

Michael McNamara

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Michael McNamara is a British–American architect with over 20 years' experience in design, building, and teaching. He has ability in all phases of design and building production, and is particularly skilled in the areas of conceptual design, technical detailing, and digital design. Born and educated in the USA, he moved to London, England in 1987 to take a position with James Stirling and Michael Wilford Assocs. There he worked on the second phase of the Stuttgart arts complex, on an addition to Milan's Brera Gallery, and on the SWA 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 LaMa Architects, which produced theoretical and practical projects ranging from buildings and cladding 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 at Cornell University, among others. In 2004, he and his Partner, M E LaGess reopened the LaMa Studio in London with a range of office, residential and development projects.

E D U C A T I O N

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Master of Architecture, 1988.

Rice University Bachelor of Architecture, Louis Sudler Prize, 1984.

Rice University Bachelor of Arts in Architecture & Art History, William Ward Watkin Fellow at Rice, 1982.

P R O F E S S I O N A L S U M M A R Y

Registered U.K. Architect; design and detailing of buildings, external envelopes, inner city/airport urban plans.

- **the LaMa studio Ltd.**, London, 1993–present
- **Kohn Pedersen Fox Intl.**, London 1990–93
- **Richard Rogers Architects Ltd.**, London 1989–90
- **James Stirling and Michael Wilford**, London, 1988–89
- **Taft Architects**, Houston, USA, 1984–86
- **Kliment & Halsband Architects**, [Year Out] New York 1982–3

Led and taught architecture studios for over fourteen years:

- **University of Cambridge, Architecture Department** Studio Master, 2nd Year, 2006–2007
- **Harvard University**, Visiting Critic 2001–02
- **Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY Visiting Critic 2001
- **Architectural Association**, Unit Master 1993–01
- **Portsmouth University**, Lecturer 1998–2000
- **Kingston University**, London, First Year Tutor 1989–90
- **Harvard University**, Career Discovery Critic, 1987

Academic Lectures • All School Lectures and design criticism given at the Royal College of Art, the Bartlett School of Architecture, Royal Institute of British Architects, the Architectural Association, Portsmouth University, Kingston University, UK; Academie St. Joost, Breda, Netherlands; Politecnico di Milano, Italy; Harvard University; Rice University and University of Houston, TX; Tulane University, New Orleans, LA; Hanyang University and Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea; Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Visualization • Many years' experience in computer visualization, CAD building production, and related issues of representation • Uses Bentley MicroStation CAD and GIS, Photoshop, Dreamweaver MX, Microsoft XP (Word, PowerPoint, Access, Excel) • Freehand drawing and painting skills, various media, Workshop skills in timber.

Communication • Native English, fluent Italian, conversational German and French, Basic Spanish, Polish beginner.

P R A C T I C E H I S T O R Y

LaMa Architects / the LaMa studio Limited, Founder / Director, March 1993 to Present, London. Selected projects:

- Dulwich Road residences, renovation and new build, SE24, London
- House at 86 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, SW3, 2007–8,
- 26 Westwick Gardens, 2005–6, Designer, Developer, and Contractor for Complete Renovations and Additions,
- 45 Colvestone Crescent: Entwistle Residence,
- Addison Bridge Place [at Kensington High Street] Office Building, London, 2004–5, Planning Permission and detailed design for a major office development. **[continued]**

• Zingaro House and Studio, Houston, 2003 • Silverstone Residence, Eccleston Square, London, 2001–2 • London Borough of Camden Depot building and Urban Plan (with RLE), 2000–1 • Kotoka Airport Additions and Urban Plan, Accra, Ghana, 1999; Lyme Street Office and Flat Renovation, London, 1999, Designed and contracted by LaMa Studio • Ministry of Agriculture, Farms, and Fisheries Building and District Plan, Westminster, (with FRL Ltd.) 1997–99 • Snake Table System, 1998 • House Prototype and urban plan, '*36 Modeles pour une Maison,*' *Arc-en-Reve Centre d'Architecture*, Bordeaux, traveling exhibition, 1996–2000 • Poole Harbour Crossing Competition, 1995 • HMV shop and furnishings, Milton Keynes, UK, 1995–1996 • HMV shop façade, Dublin, 1996 • Old Broad Street Offices, (with EPR) 1994 • Master Plan and Garden Houses, Neuenhagen Bei Berlin, (with EPR) 1994 • *De Bijenkorf* Store Renovation, The Hague, Holland, (with Greig + Stephenson) 1994.

Kohn Pedersen Fox International, Architects, London. Senior Architect / Senior Detailer, Sept 1990 to February 1993, London. Projects: • State House Offices, High Holborn, London, 1992–3 • Mainzer Landstrasse Tower, Frankfurt, 1992 • 27 Old Bond Street, London, DKNY Shop and Offices, 1992 • Hanseatic Trade Center Offices, Hamburg, 1991 • Brooklands Offices and Campus Plan for Trafalgar House, Surrey, 1990.

Richard Rogers Architects Limited, London. Senior Designer, February 1989 to June 1990. • Design and tender packages for large urban schemes, including site work at Marseille. Projects: • Marignane Airport Plan and National Terminal, (Marseilles Airport), design and detailing, coordinated structure with ARUP partner Peter Rice and colleagues • Tokyo Forum International Competition design (invited entry) • Heathrow Terminal 5 Entry • London's Royal Docks Shopping Centre design and urban plan for the Royal Albert Basin in East London.

James Stirling and Michael Wilford, Architects, London. February 1988 to January 1989. • Worked directly with partners James Stirling and Michael Wilford on design of: • 'Musikhochschule' und 'Theaterakademie,' Stuttgart, Germany • Disney Concert Hall Competition, Los Angeles • Palazzo Citterio Museum Project: gallery, archive and catering addition to the Brera Gallery, Milan, Italy • Toronto Opera House Invited Competition.

Taft Architects, Houston. Architectural Designer, September 1984 to January 1986. Projects: • Corpus Christi City Hall, TX • 2222 Center Offices, Austin, TX • Williams House, Austin, TX • Mixon House, Houston.

Kliment and Halsband, New York, Intern, August 1982 to April 1983. Projects: • Columbia Univ. Computer Science Bldg. • Bernstein Residence, New York State • Munger Hall, University of Virginia Biology Building.

T E A C H I N G H I S T O R Y

University of Cambridge, Department of Architecture, Studio Master of Second Year Studio Two, In a programme offering three distinct design phases, Second Years were trained to use digital and hand techniques leading to their first full building proposal. The theme of Media Convergence was tested in component-based generative architecture; students were trained by Michael McNamara in CAD 3D on a Bentley Microstation platform.

Cornell University, Visiting Critic 2001, '*Sited Systems: Paseo de las Luces, El Paso*' The Graduate Studio proposed networked urban projects in the vibrant district around the Mexico / Texas border station.

University of Texas at Arlington, Lecturer, Spring 2002, Taught Graduate School course titled: *Fort Dallas, Urban Architecture in the age of Networked Computing*, and developed First Year Basic Design course.

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Visiting Critic 2001–02, '*Cybernetic Urbanism in Future London*' considered alternatives to a Renzo Piano tower proposal in Southwark, using web-based networks as urban architecture design tools. Studio was sponsored by Bentley Systems who provided funding for CAD and GIS tutor.

Architectural Association School of Architecture, Unit Master, September 1993 to July, 2001, London, UK.

- Responsible for teaching architectural design studio to fifteen students per year in the "Unit" System. The AA course uses the 'Unit system'; Units develop their own course of study. Students apply to a Unit and are admitted on the basis of a competitive interview. Once admitted, students study with the Unit for an entire year. **Intermediate Unit 2** topics have included:
 - *Interconnectivity* – or 'working with what's there': designs develop existing meaning in the social/physical environment
 - *Means of MisRepresentation* – representation (both visual and social) and its manipulation in shaping space
 - *Sequence* – the significance of movement, perception, and cognition for site analysis
 - *Digital Studio* – a design process based on the interaction between 'traditional' hand drawing and modeling techniques and digital techniques
- Other Unit work included study trips to English sites including Cambridge, Oxford, several Paris trips, and the 10 day annual 'Unit Trips' in which students and tutors research on selected topics: the Veneto, Italy '94; Barcelona '95; Porto & Lisbon, Portugal '96; NYC, NY '97, Holland & Switzerland '98; Timber Building in Switzerland, '99; Barcelona, '00; Berlin *Staatsbibliothek*, Germany '01.

Portsmouth University School of Architecture, Studio tutor, September 1998 to June 2000.

- Vertical design studio from first year up to graduate students
- Semester long studios with small groups, vertically-organized tutors teach all years; Diploma One uses set briefs, Diploma Two students develop individual thesis projects.

Kingston University School of Architecture, First Year Studio tutor, September 1989 to June 1990. Year-Based studio which served as a comprehensive introduction to the Architecture Course.

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Summer 1987, Career Discovery: Summer Programme for students interested in entering an accredited Architecture Programme.

Rice University, Architecture Course Graduate Student assistant, Spring Semester, 1984, tutor to undergraduate students under Professor John J. Casbarian.

S E L E C T E D P U B L I C A T I O N S

- <http://studios.gsd.harvard.edu/1501f01> • www.aaschool.ac.uk/inter2, annual websites from 1999–2001
- Architectural Association *Prospectus, Projects Review*, eight years from 1993 to 2001
- *'36 Modeles pour une Maison'*, Centre Arc-En-Reve, Bordeaux, France, 1997, Book and Traveling Exhibition
- Primary Speaker's Lecture (group of six): *'Concerning Cities and Silicon'*, Proceedings of *Arcasia* Conference "Technology and Tradition," Seoul, Korea, 1999
- *AJ Special Report: Poole Harbour Crossing Competition*, 1997
- *Glasgow Tower: The Entries to Competition*, Publication, 1992
- *Dulwich Picture Gallery Competition*, Publication, 1990
- Publications on practices of Richard Rogers Architects Ltd, James Stirling Michael Wilford, Taft Architects, 1982–present.

S E L E C T E D E X H I B I T I O N S

- ***Pedagogical Shopfront***, University of Texas at Arlington End of Year, 2002
- Architectural Association ***Projects Review*** Exhibitions, 1994 to 2001. Each Unit designs and builds an end of year exhibition in the AA workshop and on site; this exhibition is tied to simultaneous publication of the yearly *Projects Review* publication, produced jointly by the Units and the AA Publications Office.
- ***Van Ham Yard*** – *Soho*, Academie St Joost, Breda, Holland, 1998
- ***London Millennium Bridge*** Competition Entries, Tate Bankside, London 1997
- ***Poole Harbour Crossing*** Competition Entries, RIBA Exhibition, 1997
- ***Domestic Landscapes, Drawings by Three Architects***, Suzanne Street Gallery, Houston, TX 1986.
- ***Buildings Observed***, Architects' Photographs, Blue Moon Gallery, Houston, TX 1985.

S E L E C T E D H O N O R S , A W A R D S , & C O M P E T I T I O N S

- ***36 Modeles pour une Maison*** LaMa Studio submission placed in *Centre Georges Pompidou* permanent collection, 2001
- Harvard GSD Alumni Council Member for the United Kingdom, 1993–2000
- ***'Berlin at the Crossroads'*** Main member of six forming the Organizing Committee of the Harvard GSD Conference, July, 2000.

Selected Competition Entries: World Trade Center Memorial, 2003 • *Building Design Magazine* Concept Houses, 1998 • London Millenium Bridge, 1996 • *Europam*: Tampere, Finland, 1996 • Poole Harbour Crossing, 1995 • Gorbals Housing Competition, Glasgow, 1994 • Oberlin Bandstand, 1985 • Houston Commercial Bank with Taft Architects, 1985 • Austin City Hall, 1984 • Codex World Headquarters, Kliment and Halsband, 1983 • Formica Competition, 1983.

Competition Short Lists: • The John Nash Regent Street Quadrant, 1994, **Final Four Short List** (with EPR Architects) • Glasgow Tower Competition, 1992, **Final Short Listed Entry** • Dulwich Picture Gallery, 1990, **Final Short Listed Entry** • Participant: Tokyo Forum Competition, invited entry by Richard Rogers Ltd., 1989 • **Winner** as Participant: Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 Competition, Richard Rogers Ltd., 1989 • Participant: Disney Concert Hall Final Four Invitees, Stirling Wilford, 1988 • Participant: Toronto Opera House Final Four Invitees, Stirling Wilford, 1988.

Winner: Louis Sudler Prize, National Funded Prize for Arts Universities, 1984 • **Winner:** Reynolds Aluminum School Prize • **Winner:** Chillman Portfolio Prize, 1982 • **Winner:** William Watkin Traveling Fellowship, visited Japan, India, Greece, Spain, Morocco, 1982 • Elected to Sigma Tau Delta Society, 1982 • **Winner:** Rice University Life Drawing Award, 1982.

R E G I S T R A T I O N

RIBA Number 12251197. Architects Registration Board (ARB) since 1992, Number 0590811.

P E R S O N A L

• Born 9 August, 1959 in Louisiana, USA • Married, no children • Clean Driver's License • Dual USA / UK citizen: unlimited rights to live and work throughout EU and USA.