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Scott Brownrigg

By Ruth Slavid



ABOVE University of Reading Malaysia at Johor, Malaysia

Number of qualified architects in UK	113
Total fee per UK architect	£166,097
Age of practice	106
Female architects	27%
Black, Asian and minority ethnic architects	8%
Design awards won in 2015	3

It has been a good year for Scott Brownrigg, which has risen seven places since last year by adding 33 architects to its 2015 total of 80 – nearly half as many again. At least some of its growth was thanks to its acquisition last August of GMW Architects, a venerable practice that in recent years had developed particular expertise in airport design. Despite this reputation, its name has disappeared, subsumed into the larger brand.

Scott Brownrigg also opened its first US office, in New York, which was expected to win work in the interiors and office fit-out market. Just over 6 per cent of the practice's total fee income last year was delivered through overseas offices but, with this latest move, one can expect that figure to increase.

Scott Brownrigg works in a wide range of fields, including offices, mixed use, transport, residential and education. It has had a strong relationship with North Hertfordshire College, designing a number of buildings on its Stevenage and Letchworth

campuses. These include two Da Vinci Studio Schools, for 14 to 19-year-olds, which combine lessons with enterprise and practical experience. The practice has also worked on the masterplan for a new nuclear power station next to Sellafield in Cumbria.

One notable aspect of Scott Brownrigg is its attitude to research. It runs its own study unit, looking at design, sustainability, and technological, economic and sociological factors. It works in collaboration with external organisations and twice a year produces its own research publication, *iA: Intelligent Architecture*.

Appropriately, Scott Brownrigg became main sponsor of this year's Association of Architectural Educators conference, an international peer-reviewed forum on design education, which took place at the Bartlett. The practice is also active with the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, which helps disadvantaged young people to develop potential careers in architecture.

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Squire and Partners

By Ruth Slavid



ABOVE St James School, London W14

Number of qualified architects in UK	104
Total fee per UK architect	£214,029
Age of practice	40
Female architects	41%
Black, Asian and minority ethnic architects	6%
Design awards won in 2015	5

Although Squire and Partners has added one architect to last year's total of 103, that was not enough for it to hold its position in the AJ100 rankings. In this bumper year for practices – particularly those at the top of the table – this modest addition has meant Squire has slipped down three places from last year's ninth position.

While it is scarcely correct to describe a practice of this size as having a 'niche', it does have a definite place, its image strongly associated with London and the more luxurious end of the residential, office and retail markets.

It was announced towards the end of last year that the practice had submitted plans for two residential towers at Old Oak Common, a new London hub to be created through the development of the Elizabeth Line and HS2. Part of the west London development zone, this will be an important new area, and Squire's work for Essential Living will confirm its grasp of

the zeitgeist.

The practice has no offices outside the UK, and the fees generated from overseas projects are decidedly modest. Also modest, but evidently of importance in terms of the way the practice sees itself, is the modicum of property development in which it indulges. The most recent is the creation of three contemporary town houses near Clapham Common in south-west London.

Given that the practice has such a definite flavour to its work, it is a little surprising that one of the projects that has gained it much publicity recently is of such a very different kind: the design and technology block for St James School in Ashford, Kent. This timber building combines traditional techniques with some modern details, it is unlikely to provide a major new strand of work, but it is an indication that, however well tailored it is to its market, Squire and Partners is a practice that does not want to be pigeonholed.