

# 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

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

## Mentoring

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

## Lecturing

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

## Visiting Critic

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

## Judging

<b>2017 - 22</b>	World Architecture Festival - WAF
<b>2021 -</b>	AJ100
<b>2020 -</b>	NLA Expert Assessor
<b>2020</b>	GIA Awards

## Other

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