



## Opportunities and challenges of doing business in Azerbaijan for Architects

As part of the [Department for Business and Trade \(DBT\) International Trade Week](#), 6 to 10 November, the RIBA is hosting an online seminar regarding Opportunities and challenges of doing business in Azerbaijan.

The UK is the largest investor in Azerbaijan, with more than 450 UK companies doing business in Azerbaijan. In addition to oil and gas, UK companies have been successful in areas such as construction management and design, waste management, retail and education.

There are many opportunities in Azerbaijan including master planning, restoration and preservation of cultural buildings, smart cities/villages, telecommunications infrastructure and tourism projects in Karabakh.

British architects and master planners have been present in Azerbaijan for some time, with companies such as Chapman Taylor already having had success with securing the tender for masterplans of new urban centres.

There is a potential to offer UK architecture and construction-related expertise to specific infrastructure initiatives planned in Azerbaijan

In this session, attendees will receive an insight into building relationships, doing business, exploring opportunities and dealing with challenges, and hear from architects who are already working in the country.

**Wednesday 8 November; 10:00-10:45**

Speakers and Agenda

- **Adrian Griffiths, Group Board Director, Chapman Taylor** – Presentation of projects in Baku and Returned Territories masterplans; 15 minutes
- **Eden Clayton, Deputy Country Director, Azerbaijan DBT, British Embassy Baku and Elvin Raziyeu, Infrastructure lead, Azerbaijan DBT, British Embassy Baku** – Wider opportunities and challenges of doing business in Azerbaijan; 15 minutes
- Q&A

### **Adrian Griffiths, Group Board Director, Chapman Taylor**

Adrian joined Chapman Taylor in 1986 and was promoted to the Group Board in 1998. As an architect and urban design specialist, he is recognised internationally for his expertise in the masterplanning of major complex mixed-use developments which are key drivers in the regeneration of town and city centres.

Adrian is conscious of the fact that the developments we build today create the societies of tomorrow, recognising the responsibility the profession has in influencing the quality of people's lives. He regularly speaks at conferences and prepares papers which promote the benefits of mixed-use developments as a sustainable model for the long term.

#### **Areas of expertise:**

Urban Design / Masterplanning / Mixed-Use / Retail / Leisure



Adrian Griffiths

### **Eden Clayton- Deputy Country Director, Department for Business & Trade (DBT) Azerbaijan**

Eden joined the British Embassy Baku in December 2022, having previously worked in Angola, Jordan and Rwanda.

His role is to provide support for UK Exporters and Investors in Azerbaijan, leading and overseeing the team's activities in the Recovered Territories as well as Infrastructure and Construction Opportunities.

He is a fanatical Rugby League fan and has developed a fondness for Azerbaijani tea.

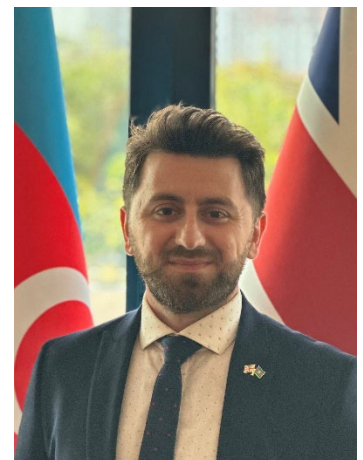


Eden Clayton

### **Elvin Raziyeu- Trade Officer and Infrastructure Lead, Department for Business & Trade (DBT) Azerbaijan**

With over 10 years' experience working in Aviation and the Private Sector in Azerbaijan, Elvin leads the British Embassy Baku's trade activities in Infrastructure, Aviation, and Aerospace.

He leads on third country collaboration with Turkish firms operating in the market and knows all the best kebab shops in Baku.



Elvin Raziyeu

## Projects

- Port Baku Tower 2 – An elegant, mixed-use addition to the Port Baku skyline



Port Baku Tower 2 is located in the vibrant capital city of Baku, Azerbaijan. It reached its completion in March 2023, marking the culmination of a five-year construction journey. Standing at an impressive height of 167m tall, this mixed-use tower spans over 135,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floorspace across 36 floors.

Upon full occupancy, Port Baku Tower 2 will accommodate over 4,000 professionals, providing a workspace that fosters productivity and growth. The inclusion of retail and restaurant spaces further contributes to the economic vitality of the city, attracting both national and international companies to this world-class commercial venue.

With its visionary design, commitment to sustainability, and integration of innovative technologies, Port Baku Tower 2 stands as a testament to the dynamic growth of Baku's skyline and the city's emergence as a premier destination for commerce.



- Deniz Mall - A world-class landmark for Baku



Located on land reclaimed from the Caspian Sea, Deniz Mall is a 120,000m<sup>2</sup> entertainment, leisure and dining destination over five floors. It is Azerbaijan's premier entertainment venue.

Originally designed by Chapman Taylor in 2007 as a congress centre, the building was repurposed to include five levels of entertainment, leisure, F&B and retail. Our design for the interior is harmonised with the exterior design to provide a single homogenous concept for the entertainment centre.

A 'flame' tower is the centrepiece of eight star-shaped wings inspired by Azerbaijan's national emblem.

- Shusha - Rebuilding the Cultural Capital of Azerbaijan



Chapman Taylor has prepared a new masterplan for this historic city, which was devastated during the occupation by Armenia and the recent war with Azerbaijan, resulting in the reclamation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region by Azerbaijan.

A comprehensive evaluation of the historic assets was conducted to determine which buildings should be preserved. The new masterplan respects and evolves the historic street pattern, creating 14 distinct districts to accommodate a population of 25,000 people.

The architectural approach aims to capture the essence of Shusha, utilizing a local palette of materials and architectural forms that reflect the city's heritage. The goal is to create a sustainable city that will endure the test of time.