

Niall Bird

*BA Hons (Arch), Dip. Arch (Dist.), MPhil (Cantab.),
SPAB Scholar 2015*

Architect

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Professional and Academic Qualifications

<i>2016</i>	University of Portsmouth, Final Certificate in Professional Practice & RIBA Part III
<i>2015</i>	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Scholarship 2015
<i>2011-2012</i>	University of Cambridge: MPhil History of Architecture and Art
<i>2009-2011</i>	University of Portsmouth and TU Wien: Diploma in Architecture & RIBA Part II
<i>2005-2008</i>	University of Portsmouth, BA (Hons) in Architecture & RIBA Part I

Awards

<i>2010</i>	SPAB Philip Webb Award recipient 2009 and 2010 for historic building re-use at Hilsea Lido, Portsmouth and Bursledon Brickworks nr. Southampton.
<i>2011</i>	Nominated for BD Class of 2011
<i>2008</i>	Nominated for RIBA Bronze Medal 2008

Professional Background

Niall undertook his architectural studies at Portsmouth School of Architecture and the TU Vienna, with a focus on the re-use and conservation of existing and historic buildings. He then completed a MPhil in the History of Architecture and Art at the University of Cambridge before a period of teaching architecture and employment in architectural practice. This was followed by a Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Scholarship in 2015. He joined GQA in 2016 and is currently assisting on a varied range of architectural conservation projects. He is an active member of the SPAB and a committee member of the Construction History Society.

Role and Responsibilities

Niall's role as Project Architect or Architectural Assistant has led him to work on a variety of projects since he started at Giles Quarme & Associates. He has assisted senior staff on projects such as the restoration of the Victoria and Albert Mausoleum and the conversion of Trent Park Mansion into apartments and a museum. He is constantly liaising with Clients, Consultants, Contractors, Sub-contractors, Suppliers, Historic England, Local Planning Authorities in order to develop these projects.

Niall is currently project lead for the refurbishment of the Gibb's building for King's College at the University of Cambridge. He has carried out all the design work and technical drawings for the careful re-organisation of the layout of this C18th building to make it a functional space for the College's fellows. He has been very attentive to the client's wishes and has endeavoured to retain as much of the historic fabric of the building to keep the uniqueness and character of the spaces alive.

The projects he has worked on have allowed him to carry out feasibility reports, historic research and Heritage Statements.

Experience

2016- Present Giles Quarme & Associates

V&A Royal Mausoleum: Architectural Assistant Part II

Assisting with the conservation and repair works of the unique Mausoleum on behalf of the Royal Household. Preparation of drawn and written information, condition surveys. Attending team meetings and liaising with other design team consultants.

Gibbs Building, King's College Cambridge: Architectural Assistant Part II

The sensitive refurbishment of Fellow's 'Sets' including provision for additional access and circulation through existing cupboards and panelled spaces. Preparation of drawn and written information and measured surveys.

Trent Park, London: Architectural Assistant Part II

A large country house and former University Campus undergoing redevelopment by the Berkeley Group. Focus on the heritage aspects of the site, including the Mansion, remodelled substantially in the 1920's by Sir Philip Sassoon. Preparation of historic and new drawn information for concept and pre-planning stages. Surveys of historic fabric and consultation meetings.

Previous Employment

2014-2015 Ptolemy Dean Architects

Post Part- II Architectural Assistant at specialist conservation practice.

Projects included the refurbishment of Westminster Abbey Song School and the addition of a new practice room within an existing courtyard; the substantial extension to an existing set of hunting kennels on the Goodwood Estate to provide high quality accommodation; the addition of a new lead roof, dormers and floor to an existing C19th building by Sir Gilbert Scott (Snr) at Westminster School; and the addition of a substantial new stair and lift tower to provide access to the eastern triforium at Westminster Abbey.

2012-2014 Portsmouth School of Architecture Project Office

Architectural Assistant Part II and studio Teaching Assistant on BA Architecture and BA Interior Design courses.

Niall worked on the conversion of a late C19th police detainment block adjacent to the Victory Gate at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The brief was to sensitively convert the 'cells' into office space for start-up creative businesses, whilst maintaining the layout and layering of surface patina, untouched for over 60 years. Additional circulation space and a lobby were required, conceived as 'lightweight' glazed structures behind a solid brick wall screen. Responsibilities included the preparation of general and detailed drawn and written planning information and reports for planning and listed building consent including liaising with client and local authority representatives.

2008-2009 Alec French Architects

Architectural Assistant Part I

Tasks included assisting senior staff, working on drawn and written information and specifications within the architectural team and with other consultants.

Membership and Societies

2013 The Georgian Group (Member)

2012 The Construction History Society (Trustee and Committee Member)

2009 The Society for The Protection of Ancient Buildings (Member)