

Design South East announces five new trustees and the development of a Young Practitioners Group

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Design South East has appointed five new members to its Board of Trustees: Mary Cook, a planning barrister and a founding partner of Town Legal. Jonathan Martin, Director of Inward Investment at the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Joy Nazzari, Founding Director of brand consultancy dn&co. Mary Parsons, National Regeneration and Partnerships Director at Lovell Partnerships. Andy von Bradsky, architect and a recognised expert in the area of housing and the built environment.



They join our current trustees; Ben Rogers, Brian Condon, Sue Wilcox, Hilary Satchwell and Judith Armitt.

Judith Armitt, Chair of the Board of Trustees said 'I am delighted to have appointed such a talented group of new trustees to strengthen and diversify our skills. I am really looking forward to working with them to address the opportunities and challenges of the future'.

Chris Lamb, Director of Design South East, said 'Our new trustees join us at time when leveraging the power of good design to deliver social and economic value and a zero carbon society has never been so important. Our trustees provide invaluable insight and guidance, and these appointments will further diversify our board and add to its range of expertise, helping us to further increase our impact and influence'.

Young Practitioners Group

Design South East also announces today a new initiative, the Young Practitioners Group, to work alongside the Board of Trustees to bring greater diversity to our thinking. Laura Archer, Senior Planning Policy Officer at Portsmouth City Council will guide the development of this initiative working closely with trustees. Laura has worked in the public, private and third sector, and is also an RTPI Young Planner Trustee and Junior Vice Chair of the RTPI South East Regional Management Board. She is currently the project lead on Portsmouth City Council's National Model Design Code Pilot for Estate Renewal.

Biographies of our new trustees

Mary Cook is a planning barrister and a founding partner of Town Legal, a specialist planning law firm which is consistently recognised as one of the leaders in the field. Mary acts as a specialist adviser and advocate, usually leading a multi-disciplinary team of consultants in planning appeals. She has acted throughout her career for both the public and private sectors, advising at both the Local Plan-making stage and the decision taking stage. She is a member of the organising committee of the Joint Oxford Planning Law Conference and is a panelist on 'Have We Got Planning News for You' which was introduced in lock down to amuse and educate those interested in all things related to planning whilst also seeking to raise money for charity.

Jonathan Martin is Director of Inward Investment at the London Borough of Waltham Forest. He trained as a surveyor and is a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Jonathan is an experienced real estate professional with over 25 years of experience in the housing and regeneration sectors. At Waltham Forest he has spearheaded mixed-use housing led delivery and inward investment in the borough. As part of his remit, Jonathan has been responsible for the ensuring strategic growth in priority areas in the borough, which includes a GLA endorsed Housing Zone. Jonathan currently works with investors and developers to bring forward new places and help boost economic growth in the borough.

Joy Nazzari is an entrepreneurial business leader with 20 years of experience in branding, marketing and technology. She is the Founding Director of dn&co, a brand and creative consultancy specialising in culture and place and the team behind the reinvention of some of London's most remarkable places — St James's, Royal Docks, and the Museum of the Home. Joy has collaborated with government, architects, institutions and businesses to create meaningful destinations in places of all kinds from museums, workplaces, residential, retail, restaurants — through to entire neighbourhoods and towns. She co-founded Place Press, an independent publisher that explores the intersection between people, places and culture. Her recent book, Know Your Place, talks about the need to go beyond placemaking and create places with purpose.

Mary Parsons is the National Regeneration and Partnerships Director at Lovell Partnerships (Morgan Sindall). Mary has over 25 years' experience of regeneration and working in some of the most challenging neighbourhoods in the UK. She is a passionate advocate of positive planning and ensuring high quality design and sustainability of the built environment. Mary has been a Trustee of the TCPA for nine years, and Chair for the last five. She is also a Trustee of MOBIE and a board member for the University of Cambridge's Property Board. Mary was invited to be a Commissioner for the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission and was a co-author of the BBBBC report, alongside Adrian Penfold.

Andy von Bradsky is an architect and a recognised expert in the area of housing and the built environment. He has wide experience as a leader and strategic advisor in the private and public sector, as Head of Architecture at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and as a chairman of one of UK's largest architectural practices. He has been a specialist advisor to policy makers, senior officials and Ministers at MHCLG at a time of focus on quality in planning policy and in Government programmes. Andy led key aspects of policy development for the MHCLG Directorates and across Government departments including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code toolkit.

Design South East is an independent, not-for-profit organisation driven by the belief that everyone deserves good design because it is fundamental to the development of more resilient, healthy and sustainable communities. Working entirely in the public interest, it leverages the power of a network of around 200 experts from a variety of built environment disciplines, leading practitioners and thinkers in their fields, to advise and guide local authorities and their stakeholders; helping them create well designed places. Design South East work across the south and east of England, delivering expert design advice, facilitation and training. Through its expert panels it brings together outstanding design expertise from individuals of national, and often international, repute to enhance the quality of the built environment, and help communities learn about well-judged and practical design quality. Though established for 25 years, it is an agile organisation, enhancing the quality of development in the present, while lobbying for better outcomes in future.

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