

John McElgunn



John has played a seminal role, not just on the designs and planning process but also in leading and motivating the team

Andrew Burnett,
Director of Projects and Planning, British Museum

Honours

Freedom of the City of London

Qualifications

Dip Arch Tech, BA (Hons), Dip Arch, ARB, RIBA, RIAI

Education

2006	RIBA Part III, University College London
1999 - 01	Diploma in Architecture, The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL
1994 - 97	Bachelors Degree in Architecture, Kent Institute of Art & Design, University of Kent at Canterbury
1989 - 93	National Diploma in Architectural Technology, Cork Institute of Technology, Ireland

Practice

2022 -	Senior Director, RSHP
2016 - 22	Partner, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners
2004 - 15	Associate, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners
2001 - 03	Richard Rogers Partnership
2000	RPW Architects
1997 - 99	Bere Architects

Summary of Experience

John has a client-facing role and is involved in expediting the company's bids for new work. He led a large team through all stages of working on the British Museum World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre (WCEC). Following a controversial planning process, extensive detailed design and the complex tendering procedures of the OJEU process, the building was completed in 2014, and was on the shortlist for the RIBA Stirling Prize in 2017.

He has extensive experience as a project architect working on public buildings and responding to highly complex briefs, as well as collaborating with clients made up of a number of stakeholders. Birmingham Library competition involved a client body which not only included the heads of library services but also the local council, whilst the British Museum project involved collaborating with the end users, museum management, the project committee, the Board of Trustees and project sponsors who all played a pivotal role in the design and consultation process. Both of these projects required extensive consultation with the client group and the public as part of the design development process and John is particularly well suited to navigating these complex processes.

Working with both public clients and private developers, John has been consistently successful in gaining planning permission for sometimes controversial planning applications. Some of those projects include: three private residences in Wimbledon; Grand Union Building, Paddington; One Hyde Park in London's Knightsbridge; NEO Bankside, a residential development adjacent to the Tate Modern; and The British Museum WCEC. John led the design for a conservation and storage facility for the Musée du Louvre in Liévin in northern France (Hauts-de-France), and is currently working on the extension to the British Library.

John also oversees the RSHP Communications team and is a member of the recruitment team. He takes part in the annual 'year out' programme involving visiting universities, recruiting students and monitoring their progress in the practice throughout the year and acts as a Part III coordinator for architectural assistants in the office who are studying for their Professional Studies & Management in Architecture.

Key Projects

2021 - 24	Masterplan, KSA
2021 -	99 Bishopsgate, Office, London, UK
2021	Level 45, Fit-Out, Office, London, UK
2020 -	Horse Soldier Farms, Industrial, Kentucky, USA
	Carlton House, Office, Adaptive Re-Use London UK
	NEOM Bay Masterplan, Competition, KSA
2015 -	British Library, Mixed-Use, London, UK
2014 - 19	The Louvre, Centre for Conservation, Cultural, Liévin, France
2014	Guggenheim Helsinki, Cultural, Competition, Helsinki, Finland
2007 - 14	The British Museum World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre (WCEC), Cultural, London, UK
2006 - 12	NEO Bankside, Residential, London, UK
2005	Wimbledon Houses, Residential, London, UK
2004	Cambrian Halls of Residence, Residential, Birmingham, UK
2003 - 11	One Hyde Park, Residential, London, UK
2003 - 06	City Park Gate, Mixed-Use, Birmingham, UK
2003	Abbey National Branding Competition
	Nexity Tower, Office, Competition, Madrid, Spain
2002 - 06	Birmingham Library, Cultural, Birmingham, UK
2002	Torres Espacio, Office, Competition, Madrid, Spain
	Barcelona Law Courts, Civic, Competition, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain
2000 - 14	The Leadenhall Building, Office, London, UK
1999 - 04	Grand Union Building, Mixed-Use, London, UK

Mentoring

2012 - 13	Member of the RIBA Mentoring Programme designed to prepare students for practice
2009 -	CV Clinic: A Biannual workshop at The Bartlett
2004 -	John is involved in mentoring students through our Year Out Programme, and developing young graduates on active jobs

Lecturing

2025 -	Construction Liveries Group – Guildhall London
2023	Mid Atlantic Association of Museums – Philadelphia
2023	World Architecture Festival – Singapore
	Festival of Place, London
	International Museum Construction Conference – Antwerp
	WCCA – Temple Bar London
2022	9th edition of National Meeting of Design Students, Guimaraes, Portugal
2020	The Mackintosh, School of Architecture
	The Glasgow Institute of Architects
2019	Australian Smart Skyscraper Summit
2018	Warsaw, Share Conference
	The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Visiting Critic

2021 -	University of Bath
2010 - 16	External Examiner for the Certificate in Professional Practice & Management in Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part III) at The Bartlett, University College London
2017 - 21	External Examiner for the Masters in Architecture MArch (ARB/RIBA Part II) at The Bartlett, University College London

Judging

2017 - 22	World Architecture Festival - WAF
2021 -	AJ100
2020 -	NLA Expert Assessor
2020	GIA Awards

Other

Member of the Worshipful Company of
Chartered Architects
Member of the EC BID - Public Realm Steering
Committee