



d i r e c t o r s

Michael McNamara is a British–American architect with 19 years experience in design, building, and teaching. In 2005, LaMa made the purchases that formed its first small property developments: the brief was to increase significantly the value of a B1 studio and a C3 flat. The flat was sold within days at the asking price whilst the studio serves as LaMa Studio premises, demonstrating the Directors' experience in every phase of design and building. As an architect, Mr. McNamara has advanced ability in all phases of design and building production, and is particularly skilled in conceptual design, technical detailing, and digital design via CAD and GIS. Born and educated in the USA, he moved to London in 1987 to take a position with James Stirling and Michael Wilford Associates. There he worked on the second phase of the Stuttgart arts complex, on an addition to Milan's Brera Gallery, and on an entry to the Disney Concert Hall Competition. He also worked for Richard Rogers Architects where he gained technical expertise in building structures and exterior envelopes. At Kohn Pederson Fox (Intl.) from 1990–93, he designed and detailed projects in London, Frankfurt, and Hamburg. In 1993 he started in private practice as LaGess McNamara Architects, producing theoretical and practical projects ranging from buildings and building component systems, to urban designs. From 1993 until 2001, Mr. McNamara was also a Unit Master at the Architectural Association. During this period he lectured widely in Europe, America, and Asia. In 2001–02 he was invited to return to the USA to serve as a Visiting Critic for the Harvard Design School and Cornell University among others. He also taught Architecture at Cambridge in 2006–7. In 2004, he and his Co-Director, Professor M E LaGess set up the LaMa studio limited in Shepherd's Bush on the fringe of Kensington, now known as Fringeington.

Martha LaGess is a British–American architect with 22 years experience in design, building, and teaching. Her project work has included all phases of design, building production, and project management. Born and educated in the USA, she was a registered architect in the USA when she moved to London, England in 1987 to study in a Graduate Program at the Architectural Association. Following her studies, in 1988 she was offered a position at James Stirling & Michael Wilford Associates. At Stirling Wilford she worked on projects in Germany and the USA. As a result of this international experience she was asked to be part of the start-up team for the new London offices of Kohn Pedersen Fox in 1990. There, after a brief apprenticeship as a job captain on a mid-sized office building in the City of London, Ms. LaGess held positions as Project Architect and Manager in charge of the Broomielaw Development in Glasgow and Project Manager on the 135 million pound de Centrale Development (later De Hoftoren) in the Hague, Holland. Shortly after being named a KPF Associate for completing detailed design for De Centrale on time and on budget, Ms. LaGess left KPF to teach at the Architectural Association, where she remained from 1993 until 2001 as senior lecturer and Unit Master. During this period she opened the firm called LaGess McNamara Architects with partner Michael McNamara. The firm produced a diverse range of theoretical and practical projects, and was frequently invited to lecture on their work. In the spring of 2001 she was hired as Professor of Architecture with full tenure at the University of Texas (Arlington, in Dallas–Fort Worth) and was also invited to teach a visiting studio at Harvard University. She also taught Architecture at Cambridge in 2006–7. In 2004, she and her Co-Director set up the LaMa studio limited in Shepherd's Bush, London.