



# Our Cultural Impact

2024 Report

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Park Hill Phase 2.  
Credit: Tim Crocker.

Front cover image:  
Raise The Roof: Building for Change exhibition at RIBA Architecture Gallery 2024,  
artwork by Arinjoy Sen. Credit: Agnese Sanvito.

# A Year in Figures

10

Honorary  
Fellows  
Granted

150,000

Total Public-facing programme participants –  
the most in 5 years

183

RIBA Members  
serving as Award  
Jurors

34,000

Total visitors to RIBA Google Arts & Culture content

111

RIBA Awards  
provided at  
regional level

35

RIBA Talks & lectures  
held in the UK &  
internationally



# Our Cultural Remit: The House of Architecture

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Aligning with our mission and founding Charter's principles, RIBA is responsible for an inspirational cultural programme both nationally and internationally. The voluntary support and expertise of members, sponsors and our charitable partners have enabled the exceptional standard of this activity and have directly contributed to the successes outlined in this report.

For the last 190 years, we have provided access to our library and collections to everyone. Since moving to our purpose-built home in 66 Portland Place in 1934, we have expanded our public engagement to include public lectures, exhibitions, partnerships with RIBA Chartered Architects and Practices, as well as with regional and national museums, libraries, galleries, and schools and universities. Simultaneously, we have developed a comprehensive awards programme celebrating excellence in architecture close to home and across the world, mirroring our now enviable reach.

Our 1834 Charter makes clear that we do this for the benefit of civic society, with education and the sharing of knowledge at the heart of what we do, founded upon an international collection of works and objects through which we celebrate excellence, inspire, and inform.

As we approach our 200th anniversary in 2034, we are embarking on a major reimagining of our institution as a shared cultural destination, both physically and digitally. This report reflects the last full year of our occupation of our home prior to its complete refurbishment and renewal, a significant symbolic moment for all in our London home.



“ For the general advancement of Architecture, and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith ”

1834 Charter

66 Portland Place under construction, 5 January 1934.  
Credit: RIBA Collections.

▼ Wide Angle View: Architecture as social space in the Manplan series, 1969-70.  
Exhibition at RIBA Architecture Gallery 2024. Credit: Agnese Sanvito.



# Celebrating Excellence



# Awards and Honours

We have been celebrating outstanding work in the built environment for over 190 years. Our awards and prizes are regarded internationally as a mark of excellence. Recognising the best architecture, architects, research, and students.

During the year, 134 awards and prizes were made in the UK and around the world. Promoting and celebrating the very best in architecture and setting the standard for creating better buildings and places, and improving lives through thoughtful design.

We were also delighted to announce in 2024 the appointment of Simon Henley RIBA, Principal at architects Henley Halebrown, to the role of Chair of RIBA Awards Group.

“ It’s an honour to take on this role and to continue the work of the two recent chairs, Jo Bacon and Denise Bennetts. The RIBA Awards are the most important in the UK. They create debate nationwide. They highlight today what we mean when we talk about ‘architecture’, who it’s for, and what it can do. As the chair, it’s a rare opportunity to contribute to the decisions of the RIBA Awards Group. ”

**Simon Henley, Chair of RIBA Awards Group**



Simon Henley.  
Credit: Courtesy of architects Henley Halebrown



Muyiwa Oki. Credit: Nicholas Menniss.

“ The sheer breadth of work is quite astounding, with large infrastructure schemes sitting alongside high-quality detailed smaller projects. This is a testament to the standard of architecture in the UK right now, as we maintain a sense of ambition and consider how design must evolve to meet future needs. ”

**Muyiwa Oki, RIBA President**

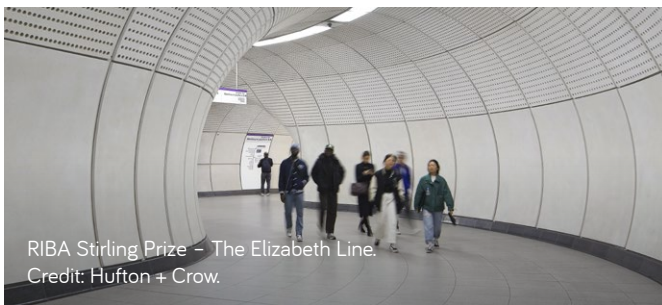


# 2024 National Awards

## Stirling Prize

**The Elizabeth Line** by **Grimshaw, Maynard, Equation and AtkinsRéalis** was named the winner of the Stirling Prize on 16 October 2024. The distinguished Stirling Prize is judged against a range of criteria including design vision; innovation and originality; capacity to stimulate and engage; accessibility and sustainability; and the level of client satisfaction.

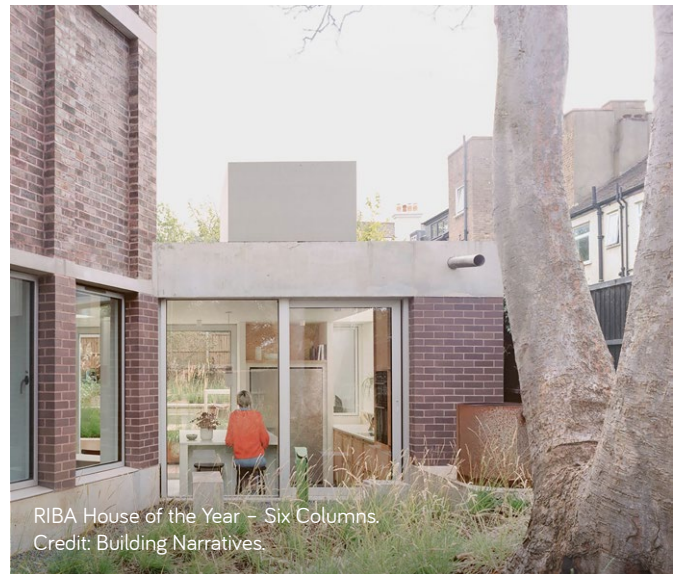
Over 600 guests attended the ceremony held at Roundhouse in Camden, London. The winner was also announced live on the BBC, with RIBA President and Jury Chair, Muiyiwa Oki, declaring The Elizabeth Line as a “triumph in architect-led collaboration, offering a flawless, efficient, beautifully choreographed solution to inner-city transport.”



RIBA Stirling Prize – The Elizabeth Line.  
Credit: Hufton + Crow.

## House of the Year

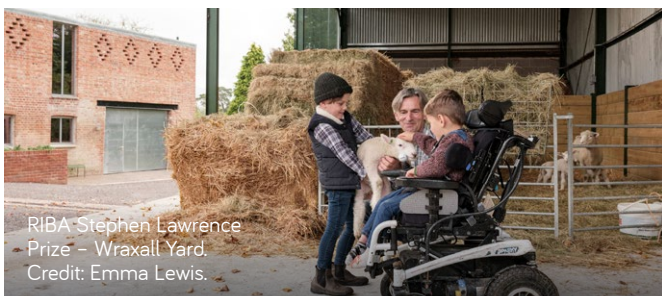
House of the Year 2024 was awarded to **Six Columns**. The House of the Year award was established in 2013 and is awarded to the best new house or house extension designed by an architect in the UK. The short film made of the project achieved received over 1 million views and became our most successful social media content of all time.



RIBA House of the Year – Six Columns.  
Credit: Building Narratives.

## Stephen Lawrence Prize

Founded by Baroness Doreen Lawrence OBE and the Marco Goldschmied Foundation this annual Prize was established in 1998 in memory of Stephen Lawrence, a teenager and aspiring architect who was the victim of a fatal racist attack in 1993. With a focus on encouraging and nurturing new talent, the award exclusively recognises projects led by an early career architect. This is typically someone who has qualified within five years prior to the project's completion date. The winner in 2024 was **Wraxall Yard**.



RIBA Stephen Lawrence Prize – Wraxall Yard.  
Credit: Emma Lewis.

“Wraxall Yard is a breath of fresh air in the field of accommodation suitable for people with disabilities. A seamless integration of great design and wellbeing, it has transformed a disused Dorset dairy farm into a community space, holiday lets, and an educational smallholding.”

RIBA, May 2024

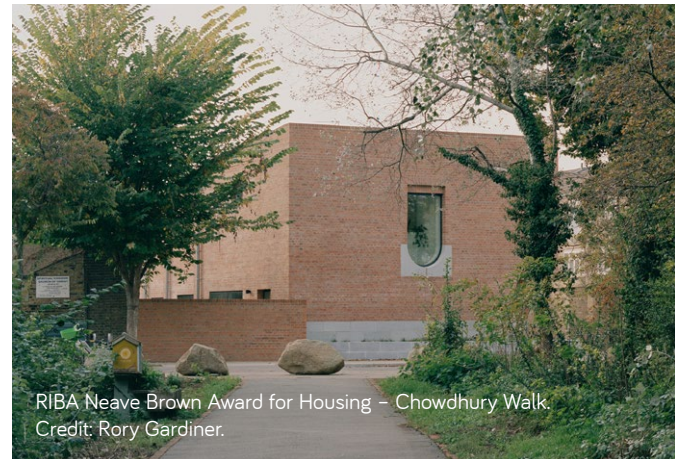
# 2024 National Awards

## RIBA Neave Brown Award for Housing

“Chowdhury Walk is part of Hackney Council’s programme to build new council homes on small sites, providing eleven two-storey terraced houses on a former garage site. A new public mews provides both informal space to play and a well-used new public route. The homes feel uplifting upon entering, with the simple intuitive floor plan making efficient use of space while supporting the busyness of family life.”

**Astrid Smitham, Jury Chair and 2023 Neave Brown Award for Housing winner**

The Neave Brown Award for Housing, given in honour of modernist architect and social housing pioneer, Neave Brown, recognises the UK’s best new affordable housing was awarded to Chowdhury Walk by Al-Jaward Pike.



RIBA Neave Brown Award for Housing – Chowdhury Walk.  
Credit: Rory Gardiner.

## RIBA Reinvention Award

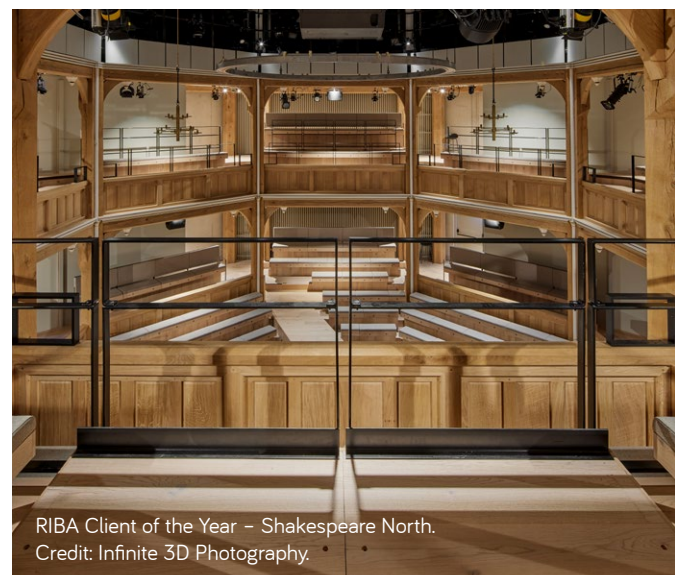
The RIBA Reinvention Award recognises achievement in the creative reuse of existing buildings through transformative projects. 2024’s RIBA Reinvention Award was awarded to Croft 3 on the Isle of Mull, Scotland by fardaa. The brief was to create a restaurant space that retained the intimate and simple character of a croft building while maximising the views of the awe-inspiring Isle of Ulva landscape and across the Atlantic Ocean. Meeting the National Scenic Area’s expectations for design quality and a clear social benefit, Croft 3 transforms a once dilapidated ruin into a truly unique, intimate community space.



RIBA Reinvention Award – Croft 3. Credit: David Barbour.

## RIBA Client of the Year

We also seek to recognise those that provide the ambition and resource to architects, allowing them to push boundaries and create excellence in their work. We named Shakespeare North Trust and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council as 2024 RIBA Client of the Year for their ambitious community regeneration project Shakespeare North in Prescott.



RIBA Client of the Year – Shakespeare North.  
Credit: Infinite 3D Photography.



# 2024 National Awards

## RIBA International Award for Excellence

The RIBA International Awards are architecture's highest global accolades. Typically taking place every other year, 2024 saw a return to action for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. 230 projects were submitted for the RIBA International Awards, 45 projects were shortlisted, with visits carried out by 35 Local Ambassadors. 22 winners of the RIBA International Awards for Excellence were announced on 12 June.

“What we needed was a material that would stand up to sandstorms and teenagers. Both of them cause a lot of wear and tear.”

**Bea Sennewald, Director of Projects at Article 25**

One of the recipients, Collège Hampaté Bá, is a low carbon and passively ventilated school located in the north of Niger's capital city Niamey. The design was created by Article 25, the first NGO to win this award, and provides subsidised education to children from lower income families.



RIBA International Award for Excellence –  
Collège Hampaté Bá. Credit: Toby Pear, Article 25.

## RIBA International Emerging Architect Prize



RIBA International Emerging Architect –  
Six Bricolage-houses. Credit: Bai Yu.

The RIBA International Emerging Architect recognises those who have been practising for 10 years or less and are making a significant contribution to the field of international architecture.

In 2024, it was won by Zhang Yuxing + Han Jing of the ARCity Office, who commented, “Winning the RIBA International Emerging Architect 2024 is not only an honour but also a significant affirmation of our innovative experiments. A ‘contradictory unity’ composed of various elements such as old and new, heritage and life, poverty and prosperity, ruins and construction, wilderness and artificiality, everyday life and monumentality. This creates delightful mixed-use spaces and civic public realm but also possesses the greatest potential for sustainable growth from the very beginning. Perhaps this represents a new paradigm for future cities and architecture - what we call ‘Bricolage Architecture.’”

# 2024 International Awards

RIBA International Prize - Modulus Matrix. Credit: Jose Hevia.



## RIBA International Prize

The RIBA International Prize 2024 was awarded in late November to Modulus Matrix: 85 Social Housing in Cornellà, Spain, designed by Peris + Toral Arquitectes, with an accompanying short film of the project. On behalf of the Grand Jury, Lu Wenyu said: “Through this innovative approach to social housing, Peris + Toral has responded to the shifting demands of societal groupings by crafting a housing project that is adaptive, inclusive and sustainable.”

## RIBA Royal Gold Medal

In recognition of a lifetime's work, the Royal Gold Medal is given to a person or group of people who have had a significant influence either directly or indirectly on the advancement of architecture.

The 2024 Royal Gold Medal was awarded to **Professor Lesley Lokko OBE** in a public event on 2 May 2024. The sold-out event was our most inclusive Royal Gold Medal ceremony held in our long history, with over 420 attendees at 66 Portland Place.

Professor Lokko is an award-winning Scottish-Ghanian architectural academic and author. Prior to

receiving the Royal Gold Medal, she was recognised by RIBA in 2021 with the Annie Spink Award for Excellence in Architectural Education.

A year later she received the Ada Louise Huxtable Prize for Contribution to Architecture. Her prominent academic positions include Dean of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York, and the founding Director of the African Futures Institute (AFI), a postgraduate school of architecture and public events platform in Accra, Ghana. She was appointed as the curator of the 18th Venice Biennale of Architecture, becoming the first ever black curator of the Biennale, in 2021.

“ I came into architecture seeking certainties, looking for answers. Instead, I found questions and possibilities, far richer, more curious, and more empathetic ways to interpret and shape the world. Architecture gave me language, in all its forms—visual, written, built, performed—and that language, in turn, has given me such hope ”

**Professor Lesley Lokko OBE,**  
**Royal Gold Medal 2024 winner**



Prof. Lesley Lokko OBE.  
Credit: RIBA/Apag Studios.

# Awards and Honours

## RIBA Honorary Fellows

RIBA Honorary Fellowships celebrate the contributions people have made to architecture in its broadest sense – its promotion, administration and outreach – without directly working in the architectural practice themselves.

Having been approved by the Board, the 2024 Honorary Fellows were announced in April and presented with their Fellowships in a private ceremony on 12 June. A review of the new due diligence process implemented in 2023 was undertaken, with amendments to the procedure agreed for future years.

A separate project was undertaken to consolidate and update our record keeping on all Honorary Fellows, dating back to the first to be appointed. This is to improve our plans to engage with the Honorary Fellowship cohort in 2025 and beyond, seeking their significant and diverse insight in developing our institution, the House of Architecture programme, and bicentennial activities.

## Revisiting the Process of Managing The King's Honours

“ It was an immense privilege to chair the RIBA Honours Committee 2024; and to recognise and show appreciation for the remarkable, admirable work of these individuals. Truly talented, inspirational, and devoted to their professional roles, our 2024 fellows have each managed to effect positive change within the architecture and built environment, from which we all benefit. Their unwavering passion and enthusiasm cannot be underestimated, and it is an honour to formally recognise their success. ”

**Muyiwa Oki, RIBA President**

Over the past decade, 52 individuals have received Government Honours for their contributions to architecture. However, we have in recent years played a limited role in supporting nominations. In 2024, a proposal was developed in consultation with the President, Chair, and CEO to reinstate a structured nomination process. This will be implemented in 2025.

**Do you have an image  
for this page?**





# Inspiring About Architecture

# 2

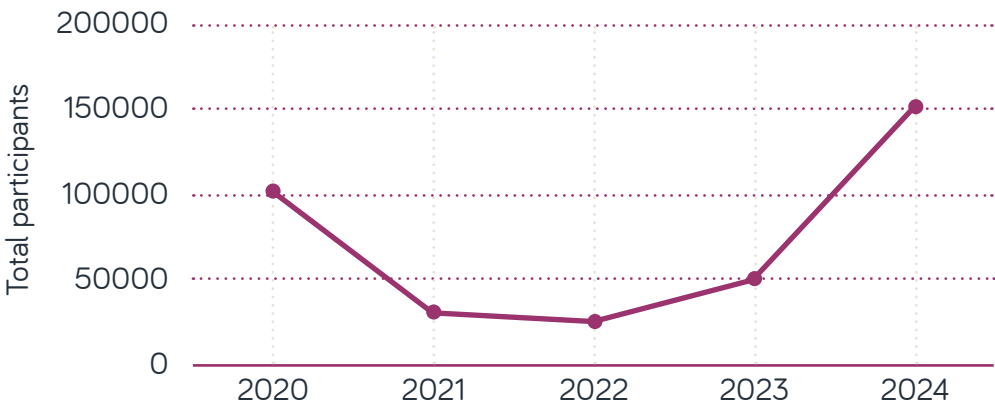
# Exhibitions & Public Programmes

Through our exhibitions and events, we share architectural ideas and the people behind them drawing on our rich collections, new commissions, and original research. Our aim is to open architectural conversations and knowledge to everyone, by creating programmes that are thought provoking, accessible, and inclusive.

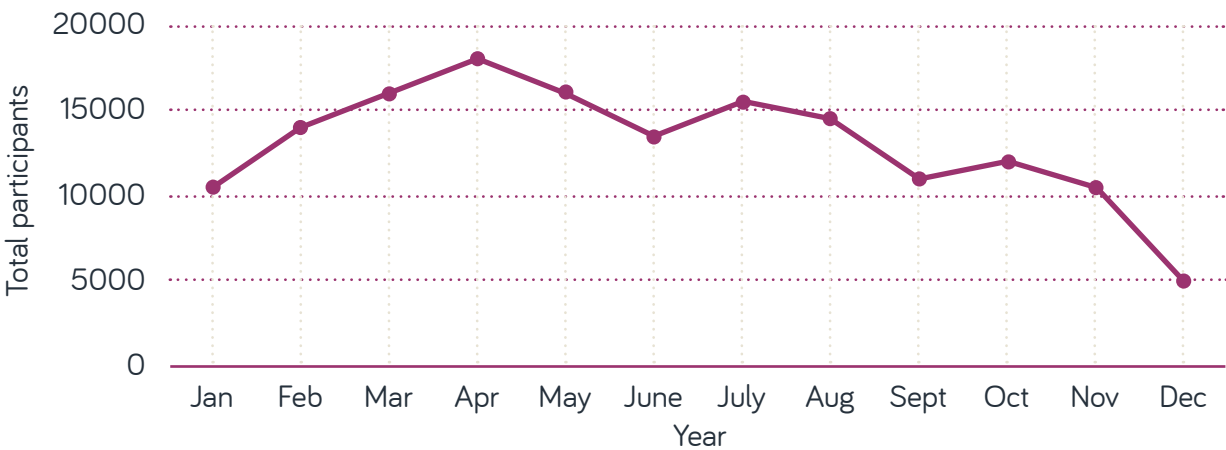
Our year-on-year performance has been exceptional, bolstered significantly by the partnership with Tate

Liverpool at RIBA North and increasing our range of collaborations more broadly. Monthly figures reflect the cycle of open/closing of exhibitions and the “seasons” that shape the public programming structure. The challenge for RIBA both when it re-opens 66 Portland Place and when Tate Liverpool resume operations at their main Liverpool site, will be to develop and grow our own audiences. This will be a measure of success for the investment being made under the House of Architecture.

Total Public-facing programme participants by year (2020-2024)



Total Exhibition and Public Programme Attendees in 2024 (incl. RIBA North)



# Exhibitions

## Raise The Roof: Building For Change

Our summer exhibition addressed the challenging historical features embedded in 66 Portland Place and used four new commissions to start much needed dialogue and debate on how we can deliver an open, inclusive, and equitable space for the organisation and wider profession. Curated by our very own Margaret Cabbage, over 5500 visitors saw the exhibition, with many contributing to our debate wall within the Gallery, responding to our questionnaire and interviews. The exhibition was also covered in various press outlets, including Stir, Dezeen, Wallpaper, RIBA J and the Guardian.



“The more people that can see this, the more the conversation progresses.”

General public wall comment

“It’s now an opportunity in many ways for the RIBA to do something about it. I haven’t been to the building for many years, it’s never really been brought to my attention before, so this is a focal point now.”

RIBA member (interviewee)

“This exhibition is a great way to start. If you can exhibit difficult questions like this, I think there’s room for change... Like it says, a building for change.”

RIBA Member (interviewee)

## Other Architecture Gallery (66 Portland Place) exhibitions over 2024, include:

### Wide Angle View

After a six-month run, with more than 8,000 visitors, our popular collections-based exhibition, Wide Angle View, closed in April 2024. Accompanying the exhibition - and supported with philanthropic grant funding - was a sell-out catalogue, “Wide Angle View: architecture as social space in the Manplan Series

1969-1970 (RIBA Publishing 2023)” including a foreword by Lord Foster RIBA. The catalogue was edited by our Photographs Curator and curator of the exhibition, Valeria Carullo, who provided over 25 tours, including school groups, to help widen our audience and inspire young minds.



# Exhibitions

## Difficult Sites: Architecture Against The Odds

Our last exhibition before we close Portland Place, *Difficult Sites: Architecture Against the Odds*, explored remarkable feats of architectural achievement in the face of complicated or unusual site conditions. Curated by our then Chief Curator, Charles Hind, and Exhibitions Curator, Pete Collard, to date the exhibition has had over 7,000 visitors alongside a public programme including curator tours, walking tours and panel discussions. The exhibition was also covered in various media, including *Dezeen*, *Hypebeast*, *Icon* and *Building Design*.



"Difficult Sites: Architecture Against the Odds" exhibition at RIBA Architecture Gallery 2024-25. Credit: Agnese Sanvito.

“ Dodging railway lines, squeezed into historic sites, or down a Highland lane... how building design responds to constraints makes for a fascinating exhibition. ”

‘Tight corners, red tape, and amazing grace’ - *The Guardian*, 20 October 2024

## Other Practice Space (66 Portland Place) exhibitions over 2024, include:

### Sustainable Design in The Gulf – Past, Present, & Future (October – November 2024)

Developed in collaboration with the RIBA Gulf Chapter, *Sustainable Design in the Gulf – Past, Present & Future*, was conceived to show the importance of the topic, to challenge preconceptions and to showcase the impact of our members' work over 50 years. Its subtitle, 'Past, Present and Future,' shows how the context of both place and time informs designers' thinking.

### President's Medal Student Awards (December 2024 – January 2025)

President Medal Student awards are considered the most prestigious and long-lasting in architectural education in the world. The programme is run by the Education and Learning team under the direction of Dr Jenny Russell with the Exhibitions and Public Programmes team providing support. Every year, we hosts an exhibition of the winning entries, including short films and interviews with the winners.

### Royal Gold Medal Display: Professor Lesley Lokko OBE (May – September 2024)

A display held to highlight the array of work conducted by our 2024 Royal Gold Medal winner.

## Public Programmes

Alongside the exhibition programme we held more than 35 events in 2024, including walking tours, lectures, symposia, private views, and curator's talks, attracting around 5,000 people in London, the Regions, and internationally.

### Many More Parts than M!

8 February 2024 – 134 attendees

We hosted the DisOrdinary Architecture Project for a panel discussion and launch of their new compendium reimagining disability, inclusion, and access beyond compliance. We delivered a safe and inclusive event, with extremely positive feedback from both attendees and speakers, praising us for promoting inclusion in the profession.

The event has led to continued collaboration with Jos Boys of the DisOrdinary Architecture Project, supporting our work to increase accessibility at 66 Portland Place.

►  
“Wide Angle View: Architecture as social space in the Manplan series 1969-70” exhibition at RIBA Architecture Gallery 2024.  
Credit: Agnese Sanvito.

### Wide Angle View: Perspectives on Manplan

6 March 2024 – 104 attendees

We welcomed 104 attendees to a discussion on the seminal Manplan publication. The event opened with a discussion between the Chair, architectural critic, writer and editor Catherine Slessor, and renowned photographer Patrick Ward and continued with a panel discussion including curator Valeria Carullo, editor Simon Esterson, and journalist Jonathan Glancey.



### Raise the Roof programme 19 September 2024 – 300+ attendees

An extensive public programme was staged to support the exhibition ‘Raise the Roof: Building for Change’. This included a RIBA Late, attended by over 300 visitors and ‘Reframing Colonial Legacies: a sonic journey from Johannesburg to London’ – a sound performance by Johannesburg-based cultural practitioners Sibonelo Gumede and Nombuso Mathibela, bringing a new programme format to RIBA. A full-day symposium, ‘Decolonising Architecture: Reimagining spaces and histories’, was held in September and featured contributions by Dr Tania Sengupta & Stuart King, Bushra Mohamed,

Danah Abdulla, and Dr Neal Shasore, with the talks available to view online.

“ It is not easy to discuss this controversial topic openly to the public, I appreciated RIBA took the step to address this issue. ”

**Raise the Roof event participant**

# Public Programmes

## RIBA + Vitra Talk Series

The series, now in its sixth year, and held in partnership with Vitra Bathrooms, presented the theme Challenge: Rethink. Keynote speakers and panels of leading and emerging architects shared their practice and debated how architecture can be used as a catalyst for positive urban and social change. This year we held the talks at venues in London, Liverpool and Bristol.



RIBA + Vitra "Rethink Sustainability with Mario Cucinella".  
Credit: Jackie King.

### Rethink Sustainability with Mario Cucinella

29 May 2024 - 141 attendees

Guests attended a fascinating talk from the renowned Italian architect Mario Cucinella that explored the different contexts of building and regeneration in Italy, through the lens of environmental design. The talk was chaired by Samta Nadeem, Curatorial Director at STIR.

### Rethink Conventions with Lina Ghotmeh

19 November 2024 - 153 attendees

The final UK talk in the 2024 RIBA+Vitra Talk series invited internationally and critically acclaimed architect Lina Ghotmeh to Portland Place, chaired by writer, editor and curator, George Kafka.

### Rethink Housing

18 June 2024 - 70 attendees

Held at RIBA North in Liverpool, a panel featuring Paul Karakusevic from Karakusevic Carson Architects, Cany Ash from Ash Sakula, Alex Turner from Studio Mutt and Joseph Zeal Henry discussed Britain's growing housing crisis and ways to resolve it.

### Rethink Regenerate

10 September 2024 - 70 attendees

Our first ever RIBA+Vitra talk in Bristol, Rethink Regenerate, was attended by local architects and professionals, and students who heard a discussion on sustainable regeneration of heritage assets and community spaces by a panel of industry experts that included Lucy Barron, Graciela Moreno, Simon Malam and others.

### Living buildings, thoughtful landscapes

27 November 2024 - 1,000+ attendees

Held at the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre, we continued our international RIBA+Vitra programme in Istanbul with Craig Dykers of Snøhetta, exploring how Snøhetta's creative process creates connections between architecture and landscape. Over 1,000 young people attended, with Vitra providing inter-city transport for young students to attend from across Turkey.



# Public Programmes

## RIBA Stirling Prize Talks

### RIBA 2024 Stirling Prize shortlist talks

3 October - 218 attendees

All six of the shortlisted practices presented their projects to a packed Jarvis Hall at 66 Portland Place, ahead of the award ceremony at the Roundhouse on 16 October. Nominees included: Jessam Al-Jawad (Al-Jawad Pike), Julian Maynard (Maynard), Demetri Porphyrios (Porphyrios Associates), Jamie Fobert (Jamie Fobert Architects), Annalie Riches (Mikhail Riches), and Clementine Blakemore (Clementine Blakemore Architects).

### RIBA Stirling Prize 2024 winner's talk

5 November - 161 attendees

The winning practice Grimshaw and their collaborators returned to expand on their presentation about The Elizabeth Line and sat down with Deputy Editor of Dezeen, Cajsia Carlson. The RIBA Youth Forum was invited to submit questions to the team and to attend on the night.

Stirling Prize 2024 Shortlist Talk.  
Credit: Jackie King.

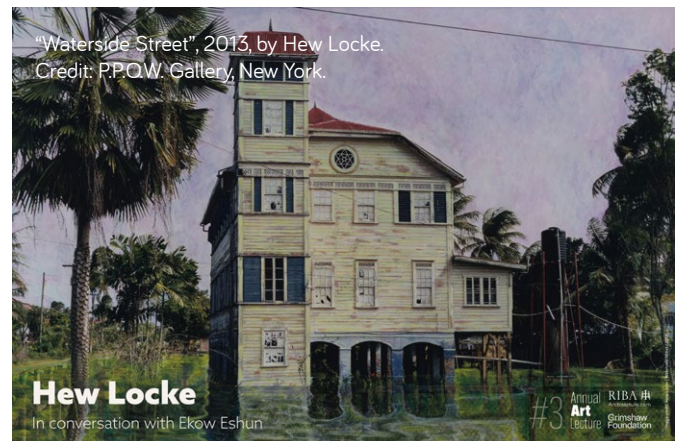


## Exhibitions and Public Programmes – Partnerships

### RIBA and Grimshaw Foundation annual art lecture: Hew Locke and Ekow Eshun

5 December 2024 - 332 attendees

The 2024 Grimshaw Foundation annual art lecture was given by Guyanese-British sculptor Hew Locke, followed by a conversation and questions with writer and curator Ekow Eshun. The 2024 lecture explored Locke's practice and its relationship with the built environment.



“ Hew Locke here today made me really think about my life. The past is never the past, it's literally our life in some way because it helps us grow and develop as a person and it influences how we choose or pick our decisions in the future. ”

Evelyn, Westminster City School student

# Public Programmes

## Open House Festival

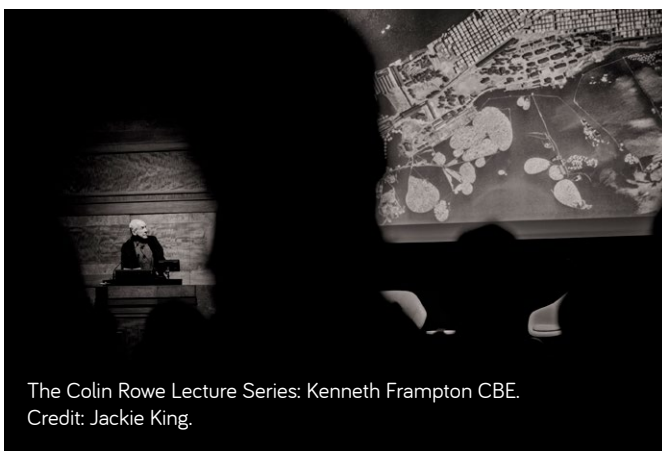
13-21 September - 300 attendees

To mark 90 years of 66 Portland Place, we hosted a day of tours and events that brought the building's history to life. Highlights included selections from the RIBA Collections, a final chance to experience 'Raise the Roof: Building for Change' through curator-led and BSL-accessible tours, and a library display honouring the work of renowned architectural photographer Martin Charles. The festival also featured a special City Curators event, led by graduates of the Open City Accelerate programme, offering a workshop, building tour, and panel discussion inviting fresh perspectives on architecture and the built environment.

## The Colin Rowe Lecture Series: Kenneth Frampton

27 November - 400 attendees

Kenneth Frampton CBE, one of the world's leading historians of modernist and contemporary architecture, delivered a keynote to a sold-out auditorium of 400 attendees to discuss the role of the image in architecture, particularly the crucial role of architectural photography.



The Colin Rowe Lecture Series: Kenneth Frampton CBE.  
Credit: Jackie King.

## Revealing the Collections Project and Google Arts & Culture

RIBA's Google Arts & Culture pages have been developed over several years. Most recently added was an online exhibition examining 90 years of British Architectural History at 66 Portland Place. The exhibition features a variety of media from our own archives, including photography, plans and elevations, sound recordings, and interactive views. Over 34,000 people around the world visited our Google Arts & Culture content in 2024.

## Tate Liverpool + RIBA

On 10 November we launched the next phase of stories on the Google Arts & Culture Partnership, with ten new digital stories, including an introduction and audio message from RIBA President Muyiwa Oki. We also strengthened our partnership with Tate Liverpool and initiated a partnership with the Liverpool Biennial. Since its inception in 2023 the partnership has seen 177,000 visitors to RIBA North.



RIBA North Exterior.  
Credit: Paul McMullin.

# Exhibitions and Public Programmes

## Audience Research

The Exhibitions & Public Programmes team is developing and embedding an audience-centred approach to ensure that our exhibitions and events are relevant to our audiences and meet their expectations and needs. In addition to online surveys, we began in-depth visitor research on our exhibitions in 2024. This work is especially important as we redefine our programme while presenting it from alternative venues during the building's closure.

Raise the Roof exhibition offered the ideal starting point, as we tackled a controversial topic of decolonising architecture, by firstly looking at our own headquarters and using artists' commissions. We conducted surveys and direct observations as well as in-depth interviews with 60 participants to gauge their reactions and comments. The report highlighted our visitors' appreciation of RIBA for exploring these challenging topics and their expectations in continuing the debate. We are conducting the same research on 'Difficult Sites', as a collection-based exhibition of which the findings will be available in June 2025.





▼ Festival of the Future 2025, produced by RIBA and Beyond the Box, welcomed 2,000 young people of all ages and backgrounds into 66 Portland Place. Credit: Patrick Dempsey



# Sharing Knowledge

# 3

# Education & Learning

The RIBA Education and Learning team focuses on both the formal process of architectural education and a broader introduction to architecture and the built environment for all ages of the general public.

There was a 15% increase in participants across our Learning programmes in 2024 with over 7500 participants in total. The Education programme provides support for architecture students through scholarships, bursaries and grants. In 2024 we distributed a record annual total of £320,000 to students and researchers through 11 funding schemes.

## RIBA Work Experience Programme

Launched in October, the RIBA Work Experience Programme enables secondary school students from disadvantaged backgrounds across the country to access vocational skills training through free placements with architecture practices. The programme was inundated with requests and 150 students will complete work experience placements with architectural practices across the UK in the programme's first year.

## National Schools Programme

Our National Schools Programme partners architecture professionals with teachers to design and deliver free, creative, and cross-curricular architecture-focused workshops in schools. In 2024, our Learning team engaged 64 Architecture volunteer Ambassadors to work with 36 schools and 2,160 pupils. We also welcomed 1,360 pupils to Portland Place to take part in model making workshops in response to our 'Raising the Roof' and 'Difficult Sites' exhibitions.



AHMM Work Experience placement.  
Credit: Sophie Draper

## RIBA Youth Forum

RIBA's Youth Forum engages young people from across London to share ideas and provide feedback on our programmes, activities and resources to ensure they remain appealing and relevant. The Youth Forum participated in trips to universities, exhibitions and organisations linked to architecture and has helped to plan our Festival of the Future.

## Soho Lights

Working in partnership with Architecture for Kids, our annual Soho Kids Xmas Lights project showcased lighting designs created by pupils from Soho Parish Primary School. The children took inspiration from the architecture of their local area, fashion, and the theme of identity of place. 14 winning designs were transformed into LED lighting designs by Blachere Illumination UK and were installed along the streets of Soho by Sparkx between November and January.

# Education & Learning

### Workshops and Family Fun Days

Our Informal Learning workshops cater for a broad range of ages, from RIBA Baby sessions for toddlers, to holiday workshops for 7-18 year-olds and creative workshops and tours for over 55s, engaging over 900 participants through the year. We also hosted a specialist workshop for deaf families run by two deaf architect educators.

We welcomed over 1,100 members of the public through our family fun days which provided opportunities for families to engage with different aspects of architecture and the built environment. Three were inspired by 2024 RIBA exhibitions and there was also a 'big building birthday bash' to celebrate the 90th birthday of 66 Portland Place which focused on the building itself.

### Bursaries, Scholarships and Research Awards

RIBA Part 1 and Part 2 Bursary schemes provide long-term financial support to architecture students who demonstrate talent and commitment to their studies and who might struggle to cover the costs of living and course-related expenditure. In 2024, we were able to award £102,000 to 17 students through these schemes. In addition, two John and David Hubert bursaries were awarded to students in situations of forced displacement and five RIBA Wren Insurance Scholarships were awarded to outstanding Part 2 students who also have the opportunity to be mentored by an architect member of the Wren.

The RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship provides a travel grant to facilitate international research relating to the sustainable survival of cities and towns. In 2024 it was awarded to Thomas Warren, for his project Africa 360° to investigate how future off-grid cities can eliminate the time consuming, costly, and maintenance-heavy nature of city scale infrastructure – instead using self-sustaining energy, water, and food systems.

Our Research Fund provides annual grants of up to £12,000 to individuals conducting independent architectural research at any stage of their careers in practice or academia. In 2024, £70,000 was awarded to eight researchers.



The RIBA LKE Ozolins Studentship is awarded to an individual who wishes to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) in the field of Architecture. The 2024 studentship was awarded to Carmel Keren, Central Saint Martins (UAL), for her PhD “Staging Tottenham: investigating the power of performance in transforming marginalised experiences in public space”.

The RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development funds research to address environmental and ethical issues and enhance the quality of life of communities across the globe. The 2024 Award went to the research project: “Unlocking Indigenous Stone Construction in the UK: A Guide for Sustainable Sourcing”.



# Library & Collections

The continued resurgence in user numbers since the pandemic, preparation for major collection moves and service changes, advances in digital collections management and stewardship and a full programme of loans, acquisitions and cataloguing and more, made 2024 an especially busy year for our Library and Collections team. With many exciting new developments on the horizon, it is a pleasure to reflect on what was achieved during the year and share the hard work done by the team. This report can only show a few highlights but it gives a flavour of all that we have achieved.

Nearly 5,000 specialist enquiries were answered this year – ranging from the very general to the very specific and covering an astonishing array of themes and subject matter. RIBApix also continues to generate significant public engagement through enquiries.

Highlighted below are a selection of feedback messages received by the team, highlighting the respect and standard offered to users of the Library & Collections:

“ Dear Valeria, Lauren, Fiona, Melanie, Irene, and Jason. I just wanted to express my sincere gratitude to all of you. It's clear that it required a significant amount of effort and dedication to organise all the materials for me, and I deeply appreciate the time and care you put into making everything accessible. Your kindness and support made my visit both productive and memorable. Although it is a small gesture, I want to assure you that I will acknowledge my gratitude publicly in my thesis. It's the least I can do to recognise the invaluable assistance you provided. Thank you once again for everything. ”

**Research user**

“ Thank you so much, Jason, for your incredibly thorough research. I am so grateful to you for the information you've been able to find and your diligence in acquiring it. There is a lot for me to follow up on. It is amazing when you start to follow information down the rabbit hole; little bits here and there gradually make the picture appear! Again, my thanks! ”

**Member of the public**

“ Thank you so much for the kind welcome at RIBA on Thursday. All the students were thrilled to have such a friendly introduction to a place they expected to be quite intimidating. Please pass on our thanks to Brian, it was incredibly useful for them not only for this project but in their future careers to know how to access the library. ”

**Student group visit**

# Library & Collections

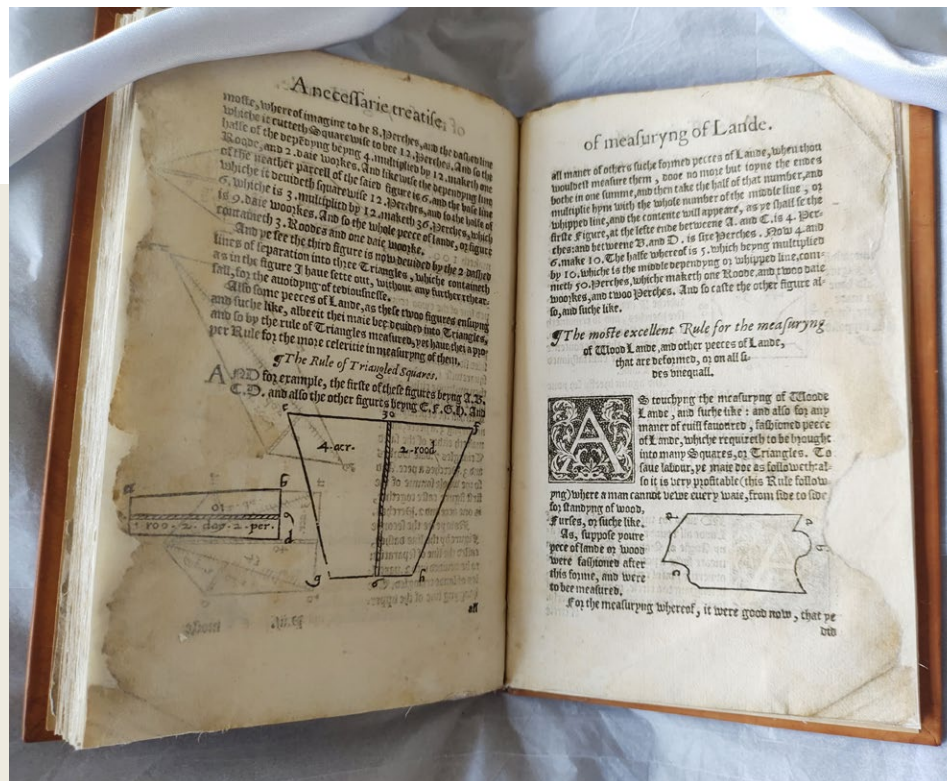
## Collection Care and Conservation

The generous support of the American Friends of the British Architectural Library continued to support the conservation and cleaning, as well as proper storage, of our Rare Books collection, containing 4,371 titles. Up to the end of December 2024, 3,355 volumes have been surface cleaned from this collection. An audit of the packaging needs of the Rare Books collection was completed in preparation for relocation, following on from the conservation work, and packaging for the move in individual volume-specific boxes is underway. Valentine Leigh's *The most profitable and commendable science, of surveying of lands, tenementes, and hereditaments* (1592) had been affected badly by mould damage throughout the whole text-block (see below).

Unfortunately, this had led to large areas of losses, and very soft, vulnerable pages. Each page was strengthened with a 5% methyl cellulose adhesive that re-sized the paper. This was applied through a layer of thin tengujo Japanese paper which consolidated the paper, and in-fills of sekishu Japanese paper were applied using wheat starch paste. In addition to this, we continued the repair of the 1950's Powell & Moya Skylon drawings, and the conserving, mounting and framing of the oversize Le Corbusier lecture drawings.



Valentine Leigh's *The most profitable and commendable science, of surveying of lands, tenementes, and hereditaments* (1592) before treatment (top) and repairs after treatment (right)



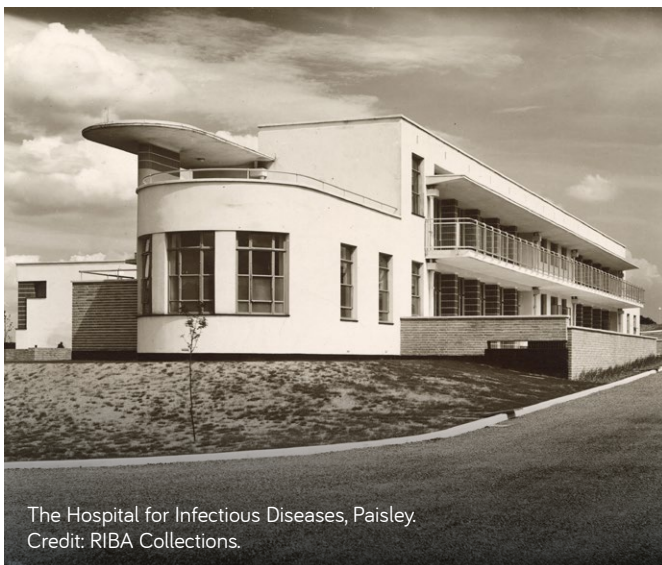
# Library & Collections

## Digitisation and Ribapix

By the end of 2024, more than 140,000 images of items from the collection were online on RIBApix. Currently 32,000 photographic negatives, largely from the 1950s, held in freezer storage are being digitised. This was 95% complete as of December 2024. Digitisation of this material significantly increases its accessibility. In addition, a significant achievement was the completion of the cataloguing of the Martin Charles archive. Over 30,000 negatives have been individually digitised and catalogued with all these images now online on RIBApix. The exhibition 'An Architect's Eye', curated by Suzanne Waters and Anthony Wilkinson, celebrating Martin Charles's work, was held in the RIBA Library exhibition space during the Autumn of 2024.

## The Architectural Periodicals Index

Almost 6,000 index records were added to the Architectural Periodicals Index (API) during 2024, which was 1,000 more than had been set as a target for the team in this year. 100-120 titles are indexed and feature in the new API records.



## Acquisitions

64 new acquisitions were made, including archives, drawings, photographs, manuscript letters, medals, models and rare books. Highlights include:

- An extensive part of the photographic archive of Burnet Tait & Lorne, donated by Russell Tait, relative of Thomas Tait.
- Photographs of the work of Anupama Kundoo taken by Javier Callejas, donated by the architect.
- A perspective sketch for a competition design for rebuilding the National Gallery, London by Matthew Digby Wyatt, purchased with the assistance of the ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund.
- Autograph letters by C.F.A. Voysey, purchased with the assistance of the Friends of the National Libraries and Julie Flower, Chair of the Voysey Society.
- Remaining parts of the archive of Raymond Erith, including drawings, models and drawing instruments, presented by the architect's daughter, Lucy Archer.
- A collection of material documenting the work of Hugh Whitehead, relating to the field of parametric modelling, presented by his widow, Julie Whitehead.





# Library & Collections

## Discovery: Cataloguing

Thanks to a generous legacy gift made by the Notleys family, the Leslie Martin archive is undergoing cataloguing, with completion expected in early 2025. Once completed, this significant 20 century collection will be available to researchers, opening many new avenues of study. We have continued to catalogue new books for the library, over 150 per month in a typical period.

“ I love the RIBA Library catalogue so much, it is an absolute lifesaver when students want something specific. ”

UK university architecture librarian colleague

## Library and Collections Conference, Summer 2024

Led by Valeria Carullo, RIBA Collections held a two-day conference on the role we played in supporting refugee architects in the lead up war in Europe and the impact those architects had on architecture in the UK, USA, and beyond.

‘Displaced Lives: Architects Seeking Refuge on the brink of the Second World War’ attracted a distinguished international line of speakers and new research papers and was part-supported by a generous grant from the Association of Jewish Refugees.

## Collection Moves and Services Planning

2024 was largely a year of preparation, although some moves of material did take place before the planned closure of 66 Portland Place, most notably the full cleaning, conservation packing and transfer to specialist storage of our Silver collection. This was previously held in the legendary Silver Cupboard at 66 Portland Place, the location of which was known only to a select few.

Also in 2024, the early stages of planning our moves from the V&A in 2027 began, with significant amounts of auditing, packing and preparation work being planned. A full Internal Audit of our collections by external auditors helped make sure our documentation and other processes were in good shape ready for this task.

2024 saw us announce a partnership with The London Archives to provide accommodation for our Library team and access at their site in Clerkenwell to be able to retrieve the most frequently used material from 66 Portland Place during its closure. The news was featured on morning news channels with Adrian Steel being interviewed. Planning began for service provision from September 2025 at this location and from Crown Fine Art in Stockwell, where our photographs and books will be housed and where appointment-only access will be available.

Do you have an image  
for this page?

# Library & Collections

### Collections Digital Gateway

A major focus of 2024 has been on advancing our Collections Management System project that will help us manage and easily access the catalogue data of our collections in a far better way than we do at present. This project is scheduled to complete in 2025.

The team had a big success in securing the support of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program with a grant of £150,000 to enable the storage, preservation, and accessibility of digital items within our world-class architectural collections. The focus of the project, led by Anthony Wilkinson, Library and Systems Manager who also becomes our first Bloomberg Tech Fellow, is the new items received into the collections. These items are increasingly in 'born-digital' formats, in particular Computer-aided design (CAD) drawings and digital photographs, reflecting the pervasiveness of digital technology and design within today's architecture profession.

With Bloomberg Philanthropies' support, we will develop and implement a state-of-the-art Digital

Archive Management System, allowing us to significantly advance our capacity to securely store, manage and protect our growing collection of 'born-digital' items. The project will also support the transfer of existing 'born-digital' materials currently held in unsuitable storage conditions, safeguarding their integrity and ensuring they remain accessible for future generations.

As well as enhancing our own organisational expertise and knowledge of best practices in digital preservation, we have pledged to share the insights and learnings we gather with the broader UK cultural sector and the architectural profession to drive digital innovation and collaboration. We are bidding for further consortium funding to work on AI as a potential tool to aid cataloguing in 2025.

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

### Playing our role in the wider Museum landscape

Across 2024, we lent drawings, photographs, sculptures, models and paintings from our Collections to national and international galleries and museums. Among these loans were long-term loans to the Science Museum and Auckland Castle, short-term loans to the V&A and the Garden Museum, and to a V&A touring exhibition which is visiting five venues in China, three of which occurred in 2024. Best of all, our objects in UK venues have been visited

by over 85,000 people, whilst the Chinese V&A tour has attracted over 2.5 million thus far. Furthermore, colleagues have organised sector and subject conferences and gave talks and webinars to the public and members internationally, including in Hong Kong at this year's ICAM (International Council of Architectural Museums) event, and a webinar to our RIBA US members.

▼ Scanner in use by the RIBA Imaging Services team. Credit: Jonathan Makepeace



# Shaping the Future

# 4



# House of Architecture

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As we approach our bicentenary in 2034, we have an ambitious vision to build upon our cultural activity and reinvigorate us as a beacon of excellence, engagement, and discourse. The House of Architecture is a £100m programme to position our institution as a world-class cultural leader and global hub for architectural dialogue and knowledge.

Our vision is bold: to make the future a better place. In brief, the House of Architecture programme will deliver threefold:

- creating a digital hub of architectural knowledge, sharing rich content through an accessible and engaging gateway to global audiences

- creating a new home for our world-class collection of 4.6m objects so that we can deliver world-class research, access and collections care
- restoring our landmark headquarters at 66 Portland Place as a beacon of architecture for our members, the profession and the public

Through these strands, we will be a catalyst driving the vital role of architecture in creating a more sustainable and better-built world for tomorrow.

The Architectural Programmes and Collections directorate is closely involved in all aspects of this programme. Recent developments include:

### Collections Workstream

The Collections workstream underwent a major review in December 2024 following the completion of the discovery phase. This followed RIBA Stage 1, Engineering Reports, Cost Report work, UK wide site search, site search shortlisting and selected test fits, and draft business case including capex, opex and revenue assessment and projection to 2034. Interim arrangements, including partnership with The London Archives and Crown to deliver a temporary access service during the closure of 66 Portland Place, were confirmed.

### Digital Collections Gateway

No less significant than the property projects are providing a “digital first” experience for everyone, irrespective of means and location, and this was publicly announced as part of the wider programme relating to the House of Architecture. It has formed the basis of our Bloomberg Philanthropies application and will be drastically enhanced thanks to their generous grant (see above).

### 66 Portland Place

Extended briefings were developed through a series of workshops with expert internal teams and taking account of a future home for the collections and the cultural offer at 66 Portland Place. These covered in detail the future of the library, care for the collections within the building, the creation of a treasures gallery, and the exhibitions and displays in the Architecture Gallery and elsewhere. An additional proposal was made for an interpretation plan for 66 Portland Place, which will be taken forward in 2025.



# House of Architecture

### Fundraising

Philanthropic support has long been valued as vital to delivering our charitable objectives. We welcome support across our cultural activities, including library and collections, learning programmes and education bursaries for students. With planning underway to shape our future and deliver the House of Architecture vision, the support and partnership of others is more vital than ever.

As the House of Architecture programme has been shaped, a strategy has been developed to secure the philanthropic support needed to make it possible, which has been tested and refined through a feasibility study. With significant investment already committed by the Board of Trustees to begin the

House of Architecture, we have demonstrated the critical importance and value of this programme. Over the next four years we will seek to build the philanthropic support we need to make this a reality.

Following the feasibility study, the development team has undergone a period of consolidation so that it has the capacity and resource to engage and respond to those who generously choose to support our work. The support of donors and sponsors is vital not only to achieving the House of Architecture ambitions but also to securing a sustainable future for our cultural programmes, collections and activities.







# Expertise, Governance & Performance

# 5



## Our Team

Architecture Programmes and Collections team leads on our cultural offer, working closely also with our Education and Learning team in the Professional Knowledge and Standards Directorate.

Together these teams bring significant external standing to our institution. All team members have outward, public facing roles, and over the course of 2024 many colleagues have played a role in the

wider interests of the sectors we represent. Staffing levels have remained within or below the overall total set in the 2024 business plan for Architecture Programme and Collections.

### Riba Library and Collections

**Adrian Steel PhD RMARA FRSA,**  
Director, Library and Collections

**Anthony Wilkinson,** Library and Collections, Systems Manager and Bloomberg Tech Fellow

#### Library

**Cathy Wilson,** Library Services Manager

**Joanna Brogan,** Cataloguer

**Jason Canham,** Librarian

**Brian Glover MA, MA (Lib), PhD,**  
Senior Indexing Librarian

**Irene Machariah,** Library Assistant

**Iliana Miranda-Zacarias M Arch, PhD,**  
Library Assistant

**Liliana Perrone, Masters (Lit&Phil), Spec Fellows,**  
**Dip Lib (Inf Sc),** Librarian, Indexing

**Richard Reed MA,** Dip. Lib., Librarian, Indexing

**Jonathan Ridsdale,** Librarian, Acquisitions

### Collections

**Olivia Horsfall Turner, PhD, FSA,** Chief Curator

**Lauren Alderton, MA,** Assistant Curator

**Charlotte Anstis, MA,** Conservator

**Melanie Bailey-Melouney,** Archivist

**Valeria Carullo, MArch, Qualified Architect (Italy),**  
**City & Guilds (Photography),** Curator, Photographs

**Catriona Cornelius, MA, MA,** Registrar

**Catherine Gregg MA RCA,**  
Managing Editor, Palladio Project

**Charles Hind MA, Dip. Lib., FSA,**  
Chief Curator (to 2024) Emeritus (from 2025)

**Lisa Nash, MA, ACR,** Senior Conservator

**Fiona Orsini, MA,** Curator, Drawings

**Susie Pugh,** Curator, Drawings

**Alix Robinson, MSc, MLitt,** Curator/Archivist, Moves

**Alice Smith,** Collections Manager, Moves & Storage

**India Whiteley, MA,** Revealing the Collections Officer

### Imaging Services

**Jonathan Makepeace,** Imaging Services Manager

**Agnes Gill MA,** Digitisation Officer

**Christopher Hope-Fitch,** Photographer (casual)

**Suzanne Waters,** Digital Image Cataloguer

## Our Team

### Exhibitions And Public Programmes

**Angela Vinci**, Head of Exhibitions and Public Programmes

**Pete Collard**, Curator, Exhibitions and Public Programmes

**Margaret Cabbage (to Oct 2024)**, Curator, Exhibitions and Public Programmes

**Kate Dooley**, Public Programmes Coordinator

**Rodrigo Orrantia Gomez AMA ARPS**, Exhibitions Manager

**Georgia Young**, Public Programmes Assistant

**Alice Fu**, Volunteer

### Awards And Honours

**Carmen Mateu-Moreno RIBA**, Head of Awards and Honours

**Jessica Davies**, Awards Manager

**Beatriz De Castro Fernandez**, Awards Manager

**Stephanie Johnson**, Awards Manager

**Tina Johnson**, Awards Co-ordinator

**Anna Gibb RIBA ARB**, Awards Manager, Environment and Building

**Lee Mitchell**, Awards Manager

### Development

**Stephanie Pisharody**, Director of Development

**Roger Cooper**, Development Manager

**Brett Fegan**, Development Manager

**Molly Gisbourne**, Development Administrator

**Grace Santry-Collins**, Development Executive

### Education & Learning

**Dr Jenny Russell**, Director of Education and Learning

**Sophie Draper**, Schools Learning Manager

**Lil Adams**, Informal Learning Manager

**Ivy Edamafaka**, Schools Learning Coordinator

**Edie Parfitt**, Informal Learning Coordinator

**John-Paul Nunes**, Head of Education Projects

**Sophie Arp**, Education Projects Coordinator

**Jo Parry**, Head of Professional Education

**Caroline Gooch**, Professional Education Coordinator

**Sophie Bailey**, Head of Validation

**Stephanie Beasley-Suffolk**, Validation Manager

**Tracy Flanagan**, Validation Manager

**Joshua Brooks**, Validation Manager

### Directorate

**Oliver Urquhart Irvine MVO**, Executive Director, Architecture Programmes and Collections

**Adrian Dobson**, Executive Director, Professional Knowledge & Standards

**Seema Patel**, PA (to both Adrian Dobson & Oliver Urquhart Irvine)

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