CPD Training

In any field Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training is required. Expectations of workers and regulations are everchanging and it is through these courses that people can continue to learn while they work. (CPDUK, 2021)

CPD Requirements for Architecture

In different industries there are different levels of requirements and hours needed to be invested in the different CPD Programmes, this is tailored to make it as efficient as possible. In architecture you are obligated to undertake specific CPD requirements as a RIBA Member. These include:

- Undertaking at least 35 hours of relevant learning each year
- Making sure half of your CPD is structure, whether this is face to face course, distance learning, or online
- Sending at least 20 of the 35 hours on the 10 mandatory RIBA Core Curriculum CPD topics (two hours per topic)
- Acquiring at least 100 learning points, reflecting your own assessment of what you got out of the activity
- Recording and keeping track of your CPD activities using the RIBA CPD recording tool

    (RIBA, n.d.)

Any relevant learning activities count as CPD Training, including both structured and informal sessions.
Structured learning – A session that has set aims and outcomes given by the teacher (can be face to face, distance, or online)
Informal learning – Research, extra readings, podcasts, blogs, this type of session is usually self-directed and short
(RIBA, n.d.)

RIBA CPD Core Curriculum

The RIBA has set out ten topics based on what they feel RIBA members would benefit from the most. They asses their needs and look at current topics as well as what will be important in the future. These Core Curriculums make up 20 of the 35 hours required of the yearly CPD training. These topics include:

Topic One - Architecture for social purpose

"The positive impact of architecture and the social value and economic and environmental benefits it brings for individuals and communities – improving life chances, social identity and cohesion, and wellbeing"

Session topics could include understanding the ethics of regeneration, understanding community engagement, and engaging with clients and understanding the economics of architecture with social purpose

Topic Two – Health, safety and wellbeing

This topic assess how we can work safely as well as designing buildings that are safe to build and for people to occupy. It also opens the conversation about how to manage stress and the importance of mental health

Session topics could include Hazard Awareness and Risk Identification, RIBA Plan of Work – health and safety and First Aid

Topic Three – Business, clients and services

Ensuring that architects understand the legal and contractual obligations is important as part of a business. Topic three ensures that we are up to date with current legislation and looks at the relationship between the business and clients as well as what each party can provide.

Session topics could include Project management, Client relationship management and Employment contacts

Topic Four – Legal, regulatory and statutory compliance

See note on other nine topics

Topic Five – Procurement and contracts

Topic Five looks specifically into the contacts that need to be completed and why they are important. It ties into all aspects of a business, including things like finance and the scope of the work proposed.

Session topics could include How the work is coordinated, Contract law and case law and appropriate cost/quality ratio
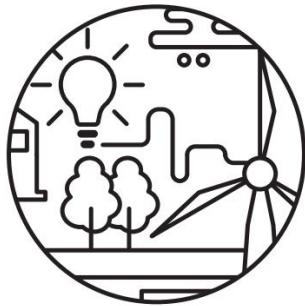
Topic Six – Sustainable architecture

"Sustainable design from inception to completion and handover including post-occupancy evaluation and feedback and how this fits within a wider aim of resource efficiency" In our current climate it is important to think about all aspects of sustainability, and how it can be applied to architecture.

Session topics could include Understanding of flood and water management, Low energy and high comfort together resulting in good outcomes for client and planet and New and renewable energy systems

Topic Seven – Inclusive environments

Understanding inclusive design is important as architecture should strive to be comfortable to all users. Set out by the Design Council CABE the five principles of inclusive design are:

1. Diversity and difference, placing people at the heart of the design process

2. Offer choice when a single design solution cannot accommodate all users

3. Provision of flexibility in use

4. Communities that offer plenty of services, facilities and open space

5. Buildings and environments that are convenient and enjoyable for everyone to use

(Design Council, n.d.)

Session topics could include Wayfinding and signage, Accessibility (Designing for diverse community, age, gender, religion, race and needs) and The Equality Act 2010

Topic Eight – Places, planning and communities

This topic looks at buildings in their context. It assesses how to design appropriately and looks at understanding the importance of forms as well as highlighting that design is both a process and an outcome. In architecture a successful building will be informed and respond to its surrounding contexts and people.

Session topics could include The needs and aspirations of communities, and space and building users, The effect of regeneration on communities, The difference between formal and informal spaces
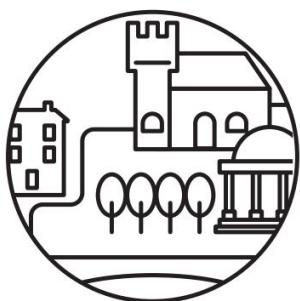
Topic Nine – Building conservation and heritage

Appreciating buildings that have come before us is an important way for us to develop into the future of architecture. It teaches us many methods and mindsets and gives us context to design in.

Session topics could include How to determine significance based on evidence and plan for conservation, Reading the building and Implementation and management of conservation works

Topic Ten – Design, construction and technology

Technology in the world around us is everchanging and it is important as architects to recognise this and use it to our advantage. It is also important to educate ourselves and asses how we can keep traditional methods of working alive.

Session topics could include British Standards, Understanding BIM as a management and collaboration tool and Listening to the client

(RIBA, n.d.)

It is important that we design not only for the future but for the current time. Regulations and user needs are so important in architecture, and they have to be met in order to create successful as well as structurally practical buildings. As the things around us change so often, the CPD training programme allows us as Architects to continue to grow and learn with the changes.

It is important to also understand that as a small business, we need to be passionate and educated about our values. If we want to implement our ideas and educate other people on them, we need to be educated ourselves.

As our ethos is specific to circular economy and the environment, it would be pertinent to recognise that specific courses would be more beneficial outside of the 10 core curriculum requirement as well as attending courses that would help us as a small and growing business.

Some courses that relate to our ethos are:

Low carbon design: fuel poverty, indoor environment solutions and health
Available for 12 Months

English (GB)　🎓 On demand
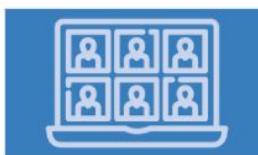
Practice Clinic: Growing a small practice
17 Nov 2021 16:00 to 17 Nov 2021 17:30

English (GB)　🎓 Webinar

Sustainable design: high performance, human centred, healthy design
Available for 12 Months

English (GB)   On demand

Passivhaus: On demand Club Ticket

English (GB)   Learning path

Ethical practice: challenges and rewards
Available for 12 Months

English (GB)   On demand

Planning update: what is good design and how to interpret and deliver it
Available for 12 Months

English (GB)   On demand

(RIBA, n.d.)

The CPD Certification Service, n.d. *What is Continuing Professional Development (CPD)?* [Online] Google: CPDUK. Available at: https://cpduk.co.uk/explained [Accessed 15 November 2021]

Royal Institute of British Architects, n.d. *Your CPD obligations as a RIBA Member* [Online] Google: RIBA Architecture. Available at: Fulfilling your CPD requirements and obligations as a RIBA Member (architecture.com) [Accessed 22 November 2021]

Royal Institute of British Architects, n.d. *RIBA CPD quick guide* [Online] Google: RIBA Architecture. Available at: https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/cpd/riba-cpd-quick-guide [Accessed 22 November 2021]

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