

Annual Review

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Introduction

The AA is a school like no other. It provides its students with a dizzying breadth of choice and opportunity. This variety and difference lend the AA its energy and extraordinary resilience. We are a community that extends beyond the confines of the school to compose a network of intrepid students and graduates who understand that the world, like the AA, is full of difficult decisions and unexpected challenges.

The school offers programmes including the Foundation Course (AA Foundation Award in Architecture), Intermediate Programme (BA(Hons), RIBA Part 1), Diploma Programme (MArch and AA Diploma, ARB/RIBA Part 2), a range of Taught Postgraduate programmes (MA, MSc, PG MArch, MFA and Taught MPhil) and a PhD Programme, as well as RIBA Part 3 courses. Beyond this, our extensive programme of part-time Visiting Schools based around the world offer new learning opportunities. These all contribute to a vibrant culture of intellectual enquiry. They reflect a spectrum of methods, from the sociocultural to the material, that enable students to confront urgent topics such as social equity, patterns of territorial governance, decoloniality and migration, all of which are impacted by the climate crisis. We push every student to find original ways to participate in a global conversation through their work, using technological innovation, close analytical enquiry and speculative exuberance to imagine a more positive future with a degree of intelligent delight.

The breadth of our offering is always under consideration, and 2024–25 saw the new Conservation and Reuse (MA/PGDip) programme open for

admissions. Alongside this, our new Transfer Programme, a one-year conversion course for those entering the profession from other fields, was also validated this year. These two new strands address the urgent need to understand, value and build with what we already have, and to expand professional routes into architecture. We are delighted to have made further progress on this through the generosity of the Albukhary Foundation, as we welcomed our first Albukhary Scholar from Sudan – the first of many.

Outside the school, we descended on Venice for a collaboration with Nigel Coates at the Biennale, and back in London our Bedford Square spaces were packed for book launches, lectures and exhibition openings all year. We hosted the extraordinary drawings of Andrew Homes, and we returned to the tradition of installations on Bedford Square with a structure alongside the *Ripple Ripple Rippling* exhibition and an interactive pavilion of lights and sound from EmTech. We welcomed four pairs of Japanese architects and artists as part of a celebration of 30 years of support from MAEDA Corporation, before seeing out the year with Archipelago – our annual *Projects Review* exhibition.

This Annual Review highlights the achievements that took place during a year of exceptional engagement and continued reconnection with the wider AA community. We look forward to building on this and amplifying the AA's extraordinary energy.

Ingrid Schroder,
AA Director



The 2024–25 academic year has been one of renewal, ambition and collective momentum across the AA. It was a privilege to be elected President in June 2025, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Director and her team to deliver on the school's strategic priorities, while deepening our engagement with the AA's remarkable global alumni and member community.

This year, we said farewell to several long-serving Council members: Catherine du Toit, our immediate past President; Susannah Hagan; and Trevor Bolton. Each brought critical insight and lasting commitment to Council over several pivotal years of transition. We also thank Béné Jakel, who concluded his term as student member upon graduating. Their contributions are all deeply appreciated. We now look forward to welcoming new Council members – including a new student voice – in the year ahead.

The AA continues to operate within a globalised and complex higher education landscape, shaped by geopolitical tensions and challenges to academic freedom. Council's role here has been to support institutional clarity and ensure that the school remains a place where plurality, debate and a free communication of ideas are encouraged.

At the same time, the UK higher education sector faces ongoing financial uncertainty. Amid this, Council has prioritised robust financial diligence, enhanced fundraising capacity, and the continued relevance and accessibility of the AA's research and learning programmes. The aim is to ensure that people from around the world continue to choose the AA, and to apply what they learn to form and shape the built environment for the better.

All of this work forms part of a broader institutional agenda: the Strategic Plan 2024–2029. The Plan sets out clear priorities: securing the AA's future, widening access, amplifying our public voice, and building a more connected, inclusive global community. It has been a strong year as the school recognises and celebrates the achievements of staff, students and alumni the world over. The foundations are firmly in place, and I am confident that together we will carry this momentum forward.

Ravin Ponniah,
AA President

The AA was founded in 1847 by Robert Kerr and Charles Gray as a reaction against the prevailing conditions under which architects were trained. Established as a student-centred collective, the AA aimed to challenge the traditional ways in which architecture was taught, debated and theorised at the time. The Association urged its members to reconsider the commonplace social and cultural responsibilities of the profession at large – aspirations that remain at the heart of the school today.

Originally occupying a local inn, the AA grew from an occasional night school to a self-governed educational institution with a burgeoning global reputation. By the beginning of the 20th century it had become the first full-time, professional day school for architectural study in the country, and provided one of the first specialised diplomas of its kind in Europe. In 1917 the school moved to Bedford Square, London, where it remains to this day, surrounded by some of the most prominent research institutions in the world.

The institution is still self-funded and independent, and has evolved considerably since its inception. AA alumni have made some of the most significant contributions not only to the architectural profession, but also to many other cultural and scientific fields. The school continues to foster creative potential, critical freedom and radical cultural production with the same rigour and commitment as when it was founded.

Many of those who studied at the school have gone on to be influential figures not just in the field of architecture, but also in art, fashion, filmmaking, graphic design, photography and the sciences, including: Pritzker Prize winners Dame Zaha Hadid, Rem Koolhaas and Richard Rogers; Stirling Prize winners Will Alsop and David Chipperfield; and Neave Brown, recipient of the RIBA Royal Gold Medal. Other notable graduates include Ron Arad, Ben van Berkel, Susanne Bier, Elizabeth Chesterton, Nigel Coates, Sir Peter Cook, Edward Cullinan, Minnette de Silva, Carmen Dillon, Jane Drew, Mark Fisher, Kenneth Frampton, Ruth Gollancz, Steven Holl, Michael Hopkins, Patty Hopkins, Dorothy Hughes, Denys Lasdun, Judith Ledebøer, Amanda Levete, Edna Mosley, Neri Oxman, Janet Street-Porter, Cedric Price, Winifred Ryle, Elisabeth Scott, Denise Scott Brown, Jacqueline Trywhitt and Michael Ventris, among many others.

The AA is always looking to the future, with the aim to continually enhance its learning and teaching methodologies by envisioning a student experience that is unparalleled within architectural education. In 2024–25, the school embraced a variety of projects and initiatives in pursuit of this goal.

Throughout the year, the AA strengthened and expanded its international network of collaborators. *Distillation of Architecture*, an exhibition and events series in Term 2, celebrated three decades of partnership between the AA and MAEDA Corporation. In Venice we presented *Margherissima*, a Special Project for the Biennale Architettura realised by AA students in collaboration with Nigel Coates, Grymsdyke Farm and a network of artists, filmmakers and designers. In London, the AA hosted the First Nations Creative Directors of the Australia Pavilion at the Biennale, and our spaces on Montague Street exhibited photography by Iwan Baan documenting the urban landscapes of Las Vegas and Rome – the first in what we hope will be an ongoing series of photographic exhibitions on the premises.

Two new academic programmes reached major milestones this year, with the first recruitment cycle for the Conservation and Reuse MA/PGDip programme concluding with a healthy cohort of 12 students registered to begin their studies in autumn 2025. The new AA Transfer programme, designed to prepare graduates from other disciplines to enter the Diploma Programme, completed validation in summer 2025 and opens for applications from autumn 2025.

In September 2024, the AA welcomed the first beneficiary of the Albukhary Foundation scholarship from Sudan and we look forward to the ongoing support for this initiative.

At Hooke Park a major project is underway to realise the expansion of Wakeford Hall, creating a new focal point at the heart of our woodland campus. A roof structure incorporating the 'Tree and the Truss' system devised by Design and Make students went out to tender in summer 2025 and is undergoing value engineering.

The school community celebrated the end of the academic year in a jubilant graduation ceremony in Bedford Square Gardens, which culminated in the opening of the *Projects Review 2025* exhibition. During the event, the AA Honorary Diploma was awarded to Su Rogers to honour her achievements in architecture.

Our global community of alumni enjoyed many chances to convene and connect with one another this year at gatherings organised by the school in Taiwan, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Milan and Mexico City – many of which were attended by AA Director Ingrid Schroder.

During the 2024–25 academic year, staff and students across the AA embraced opportunities for debate, action and collaboration. Our units and programmes directed their focus towards urgent and global concerns, inventing new approaches to meet the challenges of the present and new lenses through which to envision a more equitable future.

Foundation Course

The Foundation Course welcomed a starting cohort of 20 students in 2024–25 who worked together in the studio, at Hooke Park and in Venice, Italy in response to project briefs and the *Projects Review 2025* exhibition. The course curriculum included both group and individual projects that nurture collaborative working methods while allowing each student to develop their own voice. Thandi Loewenson joined Catherine Ince as external examiner this year – her first year in this role and Catherine’s last – providing an opportunity for both established and fresh readings of the course and its resultant work.

Intermediate Programme

Intermediate design units explored a wide range of topics through a series of ambitious briefs, with work ranging from the practical to the speculative. Alongside the school-wide Climate Matters Week in Term 1, there was an increased focus on the ethics of designing and practicing responsibly in relation to the climate emergency. Many units focused on issues of landscape and conflicts around resource and wealth disparity, and utilised the AA’s Hooke Park campus to develop and explore projects.

London became a site for radical civic interventions, building typologies were questioned and transformed by new technologies and material systems, and international networks were critically examined.

Diploma Programme

Diploma design units explored a rich and varied range of topics, several of which were inspired by, aligned to and critically engaged with the issues discussed at Climate Matters Week. Units investigated ecological design methods, proposed new ways of living with nature, and asked critical questions about the reuse, conservation and development of architecture. The future of the city was a recurring theme, and projects addressed the impact on architectural design of technologies such as AI and other advanced digital tools. Special workshops, guest speakers and debates were hosted and an exceptional range of jurors from around the world were invited to review work. In June, Diploma Honours was awarded to six graduating students.

Intermediate Units

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| <p>1 Co-Opt
Jenny Hill, Paolo Emilio Pisano, Francesco Zuddas</p> <p>3 Necrosphere Outliers
Ricardo de Ostos, Nicholas Zembashi</p> <p>4 Who's on What?
Akil Scafe-Smith, Seth Amani Scafe-Smith</p> <p>6 Suffering from Success: The Architecture of Trial and Error
Ioana Man, Ana Nicolaescu</p> <p>7 Enter Apollo North
Marko Milovanovic, Fearghus Raftery</p> <p>8 Sprinklers in the Rain
Laurence Lumley, Silvana Taher</p> <p>9 A Good Time, or a Long Time?
Ryan Cook, Chloe Hudson</p> <p>10 Love
Valentin Bontjes van Beek, Rory Sherlock</p> <p>11 Parallel Parliament
Paul Francis Feeney, Marie-Louise Raue</p> <p>12 Bricoleurs – on Soft Grounds
Albane Duvillier, Elliot Rogosin</p> <p>13 Cultural Capital: Broken Pottery, Rusty Nails, Gods and Gold
Jessica Reynolds, Silan Yip</p> <p>14 Of Othering and Otherness
Vidhya Pushpanathan, Yonatan Buchhandler</p> | <p>15 Shifting Landscapes: Water and Land
Nichola Barrington-Leach, Caroline Pepper</p> <p>16 Room for More?
Eleanor Dodman, Selim Halulu</p> <p>17 Lobby for London
Dann Jessen, Julian Lewis, Judith Lösing</p> <p>18 soundSPACE/soundscape
Viviana Muscettola, Arya Safavi, Nhan Vo</p> |
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Diploma Units

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|--|---|
| <p>1 The Right Model City
Miraj Ahmed, Martin Jameson</p> <p>2 Reclaim the Commons: Neighbourhood as Nexus of Political Power
Nick Almond, Torange Khonsari, Mehrdad Seyf</p> <p>3 The Living Ecology II: Tomorrow Object Today
Jonas Lundberg, Andrew Yau with Ka Yu Chan</p> <p>4 Climate Peace: Cybernetics
John Palmesino, Ann-Sofi Rönnskog</p> <p>5 Living Archives and Material Memories
Nana Biamah-Ofosu, Giles Nartey</p> <p>6 Exactitude: Architecture and Infrastructure
Maria Fedorchenko</p> <p>7 Fluid Territories: On Property and Risk
Platon Issaias, Hamed Khosravi, Georgia Hablützel</p> <p>8 Forms for Living: Homes as Spaces of Mediation
Francisco González de Canales, Nuria Álvarez Lombardero</p> <p>9 Universal Free Housing: No Man's Land
Taneli Mansikkamäki, Calvin Po</p> <p>10 Editing and Constructing Change
Carlos Villanueva Brandt, Clarissa Begault</p> | <p>11 Memory
Shin Egashira</p> <p>12 The Moon Gave No Name to Tides: Exploring Architectures of the Wild
Pol Esteve Castilló, Inigo Minns</p> <p>13 The Thick of It
Elena Palacios Carral, Lola Lozano Lara, Jon Lopez</p> <p>14 Black Country Green Belt Grey Field
Pereen d'Avoine, Pierre d'Avoine</p> <p>15 Another Medieval
Lawrence Barth, Lucy Styles</p> <p>16 Wednesday Leaves Home
Ryan Dillon, David Greene</p> <p>17 Liminal
Theo Sarantoglou Lalis, Dora Sweijd</p> <p>18 Midscale: Tools for Reuse
Aude-Line Dulière, James Westcott</p> <p>19 Architecture beyond Extractivism: Syncretism as Method
Brendon Carlin, James Kwang-Ho Chung</p> <p>20 Studiolo
Gianfranco Bombaci, Matteo Costanzo, Davide Sacconi</p> <p>22 Drawing the Paradoxical: Imagining the Planetary Archipelago
Doreen Bernath, Ivana Wingham</p> |
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Taught Postgraduate Programmes

The AA's Taught Postgraduate programmes and PhD Programme develop innovative research projects in response to urgent interdisciplinary and global agendas. The school offers MA/MSc (12 months), MArch (16 months), MFA and Taught MPhil (18 months) degrees for a range of expertise from sustainable design, housing, urban planning, and history and theory, to robotics, emerging technologies, performance, landscape and design through making. The AA is a Partner Institution and Affiliated Research Centre of The Open University (OU), UK. The OU is the awarding body for research degrees (PhD) at the AA.

MArch Architecture and Urbanism (Design Research Laboratory)

The Design Research Laboratory (DRL) is recognised as a global leader in postgraduate architectural education and is regularly invited to share its work internationally. The DRL programme was selected as one of the top postgraduate architecture departments by the BAM World Ranking Committee, placing first among non-university institutions. This year's cohort secured positions at leading firms including Foster + Partners, Heatherwick Studio, Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA) and AKT II, among others. Student work has been exhibited internationally, most recently at the Royal Academy in London and the Venice Architecture Biennale. Recent activities across the DRL community further highlight the programme's global impact. Work from DRL's Spyropoulos Studio Elemental was exhibited in *SYNTHETIKA* at the FIESP Cultural Center in São Paulo, Brazil, and Director Theodore Spyropoulos's exhibition *Quantum* opened with distinguished scientists Professor Giorgio Parisi

(Nobel Prize in Physics, 2021) and Professor Luciano Maiani (former Director-General of CERN). Course Tutor Pierandre Anguis organised a symposium at the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale showcasing DRL work, while Course Tutor Shajay Bhooshan directed a workshop at Tongji University as part of the Digital Futures and ZHA collaboration. Course Tutor Nassia Inglessis opened her ASUS exhibition *Design You Can Feel* at Milan Design Week 2025. DRL researchers also contributed to the *Intelligence Age* symposium in Milan, advancing international discourse on AI and design.

MSc/MArch Design and Make

The 2024–25 Design and Make cohort – the largest to date – continued the programme's design research into the innovative use of material supplied by the working forest at Hooke Park, advancing making-led investigations into the use of natural tree forms, small diameter timber and lesser used timber species in architectural applications. They worked collectively to further develop

Hooke Park's infrastructure, including The Throne, a composting toilet cabin nestled among the trees to the south of the campus. Students developed design research prototypes in smaller groups, exploring speculative models, material tests and 1:1 fragments for two key developments at Hooke Park: The Canopy, a new timber store roof at the sawmill site; and The Thicket, internal teaching spaces within the Wakeford Hall development at the heart of the campus. This work forms a core part of Hooke Park's Continuous Laboratory model, where Design and Make students conduct ongoing design-make research alongside Summer Build Visiting School programmes and volunteer build teams from the AA. Each cohort builds on the work of its predecessors, developing the campus through built projects, temporary prototypes and more permanent architectural works. In addition, The Datum – a Design and Make building project produced by the 2023–25 cohort – was nominated for the Wood Awards, featured by *Dezeen* and accompanied by a research paper on the innovative use of small-diameter roundwood which was presented at the IASS Conference in Mexico City and the UK National Forestry Conference. Programme Heads have presented Design and Make's work through numerous lectures, including at universities across Mexico, Canada, the US and China, as well as at the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale.

MSc/MArch Emergent Technologies and Design (EmTech)

EmTech explores new synergies between architecture, engineering and ecology to generate knowledge informing emerging modes of production. In collaboration with Populous, EmTech designed and fabricated DensiFlora, a research pavilion exhibited in Bedford Square in November 2024, which represented research into lightweight structural systems developed through the bundling and twisting of rattan canes. The well-attended exhibition opening event featured lectures from EmTech faculty, Populous and Experience Studio, highlighting the collaborative design process and research outcomes of the project.

In July 2025, EmTech Programme Head Milad Showkatbakhsh led the DLAB Visiting School at the AA, launching new research on lightweight concrete structures using reusable, 3D-printed formworks. Morpho-Lock, the resulting installation from DLAB 2025, was designed and fabricated in the AA Model Workshop.

The programme continues to host the Master Class Lecture Series, which in 2024–25 welcomed distinguished speakers from academia and practice, including representatives from FacitHomes and Technologies, ICD Stuttgart and the Bartlett School of Architecture. Throughout this period, Showkatbakhsh contributed to international research conferences such as the CAADRIA, Design Modelling Symposium, UIA World

Congress and SIGraDi, and was published in journals including *City, Territory and Architecture* and *Smart and Sustainable Built Environment*.

MA History and Critical Thinking (HCT)

History and Critical Thinking interrogates architecture through history, theory and criticism. The programme produces and disseminates critical voices and knowledge that connects contemporary issues with specific histories, imaginations, vocabularies, spatial practices, material technologies and politics, redefining what architecture is and what it means to write and teach history today. This year, the HCT programme organised collaborations with major archives, including the AA Archives, Drawing Matter, the Le Corbusier Foundation in Paris and the OM Ungers Archive in Cologne. Programme Head Marina Lathouri hosted the annual HCT and PhD Debates series *Writing-with*, which brought diverse voices together to explore the inherently dialogical nature of writing as a form of labour and container of collective intelligence. Contributors to the series included Mateja Kurir, Olga Touloumi, Caroline Rabourdin, Claire Potter, Arnaud Desjardin, Hlib Velyhorskyi, Kenneth Frampton and Mario Carpo, addressing themes such as the spatial geographies of writing through the symbiotic stories, songs and soil practices of women rice weeders in north Italy; architectural heritage through cities of exile and post-

colonial cities; rethinking architecture through Hannah Arendt's categories of 'labour' and 'work'; the concept of power and politics in the writing of architectural history; and generative AI and practices of creative imitation.

MFA Spatial Performance and Design (AAIS)

AAIS 2024–25 expanded its international collaborations and live productions, maintaining its commitment to interdisciplinary practice and performative experimentation. The festival *Love Has Never Been...*, created in partnership with Xtopia Immersive, was held at Hope Alkazar in Istanbul from 19–21 March 2025 as part of the Xtopia Immersive Journey. Centred on the question 'Is freedom a given right, or a space we must claim?', the three-day programme included an open rehearsal, performance and workshops. The festival, which was inspired by James Baldwin's writing, later travelled to London, where it was presented at Shoreditch Arts Club on 13 June 2025.

Programme Heads Theo Lorenz and Tanja Siems published the book */People: At Home in More Than One Discipline* (Actar, 2025), presenting 17 years of research at the AA Interprofessional Studio. The book examines how creative practitioners connect architecture, performance and design to form new spatial and social practices, illustrated through case studies and teaching methods. Course Tutor Kyriaki Nasioula presented *Phasma*,

an intermedia dance project which premiered at Bios, Athens, in May 2025. Course Tutor Heiko Kalmbach co-led *Expressive Arts in Transition*, a German pilot project supporting children of soldiers and veterans affected by PTSD. Course Tutor Atimanyu Vashishth published widely in 2025, and his short film *Raqeeb* was broadcast by the Marseille-based experimental film archive Expephab. Course Tutor Mona Camille was awarded the 'off-West End award' for Best Set Design in February for her design of *Kim's Convenience* at Park Theatre London.

MSc/MArch Sustainable Environmental Design (SED)

SED projects address a broad range of climates, building types and urban morphologies, targeting the creation of carbon-neutral futures and promoting inhabitant comfort, health and wellbeing. This year, Simos Yannas became SED's Founding Director and Paula Cadima became the sole Programme Head. Four new staff members – Olivier Dambron, Divy Dora, Mileni Pamfili and Pierluigi Turco – joined the teaching team, bringing renewed expertise to the programme. Student projects focused on the refurbishment of a fully glazed office building in Canary Wharf, proposing design solutions in teams for its conversion and adaptation into mixed uses with low carbon impact. Dissertation projects focused on reuse, conversion and low-carbon retrofitting of existing buildings, but also addressed ventilation and humidity issues in dense urban

fabrics around the world. A study trip took place in Paris and Lille, and included exchanges with students and staff of both the School of Architecture ENSAPL and the School of Architecture of Versailles. SED students continued to publish work from their theses and group projects in journals and conferences. This year, papers were published and presented at the CATE 2024 in Seville, Spain, and at the CISBAT 2025 Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. The programme's student work and research publications are being catalogued, tracing the SED's history and evolution over the last 45 years, and will be made available through the AA Library.

Taught MPhil Architecture and Urban Design (Projective Cities)

Projective Cities is an interdisciplinary research and design programme that examines multi-scalar questions arising at the intersection of architecture, urban design and planning. This year, the programme underwent a systematic restructuring ahead of its relaunch in September 2025. Its new website and online interactive projects and research archive presents Projective Cities' work since its inauguration in 2009. Programme Heads also explored a series of external collaborations with local and international partners, arranging a three-year agreement with the renowned Autonomy Institute UK. In collaboration with the institute, Projective Cities is launching a new research and design agenda, The Architecture of Welfare.

In 2024–25, students developed dissertations situated in sites and cities worldwide, and addressing a variety of urban, rural, typological, architectural and social questions through research-by-design. There has been a particular interest in community-led initiatives and programmes as well as models of collective housing, infrastructures and equipment. Programme students and staff have undertaken continuous experimentation in teaching and learning methods and the protocols of academic work through numerous publications, lectures and design projects, which have been acknowledged by many in the field.

Projective Cities alum Arielle Lavine won the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain Dissertation Prize 2024 for her MPhil dissertation. The Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain (SAHGB) awarded the 2024 Colvin Prize to Programme Head Hamed Khosravi for his book *Do You Remember How Perfect Everything Was? The Work of Zoe Zenghelis* (AA Publications, 2022). Khosravi also received a Graham Foundation award for his upcoming publication *The Architecture of Dreams: The Work of Rita Wolff*.

PhD Programme

The PhD programme provides a platform for the development of research that investigates a broad range of subjects related to the built environment, as well as interrogating architecture as a form of knowledge. The programme was awarded a renewal of its Affiliated Research

Centre Agreement with the Open University (OU) in May 2021. In Term 1, the programme offered to candidates a seminar focused on methodology called ‘Redefining Doctoral Research’, which inspired an ongoing discussion on the role of academic standards and the different forms a research practice can take. In Term 2, the programme organised the open talks series ‘How to Make a City: From Domestication to Urbanisation’, analysing a series of critical case studies of city foundations which highlight the entanglement of environmental and political factors in the making of the urban environment. This topic continues a long-term debate on care and ecology that has inspired candidates’ work in the post-pandemic period as well as offering the thematic background for the PhD biweekly reading group in Term 2.

The academic year began with 11 new students enrolling on the PhD Programme, having previously submitted their research proposals and supervisor nominations for registration with the OU. They all successfully passed their upgrade exam in summer 2025. Five viva examinations were held, all with positive outcomes, with a further two theses submitted.

Professional Practice (Part 3)

The Professional Practice (Part 3) seminar programme and examination is for those seeking registration as an architect in the UK. The Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025 seminar programmes were attended by 217 candidates from a wide range of backgrounds in academia and practice. Throughout the course, we discussed contemporary practice and the role of the architect in the wider contexts of Brexit, the Grenfell tragedy, the climate crisis, and social value and community engagement.

All talks were delivered in person from the AA Lecture Hall to encourage debate and discussion; the opportunity for participants to share their experience in practice is fundamental to the programme. Sessions were livestreamed for those who could only attend online and recorded for future viewing and revision in advance of the exam. The seminar series included sessions on practice finance, quality management, the regulatory framework, design management, procurement, dispute resolution, ethical practice, social value, community engagement and intellectual property. Underpinning the whole course is the exploration and value of ideas.

The written examinations were based on an unfolding scenario in fictitious projects in London. A total of 198 candidates sat the examination, of whom 76 passed in Autumn 2024 and 93 in Spring 2025, representing a combined pass rate of 85%. Three candidates received the award with Distinction in Autumn and five in Spring. Successful candidates over the two exams included 48 AA alumni.

Academic Framework

AA Foundation Award in Architecture, Art and Design	BA (Hons) / Intermediate (RIBA Part 1)				MArch / AA Diploma (ARB/RIBA Part 2)		PGDip	MSc	MA	PGMArch	MFA	Taught MPhil	PhD
FHEQ Level 4	FHEQ Level 5	FHEQ Level 6		FHEQ Level 7									FHEQ Level 8
120 CR	Year 1 – 120 CR	Year 2 – 120 CR	Year 3 – 120 CR	Year 4 – 120 CR	Year 5 – 120 CR	9 Months FT / 21 Months PT 120 CR	12 Months – 180 CR	12 Months FT / 24 Months PT 180 CR	16 Months – 180 CR	18 Months – 240 CR	18 Months – 240 CR	48 Months	
Studio Practice 70 CR	Studio 60 CR	Studio 60 CR	Studio 60 CR	Studio 70 CR	Studio 70 CR		Core Studio / Thesis 100 CR	Core Studio / Thesis 100 CR	Core Studio / Thesis 100 CR	Core Studio / Thesis 150 CR	Core Studio / Thesis 150 CR		
Contextual 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 20 CR	Core Module 1 20 CR	Core Module 1 20 CR	Core Module 1 20 CR	Core Module 1 20 CR	Core Module 1 20 CR	Core Module 1 20 CR	Core Module 1 20 CR	
Contextual 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	ETS 10 CR	Core Module 2 20 CR	Core Module 2 20 CR	Core Module 2 20 CR	Core Module 2 20 CR	Core Module 2 20 CR	Core Module 2 20 CR	Core Module 2 20 CR	
Contextual 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	Core Module 3 20 CR	Core Module 3 20 CR	Core Module 3 20 CR	Core Module 3 20 CR	Core Module 3 20 CR	Core Module 3 20 CR	Core Module 3 20 CR	
MS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	HTS 10 CR	Core Module 4 20 CR	Core Module 4 20 CR	Core Module 4 20 CR	Core Module 4 20 CR	Core Module 4 20 CR	Core Module 4 20 CR	Core Module 4 20 CR	
MS 10 CR	MS 10 CR	MS 10 CR	PP1 20 CR	Elective 10 CR	APP2 20 CR	Core Module 5 20 CR				Core Module 5 10 CR	Core Module 5 10 CR		
	MS 10 CR	MS 10 CR				Core Module 6 20 CR							
		Intermediate Award: Higher Education Certificate (120 CR+ at FHEQ Level 5 and 6)	Intermediate Award: Non-Honours Degree (300 CR+ at FHEQ Level 5 and 6)		Intermediate Award: Postgraduate Certificate (120 CR+ at FHEQ Level 7)					Intermediate Award: Postgraduate Certificate (120 CR+ at FHEQ Level 7)			
						BA(Hons) to PGDip, MSc, MA and MFA Pathway							
						PGDip	MSc	MA		MFA			
						FHEQ Level 7							
						9 Months FT / 21 Months PT 120 CR	12 Months – 180 CR	12 Months – 180 CR		18 Months – 240 CR			

Visiting School Programmes, Partners and Sponsors

The AA Visiting School (AAVS) runs short courses and forums in the UK and destinations worldwide, all of which aspire to address pressing issues affecting our discipline and our planet with imagination and impact. VS programmes engage closely with their local contexts, while contributing to global discourses and showcasing their work at prominent events and venues.

In 2024–25, in collaboration with AA alum and former staff member Nigel Coates, the Visiting School supported the realisation of the AA's first formal involvement in the Venice Biennale for more than a decade. Located at Forte Marghera and financially underpinned by the Biennale, *Margherissima* was selected as a Director's Special Project and exhibited from 10 May – 23 November 2025. It presented a speculative project to shape a new 'smart' neighbourhood on 44 hectares of derelict land in the south-east corner of the vast area of Marghera, home to one of the busiest ports in Italy. The exhibit was received favourably by the international architecture press, with *Domus* labelling it 'the perfect happy hour of this Biennale'.

This year, the Visiting School in Melbourne, Australia presented a major exhibition titled *Project Toria* of participants' work over the last three years, with generous financial support from the Melbourne School of Design. It will form the basis for a forthcoming book chronicling the Visiting School's work, to be published by Oro Editions

in 2026. Several new short courses launched during the 2024–25 academic year, broadening the AAVS's geographical reach, thematic focus and the range of learning methods explored across six continents. These included the 'Limbo Architecture Lab' as part of the Limbo Museum initiative in Accra; Topo-Graphia in Crete; Pixel Preservation in Vietnam; and Barrandien in Prague. In the UK, Rite of Seasons took place at Bedford Square led by AA tutor Nicola Barrington-Leach, and Earthbound Social Sculpture unfolded at Hooke Park led by AA tutor Paul Francis Feeney. The AAVS also continued its collaboration with Hong Kong University (HKU) as part of the joint AAHKU Asian Investigations Programme running from 2024–26.

In addition, the Visiting School launched a new series of programmes under the heading 'Media-Architecture Forums' led by AA tutor Marko Milovanovic. In 2024–25 these included the Film-Architecture Forum and the Publishing-Architecture Forum. Media-Architecture Forums are a series of high-impact, small-cohort gatherings exploring how architecture is made public through time-based media, printed and digital platforms, books, exhibitions and objects. Each Forum approaches architecture intimately, as a discursive, artistic and cultural practice, and brings together compelling voices from a range of fields – architects, artists, filmmakers, editors, curators, designers and researchers – who are invested in this area of architectural thought and practice. Aside from the important regular funding that individual programmes

receive from individuals, companies, organisations and foundations, the AAVS also supported two Obel Teaching Fellowship applications and was part of the successful Cinnovate grant application.

Summer School

The AA Summer School, part of the AA Visiting School, continued to grow its format and locations. The long-standing Summer School in London was joined in 2024–25 by the Latin America Summer School in Mexico City, expanding our international offering that began with the Asia Summer School in Shanghai in 2023–24. All three programmes ran in July under the theme 'Exceptions', as seven units in London and two each in Shanghai and Mexico City sought to challenge norms and explore architectural, urban, artistic and design exceptions that are reshaping the ways in which we think about space and the built environment. From unconventional buildings and unique typologies to urban irregularities and design approaches that subvert traditional frameworks, our studios explored how architectural exceptions can inspire new ways to design and live.

We continued to encourage applications from collectives when recruiting our international team of Summer School unit tutors, which in London included Emily Priest, Tadeas Riha and Laurence Lumley; Flore Fokedey, Emma Cogne and Nani-Mariana Ledebur; Lindsey Krug, Radu Remus Macovei and Edward Wang; Jake Parkin, Tanil Raif, Aoi Phillips Yamashita and Mario Serrano Puche;

Form of Commons – Chiara Malerba, Margherita Sorgentone and Costanza Zeni; and Rubble, Jacob Höppner and Leo Herrmann. Units in Shanghai were taught by Zhaoxi Tian and Zhuxuan Yang, and in Mexico City by Maite García Lascurain Fernández and Jose Vargas.

Semester Programme

The AA Semester Programme, also part of the AA Visiting School, is a full-time, 15-week studio-based course open to undergraduate and graduate students, architects and other creative individuals from around the world who wish to further their knowledge, practice and skills in architecture at the AA. The Autumn programme, titled 'Venice. Eco Heritage', investigated the municipality's initiatives of investing in renewable energy sources. Participants examined environmental, functional, architectural and landscape typologies in this context by analysing both tangible and intangible conditions, and developed their own brief to target specific design challenges supporting 'Venice 2030' sustainability goals. In Spring 2025, the Semester Programme contributed to Madrid Innovation Lab – a collaboration platform between the Community of Madrid, MWCC and the Metròpoli Foundation which aims to identify urban and architectural projects to support and promote the Madrid Metròpolis 2040 project. Participants became immersed in this challenge and examined the urban structure of the city, exploring recent and ongoing developments shaping Madrid's profile.

The AA Residence is a cultural platform to research and develop new ideas and forms of practice at the intersection of architecture, art, technology, policy and design. It provides a physical and intellectual space for innovative ideas that can radically change the ways we think, build and shape the future. Comprising AA Labs – a series of independent research groups – and the soon-to-be-launched AA Incubator, with a shared workspace and professional development programme, the AA Residence supports visionary individuals, projects and practices, and fosters new and experimental forms of research.

AA Labs draw from the expertise of an interdisciplinary cohort of fellows including architects, artists, policymakers, engineers, scientists and creative entrepreneurs. They are driven and supported by grants and Lab Partners, and carry the potential for additional external investment to be contributed as the research develops.

Action Lab

Action Lab is a coalition of students, units and programmes that treats action and participation as the basis for design and research. It acts as a platform for live engagement and intervention into existing sociocultural, economic and policy structures, to explore real and speculative change. The Lab develops forms of advocacy, with the objective of building a basis for shared information, documentation and strategies for change.

The Lab's first task is to consolidate the knowledge and projects accumulated throughout the AA's long history of direct action. The aim is to make this work accessible both within and beyond the school as the basis for more in-depth and ongoing discussions with professional bodies, local groups and policymakers across a range of scales.

Archive Lab

Archive Lab examines alternative organisational approaches to history and artefacts, as means of challenging received narratives and of examining the role of the AA in the perpetuation of abiding Eurocentric readings of history and culture in architectural education. The Lab brings together initiatives that explore strategies for decolonisation and the diasporic experience, and investigate their impact on the built environment and cultural production.

The first embodiment of this work is the Entangled Archive, a Graham Foundation-funded project currently underway to digitise material from the AA Department of Tropical Architecture (DTA, 1950–1972) and provide an online platform for researchers eager to examine the network of global relationships entangled with the DTA, in order to challenge the orthodoxy of its

programme. The project will catalogue existing DTA material held by the AA Archives; make this work available through digitisation and publication in an online database, scheduled to launch in early 2026; and contact living alumni to trace the legacy of the DTA, discover and preserve missing documents, and to record the experiences of this dispersed international cohort.

Land Lab

Land Lab is a collaborative platform focused on the complex entanglements of living systems between hyper-local and world orders, and is embedded in material infrastructures. Its work addresses the diverse forces that shape the land: material systems and flows; ecological culture; other-than-human intelligence; planetary thinking and computation; legal and governance structures; the socio-economics of land use and land rights; systems of production, energy and food; landscape; and geopolitical epistemologies and political ecologies.

One of the Lab's first outputs was the AA Gallery exhibition *Ripple, Ripple, Rippling* in 2024, which highlighted hidden changes in Chinese rural homes and village landscapes that support a floating labour force sustaining the country's urbanisation. The exhibition also reflected on the evolving methods and media used to engage with these changes, through architecture, anthropology, filmmaking and performance.

In 2025, Land Lab began to engage closely with Hooke Park to plan future

public lectures, residencies, festivals and activities as part of the school's new Land Futures initiative.

Ground Lab

Ground Lab is a research design initiative that engages with the planetary environmental crisis facing humanity, and explores how design practices can provide the knowledge and expertise to imagine alternative worldviews. Led by José Alfredo Ramírez and Clara Olóriz Sanjuán, it collaborates with think tanks and organisations worldwide to visualise and politicise the spatial impact of policymaking.

In 2024, the Lab held a symposium titled *Locating The Agrarian Struggles for Land* at the AA, bringing the subject to a spatial design audience while laying the groundwork to synergise ecological reforms with land and agrarian change. Ground Lab also developed a report for the Inter American Development Bank in 2024–25 containing observations and recommendations for potential integration into the Bicentenario Urban Corridor project in Sucre, Bolivia. The Lab's work on the project aims to complement and consolidate the ideas and concepts that shape the Urban Corridor project as a whole.

Wood Lab

Wood Lab brings together expertise from forestry, architecture, engineering, ecology and material science. Led by Kate Davies and Emmanuel Vercruysse, Wood Lab's research explores long-term forestry strategies within Hooke Park, contributing to an urgent conversation within architecture about the potential and sustainability of timber. Wood Lab has been made possible thanks to the generous support of John Makepeace, who founded the Hooke Park campus as Director of the Parnham Trust.

Throughout 2024, as part of their ongoing 100-Year Forest project, Wood Lab Fellows Catherine Byrne and Jeremy Ralph collected data from the forest, including the first full inventory and woodland condition assessment of Hooke Park in many years. This data has informed an analysis of the current state of the forest, as well as shaping a 100-year strategy and action plan for the woodland. This strategy includes an assessment of predicted changes to both the environment and the timber market over the coming century, and suggests new forestry tools that could contribute to management decision-making.

In summer 2025, printing began of *Seeding Change: Visionary Timber Architecture at Hooke Park 1981–2001*, a new publication consolidating research by Wood Lab Research Fellows into archival material held by the AA relating to the first three buildings realised at Hooke Park by

John Makepeace and the Parnham Trust: the Prototype House (1986), the Workshop (1990) and Westminster Lodge (1996). Encompassing a rich and extensive range of original drawings, maps, photographs, plans and documents from the Hooke Park Archive, the book traces the genesis and development of the campus and its radical experiments in roundwood. The book will be published by AA Publications in autumn 2025 for distribution worldwide.

The AA Public Programme brings together voices from inside and outside the school to focus on the unique opportunities and challenges of the present, raising questions and inspiring change within architecture and society. It does this through a series of free lectures, exhibitions, symposia, workshops and book launches. We welcome audiences of students, staff and the public locally to the AA Lecture Hall and Gallery, as well as globally through the AA YouTube channel and 3D-scanned digital versions of our exhibitions.

4	Lecture series across the year
55	Events
6	Symposia
11	Exhibitions
3	Workshops

Exhibitions

The year began with *GAS TANK CITY*, an exhibition of hyperreal drawings by Andrew Holmes in the Bar and Front Members' Room that explored the decline of the age of oil. In parallel, *Ripple Ripple Rippling* in the AA Gallery presented stories of the hidden changes in Chinese rural homes and village landscapes that enable a floating labour force who sustain the country's urbanisation. Inside the AA Gallery, visitors encountered a walk-around screening of the *Ripple Ripple Rippling* film trilogy as well as drawings, photographs and field footage. Outside on Bedford Square, an ambitious installation of a work-in-progress dry stone wall house foundation at 1:1 scale accompanied the exhibition. A week-long build with master dry stone wallers and students from the Building Crafts College became a living demonstration of materiality and building techniques, with the stone generously donated by Haysom Purbeck Stone and infill materials by Ty-Mawr Lime.

Providing a stage for performances and food-sharing as well as a living garden, the installation hosted performances by Mengfan Wang and Shuyi Alice Wang, an edible food response to the installation by artist Barney Pau, and a dry stone wall deconstruction workshop in collaboration with AA Material Arcade. The installation was a focal point for visitors and passersby on the square, and became a crowded meeting place and lunch spot throughout October.

Following this, DensiFlora was built on Bedford Square, a collaboration between EmTech and Populous which illuminated the winter evenings with its rattan cane canopies.

In Term 2 a series of four installations – including a mobile 'stall' with a kaya thatched roof and a floating vegetable-leather inhabitable structure – took over the Gallery and Front Members' Room. Curated with AA tutor Shin Egashira, the *Distillation of Architecture: 家具* exhibition celebrated more than 30 years of collaboration between MAEDA Corporation and the AA by bringing together architects and makers from Japan to reconsider the concept of furniture in relation to architecture,



through a process of 'distillation' – the refinement of ideas, materials and processes. A week-long live build paired AA students with Japanese architects and craftspeople to collaborate on the processes involved in the ambitious installations.

Alongside the exhibition, a series of Visiting School exhibitions took place in the AA Bar, including *Building Culture in Armenia* and *Archipelago of the Blessed*. Term 3 saw the installation of *Never Not None*, an exhibition of the work of Media Studies in Foundation, First and Second Year, in the Front Members' Room and Bar.

In May the first public exhibition was opened at 1 Montague Street. Titled *From Las Vegas to Rome*, it presented photography by Iwan Baan across two floors.

The year culminated in *Projects Review 2025*, which showcased student work across nine 'islands' in the archipelago of the AA. It celebrated work by every unit and programme within the school and their achievements throughout the academic year, with an installation of Diploma Honours projects in the Front Members' Room.

Lectures and Symposia

Term 1 events generated conversations on the topic of Land. The event series Field Forum, curated by Jingru (Cyan) Cheng and Chen Zhan, comprised four evening events including film screenings, records on the turntable, and short talks and conversations that

centered the interconnectedness of material systems, planetary scales and processes of time in the built environment. The This Land is Your Land lecture series, organised with Georgia Hablützel, Hamed Khosravi and Platon Issaias, critically investigated property relationships and negotiation of rights across three lectures. Other events included a roundtable conversation on *Sub-Urbanism and the Art of Memory* with Sebastian Marot to mark the publication of a new edition of the book by AA Publications, a standalone lecture by Zhu Pei, and an evening with Mike Davies and Alan Stanton titled 'Chrysalis: Experiments in Architecture, LA, 1968–72'.

In Term 2, the Public Programme considered how architects can act within existing systems to bring about political, social and technological change. The Systems Overhaul series, organised with AA Librarian Kirsty Edginton, critically questioned how architects can embrace AI to address inequalities. In parallel, the Consultation Counter Cultures event series critically evaluated the dysfunction of public consultation practices in the context of urban renewal, and discussed the role that cultural practitioners can play in transforming how the public engages in decision-making processes.

Term 3 began with a hands-on workshop led by First Nations Creative Directors of the 2025 Australia Pavilion, engaging students with ideas of home through the collective making of plaster panels that were then displayed in the

Gallery. The Lecture Hall held book launches such as *Dirty Old River* by Tom Emerson, in conversation with AA director Ingrid Schroder, and *The Land Remembers* with Collective for Architecture Lebanon, curators of the 2025 Lebanese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Symposia were interspersed throughout the year, from *Transversal Alliances: Architecture, Anthropology, Filmmaking and Performance* to *Distillation of Architecture: 家具*. Standalone sold-out events ranged from talks by architects such as Jo Nagasaka and Mio Tsuneyama to roundtable conversations such as 'Unfolding Space: Alternative Spatial Practices from Africa'. Organised with AA student Aude Tollo, this event invited Sénamé Koffi Agbodjinou, Khensani Jurczok-de Klerk and Nzinga Mboup to present their journeys from education into practice. Through an evening of celebration, learning from the speakers in an intimate and informal setting, attendees communed with food from a Nigerian buffet in the South Jury Room before gathering for a DJ performance by Zeena.

Over the summer, the programme continued alongside the AA Summer School: EXCEPTIONS with a series of conversations by Rita Elvira Adamo from radical Italian spatial practice La Rivoluzione delle Seppie, designer Louise Morin, and Objects of Common Interest and LOT Office for Architecture who considered how spatial design can act as a negotiation between opposing forces.

Special Projects

The second annual AA Climate Matters Week took place in Term 1, organised by Michael Weinstock with the Climate Matters Student Working Group. Climate Matters Week aims to give students and staff the opportunity to explore and present their opinions, concerns and architectural ideas for the impending climatic and ecological changes that the world will face over our lifetime. An exhibition of student work was held in the Lecture Hall and Jury Rooms, alongside a packed schedule of talks and workshops in the Lecture Hall and other spaces around the school. The week concluded with presentations of manifestos from programmes across the school and a panel discussion moderated by Student Forum.

In 2024–25 the AA continued its partnership with the Open City Accelerate Programme. The programme aims to empower students from under-represented backgrounds to pursue further education and careers in architecture and the built environment. As a university partner, the AA hosts a series of workshops for Accelerate students at Bedford Square. In August, the school held the second day-long Retrofit workshop in collaboration with Accelerate and the University of Cambridge, whose students donated their architectural models and introduced the young attendees to concepts of architectural retrofitting and reuse. The workshop was led by AA tutors Elena Palacios Carral and Lola Lozano with Isabella Synek Herd.



Publications

AA Publications is a central mode of cultural and academic production for the school, building upon a significant legacy of critical and experimental publishing throughout the AA's history. Titles are produced in-house by a team of editors and graphic designers in the Communications Studio, and examine urgent currents, projects and agendas in architecture and the wider field.

In December 2024 we celebrated the relaunch of AA Publications, presenting five new publications from 2023–24 and heralding a return to regular publishing in the school. Among these was *Reyner Banham: A Set of Actual Tracks*, published in October 2024; edited by Ludovico Centis, the book brings a contemporary critical lens to the work of Reyner Banham, with thirteen of the acerbic historian's essays and book chapters accompanied by contemporary reflections. Selected from AA Publications' first open call for proposals at the end of 2023, the book is the first to be published under the aegis of the AA's Editorial Board, appointed in 2022 to guide the activities of AA Publications.

Four other proposals selected by the Board alongside *Reyner Banham* remain in development: *Software into Hardware*, edited by Klaus Platzgummer, Anh Hoffmann, Lisa-Marie Wessler and Jann Wiegand, on the influence of biased data sets in architecture (forthcoming Spring 2026); *The Cladding Crisis*, edited by Caitlin Colquhoun and Giulia Rosa, which confronts the systemic failures that led to the Grenfell Tower fire (Spring 2026); *Exile on Main Street* by Álvaro Velasco Pérez; and *The Project of Arquitetura Nova* by Davide Sacconi.

Also introduced at the relaunch event in December was *Concerning... Land*, edited by Ingrid Schroder and Emily Priest and published in November 2024. The publication is the first in a series that contends with fundamental professional and academic concerns in architecture, exploring what it means to belong to land, to claim it, to be landed or to maintain land through stewardship.

AA Files 80 was published in October 2024 and issue 81 followed in April 2025, the first two issues to adopt a new editorial design. This graphic shift and the accompanying return to biannual publishing were celebrated at the end of April with a conversation between the editors and contributors, with the new issues presented on a table made from the lithographic plates with which they were printed.

Designed to reflect the 'Archipelago' theme of *Projects Review*, the *AA Book 2025* was published in June as a die-cut sleeve containing coloured folders for each of the rooms of the exhibition, each an 'island' containing unit and programme pages grouped by theme. Five new proposals were selected by the Editorial Board at the end of 2024, including a book of Ursula K Le Guin's maps to be published in collaboration with Silver Press.



Digital Media

Online venues allow the AA to reach a diverse range of audiences spanning students, staff, alumni, members, the general public, architectural scholars, the media, prospective students and anyone who has an interest in the work and discussions taking place at the school. Our social media channels and main website allow a global audience to keep up to date with day-to-day happenings at the school.

207,000 Instagram followers
187,000 Facebook followers
60,600 YouTube subscribers
42,700 LinkedIn followers

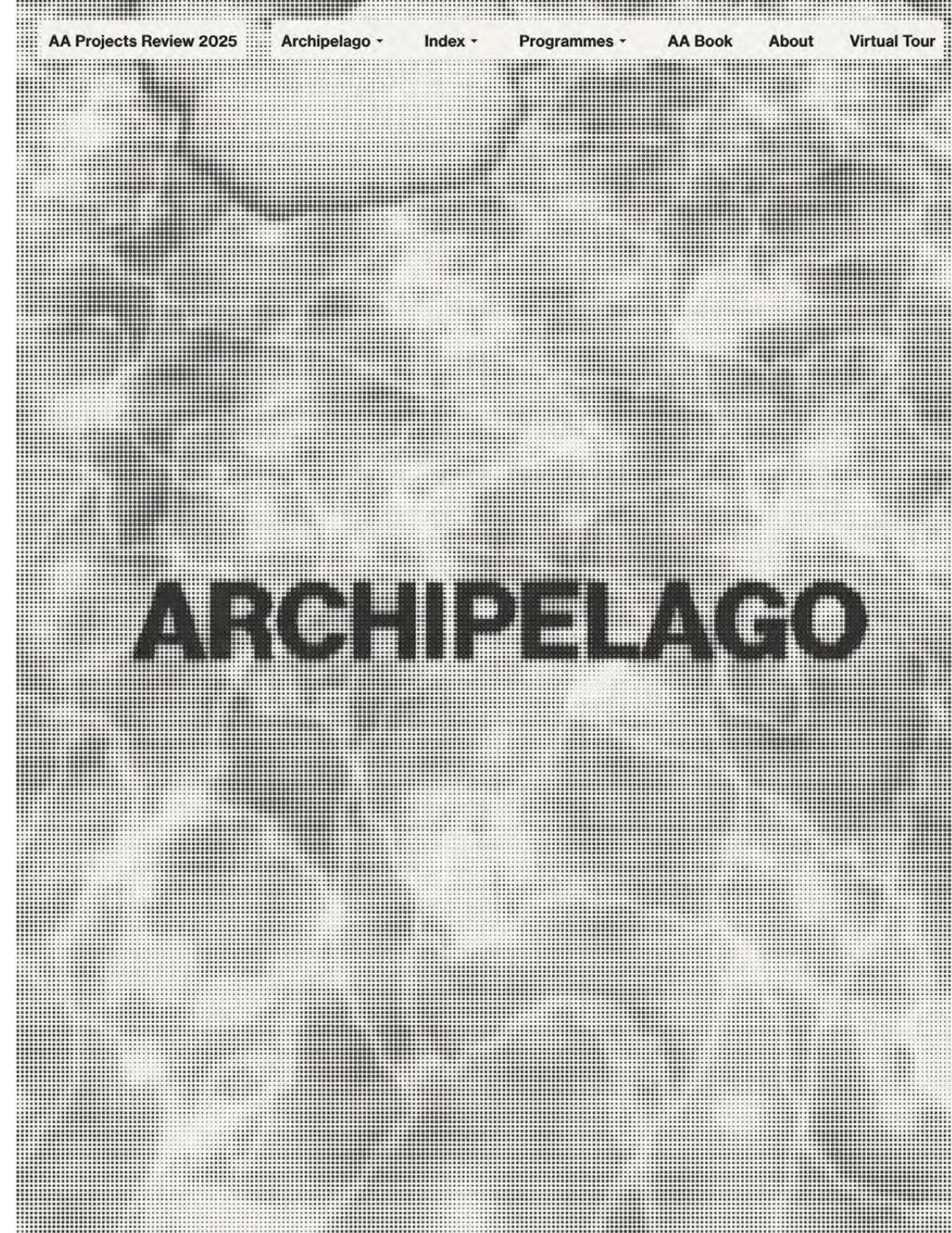
This year, we have continued to evolve the AA's social media strategy which has resulted in a growth in follower counts from 193,000 (2024) to 207,000 on Instagram. There, posts and stories share moments from AA life, Public Programme events, and outreach and recruitment activities, alongside a regular schedule of posts sharing student work from across the school. Stories capture the day-to-day flavour of life at the AA and amplify our wider network of visitors, collaborators and friends.

Recordings of lectures and symposia continue to be uploaded to our YouTube channel, benefitting from improvements to the audio-visual technologies in the school's Lecture Hall last year. Our AirAA multimedia platform published podcasts throughout the year, continuing our series 'On the Steps of 36' and 'Files on Air' with 16 episodes published this year, reaching an audience of almost 5,000 listeners.

Work continued throughout 2024–25 on a new AA website, aaschool.ac.uk, which will improve the design

and user experience of this vital online resource. The appointed developers, Linked by Air, have been working with the AA to craft a new site that will revitalise the AA's digital presence, better communicate the strengths of the school and improve accessibility to our programmes and public activities for an international audience. Within the project is an improved membership portal that will allow students, staff, members and alumni to connect with one another around the world and within their local communities, as well as an online platform for the Department of Tropical Architecture (DTA) archive. Alongside this, we have undertaken an interim redesign of the Hooke Park microsite. In 2024–25 the AA website received 652,036 sessions and 2.3m page views by visitors from more than 200 countries.

The *Projects Review 2025* website, pr2025.aaschool.ac.uk, rendered the archipelago of this year's theme in digital form, visualising islands of units and programmes for visitors to explore. The site received 562,320 page views in the three months following its launch in June 2024 – a threefold increase on last year.



Bookshop

The AA Bookshop offers a diverse, extensive and carefully curated selection of books that are relevant to the broad scope of teaching at the school. It is an integral part of the AA and a highly regarded independent bookseller in London in its own right, providing a valuable resource both for our students and staff and for the wider architectural community.

In 2024–25, the Bookshop continued to grow its customer base by connecting with friends both old and new. A record number of well-attended book launches were held, introducing publications by Tom Emerson, Alison Brooks, Andrew Holmes, Anna Liu, Neil Leach, Mateja Kuri, Kenneth Frampton, Naina Gupta and Iwan Baan, among others. The AA Book Group continued its regular meetings in the Bookshop throughout the year, bringing together members of the AA community to discuss a diverse range of titles over refreshments.

A new visual identity for the Bookshop was developed this year by the AA Communications Studio, including new window graphics and outdoor signage to increase visibility from Bedford Square.

A range of AA merchandise was also designed by the Communications Studio for sale in the Bookshop, including t-shirts, hooded sweaters, water bottles and reflective tote bags; the range was launched at this year's Graduation Ceremony.

The @AABookshop Instagram account is now followed by 11,500 people and remains a valuable channel through which to communicate with customers.



A ten-building campus of 68,000 square feet offers students and staff an intellectual and academic home in Bedford Square. Located in the heart of Bloomsbury, London, the AA's main site inhabits buildings 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 Bedford Square and 16 Morwell Street (located behind the square), as well as 1 and 1a Montague Street. These Georgian homes have been transformed into a hub of architectural activity and include studio spaces, a lecture hall, meeting rooms, presentation and public programme spaces, a library and archive, exhibition space, offices, a bar and restaurant, workshops, prototyping and computer labs, courtyards and terraces.

In 2024–25, the Wood and Metal Workshop continued to build a great rapport with the student body, which is reflected in the broad demand to use our department from across the school. Workshop staff put great effort and enthusiasm into supporting students' model-making and fabrication work, providing tutorials to help students find creative and experimental solutions to their design and fabrication problems. All Wood and Metal Workshop staff have been given the new job title of Workshop Teacher Technician, which gives parity and recognition for the inherent and important teaching aspect of their role across the department. Our new large cutting capability wood bandsaw enables the processing of timber sections up to 36cm deep, which has added capacity for operating three bandsaws at once, reducing congestion and expanding making possibilities. We have also collated the last three years' worth of interesting and informative images of making processes undertaken within the department. This is available to view on our workshop TV screen during opening hours.

The Digital Prototyping Lab (DPL) continued to provide students with expertise and hands-on experience in digital fabrication across the school. This year, we launched a new fourth-year Media Studies elective focused on robotic clay 3D printing processes. Our equipment was upgraded: the older SLA resin printers were replaced with next-generation models that are faster, more precise and offer reduced resin costs for students. The renewal of our plastic FDM 3D printing equipment is also underway, introducing new machines that are larger, faster and more cost-efficient. To support these new capabilities, we've refreshed our suite of how-to videos, making it easier for students to master the tools of digital production. The DPL remains a key component of the curriculum, supporting First Year Media Studies modules with CNC milling and maintaining an active collaboration with the AAVS DLAB programme each August.

This year, the Library was successful in its application to join SCONUL, expanding access for staff and postgraduate students to Higher

Education Libraries across the UK. The reciprocal agreement provides access to study spaces and reference access to collections. The Library also began a long-term digitisation project and is actively applying for funding to support this project. Both initiatives form part of the Library's mission to widen access to its services and collections. Library staff worked throughout the summer on upgrading the security system, tagging around 20,000 items. As part of the Public Programme, Librarian Kirsty Edginton organised the Systems Overload events series; at the opposite end of the spectrum, the Library's copy of *Street Farmer* by Bruce Haggart and Peter Crump made its way to the British Library exhibition on gardening.

AA Archives has seen significant growth and development in 2024–25. Alongside the ongoing acquisition, digitisation and cataloguing of the AA's historic and contemporary records, the Archives have been engaged in a major project, funded by the Graham Foundation, to investigate the legacies of the AA's Department of Tropical Architecture (1954–71). The resulting online research repository is due to launch in early 2026 and will make available for the first time more than 10,000 images and archival records – mapping the careers of more than 500 alumni across 125 countries, revealing the entangled network of institutions, practices and government bodies which formed around them. In addition to this work, the Archives have acquired substantial new holdings, highlights of which include four portfolios of student work by Neave Brown; a large donation of archival

material relating to the AA Planning Department (1968–85); and early drawings for Hooke Park donated by Cullinan Studio. An external valuation of the Archives' collections was carried out in October 2024. It recorded an increase in value of the collections as an asset of more than £420,000 since 2019. The Archive has also been working on a major data conversion project to merge the catalogues of the AA's photographic collections with those of the Archives' holdings, creating a new, combined online catalogue due to launch in early 2026.



Hooke Park

Hooke Park is a growing educational space that combines forest, studio, workshop and building site. It is home to the Design and Make programme and hosts short residential workshops for visiting groups of students from across the school. Design, construction and landscape-focused projects undertaken here are supported by a diverse team of expert practitioners, including craftspeople, designers, engineers, robotic technicians and foresters. The site is a designated Ancient Woodland and forms part of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; its rural landscape provides a unique counterpoint to the urban context and focus of architectural study in the metropolis.

Hooke Park is a rich context which serves as an immersive laboratory for creative exploration and architectural research, providing a unique environment in which the landscape is central to the work as full-scale design and build projects and prototypes are nested into the tissue of the forest environment. We continue to expand the possibilities for more diverse academic activity at Hooke Park and to enable more AA students to engage with the site, in particular by steadily developing the facilities to engage with a wider variety of locally sourced materials.

This academic year, work continued on a hundred-year framework for the long-term management of the Hooke Park woodland through collaboration between Wood Lab Fellows Cat Byrne and Jeremy Ralph and Hooke Park Foresters Chris Sadd and Jim Jaggard. Implementation of the plan included a 'bioblitz' event, inviting members of the public to join in a survey of wildlife in the woodland in May 2025.

Hooke Park hosted short courses throughout the year as part of the AA

Visiting School, including Summer Build, MAEDA Workshop: Furnishing the Landscape, Earthbound Social Sculpture and Full Moon Theatre. In addition, the campus expanded its residential programme offering groups from ARUP, Buro Happold and the Grimshaw Foundation. A successful Open Day was held in May 2025, bringing together a large group of visitors from the local community and further afield to explore the woodland and its buildings.

A major project to expand Wakeford Hall at the heart of the campus gathered pace this year with the construction of a new roof structure, supported by the Tree and the Truss (devised by Design and Make students), which was put out to tender in 2025. Elsewhere, construction and installation continued on Design and Make student projects The Wild Thing and The Throne, which will provide additional bathroom facilities to enable visitors to camp on-site.



Students at the AA come from all over the world, with 79 nationalities represented in the 2024–25 academic year. Seventeen percent of our students are supported financially by either a scholarship or bursary to offset tuition fee costs, with a total of £1,475,733 disbursed for this purpose in 2024–25. Scholarships are awarded to new students entering the five-year course in architecture for two or three years, subject to academic progression. Bursaries are awarded on an annual basis to students across all programmes. A further £46,638 was disbursed for in-cycle needs through the AA Hardship Fund.

7%	UK students
28%	EU/EEA students
65%	International students
588	Students on the Foundation Course, and the five-year ARB/RIBA course in architecture (Years 1–5)
289	Students within the Taught Postgraduate programmes
877	Total number of students

Our students continue to excel and have won awards, exhibited their work and fulfilled ambitions throughout the year. Diploma 18 student Tuğra Ağrikli was awarded the first-place prize for her essay *Risk With Benefits (Mw: 7.5)* by *The Avery Review*, an online journal of architecture led by Columbia GSAPP. The essay discusses the imminent earthquake of 7.5 magnitude expected to hit Istanbul and positions the country's current legal frameworks of disaster mitigation as an apparatus for a lucrative urban transformation.

Diploma 20 students, alongside the tutors' practice CAMPO, were invited to design and build a pavilion for the Festival des Cabanes 2025, built in collaboration with Falegnameria K-ALMA and Echo Labs. The project, *Chiostro – Who lives there?*, reimagines the cloister not as a space of isolation but as a contemporary common: an open, collective space of assembly and reflection.

AAIS student Hui Fan received two international design awards: the Gold Prize in the Product Design – Furniture category at the 2025 London Design Awards; and the Silver Prize in the Furniture Sets – Dining Set category at the 2025 New York Product Design Awards.

AA students Renate Lurdesa Baumane and Nelli Shkarupina participated in the conference *Languages of the Future* at the Institute of Advanced Studies at UCL. The conference invited interdisciplinary discussion examining the complex relationships between language(s) and future(s), to consider what a language of the future might look like.

Fourth-year Diploma student Lena Lali and recent Diploma graduate Chisei Ye were selected as members of the 2025 cohort of *New Architecture Writers (N.A.W.)*. N.A.W. is a free nine-month programme supporting emerging design writers of colour to develop journalistic skills, editorial connections and a critical voice.

First Year students Ibrahim Rihawi and Chengxi Yu were awarded First

and Second Prize, respectively, for their first-year portfolios at the RIBA Student Awards 2024.

Student-led initiative Material Arcade exhibited their interactive game REPLAY as part of the London Design Festival. Material Arcade looks at material flows at the scale of a school and how subtle shifts in these systems can connect 'waste' with use, value and inspiration. The game uses materials sourced from scraps collected in London's workshops, demonstrating how playfulness invites creativity.

Intermediate Programme student Bowen Tan received a Commendation for the 2024 RIBA President Bronze Medal for his third-year project 'Next Nature Manila'. Bowen describes the project as 'a visionary, speculative worldbuilding film [where] Manila, the capital of the Philippines, is portrayed as undergoing a spectacle of green transformation'.

The AA Wellbeing Service continued to strengthen its mental health and psychological support provision over the past year. A comprehensive range of services including individual appointments, drop-ins and group workshops was offered to address students' academic, personal and wellbeing-related concerns.

The Service also expanded its provision with the launch of the AA Wellbeing podcasts: an ongoing series of 20-minute episodes produced with the AA AV team, offering accessible support on issues commonly experienced by AA students.

Collaboration with statutory services remained a core component of the Wellbeing Service, ensuring effective support is provided for students identified as being at risk. An internal audit conducted during the year resulted in satisfactory assurance, commending the Service's structure, visibility, provision and integration within the wider AA framework. Recommendations for the development of additional policies were fully implemented in the latter part of the year.

The Service operated with a dedicated team comprising a part-time Mental Health Advisor, a part-time Psychological Therapist and Antonia Jacobson as Head of AA Wellbeing. Beyond direct student support, the team offered guidance to staff on managing student concerns and sustained its valued partnership with TalkCampus, a peer-to-peer mental health support app available in 25 languages.



Staff

The achievements of this academic year were made possible by the dedication of all of our staff, whose work continues to demonstrate the agility and innovation that is at the core of the AA community. As a collection of academics, administrators, practitioners, tutors, chefs, theorists, writers, designers and facilitators, AA staff continue to push the boundaries of what is possible, both within the school and externally, through events and exhibitions, and by producing publications.

Academic Staff

169	UK
110	EU/EEA
49	International
328	Total number of staff

Administrative Staff

98	UK
27	EU/EEA
14	International
139	Total number of staff

To list all staff accomplishments within 2024–25 would take a publication much larger than this, and the highlights listed below are just a selection of the remarkable achievements by AA staff this year.

Foundation Course Tutor Sabrina Morreale was selected as Curator for the 2025 Bosco Marengo Residency as part of her practice, Lemonot. The practice was invited to put work in dialogue with the site's spaces and interfere subtly with the landscape.

Director Ingrid Schroder was selected to take part in a new, independent housing policy and delivery oversight committee supported by the Family Building Society. The committee will monitor progress and offer constructive analysis and policy suggestions on housing delivery.

Led by the AA's Environmental and Technical Studies (ETS) department staff, the AA was selected as a Full Partner in CinnovatE, a European-funded initiative aimed at embedding circularity, technological innovation and entrepreneurial capacity within higher education.

Projective Cities Tutor Daryan Knoblauch lectured at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City as a keynote speaker during the World Around Summit 2025.

Intermediate Unit Tutor and alum Marko Milovanovic premiered his debut feature-length film *Temptation of Influence* at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. The screening marked the culmination of a year-long research and filmmaking project.

Diploma Programme Tutor and Co-Head of Projective Cities Hamed Khosravi received a Graham Foundation Grant for his project *The Architecture of Dreams: The Work of Rita Wolff*. The archival and curatorial research project examines the work of self-taught surrealist painter Rita Wolff, whose paintings have been prominent in architecture's intellectual and cultural scenes since the early 1980s.

First Year Tutor Michela Falcone participated in the Italian Pavilion of the 2025 Venice Biennale with the work entitled *Sicily of the sea, Sicily of the land*. This four-year project by Sicily Lab explores the relationship between Sicilian culture and its sea.

ETS Tutor Joana Gonçalves received Royal Society funding to develop research towards climate resilient design for the slums of São Paulo, in Brazil. Gonçalves' research investigates data-driven redesign for urban climate adaptation in Brazilian informal settlements (DDRUCABI), namely the case study of favela São Remo.

History and Theory Studies and Foundation Course Tutor Richard Aina was part of the exhibition *Powershift(ii)* with POoR Collective. The show was part of the Brompton Design District and featured a mix of furniture, paintings and sculptures.

DRL Head Theodore Spyropoulos lectured at the Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts. His lecture focused on the work he has been developing at the intersection of architecture, science and ecology within his practice Minimaforms and his Elemental Research Group within the AA DRL.



Alumni

Alumni are ambassadors and advocates for the school. They are vital members of the AA community who raise the global profile of the Association and contribute to its reputation through their achievements as some of the world's most renowned architects, designers, architectural thinkers and educators. Our evolving alumni programme fosters an engaged and active international community which extends the school's network and supports young professionals who attended the AA. A free-of-charge Alumni Membership option allows access to groups, events, career development and networking opportunities as well as an online register of alumni and members.

11,756 Alumni
135 Nationalities
122 Countries worldwide

An emphasis on reaching out to our global alumni network has continued in 2024–25, led by AA Director Ingrid Schroder and supported by the International Development Administrator, a new role established this year. Well-attended events in Berlin (September 2024), Kuala Lumpur (February 2025), Milan (April 2025), Venice (May 2025), Istanbul (May 2025) and Mexico City (August 2025) were aimed at encouraging alumni groups to connect with one another and learn more about the AA's plans and ambitions. An evolving schedule of meetings in new locations is being planned for 2025–26.

In 2024–25 the Alumni Office took on further responsibility for the school's end-of-year Graduation Ceremonies (previously managed in collaboration with the Head of Outreach). These are the largest events in the AA calendar, attended by more than 2,000 guests, and they were delivered smoothly and under budget. Income from ticket sales and merchandise at the Graduation Ceremonies increased by 30% compared to last year.



Members

The strength, diversity and independence of our school is reliant on a growing global network of more than 9,000 members who formally constitute the AA.

9,350 Total members, of which:
806 Student members
480 Staff members
6,610 Alumni members

An emphasis on global networking events and career opportunities continued this year. The main events in the membership calendar, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December and the Members' Preview of *Projects Review* in June, continue to attract wider participation year-on-year. Approximately 120 Members attended the AGM in 2024 (in person and remotely), up from just a handful in a typical year pre-2020. The Members' Preview of *Projects Review* brought in more than 300 guests and resulted in dozens of introductions between students and practitioners.

AA Files, the school's journal of record, was redesigned during the year, and for the first time in eight years there were two issues of the journal delivered to Members in 2024–25. Members have been given a year's notice of *AA Files* adopting a digital-first model in 2025–26 to reduce its environmental impact, and they have been offered the option to register to continue to receive a printed copy, for which 700 members have opted in.

Two issues of the *AArchitecture* magazine were published this year by a group of three student editors with the support of the Communications Studio. These issues, supported by launch events organised by the student editors, have helped to raise the profile of the publication among students, enabling it to become an important vehicle for those looking to pursue a career in writing. The open call for editors at the start of the academic year attracted more than 40 well-considered applications for three editorial positions.

A review of the AA's tiered membership structure, fees and benefits is underway and will be developed further over 2025–26 in consultation with internal stakeholders and AA Council.

The Finance Department provides a comprehensive financial planning, analysis and reporting function, including timely and accurate annual statutory accounts, management information and budget reports for the Architectural Association (Inc) and Architectural Association Publications Ltd.

Key Financial Highlights

The outlook for UK higher education continues to be challenging, but the AA remains in a strong position to tackle this. We continue to maintain adequate levels of reserves to manage risk and build for the future. The 2025–26 budget will operate at a deficit to accommodate short-term volatility, but longer-term financial forecasts remain strong.

We continue to develop and improve our financial services to enhance the efficiency of our operations and support informed decision-making; the next step will be a wholesale upgrade of our financial systems.

We achieve value for money to ensure that our resources are focused on maximising the outcomes of our educational and public programme offer as well as supporting strategic development for the future.

Financial Statements

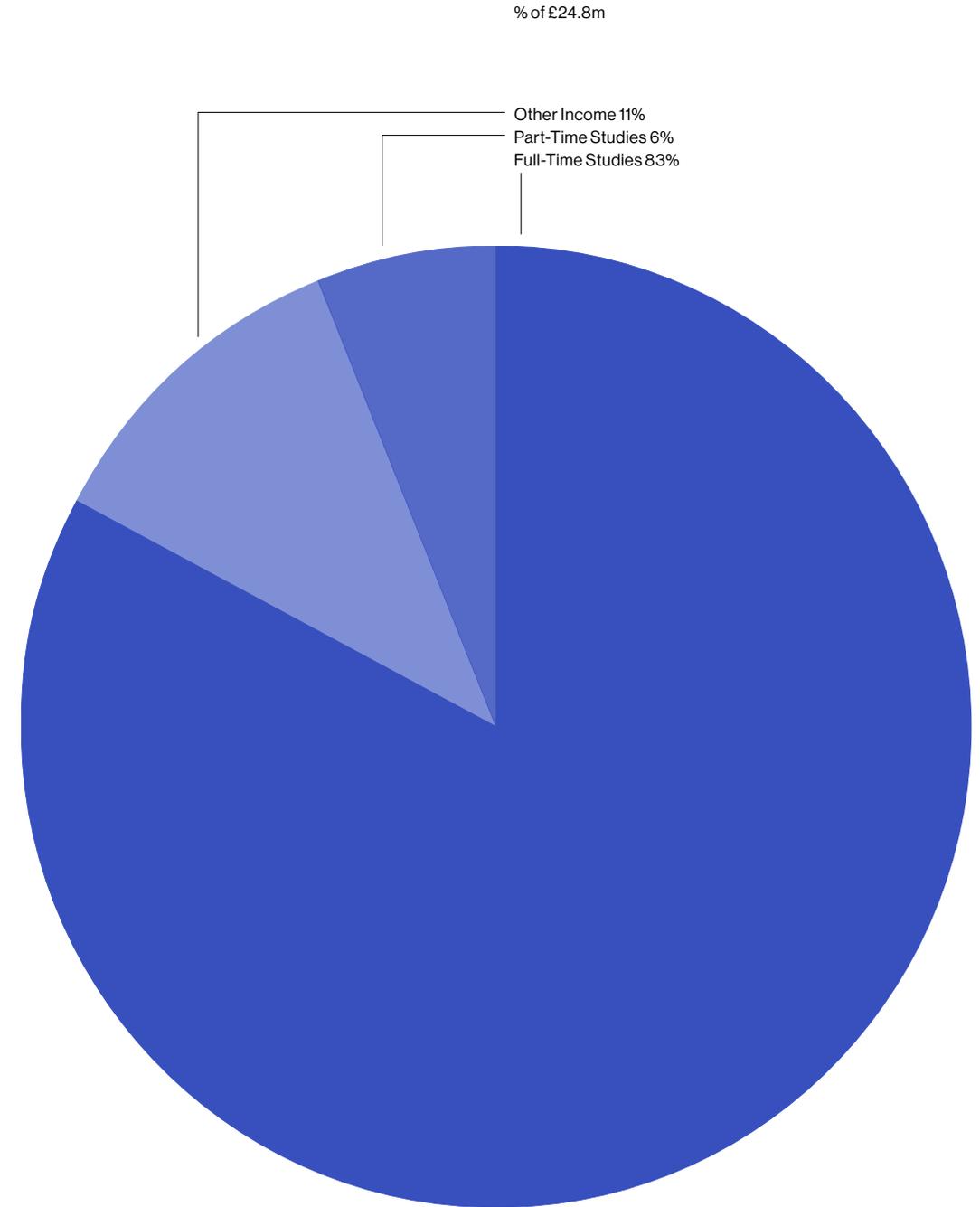
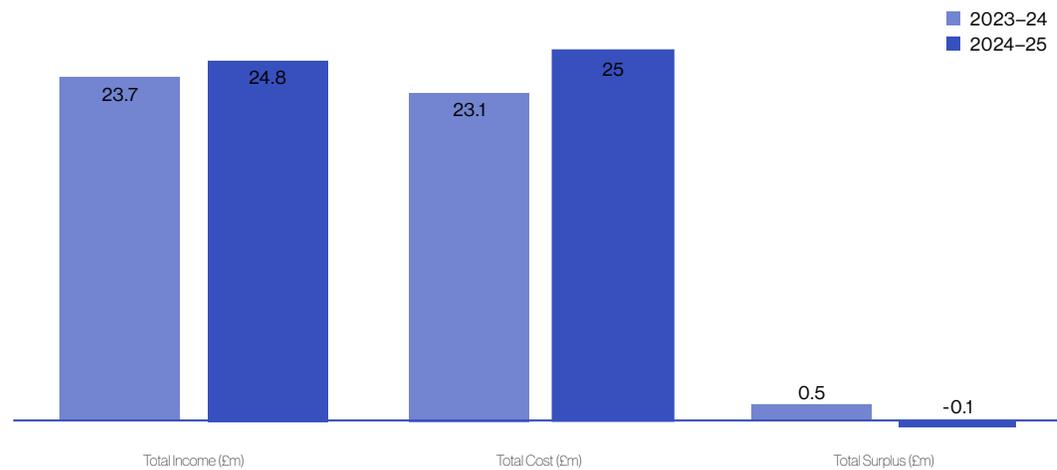
In summary, the total income for the year was £24.8m (2024: £23.7m) with expenditure of £25m (2024: £23.1m). The net deficit of £0.1m (2024: £0.5m surplus) is marginally below the breakeven budget for the year. Net assets decreased by £0.1m (2024: £0.5m increase) including a net increase of fixed assets of £0.4m (2024: £1.6m increase) as we continue to improve our estate and infrastructure, including the completion of the refurbishment of the Mark Cousins Lecture Hall and continued improvement to our digital provision.

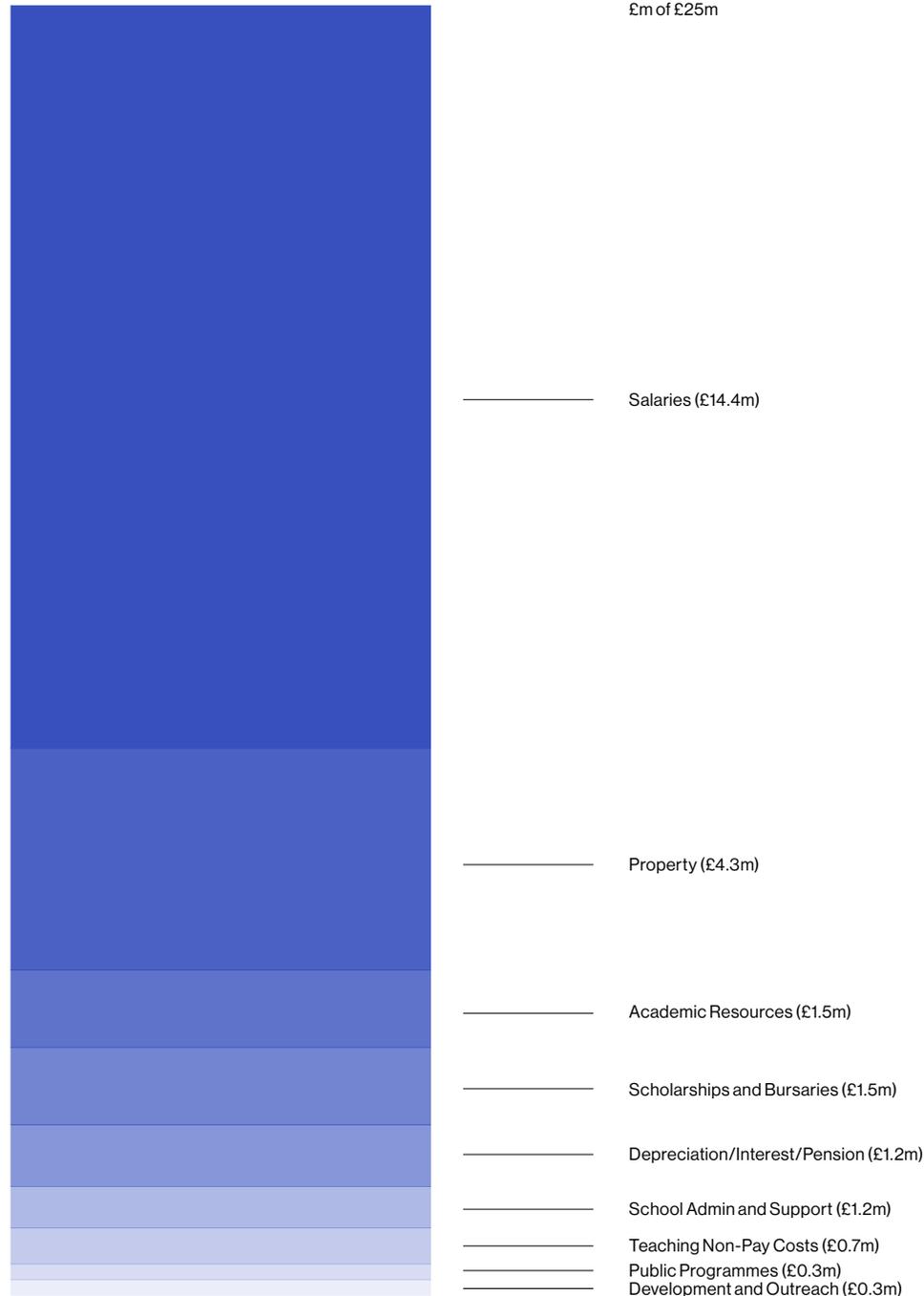
The AA Council has approved a reserves policy which takes a risk-based approach to evaluating the target reserves level and has set a target level of unrestricted funds of £15.6m as well as a minimum cash holding of £10.4m. This policy reflects sector best practice and the Charity Commission guidance Charity reserves: building resilience (CC19) and is reviewed regularly.

At 31 July 2025, unrestricted funds were £27.5m (176% of minimum) (2024: £27.8m; 178%) and cash holding was £11.4m (110% of minimum) (2024: £13.2m; 114% of minimum).

In November 2025, the AA Council has reviewed the target reserves levels in line with the Reserves Policy and has revised the target levels to £15m minimum unrestricted reserves and £9.6m minimum cash holding. The actuals as at the balance sheet date are in excess of these levels, as are future forecasts.

Income





To provide accessible, relevant and progressive architectural education to students from around the world, regardless of their financial means, requires the support of generous individuals and groups who value the AA's educational and cultural contributions. This support can be monetary or otherwise: from becoming a volunteer to hosting a Visiting School, and from offering an internship to enabling students to attend the school by pledging a legacy to the AA Foundation. Individual donations and corporate partnerships are coordinated by the Membership and Alumni Office, while the Grants Office encourages and supports funding applications from students and staff.

The Graham Foundation has supported the development this year of an ambitious online platform that traces the legacy of the AA's former Department of Tropical Architecture (DTA), bringing together for future generations of researchers, material held in the AA Archives and the dispersed work of the graduates of the programme, as a springboard for discussion around the role of education in colonial and decolonial projects. The web platform is expected to launch in early 2026.

Support from AA friends and alumni helped to make possible *Margherissima*, a special project for the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale, presented by the AA in collaboration with Nigel Coates. The exhibition, based at the old gunpowder store in Forte Marghera, explored how a large area of contaminated land could be transformed into a vibrant and sustainable neighbourhood. It attracted great reviews and positive media attention.

The Public Programme held a packed schedule of in-person events and

exhibition openings. The second Annual Mark Cousins Lecture, enabled by a fund established with the support of Parveen Adams, commemorated the inspirational speaker and teacher at the AA with a lecture delivered by Jonas Dahlberg.

The *Ripple Ripple Rippling* exhibition and symposium in autumn 2024 were supported by another Graham Foundation grant, as well as financial sponsorship from Huazhong University of Science and Technology School of Architecture and Urban Planning. The accompanying dry stone wall installation on Bedford Square was supported in-kind by Haysom Purbeck Stone, the Building Crafts College and Ty-Mawr Lime.

Cross-institutional collaboration remained strong throughout the year. 'The Essence of Architecture: Material Conversations' was an event developed and delivered in close partnership with the Japan House London and held off-site at their Kensington venue. Similarly, Visiting School exhibitions and events such as the Oshakan Project were

supported by the British Council, with an event run in collaboration with the Armenian Institute.

Public Programme events also acted as a valuable site of relationship-building and a catalyst for donations. A generous contribution towards a new Chrysalis Scholarship, for instance, was received following the very popular event *Chrysalis: Experiments in Architecture, Los Angeles, 1968–72*.

Scholarships and bursaries have become a key focus of the AA's fundraising efforts, and our aim is to ensure that the most talented students can thrive at the school regardless of their financial means. Currently one in ten students receive financial support from a scholarship or bursary, and increased targets are now set in the school's Strategic Plan. A partnership with the Albukhary Foundation in Malaysia that began last year continues to support the most academically talented students in need of financial support from one of the UN's list of LDC countries as well as Ghana, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Palestine, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. In September 2024 the AA welcomed the first student to have applied to the school as a result of the AA's collaboration with Open City's Accelerate programme. The programme offers free workshops at the AA for year 10 and 11 students from under-represented backgrounds who are interested in a career in architecture or engineering.

The AA's international programme of Visiting Schools is made possible

through the generous support of countless individuals, organisations and partner institutions. Visiting School scholarships help to ensure that these programmes are affordable for local students all around the world.

As an independent higher education charity and membership association, the AA receives no government funding. Philanthropic support from individuals and organisations is therefore essential to the institution's present and future. The AA is committed to ethical fundraising, transparency and professionalism in seeking financial support, and contributions are accepted, managed and disbursed by the Architectural Association Foundation (AAF), an independent charitable trust established in 1989.

Benefactors, Donors and Supporters

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ARUP
Boji Hu
British Council
Building Crafts College
Canadian Centre for Architecture
Chengdu Wide Horizon
Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Gran Canaria
CTU (Czech Technical University in Prague)
Daiwa Foundation
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Davina Mallinckrodt
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Takero Shimazaki
The Henderson Family
The Hinsley Family
The Nicholas Boas Charitable Trust
The Pozner Family
Tÿ-Mawr Lime
University of Pennsylvania (Maria Dantes)
VELUX Slovenija

Prizes and Awards

AA Prize

Anastasiia Kalinina, Fifth Year

AA Travel Prize

Favour Kolawole, Second Year

Alex Stanhope Forbes Prize

Charlotte Scott, Second Year

Brian Henderson Prize

Maximilian Hohl Hyde, Second Year

Dennis Sharp Prize

Iman Dagnoko, Fourth Year

Denys Lasdun Award for Excellence in Architecture

Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini, Third Year

Henry Florence Studentship

Jingzhi He, Fourth Year

Henry Saxon Snell Prize

Alice Mohan, Fifth Year

Holloway Trust Prize

Gustave Rajalu, Third Year

Howard Colls Studentship

Sacha Troullier, Fourth Year

Julia Wood Foundation Prize

Maya Crnogorac, Foundation Course

Nicholas Pozner Memorial Prize for Single Best Drawing

Ersila Bushi, Fifth Year

Ralph Knott Memorial Prize

Rockforth Datuinr, Third Year

William Glover Prize

Leonardo Hans Panella, Third Year

David and Beverly Bernstein Award

Sharan Goppenahalli, Housing and Urbanism

Hugo Hinsley Prize

Yuxiang Zheng, Fifth Year

Alexander Memorial Travel Prize

Or Neah, Fourth Year

Jane Chu Travel Award

Adelina Ivan, Fourth Year

Mike Davies Travel Award

Levina Lauwis, Second Year

Peter Sabara Travel Award

Miharu Yamaguchi, Fourth Year

History and Theory Studies

Writing Awards

Cole Valerio, First Year

Max Landau, Second Year

Gustave Rajalu, Third Year

History and Theory Studies Prize

Reva Kushwah, Fifth Year

Media Studies Annual Prizes

Milan Solonenko, Foundation Course

Cole Valerio, First Year

Ryan Nassour, Second Year

Maya Factor, Fourth Year

Environmental and Technical

Studies Annual Prizes

Yimiao Li, Third Year

Sindi Dojaka, Fifth Year

Professional Practice Award

Nurshafika Talib, Third Year

Rhea Hinduja, Third Year

Mio del Negro, Third Year

Architectural Professional Practice Award

Yeliz Abdurahman, Fifth Year

Lilian Wichmann, Fifth Year

Rim Cherkaoui, Fifth Year

Ersila Bushi, Fifth Year



The Council is the governing body of the AA. It provides strategic oversight for the Association and is ultimately responsible for the operation of the organisation at large. Council members are required to: oversee both short- and long-term objectives of the Association; ensure financial viability and sustainability for the organisation; meet all necessary legal and regulatory obligations; and safeguard the reputation of the AA.

Members who served on Council during the 2024–25 period:

Sara Biscaya	Vice President from 1 June 2025
Mark Bassett	Appointed 15 October 2024
Trevor Bolton	
Jonathan Brierley	Resigned 30 September 2024
Alison Brooks	
Mark Burch	Appointed 15 October 2024
Pui Quan Choi	
Omatayo Edem	Appointed 15 October 2024
Susannah Hagan	Resigned 14 July 2025
Béné Jakel	Resigned 20 June 2025
Caspar Llewellyn Smith	Appointed 15 October 2024
Simine Marine	
Steven Mertz	
Ravin Ponniah (Vice President)	President from 1 June 2025
George Sawtell	Resigned 30 September 2024
Ingrid Schroder	
Ben Stirling	
Catherine du Toit (President)	Resigned 31 May 2025
Cynthia Walters	
Stephen Ware	

Academic Assurance Committee	Finance and Resources Committee
Susannah Hagan (Chair until 15 July 2025)	Ben Stirling (Chair from 1 October 2024)
Sara Biscaya (Chair from 16 July 2025)	
	Nominations and Remuneration Committee
Estates and Infrastructure Committee	Catherine du Toit (Chair until 31 May 2025)
Cindy Walters (Chair)	Ravin Ponniah (Chair from 1 June 2025)

Academic Governance

The Academic Board is the academic body charged with responsibility for the academic governance of the AA School and its programmes of study. The Academic Board maintains strategic oversight for the development, monitoring and quality of standards and enhancement of teaching and learning, and for approval of the school's Academic Regulations. Its activities recognise the aims and objectives of the AA's Articles and By-laws. The Academic Committee and Internal Assessment Board report to the Academic Board.

Academic Board

Chair of Academic Board AA Director Ingrid Schroder Ex-officio	Postgraduate Student Representative (joint) Ioanna Athanasopoulou Elected	Head of Teaching Mike Aling Ex-officio
Academic Board Administrator School Registrar Belinda Flaherty Ex-officio (Emma Newbury covering)	Observer AA Council Member Attending	Core Studies Representative Silvana Taher Ex-officio
Chair of Academic Committee Hamed Khosravi Ex-officio	Academic Committee Chair of Academic Committee Hamed Khosravi Ex-officio	Foundation, Intermediate and Diploma Staff Representative Paul Feeney Elected
Chair of History and Theory Studies Nicholas Simcik-Arese Ex-officio	Academic Committee Administrator Quality Assurance Officer Emma Newbury Ex-officio	Postgraduate Staff Representative Marina Lathori Elected
Chair of Internal Assessment Board Head of Learning Anna Font Ex-officio	Quality Assurance Facilitator Head of Visiting School Christopher Pierce Ex-officio	Foundation, Intermediate and Diploma Student Representative Peder Sveen Elected
Head of Teaching Mike Aling Ex-officio	School Registrar Belinda Flaherty Ex-officio	Postgraduate (Taught) Student Representative Maria Perdomo Elected
Head of Research Michael Weinstock Ex-officio	Head of Academic Resources Joel Newman Ex-officio	Postgraduate (PhD) Student Representative Valerio Massaro Elected
Quality Assurance Facilitator Christopher Pierce Ex-officio	Head of Hooke Park Kate Davies Ex-officio	AA Director Ingrid Schroder Attending
Foundation, Intermediate and Diploma Staff Representative Marko Milovanovic Elected	Head of PhD Programme Maria Shéhérazade Giudici Ex-officio	
Postgraduate Staff Representative Lawrence Barth Elected	Head of Professional Practice Part 3 Paul Crosby Ex-officio	
Foundation, Intermediate and Diploma Student Representative Laura Hepp Elected	Head of Learning Anna Font Ex-officio	

Internal Assessment Board

Chair of Internal Assessment Board Head of Learning Anna Font Ex-officio
Internal Assessment Board Administrator School Registrar Belinda Flaherty (Krishna Songhara covering) Ex-officio
QA/DAP Facilitator Christopher Pierce Ex-officio

Degree Awarding Committee

Chair of Degree Awarding Committee AA Director Ingrid Schroder Ex-officio
Internal Assessment Board Administrator School Registrar Belinda Flaherty (Lauren O'Brien covering) Ex-officio
QA/DAP Facilitator Christopher Pierce Ex-officio

Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team (SMT) is led by the Director and is responsible for the management and operations of the AA School. The SMT operates at the level of strategic leadership and serves as the primary management interface between the AA School, its Academic Board and academic committees, and the Council.

Senior Management Team

Mike Aling Head of Teaching	Anita Pfauntsch Head of Estates and Facilities	Michael Weinstock Head of Research
Kate Davies Head of Hooke Park	Christopher Pierce Head of Visiting School and QAA Facilitator	Louise Wilkins Company Secretary and Head of Legal
Ryan Dillon Head of Communications	Ingrid Schroder School Director	
Belinda Flaherty School Registrar	Robert Scully Head of Finance	
Anna Font-Vacas Head of Learning	Manijeh Verghese Head of Public Engagement (until 20 September 2024)	
Joel Newman Head of Academic Resources	Tiger Wang Chief Technology Officer	

Architectural Association
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