

Northern Ireland practice RPP Architects is expanding its experienced senior team after more than forty years in business.

The business, which has a team of architectural professionals and interior designers in Belfast and Londonderry, has worked on some of the largest and high profile schemes across Northern Ireland.

They have appointed four new associates from valid team members within the business. The new structure assists the practice in delivering experience and expertise in key growth sectors such as interior design, housing, and health and safety.

RPP Architects is led by four directors, Harry McConnell, Peter McGirr, Simon Robinson and Alan Shields with existing associate Philip Murray, and works across diverse sectors within Northern Ireland, the UK and internationally, delivering commercial, healthcare, education, community, transport projects and residential projects.

Some of the practice's significant past projects include the McClay Library at Queen's University, Belfast, the Bank of Ireland headquarters on Donegall Square and the Europa Hotel.

Current projects include the AC Marriott Hotel at City Quays, the Belfast Harbour Film Studios at Giant's Park, the Hastings Hotels' Grand Central, the Ebrington Hotel in Derry and the new 80-bed mental health inpatient unit at Belfast City Hospital.

The firm is also working extensively within the residential sector. Through RPP's Bespoke Homes Team the practice is designing new homes, extensions, refurbishments and interiors. Somewhat uniquely, the firm offers a dedicated interior design team. This service allows the practice to offer clients a complete design service down to the finest finished details.

Meet the new associates

Mark Higgins, interior designer

The Interior Design service is delivered typically within the commercial office, hospitality and residential sectors. The practice is enthusiastic

RPP Architects expands top team with new associates



Mark Higgins

about developing their interiors consultancy further. Mark has been instrumental to this effort. It has been a busy 18 months for Mark's team, who have worked extensively on the Grand Central and the AC Marriott Hotel projects. Mark and his team have been involved in all bedroom suite concepts and design, as well as the design of restaurants, bars and all public spaces.

RPP is known for providing a dedicated interior design services to our clients, not only as a

supplementary service, but as a consultancy in its own right, such as integrated architectural & interiors consultancy still relatively unique with the local market.

Sean Maguire, principal designer (health & safety)

Sean has over 30 years' experience with major companies, originally as a quantity/building surveyor, and for the last 20 years, as construction design and management coordinator planning supervisor, and health



Sean Maguire



and safety adviser. Sean has been assisting RPP's clients navigate the ever-changing health and safety landscape. Sean was previously chairman of the Association for Project Safety regional committee.

From the practice's outset, more than 40 years ago, public housing has been a key interest. In fact, the practice is currently working for all the major NI Housing Associations, throughout Northern Ireland. The firm has also provided extensive student housing in north and south Belfast.

Prior recent associate appointments within the practice are Paul Donnelly and David McCausland. Together, they are key in leading our specific social housing teams and managing the key interface with our clients.

Paul Donnelly, architect

Paul has 20 years experience as an architect. He specialises in private and social residential development in skilled in construction

contract administration and procurement. Paul has been instrumental in the contract award and delivery of RPP's key large scale mixed tenure residential developments in recent years for some of our major clients.

David McCausland, architectural technician

David brings 26 years technical experience in building construction and is now providing the employers agent expertise for housing schemes that are delivered as 'Design & Build'



Paul Donnelly



David McCausland

by contractors for our Housing Associations.

RPP's commitment to the social housing sector has continued to evolve over the last five years in response to the various needs and challenges of delivery.

The practice is extremely pleased to have made these new appointments which they see as fundamental in ensuring a first class, flexible and evolving expertise for the benefit of our clients. ■