

RIBA 

Gateway to good architecture
Royal Institute of British Architects

What is the RIBA?

To our 35,000 members, the RIBA is the Royal Institute of British Architects. But for some people, we're a Reservoir of Information about Buildings and Architecture. Others know us for our Remarkable Internet site, Bookshop and Awards. And our Red Insignia Boards for Architects catch the eye at building sites.

We're all of these things and more. We provide the standards, training, support and recognition that put our members – in the UK and overseas – at the peak of their profession. And we run exhibitions, events, prizes and websites that help people see their surroundings in a completely new way.

Good architecture is for everyone. That's what the RIBA stands for.



'This building makes me feel free'

Jubilee Library, Brighton, East Sussex

Designed by Bennetts Associates and Lomax Cassidy & Edwards, and shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize 2005.

Marian Gutierrez: 'I like the Library because I need a big clear space in order to think when I'm studying or reading. Here I can see sky and light and it makes me feel free.'



© Peter Cook/VIEW

What you can do



Visit the RIBA

Our HQ, at 66 Portland Place, London, is an Art Deco landmark in itself. Inside, you'll find galleries covering many angles of building design, an inviting bookshop and, in our restaurant, café and bar, some great places to meet, eat and drink. The building makes an impressive setting for social and business events, too, so if you need a venue, look no further than our celebrated interiors.



Ask a question

If it's about architecture, we've got the answer. On our website, www.architecture.com, you can learn about great buildings and designers and find helpful links to other sources. Or you can pick up the phone to our information line (0906 302 0400), which answers questions about architecture six days a week. Alternatively, you can visit the source of all this knowledge yourself. The RIBA British Architectural Library, formally recognised as having outstanding national and international importance, is a treasure trove of four million books, periodicals, drawings and photographs.

What we do for communities

The built environment is your home, your workplace, your child's school, your local hospital, the shops, the train station, the streets you walk every day. It's the old and the new, the public and the private. It's the places and spaces of our lives. By providing better buildings and safer, more sociable neighbourhoods, good architecture can make a real difference to our quality of life.

The RIBA stands up for good design. We help homeowners and businesses find the best architects for their buildings and campaign for design quality to be given a higher priority, earlier in the development process. Thanks to lobbying by the RIBA, architects have been given a greater say at the planning stage. New and regenerated communities can now have environments in which to feel not just safe, but special.



'It's brought Newcastle and Gateshead together'

Gateshead Millennium Bridge, Gateshead

The winner of the RIBA Stirling Prize 2002, in association with The Architects' Journal, designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects

Andrew Straw, company director (right): 'It's brought Newcastle and Gateshead together. I cycle to work over it every day. I like the shape too - like a blinking eye.'



What you can do



Take part in Architecture Week

Every June since 1996, this RIBA Trust/Arts Council England programme has given local people up and down the UK the chance to look around new buildings and take part in walks, talks, film shows, family events and picnics. There is even professional home improvement advice on tap in 'Architect In The House'.



Commission an architect

Whether you're transforming your home, updating your premises or building afresh, RIBA Chartered Architects can save you money and maximise your property's long term value. Let the RIBA's regional offices guide you every step of the way. We'll help you track down the right architect for the job via a nominations list or design competition, and provide advice right up to handover. Visit www.ribafind.org or call 020 7307 3700 for more.

What we do for buildings

Each of us has a favourite building – and it's never the same as the next person's. Like music and food, good architecture is a matter of taste. Well, up to a point. To be a success, a building must first meet the needs of its users, its owners and its environment. And if we want more successful buildings, we have to be more demanding.

In sectors such as education, healthcare and sport, the RIBA brings architects and clients together to raise design standards. We are helping to make Government departments tougher on the design quality and value for money of public buildings.

People are talking about architecture more than ever. The RIBA Stirling Prize on Channel 4 is the annual national climax of our regional award schemes. 'I want the doctor's surgery to win.' 'No! The library!' In the end, architecture wins. Our eyes are opened to the buildings around us – even if they're not our exact cup of tea.



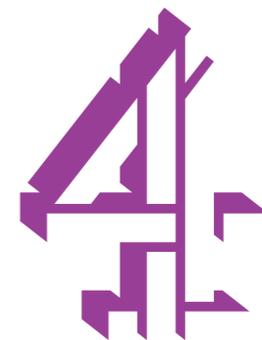
'It's an inspiring space'

The Downland Gridshell, West Sussex

A museum, building conservation workshop and timber store at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, West Sussex. Designed by Edward Cullinan Architects and shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize 2002, in association with The Architects' Journal.

Julian Bell, curator (standing): 'It's an inspiring space that really comes to life when we run carpentry workshops.'

What you can do



Watch the RIBA Stirling Prize

It's more than a pat on the back for architects. Like our other competitions and awards, the RIBA Stirling Prize raises standards in architecture by provoking debate. It shows how innovative ordinary buildings can be, and how good architecture can transform daily life. Watch on Channel 4 in October and view the shortlisted projects at www.architecture.com

Visit RIBApix at

www.architecture.com
Order a stunning image of your best-loved building or download pictures for a presentation or research. RIBApix puts thousands of photographs, drawings, engravings and manuscripts from the RIBA British Architectural Library online for easy searching. Get browsing at www.architecture.com/ribapix

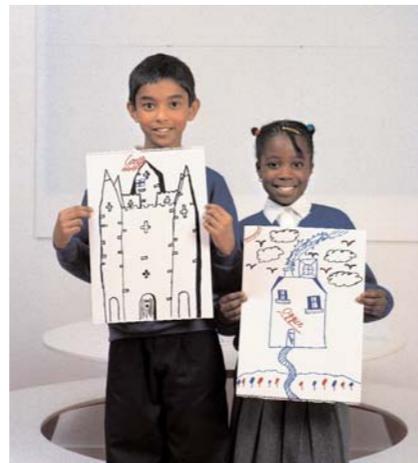
What we do for our profession

Some great architects had unlikely beginnings. Edwin Lutyens was a sickly child who missed out on school. After National Service, Norman Foster worked in a bakery and a factory.

Getting young people from all backgrounds interested in architecture now can help build a better profession, and a better future for all of us.

Working with professional architects in schools, the RIBA is helping to inspire the designers of tomorrow. Projects such as Designs On Britain, in which schoolchildren have worked with architects to redesign local landmarks, have brought design and the National Curriculum to life, and taught the professionals new skills, too.

The RIBA is taking action to increase the number of women and other under-represented groups in architecture. We are keeping standards of teaching high by assessing and validating architecture degree courses at British universities and many overseas. And our support for professionals - training, technical back-up and regional services - keeps them practising at the highest level.



'Architecture makes dreams come true'

Architects of tomorrow?

Doyin, aged 11 (above, right): 'I like buildings because they are comfortable and there are patterns on the walls and ceilings.'

Building a career

Anna Pavlova from Bulgaria (right), a fourth year student at Liverpool University's School of Architecture & Building Design: 'Architecture makes dreams come true but can never be perfect. It's complex, personal and very hard work.'



What you can do



Designs on Britain, Photographer © Andy Heading



© Morley von Sternberg

Become an architect

Got your own ideas about the built world around you? Then why not put them into practice? Find out more about becoming an architect by visiting www.careersinarchitecture.net, where you'll learn about skills and qualifications, where to study, and where it can all lead. Good luck!

Visit the Architecture Gallery at the V&A

Get up close to architects' sketchbooks, drawings, diaries, models and manuscripts in the Architecture Gallery and Study Rooms at the Victoria and Albert Museum, a partnership project between the RIBA and the V&A. You'll find a wealth of material on display or available to view from both extraordinary collections, covering 2,500 years of architecture.

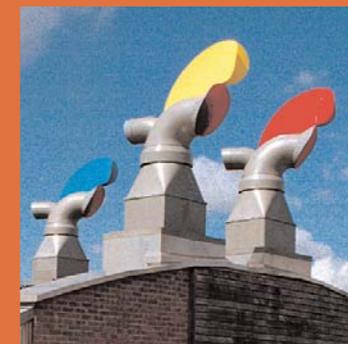
What we do for our environment

Those of us who live in buildings – which, frankly, covers just about all of us – can do a lot for the environment. But those of us who design buildings can do a great deal more.

Generating energy for buildings creates nearly half the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. That's far more than any form of motor transport. But spreading homes, offices, shops and schools so far apart that we need cars to reach them hardly helps matters either.

We need cleaner buildings and cleaner ways of building. Which is why the RIBA gives awards for sustainable architecture and makes sure that every young architect qualifies with the ability to 'sell' greener design to clients. And, in support of sustainable communities, we are pressing Government for a closer, more socially responsible fit between planning and development.

Wherever you're from, it's your built environment, and yours to make better.



'This place is a beacon for the future'

BedZed, Surrey

A zero (fossil) energy development by the Peabody Trust in Wallington, Surrey, designed by Bill Dunster Architects. Shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize 2003, in association with The Architects' Journal.

Mette Hardam-Hill and daughter **Marli**: 'This place is a beacon for the future. I hope more developers and councils follow the example it sets.'

What you can do



Visit Sustainability at architecture.com

Go green and head for the Sustainability section online to see architecture that is helping to change the environment for the better. Among dozens of inspiring case study projects are houses that show how you can improve the health of the planet at home, plus hospitals, schools, shops and museums.



Be green, build green

The greatest force for sustainable development is the the audience for architecture – and that's all of us. If you're planning to build and would like to find out more about your green design options, contact the RIBA Client Services team on 020 7307 3700. They can put you in touch with up to three practices in your area, all well-matched to your needs.

One of the world's leading gateways for information about architecture, run by the RIBA
www.architecture.com

Royal Institute of British Architects

66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD
T +44 (0) 20 7580 5533
F +44 (0) 20 7255 1541
info@inst.riba.org
www.architecture.com

RIBA in the regions

The RIBA has offices in the English regions and works with sister bodies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland:
T +44 (0) 20 7580 5533
www.architecture.com

Services

Find an architect

For help in selecting and appointing an architect visit
www.ribafind.org
email cs@inst.riba.org
or call T +44 (0) 20 7307 3700

If you require specific advice on architectural competitions visit
www.ribacompetitions.org
email riba.competitions@mail.riba.org
or call T +44 (0) 113 234 1335

Careers in architecture

To find out how to become an architect search:
www.careersinarchitecture.net

RIBApix

Access over 6,000 architectural images from RIBA Collections:
www.architecture.com/ribapix

RIBA Information Centre

Public T 0906 302 0400
Information line calls charged at 50p per minute in the UK. These lines cannot be accessed from outside the UK.
info@inst.riba.org
Library info (24-hour recorded)
T +44 (0) 20 7307 3707

Visiting RIBA headquarters

RIBA Gallery

Open Mon–Fri 10.00–18.00
Sat 10.00–17.00
gallery@inst.riba.org

RIBA Library

Open to the public (charge to non-members):
Tue 10.00–20.00
Wed–Fri 10.00–17.00
Sat 10.00–13.30
www.architecture.com/library

RIBA Photographs

The collection can be viewed by appointment:
Tue–Fri 10.00–17.00
T +44 (0) 20 7307 3627/3642
photo@inst.riba.org

RIBA Bookshop

The bookshop stocks a vast range of titles on landscape, construction and contracts:
T +44 (0) 20 7256 7222
sales@ribabookshops.com
www.ribabookshops.com

RIBA Restaurant

Open to the public:
Mon–Fri 08.00–18.00
Sat 09.00–16.00
If you would like to book a table in the restaurant please call:
+44 (0) 20 7631 0467

RIBA Bar

Open to the public using the building:
Mon–Fri 08.00–21.00
Sat 09.00–16.00

Hiring spaces at the RIBA

The RIBA provides a fantastic venue for conferences, meetings, weddings and dinners. Please contact the Venues team for further details:
www.riba-venues.com
T +44 (0) 20 7307 3888

RIBA at the V&A

Victoria and Albert Museum

Cromwell Road
London SW7 2RL
T +44 (0) 20 7942 2000
www.architecture.com

Architecture Gallery, V&A

Open daily 10.00–17.45
Free admission
Wed & last Fri of the month 10.00–22.00 (selected galleries remain open after 17.45)

RIBA Study Rooms, V&A

Open Tue–Sat 10.00–17.00
T +44 (0) 20 7307 3708
Please phone ahead to confirm the material you want is available

V&A school visits

For details about free one-hour guided visits, access to the study rooms and teachers' programme:
T +44 (0) 20 7942 2211

Booklet photography Ed Clark
except where specified otherwise