

Magdalena Prus, BA(Hons), DipArch, RIBA, MSc, FCIArb

Architect Expert Witness



Curriculum Vitae

Magdalena is a London-based Chartered Architect and Expert Witness / Forensic Architect in J.S. Held, a global consulting firm providing technical expertise in dispute avoidance and resolution for construction projects. Magdalena has over 12 years' experience in the construction industry working on a wide range of construction projects and disputes in the UK and the Middle East.

Magdalena has real hands-on experience in the design and construction of buildings, including in historic and sensitive contexts. Since 2015, she has been primarily focused on legal aspects of construction industry, whilst working in leading architectural practices on forensic analysis and dispute resolution, including Probyn Miers (now HKA), William J Marshall & Partners and Sense Studio (now J.S Held).

In her role as a Forensic Architect, Magdalena has been involved in the analysis of various architectural and construction issues in adjudication, litigation and arbitration proceedings, relating to residential and commercial buildings, schools, hotels, hospitals and car park structures. Magdalena's international experience includes working on high-value claims in international arbitrations, relating to university projects, infrastructure and hospitals in the Middle East.

Her instructions to act as an Expert Witness have included domestic cases involving design and building defects, water ingress, professional negligence, internal and external fire protection, building's fabric degradation and contract administration (including certification of practical completion).

Having gained her RIBA Part III qualifications in 2014, Magdalena became a UK registered Architect (ARB) in 2015, and a Chartered Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in 2016. After completing a Master's Degree in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution at King's College (London) in 2017, and International Award Writing Examination a year later, she became a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 2018. Magdalena is also a Member of the Society of Construction Law (SCL), King's College Construction Law Association (KCCLA), the Adjudication Society and ArbitralWomen.

Since joining J.S Held, Magdalena regularly contributes to publications, including the most recent co-authored article 'Martlet v Mulalley: Design Considerations of a 'Reasonable' Architect on Fire-Safety Issues Post-Grenfell', published in RIBA Journal and BD-Online.

In her spare time, Magdalena performs as a comedy improviser.

Magdalena can be contacted by email at mprus@jsheld.com

Statement

About 23 years ago I started on the path to becoming an architect at the University of Technology in Gdansk, Poland. At the time my understanding of architecture and the processes surrounding the design and construction of buildings was fairly limited. It took me some years of educational and practical experience to fully appreciate the pivotal role of an architect within the construction industry, including during design, construction and post-completion stages of a project. An architect is often the first point of call for the parties during disagreements or when, in rather simple terms, 'something goes wrong'. As an architect, who has devoted her professional development to dispute resolution and avoidance, I believe I can bring a unique voice to the Committee, by both representing the architectural community, and promoting and raising awareness of the advantages of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) amongst the potential users, particularly those at the beginning of their professional careers within the construction industry.

If elected, I pledge to work together with the other Committee Members so that we have a coordinated approach and a strong voice in embracing of the principles associated with the role of the CIArb in dispute resolution across the global community, the construction industry and beyond. As a young international female professional, I bring a unique perspective and understanding to the need to develop improvements in inclusion and diversity in ADR. I am passionate, energetic and enthusiastic to engage, and work with the other Committee Members to enhance the opportunities that the ADR offers, and the platform from which the new and existing members can learn and continue to grow in the ADR professional environment. Given my personal journey in ADR, it is very important to me to support all levels of experience and backgrounds, particularly amongst non-legal and under-represented groups through the opportunities that a seat on the Committee would provide me with.

I recognise an on-going need for education and training, particularly amongst young aspiring professionals who wish to enter the ADR environment. This direction should, in my view, continue to be an area of focus of the CIArb, with more accessible networking and mentorship opportunities, views and professional insights from senior ADR practitioners. In the context of construction industry, I believe it is important to improve on communication and engagement with key stakeholders, including employers / clients, architects and contractors. That means organising events to promote the benefits of ADR to potential users of the process, who may not necessarily be familiar or fully appreciate it. Finally, I am committed to provide support to the existing initiatives, ambitions and strategies for ADR that have already been developed and are being implemented by the CIArb.

I am excited about the role of Branch Committee Member at the CIArb London Branch and look forward to the challenges and opportunities it will bring. I trust that my enthusiasm, experience, and professionalism will enable me to serve existing and new members in the best way possible. I look forward to your support in this election.