

RIBA
FELLOWS
2020



■ **Harbinder Singh Birdi**
FRIBA, BA(Hons), BArch(Manchester School Of Architecture)

Throughout his career, Harbinder has actively shared his infrastructure and transport expertise to a broader audience, mentoring architects entering the profession as well as engaging with the wider public.

He leads the CPD programme at Hawkins\Brown, which has supported over 400 Part 3 graduates to date. He lectures on professional practice in the UK and internationally, while working with universities advising on RIBA accreditation for courses as well as providing guidance on how to evolve architectural education for the benefit of students. He also partakes in the 'Speakers for Schools' initiative, encouraging children attending state schools to join the design and construction industries.

Harbinder is the Principal Architect for the design and construction of Tottenham Court Road station; he ensured the station remained operational during the modernisation of existing tunnels while seeing through the integration of the greatest number of artworks within a London Underground station. He has subsequently delivered numerous lectures promoting the value of architects to engineers.

Furthermore, Harbinder was the Project Architect on the New Art Exchange in Nottingham, which won a RIBA National Award in 2009. ■



■ **Richard Alexander Blenkarn**
FRIBA, BA(Hons), DiplArch(Leeds)

Ric is a Director at Bramhall Blenkarn Architects, based in North Yorkshire. He is a Yorkshire Design Review Member and a corresponding member of the RIBA National Housing Group. He specializes in addressing the issues of affordable housing in rural areas, having helped design and build over 50 affordable homes in villages across North Yorkshire.

Ric has received numerous awards over the course of his career from RIBA, RICS, LABC and the Civic Trust to name a few, largely for residential projects. For the past 10 years Ric has worked to raise awareness of Architecture in the region through writing a regular column for The Yorkshire Post. Topics covered have included Housing for Elderly, the Role of an Architect and Repopulating Rural Communities. This role has been widely acknowledged to promote architecture in the county and has allowed readers to understand the importance of it. He also acts as a judge/assessor for the Regional RIBA Awards, Civic Trust Awards and York Design Awards. ■



■ **Tzena Nesheva James**
FRIBA, DiplArch, DipProjMan(RICS)

Alongside practicing architecture in UK and abroad, Tzena is committed to raise the status and profile of the Architectural Profession and promote its value of serving the public's interest through quality design and sustainable environment.

She has held more than 20 roles at the RIBA on different working groups and many committees continuously between 1982 and the present, like chairing the RIBA Salaried Architects Group, chairing the RIBA Kingston/Richmond Branch, Nationally elected on RIBA Council (1993-2016), the International Affairs Board, the European Affairs Group, to name few. As a member of the Disciplinary Committee, Tzena helped to overhaul the RIBA's disciplinary procedures, creating fairer, more transparent system, and a detailed review of the Disciplinary procedure with regards to the Code of Professional Conduct, is currently underway.

In 2017 Tzena was awarded the "Gold Capital" award by the Bulgarian Union of Architects for lifetime achievement in architecture, and in 2018 was awarded a Certificate and Gold Medal of the Honorary Title "The Golden Age of King Simeon the Great" for her contribution to the popularisation of Bulgarian Culture. ■



■ **Anna Lira V Luis**
FRIBA

Lira formed an architecture career for the benefit of others through research and innovation. As Taliesin Fellow for Taliesin Architects Ltd, she revived the underutilised System-Built Homes – Frank Lloyd Wright's foundational project that birthed his "Usonian" Jacobs House (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) – resulting in reduction of blight in a disadvantaged city block of New Jersey. Her research and development of Leapfrog Project's "Living Ball" enabled self-sufficient empowerment of extreme weather survivors through geodesic constructions. In her Magnetic Levitation Experiment, she developed new architectural solutions to help island nations overcome rapidly rising sea levels. These architectural solutions to their rapidly changing environments intersect Science and Technology.

She mentored young women and minorities about 3D Printing, Architecture Technology, and licensure at Northwestern University, University of Chicago, Westwood College, and Scottsdale Community College, including UN 2030 Youthforce.

Lira received the 2010 AIA Athena Young Professional Leadership Award for "contributing time and energy to improving her community's quality of life" and "actively assisting others, particularly women, in realizing their full leadership potential" which she advances through collaborations with UN Women USA. ■



■ **Maurizio Mucciola**
FRIBA, MSc (Arch), MS.AAD

Maurizio is a co-founder and Director of PiM.studio Architects in London.

He is fascinated by the relationship between city, architecture and public places, and is passionate about rethinking the way these interact. How can we create better connections between private and public spaces? How can internal and external spaces better flow into one another? He has explored these questions with V&A Dundee, a dramatic building which draws people to the waterfront revitalising the idea of urban public space.

Maurizio led the Design Team behind V&A Dundee, with Kengo Kuma and then PiM.studio, from winning the design competition to completion and received a RIBA National Award for this project.

Before setting up PiM.studio with Maria-Chiara Piccinelli in 2016, Maurizio worked with KKAA between Tokyo, Edinburgh and Paris, with OMA in Rotterdam, and with Jeffrey Inaba at C-Lab in New York.

Maurizio holds a Master of Architecture from the Politecnico di Milano and a Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University.

He teaches at the London School of Architecture, co-leading an LSA Design Think Tank researching how to “rewild architecture”. ■

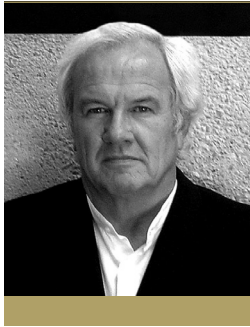


■ **Valeria Passetti**
FRIBA, Doctor of Architecture

Valeria is RIBA Vice-President Membership, and specialises in the conservation of heritage buildings in her role as the principal of Conception Architects. She is a regular contributor to BBC Radio and Television and previously Regional Chair for RIBA East Midlands. In her practice, Valeria considers the wider positive social and environmental impact of the projects on the community. She is currently involved in ongoing research with Derby University on basalt fibres to develop an alternative ultra-light material to be used in heritage projects.

Among other awards, Valeria received the Georgie Rennie Award from the Derby Lord Mayor and Conservation Area Committee 2015 for the conservation project of the Old Bell Inn in Derby, and more recently received the George Larkin Brighter City Award for the shop front scheme in the Derby City Centre and Green Lane conservation areas.

Over the years Valeria has been a dedicated member of RIBA Council, the RIBA Membership Committee and Nations and Regions Committee and now RIBA Board. She is also Honorary Consul of Italy in the East Midlands. ■



■ **Prof. Roger Francis Stephenson**
OBE, FRIBA, BArch(Hons)(L'pool)

Roger is Director of Stephenson Studio, with a strong emphasis on conservation and new uses for historic buildings. The studio's was awarded a RIBA National Award as well as a Civic Trust Award in 2013 for Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, which was also later shortlisted for the Stirling Prize.

Throughout his career, Roger has campaigned for the next generation of architects, and has been involved with architectural education on a regular basis over the years.

He is a tutor, visiting professor and an external examiner in universities across the UK and China. Roger has also made contributions to the profession by leading RIBA North West as a Chair, he was nationally elected Councillor at RIBA National Council and a Chair of Manchester Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Panel. Roger has also chaired numerous juries for the RIBA Awards programmes. He was awarded an OBE in 2001 for services to architecture. ■



■ **Helen Sian Taylor**
FRIBA, BA(Hons), BArch(Manchester)

As Director of Practice, Helen is responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of programmes to maintain and enhance the high levels of technical competence and expertise across the whole practice, to ensure legal and best practice compliance. Helen's commitment to sustainability, diversity and inclusive design, supports the implementation of new initiatives to assist the practice in achieving its quality management, sustainability and corporate social and environmental responsibility objectives. Specialising in Education design for many years, particularly Early Years, Primary and Special Schools, Academies, and University Technical Colleges, she led the innovative SHaW Futures Academy project which has led to a book on "Urban Schools" due to be published by RIBA.

She is well recognised through her collaboration with industry bodies; Helen was a founder member and co-chair of Architects for Change, the RIBA's Equality & Diversity Forum and Convenor of the RIBA Schools Client Forum. She is passionate about cross industry collaboration, engagement and research. She played a significant role in the establishment of Modern Apprenticeships in Architecture and has recently joined the Board of the RIBA. ■



■ **Prof. John Joseph Seymour Watts**
FRIBA, Dip Arch(Manchester) with Exhibition, MRAIC, AIAI

Professor Watts was the Project Architect and CEO on the largest construction project in Europe at that time – Brighton Marina, still the world's largest private marina in open sea conditions.

John also researched and delivered publications including: "The Anodic Process and its Inter Relationship with Architectural Metals"; "The Armouring of Spending Beaches to mitigate the rising of the World's Oceans" and contributed to "Planning and Design of Ports & Marine Terminals".

He was the architectural expert advising a Study Circle producing the "Tampa Comprehensive Plan to 2040 – Building our Legacy – a liveable city" in Florida to ensure the liveability, sustainability and economic growth of Tampa's future, to preserve its heritage and natural resources.

In 1968, Prof. Watts led the design department of Rose, Beaton & Rose, New York, designing ten generations of electronic switching stations, later digital for AT&T and NASA, resulting in the 'global village', and development of today's Internet.

He was the Joint founder of the Architectural Department of NYIT; Served on the Board of Marking at the University of Greenwich.

Awarded: Massey Gold Medal for Architecture, Canada. ■



■ **James Macdonald Wright**
FRIBA, BA(Hons)(Huddersfield), DipArch(UCL)

As the Senior Director of Macdonald Wright Architects James was responsible for inception, design and administration of the construction of Caring Wood – a carbon-neutral private house project on a fully sustainable estate in Kent. In 2017 the project was awarded with the RIBA South East Sustainability Award, an RIBA South East Award, an RIBA National Award and the RIBA House of the Year. In 2019 James was a juror for the RIBA Awards.

James has given a number of lectures in Universities and to the construction industry, specifically relating to the design of Caring Wood, covering subjects including multi-generational living, regionalism, landscape and sustainability in architecture. A number of his projects have featured in London Open City events over the past decade.

James served as a Trustee of the Hackney Society from 2011 – 2013, working to encourage exemplary new design and conservation of the borough's rich heritage, and in 2018 contributed to the Hackney Design Awards as a Juror. ■
