
Regionally Elected Councillor – RIBA NORTH EAST

NICKY WATSON

- a. **Nominated by:** RIBA North East Regional Council
- b. **Practice Address:** Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall (JDDK), Millmount, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3AL
- c. **Position:** Director
- d. **Qualifications:** BA (Hons) BArch (Hons)



Election Statement:

I am passionate about the communities of my adopted North East region, the good work that North East architectural practices undertake and addressing the challenges that our industry faces in this region.

I have 26 years of professional experience, 18 of them as a Director of a medium sized practice, JDDK, working both in the North East and further afield. The work of JDDK spans a wide range of development scales and sectors and so I have hands-on involvement with architectural and business management matters that are relevant to all practices in our region and can therefore meaningfully represent members in the North East.

I have been on RIBA Council from 2015-2018, also sitting on the RIBA North East Regional Council as part of this role. During this time I have spoken up for the RIBA chartered practices and RIBA members of the North East region, in particular for increased member only benefits, increased political lobbying by the RIBA in the regions, and improvements in how regional members can better access RIBA cultural and professional events, services and activities currently delivered from London.

My three years of experience on Council leaves me well placed to maximise opportunities to influence the RIBA to: continue to argue for and support the delivery of the highest possible standards of design and place-making across all regions of the UK; act to redress the loss of the profession's position in parts of the construction industry; facilitate the creation and retention of a profession that reflects the diversity of the communities in which we work and has equality and inclusion as its basis; create a sustainable architectural education system that supports a diverse profession and one that is prepared for the ever changing construction industry; ensure that all benefits of RIBA membership are meaningful, relevant and available to all members, irrelevant of geographic location, practice type and size.

I have taken on a number of roles outside my work at JDDK over the years including Chair of Northern Architecture and External Examiner at Newcastle University. I am currently a Visiting Fellow at Northumbria University and External Examiner for the MArch Architecture course at the University of Salford.