



LONDON DESIGN CAPITAL



**RECOVERY AND LONDON'S ROLE
AS A GLOBAL DESIGN HUB**

This research report explores the current impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic on London's status as a global design hub and evaluates the steps London can take to maintain its internationally renowned reputation in an uncertain time.

London Design Capital brings together the current experience of business leaders through interviews and an NLA Members Survey in order to understand how the export of skills and services has been affected. We revisit our original London Design Capital research and recommendations published in 2017, after the UK's vote to leave the EU, and assess how things have changed.

The research is supported by a showcase of international projects, collected from a call for entries, that are currently being delivered by London-based practices, illustrating both the reach of the capital's skills and the breadth of expertise.

Programme Champions

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This research report was published by New London Architecture (NLA) in July 2021. It forms part of NLA's year-round City Dialogues programme, dedicated to connecting London with other cities for knowledge exchange.

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Foreword

By Peter Murray OBE, Curator-in-chief, New London Architecture

Four years ago we were able to write confidently that London was the “world’s global capital for creative design and construction skills”. Our research reported on the work of London-based offices across the sector who were busy working in Europe, the Middle East, Far East, Australasia and the Americas.

So what is happening today? We thought it important to find out and assess the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit on the capital’s international standing as a creative hub. While other cities which compete for the title have all had to face similar problems caused by the pandemic, only London has had to deal with the double whammy of pandemic and political and commercial disruption.

In this study, we collate the experiences of practitioners and how they are responding to this fast-changing commercial and cultural landscape.

London’s fundamental strengths have not changed: the use of English, the multitude of other languages spoken here, the legal system, the general probity of business and its location. But will its geography, which made it such a convenient home for global

business travellers, have the same pull as companies reduce the number of flights they take in the future? They can now make greater use of virtual communications as a result of their experiences during lockdown and they can reduce their carbon footprint at the same time.

One of London’s great strengths in this regard is its ecology of creativity: its diversity, its networks, its education and cultural offerings, an ecosystem in which NLA plays an important role but it also needs strong political backing. At the time of writing, the Financial Times reported that London had reclaimed its crown as Europe’s top share trading centre from Amsterdam. Traders were returning to the City of London because of its ecosystem of expertise. The moves were no doubt also prompted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s statement that he wanted the UK to be “the best place in the world for high-growth, innovative companies” and his strategy of making finance green.

Such statements are important. I look forward to the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan speaking out in support of London businesses generally and

highlighting the significance of London's role as a design capital.

Equally important is the protection of the cultural and hospitality sectors in the Central Activity Zone. These are key attractors for young talent to come to the capital. London's education offer feeds new talent into the system and its good health is essential if we are not to see a gradual impoverishment of skills entering the workforce.

The NLA is doing its bit to support the sector. We work closely with London & Partners, the Mayor's business growth agency, and we're expanding our global cities network — which has been able to step up gear in the past year and a half as a result of the wider familiarity with Zoom and Teams.

We have confidence in the resilience and expertise of London's architects, engineers and consultants to continue to operate on the global stage at the highest level and we will work to ensure that we remain the world's design capital.

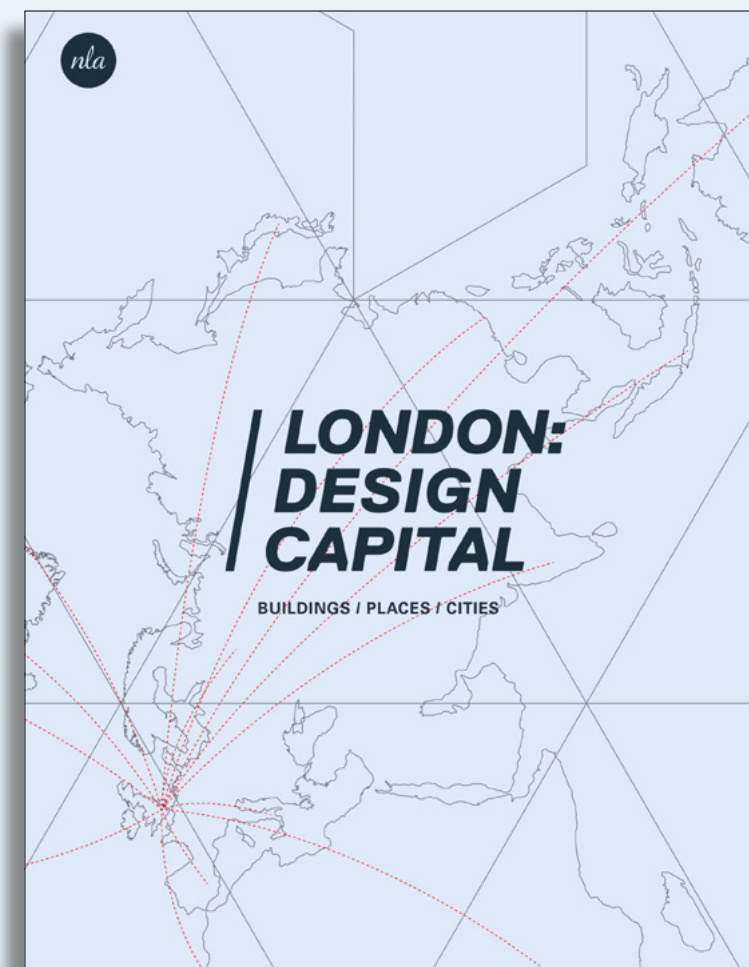


View of London's Eastern City Cluster © Jason Hawkes

Executive Summary

The impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be disentangled, but as we navigate the long-term implications, London has an opportunity to reinvent itself as it has done so successfully throughout its history.

In 2017 the original London: Design Capital publication demonstrated London's pre-eminence as a hub of highly diverse skills and talent, now with unprecedented challenges afoot it is essential we nurture that fundamental make up that makes this city so attractive to live and work.



Our 2017 recommendations for the London Mayor still stand and have gained even more relevance with the current experience, these include:

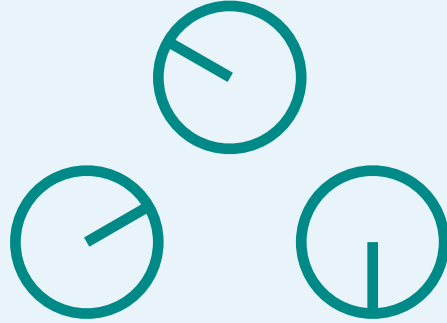
- **Continue to attract and retain access to talent.**
- **Recognise and promote London's built environment expertise to the export market.**
- **Make London an attractive and affordable place to live and work in the long term.**
- **Create and reinforce links with other cities and provide a better voice for the profession.**

Now, four years on and six months from the UK's departure from the EU and over a year into the pandemic, we find ourselves with new challenges and therefore have set out the steps that London can take in order to maintain its status as a global design hub:

- **Maintain an outward-looking and forward-thinking attitude as we emerge from the pandemic.**
- **Nurture London's existing outstanding reputation for built environment excellence and culture.**
- **Invest in skills.**
- **Harness and export strengths in green innovation and digital expertise.**
- **[Read more on these points](#)**

The London 2035 Checklist

Our findings resonate with the London 2035 Checklist presented in our 15-year anniversary programme *The Changing Face of London*, in 2020. The Checklist sets out 15 themes that London will need to address in response to current challenges, and to position itself even more positively over the next decade and a half. All NLA research, programming and advocacy continues to respond to these themes and pushes the agenda forward, using this list as a tool to measure London’s progress each year.

 <p>Healthy A city that prioritises health and wellbeing</p>	 <p>Zero Carbon A greener city that responds urgently to the climate emergency</p>	 <p>Equitable A city of stronger, inclusive and more equal communities</p>	 <p>Flexible Buildings to meet changing needs and support the circular economy, with time-based use of streets</p>	 <p>Polycentric 15-minute mixed-use neighbourhoods with convenient public transport links to a strong centre</p>
 <p>Responsive A city where people can organise their time and space to suit their changing needs</p>	 <p>Leading A leading global city and business centre</p>	 <p>Affordable An affordable housing-led recovery</p>	 <p>Hospitable More diverse and thriving high streets and town centres</p>	 <p>Active A city that walks and cycles, with better air quality</p>
 <p>Meanwhile More meanwhile uses are encouraged</p>	 <p>Viable An open and growing city</p>	 <p>Smart A city that manages and regulates technology and big data effectively</p>	 <p>Public A greater role for the public sector in driving regeneration and housing delivery</p>	 <p>Knowledge-based Research, tech, bio-med and creative sectors drive the city’s economy</p>

Recovery and London's role as a global design hub

***‘We are going to have to have new
solutions for the problems we’ve got
now and in the future ... so London’s
ability to be agile and adaptable and
innovate is really important’***

***Neil Brigden, Director of Foreign Direct Investment,
London & Partners***



Introduction

It scarcely seemed possible in spring 2017, when NLA published the first edition of *London: Design Capital*, that Brexit would not continue to be the chief topic of debate around London and the UK's position in the world, after the UK's referendum vote to leave the European Union (EU) in June 2016. The UK took the final step of withdrawing from the EU single market and customs union at the end of 2020, but the global political, economic and social reality is very different than we could ever have expected, as the world has been subsumed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Any immediate impact of the UK's final secession from the EU has been eclipsed — or, perhaps, hidden — by the public health emergency: 'COVID-19 swallowed Brexit', says Irina Listovskaya, Product Director, EcoWorld London, summarising a very widely held view.

There are many concerns that the full, long-term implications of Brexit, if they can be untangled from the impact of COVID-19, are still to be felt, especially in a potential erosion of skills and talent: the people who are so vital in underpinning London's position as a centre of global design excellence. Recovery from the pandemic is dependent on global cooperation and collaboration. The pandemic has also sharply re-exposed the structural inequities that have also been a cause and effect of Brexit. Attempts to address these, and the global climate emergency, have

energised efforts to find holistic solutions that focus on economic, environmental and social resilience. As Tony Danaher, Executive Chairman of ING Media and principal advisor to the UK government's Department for International Trade, points out, massive disruption historically has been 'the harbinger of renewed innovation', a quality with which London's creative industries have long been associated.

Where are we now?

A snapshot of UK policy on international relations

From 2016 onwards the UK and EU were locked in protracted negotiations about the shape of future relations between them, but a Trade and Cooperation Agreement was finally signed at the eleventh hour of the transition period, on 30 December 2020.

Key dates, agreements and parliamentary bills relating to critical stages in the UK–EU relationship include the following:



The UK officially left the European Union.



The transition period ended, and the UK left the EU single market and customs union.



Agreements reached between the UK and EU in December 2020 came into effect; among other measures, free movement between the UK and EU ended and the UK’s points-based immigration system was introduced for both EU and non-EU (except Republic of Ireland) citizens.¹ Companies are now required to have a sponsor licence to hire most workers from outside the UK (except Ireland).² Full border control processes will be introduced from 1 January 2022.



Committee-stage readings in the House of Lords of the Professional Qualifications Bill (introduced to Parliament on 12 May 2021)³: this aims to ensure that skilled professionals from around the world will have their qualifications recognised in the UK, where they meet UK standards, and supports UK professionals in turn to deliver services around the world by having their qualifications recognised overseas. This is especially pertinent to architecture as a regulated profession in which there are restrictions in various countries on using the official occupation/title of ‘architect’. The Bill provides for the power to give the UK Architects Registration Board (ARB) the ability to develop reciprocal arrangements with counterpart regulatory bodies overseas.⁴



Deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme for EU citizens who want to continue living in the UK.



Launch of the new Graduate Immigration Route by which ‘successful applicants at undergraduate or postgraduate degree level will be able to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level for two years’.⁵

What might new UK trade deals offer the industry?

When the UK was a member of the EU, it was included in any trade deal that the union had with another country or trading bloc. To ensure that the UK continued to benefit from favourable trade terms after leaving the EU, the government has negotiated ‘rollover’ agreements with, to date, 66 countries around the world, for example Canada and Japan. The first free trade deal, negotiated from scratch after EU exit, was signed by the UK with Australia in June 2021. It includes provision for British citizens under the age of 35 to travel and work in Australia more freely — that is, when international border restrictions imposed owing to the pandemic are lifted — and is seen by the government to offer potential for the UK to become a member of the 11-nation Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and thus gain access to markets in the Asia-Pacific region and Americas said to be worth £9 trillion GDP.⁶ The UK is the second-largest provider of exported services to Australia after the USA and potential for significant growth for the British architecture sector there has already been identified.⁷ Increasing the age limit from 30 to 35 years for three-year working visas may benefit, for example, UK professionals working on large building and infrastructure projects on the subcontinent, allowing them to extend their experience. It was also reported in June 2021 that

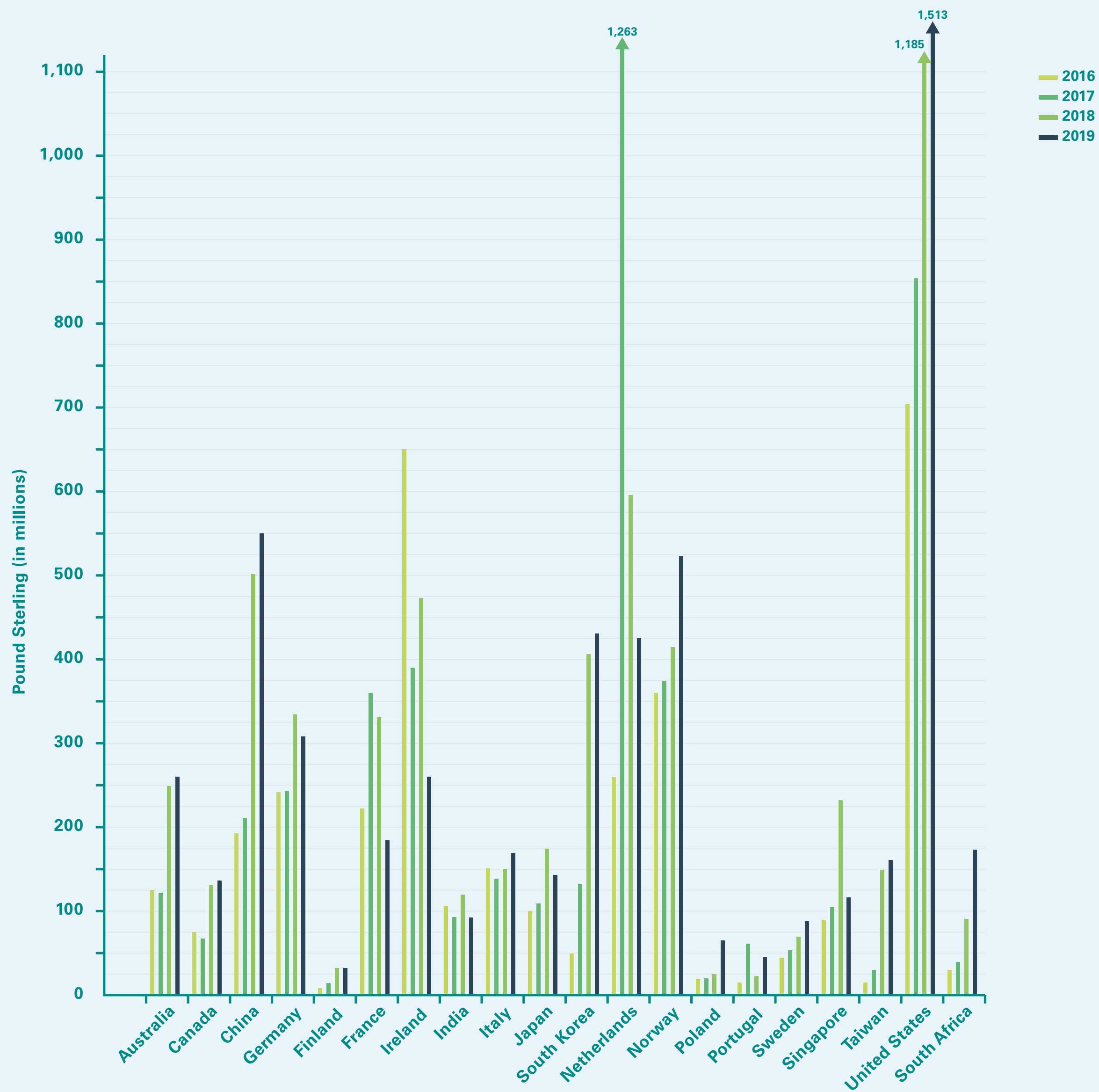


Woods Bagot and John McAslan + Partners, Sydney Metro - Central Station, Sydney, Australia Client: Laing O'Rourke on behalf of Sydney Metro © Martin Siegner / FRMEZ

the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia was near to finalising a mutual recognition agreement for architects’ professional credentials.⁸

Responding to this development, Annelie Kwick Thompson, Partner, Grimshaw, suggests: ‘We are an international practice and want to attract and employ the best, most talented and skilled individuals to work with us, so in essence this process makes it easier for us to do this and easier for those people to join us ... this will eventuate in better design, because we can attract from a wider pool of talent more easily than in the past.’ New international trade deals made by the UK may therefore continue to help open London’s built environment industries to new overseas opportunities and make it easier for professionals from these countries to work here and vice versa. However, negotiations between the UK and individual countries or trading blocs will no doubt be a very protracted process extending far into the future.

The rise and fall of UK exports in architectural and technical services each year from 2016–2019.



Credit: Office for National Statistics

How has the industry been preparing for Brexit?

Many architects in London have been outspoken critics of Brexit, with Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners' (RSHP) Stephen Barrett, for example, describing it as a 'profoundly regressive act' leading directly to the practice opening a Paris office to 'form a gateway to working in Europe'.⁹ As part of a limited snap industry survey in spring 2021, NLA asked built environment companies: 'Has your business opened offices outside the UK since the EU Referendum in 2016?'. Only 14 per cent of respondents had done so, but of those who did, three-quarters said that this decision was not a direct response to the 2016 vote to leave the EU.

This shows that the UK industry is continuing to expand overseas operations, to respond proactively to project opportunities abroad, and/or to formalise existing relationships with international partners, companies and cities. As was the case for RSHP, the decisions are often pragmatic: in Germany, says Ian Ritchie, Director, Ian Ritchie Architects, the practice's sister office in Leipzig, Tagebau, 'formally registered Ian Ritchie Architects in the EU to maintain our EU work, and to avoid any surprises that may suddenly turn up from the UK Government regarding working in the EU'. Fortunately, he observes, 'currently there are no such handicaps.'

Has your business opened offices outside the UK since the EU Referendum in 2016?



14%

Yes

85%

No

If yes, was this as a direct response to the Brexit vote to leave the EU?



25%

Yes

75%

No

What are the challenges to London's status as a global design hub?

'London has been incredibly resilient', says Neil Brigden, Director FDI (Foreign Direct Investment), London & Partners, and there is statistical evidence that, before the pandemic, London was maintaining its outstanding reputation as a centre of creative excellence making a major contribution to the UK economy: the Gross Value Added (GVA) of London's architectural services stood at £1.81 billion in 2019.¹⁰ Exports of architectural services dropped only slightly from £571 million in 2017 to £564 million in 2019, a period when uncertainty and tension surrounded the shape of withdrawal agreements with the EU.¹¹

However, there are considerable concerns about both immediate effects and longer-term challenges that are perhaps less visible right now, in the aftermath of shock economic shutdowns imposed globally in 2020 and early 2021 by the pandemic. To date, the construction sector has visibly been hit the hardest, particularly in terms of acute shortage of labour and materials. It was reported in June 2021 that construction employment — a sector traditionally heavily reliant on EU nationals — fell in London from 311,124 workers in 2017 to 261,271 at the end of 2020, with a 54 per cent fall in EU nationals, and grave concerns in the industry were being raised about the

need for flexing of immigration rules, even if temporary, to allow more workers to enter the UK, especially with an anticipated post-Covid rush to complete major infrastructure and building projects.¹²

Prices of some materials are said to have almost doubled and acute shortages of timber, steel, cement and aggregates, for example, have been recorded. In May 2021 British Steel was reported to have temporarily stopped taking orders for structural steel sections. At that time, the UK's Construction Leadership Council cautioned that materials shortages in Britain could get worse over the next six months before they improve, but this could be because international (as well as UK) demand will increase with surges in major economies including China, the US and the EU emerging from pandemic lockdowns.¹³ There are widely reported delays in the supply chain, and unease and frustration expressed about changes in procurement and the amount of administration required for imports and exports. Furthermore, as Tom Mather, Construction Director, Be First, warns, 'increased liabilities and difficulties

'The biggest challenge for us is our resilience to the unprecedented year we have all experienced during the pandemic. ... Mental health, climate change and economic growth will define our new norm together with the true impact of the Brexit deal.'

***Response to the NLA
Member survey 2021***



Mercury Tower, a 33-storey residential tower, under construction in Hal Ghaxaq, Malta © Zaha Hadid Architects

in getting insurance and warranties may stifle innovation at a time when it is most needed’.

The upheaval of the past year and a half means that attempts to predict the economic outlook for London (and the rest of the UK) often swing wildly between gloomy and upbeat. In February 2021, for example, the Mayor of London sought to protect the capital’s interests by publishing analysis by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) of the Government’s trade deal with the EU from a London perspective, predicting that the capital may still lose up to £9.5 billion a year due to Brexit (research that has informed the Mayor’s London Recovery programme).¹⁴ Some (but by no means all) interviewees for our research report some continuing hesitation from potential investors in London during a pivotal moment in the pandemic recovery, as the UK emerges from prolonged civil restrictions; contractors and developers, among others, may still be very wary of risk. For others, there is a worry that, despite London’s continuing reputation as an open and diverse city, the UK is perhaps seen as less welcoming and more risk-averse (‘we are diminished’ by Brexit, says Martyn Evans, Creative Director, U+I).

The greatest anxieties for the long term relate to the diversity and strength of the skills base that people from outside the UK, especially from Europe, bring to London’s industries. A report in 2019 showed

that one in four architects in the UK were international, and of them 80 per cent were from EU countries.¹⁵ Datasets prepared by GLA Economics for NLA in 2021 showed that by nationality of jobholder, the number of jobs in architectural occupations held by EU nationals in London dropped by 14.2 per cent in four years: from 7,000 in 2016 to 6,000 in 2020.¹⁶ The strength of London’s reputation as a global design hub is widely agreed to be due to its international exchange, breadth of perspectives and rich, blended culture.

Since the ending of the transition period, on 31 December 2020, the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive, which stipulated the qualifications that were recognised in the UK and EU, no longer applies to the UK.¹⁷ This issue is being addressed in the new Professional Qualifications Bill (and in new trade deals), but given the average length of passage of bills through the UK Parliament (several months or more), this will not come into law via Royal Assent until 2022 at the earliest. If so, the lack of any formal legal framework, alongside visa restrictions, could provide a continued challenge to capacity in the industry if more projects are restarted and commissioned, with the continuing success of the UK’s vaccine rollout.

Anecdotally, many London-based companies in architecture, engineering and construction report some loss of European and other international staff, but this cannot always be determined to be a direct result of Brexit, as many of those leaving have returned to home countries during the pandemic. With the switchover to remote working owing to lockdowns around the world, ‘everyone is questioning if they are in the right place’, observes Marta Galiñanes-García, Design Director, AKT-II. In our snap survey, 57 per cent of respondents replied that the restriction of free movement of skilled professionals from and to Europe presents a significant challenge to their business. The need for professionals from outside the UK to have (in most cases) company sponsorship could make it more time-consuming, expensive and difficult to recruit and retain skilled staff, with greater competition for talent. Skilled workers from overseas who have a job offer from an approved employer sponsor also need (as a rule) to be paid a salary no lower than £25,600 per year to work in the UK — but the average annual starting salary in 2020 for entry-level architects (Part I architectural assistants) was £22,000.¹⁸

There is also a great deal of concern about the pipeline of international talent in UK universities, especially given restrictions on travel and social activities in the pandemic, and the fact that students from EU and associated European countries who

start a new course in England, Scotland or Wales after August 2021 will no longer be eligible for the lower ‘home fee’ for tuition, or for student loans. There was some good news in September 2020, when a nine per cent annual increase in the number of international undergraduate students outside the UK and the EU registering for courses in the UK was reported.¹⁹ ‘We require good design and problem solving skills for our projects ...’, said one respondent to the NLA survey, ‘... we would not be able to source suitable quality/ numbers of staff from the UK alone and we don’t see that changing in the years ahead.’

How significant a challenge does the restriction of free movement of skilled professionals from and to Europe present to your business?



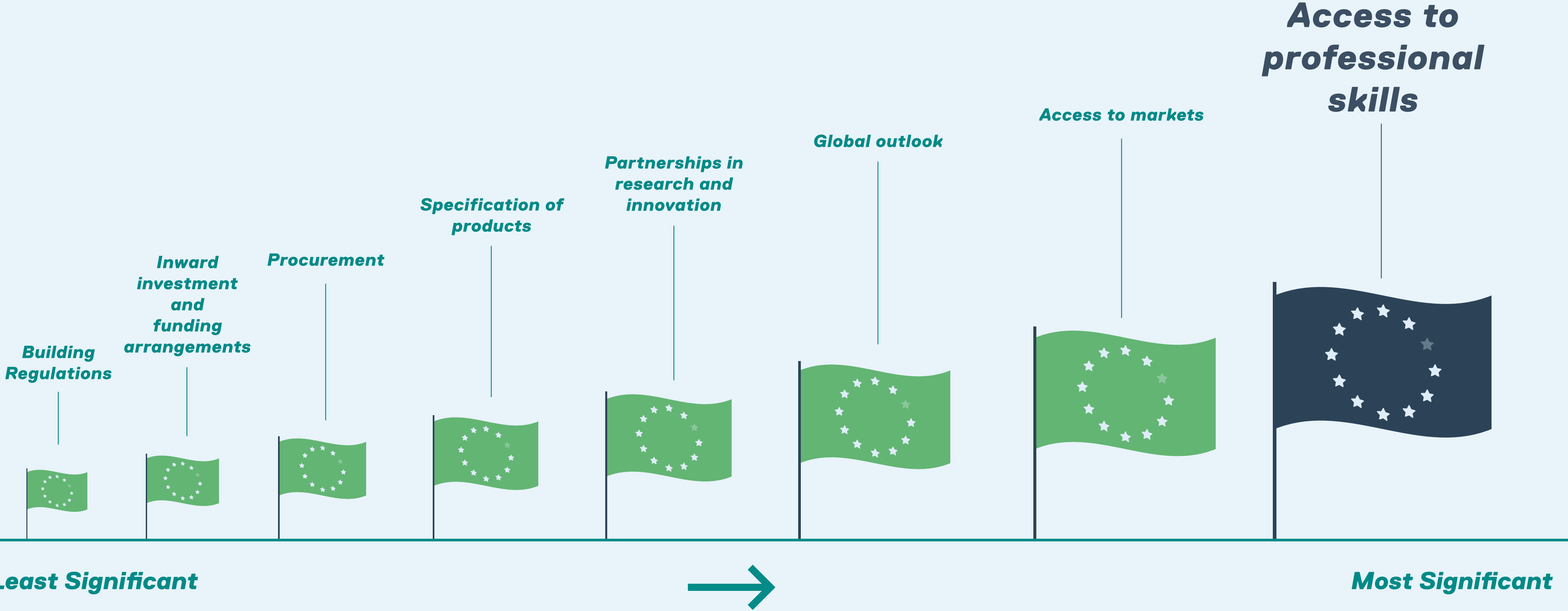
34%
Very significant

56%
Significant

7%
Of no consequence

3%
Not significant at all

Now the UK has left the European Union, which of the areas below do you think might see the most significant long-term impacts of Brexit?



What are the steps that London can take to maintain its status as a global design hub?

Brexit ‘was a protest vote’ and, after five years, ‘government and clients have got the message’, argues John Bushell, Design Principal, KPF. In part, Brexit was a symptom of economic and social inequalities that have become deeply embedded and cannot be solved simply by new UK regulatory frameworks and laws replacing EU statutes. The pandemic has brought long-standing issues — such as the dire shortage of affordable and high-quality housing, barriers to employment and opportunity, and lack of access to public space — to the fore. Much discussion and strategy aim for a ‘reset’ that demands an integrated response in order to build resilience — not least in the face of the climate emergency — and to create a more inclusive and sustainable city. London has again an opportunity to reinvent itself as it has done so successfully throughout its history. Below we outline some of the key steps that London and its built environment industries could take to sustaining its success as a global design hub in the future.

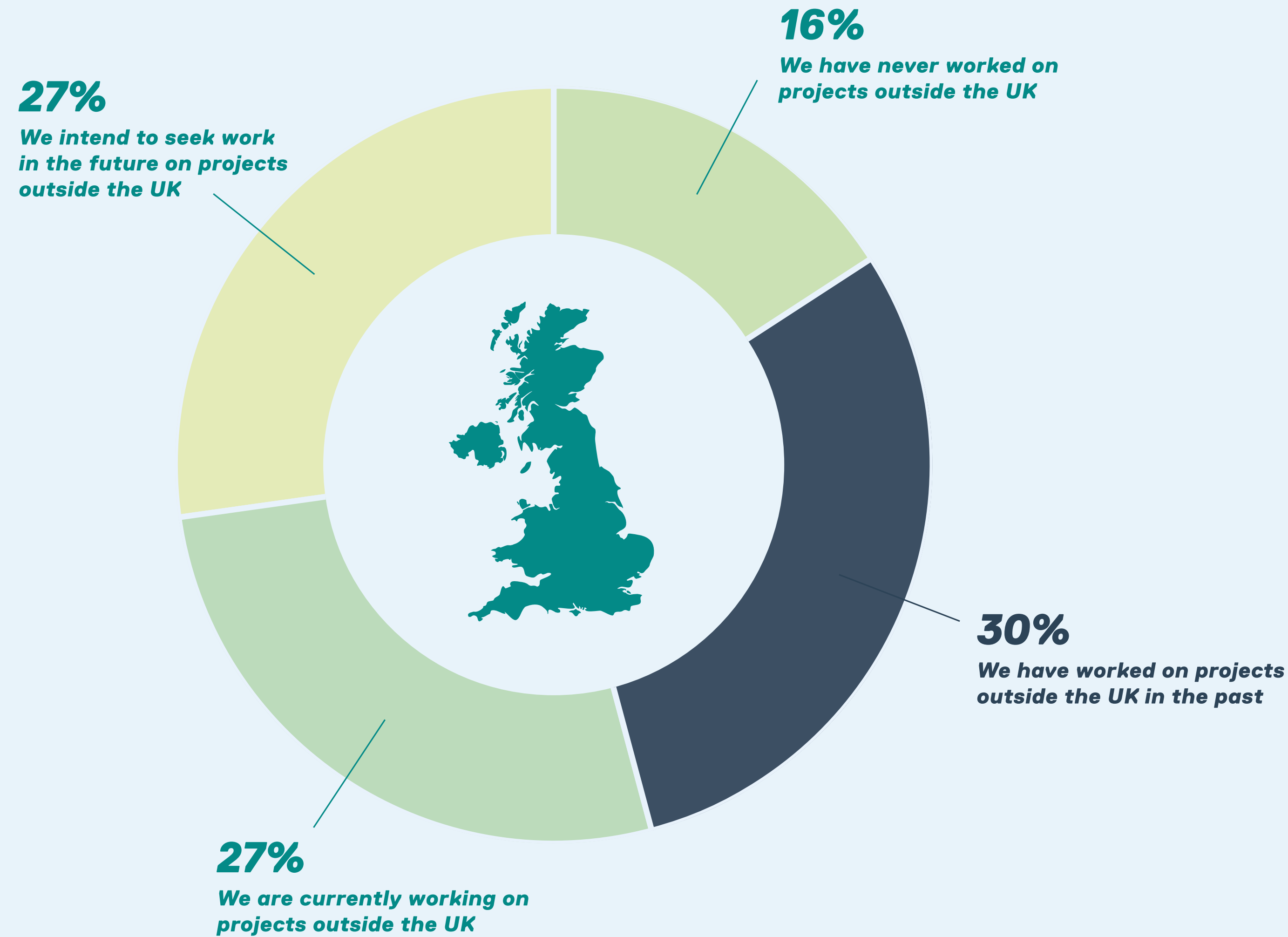
Maintain an outward-looking and forward-thinking attitude as we emerge from the pandemic

London’s openness over its long history has been one of the foundations that has made it a world city. Some surveys show optimism in both inward investment and continued outward flow of services. In contrast to the CEBR prediction mentioned above, a survey of foreign direct investment (FDI) by EY in early June 2021 showed that the UK was ranked as the most attractive investment destination in Europe, with 41 per cent of respondents planning to invest here in the next twelve months, and London regained its position (from Paris) as Europe’s most attractive city for investors.²⁰ London is also still the place to learn and build your career and network for many, and international professionals — clients as well as practitioners — often retain strong links and associations with the capital for having attended university here, for example. ‘London is more competitive and people still want to go there’, says Monica von Schmalensee, Senior Partner White, Mayors Design Advocate.

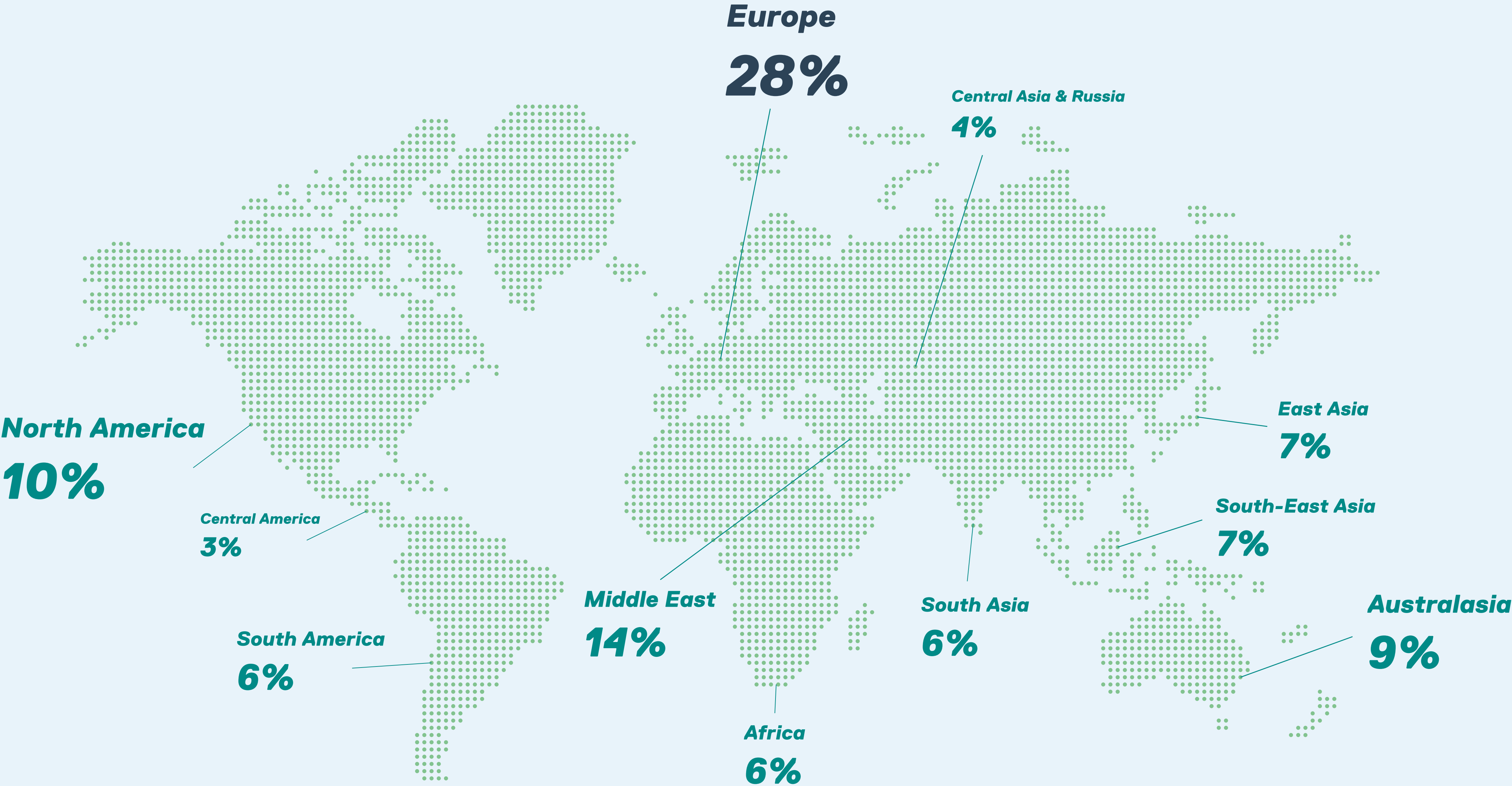
Even with the seismic disruption caused by COVID-19 globally, London firms are maintaining and extending their international reach as economic recovery creeps forward — as the project showcase in this publication amply demonstrates. The NLA survey showed that

48 per cent of respondents were currently working on projects outside the UK and/or intend to seek work in the future, and, encouragingly, 71 per cent are seeking future business or investment in Europe. The RIBA Future Trends Workload Index, which monitors business and employment trends in the UK architecture profession every month, rose by six points to a balance figure of +30 in May 2021, indicating ‘a level of optimism about future workloads among architects not seen since 2016’; it shows that confidence is running high in the capital as the London balance figure in the Index was +22, up from +12 in April.²¹ London & Partners report that ‘more countries are prepared to take a risk’, with interest coming from areas such as Israel, Turkey, and central and eastern Europe in London’s innovative sectors such as proptech. Another critically important aspect is London companies’ tradition and experience in collaborating successfully with local partners and organisations and an approach focused on learning from others: ‘working outside the UK is another way to test, learn and bring in other ideas and thoughts’ and to understand that ‘you do not have all the answers’, says Patrick Richard, Principal Director, Stanton Williams.

Which of the statements below best describes your London office’s work?



In which of these regions is your business seeking future projects or investments?





Istanbul Modern Art Museum, Turkey © Renzo Piano Building Workshop

Nurture London's existing outstanding reputation for built environment excellence and culture

As we demonstrated in our 2017 publication, London has become a preeminent global hub of cultural exchange with a highly diverse workforce and breadth of talent from around the world. It has built an enviable reputation for agile, flexible approaches, interdisciplinary learning and adaptation to the local context: 'London has the ability to remake and adjust ... to shift and organise', observes John Bushell. This is supported by the advantages of a common international language, central time zone, and stable political, legal and financial infrastructure. 'London is still cool', says Patrick Richard, Principal Director, Stanton Williams. He observes a subtle shift in how the practice is described more as a 'London' firm rather than a 'UK' or 'British' one, indicating that clients still acknowledge the unique value and distinctive innovative and collaborative approaches that the capital's industries bring.

Many emphasise that London cannot be complacent and, as part of the recovery, needs to continue to invest in culture, innovation, education and sustainability — all of which can be supported by a high-quality built environment. Equally important is ensuring that London can remain affordable and attractive, especially to younger professionals. Andrew Jones, Cities Executive — London, AECOM says 'On the topic more



Buhais Geology Park, Sharjah, UAE by Hopkins Architects © Marc Goodwin

widely, Brexit and the Coronavirus have brought home the need for our company to be a great place to work in the opportunities we give staff, and also the flexibility of working enabling people the ability and freedom to grow their careers in the way they choose. This was always a focus for us but the last 18 months has given us the opportunity to revisit and reinforce these principles.' The 'soft power' that architectural culture brings — exhibitions, festivals, debates, conferences and other activities — should also not be underestimated. Several respondents to the NLA survey highlighted the importance of sustaining active dialogue and collaborative partnerships with other major cities, especially those with similar urban issues, history and traditions, and environmental concerns. It is notable that despite recent upheavals, there are still significant London contributions to major overseas events that are now restarting, such as the 17th Venice Architecture Biennale, with the 2021 British Pavilion there, for example, curated by London practice Unscene Architecture.

Invest in skills

With major concerns about loss of professional skills, both now and in the future, 'giving people confidence that we want to attract the brightest and best in the world' will be key to preventing a draining away and erosion of a skilled workforce, says Chris Williamson, Founding Partner, Weston Williamson + Partners; he also notes that sector specialisation, which many

London practices like his already have, will surely continue to be an advantage in a challenging global context. There is also a wider opportunity to support and promote domestic talent and skilling up of local communities as part of the wider recovery from the pandemic. In the Mayor's London Recovery programme, 'Good Work for All Londoners' is one of the nine 'mission areas' which seeks, among other goals, to establish skills pathways for key sectors and ensure that all Londoners aged 16–24 are in skills, training or employment. London & Partners 'Jobs and Talent Toolkit' also encourages overseas firms coming to London to tap into the capital's diverse talent pool in underrepresented communities and groups, which will undoubtedly help to reinforce existing international connections.²²

Many in the industry, including respondents to our survey, express frustration and dismay with the obstacles that recruiting staff from the EU now present — but others suggest the industry should perhaps reframe its perspective. In a February 2021 NLA Brexit-themed breakfast talk, architect Elsie Owusu highlighted the opportunity to promote diverse talent within the UK by seeking work beyond Europe in other countries, including those in Africa and Asia, where many people in Britain have strong links. 'We are all Europeans, but I think some of us have been thought to be more European than others, and I think it's now time to look around ourselves and broaden our scope', she suggested.

Harness, export and collaborate on green innovation and digital expertise

The Mayor's ambitious commitment to making London a zero-carbon city by 2030 is a critical positive factor in supporting investment and international exchange, says Neil Brigden, as overseas companies that seek to achieve sustainability goals 'need to see that values align before they come here'. London has a significant role to play in the climate emergency response, especially in terms of potential collaboration and linking up on the green agenda with Europe-wide initiatives such as the New European Bauhaus, a new cultural programme launched in September 2020. Inspired by the famous historic German design school, it aims to develop a 'co-creation space' for architects, designers, engineers, scientists and technologists to work towards a sustainable future, as part of the EU's coronavirus recovery scheme.²³ London has the tools and expertise to support international sustainability targets and is 'internationally recognised for its high standards of environmental consciousness and has the knowledge of how to implement it. ... We set the standards in London that other people follow', says Nathalie Rozencwajg, Founder, NAME Architecture, who has offices in both London and Paris. It is not just London's capability in green design that is important, but also the financial expertise that underpins development: London was a close third to

Amsterdam and Zurich in the Global Green Finance Index in April 2021.²⁴

Another important area of opportunity, and one linked to the sustainability agenda, is in the digital transformation. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how it is possible (in many cases) to work across borders using primarily digital tools, with an added benefit of reducing unnecessary travel and carbon emissions, although site visits and in-person meetings with clients and local collaborators are still essential. 'COVID-19 has fast-tracked our digital capability', says Marta Galiñanes-García, with many London firms well placed to take advantage of this in already having the technological set-up and expertise required. Several projects featured in the showcase of this report — for example the [Mount Ngongotaha Masterplan](#), the [Longgang River Blueway Design](#), and the [Old Ball Bearing Factories](#) (De Gamla Kullager Fabrikerna) — represent successful collaboration between client, project teams and other stakeholders solely through remote working in different parts of the world. In addition, London's expertise in digital skills is already being exported and disseminated worldwide. The Centre for Digital Built Britain (in Cambridge), for example, works with firms such as consultancy Mott MacDonald to promote 'the

UK BIM [Building Information Modelling] value proposition, approach and related standards to the international public sector community to grow an open digital construction market'.²⁵ Digital expertise lies not just in the development and construction of individual buildings, but also in city making and masterplanning, with international collaborations exploring how digital technologies and AI can be harnessed to respond to the challenges presented by global urbanisation. A notable innovative example launched in 2021 combined aerial imagery with machine learning to generate a new, detailed map of Lusaka, Zambia, to help planning of public services and infrastructure in a rapidly growing city. The project was brought together by the Commonwealth Association of Architects, involving the International Growth Centre (a collaboration between the Blavatnik School of Government and LSE Cities) and the UK Ordnance Survey, in support of the Zambian Ministry of Local Government.²⁶

30%+

of the world's 'Top 100' architectural practices are based in London, far greater than any other city or country in the world.

95%

(£595m pa) of the UK's international earnings from architectural services is generated by London based UK chartered practices.

57%

of all UK's architectural staff are employed in London. This is the greatest concentration of international and UK architects in the world.

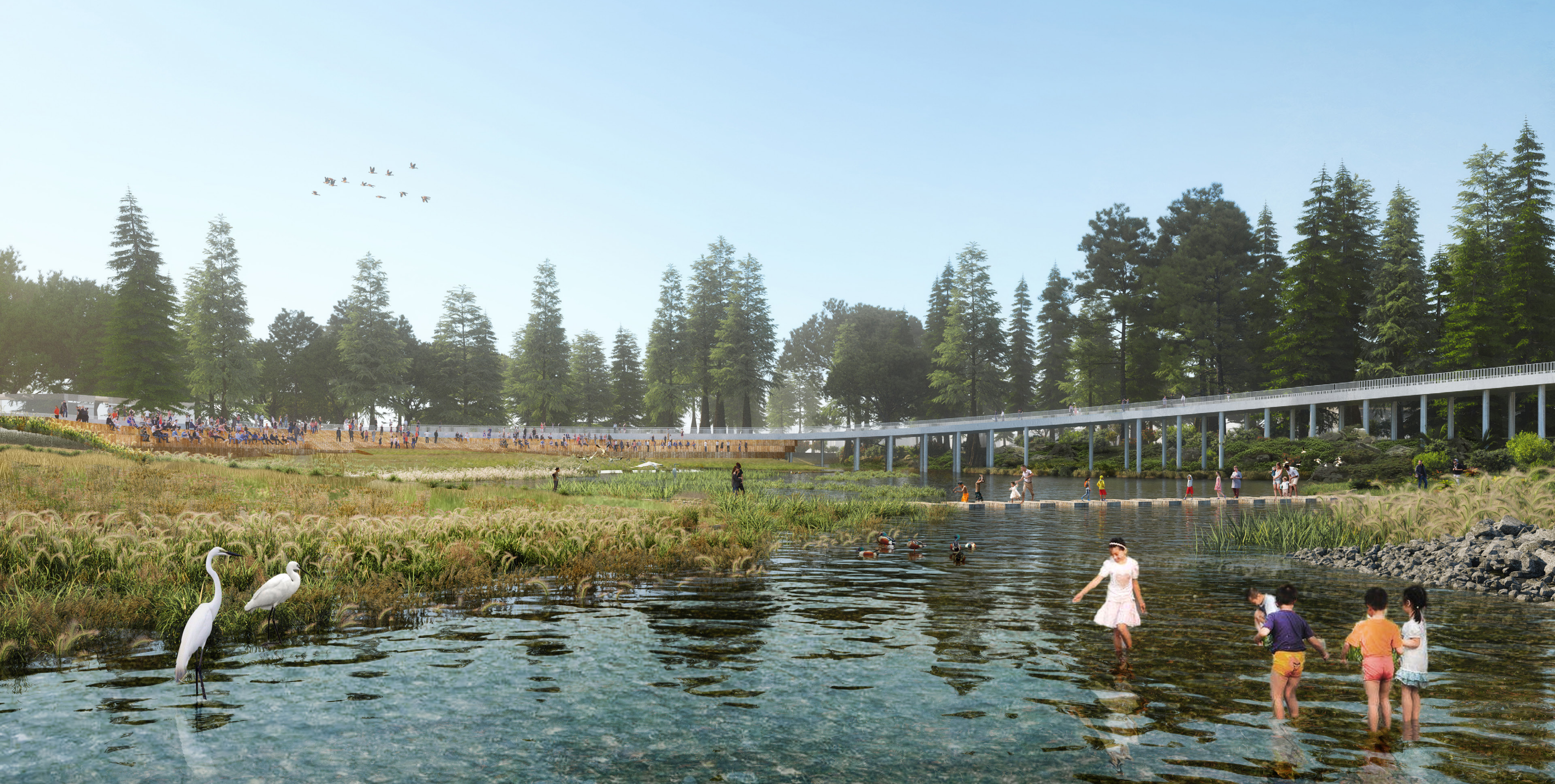
27%

of London based UK architects earnings are from international projects, compared to 17 per cent for whole of UK (including London) and less than 3 per cent for the EU.

67%

(£2.2bn) of the £3.6bn annual income from all UK architect's chartered practices is generated in London.

Source: WCCA Global Architecture hub, statistics from 'WA100' World Architecture top 100 practices, 2020



Longgang River Blueway Design Concept, Shenzhen, China © Hassell

What other measures might be needed to ensure London's future resilience?

Our 2017 publication, published just under a year after the UK vote to leave the EU, included four key recommendations for the Mayor to take forward to bolster London's position as a centre of global design excellence, to attract inward investment and to continue to draw in the best and brightest from around the world:

- 1. Continue to attract and retain access to talent.***
- 2. Recognise and promote London's built environment expertise to the export market.***
- 3. Make London an attractive and affordable place to live and work in the long term.***
- 4. Create and reinforce links with other cities and provide a better voice for the profession.***

Given the concerns especially around access to skills, interviewees and survey respondents indicated that of these, numbers 1) and 3) are the most important, although all four are still relevant. In 2021 another key priority will be to continue to reinforce the message to people and organisations beyond the UK that London remains an inclusive, welcoming, culturally vital and innovative world city.

Now, four years on and six months from the UK's departure from the EU and over a year into the pandemic, we find ourselves with new challenges and therefore have set out the steps that London can take in order to maintain its status as a global design hub:

- 1. Maintain an outward-looking and forward-thinking attitude as we emerge from the pandemic.***
- 2. Nurture London's existing outstanding reputation for built environment excellence and culture.***
- 3. Invest in skills.***
- 4. Harness and export strengths in green innovation and digital expertise.***

Viewpoints



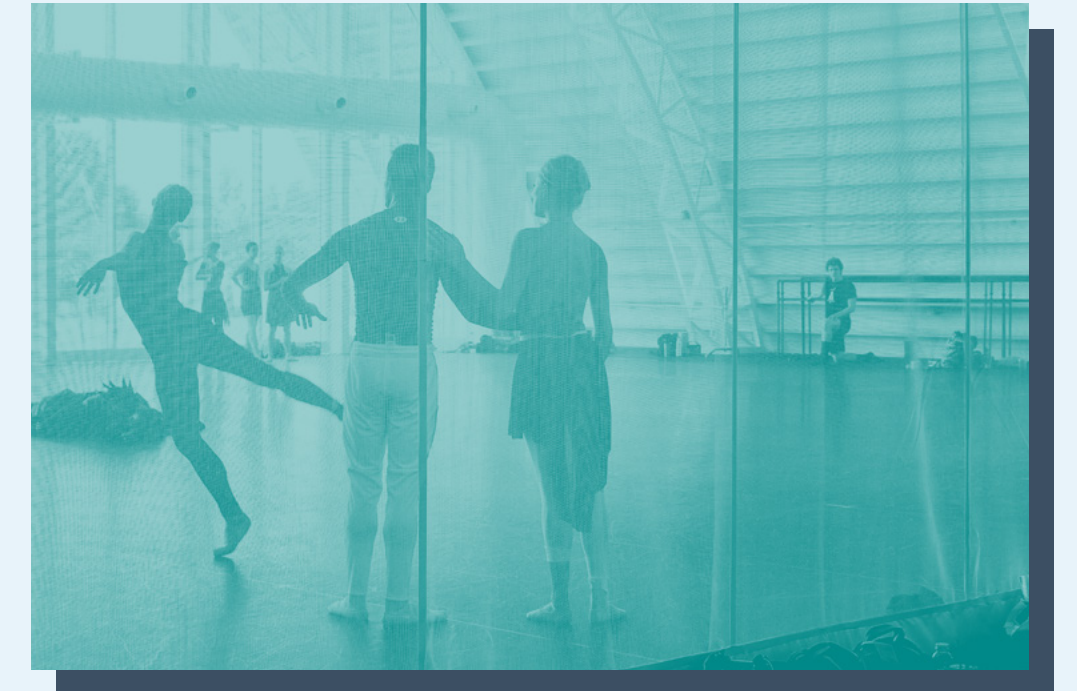
**Andrew Jones, Cities Executive – London,
AECOM**



**Annelie Kwick Thompson, Partner,
Grimshaw**



**John Bushell, Design Principal,
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates**



**Martyn Evans, Creative Director,
U+I**

Andrew Jones, Cities Executive – London, AECOM

The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated changes to the way we work that might otherwise have taken decades to have a meaningful impact. Working from home has been tested at an international scale over a prolonged period and ‘hybrid working’ looks set to be a feature of our lives going forward.

After the initial shock phase of the pandemic, clients and businesses in the sector have quickly adapted to working in a digital environment. While face-to-face contact is essential for innovation, to nurture talent and undertake complex tasks, the acceleration of digital working brings new opportunities for UK-based companies to work on international projects without the need to travel as much as before the pandemic. As a global business, AECOM has long recognised the benefits of using digital technologies to draw on the skills of its employees wherever they are located. To reduce our corporate carbon footprint, we make conscious decisions about the need to travel or opt for virtual alternatives.

As global economies recover from the health and economic costs of the pandemic, we are likely to see fewer flagship projects come to market. Global clients may well be more cautious in how they spend

their money and the need for resilience and renewal will dominate.

The impacts of the pandemic, the frequency and unpredictability of shock events and growing systemic challenges is on the rise. The world needs to be more resilient to the effects of change, and the built environment has a vital role to play.

Recovery from the pandemic should be a catalyst for change, building back in a way that creates sustainable legacies. There is already a notable shift in the scope of projects, with clients giving more emphasis to environmental and social outcomes, as well as the circular economy — reusing and adapting assets that in the past would have been replaced.

As the climate crisis intensifies, the sector will need to invest in new talent and upskill its existing workforce in areas including resource efficiency and reducing embodied carbon. As countries around the world progress towards reaching carbon reduction commitments, the longer-term challenge is to go beyond net-zero. Creating world-leading, high-value jobs in future-proofed skills like these will increase opportunities for UK businesses to export their expertise.

There is no better time to capitalise on the UK's capabilities in climate resilience. As host of COP26, the UK will be the focus for the global response to mitigating the impacts of climate change. Businesses must be prepared to engage, show leadership and share their most ambitious and innovative thinking.



Serpentine Pavilion 2021 Designed by Counterspace, Engineering and Technical Services delivered by AECOM. © AECOM

Annelie Kvick Thompson, Partner, Grimshaw

Grimshaw thrives on its diversity, and this includes the wide range of nationalities of our employees, with our business, collectively, speaking over 50 different languages. In London alone, 40 per cent of our team originate from outside of the UK. This results in a rich mix of experiences, cultures and knowledge helping us to everyday inform our work and build a global network, as well as create an agility and ability to work beyond our business locations. In all our work, in the UK and internationally, you can see the evidence of this diversity: a focus on design which is contextually and environmentally appropriate to place; the integration of heritage and high technology to embed buildings and infrastructure successfully into existing cities; and the adoption of innovative tools and processes to transform design, delivery and construction.

The changes we see in our industry, in the UK and internationally, is now a significant consideration. From the impacts of the pandemic restricting international travel and movement and, specifically in the UK, the economic impact of Brexit, there are undoubtedly challenges. We are hopeful that new future trade deals will benefit the architectural profession and advocate for agreements such as the

mutual recognition of qualifications. This would help in cutting out the sometimes lengthy and expensive process when recruiting from outside the UK will also, without doubt, help to retain London and its reputation as an innovation hub and encourage greater exchange and export of design and innovation excellence. Potential barriers to this could still occur through difference in salary expectations, university fees and cost of visas which large practices could absorb but maybe trickier for smaller young practices looking to recruit.



Terra, sustainability pavilion at Dubai Expo by Grimshaw © Expo 2020 Dubai

John Bushell, Design Principal, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates

London has a central role to play as a leader in global architecture and urban design, and now is the perfect time to be reflecting on London's position on the world stage. It will be some years before it is clear what components of the current climate relate to Brexit and what is the result of the global pandemic.

If Brexit was a 'protest vote', the result of people feeling left behind by the increase in Global and European trade and development, that message has been registered very clearly by Government and developers. In all current discussions, ensuring that projects and cities are relevant to all, with an increased focus on inclusivity and equality, has taken on new urgency.

The international clout and outreach of the design professions in the UK is unique in Europe. London's strength is the quality of design talent at every scale and level. Our discretionary planning process allows for an exploration of ideas, technologies and design that is not rule-based. It encourages a faster adoption of change, whether that's social, sustainable or technological elements of a scheme. With talent drawn from around the world and working across cultures, architects are able to absorb and translate many influences. Taking the best elements of one place and understanding how

those ideas can be translated for another. We really enjoy working collaboratively, resulting in projects with cultural and contextual sensitivities whether that's in Vienna, Bangkok or Shanghai.

Ultimately London's position as a design capital will depend on our ability to appeal to a young, diverse talent pool and to interesting clients — people who have traditionally been attracted to the openness, tolerance, culture, and vibrancy of London. We need universities that are open to all and a city where young professionals can afford to live and work. If the government doesn't establish unreasonable barriers to entry for European workers, the state of the UK economy after COVID-19 will end up defining international talent chooses to move to the UK to study and work.

Major cities still have a very great deal in common and the dialogue and interaction of skills and ideas is important to them all. I'm optimistic about the ability of London to retain its position as a design capital. But it is paramount that London's tolerance and vibrancy is protected and relished to ensure London maintains its status as a relevant cultural place, a place where innovation and exchange happens.



Place de l'Etoile, Luxembourg © Karim

Martyn Evans, Creative Director, U+I

Halfway through lockdown in 2020 I was talking to a friend who is a very senior executive in a large US-based financial institution with a significant workforce in London. I was asking her how Brexit, and now the Pandemic, was affecting their presence in London. I wanted to know how many of their many thousands of employees in the UK were being moved to Paris or Frankfurt. Her answer was very interesting. She explained to me that there are no more than twenty executives at the very top of their London operation — well-paid, important people for their operation here. Those American executives feel very personally connected to London — for language reasons and because they love living in London. She suggested that the company's decision not to move thousands of jobs to another major capital city in Europe was based, largely, on the preference of those very few key executives. When pressed for the main reason those people want to stay in London she said: "its culture." That, to me, was the clearest reason I have ever heard for investment and support in London's world-leading cultural offer. It is absolutely central and crucial to maintaining London's place in the world as an economic, financial and political powerhouse.

And it is not just high culture that defines London

as *the* cultural capital of the world. From the Royal Opera House, home to the world's finest ballet and opera companies, through West End commercial theatre (the fastest growing live entertainment sector) to the small, specialist galleries of the East End and the vast amount of community arts across our city, the ecology of London's arts offer is necessarily complex, interwoven and central to the operation of our capital. For every prima ballerina, performing at the highest international level, there are young dancers in training at ballet schools across the city and for every Tracey Emin there are young artists learning in London's many art schools — the very best of their kind in the world. Each corner of London's cultural sector works together in a complex matrix of interwoven support.

Imagine a city with no culture. No paintings, no theatre, no music, no dance, no film. It's unthinkable. And imagine how much our creative economy would be impacted consequently. When our creative industries are widely recognised as the best in the world and there are buildings in every major world city (many of them cultural spaces) designed by British architects, you can see how important London's culture is to the life of our country. The lives

of everyone in our city and everyone who visits are immeasurably improved by the access to culture of all kinds. Our role in the continued development of our city is to protect its cultural life, create opportunities for it to thrive and improve access to all. We are nothing without it.



AEP Fitness Centre OKC Ballet © Timothy Soar

Project Showcase

The following showcase of projects provides a snapshot of the international work currently being delivered by London based practices. All projects have received planning permission after the Brexit referendum vote in 2016, therefore project teams have experienced the impact of working through this time of change.

All projects featured in this showcase were submitted via a call for entries conducted by NLA in spring 2021.



Project Index



AFRICA





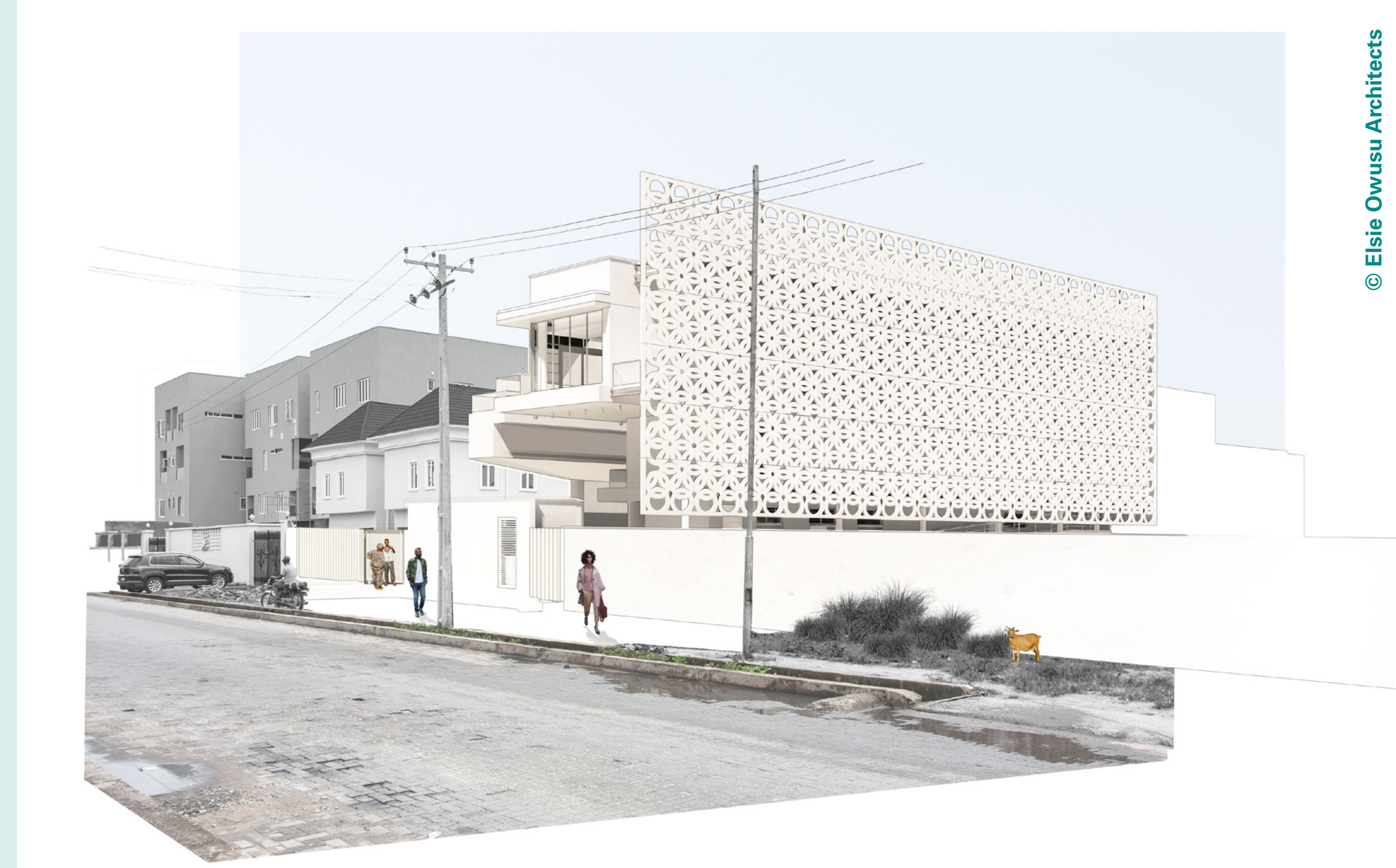
205 Feddan

Cairo, Egypt

Status: **Proposed, 2023** | Project type: **Masterplan** | Size: **850,000 sqm**

As a new destination for Cairo, 205 Feddan signals a new exemplar development that blends experience and architecture into a sense of belonging. Walkability and a pedestrian-focused development were very clear goals for the master plan design. This is based not only on the retail emphasis placed on the site, but also for wellbeing, livability and to create a forward-looking development that will act as a new benchmark for the region. As such, vehicles are restricted as much as possible to the edges of the site through a series of roads that surround the perimeter of the site.

Masterplan, Architect,
Planning Consultant:
Gensler



Guest Artists' Space

Lekki, Lagos, Nigeria

Status: **Under Construction, 2022** | Project type: **Arts, culture, residential**

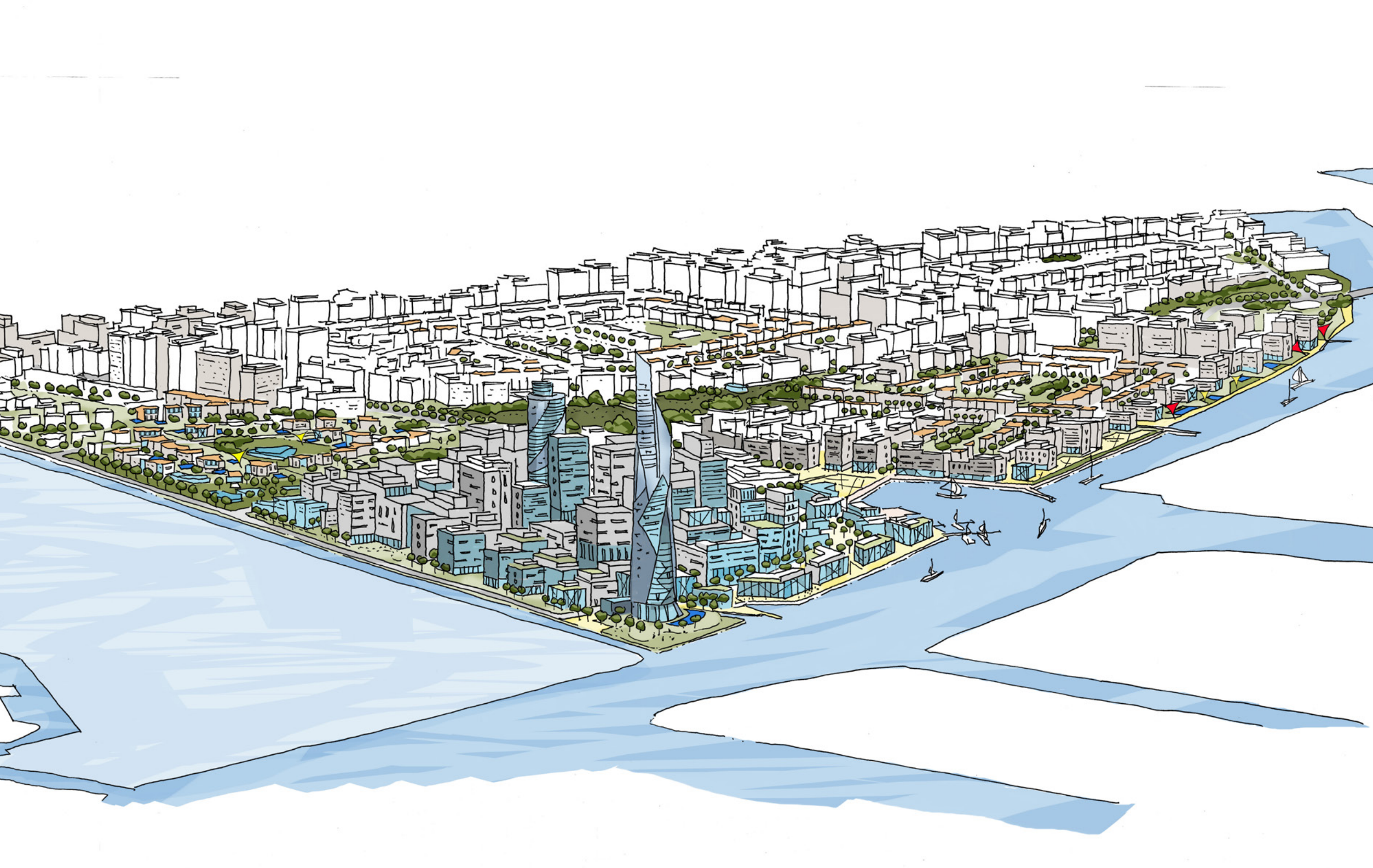
This multifaceted living, working and public space, is set in the fast-growing suburb of Lekki in Lagos, Nigeria, less than two miles north of the Atlantic coastline. True to Yinka Shonibare's vision, the joint UK-Nigeria team drew inspiration from his work and his preoccupation with African-European history. Their aim was to deliver this fully wheelchair accessible eco building, that will house the G.A.S Foundation, as well as Yinka's working studio and private living space that features a therapeutic splash pool. The imposing facade screen — which encloses a ramp that creates an important space for contemplation — is an interpretation of Shonibare's seminal work. The ground floor includes an exhibition gallery; and a vibrant courtyard for performing arts and social gatherings, whilst the first floor provides residential accommodation for guest artists.

Project Team (Offshore)

Architect: **Elsie Owusu Architects**
Structural Engineer: **Techniker**
MEP Consultant: **XCO2**
Lighting Designer: **GIA Equation**
Model Maker: **Henry Ajene Studio**
Design Liaison: **JU:KO Designs**

Project Team (Onshore)

Architect: **NS Design Consult**
Structural Engineer: **Civilsys**
MEP Consultant: **BSDCL**
Quantity Surveyor:
Du-Franc & Partners
Main Contractors: **Formwork**



Imperial International Business City (IIBC)

Lekki Peninsular, Lagos, Nigeria

Status: **Proposed, 2027** | Project type: **Masterplan, mixed-use and residential** | Size: **2,000,000 sqm**

A project of this scale and impact and with multiple constraints required the expertise of a multidisciplinary, international design team to rethink the process of urban design in western Africa. In a post pandemic world, the scheme puts access to green open space at its heart. With Imperial park as the green heart, Imperial marina and waterfront promenade create the edge to the district and an integrated green transport system connecting residents to amenities. This scheme celebrates the positive social, health and wellness impact of nature, with a resilience strategy that makes it future-proof in the face of climate change and sea-level rise.

Architect, Planning Consultant,
Masterplan:
Gensler



Mont Choisy Smart City

Grand Baie, Mauritius

Status: **Under Construction, 2030** | Project type: **Masterplan, mixed-use** | Size: **2,234,000 sqm**

Mont Choisy leverages smart city planning and urban design principles for long-term social, cultural, environmental and economic benefit. Creating a cohesive public realm strategy, new urban centre and housing, an inclusive and integrated approach with WATG London's planning, landscape and architecture teams, and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, saw monocultures of sugar cane fields transformed into vibrant, mixed-use spaces set within a restored Mauritian indigenous flora landscape. The masterplan promotes walkable neighbourhoods, accessible local services, increased employment opportunities, and creates leisure attractions for all — reconnecting people to the island's natural heritage while boosting civic pride, and helping to secure its future.

Client:
Mont Choisy Group
Architect, Landscape Architect:
WATG
Civil + Structural Engineer:
SJPCE
Mechanical + Electrical Engineer:
ARUP, Mauritius
Quantity Surveyor:
MLC, Mauritius
Lighting Designer:
DALD, UK
Sustainability Advisor:
XCO2
Mobility Engineer:
Mobility in Chain (MIC), Italy
Rainwater Pool Specialist:
White Horses Consulting, South Africa

ANTARCTICA & AUSTRALASIA





© Scott Brownrigg and Studio Nesh

Mount Ngongotaha Masterplan

Ngongotaha Road, Fairy Springs, Rotorua, New Zealand

Status: **Planning Granted, 2028** | Project type: **Masterplan** | Size: **2,200,000 sqm**

This 220 hectare masterplan around Lake Rotorua in New Zealand will create a cultural tourism destination for visitors and tourists local to New Zealand and from across the globe. Created for the Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands (NWTL), Scott Brownrigg’s concept for the masterplan is ‘episodic’ — a series of forms and events (the idea of ‘shaping’) that are interwoven with the rich narrative of NWTL and their heritage. The team have successfully maintained communication and developed a site specific response that reflects tribal culture despite a difference in time zone, and due to the pandemic, an inability to visit New Zealand.

Architect:
Scott Brownrigg
Client:
Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands (NWTL)
Engineer:
Arup Infrastructure and transportation
Landscape Architect:
Exterior Architecture
Cost Consultant:
Lee Wakemans
Other:
Francis Pauwels, KARU, Prof Terry Stevens



© Jx Hugh Broughton Architects

Scott Base Redevelopment

Scott Base, Ross Island, Ross Dependency, Antarctica

Status: **Proposed, 2028** | Project type: **Antarctic research base** | Size: **10,000 sqm**

New Zealand has operated a permanent research base in Antarctica since 1957. The redevelopment of Scott Base will be arranged in three inter-connected, highly insulated, aerodynamic buildings which step down the hill of Pram Point on Ross Island. The buildings are offset from each other and elevated above ground to minimise snow drift. The base will provide accommodation for 100 people, support polar science for the next 50 years and minimise environmental impact. The interior design will foster well-being, reflecting Maori values and New Zealand’s history of involvement in Antarctica.

Client:
Antarctica New Zealand
Architect:
Jasmax-Hugh Broughton Architects
Structural Engineer:
WSP
M&E / Sustainability Engineer:
Steensen Varming
Quantity Surveyor:
Rawlinsons
Project Manager:
The Building Intelligence Group
Contractor:
Leighs Construction

ASIA



Oman Botanic Garden

Muscat, Oman

Status: **Under Construction, 2023** | Project Type: **Masterplan** | Size: **4,300,000 sqm**

Landscape Architect, Transport Consultant, Engineer: **Arup** | Architect: **Grimshaw Architects** | Other: **Haley Sharpe Design**

Oman Botanic Garden is a project of national importance and international significance. It is an institution which seeks to understand and preserve the diversity and fragility of the natural world.

The scheme was developed by Arup’s multidisciplinary team based in London which included landscape architects, SMEP engineers, civil engineers, and transport planners in collaboration with Grimshaw and Haley Sharpe Design. The team led the development of the masterplan, through all design stages and now the construction phase.

The project is representing the eight habitats of Oman within a single site for the benefit of Omani people and visiting tourists. The verdant monsoon forests of southern Oman, and the cool mountain tops of the Hajar are represented within two climate-controlled biomes.

Oman Botanic Garden follows seven guiding principles:

Sustainability: supporting the principles of sustainability by promoting environmental protection, enabling social equity, protection of heritage and achieving economic viability through diversification of revenue.

Excellence: becoming a role model in all areas of activities, at national, regional and global levels.

Collaboration: forming partnerships and acting as a national, regional and international platform.

Education: raising awareness and understanding

about Oman’s plant diversity and ethno-botany to influence behaviour change and make a positive contribution to plant and heritage conservation.

Enjoyment: create a place of fun and celebrate the famed hospitality and fascinating stories of Oman.

Integrity: ensuring processes and procedures are open, transparent and accountable.

Relevance: focusing the Garden’s work to ensure it reflects the needs of the country’s demographics and is relevant and responsive to its people.

With every plant sourced sustainably from Oman and grown on site, there is unique opportunity to not only conserve the botanical diversity but to also become a centre for research and education to enact behavioural change and form a greater respect for the fragile environment.





A25 Xinyi Commercial Complex

Songyong Road, Xinyi District, Taipei City, Taiwan

Status: **Under Construction, 2022** | Project type: **Commercial, mixed-use** |
Size: **122,352 sqm**

The A25 Tower is part of a new mixed-use development in Taipei's Xinyi district. Standing at 265m tall, the building is a slender 54-storey development that achieves ambitious structural efficiency and sustainability aspirations. Arup's London office worked with Renzo Piano Building Workshop and KrisYao | Artech to design the complex, which will provide office space, a rooftop events area, retail, public gardens and a 10,000 sqm museum of contemporary modern art. The engineering design has balanced the client aspirations with the demanding architectural aesthetic whilst remaining committed to high sustainability targets, achieving a Taiwanese Green Building Certification (EEWH) Gold rating.

Structural Engineer,
M&E / Sustainability Engineer and
Lighting Designer: **Arup**



AI Bandar Master Plan

AI Bandar, Muscat OM, Seeb, Oman

Status: **Under Construction, 2023** | Project type: **Master plan, mixed-use** |
Size: **1,000,000 sqm**

The AI Bandar Master Plan highlights IBI Group's global collaboration across three continents, providing a holistic vision for a contemporary, mixed-use community in Oman, balancing tradition with modernity. Challenges included flood risk, significant elevations, heritage and the lack of existing infrastructure. IBI Group's masterplan exemplifies design excellence, creativity and innovation. Oman's unique heritage is embraced and a focus on sustainability is realised in a comprehensive public realm and landscape design for walkable streetscapes and open spaces, mitigating climatic conditions and flood risk. AI Bandar is a 'smart community' with universal internet access, smart street furnishings, green infrastructure, and solar-power generation

Architect:
IBI Group
Project Manager:
Colliers International
Client:
**Oman Ministry of Defence
Pension Fund**



Ascent Singapore

Status: **Built, 2017** | Project type: **Workspace** | Size: **54,300 sqm**

Ascent consists of office headquarters, retail, restaurants, creche and pharmacy, set around courtyards, gardens and plazas. The building signifies the first phase of our masterplan to transform Singapore Science Park 1+2. Whereas the previous generation of science park companies were isolated and inward-looking, today's companies interact regularly with their value-chain partners to form technology clusters. Ascent's upper levels provide large, deep-plan space for offices and laboratories while its lower levels offer a constellation of 'club', exhibition, hosting and event spaces. Street-level interior and exterior spaces combine to create social settings that foster innovation by encouraging synergies between companies and activities.

Client:
Ascendas Land Pte
Architect:
Studio Woodroffe Papa
Local Executive Architect:
SAA Architects



Buhais Geology Park Interpretive Centre

Al-Madam Plain, Sharjah, UAE

Status: **Built, 2020** | Project type: **Museum** | Size: **2,320 sqm**

The Buhais Geology Park lies south-east of the city of Sharjah in a region of exceptional prehistoric and geological significance. The project was designed to accommodate a series of exhibition spaces to present the region's significant geological phenomena, with educational spaces provided for the interaction with local guides and researchers. The building consists of five interconnected pods with their geometry inspired by fossilised urchins found on site. Each pod houses a different function and an outdoor trail links them with the natural rock formations and ancient burial tombs present.

Architect:
Hopkins Architects Limited
Structural Engineer: **e.Construct**
M&E Engineer: **GAJ**
Exhibition Designer:
Ralph Appelbaum Associates
Lighting Designer: **Lux Populi**
Acoustic Consultant:
Gillieron Scott
Cost Consultant: **De Leeuw**
Fire Consultant:
Design Confidence
Landscape Architect: **Spencer**
Main Contractor:
Hardco Building Contracting
Specialist Contractor:
MARF Steel



© Brick Visual

Capital Markets Authority Headquarters

Al Kuwayt, Kuwait

Status: **Under Construction, 2025** | Project type: **Headquarters** | Size: **69,000 sqm**

A dynamic new landmark for Kuwait City, the Headquarters will optimize the well-being and productivity of office workers and is informed by CMA's core values of collaboration, transparency, and innovation. Accommodation includes offices for c. 1,000 employees, with the associated amenities, including automated parking at basement levels, cafeteria, prayer rooms and private VIP entrance. The imposing entrance lobby features the highly sculptural form of the main auditorium, creating a unique identity for the headquarters, which is mirrored at the pinnacle of the tower with the curved form of the main VIP hall, meeting hall and diwaniya.

Client:
Capital Markets Authority
Architect:
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF)
Architect of Record:
KEO International Consultants



Etihad Arena

Etihad Arena, Yas Island, Yas Bay, Abu Dhabi

Status: **Built, 2021** | Project type: **Multi-purpose entertainment arena**

The Etihad Arena is the Middle East's first multi-purpose indoor arena and anchor for the Yas Island entertainment district. Designed with flexibility at its core, the unique waterfront destination is uniquely positioned to host events of up to 18,000 people with the ability to transform into an intimate 500-seat theatre. HOK's London Studio collaborated with WSP Middle East and Pascall+Watson to deliver the project for Miral Asset Management and the Department of Culture & Tourism, strengthening Abu Dhabi's reputation as a global tourism hub.

Architects:
HOK, Pascal & Watson
Engineer:
WSP
Acoustic Consultant:
Vanguardia



Hindu Heritage Experience

Bahariya, Uttar Pradesh, India

Status: **Proposed, 2020** | Project type: **Cultural** | Size: **12,000 sqm**

The project creates an immersive experience that transforms spiritual teachings into an inspirational experiential journey. The masterplan, landscape and buildings deliver this journey using symbolic forms to evoke emotion by means of the senses — scent, sight, sound, touch. The whole creates a new civic campus for the philanthropic foundation that owns the site, whose charitable operations across the complex include free hospitals, educational facilities, and grain distribution centres for the surrounding community.

Architect, Engineer: **Arup**



ICONSIAM

Charoen Nakhon Rd, Khlong Ton Sai, Khlong San, Bangkok, Thailand

Status: **Built, 2018** | Project type: **Residential, hospitality, retail and leisure** | Size: **725,000 sqm**

ICONSIAM transforms the Bangkok Chao Phraya riverfront into a new global attraction for Thailand. The project includes a contemporary shopping mall, luxury retail mall, 3,500 seat auditorium and two waterfront residential towers. The London-based interiors team developed a narrative based on the lotus flower and Chao Phraya River — the river inspired the fluid forms that wrap around the internal retail buildings, whilst the cladding design is influenced by the lotus flower. To date, it has won ‘Best Store Design of the Year’ at the World Retail Awards 2019 and ‘Best Shopping Centre’ at MAPIC 2019.

Architect and Interior Designer:
Handley House



© KCAP

Jurong Lake District

Opp Ascent, Singapore

Status: **Proposed, 2025** | Project type: **Masterplan** | Size: **4,500,000 sqm**

Singapore's 2nd Central Business District, will be built around the future Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail terminus. It will set new standards for integrated work, knowledge, leisure and living environments and will serve as the new hub for the city's nascent science and innovation district. Qualities of the plan include its high-density mixed-use programme, new parks and waterways, and vertical urban greening. Car parks, deliveries and distribution systems are located underground creating a car-lite district designed for walkability, active mobility and interactive public spaces.

Masterplan – Architect :
Studio Woodroffe Papa
Masterplan – Architects & Planners:
KCAP

Architect:
SAA Architects
Engineer:
Arup
Landscape Architect:
Lekker



© Marc Goodwin

Khor Kalba Turtle & Wildlife Sanctuary

Kalba, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Status: **Built, 2021** | Project type: **Cultural** | Size: **2,970 sqm**

Situated on one of the most sensitive and biodiverse nature reserves in the Gulf, the Khor Kalba Turtle and Wildlife Sanctuary comprises a cluster of rounded building forms that creates a sanctuary for rehabilitating turtles and nurturing endangered birds, connecting with local initiatives and expertise. Seven interconnected pods create a visitor centre, with a terrace and panoramic views towards the mangrove forests and distant mountains. A nature trail encourages visitors to explore the reserve's rich biodiversity of indigenous mangrove forests and mud flats and the species it supports including turtles, stingrays, gazelles and the rare Arabian Collard Kingfisher.

Architect:
Hopkins Architects Limited
Structural Engineer:
e.Construct
MEP Engineer:
Godwin Austen Johnson
Lighting Designer:
Lux Populi
Acoustic Consultant:
Gillieron Scott Acoustics Design
Landscape Architect: **Spencer**
Main Contractor:
Hardco Building Contracting
Pre-cast concrete specialist subcontractor: **Dubai Precast**
MEP subcontractor:
Al Muhanad Electro-Mechanical Contracting



LEH Foshan

China

Status: **Built, 2020** | Project type: **Education** | Size: **58,000 sqm**

A new British international school for 800 pupils in the rapidly developing Chenchang District of Foshan – a city with over 7.2 million inhabitants. Designed with the school founders, Local Implementation Authority and the appointed Local Design Institute, the London team’s concept design captures the essence of LEH UK — providing a green, sustainable urban campus, highly engaging learning and living spaces supporting a wide range of academic, sporting and artistic endeavours. Post Brexit currency fluctuations enabled procurement of key furniture, fittings and equipment from UK companies and the pandemic delayed the official opening of the school until 2021.

Concept Architect:
Scott Brownrigg
Client:
LEH Foshan (a joint venture between Lady Eleanor Holles School in the UK and Trumptech (Hong Kong) Ltd)
Cost Consultant:
Gleeds
Engineer:
Cundall
Other:
JLL, Guangdong Architecture and Design Research Institute (Executive Multi-Disciplinary Designer)



Longgang River Blueway Design Competition

Longgang River, Shenzhen, China

Status: **Proposed, 2020** | Project type: **Waterfront development** |
Size: **23.6 km corridor**

The Shenzhen Longgang River Blueway seeks to protect and enhance 1,000km of waterways in the city of Shenzhen. The river is the eco-corridor for the watershed with limited ecological space for flora and fauna to live and thrive. Hassell’s solution not only restores the ecosystem and improves the quality of the landscape and river edge public realm, it also reimagines the waterfront as a centre for city and community development. Using the global connectedness available through technology, a methodology accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Longgang project leveraged the international expertise available through the firm’s London studio.

Landscape Architecture & Urban Design:
Hassell
Ecology Consultant:
E2DesignLab
Local Designer:
UPDIS



© Squire&Partners

One Hoshang

Karachi City, Sindh, Pakistan

Status: **Planning Granted, 2022** | Project type: **Residential, mixed-use** | Size: **5,467 sqm**

One Hoshang, Karachi is a new residential-led mixed use development that responds to increased international property demand in Pakistan. The brief sought to create a highly-sustainable apartment building of international-level design and living standards, with shared spaces to foster a community of residents. Set on a corner site within the Clifton Karachi cantonment area, the design retains the façade of a colonial-style heritage building to create the base of a four-storey podium, with retail activating the street and a first floor museum. A new 34-storey tower delivers 31 apartments, with facades featuring intricate screens inspired by Mughal and Sindh patterns.

Architect:
Squire and Partners

Client:
TPL Properties

Structural Engineer:
Mushtaq & Bilal

M&E / Sustainability Engineer:
Atelier Ten

Interior Designer:
1508 London

Quantity Surveyor:
Gardiner & Theobald LLP



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Parc.1

Yangju-si, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

Status: **Built, 2021** | Project type: **Mixed-use** | Size: **629,047 sqm**

Located on Yeouido island, a business and residential district alongside the Han River in Seoul, South Korea, Parc.1 comprises two landmark office towers, a hotel and a retail centre. The mixed-use scheme is organized to respond to views, existing city grain, pedestrian movement and massing, and is marked by its striking exterior, inspired by red columns symbolizing dignity and refinement in traditional Korean architecture. Central to the design is a series of buildings that create a hierarchy of public spaces, including plazas in front of the entrances, and tree-lined boulevards which connect the surrounding neighbourhood to urban community spaces.

Client:
Skylan Developments / Y22 Project Financing Investment

Architect:
Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners

Architect:
Samoo Architects & Engineers / Siaplan Architects and Planners

Structural Engineer:
Arup / DongYang Structural Engineers Co. Ltd

Services Engineer:
Arup / HIMEC Consultants

Other:
Leonard Design Architects

Landscape Architect:
Martha Schwartz Partners

Cost Consultant:
Davis Langdon/Seah Korea



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Tokyo Railyards Redevelopment

Shinagawa, Tokyo, Japan

Status: **Proposed, 2017** | Project type: **Masterplan, mixed-use, infrastructure** | Size: **1,250,000 sqm**

Shinagawa was once seen as Tokyo's front door. Over time it has suffered from the pull of commercial and cultural activity to Tokyo, and its railyards are overwhelmed by surrounding infrastructure. The masterplan proposes a composition of mixed-use towers on a raised landscape, stitching infrastructure with public realm to create a new identity on the skyline. Together, the built form and landscape plant seeds for Shinagawa's regeneration. Hassell's London team provided international architectural and urbanism experience to address complex and layered urban settings, creating simplicity out of complexity and delivering a sense of calm in an otherwise frenetic context.

Client:
Japan East Railways
Architecture & Urban Design:
Hassell
Engineer:
Buro Happold
Visualisation:
Studio Lux

UFC Shanghai Performance Institute

Pengpu Town, Shanghai, China

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Sports facility and HQ** | Size: **8,640 sqm**

The refurbishment of a historic factory building, this project was delivered by Arup architects working with engineers and specialists from our London office. The UFC performance institute Shanghai is a world-leading sports training destination and has set a new benchmark within Asia for this building type, evolved the MMA sports culture in Asia and established a foundation for accelerated growth of the sport and brand globally. Our design team developed the concept design in close collaboration with Ardent Sports by co-locating our team, conducting design workshops (within London and via VC) and capturing specialist expertise from athletes and the client team throughout the design process.

Architect, Engineer: **Arup**





Vanke LiuXianDong

Xili, Nanshan district, Shenzhen, China

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Residential** | Size: **150 sqm**

Liu Xian Dong is a new quarter in the making. Previously a low-level industrial site, in the years to come, it will develop into a new quarter of Shenzhen. In Liu Xian Dong a new mix and new market niches are being developed. Micro residential units of 18 sqm are geared towards starters and temporary residents of Shenzhen. This type of accommodation until now is largely only available in Shenzhen villages at low quality. These units are complemented by shared facilities such as restaurants, fitness club, public living rooms and covered outdoor spaces that allow for a lifestyle between inside and outside.

Client:
Shenzhen Vanke
Architect:
MLA+



Whittle School and Studios, Shenzhen

Shenzhen Campus, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, China

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Education** | Size: **58,000 sqm**

The Whittle Schools concept is a global network of 36 schools for 3–18-year-olds. So far schools have opened in Shenzhen, Washington DC, and a third school is planned to open this year in New York. Arup was approached by architects Renzo Piano Buildings Workshop to work on the initial concept in 2015 and in September 2016, the new Shenzhen site was chosen with planning submitted in 2017. The school opened in September 2019 and accommodates 700 students. Arup provided full engineering services with our London office leading the design with input from Shanghai, Shenzhen and multiple other offices.

Structural Engineer, M&E /
Sustainability Engineer, Lighting
Designer, Facade Engineer,
Acoustic Engineer: **Arup**

EUROPE



Clermont-Ferrand Metropolitan Library

Rue Lagarlaye, Hôtel-Dieu, Clermont Ferrand, France

Status: **Proposed, 2024** | Size: **11,000 sqm**

Client: **Clermont Auvergne Métropole** | Lead Architect: **Stanton Williams** | Associate Architect: **Marcillon Thuilier Architectes** | Heritage Architect: **Covalence** | Landscape Architect: **MOZ Paysage** | Structural and Facade Engineers: **Eckersley O’Callaghan** | M&E & Sustainability Engineers: **Louis Choulet Ingenierie** | Acoustic Consultant: **Salto Ingenierie** | Quantity Surveyor and Project Manager: **Betrec Ingenierie** | Signage: **LMpolymago** | Theatre Consultant: **CLE Millet International**

The Clermont-Ferrand Metropolitan Library is conceived both as a major new library and as a social and creative hub in the heart of Clermont-Ferrand, in the picturesque Puy de Dôme region, famous for its chain of volcanoes. Set to be the largest library in the city and the region, the world-class facility is planned to attract more than 500,000 visitors each year. A fine example of adaptive reuse, the design reimagines the listed 18th century Hôtel-Dieu hospital building and garden as an inclusive and multifaceted cultural destination.

The three wings of the former hospital building will be entirely restored and enhanced to house the library’s extensive collection, reading and work rooms.

The centrepiece of this facility will be a double height light-filled extension, inserted as a giant jewel box into the horseshoe shape of the historic building. Conceived as a free space for research, discovery and dialogue, its transparent architecture will link earth and sky, books and people, building and garden, the historic city and the distinctive presence of the Puy de Dôme on the horizon.

Literally rooted in the volcanic strata of the city, crater-like subterranean gathering and performance space will animate the central forum and relate to the myriad of caves and chambers beneath the building. Above, a partially glazed roof supported by a large timber structure will create a canopy over the space.

Inspired by the unique geology of the area, locally sourced volcanic stone and volcanic ash and aggregate for low carbon embodied rammed concrete will form a key part of the material palette. To further reinforce the presence of nature in the city, the library will boast a large lecture garden embed in the surrounding landscape.



Cyprus International University Campus Masterplan

Nicosia, TRNC

Status: **Under Construction, 2022** | Project Type: **Masterplan** | Size: **30,000 sqm**

Masterplan, Landscape Architect & Other: **Arup**

Cyprus International University has ambitious plans to increase its students from 17,000 to 24,000 by 2022. Arup has worked with the client since 2017, first developing a vision, then designing a masterplan and advising on its implementation.

Drawing upon the expertise of our Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, City Economics and Digital Studio teams in London, the masterplan explores new ways of learning beyond the classroom. The initial brief included a series of new buildings to home a range of faculties, however after conducting analysis of the campus operations, the research revealed the need to consider the University activities in clusters rather than in isolation. In response, Arup proposed the inclusion of new amenities, open spaces, as well as retrofitting existing infrastructure to help unlock new synergies within the campus.

The masterplan is focused on the quality of the student experience. By looking at learning beyond the formal walls of the classroom, we identified the enviable Mediterranean campus landscape is an asset in providing a unique opportunity for informal learning. In doing so, this will prepare the University

for growth and shape the vision for the future physical development of the campus. Arup's Digital Studio team in London supported in the development of light-touch interventions including pop-up podiums, study nooks, student run shops and a live feed wall, with students always at the centre of the design process.

The sustainable systems devised for water, energy and waste management implemented by the University will position it as an exemplar model for both clean energy and circular economy while enabling students to engage in sustainability initiatives. Arup carried out an in-depth assessment of these systems and proposed guidelines and initiatives to ensure a continued sustainable future for the University.





Antognolla

Giove, Terni, Italy

Status: **Planning Granted, 2024** | Project type: **Hotel, resort and residential** | Size: **37,000 sqm**

The 580 hectare Antognolla estate is located in Umbria, to the north of Perugia, Italy. The site is in an area characterised by steep contours and level changes in a region known as the inner northern Appenines. Once complete, Antognolla will be a luxury rural retreat that makes the most of the natural beauty of the site and the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Architect:
Woods Bagot
Client:
Aei Progetti
Project Manager:
Antognolla Ltd.



CEU Vienna Campus

Wien, Austria

Status: **Proposed, 2025** | Project type: **Education** | Size: **35,000 sqm**

The transformation of the Otto-Wagner-Hospital into the new permanent campus for the Central European University. Working closely with the City of Vienna, Vienna Monument Protection and the adjacent community, the KPF scheme will respect the historical values of the site, protect its landmark virtues and enhance the Otto Wagner legacy. The exterior aspect of the c.1910 buildings and the immediate landscape context will be preserved. The major changes envisioned involve the configuration of the interior, where intercommunicating spaces will open up study areas to natural light. The transformation of these buildings will follow the strong sustainability agenda.

Client:
Central European University
Architect:
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF)
Architect of Record:
Atelier Architekt Palme



Cherrywood

Cabinteely, Dublin, Ireland

Status: **Proposed, 2024** | Project type: **Masterplan** | Size: **47.5 ha**

Fletcher Priest's masterplan for Cherrywood creates a sustainable connected urban village to the south of Dublin, with over 2,000 homes connected by public realm and ecological corridors. Set along the recently extended tram line, Cherrywood creates the optimum hybrid of city and landscape. The design successfully involved remote collaboration combining knowledge from FPA's international experience, Quintain UK's placemaking expertise and Quintain Ireland's local market knowledge. The detailed residential design of 500 new homes considered 24/7 year-round use of internal and external amenity with a focus on community and wellbeing. Apartment designs incorporate flexible arrangements for increased future homeworking.

Architect and Masterplan:
Fletcher Priest Architects

Client:
Quintain

Landscape Architect:
Grant Associates

Transport Consultant:
CS Consulting

Structural Engineer:
CS Consulting

M&E / Sustainability Engineer:
O' Connor Sutton Cronin



De Gamla Kullager Fabrikerna- The Old Ball Bearing Factories

Kullagergatan, Gösen, Gamlestaden, Gothenburg, Sweden

Status: **Proposed, 2025** | Project type: **Masterplan, residential, workplace, public realm** | Size: **100,000 sqm**

District Bearing is a former factory complex. Its original purpose was the production of ball bearings for export across the world. The redevelopment seeks to create a unique district that adds, complements and strengthens the current urban development in the wider area of Gamlestaden. Notable historic buildings will be retained and refurbished alongside the intervention of contemporary mixed-use buildings including 1000 new homes. The pandemic and the normalisation of home working meant that colleagues, collaborators, and the client felt they were able to communicate effectively and equally regardless on which country they were based.

Architects:
Bell Phillips Architects,
Studio Egret West,
Liljewall



©iRAL

Farsons Old Brewhouse and Trident Park

Birkirkara, Malta

Status: **Under Construction, 2021** | Project type: **Masterplan, workspace, retail, museum** | Size: **47,794 sqm**

The restoration and transformation of the Farsons’ Art Deco style Old Brewhouse and the new Trident Park low-rise buildings in Mriehel, Malta, will create multi-purpose spaces for international and emerging companies to work, play and relax, and for visitors to experience Farsons’ renowned hospitality in the Old Brewhouse. The plan is sensitive to the historic context of the site and local area, commercially viable, and imaginative, capturing the support of the wider community and Maltese Planning Authority. Trident Park provides a model for large-scale commercial, environmentally intelligent, practical, and adaptable working spaces.

Client: **Simonds Farsons Cisk plc and Trident Estates plc**
 Architect: **Ian Ritchie Architects Ltd**
 Structural Engineer: **TBA Periti**
 Energy, Environment & Sustainability Consultant: **Doug King Consulting**
 Acoustic Engineer: **Gillieron Scott Acoustic Design**
 Lighting Designer: **Ulrike Brandi Licht**
 Services Engineer: **CASA inginiera**
 Landscaping: **Ian Ritchie Architects Ltd with Joseph Borg**
 Exhibition Designers & Heritage Consultant: **The Exhibitions Team**
 Cost Consultant: **Equals Consulting, Sphere Projects**



©Timothy Soar

Google Berlin

Berlin, Germany

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Workplace** | Size: **8,000 sqm**

Google Berlin builds on Allford Hall Monaghan Morris’ previous work with Google in London and is the practice’s first overseas project to be completed for the company. The listed 1880s former hospital has been transformed through a series of interventions to improve flow and activate the spaces around them. Recent finishes are stripped back to show original features and materials, celebrating the building’s history, revealing its unique character, and creating a canvas for new insertions. YouTube Berlin, a cutting edge recording studio, is also located in the new Google headquarters.

Acoustic Consultant: **Sandy Brown UK**
 Architect: **Allford Hall Monaghan Morris**
 Client: **Google**
 Contractor: **ISG**
 Cost Consultant: **CBRE**
 Fire Engineer: **HHP Berlin**
 Graphic Designer: **Slang**
 Light Consultant: **L-Plan Berlin**
 Project Manager: **MACE**
 Services Engineer: **HDH**
 Structural Engineer: **Eisat**
 Artist: **Christopher Bauder**
 Broadcasting Consultant: **Wave Science Technology**
 Catering Consultant: **Friedmann Germany**
 Local Architect: **Casteleyn & Eichorn Berlin**
 Sustainability Consultant: **Baumann Consulting**



Grenoble Open Innovation Centre

Grenoble, France

Status: **Under Construction, 2020** | Project type: **Science and Technology** | Size: **3,300 sqm**

The building marks the gateway to a new research and ecological district. Its design sets the composition principles that are adopted by the facades of three other buildings surrounding an elliptical public space 'Place Mandela'. The facade plays on the kinetic perception induced by the dynamic shift of viewpoint created by the roundabout, tramway and cycling path movement. It transforms as you move around the building, from reflecting unique mountainous setting surrounding the city to opening itself up and revealing the collaborative nature of the activities within. Winter gardens contribute to the animation of the facade and to Place Mandela.

Architect and Lighting Designer:
BDP
Client:
Eiffage Immobilier



Hufelandmark Munich

Munich, Germany

Status: **Proposed, 2025** | Project type: **Workspace, hotel, retail** | Size: **27,169 sqm**

A new landmark tower, as part of the BMW masterplan in Munich. Including a new retail centre, hotel, offices and a skybar, with views over the city and Bavarian countryside. Designed as a true pan-European collaboration between Morris+Company's London and Copenhagen offices, together with Kirchberger & Wiegner Rohde in Berlin, for Hammer AG, Munich. The project was initiated during the height of the Corona crisis, with the backdrop of Britain's impending exit from Europe. The scheme creates simple, flexible, future-proofed floorplans working to a strict planning grid, with two large atria and attractive plant filled loggias and terraces externally.

Architects:
Morris+Company,
Kirchberger & Wiegner Rohde
Client:
HUF4, GmbH & Co. Kg



I AM MOSCOW

Kozhevnikeskiy lane, Moscow, Russian Federation

Status: **Built, 2017** | Project type: **Residential** | Size: **43,000 sqm**

MLA+ was asked to raise the I AM MOSCOW project value and marketability, through a re-design of the facades. The facade strategy is pragmatic and spends the money where it matters most. The primary facade with a high level of detailing faces the strategic locations, where the project is visible from the city. The courtyard facade unifies the diverse massing with an elegant facade order. A simple secondary facade faces the surrounding outer buildings of the block. MaccleanorLavington: (MLA+) is responsible for the renewed planning application, the technical design and specification of the facade and the supervision of the construction process.

Client:
PSN Group (J.S.C. TICM)
Architect:
MLA+



Istanbul Modern

Galata Pier, Beyoglu District, Istanbul, Turkey

Status: **Under Construction, 2021** | Project type: **Museum** | Size: **13,000 sqm**

Istanbul Modern is the city's leading modern art museum. The new museum building is located on a prominent location directly adjacent to the Bosphorus and will include galleries for the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, library and classroom spaces, a cinema and a restaurant. The building has a customised seismic stability system to withstand large earthquake forces. Building services are exposed, reflecting the industrial nature of the site's history. The Arup London office worked with Arup Istanbul to support Renzo Piano Building Workshop throughout the design and construction phases.

Structural Engineer, M&E /
Sustainability Engineer, Facade
Engineer, Lighting Designer:
Arup



Jaśminowy Mokotów

Warsaw, Poland

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Masterplan, residential** | Size: **20,000 sqm**

Jasminowy Mokotów housing complex is an offer for enthusiasts of logical and carefully thought-out architecture ensuring comfort, safety and ecological solutions. The intimate, three-story, multi-family buildings for the client Skanska Residential Development Poland, were designed in subdued colours and a human-friendly scale. Integral parts of the project include, a new park, a lake, two new city squares and a network of road infrastructure leading to the city. Jasminowy Mokotów II has been shortlisted for the Architectural Award of the President of the Capital City Warsaw in The Best Residential Building category. The project meets the requirements of the BREEAM certificate.

Architect: **Rolfe Judd**
Client: **Skanska Construction**
Architect: **Rolfe Judd**



© Danica O. Kus

Louvre Conservation Centre

Hucqueliers, France

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Workspace** | Size: **20,000 sqm**

The Louvre Conservation Centre is located in Liévin, in northern France, and offers 18,500 sqm of space dedicated to conservation and restoration. The building is an ecologically sensitive, sober, elegant and resolutely contemporary building whose discreet lines are transformed into the landscape. RSHP has been working in France for over five decades and has a large, experienced Francophone team. The number of French projects that the team is working on has increased over the last couple of years, and to counter the effects of Brexit, exacerbated by the pandemic, the studio decided to open an office in Paris in January 2021.

Architect:
Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners
Cost Consultant:
VPEAS SAS
Landscape Architect:
Mutabilis Paysage
Ecology Consultant:
Inddigo SAS
Other:
Egis Bâtiments Nord



Minthis Hills

Tsada, Cyprus

Status: **Under Construction, 2021** | Project type: **Hotel, resort and residential** | Size: **5,000,000 sqm**

Capitalising on Cyprus’ tourist economy, this 1,200-acre-site in the southwestern coastal city will be fashioned as both a residential complex and resort. Overseeing master-planning, architecture, interior design and branding, the entire scheme celebrates the Mediterranean island’s rich cultural history and natural environment. To preserve the landscape, only five per cent of the site is being developed while the remainder will be left undisturbed. The Woods Bagot London Studio is acting as lead designer on this project, focuses on improving the existing golf course and 12th century monastery, as well as building 650 villas plus 150 or so apartments, a clubhouse, taverna, wellness spa, and shops.

Architect:
Woods Bagot
Client:
Pafilia

Structural Engineer:
D&K EPS



Mercury Tower

Hal Ghaxaq, Malta

Status: **Under Construction, 2021** | Project type: **Residential** | Size: **68,000 sqm**

Mercury Tower is a 33-storey residential tower, and the first phase of a major mixed use development designed by Zaha Hadid architects, and located in Malta.

Architect:
Zaha Hadid Architects
Structural Engineers:
**Evolve,
BAC Engineering Consultancy
Group**



Moscova 33

Via della Moscova, Milano, Italy

Status: **Built, 2021** | Project type: **Refurbishment, heritage, workplace** |
Size: **23,000 sqm**

The designs for Milan's Moscova building turned an existing heritage building into a thriving new multi-use workplace hub. The lower floors were opened up with lengthened and widened windows along each facade. This also serves to enliven the public realm and improve transparency into the building, aided further by units for shopfronts, gallery spaces, co-working spaces and new internal courtyards. The roof aspect is entirely changed with a new glazed structure placed atop the building. Appearing light and delicate in the Milan skyline, the design allows for an abundance of natural light to access the upper floors and atrium below.

Client:
JP Morgan
Architects:
**BuckleyGrayYeoman,
Asti Architetti**



Novo Park

Bulevardul Dimitrie Pompeiu, Bucuresti, Romania

Status: **Proposed, 2020** | Project type: **Mixed use, workplace, co-living, public realm, conference facilities** | Size: **75,000 sqm**

Novo Park is an existing business park in Bucharest, which the client wished to upgrade, incorporating a new park in place of the surface car park as well as the conversion of an office building to a mixed-use co-working, co-living, food market, conference centre facility. The Woods Bagot team in London provided design input, based on the global trends across these sectors, to drive the strategic reallocation of space and the coordination of the various uses across the campus.

Architect:
Woods Bagot
Client:
Genesis Property



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Oslo Gardermoen Airport

Rasta, Norway

Status: **Built, 2017** | Project type: **Transport and infrastructure**

The expansion of Oslo Airport has more than doubled the terminal size, increasing its capacity from 19 to 28 million passengers per year. A second terminal building and a new pier have been constructed, boasting one of the largest timber roofs in the world. A new roof was also introduced over the railway station to join the new and existing terminal blocks. Bright spaces, easy wayfinding, short walking distances and natural materials make passengers feel safe and comfortable. The building takes advantage of passive solar energy and sunlight, and features low-carbon technologies like district heating and natural thermal energy.

Clients:
**Oslo Luffthavn AS, Avinor,
Narud Stokke Wiig Architects**
Architects:
**Nordic - Office of Architecture,
Haptic**
Project Manager:
Buro Happold

Palermo Cruise Terminal Design Competition

Molo Santa Lucia, Palermo, Italy

Status: **Proposed, 2018** | Project type: **Waterfront masterplan and transport infrastructure** | Size: **40,000 sqm**

Palermo became disconnected from the Mediterranean as infrastructure built up along the waterfront. The scheme to redefine the port is an historic opportunity to reconnect the historic city centre with the water. Three cloisters unify the spaces and buildings, giving the waterfront a visual identity and connecting the city's historic fabric by reinstating street frontages. They intertwine existing buildings with new shipping infrastructure and gathering places along the waterfront. Hassell brought international and local knowledge to address a complex design challenge through global thinking. The resultant scheme imbues the architecture and public spaces with a contextual and cultural sensibility.



© Hassell + Studio Lux

Client:
**AdSP del Mare di Sicilia
Occidentale**
Architecture and Urban Design:
Hassell
Local architects:
Cupelloni Architettura
Engineer:
Buro Happold
Visualisation:
Studio Lux



PianoBau HafenCity

Hamburg, Germany

Status: **Proposed, 2024** | Project type: **Residential** | Size: **16,887 sqm**

Fletcher Priest won an invited competition involving seven practices on site 84b at HafenCity Hamburg for a mixed-use building for Patrizia Deutschland GMBH. PianoBau was commended for its striking yet simple black and white aesthetic. It comprises 120 rental, co-living and affordable apartments, co-working space, neighbourhood shops, a restaurant, and a piano-bar on the dockside walkway. The design achieves HafenCity's high sustainability/ environmental ambitions. Particular attention to detail was applied for enhanced residential and commercial design value. Working remotely from London during COVID-19, our bi-lingual team alongside our local partners co-ordinated this technical design to stage 5 of the HOAI.

Architect:
Fletcher Priest Architects
Client:
Patrizia

Project Manager:
Drees & Sommer

Landscape Architect:
Landschaftsarchitektur+
Structural Engineer:
Ingenieurbüro Abel - Gebhardt Gmbh & Co. Kg

M&E / Sustainability Engineer:
RMN Ingenieure GMBH

Other:
Höhler+Partner Hamburg



Syngrou Avenue Office Buildings

Athina, Greece

Status: **Under Construction, 2022** | Project type: **Workplace** | Size: **15,000 sqm**

The landmark commercial scheme in central Athens will create a workplace of the highest quality with class-leading sustainability credentials. Occupying a prominent corner site linking the city centre and the seafront, the architecture is a contemporary reinterpretation of traditional design themes and the use of local materials distinguishes the scheme as identifiably Athenian. The buildings are clad in vertical white marble louvres crafted at angles to create a choreography views. Our cross-sector expertise in designing the best architecture at the lowest environmental cost has attracted foreign business post-Brexit and during the pandemic because our international clients share this goal.

Architects:
Bennetts Associates, Divercity Architects
Structural Engineer:
Pagonis - Polychronopoulos - Kinatos

Services Engineer:
Insta Consulting Engineers

Landscape Architect:
H. Pangalou & Associates

Leed Consultant:
D-Carbon

Lighting Designer:
Lighting Architecture Studio

Acoustic Consultant:
H.Moraitis & G. Chatzigeorgiou

Traffic Engineering Consultant:
Dromos Consulting



© Peter Landers

Tànger 66

Carrer de Tànger, Barcelona, Spain

Status: **Built, 2018** | Project type: **Workplace, refurbishment** | Size: **7,300 sqm**

The 22@ district of Barcelona is one of Europe’s most ambitious urban regeneration schemes. Although the area has seen many new-builds in recent years, there was potential for a distinctive, high-quality office space through refurbishment rather than rebuilding. The brief was to reposition the building as a contemporary office space that could attract a major tenant befitting of the 22@ district. Redeveloped with an ethos of reuse rather than rebuild, Tànger 66 is the first building in Barcelona to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

Client:
Blue Coast Capital
Architect:
BuckleyGrayYeoman
Services Engineer:
Deerns



© Jan Friedlein

The Twist

Samsmoveien, Jevnaker, Norway

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Museum** | Size: **1,400 sqm**

Led by Bjarke Ingels Group, this new exhibition building forms part of the Kistefos art museum and sculpture park in Norway. As an architectural, infrastructural and structural hybrid, The Twist offers a rare modern precedent for the occupied-bridge typology, and proves such infrastructure’s integration into an uneven, bucolic environment. The double-height, column-free gallery space at the northern end torques into a three-storey office block at the south, creating a ‘twisting’ bridge that newly connects the two embankments of differing levels.

Architect:
BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group
Client:
Kistefos Museum
Structural Engineer:
AKT II



Tirana Boulevard

Albania

Architect, Landscape Architect
and Masterplan:
Grimshaw Architects

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Public realm** | Size: **126,000 sqm**

Tirana’s new boulevard extension is structured around a sequence of open, green spaces conceived as ‘urban living rooms’, giving it a new function as a linear park. The design put people first with over 65 per cent of space dedicated to pedestrian and cyclists, while an abundance of trees and bushes creates a natural barrier to the traffic. Responding to the high demand for open space in the capital, the concept reflects the Mediterranean outdoor culture of transforming the quality, safety and security of the urban environment, and encouraging walking as the most enjoyable and convenient means of moving around the city.

NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA





© Timothy Soar

AEP Fitness Center/OKC Ballet

Oklahoma City, USA

Status: **Built, 2019** | Project type: **Sports and Leisure** | Size: **2,787 sqm**

The AEP Fitness Center, completed in 2015, took an unfinished winery structure in Oklahoma City and gave it a super-durable arched roof to create a gym, training and nursery facility as part of a planned wider office campus. In 2017 the building was acquired and repurposed by the Oklahoma City Ballet to create the company's new home, including a studio and performance space with retractable tiered seating, four additional studio spaces and training and wellness facilities.

Architect:
Allford Hall Monaghan Morris
Landscape Architect:
Hocker Design Group
Light Consultant:
Smith Lighting
Structural Engineer:
Mark Eudaley Engineers
Civil Engineer:
Johnson and Associates, Inc.
Mechanical Consultant:
Harrison-Orr Air Conditioning, LCC
Consulting Engineer:
Darr & Collins



© Alejandro Arango

Atrio

Bogotá, Colombia

Status: **Built, 2023** | Project type: **Mixed-use development** | Size: **250,000 sqm**

Atrio has a scale and ambition unprecedented in Colombia. Working with Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, Arup's integrated engineering solution responds to a highly seismic site while meeting needs of global and local businesses. Comprising the two tallest buildings in Columbia — North Tower and South Tower — Atrio will provide 250,000 sqm of commercial offices, residential apartments, a luxury hotel, public observation deck and retail space, with Bogota's largest privately funded public space at ground level. The client's brief required knowledge sharing between the international and local practices involved. The vision sets for a world-class design while transforming the local construction industry.

Client:
QBO Constructores S.A.S, ARPRO
Structural Engineer:
Arup
Architect:
Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners



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Classen16

Oklahoma City, USA

Status: **Built, 2020** | Project type: **Mixed-use residential, commercial** | Size: **5,091 sqm**

Classen16 is a new-build mixed-use apartment and commercial building that sits on the cusp of a heavily-used arterial road and vibrant, walkable Plaza District of Oklahoma City. Acting as a mediator between these contrasting contexts, the building adopts a domestic scale that steps in discrete blocks and rises to address the business corridor of Classen Boulevard. The streetscape is enlivened with a planted buffer and raised stoops to all the ground floor homes. The building is clad with scale-like aluminium shake that reacts to the changing quality of light throughout the day.

Architect:
Allford Hall Monaghan Morris
MEP Engineer:
CEC Infrastructure Solutions
Roofing:
Jenco Roofing and Custom Metals
Landscape Architect:
LAUD Studio
Civil Engineer:
Olsson Associates
Client:
Pivot Project LLC
Structural Engineer:
United Building Solutions



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Harold Alfond Athletics & Recreation Center, Colby College

Waterville, USA

Status: **Built, 2020** | Project type: **Sports and leisure** | Size: **32,980 sqm**

The Harold Alfond Athletics and Recreation Center for Colby College, Maine opened late 2020. The new centre is rooted in the College's guiding ethos and values, supporting individual and collective growth through physical and mental health, and encouraging teamwork and community through sport and competition. The 350,000 sq ft building has become the largest athletics facility in the North eastern US, comprising a multi-use field house, ice arena, an Olympic-sized pool, a competition gymnasium for basketball and volleyball, squash courts, a strength and fitness centre, and multi-purpose studios, supported by locker rooms, sports medicine facilities, and offices.

Architect:
Hopkins Architects Limited
Executive Architect:
Sasaki Associates
Engineer:
Arup
Landscape Architect:
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
Cost Consultant:
Faithful+Gould
Construction Manager:
Consigli



No.33 Park Row

New York, USA

Status: **Under Construction, 2021** | Project type: **Mixed-Use** | Size: **6,968 sqm**

No. 33 Park Row is a residential scheme in Lower Manhattan, New York, made up of 30 apartments with four levels of commercial space at the base of the building. The tower will rise 23-storeys, addressing Park Row's early 20th century skyscrapers and giving excellent views north across City Hall Park. The building's structural and internal apartment arrangement is expressed in two-storey facade modules. The primary building arrangement facing North mitigates overheating through solar gain, and loggias serve to provide shading to the residential facades.

Client:
Centurion Real Estate Partners
Architect:
Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners

Architect:
SLCE

Structural Engineer:
GACE

M&E / Sustainability Engineer:
GEA Consulting Engineers



Squirrel Park

32nd Street, Oklahoma City, USA

Status: **Built, 2018** | Project type: **Residential** | Size: **540 sqm total (four units)**

Responding in a sensitive and sustainable way to Oklahoma City's imperative to increase density in existing residential neighbourhoods, Squirrel Park makes innovative use of modified shipping containers to create four single-family homes. Each offers around 1400 sq ft of living space. The design reinterprets the components of a traditional neighbourhood street on a smaller scale, encouraging outdoor living and interaction. The unique nature of the site as a park-like environment is enhanced through retention of existing mature trees, provision of shared outdoor spaces and new planting, and the addition of green roofs to assist energy efficiency and biodiversity.

Architect:
Allford Hall Monaghan Morris
Client:
Peter Shaffer, Attorney

Planning Consultant:
Grovers and Associates

Owner:
Labyrinth, LCC

Public Utilities Department:
Oklahoma City Utilities Department

Geotechnical Engineers:
Red Rock Consulting, LLC

Civil Engineer:
Wallace Engineering



The Desmond

Los Angeles, USA

Status: **Planning Granted, 2023** | Project type: **Hotel** | Size: **10,219 sqm**

The Desmond is an ambitious hotel project situated in Downtown Los Angeles. A parking lot since the 1920s, the design architect, KAP Studios is currently working on options to support a hotel-use zone change for the site. The 13-story hotel will provide 160 luxury guest rooms with facilities including a rooftop pool, conferencing, valet parking, and spaces to eat, relax, and be entertained. The design opens up a presence for the hotel at street level, engaging a wider community with a restaurant and bar. A continuous glass facade will also blur boundaries between inside and outside; street and hotel.

Architect:
Ben Adams Architects



The Passages

Surrey, Canada

Status: **Planning Granted, 2031** | Project type: **Mixed-use residential** | Size: **90,000 sqm**

The Passages, a one million square foot, six-building urban quarter in Surrey, Vancouver, is a radical progression from the standard model of North American urban development. The project offers a new urban permeability with five passages, animated with a wide range of community, commercial and recreational uses, leading to an open public space at its heart. Finding new and more sustainable ways of living together is particularly relevant in the emerging post-COVID-19 context. Alison Brooks Architects' generosity of accessible public space and community uses aims to provide citizens with an inclusive, socially diverse and economically resilient neighbourhood.

Architect:
Alison Brooks Architects
Client:
Rize Alliance
Executive Arc:
IBI Group
Landscape Architect:
PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc
Civil Engineer:
CoreGroup Consultants
Electrical Engineering:
Nemetz (S/A) & Associates Ltd
Mechanical Engineering:
Integral Group
Structural Engineering:
Glotman Simpson Consulting



The Well, Toronto

Toronto, Canada

Status: **Under Construction, 2023** | Project type: **Mixed-use** | Size: **3,900 sqm**

The Well creates a high-density, urban streetscape extending the qualities of the area. The development consists of seven individual building blocks that define a pedestrian network of streets and spaces at ground level. Shops, restaurants and cafés occupy the three podium levels with new homes ranging from four to 36 storeys rising above. A landmark office tower of 35 storeys will occupy building seven with further office space provided in buildings five and six. Retail forms the first three levels of the development creates a unique environment and is based on multi-level urban models more commonly seen in Europe.

Architect:
BDP
Client:
RioCan Reit
Masterplan:
Hariri Pontarini Architects
Developer:
Allied Properties



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University of Virginia, School of Data Science

Charlottesville, USA

Status: **Planning Granted, 2023** | Project type: **Education** | Size: **5,670 sqm**

The School of Data Science, established in 2019, will be the University of Virginia’s twelfth school. The four-story, 61,000 sq ft facility will provide accommodation for teaching, research, admin and special events. The new building will respond to the architectural calibre of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the University to create an innovative new pedagogic environment for the growing needs of the School. It is sited in a landmark position as a gateway to the University’s expansion on its Emmet-Ivy Corridor, linking the historic Grounds to an exciting new chapter in its development.

Architect:
Hopkins Architects Limited
Executive Architect:
VMDO
Engineer:
Arup
AV/IT Consultant:
NV5
Landscape Architect:
Dumont Janks
Cost Consultant:
Faithful+Gould

Acknowledgements & Further Reading

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