



Elections to Council 2019

Nationally Elected Councillor

The information presented in this leaflet is as follows:

CANDIDATE NAME

- a. Nominated by
- b. Candidate's practice address
- c. Candidate's position
- d. Candidate's qualifications

Election Statement

Note:

Candidates have produced their own entry in this leaflet by completing a template downloaded from the RIBA website, from the ERS website, or by completing the form online, through the ERSvotes Nominate platform.

There is a word limit of 300 words for candidate statements. After providing the information required in points a to d the remainder of the page is available for candidates to use for the presentation of their election address.

The contents have not been edited nor have mistakes been corrected.

In 2019, the listing of candidates starts from the letter A.

There are eighteen candidates for two seats as follows:

Albena Atanassova
Bruce Buckland
Gudjon Thor Erlendsson
Randa Hanna
Harriet Harriss
Mark Andrew Kelly
Danni Kerr
Alfred Munkenbeck
Timothy Onyenobi
Femi Oresanya
Mark Percival
Vinesh Pomal
Benjamin Powell
Ian Purser
Layton Reid
Abu Siddiki
Maria Smith
Robert Wilson

Nationally Elected Councillor

ALBENA ATANASSOVA

- a. **Nominated by:** Stephen Hodder, Srimathi Aiyer, Anthony Michael Olliff, Peter Oborn, Tim Bailey, John Assael, Francesco Piffari
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Scott Brownrigg, Scott Brownrigg, 77 Endell Street, WC2H 9DZ
- c. **Position/title:** Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** BA(Hons), M.Arch, PGDip, Freeman of the City of London



Election Statement:

I believe that great things happen when we work together: by finding common ground.

The RIBA has been disengaged far too long from its members which diminishes opportunities for architects to effect change: externally within the wider industry and internally by better supporting a profession of inspiring thinkers, change-makers and risk-takers.

I previously served on RIBA Council 2013-2017 as elected student and subsequently Associate member. Having initiated a restructure of Council and increased student voting rights, I then became the first Vice President for student and Associate members and one of RIBA Ambassadors during Jane Duncan's presidency. Now as a chartered architect I believe there is still work to be done and I am set to make a difference.

As YOUR Nationally elected member on Council I will focus on:

- Modernisation of the RIBA: to enable the RIBA to better serve its members whilst being able to adapt and respond to a construction industry in flux. Restructuring Council was the first step, there is a need to review RIBA's role alongside a set of contemporary Byelaws and Regulations.
- A more socially inclusive cohort of architects into and upward through our profession: as part of a larger Trailblazer group I helped establish Architectural apprenticeships as an alternative path to qualification - a major development in our profession - however, the hard work can't stop here.
- Cross industry collaboration, outreach and research: bringing closer education, practice and other professions to mutually challenge and support each other; to enable people and communities to define themselves and thrive through good design - now and far into the future. As board member of Young Architects and Developers Alliance (YADA), I work with developers to champion stories of collaborative project teams, new working methodologies and drivers of business success within the construction industry.

Nationally Elected Councillor

BRUCE BUCKLAND

- a. **Nominated by:** Thomas Lobb, Alasdair Ferguson, Haesung Choi, Alexander Rakita, Sergio Vale, Andrew Wall, Rachel Freya Farrer Bristow
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Buckland Architects, 15 Perhaver Park, Gorran Haven, St Austell, PL26 6NZ
- c. **Position/title:** Director & Principal Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** BA(Hons), MArch, PGCPPA



Election Statement:

For my campaign video, go to: www.backbruce.org

I want membership of the RIBA to really mean something and for it to give you many more real and tangible benefits than it currently does. In fact, I want there to be so many benefits that there is no question about whether or not it is worth joining. I believe the RIBA is a great institution and with a bit more boldness, innovation and ambition it can be a more valuable resource, and a more effective champion of architecture and the profession.

But there are far too many vague statements in these campaigns.

I will push for the following concrete proposals:

Technology

- Establish an RIBA Technology Committee
- Publish extensive BIM adoption guidance
- Hold regular free BIM training talks and seminars for members, all around the country
- Hold regular free software and technology training events for members
- Include the basics of BIM in the Part I curriculum
- Create an online hub incorporating access to all member services

Affordability

- Implement much bigger RIBA Bookshop discounts for members
- Give student members a 50% discount on RIBA books
- Push for discounts on private software licencing and training for members
- Push architecture schools to give more generous printing and materials allowances

Visibility

- Push for the return of proper BBC Stirling Prize coverage
- Push for more television, radio and print coverage of architecture
- Add a public-choice award for the Stirling Prize and House of the Year
- Hold regular RIBA events in Westminster for MPs and policy groups
- Have a stronger presence at all political party conferences
- Ensure the RIBA is the go-to organisation for architecture and planning policy questions

These are just a start. I would love to hear more ideas from all of you. Let me know at www.backbruce.org

Nationally Elected Councillor

GUDJON THOR ERLENDSSON

- a. **Nominated by:** Paul McAneary, Oliver Houchell, Andreas Krause, Mark Tavener, Zac Carey, Max de Rosee, Jude Tugman
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** AUSB / THOR ARCHITECTS, AUSB and Thor Architects, 28a Lower March, London SE1 7RG
- c. **Position/title:** Architect / Design Director
- d. **Qualifications:** Ba(Hons) AADipl Architect



Election Statement:

We need to restructure the RIBA in order to find it a clear purpose and value:

1. Slim down and focus the Institution by fundamentally audit the purpose of the RIBA and it's various offerings.
2. Participate in public discourse and news advising on current issues facing the build environment.
3. Stop being a facilitator of product spamming and facilitate educational CPDs.
4. Focus on networking opportunities with client, local- and national government.
5. Champion specific changes to national and local systems, from the NPPE, OJEU, overseas hiring policies etc.
6. Re-structure the competition system to work for everyone, not just large organisations and promote paid competitions. We should not work for free!
7. Lobby government to give more power and opportunities to architects through changes to the OJEU system: Paid competition over certain size, run by architects in the Swiss model.

Currently membership value and externally relevant in decline. The Institution as the voice of architects is silent, resulting in 'Architects punching below their weight' (Chair of Parliamentary design forum, Barry Sheerman MP), despite great challenges revolving around the built environment.

In regulatory matters the RIBA fails. Allowing the National Planning Policy Framework to put Design as core criteria turning the planning system into the architectural police with architect becoming subordinates to whims of un-design-educated bureaucrats. A failure of the constitutional directive of promoting good architecture.

To it's members, it is superfluous and futile. Too many "offerings" already available for free outside the institution. Yet it fails to promote it's architects membership to potential clients, or as sources of solutions for development. The RIBA CPD and 'networking' events are filled with specification salespeople.

The Institute needs to reduce and focus it's function, promote itself and architects, and explore alternatives ways to collaborate with outside enterprise.

Nationally Elected Councillor

RANDA HANNA

- a. **Nominated by:** Michael Squire, Rodrigo Moreno Macey, Mark Wilcott, Rob Hearne, Marwan Jamal, James Brookes, Paul Hewes
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Map Projects, 2 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RB
- c. **Position/title:** Director
- d. **Qualifications:** BA(Hons) AA DIP



Election Statement:

As architects, we are privileged to have the best job in the world. No other profession encompasses history, philosophy, design, economics and blue sky thinking. But I also believe we can, and should be, bolder. Bolder in the advocacy of our profession and our ability to facilitate change.

With over 20 years' experience running an architectural practice working locally and internationally, I would now like to join the RIBA Council to focus on four main issues

Planning and the role of the architect

I have been actively involved in planning matters, in different capacities, for over a decade and have witnessed the diminishing role of the architect in the shaping of our urban fabric. Building and design decisions are increasingly dictated by local groups and neighbourhood forums, often run by people with no experience, neither in urban planning nor architectural history.

We cannot stand by and watch this trend develop or we risk becoming no more than pastiche architects, producing colour by number buildings.

The effect on smaller practices

The complicated planning process is most detrimental on smaller practices that often lose clients after projects are diluted or scrapped altogether. With impatient clients often gravitating towards more acceptable solutions, producing progressive and inspiring architecture is becoming more challenging.

Mentoring and co-operation

The mentoring of younger architects, and the co-operation of architects in our profession, can be greatly improved. I would like to encourage collaboration and co-operation between practices, not only as regards design, but also in the daily challenges of running a business.

The role of RIBA

RIBA should strive to be more vocal and more influential in the drafting of government policies. It should support and encourage every type of architect: A place where every architect feels equally supportive and proud to be a member.

Nationally Elected Councillor

HARRIET HARRISS

- a. **Nominated by:** Lucas Che Tizard, Owen Luder, Yemi Aladerun, David Ogunmuyiwa, Hilary Satchwell, Dickon Hayward, Suzi Winstanley
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Royal College of Art, Royal College of Art
- c. **Position/title:** (RIBA, PFHEA), Professor in Architectural Education, Dean of Pratt Institute School of Architecture (as of August 20th 2019).
- d. **Qualifications:** UK Department for Education consultant on T-Panel Vocational qualifications in construction careers, Elected Council member of the EAEE - European Association of Architectural Educators (2017-2020), RIBA Validation Panel member.



Election Statement:

Architectural education needs greater advocacy. The combined challenge presented by student debt, reduced access for students from lower-income backgrounds, a rising mental health crisis, a curriculum that struggles to produce practice-ready graduates and concerns over gender and BAME representation and LGBT inclusivity mean that the RIBA urgently needs to provide leadership and advocacy for architectural education to ensure the architecture profession it is as diverse as the society it seeks to serve. It means tackling head on the varying forms of discrimination reported in the profession, the need to work towards greater collaboration and reciprocity between education and practice, and to champion the next generation of architects upon whom the profession depends. The RIBA can only achieve these aims provided students', educators and architects work together to develop the strategies and solutions needed to support the profession through the challenging and uncertain times ahead.

INTENTIONS: What I would hope to achieve as a RIBA Council member:

1. **PARITY IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & LICENSING:** increase trans-regional qualification parity and/or affordable conversion qualifications ease of licensing as a means to increase mobility, employment & ensure UK-trained architects and practices are globally competitive.
2. **EXPANDING PATHWAYS TO QUALIFICATION:** Developing new models of (debt-free) vocational training for architects, supporting more diverse pathways to qualification, including an increase in practice-situated, vocational training and apprenticeships.
3. **ETHICS + SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - PEDAGOGY AND PRACTICE:** campaign to commit RIBA to implement recommendations of the commission report and to revise Schools Validation Criteria to respond commensurately to the environmental disaster we are facing as a matter of urgency.
5. **GENDER PARITY:** propose ways to address issues of discrimination, poor retention & low women's representation in the profession. Only 20% of RIBA members are women.

Nationally Elected Councillor

MARK ANDREW KELLY

- a. **Nominated by:** Stavros Jakub Sotiriou, John Newman, Aaron Chetwynd, Danni Swann, F M Prince-Parrott, Kalpesh Patel, Adam Graham
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Broadway Malyan Architects, Broadway Malyan, Interchange Place, 151-165 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2TA, UK
- c. **Position/title:** Project Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** ARB, RIBA, RIAS, B.Arch(Hons), Dip(Arch), M.Arch, Pg.Dip.Arch., NCARB (US), SBA (Netherlands), LEED AP®



Election Statement:

As a UK Architect in practise I have been actively involved in the Birmingham Architectural Association and have been involved with the London Chartered Architects Livery Company and RIAS Scotland to promote good quality design, equality and accessibility into the Architectural profession. In the council, I would like to work on five goals

- 1) Raise Architects average salary: Contribute to the incoming RIBA president Alan Jones goal to advocate for widespread fee scales and Architect fee benchmarks, like the Law Society and the Engineering Council. Reasonable fees allow Architects to deliver good design quality and work responsibly within the Standard of Care. Encouragement and support needs to be provided to stop Architects working speculatively for developers without payment or working at risk. Other trades and professions charge reasonable fees and so should architects.
- 2) Protect architects' function not just the Architect title. Design build companies are producing architectural designs without architects, devaluing our work and working unregulated. RIBA must protect the function to safeguard our profession from unqualified design companies.
- 3) Apprenticeships and architectural education: The rising cost of architectural education is increasing inequality. Practical training routes like the long-established Engineering Council apprenticeships has recently started with the RIBA Trailblazer apprenticeships. The goal is to develop and promote the adoption of apprenticeships to widen access to the profession.
- 4) Equality, inclusivity and access. Support the RIBA Schools ambassador programme, Women in Architecture, the RIBA LGBT+community, the RIBA Trailblazers apprenticeship scheme and the Inclusive Architects group for disabled members.
- 5) Ensure RIBA works hard for its members – The RIBA Professional training day programmes are expensive and exclusive. Outside London, the RIBA communities need to be supported with access to events and programmes. The RIBA Procurement and members' area can be improved for members to access practise management resources effectively.

Nationally Elected Councillor

DANNI KERR

- a. **Nominated by:** Jane Duncan, Lisa Raynes, Leanora Robyn Simmonite, Sofie Liesbet Jan Pelsmakers, Olufemi Oresanya, Ged Couser, Graham John Boyce
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Superhistory, Hard Hill Studio, Marsden, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire
- c. **Position/title:** Architect, Studio Leader, Visiting Lecturer, RIBA Role Model
- d. **Qualifications:** BSc(phys), BA(arch), DipArch(dist), MArch, FHEA



Election Statement:

I welcome this opportunity to stand for RIBA National Council.

Dear colleagues we care about good design but I'm seeking to work for you because good design depends on us. You and I are the means by which good design is done so we need an RIBA which puts its members first. Our fine institute is largely going in the right direction but you and I know that it needs to be relevant to ALL of its members.

When I was chair of the Huddersfield Society of Architects what counted was engagement; so we focused on finding ways to channel RIBA funds to students so they could learn by doing on their own projects. Dedicated and engaged, I've been privileged to develop teaching materials for the RIBA and run workshops in schools inspiring the next generation of architects. What could be more rewarding; but please let me tell you:-

Through my role model work I've listened to many colleagues whose issues are unheard - our issues. I will argue for you again and again until we get leverage. I will support you, your practice (big or small), your role (practitioner, teacher or researcher) and your context (across the regions and London). It's your needs as architects that drive me:

- The status of architects in the public eye
- Effective means for fair fees and procurement
- Our voice heard in local and national government
- Pay parity for women
- Parent parity for men
- Parity is the foundation of Inclusivity and Welfare
- Maintain social mobility at our Schools of Architecture

I speak clearly and directly. Give me the opportunity to be your voice on council, my lines of communication will always be open for you. Happy to discuss issues at <https://twitter.com/AtypicalWorker> and <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/danni-kerr-b226674a>

Nationally Elected Councillor

ALFRED MUNKENBECK

- a. **Nominated by:** Sunand Prasad, Piers Gough, Julian Michael Wickham, Brian Waters, John Assael, Andrew Hanson, Luke Tozer
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Munkenbeck+Partners, 8 Scrubs Lane, London, NW10 6RB
- c. **Position/title:** Partner
- d. **Qualifications:** BA (Dartmouth), MAR (Harvard), ACA Council, RIBA since 1980.



Election Statement:

My primary interest is well designed buildings of which we produced many that have been recognised over the past 30 years. (www.mandp.uk.com) My experience includes 3 years with James Stirling and Partner, teaching at Cambridge, the AA, an RIBA planning policy group member for 4 years, ARG founder member and ACA councillor for 6 years.

Over the past decade or so, the RIBA has lost its way. When I joined in 1980, it set the pace worldwide! This was apparent from my previous experience with German, French and US practice. Gradually, the RIBA stopped supporting Architecture and its own members' interest in thrall to a governmental inspired anti professional trend. I would like to apply pressure from within Council to stem and hopefully reverse this mis-orientation.

Specific concerns include:

1. Withdrawal of Scale Fees for demonstrably spurious reasons.
2. The ARB controlling things they cannot possibly understand.
3. Design/Build contracts putting Contractor before Designer.
4. Eroding the architect's legal position in Standard Appointment.
5. A Plan of Work that undermines primacy and continuity in the Architect/Client relationship.

The RIBA is supposed to emphasise Architecture, by administering a system to facilitate great buildings for the long term public gain... in contrast to short sighted political agendas. It is not supposed to be a closed shop trade union. Exceptional distinguished designers should be invited to join the RIBA on merit regardless of academic credentials or ARB opprobrium.

Whilst planning policy increasingly emphasises "Design", it believes it to be a matter for public taste; circumventing the obvious professionals who live and breathe design throughout many years of education and experience in our field. Architect led design panels should be required of all planning authorities.

I would be very pleased to have your vote.

Nationally Elected Councillor

TIMOTHY ONYENOBİ

- a. **Nominated by:** Benjamin Channon RIBA, Tim Bailey RIBA, Virginia Newman RIBA, Imogen Webb RIBA, Yasmin Shariff RIBA, Simone De Gale RIBA, Pedro Gil RIBA,
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** AA Architecture Ltd, Unit 97, 2 Sawley Road Manchester M40 8B
- c. **Position/title:** Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** BSc Hons Arch, MSc Arch, PhD, ARB, RIBA, MNIA, FInstCPD, FRSA



Election Statement:

Architecture Education/Mental Wellbeing (A True Story)

In 1996 during my degree program, I became aware of the sad experience of another architecture student. He had been awake for 36 hours grinding at his design to avoid yet another bad crit. Feeling disoriented as he hadn't resolved his design problem, he went in search of an open food store - Christmas holiday period. With little money and no support, he risked starvation. He couldn't afford materials for his model - a requirement by the college who seemed uncaring about my student friend's welfare. Overwhelmed, he curled up and wept.

Fast forward to 2017 to 2019, my interaction with students in the UK mirrors this story, with mental health impacts such as depression. Moved, I initiated a research programme with University students. I was honoured to be recognised by RIBA during the Black History Month 2018. My findings corroborated the RIBA 2018 and similar studies. I now fund an initiative to support and mentor students, presented to RIBA Architects for Change (AfC) and in discussions with 3 Universities. Action is urgently needed in the entire educational system to reduce student stress levels while improving the quality of their education. I intend to fight for this as a council member if you decide.

Listening to RIBA Members

During past campaigns it became clear to me from phone conversations and letters that many members are unhappy. This is reflected in the low voting statistics and I am passionate to do whatever I can - within or outside the council to connect positively with other members. This has led to my relentless efforts to reach out to sympathetic council members, so we can achieve this goal together. I believe change can be achieved from within RIBA.

Again, **you** decide. Members voices must be heard and their concerns addressed.

Vote now!

Nationally Elected Councillor

FEMI ORESANYA

- a. **Nominated by:** Jane Elsa Duncan, Rory Bergin, Susan Caroline Ware, Danni Kerr, Timothy Onyenobi, Srimathi Janakiram Aiyer, Pierre Wassenaar
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** H O K, HOK, Qube 90 Whitfield Street, London W1T 4EZ
- c. **Position/title:** Principal
- d. **Qualifications:** BSc(Hons) BArch(Wales) RIBA MRIAI, LEED® AP



Election Statement:

I marvel at my profession's ability to interpret complex design problems. Through the combination of creativity, sensibility and scientific understanding, we can create great architecture. It has given me, from an ordinary background in South London, a 25-year career working nationally and internationally on significant public, heritage and private projects. I am proud to call myself an architect.

The business of architecture must continue to evolve and adapt to an ever changing political and social environment. I want to be part of the RIBA Council to help shape its future for the better. That's why I am standing for Council.

If elected, I will:

- Strive to ensure that our profession is seen as a true leader in the creative industries
- Engage with decision makers to place Design Quality on the Government agenda
- Work hard to make our profession more equal, diverse and inclusive.

As a member of the RIBA Validation Panel, a part time Part 3 Tutor and Examiner since 2005, I have a window into academic life. I will work to establish a more collaborative approach between practice and academia to ensure that architectural students are adequately equipped for working life.

I will continue the work started by others to create a profession that is an exemplar employer. It must provide opportunities to all those aspiring to become architects regardless of their background. As a contributor in the delivery of the Architecture Apprenticeship, I want to explore other routes to registration.

As interim Chair for Architects for Change, I have worked with the RIBA Board and Council to produce a strategy plan for addressing many aspects of inequality in the profession. Now that the plan has been approved by Council, I would like to be involved in ensuring that it is executed and delivered successfully.

Nationally Elected Councillor

MARK PERCIVAL

- a. **Nominated by:** Tom Guy, Stephen Hodder, Ewen Miller, Scott Mactavish, John Blair, Neil Dawson, Mark Kemp
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** ArchitectureM, Moravian College
14 Fairfield Square, Manchester, M43 6AD
- c. **Position/title:** Director
- d. **Qualifications:** BA Hons BA Arch RIBA ARB



Election Statement:

We need to support members, not just in words, but proper action.

With the uncertainty of Brexit, the RIBA must step up to the mark, supporting members and practice. We can't start the vicious spiral of dropping fees.

The RIBA must change CPD to enable proper education throughout the whole of our architectural career, enabling both architects in practice and those returning to practice after taking time away for family priorities to be well trained in current practices.

Therefore I will work to ensure:

- Student membership must be overhauled to be meaningful, and properly resourced.
- Membership for younger members that is both meaningful and builds a proper relationship with architects and the RIBA, which continues throughout their career
- Meaningful relationship between RIBA, businesses and practices ensuring the services are relevant and better than other suppliers.
- Proper funding and support for branches, to enable members to have a social and professional relationship with the RIBA
- An inclusive RIBA that ensures all members feel connected to their institute regardless of creed, colour, background or orientation.
- Support the profession, the RIBA and practices to be resourced to fund proper investment in our institute, profession, members and future members in gaining skills and maintaining relevance

Nationally Elected Councillor

VINESH POMAL

- a. **Nominated by:** Chris Williamson, Piers Taylor, Thomas John Foggin, Russell Curtis, Danna Walker, Mike Jamieson, Helen Taylor
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** TateHindle, TateHindle, 1 Lyndsey Street, London EC1A 9HP
- c. **Position/title:** Project Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** BA (Hons), DipArch MA



Election Statement:

My name is Vinesh, otherwise known as Vinnie. I was the youngest Chartered member on Council when elected to represent the London Region in 2014. I feel it is important that views of the membership are represented by people from all backgrounds. Being the first child from a strict Gujarati family to attend university let alone study Architecture was a challenge; I want that opportunity to be available to all. This can only be achieved by addressing the many challenges and barriers that exist in our profession today.

From making our profession inclusive, improving procurement, promoting the value of architects through to championing the reform of architectural education and lobbying government, these are just some of the issues I'll be driving change for should I be elected to Council.

My involvement with the RIBA has also included being a committee member and co-chair of Architects for Change, board member of the British Architectural Trust Board and co-Presidential Ambassador for Young Architects. I campaigned for increased benefits to members, making 76 Portland Place accessible to members, live streaming of events and giving opportunities to young architects to showcase their work at 66 Portland Place to name a few. All of these have since come to fruition over the past couple of years.

I also teach at Leicester School of Architecture and am a YADA board member as well as sitting on the Sutton Design Review Panel with a particular emphasis on championing high quality housing which I have gained during my time at Levitt Bernstein and currently at TateHindle.

So, if you want your voice to be represented from a passionate, conscientious and driven individual who will listen to your views whilst persevering with RIBA to drive change for the common good, then Vote for Vinnie.

Twitter: @vineshpomal

Nationally Elected Councillor

BENJAMIN POWELL

- a. **Nominated by:** Steve White, Eleanor Atherton, Alex Bilton, Andre Fagan, John Ashton, Lorenzo Corti, Matteo Cainer
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Studio Manifest, The Incubator, 76 Portland Place, London, W1B 1NT
- c. **Position/title:** Director + Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** BA Architecture (Brighton), DIP ARCH (Oxford), Professional Practice in Architecture (Westminster) MA International Architectural Regeneration and Development



Election Statement:

Alongside the very real threat of climate catastrophe across the globe, the UK is in the midst of a housing crisis. I believe in a people centered approach to architecture that responds to these issues as a combined social, environmental and economic challenge. The only way we will overcome both is through a holistic approach, working together across different disciplines to bring diversity of thought and solutions.

Within the RIBA council I will campaign for greater collaboration – between built environment professionals, across theory and practice, and most importantly between architects and the public.

As a practitioner running my own small studio (www.studiomaniifest.co.uk), I know that small and medium sized practices offer great passion, strong values and a bespoke, contextually driven response to addressing the challenges identified above. Despite this, many schemes that could benefit from this approach miss out due to the overbearing and unrealistic requirements of mainstream procurement.

As an educator at the University of Suffolk, I want to encourage a greater link between theory and practice having, like many architects, experienced a disconnect first hand. Our young architects are not well prepared for life in practice. We should be encouraging them to address real life issues working alongside other disciplines; this will safeguard the future of our industry as we grapple with these big issues.

As an active member of my community and self-build enthusiast, I want to empower the public to feel more engaged with their built environment. I also want to help turn the growing tide of homelessness. I take a participatory approach and feel that the best form of leadership is through mutuality.

I would be honored to serve on the RIBA council and would take pride in helping to develop the industry that I am passionate about, and believe is integral to our society.

Nationally Elected Councillor

IAN PURSER

- a. **Nominated by:** Dale Sinclair, Sumaya J Dabbagh, Paolo Rossi, Akshay Khera, Jasbir Singh Bhamra, Garry Russell Phillips, Amy Yee Ping Lam
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Pace, Pace
- c. **Position/title:** Director of Architecture
- d. **Qualifications:** MA, DipArch, DipPSArch (Birm), RIBA



Election Statement:

As a passionate Architect, I see the value that the RIBA offers to grow the professionalism of our industry - in particular outside the UK.

For the past 18 years, I have practiced in Europe, the Far East, North Africa, and most recently the Middle East. As a consequence, I clearly understand the challenges that our profession faces in delivering first-class projects that advance architecture, enhance the built environment and improve the lives of end-users.

Drawing on the quality of its UK and international membership and through harnessing its in-depth knowledge-base, RIBA is uniquely positioned to play a leading role in influencing the way that projects are commissioned, regulated and delivered for the greater social good by acting as a standard bearer for internationally recognised excellence in architecture.

In our changing world, RIBA must expand its horizons to support the work of members wherever they practice both inside the UK and internationally.

As a committee member of the RIBA Gulf Chapter for the past three years, I have witnessed the positive influence of harnessing the power of RIBA to reach clients, governments, regulatory bodies, and the wider profession to contribute positively to project outcomes. More can be done through the Council to leverage our influence.

If elected to the RIBA Council, I will advocate for greater visibility and influence of RIBA outside the UK. My objectives will be to provide specific support to members working and studying internationally; to support improvements to the regulatory frameworks in regions where our members are active; to promote the adoption of the Digital Plan of Work by clients and government bodies to better address issues of sustainability and wellness, safe working practices, innovation and digitisation, and to make the promotion of architectural excellence in the development of our societies a priority.

Nationally Elected Councillor

LAYTON REID

- a. **Nominated by:** Harriet Harriss, Yemi Aladerun, Pedro Gil, Ibrahim Buhari, Stephanie Edwards, Yasmin Sharraf, Elsie Owusu
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Desitecture Ltd, 1C Hurstbourne Rd, London
- c. **Position/title:** Director
- d. **Qualifications:** BA(Hons) DArch Urb Des, DMPL Arch, MA, RIBA, SFHEA, FRSA, AoU, MCS D, RIA, ARBS



Election Statement:

Architecture faces an interesting future in the UK, we export the creative talents that are re making the world, so now is the time to resolve the key issues with which the profession is faced.

Education – Cost – Time – Access – Funding, we need to look at alternative ways of funding and structuring the length and range of admissible education opportunities and not losing talent based on perceptions of exclusivity and in so doing broaden the franchise of access to UK and international students.

Practice – develop new ways of seeing practice and its business models, accessing new routes for architects to see themselves pursuing their creative lives, and supporting access to new international markets for young practices.

Technology – Sustainability – promote a greater collaboration with the building and energy industries in sourcing next gen developments in carbon neutral resourcing of materials and processes.

Housing – raising the agenda for social housing need and its procurement, and the challenge to architecture in redefining a safe, secure and inclusive public realm.

To Support, pursue and embrace the opportunities and responsibilities available to us in a time of climate change, and through the rich diversity of cultures that UK architecture can and must provide for and represent.

Nationally Elected Councillor

ABU SIDDIKI

- a. **Nominated by:** Roderick Hackney, Tim Clark, Philip D Allsopp, Valentina Nullo, Darren Stacey, Elaine Toogood, Kerry Branford
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Community Architect, Freelance Architect
- c. **Position/title:** Freelance Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** BA (Hons), Dip Arch, RIBA ARB



Election Statement:

STRENGTHENING RIBA OUTREACH TO OVERSEAS MEMBERS – ACTING AS A GLOBAL BRAND

I found the RIBA to be wanting in this area of Membership support and I would like to work with RIBA management and governance to help and support the following:

1. Architects who have been working abroad for several years and are settling back in the country.
2. Architects who are moving abroad to work – more can be done to stay connected in countries where we have RIBA chapters.
3. Architects who are unemployed or have been unable to get back into the profession for a long period at home or abroad.

COMMUNITY ARCHITECTURE

My workshops and talks on improving high street and public realm to the local communities made me realise the gap between the profession and the local communities. We – together with RIBA need to:

1. Engage more with the local communities on social housings, local developments and regeneration projects.
2. Need to help strengthen the relationship between local communities and the profession.
3. Encourage awareness of the role and position of architects in their local communities.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY

We need to work together to tackle the issues of diversity and inclusiveness and make it a profession for everyone. We need to further explore:

1. Barriers accommodating women and people of diverse ethnicity and background within the profession.
2. Factors that encourage or discourage individuals from diverse communities from entering the profession.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I would like to bring Architecture/ Architects to the people, to the communities, and bridge the gap that currently stops us from being approachable. As a member of Council, I hope to work with RIBA and the Architects to bring about change that would add greater value to be a RIBA member and make us more inclusive and accessible.

Nationally Elected Councillor

MARIA SMITH

- a. **Nominated by:** Sunand Prasad, Julia Barfield, Jo Bacon, Cindy Walters, Denise Bennetts, Anthony Thistelton-Smith, Jamie Fobert
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Interrobang Architecture and Engineering, Interrobang / Webb Yates Engineers Ltd
- c. **Position/title:** Director
- d. **Qualifications:** BA(Hons) DipArch ARB RIBA FRSA



Election Statement:

I believe that architects have a meaningful role to play in addressing social and environmental injustice and that the RIBA can and should be an articulate, esteemed voice working to dismantle and disincentivise the systems that perpetuate the exploitation of our environment and each other.

I am optimistic that the 2020s will see great shifts towards addressing climate breakdown and a renewed exploration of what constitutes the good life. If elected, I would work to ensure that architects' agency in contributing to these changes is maximised. I believe that architects, as propositional, socially oriented, technical professionals are well placed to play an important role in this transition. However, the business of architecture will change, and the RIBA must support the profession and advocate for its legitimacy in the face of these changes.

I studied at Bath, TUDelft, and London Met. I cofounded art and architecture practice Studio Weave in 2006. In 2015 I founded Interrobang, a transdisciplinary architecture and engineering practice within Webb Yates Engineers. Transdisciplinary working seeks to go one step beyond multidisciplinary as individuals work across disciplines and in September 2019, I will complete my engineering degree at the Open University. I believe that better integrating the skillsets of architecture and engineering offers a stronger position from which to address the issues of our age.

It is challenging to address systemic issues on a project-by-project basis, so I have also been a columnist for RIBA J and cofounded debate series Turncoats. I am currently sitting on the Mayor's Design Advocacy Panel, and am co-chief curator for the Oslo Architecture Triennale 2019.

I put myself forward for RIBA Council with the hope that this institution might enable architects to work together to cultivate a custodial not extractivist relationship with the natural world, and a convivial, equal society.

Nationally Elected Councillor

ROBERT WILSON

- a. **Nominated by:** Joanna Meehan, Alireza Sagharchi, Tim Palgrave, Ben Hawkins, James Munro, George Holland, Tom Vincent
- b. **Name and Address of Practice:** Granit chartered Architects Ltd, Granit Chartered Architects Ltd, Studio 18-19, 16Porteus Place, London SW4 0AS
- c. **Position/title:** Director Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** BA (hons), DipArch (cantab) ARB, RIBA



Election Statement:

For over 30 years I have been a member of RIBA. I have had my moans, applauded some actions and been critical of others. I think now is a good time for me to stand up and give back.

My practice is now 20 strong, as a practice, we have been up to 25 and down to just 1, through at least 2 recessions. We have struggled with Planning departments, Vat inspectors and Insurance brokers to name a few. We work with private clients and developers, builders, artists. manufacturers and more.

We are keen on good design, sustainable design, practicality and value for money.

We strive to have a diverse and inclusive team all participating in work we can be proud of, and to support each other as we progress.

I think, I can bring this wealth of experience, and a voice for the smaller business at the coal face of day to day design, to RIBA council working to the benefit of the profession.

I want the RIBA to see that the skills and value, we as a profession, add to the projects we work on and the people we work with, is valued by ourselves and recognised generally by the public at large.

I want The RIBA to encourage people from all parts of society to exercise these skills, and for these efforts to be respected and be fairly recompensed.

I want the RIBA to support and champion small practices.

I want the RIBA to do more about inclusivity and equality, not just pay service to the notion.

I want the RIBA to Support fee transparency and to discourage undercutting.

Vote for Me.