

Nationally Elected Councillor

HELEN TAYLOR

- a. **Nominated by:** Darren Comber, Helen Logan, Robin Nicholson, Kate Macintosh, Tim Bailey, Yemi Aladerun, Jane Duncan
- b. **Practice Address:**
Scott Brownrigg, 77 Endell Street London WC2H 9DZ
- c. **Position:** Director of Practice
- d. **Qualifications:** BA(Hons) B(Arch) RIBA FRSA



Election Statement:

The construction industry and the profession of architecture is changing- and about time. I want to be part of RIBA Council for a second term to continue addressing the challenges and delivering opportunities for architects to promote and develop their skills.

Delivering the new Architecture Apprenticeship scheme with a wide range of other practices has given me a particular insight into the business of architectural education. The apprenticeship scheme will forge a closer relationship between practice and academia and give the next generation of architects a new exciting route into the profession. With most of my professional experience in education design I am passionate about encouraging young people to engage with and influence the world around them. We must make efforts to ensure the scheme supports the diversity we still struggle with as a profession and reduces the financial and mental health burden we currently see. Being a good architect shouldn't have to be at the cost of being a parent or earning a living.

As a director of an international practice my eyes are also open to the potential for, and barriers to, working internationally. As part of the RIBA Brexit Advisory Group, Membership Committee and Large Practice Group I am contributing to the conversation about how architects can work together to maintain our global reach as a profession. Many of my colleagues and friends are EU citizens who have made their professional and personal lives here. RIBA must continue to support and engage with these colleagues who bring valuable skills, knowledge, and experience to our practices. Being an integrated part of Europe supports our reputation and opportunities in the rest of the world.

I am passionate about collaboration and research. The institute needs to use partnerships and joint effort to achieve all our ambitions and potential. RIBA must be responsive and agile- supporting all types of practices to communicate our expertise, knowledge and innovation and help us to be appropriately rewarded for the value we bring to clients and the wider public. The built environment has a lot of stakeholders but architects have rare skills to offer- to understand the big picture, create a vision, and lead. The impact on the UK construction industry of the horrifying Grenfell House fire has not yet fully emerged. We must take action now to make a step change in our commitment to design quality in its broadest sense. RIBA must be the membership body that everyone wants to be part.