

The Role of the Chartered Architectural Technologists in Practice

Rob Thomas MCIAT

Vice-President Practice,

The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists

Managing Director,

RT Architectural Services



Architectural Services

Academic career background

BTEC – Full time diploma course in construction – 1 year

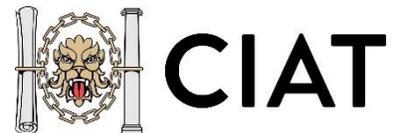
ONC – Ordinary National Certificate in Construction – 2 year part time course (day release)

HNC – Higher National Certificate in Construction – 2 year part time course (day release)

Professional qualifications

MCIAT – Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (since 2006)

MFPWS – Member of the Faculty of Party Wall Surveyors



Professional career background

Architectural Assistant – Architects practice

Architectural Technician – Building surveying practice

Senior Architectural Technologist – Architectural practices

Senior Technical Manager – National house builders

Company Director – RT Architectural Services

Vice-President Practice – CIAT (Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists)

What is Architectural Technology?

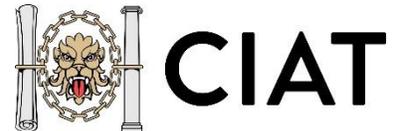
What is Architectural Technology?

Architectural Technology is the technology of architecture; a creative, innovative design discipline rooted in science and engineering.

It forms the link between design and realisation. At its core, is the anatomy and physiology of a building or structure. Its relation to context, how it is assembled and how it performs through form, function and fabric.

Architectural Technology achieves efficient and effective construction and robust sustainable design solutions that perform and endure over time.

The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists was founded on 12 February 1965 and recognised by incorporation by Royal Charter on 22 July 2005. The Institute has had four names and constitutions: SAAT (Society of Architectural and Associated Technicians), BIAT (British Institute of Architectural Technicians & then Technologists), and now CIAT (Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists)



What is a Chartered Architectural Technologist?

What is a Chartered Architectural Technologist?

Chartered Architectural Technologists, MCIAT, are qualified to offer design services and manage projects from inception to completion. They lead the technological design of a project; forming the link between concept, innovation and realisation

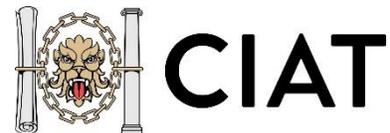
They:

specialise in design, underpinned by building science, engineering and technology applied to architecture within projects, playing a pivotal role in project and design management;

design and manage all project types from small scale to large commercial, industrial, residential and public projects; they range from being sole practitioners to working in multinational and multidisciplinary practices;

work collaboratively with other professionals such as architects and engineers and are recognised on a par with all Chartered professionals in the built environment sector; and

hold a valued, respected and regulated professional qualification and protected designation, which is transferable and recognised across borders and can only be awarded by the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists, whilst abiding by a set of professional ethics in the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct



Comments from Architectural Technologists in practice

‘I was very fortunate when I first started out and worked side by side with an architect. He designed it and between us we detailed how it worked until I was competent to do it on my own’

‘When I joined a practice with 100+ people, I felt that there was a lack of appreciation and understanding of the technologist so I had to fight hard to get the recognition the profession deserves. In terms of my progression it did not hold me back, but even now I don’t think that all architects fully appreciate how the roles work together, some view it as a ‘second’ option. Most architects absolutely do now and are great and supportive but in general a technologist still takes a lot more explaining than ‘architect’ but we are getting there’

‘Some practices still feel that the technologist cannot design buildings and that we can only detail what the architect has drawn. As a technologist I know that this is untrue, as many award winning buildings have been designed and detailed by an AT’.

Opportunities to enter the profession

T levels - meant to be the equivalent of A levels (the Construction: Design, surveying and planning pathway is still in development and currently scheduled to be launched at some colleges in September 2020)

Higher and degree apprenticeships - CIAT currently supports two higher level apprenticeships:

Level 3 Digital Engineering Technician - this is a higher apprenticeship (BIM focused)

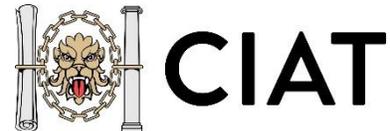
Level 4 Construction Design and Build Technician - this is a higher apprenticeship

Level 6 Design and Construction Management - this is a degree apprenticeship

Please note that although the Level 4 and 6 standards were approved for delivery in September, CIAT have not promoted these as employers are unable to use the Levy to fund apprentices that start on either of these.

HNC/D studies - CIAT Approves the HNC/Ds in Architectural Technology that were developed by the Scottish Qualifications Agency (SQA) and recently Approved Pearson's HNC/D Construction and Built Environment qualification as well as their newer Higher National Construction suite of qualifications (which are also at HNC/D level). We also Approve two qualifications in Hong Kong.

Higher Education studies - CIAT Accredite 36 undergraduate and 5 postgraduate qualifications. A majority of these are in the UK, however other countries include Ireland x4, Denmark x1, Dubai x1, Spain x1. The qualifying time is from three years to four years. In England and Wales they are three years with an option to take a placement year between year two and the final year. In Scotland the Honours degrees are four years when studied full time.



Further information

You can obtain a wealth of information on what the Chartered Architectural Technologist does, how to qualify as an AT, and the AT Awards at

CIAT.ORG.UK

So going onto my experience of work and pretty much how Architectural Technologists (of my era) started out....



**Thank you for listening and
do you have any questions?**

