

aspiration

A magazine for aspiring
Architectural Technology professionals

From Ireland to Kuwait

Finding a job

Your mental wellbeing

Issue 10

Spring 2020



Welcome to issue ten of aspirATion magazine!

A word from the Editor...

In this issue, members share their experiences of opportunities they have taken such as projects, placements and national competitions.

Ever wondered what you could be doing in a couple of years' time? Hear from one of our Chartered Members about how his career has led him to Kuwait!

AT Awards| Students 2020. We speak to the 2019 winners of the Student Awards| Project and Student Awards| Report. The Awards opened in February, so it is time to start thinking about your entry! Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the deadline for entries this year has been extended to 4 September 2020. For further information on COVID-19, please visit ciat.org.uk/covid-19.html.

Discover more about the aspirATion initiative, how you can get involved and find out from some of our Chairs what they have been up to recently.

Also, don't forget this publication is for you and a chance to have your say and share your experiences, successes, tips and more. If you want to submit an article for consideration for a future issue, please get in touch.

April McKay
Editor

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aspirATion

The network supporting and developing aspiring professionals.



**“What is aspirATion?”
Find out more and how to
get involved...**

Please email the Education Department (education@ciat.org.uk) to be put in contact with your local aspirATion Group.

What is aspirATion?

aspirATion is a community of CIAT members, made up of students, graduates and newly qualified professionals which provides the opportunity for members to develop and grow on a personal and professional level, whilst inspiring the next generation of Chartered Architectural Technologists.

aspirATion was established to support aspiring professionals and to help shape the future of Architectural Technology. It is a dynamic, forward-thinking and inclusive network, and is the gateway into furthering your career within the discipline. ■

How is aspirATion structured?

aspirATion operates at Region/Centre level across the Institute’s Regions and two of its Centres (Republic of Ireland and Europe Centres) with an aspirATion Chair overseeing each Group. These Region/Centre Groups are then represented nationally by the overarching aspirATion Committee.

The structure of each Group is flexible and it is up to each Chair how they operate. All aspirATion Chairs and those within their Group are volunteers. ■

What does aspirATion do?

One of aspirATion's main aims is to welcome and assist students, graduates and newly qualified members into the profession. Groups host events such as site visits, practice interviews, networking events and social gatherings on a regular basis.

aspirATion offers much more than just events – aspirATion Groups engage regularly with schools and universities through presentations and careers fairs, helping to encourage the professionals of tomorrow into the sector. The Chair is also responsible for collating all concerns and observations from their Group’s members and the professionals they have engaged with and raise them at the aspirATion Committee meeting.

The aspirATion Committee Chair represents the Committee at Council, where aspirATion has a voice in regard to CIAT’s direction, policy and strategy, and a vote at the Institute’s AGM. aspirATion collaborates with other groups within the built environment such as Novus (CIOB), Matrics (RICS), YEN (CIBSE) and FAN (RIBA). The aspirATion Chairs also work with their local educational establishment who provide CIAT Approved/Accredited programmes as well as Region/Centre Committees. ■

Why get involved?

With the aspirATion network growing and gaining more traction, the reasons for you to participate are better than ever. There is something for everyone in aspirATion. You may simply want to come along and meet some of your fellow Architectural Technology colleagues, maybe attend one or two CPD seminars, network at an event or seek some support through your local Chair. The continued success of aspirATion relies on new members getting involved, attending events and sharing their views.

You can get involved by joining up with your local Group and encouraging your fellow students or colleagues to do so. There are opportunities to attend a variety of events, or even be more proactive and write articles, give presentations and arrange events on behalf of your local Group. ■

How can you get involved?

It is very easy to get involved and there are many ways of doing so. If you know a Region/Centre Committee member, Programme Leader or aspirATion member, find out about when the next event, CPD or meeting is taking place, and introduce yourself.

You can also contact our Education Department at Central Office by email education@ciat.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7278 2206. The team will be more than happy to introduce you to your Region/Centre Committee as well as your aspirATion Group. Get in touch and become involved with aspirATion and CIAT! ■

There is something for everyone in aspirATion, from CPD seminars through to networking events

Meet the Chairs

Vice-Chair of aspirATion



William Holland MCIAT Northern Ireland Region

I have over seven years' experience within Architectural Technology, working across a wide range of projects spanning the full spectrum, from residential to commercial, working with local and multi-national brands. I started my professional career after graduating from Ulster University in 2015 with an Honours degree in the Architectural Technology & Management programme, which is Accredited by CIAT.

I began working at Architectural Design Partnership (a CIAT Registered Practice) during my placement year at university and secured a full-time position within the Partnership upon graduating. I have since progressed within the practice to an Associate Partner.

My specialism lies in healthcare design, working closely with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and other statutory bodies to deliver functional and compliant medical care facilities. I lead design teams from conception to completion on site to maximise and ensure efficiency, collaboration and compliance with Construction and Design Management (CDM) regulations. My understanding of the RQIA standards, policies and clients' requirements ensures that designs are both functional and commercially viable.

I became a Chartered Member of CIAT in August 2017. Since then, I have gone on to become a Regional CPD Officer for the Northern Ireland Regional Committee and have recently been elected as its Councillor. I became Chair for the Northern Ireland aspirATion Group in 2013 whilst studying for my degree. I have been a key contributor to growing the Group substantially, working alongside industry leading companies to connect students with employers and to create networking opportunities.

I hope to work towards three goals throughout my term as your Vice-Chair and then Chair:

Promoting postgraduate involvement

From my own experience, I feel there is a decrease in postgraduates progressing their professional career, advancing their membership from Associate level to Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT. I wish to increase the participation of postgraduates within the aspirATion network to ensure members benefit from the organisation and receive support to accelerate their professional careers through engagement with likeminded, ambitious people.

Creating awareness within younger student groups

Aligned with promoting awareness of the discipline, profession and aspirATion, I intend on engaging with and educating students about AT earlier within their education to demonstrate the career potential

and options outside of the 'architecture' profession and university programme. Our members of aspirATion Northern Ireland also volunteer every year at various careers events to promote the Architectural Technology discipline and programme at Ulster University.

Building effective aspirATion Groups

As past Chair for Northern Ireland, I feel I have developed a successful, proactive network for our members. I wish to extend Northern Ireland's aspirATion success and strategies to other aspirATion Groups to help mirror success and build effective relationships. ■

'I want to ensure members benefit from aspirATion and receive support to accelerate their professional careers'

Scotland West Region



Kasia Kozłowska ACIAT

Unlike people playing with lego and knowing that they wanted to be designers at the age of ten, I only became fascinated by construction in my last year of high school. I studied literature, history and languages, thinking of becoming a diplomat. However, everything shifted 180 degrees and I decided to study buildings instead of international relationships. Nevertheless, it was the love for languages and different cultures that led me to choose Architectural Technology and Construction Management at the University College of Northern Denmark.

Architectural Technology seemed like the perfect choice. I loved the combination of architectural design and construction technology, making the Architectural Technologist, or Bygningstekonstruktør in Danish, a key link in the built environment sector. I also started looking into innovation in the built environment industry and how technology may shape it in the future. I became an enthusiast of Building Information Modelling (BIM) and its role in improving efficiency, collaboration and communication. That led me to practising as both an Architectural Technologist and researcher.

I currently work as an Architectural Technologist at NIXON, a forward-thinking development and construction company working predominantly in the residential, student accommodation and hotel sectors.

I am also a part-time student of Construction Law at University of Strathclyde to gain knowledge of legal aspects of construction management, combining my interests in construction and humanities. I have taken the role of Chair for the Scotland West aspirATion Group to support students and professionals in their journey

to becoming a Chartered Architectural Technologist and develop their interest in innovation.

'I believe it is important to highlight the role of the Architectural Technologist as the leaders and drivers of change in the built environment sector'

Studying in both Denmark and the UK has given me a great insight into the Architectural Technology curriculum and ways of studying. Both countries boast 'real life' education and strong links to industry. As an aspirATion Chair, I would like to continue that trend and provide students and professionals in their formative years with opportunities to see the work of Architectural Technologists in practice and on site. I would also like to create a space for conversations in order to create a bi-directional link with experienced professionals sharing their expertise, and those starting out to show their passion for innovation and technology.

I believe it is important to highlight the role of the Architectural Technologist as the leaders and drivers of change in the built environment sector. As Chair, I would like to focus on the use of emerging technologies in construction to expose students to new possibilities and ways of working, as well as to encourage them to innovate. In the words of Einstein, "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results". I hope that together we can make things differently. ■



aspirATion Group:

Current opportunities

aspirATion Groups currently have opportunities for the role of Chair in:

- Republic of Ireland Centre
- Yorkshire Region

The Chairs work with the established Region/Centre Committee, educational establishments running CIAT Accredited Programmes, colleges, peer groups such as neighbouring aspirATion Groups, members of BRE Academy, CIOB Novus, RICS Matrics, FAN, YEN, and industry professionals within CIAT's Regions/Centres to organise events, which include socials, CPD or site visits.

If you are interested, you need to submit a personal statement of approximately 300-500 words outlining what you could bring to the role of Chair relating to the aspirATion Group terms of reference:

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

You need to be a student, Associate, Technician or Chartered Member or a profile candidate for five years or less. Please send your personal statement to education@ciat.org.uk by **Monday 15 June 2020**.

For further information or if you would like to talk about the role, please contact Noora Kokkarinen, Assistant Education Director noora@ciat.org.uk or Dorota Fitzpatrick, Assistant Membership Director dorota@ciat.org.uk.

AT AWARDS

Designed to recognise excellence in Architectural Technology globally, the AT Awards| Students are open to student members whether they are based nationally or internationally.

There are two categories:

- Student Awards| Project
- Student Awards| Report

Find out more and enter at ciat.org.uk/awards.html

Deadline 4 September 2020

Winners will be announced at a virtual event, date TBC

Headline sponsors



ciat.org.uk/awards.html
#ATAwards

AT Awards| Winner:

Architectural Technology Studio 3

Winner
2019

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY (PROJECT)



Albert Greenhalgh

Albert Greenhalgh graduated from Sheffield Hallam University and won the 2019 AT Awards| Students Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Project) for Architectural Technology Studio 3.

Tell us about where you studied and your interests?
I graduated from Sheffield Hallam University in 2019 with a first-class degree in Architectural Technology. My main interest right now is Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and I have just competed in the European Open in Lisbon, but I am also an avid climber and chess player.

What made you enter the AT Awards | Students?
I was very proud of my project as I had put a lot of time and effort into it, but I hadn't really thought about entering until I was encouraged to do so by my university tutors. I still wasn't sure, but it made sense to at least give it a try and I'm glad I did. It was a pretty straightforward process. As easy as signing up for Netflix, but without a fee!

What was your project about?
My project was an extreme sports facility with an internal 25m ice climbing wall. We had to create a design that responded to the maintained extreme temperature contrast between the ice wall and the rest of the internal spaces. Principles of environmental design were required to be embodied throughout the entire process in order to minimise the impact the building had on the site pre, during and post-construction.

Did you face any challenges when entering?
The anxiety of wondering if I had done everything I needed to or as you might say – general submission deadline worries.

What was your greatest influence when working on this and how did it inspire you?
I don't think I can attribute the success of my project to just one influence. The main influence during the concept stage was Bjarke Ingles Group and analysing the process they go through from concept to construction. That really helped me with developing the form of the building. The second main influence was the practice I work at. As a practice, they were very supportive from start to finish, but I also found that what I was learning while working really helped me approach the project from different angles and perhaps gave me an insight into the project that I probably wouldn't have if I wasn't working in practice.

How do you feel about winning the Award?
Honestly, it's a great feeling to have something that you've almost literally put blood, sweat and tears into to be recognised by your peers and leaders of the profession.



Albert receives his award at the AT Awards 2019 with former Vice-President Education Paul Laycock MCIAT, President Alex Naraian PPCIAT and host, Matt Allwright.



© Albert Greenhalgh

If you could do it again, is there anything you would do differently or change?

Hindsight is a powerful thing. I mean of course, like with any project, there will always be little tweaks I would like to make here and there, but if it came down to it, I don't think I would change anything. I did my best with the knowledge and skills I had at the time and maybe had I done anything differently, I might not have won.

Do you have any tips/advice you can give to those considering entering this year's Awards?

To quote Nike, 'Just Do It'. If you have really put the effort into your project and you're debating whether or not to enter, just do it. After I found out I was a Finalist at the AT Awards, I was approached for a potential job opportunity based upon my entry. So I would say it's definitely worth entering because doors you didn't even know existed might open.

'The AT Awards are definitely worth entering because doors you didn't even know existed might open'

What kind of projects are you currently working on?

I am currently working full time at a practice called Race Cottam Associates. The main project, which I have been working on since I started is a performing arts college called CAPA College in Wakefield. I am also working on other educational projects and a few commercial ones too. ■

Visit ciat.org.uk/awards.html to find out more about Albert's winning project

AT Awards | Winner: Testing the Compressive Strength of Timber Lattice Columns for Low Rise Construction

Winner
2019

STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY (REPORT)



Kirsten Adjei-Attah ACIAT

Kirsten Adjei-Attah ACIAT graduated from Coventry University and won the 2019 AT Awards | Students Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology (Report) for Testing the Compressive Strength of Timber Lattice Columns for Low Rise Construction. Kirsten was also Highly Commended in the AT Awards | Students (Project) for Maggie's Windermere.

Tell us about your studies and interests?

I studied Architectural Technology at Coventry University for four years which includes my year out in industry and placement in architectural practices in between. I am greatly interested in Architectural Technology and what it entails: from conceptualisation, consulting and considering the existing and new users, building performance in terms of sustainability, figuring out how the building will be constructed to the construction progression on site.

What made you enter the AT Awards | Students?

I entered the Awards after completing the academic year and also being encouraged by my tutors and family. I entered with minimal expectations, accepting that if nothing came of it, at least I gave it a go. An important reason for my entry was that it was also a chance to hear different perspectives of my work. I was incredibly dedicated to both my report and project throughout, I just hoped what I submitted was distinctive and shed light on how structural elements in buildings can be lightweight, efficient, environmentally beneficial yet aesthetically appealing in the context of the building overall.

Did you find entering easy?

Very easy. Thankfully the tutors modelled the requirements for the Awards against the major design project and dissertation brief, so everything required was ready for submission. The instructions provided on the website regarding entries for both Report and Project were very clear and easy to follow.

What was your report about?

My report comprised of three full-scale column prototypes consisting of diamond, triangular and circular lattice infills that were fabricated and tested to determine whether the geometrical arrangement of the internal lattice structure affected the compressive strength. The purpose of this research was to study lightweight structural timber elements with varied lattice infills for low rise construction, particularly for hospices and palliative care facilities. The columns created are part of a modular construction system for the portal frame that would be exposed in my university design project, Maggie's Windermere.

The study was highly important to assess whether the columns could satisfy the structural requirements needed to support the cross laminated timber roof system detailed in the design. The idea behind developing a 'trellis-like' panel design with cellular voids of different shapes derived from the design concept of bringing strength and lightness to uplift the centre users with interest in revamping familiar traditional construction methods/systems with unique, lighter and more efficient structural elements.

It was great to see that all the prototypes massively exceeded the minimum requirements.

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

After returning to university having undertaken a year out in practice, I tried to use my final year as an opportunity to make the most of the facilities that were available to me in terms of the integration of unique building structures and the admirable impact for people who occupy and use those buildings. Maggie's Manchester, designed by Foster + Partners heavily inspired me to investigate timber lattice beams used as a lightweight modular structural component

The design encouraged my curiosity to research into other shapes for the structural arrangement for each infill design tested. Due to the bespoke nature of timber lattice structures, there were limited research publications associated with cellular loadbearing elements in construction. This made research into lattice infilled structures for my technical study rather difficult, so I went through the process of patching various research together to overcome it. Despite difficulties, it allowed me to take the opportunity to be experimental and draw different conclusions e.g. factors that potentially affected the performance of each column, such as percentage of material removed.

How do you feel about winning the Award?

Elated. Hard work and dedication paid off! I am incredibly thankful to have been a Finalist let alone to have won the Award. All the Finalists had fantastic reports. I am immensely appreciative of the comments given by the judges – it has further encouraged me to continue to work hard and stay motivated.

Visit ciat.org.uk/awards.html to find out more about Kirsten's winning report

If you could do it again, is there anything you would change?

In hindsight, I would not change the Report in terms of the topic. However, I wish that the word count could be increased to facilitate more in-depth explanations for certain areas in the report!

Do you have any tips you can give those considering entering this year's Awards?

Work on a project that you have a genuine interest or passion in, it makes writing the technical report much easier if you have intentions to submit your report beforehand. Most importantly, dedicate enough time for editing before sending everything you feel will present your report and/or project in the best light. Reports and projects have been made Finalists and/or have received awards for a multitude of reasons; so try to enter as you never know where it could lead and the opportunities it might bring.

'I felt elated to win the Award. Hard work and dedication paid off!'

What are you now up to?

I am currently undertaking a Masters in Architectural Design and Technology which has given me a great balance between architecture whilst remaining focused on retaining and increasing my technical knowledge and skills essential for construction.

What kind of projects are you currently working on?

No real-life projects at the moment due to my Masters, but I am currently in the process of undertaking another design project that incorporates PassivHaus principles. The project entails developing the brief independently from meeting the client as expected in reality, designing concepts by hand or using CAD, providing technical drawings and so on. ■



Kirsten celebrates both her wins with her tutors from Coventry University, Carl Mills MCIAT and Heather Bibbings ACIAT.



National BIM competition team with their teachers, mentors and the judges in Birmingham, November 2019.

WorldSkills UK

WorldSkills brings together hundreds of people with skills in the fields of construction, engineering, business, health and hospitality. Established in 1974, it evaluates skills and knowledge of students and graduates from 80 countries across six continents. The most recent event included 600 participants competing in more than 70 disciplines.

Sophie Orr, student member on the Architectural Technology programme at Edinburgh Napier University, won Gold in the WorldSkills UK 2019 BIM Final.

Barbara Aleksandra Adamska, Architectural Technologist & BIM Consultant, is an Oxford Brookes University Alumni and competitor in BIM Worldskills UK competition 2020.

Viorel Mihailuc, student member, is studying MSc Building Information Modelling Management and Integrated Digital Delivery at Middlesex University. Viorel won Silver.

Participants had the opportunity to compete for the title of 'The Best Architectural Technologist and BIM Specialist in the United Kingdom'. To get to that stage, entrants had already competed at regional competitions in June 2019. This was followed by a weekend training in Scotland to refine skills and discuss expectations and plans for the big day.

Sophie tells us:

The two-day BIM competition was comprised of set tasks and deliverables scheduled to be uploaded to the Common Data Environment (CDE) at specific times throughout each day. We were first given a BIM Execution Plan (BEP), which included the standards and processes we had to adhere to throughout, including full understanding of ISO 19650-1 and 19650-2.

On day one of the competition, we were required to use Autodesk Revit to produce a 3D Architectural model from

the 2D CAD drawings provided to us, including the setting up of project coordinates, wall/roof and floor types for the modelling of the external and internal structure of the building, ensuring to refer to the BEP throughout for the correct naming conventions and timings for each data drop to the CDE.

On day two, we were required to federate architectural, structural and specialist mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) models and perform hard clash detections using Autodesk Navisworks Manage. These clashes had to be formed and exported into a report for upload. A soft clash detection was also carried out using BIM 360 software. After the clash detection exercises, we carried out some corrective modelling to fix the highlighted clashes. We then inputted Uniclass201 data into our model before extracting a Construction Operations Building Information Exchange (COBie) spreadsheet to upload. We ended the day creating some visualisations and animations using the Enscape plug in for Revit.

On the last night, we were invited to the awards ceremony where the winners for each competition were announced and medals presented. I think being able to say that you are the best in the UK at your chosen skill is such an amazing achievement and I am so proud of all my hard work and dedication I have put into this over the past few months. It definitely would not have been possible without the support from my workplace – Keppie Design, Glasgow, Edinburgh Napier University, my training centre New College Lanarkshire (in Motherwell) and my training manager Michael McGuire. I cannot wait to see where this achievement will take me in the future, and I hope it inspires many other women to consider a career in a predominantly male-dominated industry.



Sophie Orr during competition at NEC, Birmingham.

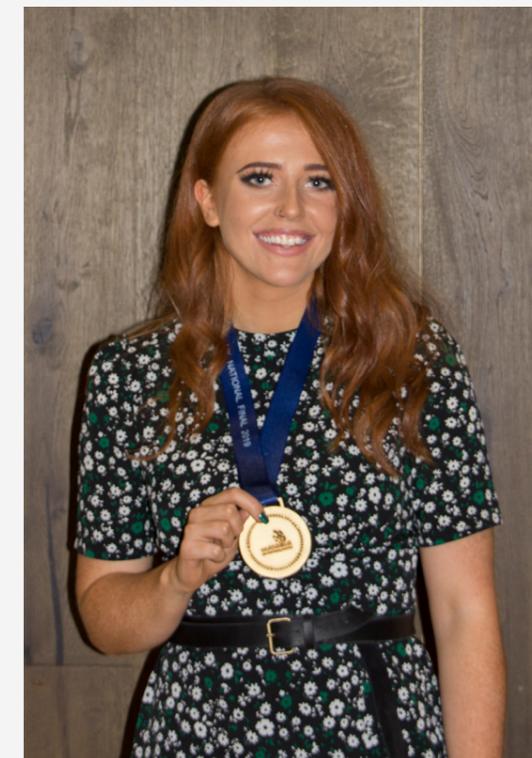
Barbara says:

The rare possibility of communing with a group of students with very similar experiences and educational background led to numerous, often intense discussions about the future of our industry and the role of BIM in the attempt for better efficiency and cooperation. It created a perfect environment for analysing, planning and predicting our next steps to reach the ultimate goal of a modern and agile industry. This type of inspiration is often unreachable in academic settings, where there is not enough room for open discussions and asking difficult questions.

The competition itself exceeded my highest expectations. The venue, the crowd, the setting. You feel like you are the centre of attention but at the same time you are surrounded by more than 600 other competitors. There was a rigid timetable and I was under pressure to showcase my skills. I just had to work my way through endless piles of technical drawings, BIM Execution Plan, exports manuals and a 15-page long task list. A ten minute break, run for another coffee, whispers between the competitors, a bit of extra panic. Then at 16:00, we raise our hands, close the computers and head back to the hotel to discuss our small victories and defeats.

The national finals were quite a bittersweet experience. It seems nearly impossible to describe the event in only a few words as it triggered many, often contradictory emotions. Being exposed to scrutiny on such a high level provokes both strong stress and incredible excitement.

Surviving two such days, and later applauding other participants at the final gala, left a mark on my ambition. I got this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to prove myself. That is why I encourage all students and their teachers to get involved in competitions. Take the risk. You may win or you may lose. Treat it as an opportunity and have fun along the way. On that note, check out WorldSkills UK 2020 later in the year – I hope to see you there!



Sophie Orr with the gold medal.

'I think being able to say that you are the best in the UK at your chosen skill is such an amazing achievement and I am so proud of all my hard work and dedication'



During the weekend training at NCL, Motherwell, competitors had the chance to make sure they were all on the same page.

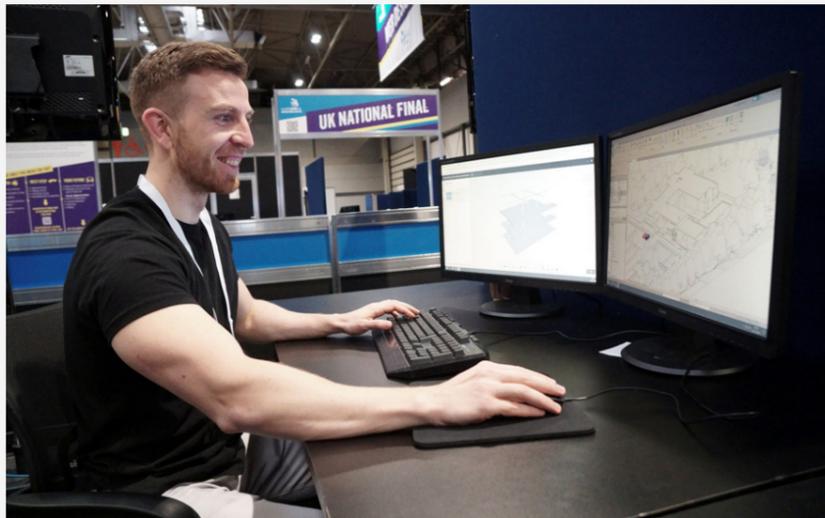
'I got this once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity to prove myself. That's why I encourage all students and their teachers to get involved in competitions. Take the risk!'

Viorel adds:

I studied the Architectural Technology undergraduate programme at Middlesex University. The programme equips students with the essential portfolio, software and technology skills which they can then apply in the industry. I learnt to use a range of software programmes as well as the basic principles of architecture. My work placement at Building Research Establishment (BRE), where I was mentored and supervised by leading experts in the industry, provided the opportunity of expanding my skills beyond my expectations. The experience at BRE not only helped me immensely for my next years at university, but also helped me to gain future opportunities and work placements. I gained my undergraduate degree with over two years' work experience.

Studying in London – one of the most advanced cities in the world and with such an interesting history and heritage – is exceptional for providing tools and opportunities. Assorted exhibitions and conferences such as BIM Show Live, London Autodesk, WorldSkills, London Build and Futurebuild helped me to engage and connect with other students and professionals.

The AT degree provided me with great skills and understanding of BIM which meant I could compete in the BIM WorldSkills competition. Being selected in the top ten to compete in Birmingham was the highlight of my journey within Architectural Technology to date. I had the opportunity to express all my dedication and hard work from previous years. It was a fantastic experience engaging with other students and I was awarded second place. This has given me the confidence and motivation to keep learning and enjoy my profession. ■



Viorel, who finished second, during competition while in Birmingham.

Practice Information, Education and Guidance



Ever wondered what kind of documentation the industry uses? Are you undecided as to whether you would like to be an employee or run your own business after your studies?

CIAT has prepared documents for you to use as an educational tool to help you understand your roles and responsibilities as a practising Architectural Technology professional.

Please log in to ciat.org.uk and find out more in your 'My CIAT' area: **Practice Information, Education and Guidance.**

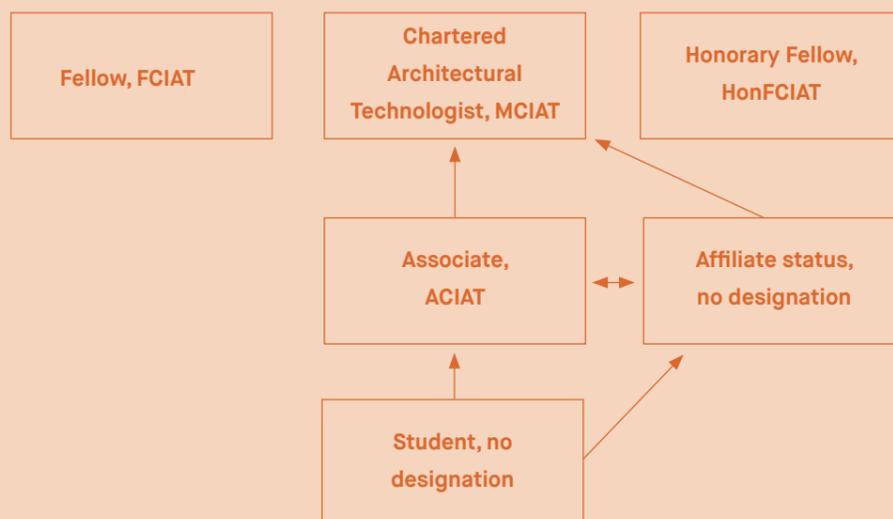
Membership Review update

Your Institute undertook a review of the membership grades (classes), structure and qualifying mechanisms in line with the CIAT Strategic Plans and objectives. Here is all you need to know.

AT Journal issue 130

For additional background and information, please read the Membership Grade (class) Review article from the summer issue.

The proposed structure:



Technician membership phase out timeline

Step 1

Register intent to qualify as a Technician member via the TCIAT POP Record
Email membership@ciat.org.uk

Step 2

Submit the TCIAT POP Record and £200 assessment fee by 30/11/2020
Qualify as TCIAT by 31/1/2021

Step 3

Technician will cease on 31/12/2021
Option 1 – Opportunity to qualify via a streamlined MCIAT Professional Assessment pathway by 31/12/2021
Option 2 – If not qualified as MCIAT, then revert to Associate member or affiliate status

Key information

There are no changes to:

- Student member
- Associate member, ACIAT
- Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT

How will the proposed changes affect my current and future membership?

Student member

There will be no change to student membership, and after satisfying the academic criteria, you should initially upgrade to Associate membership and plan how to progress to Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT status.

Associate member, ACIAT

There will be no change to the Associate, ACIAT membership. You are encouraged to progress to Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT status.

Chartered Member, MCIAT

There will be no change to the Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT qualification. However, there will be the opportunity to apply for the Fellow class subject to meeting the criteria.

Chartered Architectural Technologist will remain the highest level of professional qualification and maintains the recognition and status in practice.

What are the relevant proposed changes to the

membership structure?

The Membership Grade (class) Review propositions, as presented, are:

1. phasing out of Technician, TCIAT;
2. phasing out of profile candidate and amalgamating into affiliate status;
3. introduction of affiliate status;

1. Technician member

Transitional phase out timeline for Architectural Technician, TCIAT has now commenced and it will be removed from the Institute's structure on 31 December 2021. All membership classes have been advised accordingly. Those currently completing the TCIAT POP Record are required to submit their Technician POP Record by 30 November 2020 and qualify as a Technician member by 31 January 2021.

2. Profile candidate

Profile candidate will be withdrawn and replaced by the affiliate status.

Subject to approval from The Privy Council, this change is due to take effect in summer 2020.

3. Affiliate status

Is affiliate status a grade (class) of membership?

No, it is not a membership class but a status within the membership structure. It facilitates access to qualifying and an opportunity to be engaged and involved with the Institute.

Who can apply and what are the criteria for affiliate status?

There will be two types of affiliate status for individuals.

Affiliate A:

Architectural Technology professionals who:

- do not satisfy the academic standard criteria for membership; and/or
- are offering services directly to clients via self-employment (as defined in the *Code of Conduct*).

Affiliate B:

For those with an interest in Architectural Technology and/or built environment sector and wish to be associated with CIAT and support the discipline.

When will this be launched?

The intention is that affiliate for individuals will be launched in summer 2020.

If you have any questions you can contact James Banks, Membership Director on 020 7278 2206 or james@ciat.org.uk

What happens after I graduate?

Will you be completing your studies soon? Shortly before you do, our Membership Department will contact you to advise how to upgrade to Associate membership or profile candidate and how we can support you as you begin to shape your career as an AT.



What level of membership or affiliation is right for me?

Associate member, ACIAT:

- If you hold a recognised qualification within the built environment and are an employee or unemployed, then you can upgrade to Associate, ACIAT.

Profile candidate is available to Architectural Technology professionals who:

- do not satisfy the academic standard criteria for membership; and/or
- are offering services directly to clients via self-employment (as defined in the *Code of Conduct*).

If you are still unsure which entry level is right for you, please contact membership@ciat.org.uk

Online upgrade codes: from 1 May 2020

SA20 – £145 for Associate applications

SP20 – £145 for profile candidate applications

How do I upgrade?

We are here to support and assist you on your professional journey in the discipline as you begin your career. The first step on this journey is to upgrade your student membership and the easiest way to do this is online. To support you, we have a three year promotional staggered subscription. As an example, subscriptions in 2020/21 would be:

- **Year 1** – £145 (instead of the standard rate of £295/£270)
- **Year 2** – 20% off the standard full subscription rate
- **Year 3** – Full subscription rate

NB: You must be a current student member and upgrade in the same subscription year as programme completion, paying the applicable fee over the two year period to benefit.

Subscription year runs from 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021.

To upgrade, you will need to complete the online application form and provide your up-to-date CV and proof of qualification/s: ciat.org.uk/membership/join.html

Please use the following promotional codes:

- **SA20** – £145 for Associate applications
- **SP20** – £145 for profile candidate applications

The earlier you upgrade the more you will benefit.

What next?

To qualify as a Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT, there are two routes - the Professional and Occupational Performance (POP) Record and the Professional Assessment (PA).

POP Record

The POP Record is a three-stage assessment process (similar to the Professional Assessment) and consists of 17 knowledge and performance units providing step-by-step guidance on how to deliver, manage and procure a traditional architectural project from inception through to completion.

The POP Record sets out knowledge, performance and professional standards which you must assess yourself against and diarise in the work place.

PA

This is a holistic self-assessment of your professional experience in Architectural Technology cross-referenced against the Professional Standards Framework (PSF). The PSF defines the minimum threshold standards for all prospective Chartered Architectural Technologists and is linked to the UK Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Architectural Technology.

It covers three stages: Educational, Practice and Professional Standards.

The Professional Assessment is a flexible qualifying process for those who are sufficiently experienced and/or specialise within Architectural Technology. It is based around you and your experience and it is up to you to demonstrate the required level of knowledge, experience and professionalism. ■

Further information

You can find much more information on our website regarding routes to qualification as a Chartered Architectural Technologist. Click [here](#).

Are you looking for a job?

See page 24-25 for some top tips on preparing for an interview.

For current vacancies visit AT|jobs:ciat.org.uk/education/jobs.html

Queries

If you have any queries, please contact:

Megan Brown
Membership Administrator
megan@ciat.org.uk



Finding a job: your guide to success in an interview

Words by: Hays

Here are eight key actions to follow before, during and after your job interview.

1. Do your research

Before you enter the interview room, do your homework. Take time to review the company website, search for existing employees' LinkedIn profiles, and take the time to follow and study the company's social media channels.

Through proper research you will be able to get a real idea of the DNA and culture of the organisation, so you can then reflect that knowledge during the interview. In doing this, you are demonstrating to the interviewer that you have made a real effort to do thorough research, implying that you are very interested in the role.

2. Practice makes perfect

It's also worth considering some of the key interview questions you may be asked and prepare some answers that you may like to give. What are the most common interview questions for this particular role and sector? Do you have an idea of how you would answer these?

Study the job specification and cross reference it with your

CV. Are there projects, specific training courses or examples from your previous jobs that are particularly relevant? Have clear details of these that you are prepared to talk about.

Practise your answers out loud at home beforehand and, if you can, have someone listen and give you feedback. This kind of preparation will ensure that your suitability and keenness for the role comes across in the form of concise and composed answers that resonate strongly with the interviewer. This will also demonstrate that you have taken the time to practise your interview technique, so must care about the opportunity.

3. Bring a portfolio

Be sure to prepare a portfolio and take it to the interview as it will reflect your capabilities and experience within the discipline in more detail. Only include evidence that has been produced by you and demonstrates your current skill level. This should consist of relevant coursework from university/college and/or evidence from work placements. As your career progresses, your portfolio will grow and should be tailored accordingly.

4. Make a good first impression

The first few minutes are arguably the most important, as this is when your interviewer will gain a first impression of you.

Make sure you arrive for your interview 5-10 minutes early, but not so early as to interrupt their schedule. Ensure beforehand that you know where you're going and are clear on who you are meeting so you can be confident when you arrive. Dress smartly, even if it is not necessarily expected from the day-to-day job as this indicates a level of respect for the interviewer and your willingness to put effort into securing the job.

5. Ask questions

The interview is a great opportunity to learn more about the role and get a feel for the company. Consider asking if the position is new. If not, how has it evolved? This will provide you with some insight into the direction the business is taking.

Ask about the stakeholders of the position, the measurements of success and the tools you will have at your disposal to ensure you will exceed expectations. You may also learn something interesting about the organisational culture from these questions.

Remember to ask the interviewer for details of their background too as this will help build your rapport with them and show your people skills.

Asking the above questions will show that you want the job on a number of levels. It will show enthusiasm and demonstrate your curiosity to learn more about the role, the interviewer and the business. You will also be able to strengthen your answers

based on any insights that you get from asking these questions, demonstrating your attentiveness throughout the interview.

6. Don't overlook the importance of non-verbal communication

A smile, eye contact, a good handshake and control of your hands while speaking all contribute to transmitting your enthusiasm to add value in the company.

Demonstrating your passion will certainly give you a competitive edge over the other candidates and provide you with the best possible chance of starting work in your dream job.

7. Your final pitch

Once the question and answer segment is over, but before you leave the room, think about giving a one or two minute 'pitch' which wraps up why you're so interested in this role specifically.

This is your last chance to make an impression, so be clear and precise. This may well be how the interview panel remembers you. Make it good. It may be sensible to practice this at home.

8. Follow up with a thank you

The last thing to think about is some basic manners; follow the interview up with a thank you email that emphasises your keenness for the role and company. Send this to your recruiter to pass on to the hiring manager at the company but keep it short, sweet and to the point. This is the polite and professional finish to a great application and interview. ■

What to do next

If you've had a successful interview and have been offered a position, you should be very excited. However, it's not the end of the process. You still have much to consider before you accept or decline a job offer.

Don't act before you've had a chance to think, take some time to consider the offer. Give the hiring manager a time frame you can stick to and speak with your recruitment consultant if you have one. Once you make your final decision, you should let the hiring manager or your recruiter know as soon as possible.

If you decide to accept the position, remember that realistic negotiations are part of the process, so explore

the possibility of any potential movement on salary and benefits. Make sure you read your offer details thoroughly and confirm everything via email so that you have a written record.

Finally, be excited! This is the first step in your career. Convey this excitement to the hiring manager to further underline that they have made the right decision.

If you follow the tips outlined here, you could well be on your way to securing your first job in Architectural Technology.

For more career advice and insights visit hays.co.uk/architecture



Kuwait Towers

From Ireland to Kuwait



Cian Gilligan MCIAT

Cian currently works as a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Project BIM Manager at Pace, Kuwait. His journey to Kuwait began at Waterford Institute of Technology where he graduated with a First Class Honours in Architectural & BIM Technology, after which he worked at RKD in Dublin as an Architectural Technologist and BIM Coordinator. Cian was Winner of the 2015 AT Awards | Students Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology for *The Glen Hotel Project*.

I began my journey in Architectural Technology in September 2011 at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). I was younger than most and I'll be honest to say I wasn't fully sure of where this programme was going to take me!

I didn't do particularly well in my first year, a lot of module repeats which was my own fault, but let's just say I'm mentioning this for your benefit. Don't define yourself based on a slip up and push forward when the opportunity comes again.

With the programme being primarily project based, every new assignment was an opportunity to gain valuable experience that was going to be useful as soon as it was time to go into the industry. I won some

academic awards during my time at WIT that really helped me along the way in terms of employment. I was first employed by RKD Architecture as a third year student and the experience I gained there before my final year of studies was invaluable. It gave me a taste of what lay ahead and really motivated me to put my head down and do as well as I possibly could in my final year.



Cian's final year design project – Plunkett Station Retrofit, Waterford City

I have to mention the quality of the programme at WIT. It is where it all started for me and five years down the line, I still use methods that I learned there. It wasn't until after I graduated that I realised the importance of this role in the built environment industry and its

diversity in terms of working across all disciplines.

I became a Chartered Member in 2019, which is a massive credit to the AT lecturers and their department for the work they continuously put in with their students and graduates.

When I finished my final year, I returned to RKD to start my career as a Junior Architectural Technologist. BIM was becoming the forefront of the built environment sector and the skills I gained during my time at WIT were immediately put to use. My first duties revolved mainly around using Revit for the production of design drawings and visuals for certain projects as well as helping experienced employees who were learning Revit with modelling techniques and best practices for drawing production.

I continued on with RKD for another four years, working my way to a more senior role of Architectural Technologist & BIM Coordinator. I started to become more involved in coordination with other disciplines. I would attend meetings alongside the lead architect and navigate models live on screen to go through any coordination issues we were having. We established procedures to ensure that all models, data sets and drawings were accurate, and the level of detail included was aligned with the project BIM Execution plan (BEP).

In my final two years at RKD, I transferred to the Interiors Team, primarily working on large scale office fit outs and I helped develop robust virtual reality workflows to aid visualisation. A typical week would include running coordination meetings with other disciplines, attending site meetings with contractors and sub-contractors, answering request for information (RFIs), maintaining and organising incoming and outgoing BIM models and ensuring submissions contained all the information required.

Some notable projects include:

- Microsoft One Place – European HQ
- Indeed Capital Dock – Irish HQ

'Studying at WIT is where it all started for me and five years down the line I still use methods that I learned during my time there'



Microsoft One Place Atrium



The New Palace of Justice in Kuwait, which will be the largest judicial building in the world once completed, is one notable project Cian is currently working on.

‘The architecture and engineering in this region are second to none and it’s great to have the opportunity to see it and be involved in its development’

In March 2019, I left my role at RKD to move to the Middle-East to gain experience on some larger projects that were not available to me in Ireland. I’m currently working in Kuwait for Pace, which is a multidisciplinary design firm specialising in architecture, engineering and interior design.

I have been appointed as BIM Project Manager, leading the Production Team throughout detailed design, running coordination meetings with our other disciplines and enforcing the standards used for each project. We are very much at an early stage of BIM implementation so every day is a challenge.

We work closely with other worldwide architectural practices throughout concept and schematic design and help prepare models for handover to stage 3 detailed design. This includes enforcing the Pace standard and ensuring the designer is adhering to our BEP.

I also work closely with our BIM managers to ensure we are using the correct procedures and our staff are learning the correct processes involved. I’ve analysed project scope/deliverables to help with project resourcing plans and strategies based on our timelines.

Some notable projects I have worked on to date include the New Palace of Justice, which will be the largest judicial building in the world once completed; the Scientific Centre, a large extension to a popular wildlife & science facility; and Marassi al Bahrain, Bahrain’s largest private urban project.

I have never lived outside Ireland before so making the decision to leave family, friends and life there was a difficult one. I had a great role with RKD, but this opportunity came up and it was something I had to take while it was available. The first couple of months were difficult; getting used to the cultural differences and the summer heat were the biggest challenges, but it has helped me learn that life does go on beyond Ireland and I’m happy to say that I have settled in now. The architecture and engineering in this region are second to none and it’s great to have the opportunity to see it and be involved in its development. I’ll most likely stay for a number of years before I move on to my next challenge... ■



Kuwait skyline

CPD

Learning doesn’t stop when you’ve completed your studies. Find out more about how you can continue your professional development.

Within the Institute’s *Code of Conduct* it states that “members (excluding student members) shall keep themselves informed of current practices and developments appropriate to the type and level of their responsibilities, and be able to provide evidence that they have complied with the requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) as published by the Institute from time to time.”

Find out more about CPD at ciat.org.uk/education/cpd.html.

Practising members are recommended to develop a yearly Personal Development Plan (PDP) to identify CPD activities. Some examples of CPD can be:

- Reading of books and periodicals
- Use of distance learning text, podcasts and online resources
- Reading and writing articles/technical papers
- Private study or studies leading to a further qualification/academic award
- On the job research
- Tutoring
- Seminars and courses
- CPD events organised by CIAT, CPD providers or other organisations
- Conferences

CPD demonstrates to clients, colleagues and the public the commitment of practising members to be well informed and up to date in their areas of expertise.

To support its members, the Institute offers an online platform to find relevant courses to support professional development. The AT CPD Register is an online directory of providers and their courses which have been assessed relevant to Architectural Technology professionals. You can find courses on CDM, BIM, building regulations, fire and much more. ■

Visit ciat.org.uk/education/cpd/cpd-register.html





Changing attitudes towards student mental wellbeing



David Comiskey MCIAT
Senior Lecturer at Ulster University
BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology

Architectural Technology academics challenge students to think holistically, to consider the health and wellbeing of the occupants of the spaces they design. This can include investigating concepts such as biophilic design and benchmarking schemes against the WELL Building Standard. However, it is somewhat ironic that the health and wellbeing of the very students we task with enhancing the health and wellbeing of others is sometimes neglected.

The diverse nature of the discipline, coupled with an acknowledgement that the design of built assets has become more complex has meant that the Architectural Technology education sector has had to reinvent itself to produce well-rounded individuals who are competent and have a skillset which allows them to flourish in whichever area they choose to specialise. Whilst this in itself is a good thing, it does mean that students are challenged in unprecedented ways. As well as the core competencies of technical design and detailing, designing sustainability and with inclusivity in mind and having an awareness of relevant building control and planning legislation, we generally expect graduates to demonstrate:

- advanced knowledge of the use of BIM authoring software, implementation processes and associated standards and protocols
- operational awareness of information management platforms;
- an ability to interrogate the robustness of details from a building performance perspective using appropriate software platforms;
- understanding and awareness of different building typologies, materials and construction methods; and
- an awareness of methods of procurement and contract management.

We also expect them to be innovators, model makers, problem solvers, researchers writing with academic rigour and public speakers. In short, successfully completing a degree in Architectural Technology is challenging in terms of workload and the time commitment expected.

Now combine this workload with moving away from home for the first time and having to work part-time to pay ever increasing tuition fees, student accommodation and general subsistence. Increasing tuition fees have made students more aware of the value of their degree, with added pressure to achieve a high award classification. Throw into the mix

caring responsibilities for family members, now more prevalent than ever due to an ageing population and coping with everything else life throws up, from illness to bereavement. Mature students face time and financial stresses as they struggle to juggle their studies with work to provide for their families. Many juggle their academic studies with fledgling sporting careers, the time commitments of which have increased exponentially in recent years. The age of social media has also brought about its own pressures to conform, as well as the endeavours to live up to the perception of 'student life', which can impact on mental health, exacerbated by the ease of access to illicit drugs in today's society. As described in a recent article, *"This is a generation born with phone in their hand. Bombarded with filtered images, pretend lives...and it's 24/7, there is no day off, no relief from it,"* (Morris, 2020). In summary, today's students are different to those preceding them and are a community with complex needs; it is important to acknowledge this.

The workload outlined, combined with the stresses of everyday student life, needs to be considered from the perspective of mental wellbeing, as everyone has different stress holding capacities. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines mental health as *"a state of well-being in which every individual realises their own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to their community,"* (WHO, 2020). The findings from a national university mental health survey (The Insight Network, 2019) have shown that the pressures faced by today's students mean that more and more feel unable to cope with the normal stresses of life.

If you are reading this as a student and find that the content resonates with you or you are experiencing mental wellbeing issues, please be aware that you are not alone (as evidenced in the study from The Insight Network), and that there is a support network and help available. You can reach out to the academic or support staff at your own institution who will listen to you and either provide support and guidance or put you in contact with someone more qualified within your institution who can help. If you feel uncomfortable speaking to academic or support staff, there are external organisations who can provide help and support such as the Architects' Benevolent Society, as featured on pages 32 & 33. This group offers student mental health support for Architectural Technology students and also has a link to useful resources on their website. Please visit this here.

If you are reading this as an academic, look out for subtle indicators, perhaps changes in personality, behaviour or engagement in class. We should engender an encouraging atmosphere where students are not afraid to approach us and learn not to judge as we don't know what's going on in their lives, nor the daily challenges they face. For some individuals achieving a first-class honours degree classification is reaching their potential, for others, simply completing their degree is a far bigger achievement due to the

challenges they face in their personal lives, of which no one may ever be aware. Along with the focus on responding and signposting or referring students if they experience wellbeing challenges or conditions, we need, as a teaching and learning community, to contribute to mental health and wellbeing promotion and prevention by imparting key wellbeing knowledge and skills.

Using a metaphor that we can relate to, let's take an example of a defective building detail. A minor construction defect (such as a bridged cavity or an incorrectly installed wall-tie), if ignored, can lead to more serious issues requiring specialist remedial treatment. It is similar to our own lives, small worries and concerns, left to linger and develop unless we know and learn how to deal with them, can build and develop into something more serious. The longer we leave it, the more difficult it is to fix. Unfortunately, many students are reluctant to seek help. An Ulster University Student Wellbeing Study found that only 10% of students who screened positively for a mental health problem received professional help (McLafferty et al., 2017).

The takeaway message from this article is to remind you that 'it's ok not to feel ok' and to seek help when it's needed. You are among peers and academics who genuinely care about you and will go out of their way to help should you engage with them. More generally, we all should be aware of the positive impact we can have on others who may be struggling with their mental wellbeing, have a positive approach and encourage help-seeking behaviour. Together, let's open up, generate discussion and reduce the stigma attached to mental health. ■

Thanks are expressed to my colleagues on the Institute's Special Issues Taskforce for their assistance in the preparation of this article, along with Dr. Margaret McLafferty, Ann Hart-Henderson and Drew Neill from Ulster University for their input.

**'It's 'ok not to feel ok'
so please seek help
when it's needed.
You are among peers
and academics who
genuinely care about
you and will go out of
their way to help'**



Student mental health support

Words by: Architects' Benevolent Society

Through its partnership with Anxiety UK, the Architects' Benevolent Society (ABS) has expanded on its mental health support offer and are now able to provide students with a free annual student membership to Anxiety UK.

Find out more:

If you would like to find out more about the work we do, please visit the ABS website absnet.org.uk

Mental health is an important issue in all walks of life. As more people openly discuss their experiences, more people are coming forward for support. Within this profession particularly, there is a culture of working long hours with pressing deadlines. This culture is taught from undergraduate level and increasingly we are finding that the pressure can be too much at times.

The ABS believes that a person's wellbeing should be looked after while studying. Therapy can be expensive and waiting lists can be long. As a result, they have partnered with Anxiety UK to provide a student membership which could be available free of charge if you are studying Architectural Technology, architecture or landscape architecture within the UK.

All students

- **Annual membership** of Anixety UK (includes free subscription to Headspace app, access to reduced cost therapies and many more)
- **Dedicated email support**
- **Dedicated phone helpline support**

Students with one year's work experience in the industry in the UK

- **All of the above**
- **Wellbeing assessment** (including annual membership to Anxiety UK)
- **One to one therapy** (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), counselling, clinical hypnotherapy, acupuncture) via a network of approved therapists

Ways to get involved

Become an Ambassador:

The ABS has a regionally based ambassador network. Their role involves liaising with practices, professional membership organisations and educational establishments to raise awareness, funds and support for the society. The ABS is currently looking to recruit CIAT ambassadors in roles outside of Northern Ireland and the Greater London area. If you live and work outside of these areas and would like to know more about how you could get involved too, you can contact ABS directly for more information.

campaign; some of which have been CIAT socials in aid of ABS such as the Cheese and Wine evening in Belfast and the Beer and Burger evening in Cardiff.

Take part in #Time2Sketch:

There is also a national sketching competition coming up called #Time2Sketch, where participants will have one hour to sketch a chosen theme. The event is taking place in September and is the perfect event for students to do something creative and win prizes whilst increasing awareness of the importance of wellbeing. Visit www.absnet.org.uk.

Host an awareness raising or fundraising event for us:

There have been various awareness and fundraising events happening across the UK to promote the #AnxietyArch



CIAT's ABS Ambassadors with ABS staff at the Annual General Meeting in Glasgow, November 2019.



Anxious? Stressed? We can help

Many people find their own ways to cope but some need support to manage these feelings and to get the balance right in their lives.

We can offer a variety of **mental health support** to **students** experiencing **anxiety, stress** or **anxiety-based depression.**

Our support is **free** and strictly **confidential**. Through our partnership with Anxiety UK, we can offer **quick access** to practical support.

Architects | AT Professionals | Landscape Architects | Assistants | **Students** | Families



Just missed it – post-Christmas and New Years social



Usman Yaqub MCIAT
Wessex aspirATIion Group Chair

At the end of a long January month, with Christmas and New Year a distant memory, the Wessex Region hosted a post-Christmas and New Years social to start the year off as we mean to go on!

We would like to thank all those who attended on 30 January at Racks Bar & Kitchen in Bristol and made the event a success. As part of the evening, two Chartered Architectural Technologists from our Wales Region (Oliver Henshall MCIAT and Aled Rees MCIAT) spoke as ambassadors from the Architects' Benevolent Society (ABS) and helped us complete our own Anxiety Arch. Following this, our main sponsor Autodesk Plangrid introduced an extremely interesting piece of software that can help with coordination and collaboration. To wrap it up, we socialised, had some delicious food and drinks before holding a charity raffle for ABS. Through generous donations the raffle raised an incredible £170.

Thank you again, and be sure to not miss our future events which can be found on our Regional website page, in *AT Weekly* or on the events section of the website: ciat.org.uk/events.html. ■



Attendees listening to the presentation given by Autodesk Plangrid in Bristol.

My work placement



Renovation gets underway on the residential building.



Before work on the renovation of this residential building began.



After work was completed on site.



Aleksandra Edelwein

Aleksandra Edelwein, student member and aspirATIOn Chair of the Europe Centre, tells us about her internship, with some advice on how to find a placement of your own.

One of the requirements at VIA University College in Denmark is to complete a full-time internship. VIA offers the Architectural Technology and Construction Management Programme on a full-time basis only and it is almost like a 9 to 5 job! Therefore, it is rare to be able to get a student job in the field, especially on the building site, before the internship.

Finding an internship for me was a bit of a challenge. I knew that I needed to speak and understand some Danish to be able to get an internship on a building site in Denmark. I could have gone abroad, but I really wanted to try to find something locally. I was offered a place at NCC A/S, a contractor with projects in Sweden, Finland and Denmark that focus on the safety and sustainable development in the industry. I worked on the renovation project of residential buildings, close

to Aarhus, the city where one of VIA's campuses is based. The project leader ended up being my mentor during the internship and I learned so much just by shadowing him. The first days were hard, as I had no idea what I should be doing, but active observation is a good start (by active, I mean making notes and reflecting on situations). Slowly, I was given some tasks to do with the team. I was attending meetings, which were a struggle for me due to the language barrier; the team communicated predominantly in Danish.

'I got to know construction in a way that was not available to me before'

During these 20 weeks of internship, I got to know construction in a way that was not as available to me before – looking at each layer, seeing how workers apply them, the kind of preparation that has to be done before etc. One of my major tasks was to check the status of the work and it covered my favourite topic – planning.

I also had a chance to examine the reasons for delays and how to avoid them on other projects.

I did not have a chance to manage a subcontractor, which I think would have been a great experience. However, I did not feel ready to be in charge of anything without having more practical competence. I did get to sort out some issues though, call a few subcontractors and make some agreements, which gave me a taste of the work and processes involved.

The biggest responsibility I was given was to take care of everything on the building site for two whole days, completely alone from the leading team! One of those days was a Friday, which is a shorter work-day in Denmark, but it felt very long to me! I had to do the usual – status checks, walk around to check what was going on, answer emails and ensure that the land surveyor did his job properly.

Based on my own experience, I would like to share some advice on finding a placement:

1. Try not to apply too early or too late. Prepare your CV and portfolio but call various companies to find out when they actually start to arrange internships for the upcoming season. You do not want your application lying under a stack of paperwork.
2. When you call them, find out the procedures in the company, who oversees employing interns etc.
3. Visit some companies in person and introduce yourself. If it happens that you do meet somebody in the company where you would like to have your placement, do not waste your chance on small talk. Be open, honest and enthusiastic. They will match your name with the face and will hopefully remember you! ■



The process of fitting a new elevator shaft in the building to make it more accessible.



Students and engineers before visiting the construction site.

A different type of group project: Midfield Terminal Building at Abu Dhabi International Airport

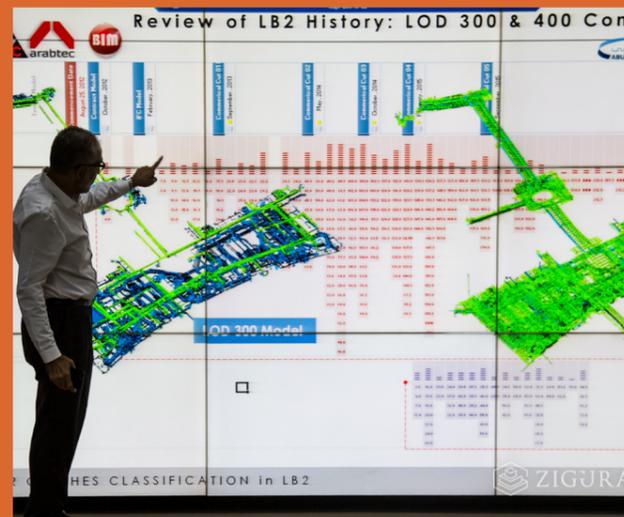
Most students will be familiar with group projects that are based on pretend or theoretical buildings. Students enrolled at Zigurat Global Institute of Technology (ZGIT), which offers a CIAT Accredited post-graduate qualification entitled 'Global BIM Management Certification Programme' and other BIM related degrees, are offered the opportunity to take part in live projects.

As ZGIT is a distance learning postgraduate provider, students do not interact face-to-face. Instead, they rely on cloud-based resources to collaborate during their studies.

Students on this programme had the opportunity to meet each other at Zigurat's first International Student Week in the Middle-East, with their group project revolving around Abu Dhabi International Airport, namely the Midfield Terminal Building, which is due for completion in March 2020.

This terminal building is unique as it has been designed entirely with Building Information Modelling (BIM), which lends itself well to the cloud-based way in which ZGIT students are used to collaborating. The Student Week took place at the Terminal, which covers an area of 700,000m² and has relied on over 2,000 built environment professionals to execute.

Involvement on this project was made possible through Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), the organisation in charge of the project which also happens to be an Academic Partner of ZGIT.



ZGIT's Master's Director, Issam El-Absi, explaining the key features of the façade.

Thirteen students of seven different nationalities were able to see how CCC implemented BIM methodology through all stages of construction across the five-day programme. Not only were students given an overview of how such a large-scale project was designed or managed; they were also spoken to by a number of professionals who were involved in different areas of the project. This enabled students to discuss and ask questions regarding the execution of the Terminal Building and finding out how the team solved any challenges that arose.

The students were appreciative of the opportunity to participate in a live project and it is hoped future students will also find it valuable.

An interesting video of the event can be viewed on YouTube at the link here. ■

'The Terminal Building has been designed entirely with BIM'



Students getting ready for the on-site visit to the MTB of the Abu Dhabi International Airport.



The BIM-theatre, a tech-room where engineers work collaboratively through nine screens.

Mentor Match Me – how it works and ways you can get involved

Words by: Dorota Fitzpatrick, Assistant Membership Director

CIAT runs an online mentoring scheme for use by all members, which allows experienced members who act as mentors, to assist other members working in the industry in a variety of areas by providing a range of support, advice and guidance.

All members can benefit in a variety of ways by joining as a Mentor or Mentee, such as:

- Membership progression/qualifying
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Education/careers
- Setting up in practice/offering services
- Employment/jobs
- International – support from our Centres
- Opportunities to have your work recognised by entering our Awards
- Knowledge sharing
- Leadership/management

The platform also encourages e-learning and supports a wide-range of learning and development resources.

Online materials include:

- The MentorMatchMe Guide to Mentoring;
- a learning diary; and
- a range of learning resources.

All members can benefit in a variety of ways by joining as a Mentor or Mentee, in aspects such as guidance on membership progression/qualifying processes to gain Chartered status, CPD, careers advice available for those members who may be looking into diversifying their skills as well as guidance to those looking to set up in practice on their own, gaining insight or just sharing knowledge from members who work with BIM, to name a few.

Maybe this is something you would like to be involved with?

How you could benefit as a Mentor

You could have a particular skill or experience which could be invaluable to other members!

Some of the advantages include:

- Developing your coaching skills
- Fulfilling your obligation to undertake a minimum of 35 hours CPD per year
- Sharing your knowledge and experience whilst broadcasting your own
- An opportunity to network with fellow members in the industry
- For academics/guest lecturers to have the opportunity to mentor students or academic colleagues

How you could benefit as a Mentee

Any member may choose to become a mentee and gain additional knowledge. It is not only student members, profile candidates or Associates working towards achieving Chartered status (MCIAT) who can sign up. A Chartered Member holding a senior position for example may wish to become a mentee in relation to another area of practice.

The main benefits include:

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

The joining process to become either a Mentor or Mentee is fairly straightforward:

- » You would need to create an account by signing up at www.ciat.mentormatchme.me
- » You would be required to specify at this stage if you are volunteering as a Mentor or registering as a Mentee and provide your CIAT membership grade and number.

Once an account has been set up, you will be prompted to complete a profile form, which will enable mentors and mentees to be matched based on areas of common interest/s and experience.

Once matched, the participants are encouraged to meet (face to face or via an online meeting facility) for a couple of hours per month.

If you wish to be both – a Mentor and a Mentee – you would need to register twice using separate email addresses.

Whatever stage in your career you are in at the moment, we hope that this is something that would be of interest or assistance to you and if you have any questions about the platform, please contact Dorota Fitzpatrick, Assistant Membership Director on membership@ciat.org.uk. ■

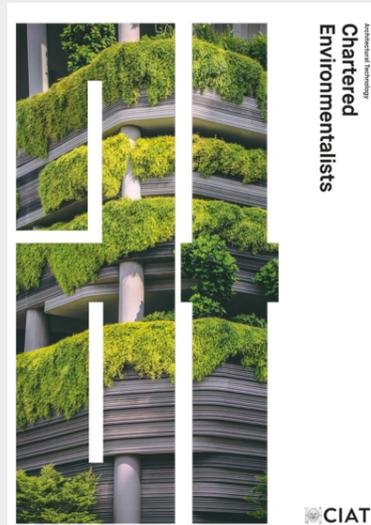
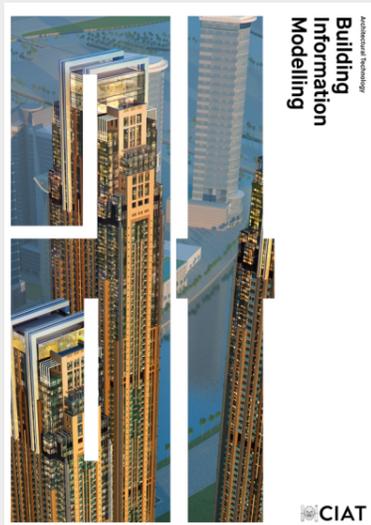
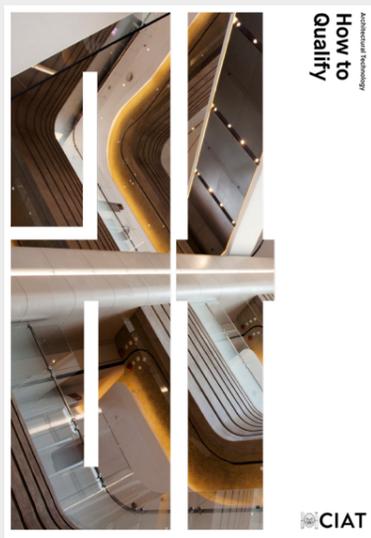


The AT Suite

A suite of literature is available from the Institute

Download it from the website here

More in the series coming soon including Accredited Conservationists



Technology Network

This is available for members only in your 'My CIAT' area via ciat.org.uk. Alternatively, you can contact the Practice Department on practice@ciat.org.uk

Technology Network is a directory of members with expertise in different areas, who are willing to receive enquiries from other members on various topics. Topics can include conservation, design, BIM, building regulations and contract administration.

The aim of this directory is to put members in touch with each other for support and guidance and any member is invited to join Technology Network.

Tri-Varsity BIM Workshop 2019



Gordon Chisholm MCIAT
Lecturer at WIT
BSc (Hons) Architectural
and BIM Technology



Team six: before they knew they had won.

The sixth annual Tri-Varsity BIM workshop took place at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), Ireland from 3 to 6 November 2019.

Students and staff from WIT, along with Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), Copenhagen School of Design & Technology (KEA) in Denmark and University of Westminster (UoW), met for a three-day BIM workshop, focusing on BIM workflows and methodologies in the design, analysis, specification, costing and presentation of a new Gateway Tower on the river Suir' North Quays in Waterford City.

Prior to meeting in Waterford, over 90 students were organised into nine teams with an equal mix of students and design disciplines. WIT Architectural BIM Technology (ABT) third year students set up their teams on BIM 360 Next Gen common data environment (CDE), utilising BIM 360 Docs, Design Collaboration and Model Coordination. A BIM Execution Plan was developed, and tasks agreed with team members along with a project schedule. This enabled the teams to start their collaboration before the workshop began, saving valuable time in getting to know each other.

The three-day event kicked off at Waterford Medieval Museum with an introduction by WIT's Head of Department of Architecture, Maire Henry, with guest speakers Dave Palmer of FenestraPro presenting their energy efficient facade analysis software, and Rob Cass of Falcon Real Estate who presented their multi-million euro North Quays redevelopment project.

Students set their teams up in various locations around the department. Each group had a screen and a projector so they could mindmap and video link to their teammates in SHU; all groups had at least one team member working remotely from SHU. By running the project through BIM 360, this enabled those who could not travel to take part in the workshop and emphasised the benefits of using a cloud based CDE such as BIM 360.

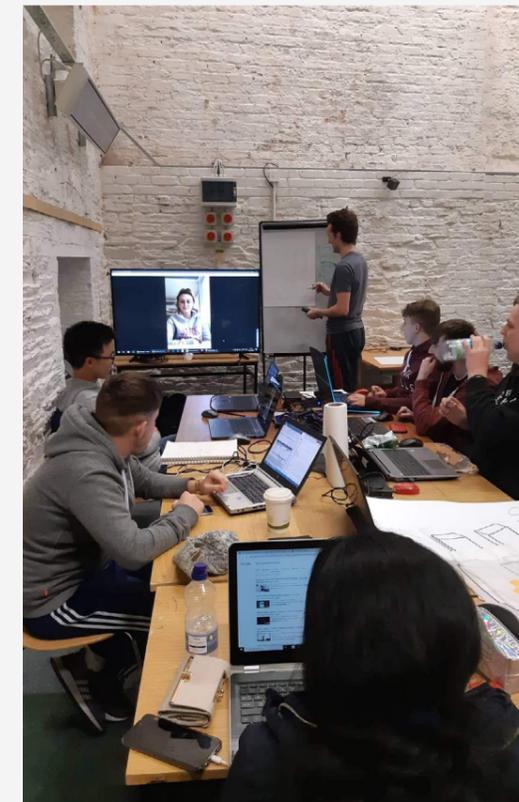
This year, a new dimension to the judging was introduced; as the project was conceived as an architectural concept competition, the award was based

on the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT). A Google Docs online survey form was created. Along with staff, each team also judged the projects against the criteria set out: layout, functionality and technical design, sustainable solutions, analysis (energy, facade, wind), construction, cost and presentation.

'The collaboration and peer to peer learning from the workshop is an invaluable experience for the students'

After two and a half days of intense work full of enthusiasm, collaboration and hopefully new friendships, the final presentations were ready. There was a great buzz in the Granary Cafe where the poster presentations and audio visual slide decks were displayed and judged. A truly phenomenal amount of work was produced by the students using industry relevant BIM software, workflows and methodologies. The collaboration and peer to peer learning from the workshop is an invaluable experience for the students.

Well done to all those who took part and congratulations to team six who won! The standard was very high and a credit to the students, their lecturers and educational establishments. ■



Group 1 during a webcall.

End of Year

Architectural Technology Shows

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and University of West England (UWE) both held their End of Year Shows, in May and June 2019 respectively, showcasing a wealth of talent and an inspiring new generation of Architectural Technology professionals from Accredited Honours degree programmes.



The opening of the GMIT Architectural Technology Exhibition in May 2019.

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

The GMIT Architectural Technology Student Exhibition 2019 was officially opened at 18:30 on Thursday 24 May in the Cafe Foyer at GMIT Galway Campus. The exhibition ran until 12 June and featured work from years 1-4 on the BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology programme. The work on display included:

Year 1 student work

A selection of work from Architectural Technology students was on show, from a range of modules ; mainly Detail and Design Studio, Architectural Technology and Architectural Graphics and communications.

Sample projects from various students included a timber-framed garden room and a selection of construction drawings for a contemporary house.

The winner of the first-year best house project was Oliver Cleary, student member, whose project was based on an original design by Tierney Haines Architects.

Year 2 student work

The range of drawings that were on display highlighted the students' ability to document, detail and prepare working drawings for timber and steel framed structures. Projects in Year 2 were based on a case study building which is originally situated in Austria, Salzburg-Thal by Dietrich Untertrifaller Architects.

The drawings are a mixture of scaled freehand sketches, AutoCAD and REVIT drawings from the Studio and Architectural Technology modules. Also on display were projects on Architectural Conservation Areas in Galway and samples of their history of architecture sketch books.

The winner of the second-year best timber and steel framed project was Oskar Mrozik.

Year 3 student work

Each third-year student had prepared an exhibition poster which showcased their best Studio work from the academic year.

The third years have one main studio project - this year it was a mixed-use building located in the Docks in Galway consisting of retail units on the ground floor and three levels of apartments over with basement parking under. The mixed-use project is based on "Angel Waterside" in London by Pollard Thomas Edwards Architects.

The winner of the third-year best project was Ali Al-Windi.

Year 4 student work

The fourth-year exhibition consisted of a pair of AO posters prepared by each student which represented their approach to the sustainable upgrade, refurbishment and extension to a listed existing building – the Galway Arts Centre.

Each student had researched a particular element of the building in depth and presented their findings on their exhibition sheets.

The winner of the fourth-year best renovation, alterations and extension to a protected structure project was Shane Coppinger.



Best project BSc Architectural Technology year 3, at GMIT, model and poster.

University of West England

On 6 June 2019, the Faculty of Environment and Technology annual Degree Show, 'Fresh off the Block', showcased inspiring graduate projects from across the faculty, including the BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology & Design programme.

The Wessex Regional Committee attended the show, where they had the opportunity to see innovative project work and talk to new graduates and students.

The Committee, represented by Wessex aspirATion Chair Usman Yaqub MCIAT, were also on hand to present awards to three final year BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology & Design students; Luke Wharton ACIAT, Joe Hyett ACIAT for Outstanding Graduating Student and Ben Starling for the aspirATion Award for Dedication and Academic Achievement. ■



From l-r: Ben Starling, Dean Bieganeck MCIAT, Wessex Regional Education Officer, Joe Hyett ACIAT, Usman Yaqub MCIAT and Joe Wharton ACIAT.



Joe Hyett ACIAT is presented with the Award for Outstanding Graduating Student by Wessex aspirATion Chair Usman Yaqub MCIAT.

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