



# Welsh School of Architecture

Diploma/MA in Architecture: Professional Studies



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# Diploma/MA in Architecture: Professional Studies

## Introduction

The Welsh School of Architecture has an excellent track record for both teaching and research, and is consistently ranked as one of the UK's top Schools of Architecture in the Independent and the Times league tables.

The Diploma/Masters in Professional Studies (MAPS) programme of study examines the professional aspects of practice as an architect, including the construction industry and role of the profession, development controls, construction law, and project and practice management. The Diploma is approved by the ARB and RIBA (Part 3), thus providing a route to registration as an architect in the UK. The optional MA can be taken after the Diploma, or separately by those who have already obtained a Part 3 qualification. The programme is directed by Professor Sarah Lupton, who is well known for her expertise in this field, having published many books used widely by practising architects and on post-graduate courses.

The MAPS at the WSA is a highly quality learning experience, with small cohorts, tutored by a team of experts, including the course leader. It aims to inspire a keen interest in current issues relating to the profession, and expects a high degree of analytic rigour and in-depth exploration of the student's selected areas of interest. These skills are developed through extensive group work and a variety of carefully developed assignments, with detailed individual feedback and interim stages. Key features are the emphasis on workshop sessions (made possible through having a small cohort), the wide range of visiting speakers and topics covered, and the general thoroughness and care given to supporting the individual student. The feedback from the students has been very positive, as has that from external examiners, who have indicated that they consider the standard of teaching and achievement to be very high.

### Comments from feedback:

*Gave an insight into all areas (relevant/current) of the construction industry;*

*small group sizes and high standards of teaching staff;*

*case study is very helpful; hands on learning*

*Thoroughly enjoyed the breadth of essays and discussions amongst the cohort and the level of feedback was very good;*

*Good to review essay proposal with peers so they can input info/contact;*

*Workshop and interactive stuff very useful and a change from just listening;*

*speakers interaction with audience and audience participation in resolving real problems;*

*to have in actual practitioners and people from relevant industries;*

*Thorough!*

### Comment from external examiner:

*setting the benchmark standard for others to emulate*

## Scope and aims of the programme

The overall aim of the Diploma/Masters in Professional Studies is for the student to acquire an in-depth understanding of the legal and economic aspects of architectural practice and construction procurement, and the related skills necessary to practice effectively on entry into the architectural profession.

The programme is designed to be undertaken whilst in full time employment within an architectural practice or related construction industry organisation. It is taught largely by distance learning methods using the internet, supplemented by short residential courses.

The Diploma is prescribed by the ARB and validated by the RIBA as equivalent to the RIBA Examination in Professional Practice (the Part 3).

## Suitable for

The programme is intended for graduates from an architectural degree course, either UK or overseas, who have already had a period of employment within the architectural profession and who wish to develop their understanding of issues related to professional practice.

To be eligible for the programme, students should have obtained a degree which has been validated at RIBA/ARB Part 2 level, or have obtained qualifications which have been assessed by the ARB as equivalent to Part 2. Students should also have completed a specified period of Professional Experience complying with RIBA/ARB regulations (normally 12 months for part time and 24 months for full time enrolment), and should be employed in an approved placement at time of application. Part 3 graduates and qualified architects may also apply, and may be eligible to take individual modules as CPD or to take Stage 2 (the MA) separately.

## Programme details

**Stage 1** of the programme leads to the qualification of Postgraduate Diploma (the Part 3) and comprises six 20-credit modules. All modules are compulsory and have been designed to promote progression through levels of difficulty and complexity of skills, knowledge and concepts in an enabling sequence.

**Stage 2** (which is optional) leads to a Masters degree. Students who proceed to the MA undertake a dissertation (60 credits) on a topic related to the taught modules and agreed by the programme director.

**Stage 1** takes one year full-time, or two years part-time, and **Stage 2** takes a further year.



## Teaching Methods

The programme is taught through a combination of short courses and distance learning.

The student is required to attend three one-week residential courses held normally in October, January and April. Each course covers two modules. (Students following the programme part time attend for the relevant modules). The emphasis of the courses is on interactive learning, and they include seminars with invited experts, group work assignments, role-playing exercises, and face-to-face feedback sessions on coursework. Between courses the programme employs distance-learning methods, using a web-based virtual learning environment. Activities carried out in the work placement contribute to the student's learning experience, and are monitored by the School. The student undertakes a wide variety of coursework tasks, designed to develop professional and academic skills, and giving an opportunity to explore topics of interest in the form of essays and case studies. The teaching on courses and by distance learning is supported by a team of WSA staff and external experts, with an important and growing contribution from alumni of the programme.

## Stage I Modules

### **Title: Construction Industry in the UK**

**Description:** enables the student to develop a critical understanding of factors which control the construction industry and the procurement and management of construction projects.

**Coursework:** a feasibility study and an essay. A day-long workshop is run to launch the feasibility study, and group discussions are held on the essay (for recent titles see below).

#### **Recent speakers:**

Tony Mulhall, Associate Director RICS: Planning and development in a time of re-structuring  
John LLoyd, Faber Maunsell Ltd: Update on Acoustics Regulations  
Gillian Birkby, Fladgate Fielder: Update on CDM

### **Title: Construction Contract Law**

**Description:** introduces the students to concepts of construction law and dispute resolution, examining in detail the standard forms of contract used in the construction industry, and appropriate methods for their administration and the management of related risks

**Coursework:** an adjudicator's decision. There is also a group workshop on contract administration.

#### **Recent speakers:**

Chris Paul, Trowers and Hamlins: Partnering and PPC2000  
Frances Forward, Forward Consult: NEC3  
Mary Herbert, Eversheds: Dispute resolution

## Title: Professional services

**Description:** examines the role and status of the construction professional, including regulation of the profession, professional liability and professional indemnity insurance. It introduces the student to the range of professional services that the architectural profession offers, and the means of assessing and agreeing terms of engagement for a building project.

**Coursework:** career evaluation, professional CV, and the PEDR. On-to one tutorials are held, and the student is visited in their placement. There is also a group workshop on professional services.

### Recent speakers:

Adrian Dobson, RIBA Director of Practice: Architects' services

Paul Hopkins, Edwards Geldard Solicitors: Risk, liability and insurance

Ceri Delemore, Edwards Geldard Solicitors: Copyright

## Title: Project Management

**Description:** examines methods of project planning, project management and quality control of construction projects of various sizes and forms from inception through to occupation. The aim is to equip the student with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage, within the context of architectural practice, a small to medium scale building project from inception through to completion.

**Coursework:** case study. On-to one tutorials are held, and the student is visited in their placement. There is also a group workshop on project management, and a day-long cost feasibility exercise with invited experts.

### Recent speakers:

Stephen Brookhouse, University of Westminster: PFI: management and contracts

Robert Firth, HOK: Project management in practice, personal skills of a project manager

Chris Powell, WSA: Project management theory



## **Title: Practice Management**

**Description:** explores methods of management of architectural practices of various sizes and forms, including the management of its financial and human resources, and the legislation related to these. The module will enable the student to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to manage a small architectural practice, and contribute to the management of a larger architectural practice.

**Coursework:** case study. There is also a group workshop on the case study, and interactive sessions on particular topics with several of the visiting speakers.

### **Recent speakers:**

Rebecca Tregarthan, Rejoove: marketing

Professor Stephen Emmitt, Loughborough University: Design management in the professional office

Jemma Thomas, Eversheds: Employment Law

Professor Roy Chandler, Cardiff Business School: Financial Management of Practices

## **Title: International Construction**

**Description:** examines the construction industry in selected other countries, including the role and regulation of the architectural profession, methods of procurement and standard forms of contract. It also introduces the student to methods of procurement and managing of large scale international (i.e. cross-border) construction projects.

**Coursework:** essay. Students present their draft work to the cohort, and receive detailed verbal and written feedback from a panel of staff and alumni.

### **Recent speakers:**

Steven Luke, Arup: International practice

Leentje Volker, Delft University of Technology: EU procurement

Mhairi McVicar, WSA: Development controls in Chicago

Humphrey LLOYD, QC: International contracts and dispute resolution

Elaine Stowell, ARB: EU registration and practice



## Examples of essay topics:

### CIUK essay

How effective will the London Housing Design Guide be in the provision of sustainable communities?

Affordable housing can be built over London train stations to ease the housing crisis

Analysis of the Advantages to Financial Value for Developers of Meeting the “Excellent” and “Outstanding” Ratings

How does design risk transfer vary in different Design-Build contracts?

The Community Infrastructure Levy as an alternative to the system of Planning Obligations

Old Buildings, New Rules: 2010 Part L proposals and the historic environment

How does UK planning policy affect development on flood risk areas?

The effect of VAT on urban regeneration, and the creation of sustainable communities

### INCP essay

Construction in China: Roles, Responsibilities and Regulatory Systems

The impact of EU health and safety legislation on the industry in France and the UK

The Conservation of the Historic Environment in the Netherlands: A Study of Policy and Financial Incentives

Analysis of dispute resolution options in Bulgaria

Mutual Recognition Agreements between the UK and USA: A discussion of the practical barriers.

How is spatial planning policy for adaptation to climate change being implemented in the Netherlands and what challenges do the proposals face?

What are the roles of the professional bodies and legislation in addressing the quality and cultural status of Finnish architecture?

Effectiveness of Australia’s “Green” Building Rating Tools: Review of Performance

### MA dissertation

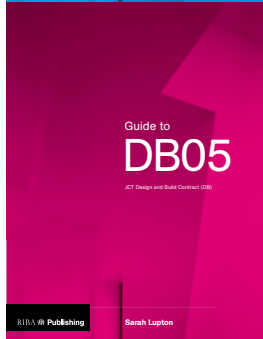
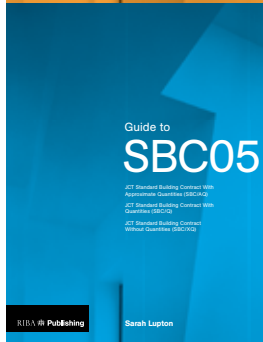
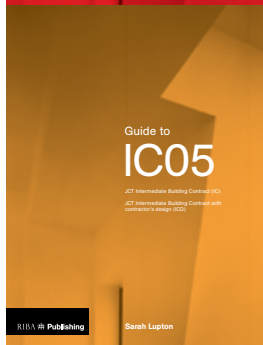
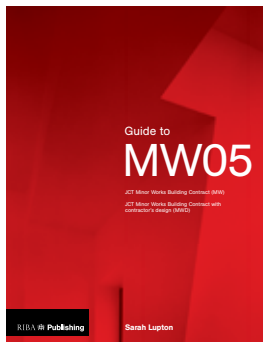
Prefabrication and Affordable Housing in The UK

Equality through regulation: A critical assessment of architecture regulation in the UK

A comparative study between the UK and Germany in the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Conservation, Preservation: Understanding the Issues Surrounding the Future Development of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in England and Wales

Tackling Regulatory Barriers to Trade: The EU-US Mutual Recognition Agreement for the provision of architectural services



## Prizes

A prize is awarded by Austin Smith Lord for the best Diploma Graduate, and by the Society of Construction Law for the best adjudicator decision. Prize-winners over the last few years have been as follows:

	<b>best Diploma Graduate</b>	<b>best adjudicator decision</b>
2008	Tim Browne	Robert Stiles
2009	Elizabeth Smith	Samantha Pinn
2010	Samantha Pinn	Diana Rashkova
2011	David Roberts	Aimée Turner

## Programme Director

**Sarah Lupton** has a personal chair at the Welsh School of Architecture, and is a partner in Lupton Stellakis, architects. She is dual qualified as an architect and as a lawyer. She lectures widely on subjects relating to construction law, and is the author of many books, including of a series on standard form building contracts, and co-editor (with Manos Stellakis) of a series on legislative controls. She contributes regularly to the International Construction Law Review, and acts as an adjudicator and expert witness in construction disputes. She is an elected member of the Architects Registration Board and currently head of its delegation to the Architects Council of Europe. She is also Vice Chairman of the CIC Liability Panel and a member of the RIBA President's Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution.



## WSA staff

### **Professor Sarah Lupton**

MA, Dip Arch, LL.M, FCI Arb, C Arb, RIBA (Programme Director)

### **Andy Roberts**

B.Arch, Msc, ILTM (Senior Lecturer, WSA)

### **Robert Firth**

BSc (Hons) BArch (Dist) MSc (Project Management), FRSA, FFB, RIBA (Senior Vice President, HOK)

### **Manos Stellakis**

BSc, DipArch, MSc(Econ) RIBA, (Partner, Lupton Stellakis architects; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, WSA)

## Contact details

For further details including how to apply please contact:

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For an informal discussion about the course contact:

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