The RIBA has appointed the Judging Panel for the President’s Awards for Research, 2017. The Awards promote and celebrate the best of research in the field of architecture and the built environment and the panel is specifically selected to represent this broad and diverse community.

Chair: Peter Clegg
Senior Partner, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Peter Clegg established Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios with Richard Feilden in 1978. Regarded as a key pioneer in the field of environmental design, he has more than 30 years’ experience in low energy architecture and is actively involved in research, design and education.

His active involvement in education projects includes a new School of Engineering in Toronto and an Academy in Bangladesh.

His work in this sector led him to become primary author of recently published Learning from Schools, which focuses on FCB Studios’ award-winning school building programme. He was made Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) in 2010.

Judge: Hattie Hartman
Sustainability Editor, ‘The Architects’ Journal’

Hattie Hartman is an architect, planner and journalist. Raised in the US and trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), she has been based in London since 1991. Hattie is sustainability editor at The Architects’ Journal, a position she created in 2008 after joining the journal’s editorial team in 2006.

She is responsible for the AJ’s dedicated coverage of sustainable design and maintains close relationships with leading practitioners in the UK and abroad.

She frequently lectures on mainstreaming green design and various technical aspects of sustainability. In her role at the AJ, she judges the annual AJ100 Most Sustainable Practice award, which includes practice-based research.
Judge: Dr Kerstin Sailer

Reader in Social and Spatial Network, Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London

Kerstin Sailer is Reader in Social and Spatial Networks at the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London. She investigates the impact of spatial design on people and social behaviours inside a range of buildings such as offices, laboratories, hospitals and schools. An architect by training, her research interests combine complex buildings, workplace environments and space usage with social networks, organisational theory and organisational behaviour. At the Bartlett she leads the module ‘Buildings, Organisations, Networks’ in the MSc ‘Space Syntax: Architecture and Cities’. Kerstin has won several awards and scholarships for her research and has been invited to present her work at a variety of national and international conferences and events. She has co-founded the think-tank brainybirdz to advance scientific thinking in workplace design.

Judge: Dr Elizabeth Darling

Reader in Architectural History, Oxford Brookes University

Elizabeth Darling PhD is Reader in Architectural History at Oxford Brookes University. Her research focuses on 20th century British architectural history with a particular interest in inter-war modernism, social housing, and gender. She has published on the nature of authorship in the design process; the innovative practices of the inter-war voluntary housing sector; the housing consultant Elizabeth Denby; the relationship between citizenship and the reform of domestic space in inter-war Britain, and sexuality, domesticity and modernism in 1920s Cambridge. Her books include a revisionist study of British architectural modernism, Re-forming Britain: Narratives of Modernity before Reconstruction,( Routledge, 2007) and Wells Coates (C20 Society with English Heritage & RIBA Publishing, 2012). She is currently one of the project team for AA XX 100, which commemorates the centenary of women’s admission to the Architectural Association, and is writing a study of the material and spatial cultures of broadcasting in inter-war England.

Judge: Professor Chris Tweed

Head of School, Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University

Christopher Tweed is Head of the Welsh School of Architecture (WSA). His research interests and experience span architecture, anthropology, philosophy and technology. The main focus of his research is on how people interact with the designed world and how that knowledge can inform human-centred design. This has been pursued in projects ranging from studies of assistive technologies for the older people to tools for assessing public perception of cultural heritage. Other funded research includes EPSRC supported studies of thermal comfort conditions in people’s homes, how older people adapt to new low carbon heating technologies, and methods for assessing low carbon building performance. Recently completed collaborative studies include a study of the impact of energy retrofits on health and welding in housing, and a Global Innovation Initiative funded study of green/blue infrastructure with the University of Florida and University of Indonesia.
Judge: Dr Matthew Jones
Senior lecturer, University of the West of England and Partner, Coombs Jones Architects
Matthew is a Senior Lecturer at the University of the West of England, partner at Coombs Jones Architects and an Advocate in Practice for Design Commission for Wales. Matthew is involved in practice-led design research around themes of making places and communities. His design based PhD explored place specific approaches to the development of rural towns and he is leading the development of Shape My Town, a toolkit to help communities explore their place and plan its future. He is part of ‘Hands On Bristol’, a collaboration between the Department of Architecture at UWE and community groups in Bristol that connects students, academics and communities through live participatory projects and creative design processes.

Judge: Zohra Chiheb
Architect, Levitt Bernstein
Zohra Chiheb is an architect at Levitt Bernstein. She leads a team designing and delivering large scale housing and mixed use developments, primarily for socially-focussed clients. Zohra is passionate about alternative development models and spends time researching, visiting and writing about community-led initiatives, including housing cooperatives, community land trusts and cohousing projects. She facilitates co-design sessions, using her professional skills to help residents think about the design of their future homes. In 2015, she formed the research collaborative Appropriate Housing with representatives from Cullinan Studio and Pollard Thomas Edwards. Appropriate Housing is involved in a number of research projects, including a longitudinal study looking at the Older Women’s CoHousing scheme in Barnet, alongside researchers from LSE and the Open University. As a passionate advocate for equal access to quality education, Zohra has also been on the RIBA Education Committee for three years.