

Regionally Elected Councillor – RIBA EAST MIDLANDS

VALERIA PASSETTI

- a. **Nominated by:** RIBA East Midlands Regional Council
- b. **Practice Address:** Conception Architects, Gothic House, Barker Gate, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1JU
- c. **Position:** Principal Architect
- d. **Qualifications:** Doctor of Architecture, MA in Philosophy



Election Statement:

I wish to stand as Regional Council member to allow me to continue my work in reforming the RIBA for the benefit of our members. We need to establish a future that serves members with an increased membership offer, which will in turn encourage new members to join. I dream of a RIBA with thousands of ambassadors, where each member recommends joining it but for that I need to continue to be involved and to be elected by my peers. I have represented the East Midlands as Regional Chair at as a member of the Nations and Regions Committee for over 4 years before being elected VP Membership in July last year. I have worked tirelessly with passion and constancy during my time as Chair to give a voice to the needs of East Midlands' architects. I continue to work for the benefit of our and other regions in my role as VP, to ensure that the needs of our members, outside of 66 Portland Place, are considered and brought back to the centre of our institute. I have never missed a meeting in my role as Regional Chair or as VP Membership. As VP Membership, I have changed the format of committee meetings to become opportunities for discussions and proposals among the regional representatives. I have insisted that the fundamental needs of the members should be recognised and actions should be taken, including financial redistribution of resources derived from membership subscriptions. N&RC under my direction, has identified four priorities common to all regions where investment would significantly benefit our members and we are about to define a business plan to ensure that funding is included in the 2019 budget. I have been called revolutionary, anarchic and a true reformer, terms that I wear with pride given the stifled situation of the RIBA to date. As VPmemb I have been co-opted to Council and I was surprised to see that most Council members do not work collaboratively. As a member of Council, I non-elected in the traditional sense (most of my predecessors were Council member before they became VPs) I feel that I haven't got the necessary authority to act as a catalyst for Regional Council representatives to make a real difference for our members, but I believe a strong catalyst is what is needed. With the most recent council reform that reduced the number of council members, there is a real opportunity for change, if the regions were to work together in Council as we do at N&RC. Members can be assured of my commitment, energy and organisational skills. Lastly, I am passionate and driven enough to make things happen as proven in my terms as Regional Chair and now as VP Membership. I stand for the Profession, the Institute and every member that we serve.