



# RIAS

## The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

### Christina Gaiger RIAS

Nominated by:

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Helen Lucas RIAS RIBA         | Helen Lucas Architects        |
| 2. Malcolm Fraser FRIAS RIBA     | Fraser/Livingstone Architects |
| 3. Jude Barber FRIAS RIBA        | Collective Architecture       |
| 4. Ben Rainger RIAS RIBA         | Smith Scott Mullan Associates |
| 5. Mary Arnold-Forster RIAS      | Mary Arnold-Forster Ltd       |
| 6. Akiko Kobayashi RIAS RIBA     | Akiko Kobayashi               |
| 7. Peter McIlhenny FRIAS RIBA    | LDN Architects                |
| 8. Isabel Garriga RIAS RIBA      | Holmes Miller                 |
| 9. Stephen Miles FRIAS RIBA      | ADP                           |
| 10. Jocelyne Cunliffe FRIAS RIBA | Gray Marshall & Associates    |



#### Election Statement:

Having worked with Renzo Piano Building Workshop in Paris and Tsao&McKown in New York, in 2014 I returned to Scotland to work for Helen Lucas Architects Ltd and commit to the creative reuse of buildings and the issues around professionalism which define our role as architects. I have been an active part of the reform efforts through RIAS Council and understand the issues that remain to be addressed, alongside the need to deliver collective future objectives. I might be the youngest candidate to have applied for this august position but will bring the energy that comes with youth to the role.

In 2018 I contributed to the Edinburgh Architectural Association (EAA) 'Coarum' consultation series, and in 2019 joined EAA Council and RIAS Council as an EAA representative. 'Coarum' was set up as a platform to empower RIAS members to voice their concerns and needs, offering me valuable insight into the feelings and aspirations of our membership. Subsequently, on EAA council I have led the communications team to deliver a new, more accessible website and at RIAS Council I took up posts which have enabled me to gain a deep understanding of the history of the RIAS.

It has become clear to me that the RIAS's unique position offers it an opportunity to engage with and harness the creative energy of Scotland's architectural community, something that I feel passionate about and wish to take a leading role in.

Our outgoing President, Robin Webster, vowed to reform the RIAS, and I would like to build on the start that he has made. In my role as President I would:

- Deliver the proposed new governance structure,
- Set a clear agenda and business plan for the RIAS in tandem with the new strategy to better assess and allocate RIAS resources for it's members,
- Create a supportive architectural network with a stronger advocacy role; the RIAS should be a community, a hub both digitally and physically for architects and the promotion of architecture,
- Collaborate and support ground up community engagement initiatives,
- Promote the reuse and recycling of buildings to be as normal as recycling cardboard,
- Lobby to bring the VAT for retrofit refurbishment in line with new builds to create an incentive for change across our existing building stock,



# RIAS

# The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

- Strive for equality, inclusivity and diversity throughout the profession,
- Engage with education across the board; improve public knowledge of the profession to provide traction to the value of good design, establish a RIAS role models programme and support new entrants to the profession through to established practices with education and professional development,
- Offer support to the profession through what will be a difficult time ahead, in terms of the economy and the reshaping of daily life.

In summary, I am someone who will listen, reason, lead and inspire. I also strongly believe we should continue to strive for better diversity within the RIAS and this has inspired and encouraged both my wish to contribute and my desire to take us forward.