

Thinking Buildings

Architecture
Project Management

Curriculum Vitae Darren Aspinall



Biography:

Darren is a qualified chartered Architect with over 10 years of experience. He has designed a range of interesting and exciting buildings, particularly in the residential, community and educational sectors. He has a strong interest in low energy design and the use of timber in construction. Darren was recently a technical and sustainability advisor to the Princes' Trust for the 'Natural house' demonstration project that was recently constructed at the BRE Innovation Park in Watford.

Darren has previously held management positions as an Associate Architect at Aedas, a large international consultancy, and as a Director of A+G Architects in Oxford. In 2011 Darren left Associated Architects, an award winning design practice in Birmingham, to form an exciting new practice based in Oxfordshire. Thinking Buildings specialise in low energy high quality residential design.

Darren is a member of the Architects Registration Board (ARB) Assessment Panel that assesses overseas students for equivalence with UK qualifications and standards. Darren is also a RIBA Part 3 examiner.



Employment Experience:

Present -	Director: Thinking Buildings Ltd, Oxfordshire
April 2010 – August 2011	Senior Architect: Associated Architects, Birmingham
2004 – 2010	Director: A+G Architects, Oxford
2003 – 2004	Associate Architect: Aedas, Bristol
1998 – 2003	Architect: Aedas, Shrewsbury (Part II graduate 1998, Associate in 2001)
1995 - 1997	Architectural Assistant (Part I): Noel Architects, Preston
1993 - 1995	Harlor Homes (And Carrington Design)

Educational Experience:

2000	ARB registered Architect
1999 - 2000	RIBA Part 3: PG Dip in Professional Practice with Distinction RIBA North West Schools
1996 - 1998	RIBA Part 2: BArch (Hons) Bachelor of Architecture University of Liverpool
1992 – 1995	RIBA Part 1: BA (Hons) Architecture 2.1 Award University of Liverpool

Featured Projects:

01, 06, 07-Harper Adams University Learning Resources Centre, Shropshire; 02 - Bradley Rowe Primary School, Exeter; 03, 04 – College Lake Wetlands Visitor Centre; 05 –Priory Secondary School, Exeter; 08 -Lower Ashmead House, Leafield, Oxon; 09 -Wittenham clumps visitor centre; 10 - Shellingford Primary School; 11- University of Nottingham Sports Pavilion



Selected Project Experience:

Residential

Lower Ashmead House, Leafield, Oxfordshire

New build bespoke house within a conservation area for a private client.
Value £500,000. Completed



The Old Dairy, Brill, Buckinghamshire

Conversion and extension of an existing historic barn in a conservation area and within the curtilage of a listed building. Private client.
Value £300,000. Currently in construction

Powell's School House, Cirencester

Conversion of an existing grade II* listed School House into 5 residential apartments for the Diocese of Gloucester
Value £400,000. Currently awaiting planning approval



The Natural House, Princes' Foundation, BRE Watford

Technical and sustainability advisor to the Princes' Foundation for a low energy sustainable demonstration house at the BRE Innovation Park.
Value undisclosed. Completed

The Bell Tower, Brackley, Northamptonshire

Conversion of a listed former public school building into 13 luxury apartments.
Value £2.5 million. Currently in construction.



The Lion Brewery, Oxford

City centre redevelopment of 89 apartments within the central conservation area. The project comprised a mixture of new build and conversion of existing historic structures.
Value £9.5 million. Completed



Selected Project Experience:

Community

College Lake Wildlife centre, Tring, Buckinghamshire

New build wildlife visitor centre utilising a range of low energy sustainable materials and renewable energy sources such as rammed earth chalk walls, timber structure, intensive wild flower bio-diverse roof, photovoltaic and air source heat pumps.

Value £1.25 million. Completed



Wittenham clumps office building and evolution centre, Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire

New build traditionally timber framed office building for a charitable trust, together with the full renovation and conversion of a series of elm barns into a children's education centre.

Value £1.75 million



Education

Harper Adams University College, Newport, Shropshire

New build award winning Learning Resources Centre. This building was designed in collaboration with De Montford University's Institute of energy and Sustainable Development (IESD) to incorporate mixed mode natural ventilation using lightwell stacks, thermal mass and rainwater harvesting.

Value £3.0 million. Completed.



Barn Conversion, Shrivenham CE Primary School, Oxfordshire

Conversion of an historic barn within the cartilage of a listed building to form a community and children's centre.

Value £220,000. Completed.

