

Leicestershire & Rutland Society of Architects

A member of the East Midland Region of the Royal Institute of British Architects



LRSA Joint Presidents Manifesto

Since 1872, our local society, the Leicestershire and Rutland Society of Architects (LRSA) - a local branch of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has aimed to deliver our vision in promoting good architecture and raising the profile of Architects across our region. This year, we reaffirm once again our established commitments to our fellow members, our collaborating professions, and the general public.

We feel it is not only important to reinforce the foundations laid by past presidents, but also to look forwards and improve our methods; to deliver upon those remits that we are already committed to, and beyond. We understand the importance of providing for the interests of our current members; with events tailored to their social and professional needs, as well as, engaging with new members and promoting both architecture and architects to the wider public, in accordance with RIBA strategy. Our aim is to continue the open and familiar protocols established by Nils, to maintain an accessible, unthreatening and enjoyable atmosphere for all participants at our events.

To manage this role effectively, we feel that the presidency is no longer a one person job. We believe in team work. We believe in a young, enthusiastic and committed committee to deliver our renewed visions. This means additional workload and this means change.

Our future lies with multiple and diverse voices and visions and therefore our most important change is that for your 73rd presidency, this will be a JOINT ROLE. This joint president initiative will enable us to deliver more events for both our members and the general public. The co-presidents will be assisted by the RIBA East Midlands regional team, along with our Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, fellow council members and the student and staff representatives from both Schools of Architecture.

These two roles will be defined by the two discrete aims of the society, one inward looking; with an emphasis upon providing support for our current members, and one outward looking; promoting Architecture and raising the profile of Architects in the region. Inwardly, we want to embrace our existing members, and improve upon the events and services that we currently provide.

- We are your voice; communicating the needs and desires of the Architects within the joint counties of Leicestershire and Rutland, back to RIBA headquarters. To ensure continued engagement with members throughout the counties, following the success of the previous year, we will continue to host our regular committee meetings from venues in different towns of our region; thus engaging with members countywide. With the new presidency structure, we have committee members covering the length and breadth of the region with multiple points of contact.
- As a society, we want to benefit from talks and events organized by RIBA which are commonly held at our London headquarters. As a new initiative, we will advocate that more RIBA events should be held regionally and even locally, bringing 66 Portland Place to us.
- We aim to improve the way that we communicate with members; initially we will aim to launch a bi-monthly newsletter. This may form part of the regularly issued RIBA East Midland email sent to all registered RIBA members in the region. We will also continue to be visible on social media, which is a great tool to spread news of our member practices and their projects throughout the wider community.
- We will continue to provide a platform for all members to gain valuable CPD points and to socialise and network through our scheduled member events. We recognise that our members are both chartered architects and architecture students and we want students and staff to feel involved in the LRSA and that their voice is being heard by RIBA.

Historically, the Leicester School of Architecture has been one of our key partners; providing tremendous assistance to our society and we will continue to support the school. We also hope that a similar relationship will be cultivated following the inaugural intake at Loughborough School of Architecture this coming September.

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Hon Secretary: Richard Crowson

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Many of our university events have been very well received by both students and lecturers in previous years, and we hope to be able to continue to deliver these to the same level of satisfaction as well as to create further channels for students to communicate and learn from our local professionals. This will include;

- Supporting the mentoring schemes, which connect students with local practices,
- Multiple events (commonly held during LSA's Employability Week) designed to provide more general skills to the students that we feel are invaluable to them in the workplace,
- With the support of the School; the One-Day-Design competition will be continued,
- Our well-established President's Prize will be awarded to both an undergraduate and a postgraduate student, at the end of year degree show.

In addition to this, our outward looking remit is to both promote good architecture and engage with the general public, as well as, to connect with local Architecture professionals who have not previously been RIBA members.

- It is our intention to extend our participation at various, relevant, public events within the region; including the annual Heritage Open Day. At these events we will contribute architectural related events and tours specifically targeted to the general public across the full social spectrum; advocating RIBA architects and good architecture.
- We would like to create further platforms for general public, and others within the construction industry, to understand what our profession can offer. A large part of this aspect of the role will be in making the society more visible to the public and acting as an ambassador of architecture. Therefore, in addition to participation at existing events, we will be creating our own opportunities to promote architecture, which may include; school visits, attendance at career days, public architecture exhibitions, walking tours etc.
- To increase our visibility and maintain our reputation, we will continue to attend events and meetings hosted by other professional organizations and local government. The society will continue to be your representative as a voice within Leicester City Council's committees.
- As in previous years, we will also assist the Regional Office to showcase the benefit of RIBA membership to the next generation of architects, at both of the Schools of Architecture. Our university events (discussed above) are not member-specific and it is intended that student nonmembers will see an increased value in RIBA membership following their attendance at these events.

Increasing our visibility to the general public in the wider sense, would be achieved most efficiently through an alliance with local media. Regular publications within the local newspaper and appearance on TV and radio shows showcasing both historic and modern architecture, could also help in our promotion. It is therefore our intention to establish links with local media with an aim to create regular features.

Our proposals are extensive and ambitious and we trust to receive your support. This is not just our vision, we hope this echoes YOUR vision for the present LRSA and its future. We believe that we can create a better platform for our members; we believe we can offer our knowledge to our next generation of architects; we believe that we have the power to advocate our profession within our ever-changing societies.

With the installation of joint presidents and the supporting committee, we believe that we will be in a stronger position to deliver.

Your Joint President

Jennifer Oxley
Sylvester Cheung

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