



The Debrief: EP5 Tim Gledstone

Designing the City of the Future — With Imagination, Empathy, and a Little Bit of AI



CREATED
JUL 30, 2025



Share

By Rob Pepper · CreatED

Architect Tim Gledstone on why creativity still starts with the senses

If you've walked along the South Bank recently, you've probably seen one of Tim Gledstone's buildings. As a Partner at Squire & Partners, Tim is one of the key figures shaping London's evolving skyline — from its new cultural landmarks to the texture of everyday neighbourhoods.

But what's striking about Tim isn't just the scale of his work. It's the **sensory intelligence** he brings to it.

In our latest episode of **CreatED**, Tim and I talk about the quiet details that make spaces feel alive — the curve of a staircase, the sound of a courtyard, the materials that warm a room. For him, architecture is about **storytelling**, but not the abstract kind. It's the sort you can touch, hear, and walk through.

And while his team hand-make their models and embrace traditional processes, Tim is also unafraid of new tools. **He uses AI playfully and practically** — sketching design ideas on the train, generating quick visual tests in minutes instead of weeks. For Tim, tech isn't about replacing creativity. It's about expanding it.

"AI lets me get to the feeling of a space faster. It's like skipping the waiting room and walking straight into the idea." — *Tim Gledstone*

Squire & Partners were the concept architects behind **Triptych Bankside**, the development where The Art Academy now has its new home. But they didn't just build the building — they helped us shape an **art school for the future**. One that's open, accessible, imaginative, and woven into the cultural fabric of the city.

In our conversation, Tim also talks about:

- Why being **"good to work with"** is a design principle as much as a personal one
- The importance of **trust** in long-term collaboration
- Why **placemaking starts with listening**
- And how architectural education is evolving

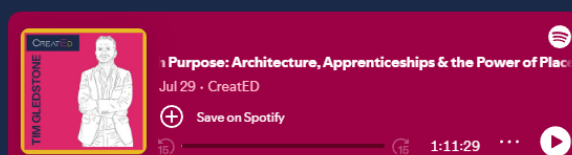
Why this matters

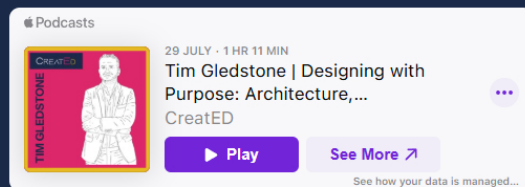
At a time when cities can feel increasingly transactional, Tim offers a different vision — one where **materials matter**, where **stories are embedded in the walls**, and where **relationships shape outcomes** as much as renderings do.

This conversation reminded me that innovation isn't just about speed or tech. It's about **care**. It's about using every tool — from handmade models to generative design — to make spaces that **feel human**.

Whether you're designing a building, an app, a course, or a life — that's something worth building toward.

Listen to the full podcast with Tim Gledstone





 Take our survey to help shape fairer pathways into Creative Tech  **Workforce Survey**

 Join the conversation: What does human-centred innovation look like in your work?

 Subscribe to CreatED for reflections from Rob Pepper on the future of creativity, tech, and education.

 Share this with someone rethinking design, cities, or creative education.

Thanks for reading!

Subscribe

#CreatED #TimGledstone #CityOfTheFuture #ArchitectureAndAI #CreatEDDebrief
#FutureOfDesign #Placemaking #BuiltEnvironment #HumanScaleDesign
#SquireAndPartners



Share

← Previous

Discussion about this post

Comments

Restacks



Write a comment...

Top

Latest



The Debrief: EP1 Iain Archer

Process vs Product: What Are We Really Teaching Creative Minds to Value?

JUL 2 • CREATED



A System at Breaking Point: Why Higher Education Needs Radical Rethink

By Rob Pepper, Principal, The Art Academy & Lead Researcher, CreatED

JUL 2 • CREATED



The Debrief: EP2 Jenna Littler

The 50/50 Brain Jenna Littler on creative fluency, hybrid thinking, and building bridges in business

JUL 2 • CREATED



See all >

Ready for more?

Subscribe



Start writing

Get the app

[Substack](#) is the home for great culture