bestowing Honorary Fellowship on Diane would not only acknowledge the immense contributions she has already made—it would also allow the membership to continue benefiting from her passion, wisdom and experience. It would give her a formal route to rejoin committees,

panels and taskforces where her insights are needed and valued.

Conclusion

Diane's willingness to exceed the bounds of her role has been consistently evident throughout her time at CIAT. Though she did not come from a traditional Architectural Technology background, her influence on the profession is profound and enduring. She has shown what can be achieved through integrity, perseverance and a commitment to service. Her work has tangibly advanced the discipline by creating strong infrastructure, lasting networks and vital strategic partnerships that will continue to benefit members long into the future.

Fergal Walsh for:



- work has had a positive impact on Architectural Technology; and
- excellence in Architectural Technology.

Nominated by Professor Sam Allwinkle PPBIAT FCIAT

Fergal is an exceptional designer and architectural technologist who has dedicated over three decades of his career to advancing Architectural Technology on a global scale. He is a principal at Gensler which is the largest architectural practice in the world and as a principal, Fergal leverages his diverse experiences in design strategy, workplace design and critical facilities projects to deliver innovative architectural technology solutions to their challenges.

His work has resonated at various scales, from local to international, touching the realms of professional practice, policy, academia, research and industry. From designing cutting-edge trading floors in Sydney to spearheading workplace strategies across mainland Europe.

From graduating in Architectural Technology, from the Cork Institute, over thirty years ago he has demonstrated throughout his career, a remarkable ability to envision and implement design solutions that not only meet clients' needs but also elevate the entire field of Architectural Technology. Fergal's innovative approaches have consistently

pushed boundaries, resulting in positive change and improved practices within the industry.

Contributions and innovation to Architectural Technology practice

His contributions are numerous, groundbreaking and exceptional. His extensive portfolio showcases excellence in designing critical facilities, workplace strategies and fit-out projects for financial services firms. His accomplishments have not only transformed the built environment but have also set new standards for excellence within the profession.

His dedication in achieving excellence is evident in his professional profile and the projects he leads. Through his outstanding achievements in diverse spheres of Architectural Technology, Fergal has played a pivotal role in advancing the field and inspiring fellow professionals to pursue innovation and excellence in Architectural Technology.

Fergal goes beyond the traditional practice of design to deliver Architectural Technology and innovative solutions to the challenges his clients seek to overcome. Fergal has been involved in projects around the world, ranging from the design of trading floors in Sydney, to workplace strategy for over 3 million square-feet in mainland Europe to the design and construction of ground-up data centres in the UK, in addition to over 10 million square feet of corporate office projects in the UK. Fergal has worked on a mixture of projects throughout Europe from Microsoft's new 350,000 square feet European headquarters in Dublin, a 1.2m square feet investment bank headquarters in Central London to multiple commercial office projects across mainland Europe. Fergal's key belief is that by "Delivering meaningful solutions to clients with measurable added value is key to forming long lasting client relationships."

An example of his world leading innovation in Architectural Technology was when as lead designer for the one of the world's tallest buildings, the Shanghai Tower in China he used BIM not just as a design tool but for modelling the construction phase of the complex tower. This required the use of BIM and time lapse animation to analyse the construction and assess the use of cranes and their optimisation to reduce the number and the duration of the construction period. An innovated use of Architectural Technology in practice.

Contributions to Architectural Technology profession

Fergal's association with Architectural Technology and CIAT goes beyond the scope of his professional projects. He

has consistently contributed to the development and promotion of the profession and discipline through his active involvement with esteemed organisations such as the British Council for Offices, the RIBA Membership Committee and delivering the keynote address at the CIAT Design Futures Symposium in 2015. His participation in these forums demonstrates his commitment to fostering growth and progress within the industry.

At the Design Futures event, Fergal was the keynote speaker and delivered an incredibly impassioned presentation entitled *Head in the Clouds, Feet Firmly on the Ground* using the Shanghai Tower as an exemplar. Fergal's zealous presentation conveyed the importance of Architectural Technology as an essential design function to ensure projects are delivered efficiently and effectively and perform to meet the use of occupants and users.

He also demonstrated an empathy with architectural technologists, even with the smallest detail such as mortar droppings in cavity walls effecting the performance of buildings. He had not forgotten his roots. His humility, sincerity and emotions were infectious resulting in an audience that were close to tears creating a moment and a lasting impression on architectural technologists who were there. I cannot recall any event in my life that had such passion and insight into Architectural Technology that was so memorable and unforgettable.

Recommendation

Considering Fergal's positive impact, significant contributions and continued association with Architectural Technology, his visionary approach, innovative solutions and dedication to excellence I propose him without reservation. This honour will further enhance Fergal's commitment to Architectural Technology and with his profile and networks will increase the national and international reputation and impact of CIAT as a global design profession.

Alison Watson MBE for:



- work has had a positive impact on Architectural Technology.

Nominated by Gary Mees PPCIAT MCIAT

My first introduction to Alison and Class of Your Own, was when I had been asked to be one of the judges for the Jamie Oliver competition back in 2016. The competition was Design a Jamie Oliver Restaurant, a challenge in collaboration with Jamie Oliver Restaurants. The challenge was a secondary school competition that invited students to reimagine a local building as a 'Jamie's Italian' restaurant. The winning design was created by John Haylett and Sam Boone, students from Clacton Coastal Academy. They reimaged an iconic Martello Tower on the shore of Clacton. The judging panel were brought together from all the major professional bodies, including CIAT, to judge the school's submissions, an enlightening experience for mature professionals to see the outputs of the emerging talent coming forward into our industry, they are desperately needed.

Alison is the drive and energy of Class of Your Own, an international award-winning organisation that seeks to bring together schools and the built environment industry. Her support for CIAT and AT's is second to none, she has worked with students and arranged workplaces to gauge their interest in studying Architectural Technology. She has been a judge on the AT Awards for the Student Award | Project, and has also explored opportunities with CIAT's Regions and universities, offering Accredited Architectural Technology programmes, to expand AT education and promote the discipline of Architectural Technology.

Positive impact

Class of Your Own has created the Design Engineer Construct!® (DEC) programme, which is internationally recognised for its innovative approach to education in the built environment. This programme equips young people with essential skills and inspiration, paving the way for careers in architecture, construction, engineering, facilities management,

surveying and beyond. By offering a comprehensive entry point, DEC not only nurtures future talent but also addresses the industry's growing need for skilled professionals.

Significant contribution and excellence

Alison's educational initiatives, particularly through the Design Engineer Construct!® programme, have been instrumental in promoting the built environment profession. Her collaboration with CIAT on various projects has helped raise awareness and standards not only in the UK but also on an international scale. This partnership highlights the importance of integrating education with industry needs, ensuring that future professionals are well prepared for global challenges.

Significant and continued association

Alison's impressive career and achievements speak volumes about her dedication to the built environment sector and education. Her passion for fostering home-grown talent through the Design Engineer Construct!® programme has had a profound global impact, with the programme now being implemented worldwide. This success can be attributed not only to Alison's unwavering vision but also to the hard work of her dedicated team and the collaborative support of the COYO community.

Her outstanding contributions to education and the industry have been recognised with numerous prestigious honours. These include an Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from Heriot-Watt University, election as an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors, and several awards such as the President's Award and the Richard Carter Prize. In addition, Alison's leadership was acknowledged through her nomination to the Board of the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, her representation of youth and learning on the Construction Industry Training Board Council, and her appointment as an MBE for services to education in H.M. The Queen's 2018 New Year Honours.

Alison's work exemplifies the powerful intersection of education, innovation and industry collaboration, driving forward the future of construction and the development of talent for generations to come.

As an Honorary Fellow of CIAT, her continued advocacy for the discipline, profession, and the Institute itself will be invaluable. Her support is expected to significantly contribute to growing interest and awareness of Architectural Technology in the UK and internationally, driving progress and innovation within the discipline.



Recipient
2025

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

Bob Kay MBE PPBIAT MCIAT

Words by Eddie Weir 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 third recipient of the President's Medal is Bob Kay MBE PPBIAT MCIAT.

In this, our 60th Anniversary year, and as I come to the end of my second term as President, I reflect on the ethos of this Award and its significance to recognising the true pioneers of our discipline. When I think of extraordinary distinction and exceptional contribution to Architectural Technology and the profession, there is one name that stands out to me and as such is this year's recipient of the President's Medal.

Bob Kay is a role model Chartered Architectural Technologist and has been an inspiration to me and so many countless others. His great humility with an immense generosity of spirit, good humour all combine to be an inspirational figure to so many. Bob acts as an exemplar of what professionalism is and this Award recognises his significant contribution and as a thank you to his dedication and selflessness. He has served the AT community with impeccable integrity and adoration.

Bob has given a lifetime's contribution to the world of Architectural Technology and, as such, totally



Chairman of the Connor Diocesan Architectural and Building Committee; member of the Property Committee of the Representative Church Body; Lay Honorary Secretary of the Connor Diocesan Council and Synod and a member of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. In 2016, he was made a Lay Canon at St Anne's Cathedral, a historic move as the appointment of Lay Canons to Church of Ireland cathedrals only became possible a few years before. As an active member of society, Bob spends considerable time offering his services to organisations he feels strongly about.

As recognition for his work and service to the architectural profession, Bob was duly and deservedly awarded the MBE in 1999. Bob is a hugely respected and admired Member and he is held in the highest esteem from the wider Architectural Technology profession. The unmatched dedication he provides and the personal way in which he applies it is remarkable.

For me, 'Sir Bob' as we fondly call him, was instrumental with his personal support and encouragement for me to become involved with CIAT at a national level. This has allowed me to make many new friends and acquaintances, travel the world and most importantly I have been able to represent a discipline and Institute that I am highly passionate about. I honestly wouldn't have even considered it until Bob had suggested it. He has instilled in me an enthusiasm to continue succession planning and doing the very same thing that he did with me - sewing the seeds into the minds of those who show that they have the potential and talent to 'step up'. It is vitally important to encourage our future leaders and I have 'Sir Bob' to thank for this.

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

His hardworking selfless attitude and passion for his profession and his Institute has brought together a strong and extremely proactive Regional membership and committee, where his fellow members have been inspired or are aspiring to follow his example.



reformed the Northern Ireland representation by providing encouragement, guidance and foundation to develop those into the future of the discipline.

There are many examples which could be used to demonstrate Bob's achievements for Architectural Technology, the discipline and profession, both past and present, and activities he was involved in to ensure the profession is at the forefront within the sector. The consequences of Bob's devoted efforts have resulted in that he has enhanced both the discipline's and CIAT's presence and recognition throughout the province and within the built environment sector. This has contributed in illustrating the high level of professionalism and recognition in which the membership currently receives from its peers and wider industry circles.

His hardworking selfless attitude and passion for his profession and his Institute has brought together a strong and extremely proactive Regional membership and committee, where his fellow members have been inspired or are aspiring to follow his example.

As well as his professional commitments, he is a long serving member of the Church of Ireland and particularly involved with its property and architectural committees. He has been a member of the Select Vestry, Church of the Holy Name, Greenisland Parish;





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Meet the Judges

Small Project of the Year, New Build of the Year, Conversion of the Year and Retrofit of the Year

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 (SELSA) 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.

Daniel Crann FCIAT



Dan Crann, Technical Director at Corstorphine & Wright holds over 20 years of experience in the architectural and construction industry.

Having joined the practice aged just 16, Dan has rapidly progressed to become a leading member of the technical design and delivery team and one of our youngest ever Directors. He manages a 30-people strong technical delivery team working on Corstorphine & Wright's largest and most complex projects. Dan has a great technical understanding of projects across a range of sectors but thrives in the Education and Residential sector, particularly City Living Schemes and high-rise developments.

Dan is a Chartered Architectural Technologist, and as well as sitting on the CIAT Accreditation Panel for universities, Dan has been recognised for his contribution to the institute by becoming a CIAT Fellow, one of the first for the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists.

Keen to inspire the next generation, Dan set up and leads the internal CIAT mentor programme within Corstorphine & Wright assisting employees from graduate level through to 40+ years' experience to gain their Chartered Membership. The foundations and requirements set out in the scheme Dan has developed have ensured each candidate has been fully prepared for the written, compiling evidence and interview parts of the application process. Testament to his commitment, he has assisted more than 20 people within the last five years with successful chartered applications.

Hadeel Saadoon 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.

Meet the Judges

Student Project of the Year

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.

Natasha Coles MCIAT



Natasha is a Senior Chartered Architectural Technologist at Whittam Cox Architects. She has been a Regional member of the Yorkshire Region

since 2013 whereby she has undertaken many roles and positions including aspiration Chair, Education Officer, Regional Councillor and is currently acting as Regional Chair.

Natasha is passionate about education and has a long standing commitment to supporting members wherever she can. She has a proven track record within CIAT supporting young professionals within the built environment from their very first steps, deciding which career route to take within architecture, to supporting them through their studies at university through to securing their first placement, through to practice, to becoming chartered, to opening their own practice and beyond.

Natasha is a committed and passionate built environment professional who strives for excellence in supporting communities, education and retail environments. Her strengths lie in building teams to deliver projects at pace whilst ensuring high build quality

that strives for functional, technical excellence. Beyond daily practice she loves researching about sustainability, environmental design as an evolving discipline and practice particularly around disaster and climatic architecture. In addition to this she is passionate about supporting architectural heritage, traditional practice the evolution of AI and its impact to design, diversity and culture.

Giles Boon FCIAT



Giles is Passivhaus Lead (National Associate) at AtkinsRéalis. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists and a

Certified European Passivhaus Designer. His consultancy work has contributed towards some of the most innovative low-energy buildings of our time.

His work extends to education, where he is a Senior Lecturer in Architectural Technology at the University of West England and Programme Leader of BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology and Design. He uses Passivhaus to educate his students in sustainable design and construction methods.

As a way of giving back to his profession, Giles sits at Committee as Regional Education (Universities) Officer in the Wessex Region. Giles' vision is in promoting ties between CIAT and the Architectural Technology students studying UWE's CIAT-Accredited degree programme.

Giles' early career was characterised by major residential projects for national house builders. This is where his ethos for high-performance building fabric design developed into an aspiration to create buildings that perform as energy-optimised and healthy homes for everyone.

He now enjoys developing knowledge amongst teams about the nuances of Passivhaus, bringing together teams interested in facilitating change in sustainable design practice and teaching commercial construction technologies to university students.

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.

Student Report of the Year

Chair: Paul Laycock MCIAT

Dr Gareth Carr MCIAT



Gareth is a Chartered Architectural Technologist, Registered Architect, and Associate Member of the Institution of Civil

Engineers, and holds a Senior Lectureship in Architectural Design Technology at Wrexham University; he is Programme Leader for BSc (Hons) Architectural Design Technology and BSc (Hons) Construction Management provision.

Gareth has worked in both public and private sector architectural design offices in South Wales and in Liverpool, and has taught in both FE and HE contexts within the education sector. An alumnus of Neath College, West Glamorgan Institute and the University of Liverpool, Gareth pursues his interest in the technical design and supervision of architectural projects and contributes to research and curriculum development within the built environment subject area.

As well as his interests in contexts of innovation and technical development in design, construction and project management, Gareth's wider research interests include the work of Richard Owens of Liverpool, Architect and Surveyor (1831-1891), and the history of Victorian speculative housing.

Dr Suha Jaradat FCIAT



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

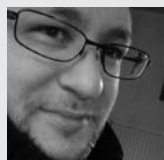
Architectural Technology at Edinburgh Napier University. She leads the strategic development and delivery of a suite of postgraduate, undergraduate and graduate apprenticeship programmes in a wide range of built environment disciplines, including Architectural Technology.

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, Fellow of CIAT (FCIAT), architect, ARB/RIBA, practical researcher and re-

covering academic SFHEA, with a deep passion for the built environment. As the co-founder of Healing Buildings, she is dedicated to creating healthier living environments.

With extensive construction knowledge, project management expertise, and a problem-solving mindset, Ann champions sustainable housing solutions that prioritise well-being and functionality. Her approach is rooted in practical creativity—believing that learning through doing fosters meaningful innovation. She is particularly passionate about design detailing, advocating that for a building to function well, so must its details.

She is currently collaborating with Alison Watson from DEC on a Healthy Homes programme, designed to educate both school children and construction professionals. This initiative not only introduces young learners to the principles of healthier buildings but also serves those in the industry looking to expand their knowledge on the importance of well-designed, health-focused spaces.

Beyond her work with Healing Buildings, Ann is an active member of the Preston Cooperative Development Network (PCDN), supporting the development of worker and housing cooperatives to create a fairer, more democratic economy. Through this work, she collaborates with local communities and organisations to establish regenerative, cooperative-led housing initiatives.

As an FCIAT, Ann has contributed to CIAT as a Panel Moderator for the MCIAT Professional Assessment and served as a Committee Member for the North West Region, supporting educational development in the field.

Meet the Judges

The aspiration Award for Emerging Talent in the Technology of Architecture and Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year

aspiration Award Chair:

Joe Hyett MCIAT, aspiration Chair



In 2018, during his time as a student, Joe joined CIAT and its Regional Committee as Vice-Chair of aspiration Wessex and has contributed to the creation of the 'CPD in 43' series of lunchtime talks, collaboration events with other institutions, and the continued reinvigoration of the Wessex Region. He gradually worked his way to the position of Overarching Chair of aspiration at the end of 2023.

Joe studied BSc Architectural Technology and Design at the University of the West of England, where he was awarded the CIAT 'Outstanding Graduating Student in Architectural Technology'. He continued in education to complete his Masters of Architecture in 2021, during which time his thesis project was awarded the Wessex Prize and shortlisted for the President's Silver Medal. Since then, Joe has continued to demonstrate his dedication to the profession, completing the PGCert in Professional Practice and Management in Architecture in 2023. His involvement in education continues at UWE Bristol as an Associate Lecturer, tutoring on the BSc Architectural Technology and Design programme.

Joe has worked in several sectors and at varying scales, from a large power station and extra care residential developments, to small-scale private houses and commercial developments. Much of this experience is across the South West of England, in addition to a period in Vancouver, Canada. Currently working with Connolly Wellingham Architects, Joe has led the technical development and delivery of several projects including a new admissions building for English Heritage at Old Wardour Castle, the ongoing refurbishment and upgrade of the Grade II listed Stanley Arts Centre in South Norwood, and the refurbishment and extension of Northly Farm, a historic farmstead in South Gloucestershire.

CATY 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.

Continued on page 77

Gold Award

Chair: Gordon J Souter MCIAT



For the first eight years of employment Gordon was in private practice with three small practices. As the practices were small, he gained a wide and varied experience quickly which has stood him in good stead through my career. During those years, Gordon was involved in projects from an attic conversion to a new hospital as well as bars, restaurants, factory units, health clubs.

In 1995, he joined a national housebuilding company and since then has remained within the housebuilding industry and is currently with Lovell Partnerships.

Having spent the majority of his career in the housebuilding industry it follows that Gordon's speciality will be housing of all descriptions, from multi storey flats to individual dwellings. Primarily he is involved in timber frame construction but traditional build poses no problem.

Gordon does not consider the projects he has worked on exceptionally noteworthy with the exception of one project which is the first six storey timber kit housing development in Scotland. He considers his main achievements to be ensuring the projects he works on are from an architectural prospective well managed.

He never tires of promoting CIAT at any opportunity and he represents CIAT on a number of committees as well as holding the role of Honorary Secretary.

Adam Newell FCIAT



As a Senior Chartered Architectural Technologist within BDP, Adam works within the heritage team on prestigious grade 1

national treasures. Adam has a range of experience ranging through small-scale to barn conversions, high-end residential, blue light services, through to extensive redevelopment projects of world heritage sites.

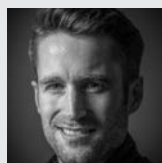
With a joint passion for sustainability, the built heritage, and how we integrate the use of BIM, Adam strives to push the boundaries through innovative solutions to deliver sustainable buildings that

respond to the climate pressures, whilst being sympathetic to their cultural significance.

Graduating from Edinburgh Napier University in 2007, Adam continued to develop his career, gaining his MSc in Technical Architecture from Sheffield Hallam University in 2009, before completing his MA in Conservation and Regeneration at Sheffield University in 2013. The same year, he completed and gained Chartered status of CIAT.

Adam continues to be involved with the Institute as a prominent figure within the Greater London Region where he is Regional Councillor. Adam represents the Region at a number of events and sits on various committees, as well as being part of the CIAT Mentor Match Me scheme providing support for the next generation.

Aled Rees FCIAT



Aled has acquired large but varied experience across several sectors within the construction industry with a wide range of projects

including government, commercial, leisure, educational, infrastructure, healthcare and residential. He can work throughout all stages of the design, construction and specification processes and utilises his expertise to manage difficult and complexed projects with strict budgets and timescales. In addition to his invaluable on-site experience working closely with contractors, Aled is seen as a key link within any team.

Eddie Weir PCIAT



Eddie feels a huge sense of honour, privilege and responsibility in representing CIAT and the profession of Architectural Technology.

Eddie is the Principal Partner of Eddie Weir ADP, which since its conception in 1999, has grown into one of the most highly regarded Architectural Practices in Northern Ireland, with many projects throughout Ireland and the UK. During much of this time he has served on the Northern Ireland Regional Committee and proudly held the position of Regional Chair. He is an Executive Officer of the influential Northern Ireland Construction

Group and the previous vice-chair of the Construction Professionals' Council of Northern Ireland. Eddie was honoured to be a recipient of the prestigious CIAT Gold Award in 2014.

As an Architectural Technology and Management graduate of the Ulster University with over 25 years' experience in practice, he is frequently invited to deliver presentations regarding Architectural Technology and Architecture to other professional institutes and universities. Eddie continues to represent CIAT on numerous taskforces, councils and committees and speak on behalf of the Institute at government level and at major-industry events on issues regarding Architectural Technology and the wider industry.

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.



George with Tony Lodge PCSAAT MCIAT at the Institute's 50th Anniversary celebration

George William Lowe PCSAAT MCIAT

17/12/1931-10/06/2025

Words by Adam Endacott, Editor and Archivist

George was a true gentleman – kind, well-mannered, jovial and fiercely intelligent. Above all, he was a complete legend – an Institutional legend who had been part of CIAT since its inception and was the last surviving Founding Member, who had been present at the momentous meeting on 12 February 1965. He was our second Chairman seeing the Institute through the formative years.

George was a true gentleman – kind, well-mannered, jovial and fiercely intelligent. Above all, he was a complete legend – an Institutional legend who had been part of CIAT since its inception and was the last surviving Founding Member, who had been present at the momentous meeting on 12 February 1965. He was our second Chairman seeing the Institute through the formative years.

He was also my friend for 25 years – a friendship beyond the confines of CIAT – with lunches and conversations about the arts and always very supportive of my writing career. Talk of golden age films, music and concerts were always on the agenda. Chats in his cozy lounge with green tea purchased especially for me. It was a privilege to always speak to him and hear what my friend had to say. I use the word friend because he was. Yes, he was a Founding Member, a Past Chairman and a monumental figure in the history of CIAT but at the heart of it all, I was honoured to be able to call George my friend. I had the upmost respect for everything he had to say and tell me.

Born in Poolsbrook, Derbyshire in 1931, his schooling coincided with the Second World War and he enjoyed exploring the countryside, which would commence his lifelong love of nature. He attended Chesterfield Technical College between 1945-47 and in 1947, he moved to London to attend Wandsworth Technical College to ONC (1948-50) before architecture studies at night school (Hammersmith School of Building & Arts & Crafts). He met his future bride, Brenda at a dance in Putney and they married in 1955 (until her death in 2014). His professional career began in 1947 as a junior assistant at Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners (until 1950) and then moved to H G Huckle & Partners and remained there for over fifteen years. In 1954, George was assigned as assistant to the resident engineer on a large



George with Adam Endacott in Glasgow, 2019



project in Kuwait for the Kuwait Government including a 100-bed hospital. The following year he oversaw the building of a 200-bed hospital for the Kuwait Oil Company and in 1956 was made resident architect. Returning back to the UK in early 1961, he settled in his beloved Shepperton, bringing up his two children: Jeremy and Kate. It was in 1964 that meetings were held at George's kitchen table on a Saturday morning with colleagues to create an association and provide ongoing training and support for architectural technicians. This would become the Society of Architectural and Associated Technicians (SAAT). George was one of the 43 people who attended the inaugural meeting of SAAT in 1965 and since that day was a committed and significant contributor to the Institute's success. It was George who took on the challenging task of preparing the first drafts of the Institute's Constitution, Code of Conduct and a plan for the Regional Structure; all documents that are in existence today.

As a fundamental member in the Institute's early years, George led the Regional Planning Committee to establish all Regional Councils and was responsible for compiling the Model Chapter Rules. At the time, George was described as the 'number one advocate' in establishing a firm policy for CIAT through the formation of the Standing Orders (the first Constitution).

George became the Institute's second Chairman in 1968 and worked extensively with the RIBA leading the paper 'The Role of the Technician' and overseeing the publication of Office Training Schemes for Architectural Technicians. His continued interest in education led George to being Vice-Chairman Education (1976-78), continuing the work of his friend John Newey and was actively involved with the Membership and Education Committee (1972-79), the Examinations Board (1978-86) and the Hardship Committee (1970-71, 76-78). George also acted as Chairman and Assessor for membership interviews. His time with the Institute also saw contributions to the Finance Committee (1966-71, 76-78), Conduct Committee (1968-70), Practice Committee (1975-76) and the SAAT/RIBA Liaison Committee (1975-79). He spoke at the Institute's conference, 'On the waterfront: the regeneration of a city' held at Belfast's Waterfront Hall in 2004.

George had also been a dedicated member of his Region holding the positions of Chairman and Secretary

over the years and remained an active member of the Greater London Region until recent years.

In the late 1960s, he went to work in the Architects Department at London County Council and remained there until 1991, where George was working in the scientific branch. He launched his own environmental consultancy – Carpenter and Lowe. Upon retiring, he was able to enjoy his deep love of art, architecture and history and, of course, red wine! Even in retirement, George remained a great supporter of the Institute and could be found in attendance, where possible, at Institute events.

George was a walking history of the Institute—without the commitment and dedication of people like George, CIAT would not be the respected Institute it is today. George had great spirit, with a sound knowledge and wise counsel. He will be greatly missed but remembered with much affection and a smile by the Institute that he was proud to be a part of. Our thoughts are with his family. ■

Tributes

Professor Sam Allwinkle PPBIAT FCIAT: He was both a rock and a beacon that helped build the foundations of our Institute and Architectural Technology. His vision, like a lighthouse, beamed brightly and projected light which penetrated into government, industry and education and was a catalyst for much needed change in the creation of Architectural Technology, as the discipline and profession we have become today.

Paul Newman PPSAAT PPBIAT MCIAT: George Lowe was indeed the epitome of SAAT, BIAT and now CIAT. Such an affable man and always a joy to talk with. We all owe him so much from founding to today. May he RIP.

Colin Orr PPCIAT MCIAT: George was a gentleman who was very supportive of me personally and assisted in the successful relaunch of the London Region under my time as President.

Honorary Officer elections 2026: 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 Plan. 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 2026, 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 Head 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 (September). The positions, excluding President Elect/President, are two-year terms, which become effective from the close of the 2026 AGM in November to the close of the 2028 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 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 Head 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 Creative & 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 Head of Creative & Communications. 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 Creative & 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 alerts 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 LinkedIn or X (formerly Twitter) 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 2026 AGM in November 2026.

Key dates summary

- Call for nominations close midnight, 15 December 2025
- Acceptances (or rejections) midnight, 22 December 2025
- Manifestos received 2 February 2026
- Issue of candidates and their manifestos to all members and affiliates via an ealert/update of election section of the website 2 March 2026
- Presentation at Council 7 March 2026

- Campaigning by candidates 2 March – 12 September 2026 inclusive
- Election ealerts and updates on the website 2 March – 12 September 2026 inclusive
- Election at Council 12 September 2026, Candidates advised if not in attendance at Council
- Ealert announcing the election results 14 September 2026
- Assumption of position November 2026 close of 2026 AGM

Further information

For further information or clarification contact Adam Endacott, Head of Creative & Communications, a.endacott@ciat.global

Election flow chart

Meet the Judges

Continued from page 70**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.

Chartered Architectural Technologists

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

036840	Timothy Crawshaw	Northern, 01
038748	Kyle Crighton	Northern, 01
039186	Elakiya Rajan	Northern, 01
032953	Scott Thomson	Northern, 01
030576	Johnathan Bennett	Yorkshire, 02
031600	Henry Broadbelt	Yorkshire, 02
030394	Vera Filipova	Yorkshire, 02
023440	Christopher Fisher	Yorkshire, 02
027138	Dominic Green	Yorkshire, 02
016833	Darren Hill	Yorkshire, 02
038210	David Keogh	Yorkshire, 02
037580	Anmol Lall	Yorkshire, 02
035327	Kirolas Malak	Yorkshire, 02
031607	Alex Murray	Yorkshire, 02
014834	Paul Sykes	Yorkshire, 02
034161	Nicholas Weston	Yorkshire, 02
035978	Claire-Louise Wheen	Yorkshire, 02
032715	George Barr	North West, 03
016119	Ian Brazier	North West, 03
032563	Joseph Chelms	North West, 03
029148	Naomi Clare	North West, 03
035193	Michael Colborne	North West, 03
032079	Daniel England	North West, 03
026321	Thomas English	North West, 03
037326	Jayne Hatton	North West, 03
021500	Robert Higginson	North West, 03
037098	Chien-Yi Liao	North West, 03
033069	Ryan Obey	North West, 03
033790	Ian Scott	North West, 03
039280	Christopher Smith	North West, 03
027233	George Sutton-Green	North West, 03
036762	William Troy	North West, 03
039420	Max Walker	North West, 03
034028	Patrycja Wojtaszuk	North West, 03
031018	Christopher Ball	East Midlands, 04
026931	Harley Cooper	East Midlands, 04
025209	Andrea Frost	East Midlands, 04
029211	Stephen Higgins	East Midlands, 04
030514	Dean Jeffries	East Midlands, 04
031689	Ashley Maxim	East Midlands, 04
031566	Mthulisi Mdluli	East Midlands, 04
024840	Matthew Turner	East Midlands, 04
028347	Tahinur Chowdhury	West Midlands, 05
033649	Angus Chumbley	West Midlands, 05
013764	Ian Cicatello-Moore	West Midlands, 05
028847	Ryan Edwards	West Midlands, 05
028066	Aaron Gill	West Midlands, 05
022324	Matthew Hawkes	West Midlands, 05
026772	Iftikhar Khan	West Midlands, 05
038894	Daniel Kimberley	West Midlands, 05
033318	Tinashe Madamombe	West Midlands, 05
028534	Luke Mockford	West Midlands, 05
033487	Rachel Clark	Wessex, 06
032157	Andrew Craig	Wessex, 06
033258	Paul Leo	Wessex, 06
025100	Louis Moore	Wessex, 06
036040	Ryan Smith	Wessex, 06
017359	John Allum	East Anglia, 07
027282	Isaac Chaplain-Barton	East Anglia, 07
033184	Amy Ellis	East Anglia, 07
024060	Daniel Fenn	East Anglia, 07
031627	Alexander Forbes	East Anglia, 07
037860	Andres Gonzalez Allaire	East Anglia, 07
026656	Stuart Haynes	East Anglia, 07
028592	Thomas Kerry	East Anglia, 07
038198	Robert Oliver	East Anglia, 07
039518	Eumir Ten-Jua Barreiros	East Anglia, 07
018550	Peter Whitlam	East Anglia, 07
027738	Trevor Wiltshire	East Anglia, 07

0000331	Ben Wright	East Anglia, 07
021935	James Axford	Central, 08
038437	Matthew Chapman	Central, 08
030694	Darren Higgins	Central, 08
0000359	Catherine Jones	Central, 08
018391	Scott Lye	Central, 08
038793	Somayeh Najibnia	Central, 08
031886	George Ridgeway	Central, 08
031519	Oliver Tokely	Central, 08
032701	Matilda Aghabeigi	Greater London, 09
026294	Sinan Ay	Greater London, 09
024827	Christopher Bowers	Greater London, 09
037587	Megan Burrows	Greater London, 09
033024	Noelia Jimenez Robles	Greater London, 09
037055	John Potie	Greater London, 09
036825	Valentine Nyakpenu	Greater London, 09
029073	Fintan Sumners	Greater London, 09
037404	Timothy Wardle	Greater London, 09
018838	Emyr Griffiths	South East, 10
032821	Emma Hutchings	South East, 10
033584	Thomas Julian	South East, 10
036360	Scott Lawrence	South East, 10
021029	Jacqueline Lutaaya	South East, 10
038792	Catherine Miller	South East, 10
019062	John Payne	South East, 10
035735	Danny Sadler	South East, 10
016733	Christopher Scarr	South East, 10
021876	Paul Simmons	South East, 10
020730	David Mallet	Channel Islands, 11
035568	Jessica Attrill	Western, 12
016665	James Boon	Western, 12
033870	Xavier Gaida	Western, 12
037865	Katarzyna Kobylanska-Palka	Western, 12
039061	Kieran Martin	Western, 12
032779	Samuel Tumbridge	Western, 12
027907	Heather Wilcox	Western, 12
034246	Scott Hamilton	Scotland West, 13
019270	Allan Lees	Scotland West, 13
038519	Jordan Boyne	Scotland East, 14
037568	Ross Imray	Scotland East, 14
034039	Alexandra McAuly-Brand	Scotland East, 14
013143	Grant McCowan	Scotland East, 14
029448	Kevin Otto	Scotland East, 14
028128	Emma Sanderson	Scotland East, 14
029355	Jillian Stewart	Scotland East, 14
032502	Stuart Cully	Northern Ireland, 15
032297	Andrew Downey	Northern Ireland, 15
039195	Lloyd Gray	Northern Ireland, 15
029090	Peter Jardine	Northern Ireland, 15
015944	Richard Moore	Northern Ireland, 15
035313	Gillian Stuart	Northern Ireland, 15
036008	Ryan Davies	Wales, 16
034191	Shaun Millington	Wales, 16
025739	Ousama Mohamed	Wales, 16
029642	Claudio Pais Jorge Couto	Wales, 16
035229	Neil Anderson	Republic of Ireland, C2
038445	Ian Briody	Republic of Ireland, C2
038536	Glen Connolly	Republic of Ireland, C2
039560	Robert Cullen	Republic of Ireland, C2
033096	Adam Darby	Republic of Ireland, C2
031478	Simon Hales	Republic of Ireland, C2
039200	Shane Hudson	Republic of Ireland, C2
039198	Rodney Mason	Republic of Ireland, C2
024259	Patrick Mooney	Republic of Ireland, C2
027552	Steven Richardson	Republic of Ireland, C2
038551	Shane Walsh	Republic of Ireland, C2
037987	Hande Kirant	Europe, C6

Welcome back

We would like to welcome back the following Chartered Architectural Technologist:

018277	Leigh Caller	Wessex, 06
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Fellow Member

We would like to congratulate the following Members who have successfully completed their application and are now a Fellow Member, FCIAT:

011514	David Adams	Northern, 01
020514	Daniel Clements	Northern, 01
028645	Karam Al-Obaidi	Yorkshire, 02
026276	Mark McIntosh	Yorkshire, 02
021093	Sarah Mickowski	East Midlands, 04
029086	Anees Zaman	West Midlands, 05
016138	Louis Warden	Central, 08
024189	Philip Grover	Greater London, 09
017879	Michael Greve	South East, 10
011307	Sean Hammond	South East, 10
019291	Peter James	Western, 12
023857	Virginia Rammou	Scotland West, 13
010243	Simon Coggins-Hill	Europe, C6

Chartered Environmentalist, CEnv

We would like to congratulate the following Member who has successfully attained their Chartered Environmentalist qualification:

031206	Chris Halligan	Yorkshire, 02
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CIAT-Accredited Conservationist

We would like to congratulate the following Members who have successfully been recredited for their CIAT-Accredited Conservationist qualification:

017909	Simon Burgess	West Midlands, 05
028605	Steve Berry	Wales, 16

Registered Principal Designer

We would like to congratulate the following Members who successfully attained their Registered Principal Designer non-HRBs qualification:

014729	Lee Wardman	Northern, 01
017909	Simon Burgess	West Midlands, 05
015835	Jay Hawkins	West Midlands, 05
017173	Martin Lewis	East Anglia, 07
012216	Mark Croxen	Central, 08
009153	Paul Knowles	Central, 08
009091	Andrew Rayner	Central, 08
023041	Mark Nicholls	South East, 10

We would like to congratulate the following Members who successfully attained their Registered Principal Designer for HRB and non-HRBs qualification:

032468	James Payne	Wessex, 06
022074	Jennifer Castein	Greater London, 09
013871	John Heaney	Greater London, 09

In memoriam

We regret to announce the death of the following members and affiliates:

038931	Matthew Monks	Yorkshire, 02
014221	James Winter	Yorkshire, 02
006946	Derek Kitson	East Midlands, 04
001229	Brian Coward	Wessex, 06
006845	Christopher Davis	East Anglia, 07
005375	Richard Ward	Central, 08
001064	George Lowe	Greater London, 09
001979	David Peters	Greater London, 09
007053	Peter Watts	Greater London, 09
001301	Jack Wood	Greater London, 09
008785	Stephen Devonshire	South East, 10
000231	Derek Bright	Western, 12
010812	Lyal Purves	Scotland East, 14
006248	Roger Wood	Wales, 16
006241	Ronald Liddle	Australasia, C3

Conduct Hearings | Disciplinary Sanctions

Member 025222, Genevieve Wells:

Conduct Hearing 1

Genevieve Wells was found in breach of A1b), A4c)i) and A4c)ii) and A9c) from the Code of Conduct 1 January 2022:

Clause A1: Professional Conduct

The members shall at all times:

- A1b) act faithfully and honourably in their professional responsibilities.

Clause A4: Professional Indemnity Insurance

- A4c) were principals but who have ceased to provide services directly to clients shall take all reasonable steps to either:
 - i. ensure that adequate run off professional indemnity insurance cover is effected; or
 - ii. discharge their duty whilst protecting the interest of their clients.

Clause A9: Bankruptcy and Insolvency

A member shall report to the Institute within 28 days, 35 days if resident overseas, if they are:

- A9c) a director of a company which is wound up (other than for amalgamation or reconstruction purposes).

Disciplinary action

In accordance with the Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures Item 20b), Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions, Genevieve Wells has been **Excluded** from the Institute in respect of the breach of Clauses A1b), A4c)i) and A4c)ii).

In accordance with the Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures Item 20b), Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions, Miss Wells has been **Reprimanded** in respect of the breach of Clause A9c).

Member 013808, Kevin Duguid:

Conduct Hearing 2

Kevin Duguid was found in breach of A1b), and A5b)i) from the Code of Conduct 1 September 2020:

Clause A1: Professional Conduct

The members shall at all times:

- A1b) act faithfully and honourably in their professional responsibilities.

Clause A5: Offering and/or Providing Services Directly to a Client

- A5b) Chartered Members acting as principals of a practice shall:
 - i. before commencing work on any commission, ensure that their terms of engagement have been given in writing to the client.

Disciplinary Action

In accordance with the Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures Item 20b), Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions, Kevin Duguid has been **Expelled** from the Institute in respect of the breach of Clause A1b).

In accordance with the Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures Item 20b), Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions, Kevin Duguid has been **Reprimanded** in respect of the breach of Clause A5b)i).

Exclusive Insurance Scheme For Chartered Architectural Technologists



MFL have been providing bespoke insurance solutions for Members of CIAT for over 25 years.

Key Benefits:

- ✓ Competitive premiums
- ✓ Bespoke cover tailored to you
- ✓ In- house claims service
- ✓ Free contract vetting service
- ✓ Free legal helpline
- ✓ Run off cover

Who are CIAT Insurance Services?

MFL Insurance Group Ltd have worked with the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists for over 25 years to provide the Members with bespoke insurance solutions specific to the work they carry out.

What types of policies and services can you assist with?

We offer a full range of insurance products covering all aspects of the Members business, including a bespoke Professional Indemnity Insurance scheme as an exclusive membership benefit to Chartered Architectural Technologists.

What differentiates CIAT Insurance Services from other insurance brokers or insurers?

Whilst it may be easy to find an "off-the-shelf" insurance policy, these may not accommodate the risks and challenges faced by CIAT Members and could leave gaps in the cover provided.

As a trusted partner of CIAT, we understand your profession and assist CIAT Members on a daily basis. This enables us to maintain a comprehensive understanding of the profession and its unique requirements and provides us with a wider view of the risks, challenges, trends and new developments that may impact you and your business.

Our CIAT facility policies have been developed exclusively for CIAT Members with tailored coverage to cover their needs at competitive premiums.

As there are also a number of pitfalls that could impact on the CIAT Members, new and old, which could prove costly in the event of a claim, it is also important you receive suitable advice. Our experienced insurance advisors are on hand to assist you in ensuring that the most appropriate cover is in place.

What other benefits and services do you offer to Members of CIAT?

Beyond the experienced insurance advisers, we also have an experienced in-house claims team, many of whom have a legal background, who are on hand to support and advise you throughout the claims process. We regularly receive referrals from clients who have had a claim and have appreciated the high standard of service provided by our claims team.

We also offer a free contract vetting service where we can review your contracts in relation to whether they impose obligations which may not be covered by your professional indemnity insurance.

Another benefit provide to CIAT Members is a free legal helpline provided by a high-profile law firm for one-off queries relating to the conduct of your business.

