
Nationally Elected Councillor

JESSIE TURNBULL

- a. **Nominated by:** Stuart Cade, Director, MICA, London; Andrew Clark, Partner, Robert Potter & Partners, Dumfries; Demian Erbar, Tutor, Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff; Edmund Fowles, Director, Fielden Fowles, London; Diane Haigh, Cambridge; Elsie Owusu OBE, Vice Chair, London School of Architecture, London; David Watkins, DHW Architects, Liverpool
- b. **Practice Address:**
MICA, 123 Camden High Street, London NW1 7JR
- c. **Position:** Associate
- d. **Qualifications:** BA (Hons) and MA(Cantab), MArch, Registered Architect (USA), Chartered Architect ARB/RIBA



Election Statement:

My experience ranges from a six-person practice in my hometown in southwest Scotland to a 350-person office in New York: the common thread were my co-workers: a group of professionals striving to improve the built environment through our individual contributions. However, we have great strides still to make.

Arriving in Cambridge from a local Scottish state school laid bare the discrepancies between those with private education and those from less privileged backgrounds. But as an undergraduate student there was a gender parity that has eroded over my career. In my first job in Dumfries I was the only female architectural staff; when I worked at Atelier Bow-wow in Japan one of the two female architects quit architecture to have a child, and in the UK currently only 26% of ARB Architects are women. In 21st century UK we have a solid basis of good government family policy and excellent public education; with some positive changes in the workplace we can move towards full participation in the industry from both sexes and all members of society. If I were to be elected to a National Seat of the RIBA Council I would build on the work of the RIBA +25 cohort elected in 2017 in encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion; modernising British architecture for the 21st century. I propose to:

- Lead better representation of women, minorities and the younger generation, building on the womens' and equality groups that I founded at RAMSA (NY, 2013) and at MICA (London, 2016) and engage with the AR WIA and the Steven Lawrence Charitable Trust
- Create a level playing field for architects, help to end race-to-the-bottom fee competition. This involves raising the profile of the RIBA and educating clients of the value that architects bring to a project through all stages of the RIBA plan of work
- Encourage fairer and more supportive working environments; end presentee-ism culture. This includes ensuring that young architects are fairly remunerated in a field that requires as much education as medicine or law, and encouraging best practice in family-friendly and positive action hiring.