

Charlotte Lewis

B.A (Hons) Dip Arch Dip Arch PS Dip Arch ARB RIBA

Location: Staffordshire and Birmingham

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Professional profile

I am a Chartered Architect and a Recognised Practitioner in Urban Design, with 19 years post qualification experience working in private practice. I have focussed my career on residential design working collaboratively with volume housebuilders, registered providers, private landowners and land promoter clients.

In 2017, an exciting opportunity arose for me to join one of my clients and focus on housing delivery and strategic design. I took the opportunity because I am passionate about residential design and successful place-making; but more specifically how outline designs can (and should) create robust frameworks to better secure design quality.

Primarily relating to RIBA stages 0-3, my current role involves the preparation of outline design concepts and masterplans, assisting two land teams with a portfolio of around 90 greenfield sites - these range from 45 to 1,600 dwellings and are located nationwide. I really enjoy the challenge of a complex site and achieving the right design to endure, achieve quality and distinctiveness whilst balancing the ever-changing commercial and political expectations of today. And I get to visit such great places too.

I work closely with private practice design consultancies, Design Review Panels, Local Planning Authorities, key stakeholders and local communities. Outside of work, my passion for urban design has extended to visiting tutor sessions with Birmingham School of Architecture and spending time with aspiring students looking to pursue a career in architecture.

Qualifications and year gained

B.A (Hons) Architecture. RIBA Part I. 1993

B.A Dip Arch Architecture. RIBA Part II. 1996

B.A Dip Arch Professional Studies in Architecture RIBA. Part III. 2000

Recognised Practitioner in Urban Design (UDG). 2018

Memberships

Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

Urban Design Group (UDG)

Core Skills

- Urban Design and masterplanning - analysis, concept planning, detailed design
- Layout and building design
- Hand drawing and writing
- Design and Access Statements, Design Codes and Development briefs
- Presentations and communication
- Key stakeholder and local community engagement

Post qualification employment history and work experience

2017-

Richborough Estates Ltd. Birmingham.

Position: Consultant Design Director

Responsible for the production of feasibility layouts and masterplans to secure land options, promote sites and acquire outline residential consents. This also involves the assemblage of promotion documents, design brochures and design codes.

Curriculum Vitae



I'm particularly interested in site identity and local character and I kick-start each project with analysis, recording and appraisal - this usually involves an enquiry into local history, character and pattern and landscape and visual matters - whilst assembling various technical considerations to ensure outline designs actually work. This work underpins residential layouts and masterplans of varying scales which I then prepare.

My role at Richborough involves meeting and sharing ideas with an array of people, including Design Review Panels, Neighbourhood Plan teams, Planning Officers and Parish Councils and I enjoy working collaboratively to create the most mutually beneficial designs. Past successes in this regard include a number of site allocations within made Neighbourhood Plans.

My role also extends to the co-ordination and review of outline schemes prepared by other designers; and most recently a large former Green Belt site in Dorset, which was submitted as an outline application for 600 dwellings. This involved extensive engagement, a series of workshop sessions (including the South West Design Review Panel) and the preparation of an outline design code to 'lock-down' design to avoid dilution at the Reserved matters stage; a 'precedent' approach which was endorsed by the LPA and one which Richborough intend to apply to future projects.

2014-2017 Pegasus Group
Position: Urban Design Director

I joined Pegasus Group as an Associate in 2014. Promoted to Urban Design Director in 2015, I grew, led and coordinated the Birmingham urban design team, working with volume housebuilders and strategic land clients for residential projects of between 40 and 1,500 dwellings in scale. Taking a hands-on approach to all aspects of our projects, I prepared site and contextual analysis studies to inform residential layouts (both outline and detailed) and house type designs; which I prepared in hand drawn or cad format. I also prepared Development Briefs, Design and Access Statements and Design Codes of varying levels of detail; regularly presenting schemes to LPA's, Parish Councils, Design Review Panels (OPUN and MADE), local communities and assisting at expert witness level.

1999-2014 Nicol Thomas Ltd
Position: Executive Associate

My time at Nicol Thomas involved project management, preparing planning, tender and working drawings for residential, office, mixed use and urban regeneration schemes. I developed a residential client base which sparked my passion to pursue urban design.

References

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