Practice Profile

Arboreal Architecture Limited
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01/ Who We Are

01.01 Practice Background
Arboreal Architecture Limited is a small-medium sized architectural practice based in Bethnal Green, London. We are an RIBA Chartered Practice delivering high quality design across a broad range of scales from site planning, through buildings of many types and sizes to built-in furniture.

Since the practice was established in 2007 we have worked on more than sixty projects ranging from small residential extensions to multi-million pound developments. We have built homes, work places and public spaces in London and around the UK. We work regularly with complex sites including conservation areas and historic listed buildings.

01.02 Our Approach
We approach each building we design with three key aims: to optimise performance, to enrich experience and to re-connect us to the natural world.

• **Performance**
We design high-performance buildings. We expect them to run on little energy, harvest sunlight, improve air quality, retain their heat, support flexible uses and increase biodiversity. We use the most up-to-date analysis and design of a building’s energy performance enabling us to reduce its carbon footprint and energy costs.

• **Experience**
We design spaces that enrich our experience. Though it can sometimes be taken for granted as the backdrop to our lives, architecture is a vital art form and when crafted with skill and care it can enliven our senses. We work with carefully sourced natural materials, nuanced day and sun-lighting conditions and precisely choreographed views to create spaces with character.

• **Ecology**
We design buildings to connect us to the natural world. We integrate our buildings into their local ecologies and design the landscapes and planting around and inside them with equal attention. We make bespoke buildings that respond to the sun, wind, weather, seasons, plants and animals to make human habitats that are intricately connected to their ecosystem.
01.03 Key Capabilities

- We create high quality designs that are a bespoke response to the needs of the client and the opportunities of the site.

- We are certified Passivhaus designers and experienced in designing, delivering and monitoring highly energy efficient buildings.

- As members of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) we have expertise in retrofitting historic buildings particularly for radical improvement of thermal performance.

- We have the experience and agility to deliver successful planning applications on complex projects with multiple stakeholders.

- We design landscapes and planting both outside and inside our buildings so that they are a seamless experience of the site.

- We support our designs with exceptional technical detailing to ensure that our buildings perform to their design standards, require little maintenance and are a pleasure to use.

- We successfully realise our projects using thorough project management skills and quality control measures.

01.04 Awards and Qualifications

- **2014 AJ Retrofit Award nomination**
  Our Clapham Retrofit project was nominated for being the most radical thermal upgrade to a Grade II listed building ever completed in England.

- **2014 AECB Silver Standard**
  Our Clapham Retrofit project is the first Grade II listed building in England to achieve this sustainability standard.

- **2013 Certified Passivhaus Designer**
  Harry Paticas receives this unique sustainable design qualification. Currently only 1% of UK architects have this skill set.

- **2012 Arboreal wins RIBA Live Pitch**
  Arboreal wins the Live Pitch event at the RIBA Small Practices conference.

- **2012 Royal Academy Summer Show**
  Arboreal exhibits the Bethnal Green Memorial.

- **2010 “25nominate25” Award**
  Arboreal is nominated as one of the top five young UK practices in the “25nominate25” event held by Buro 4 and the London Festival of Architecture.
02/ How We Work

02.01 Practice Structure
Arboreal Architecture Limited delivers high quality architectural services through the following practice structure:

- **Project Leadership**
  Each project in the practice is assigned to one of the two company directors to provide overall strategic management. The director is responsible for overseeing the work of the project architect.

- **Project Delivery**
  Each project is assigned an ARB registered project architect to manage the delivery of all technical and contractual information required for the project. The project architect is responsible for managing a small team of assistants.

- **Project Support**
  Each project is assigned architectural assistants as required to support the work of the project architect in producing design and construction documents.

02.02 Consultants
We have built up strong working relationships with numerous construction industry consultants and have actively sought out the best in their respective fields. We can draw upon their advice as sub-consultants or refer them for appointment as required to support the project. We work regularly with the following consultants.

- Structural engineers
- Services engineers
- Quantity surveyors
- Sustainability specialists
- Landscape architects
- Ecologists
- Planning consultants
- Lighting designers
- Approved inspectors
- Party wall surveyors
- CDM coordinators
- Arboriculturalists
02.03 Project Management
We provide quality assurance through being an RIBA Chartered Practice and ensuring all our project architects are ARB registered. Our current and future workloads are reviewed and resourced monthly and all staff are conversant with our practice management policies and project quality plans.
Harry Paticas
BA, BSc, AADipl, ARB, RIBA, CEPH

Harry is an ARB registered architect and Chartered Member of the RIBA. Arboreal Architecture is an RIBA Chartered Practice.

Experience
Harry Paticas is a co-founding director of Arboreal Architecture. He studied at Kingston University, the Architectural Association and Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. Whilst at the Architectural Association he was awarded the Howard Colls Prize, the Henry Saxon Snell Prize and nominated for the RIBA President’s Medals Dissertation Prize.

Harry is a certified Passivhaus Designer (CEPH) with extensive expertise in low-energy building design. He has presented his work at the Passivhaus Conference (Aachen, Germany) and AECB Annual Conference (Bristol, UK) in 2014.

Harry has 12 years of experience in architectural practice working with respected London practices including Levitt Bernstein and van Heyningen & Haward. He founded his own practice in 2007 and co-founded Arboreal Architecture in 2010.

He is a Senior Lecturer at Brighton University where he teaches on the undergraduate Architecture Technology programme.

Key Projects
- Clapham Retrofit
  Private house renovation, London
- Mazarin House
  New-build flats, London
- Bethnal Green Memorial
  Public memorial, London
- Carter Lane
  Private house renovation, London
- Wilmington House
  Private house renovation, London
- Approach Flat
  Private flat renovation, London
Tom Raymont
AADipl, ARB

Tom is an ARB registered architect. Arboreal Architecture is an RIBA Chartered Practice.

Experience

Tom Raymont is a co-founding director of Arboreal Architecture. He grew up in the Findhorn Foundation in north-east Scotland; a spiritual community, eco-village and international centre for holistic education. He studied at the Architectural Association and Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. Whilst at the Architectural Association he was awarded full scholarship for all five years and a grant from the RIBA Education Trust Fund.

Tom has 12 years of experience in architectural practice with an international career including New York, Los Angeles and London. He has worked for world renowned practices including Eric Owen Moss Architects and Asymptote Architecture.

Tom has extensive experience in timber digital fabrication techniques to deliver low-carbon complex geometry buildings.

He is teaching at Central Saint Martins on the B.A. (Honours) Architecture: Spaces and Objects programme.

Key Projects

- **Crayford Mews**
  New-build houses, London
- **Mazarin House**
  New-build flats, London
- **Brenthouse**
  Private house renovation, London
- **Bethnal Green Memorial**
  Public memorial, London
- **Exchange Flat**
  Private flat renovation, London
- **Pocket Garden House**
  Private house renovation, London

Digital fabrication model of Mazarin House
Mazarin House

Project Summary
This project is a new-build block of 6 two-bedroom flats in Woodford, East London. The design optimises the space available on a constrained site and sets high standards of sustainable design.

Architectural Services
Arboreal provided full architectural services including acting as Project Lead and Contract Administrator.

Client
Private developer

Construction Period
February, 2013 - February, 2014

Forms of Contract
RIBA SFA 2010 & JCT ICD 05

Design Challenges / Opportunities
• The flats were designed using the latest computer modelling technologies to make the best possible use of the space, light and aspect of the site.
• Daylight modelling was used to sculpt the roof profile to maximise space without impacting neighbours.
• Off-site digital fabrication methods allowed the use of more complex angles, freeing up each room in each flat to have its own unique character.
• The building was built across the entire site boundary-to-boundary with extremely high tolerances.
• The project met Lifetime Homes criteria for all units.
• The project achieved an NHBC Warranty.
• Integrating the building with landscaping, car parking and cycle storage.

Sustainability Achievements
• Code for Sustainable Homes - Level 4.
• Energy Performance Certificate - Category B.
• Air tightness - 5x better than Building Regulations.
• All timber superstructure sequesters CO2.
• 1 tonne/year CO2 emissions from each flat compared to UK average of 6 tonnes.
Bethnal Green Memorial

Project Summary
This project creates a new memorial and public space in the heart of East London to commemorate the worst civilian disaster of World War II in which 173 people died on the tube station staircase.

Architectural Services
Arboreal initiated the project, supported the client and provided full architectural services including acting as Project Lead and Contract Administrator.

Client
Charitable Trust

Construction Period
April, 2012 - March, 2013

Forms of Contract
RIBA SFA 99/04 & JCT SBC 09/XQ/XD

Design Challenges / Opportunities
• Creating a unique new public space for London than engaged with the local community.
• Negotiating with multiple stakeholders including a complex client body, Tower Hamlets parks department and London Underground.
• Building a substantial foundation in close proximity to the Central Line west-bound tunnel, a Thames Water trunk main and a gas main.

Sustainability Achievements
• Use of Teak for the sculptural element in place of bronze for substantial embodied energy savings.
• Off-site fabrication to minimise wastage.
• Use of local stone and concrete aggregates.
• Use of timber reclaimed from the bed of the Irish Sea.
Clapham Retrofit

Project Summary
This project is a “deep-retrofit” of a 170-year-old grade II listed Victorian townhouse. It is the first listed building in England to meet the AECB Silver Performance Standard. The delivery of this high-quality refurbishment demonstrates that the beauty and historic character of traditional buildings can be maintained while achieving high standards of thermal performance.

Architectural Services
Arboreal provided full architectural services including acting as Project Lead, Contract Administrator, Quantity Surveyor and Energy Consultant.

Client
Private homeowner

Construction Period
February, 2013 - November, 2013

Forms of Contract
RIBA SFA 2010 & JCT ICD 11

Design Challenges / Opportunities
- To sensitively retrofit of a listed historic structure.
- To successfully connect the basement level to the garden through playful hard and soft landscaping.
- The use of high performance and hygrothermally appropriate thermal insulation materials ranging from vacuum insulated panels to aerogel to woodfibre.
- The creation of an integrated garden design with sustainable rainwater collection channels.

Sustainability Achievements
- The first retrofit project in England to achieve the Association of Energy Conscious Builders (AECB) Silver Standard.
- Space Heat Demand of 40kWh/m²/yr.
- Airtightness of 1.8ach.
- AJ Retrofit Awards Finalist (Heritage) 2014.
Exchange Flat

Project Summary
In order to counteract the dense urban character of London’s Spitalfields, this flat interior abstractly recreates a piece of the New England forest familiar from the client’s home. An automatically irrigated living wall grows a range of ferns from the forest floor. Lighting behind laser-cut screens projects a pattern of the tree canopy across the ceiling throughout the living space.

Architectural Services
Arboreal provided full architectural services including acting as Project Lead, Contract Administrator and Cost Consultant.

Client
Private homeowner

Construction Period
May, 2012 - June, 2012

Forms of Contract
RIBA SFA 2010 & JCT MWD 11

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