
ASA President 2022

Annual Report

APRIL 2022

The Aberdeen Society of Architects
Tom Stewart



President's Report 2022

Since taking over the role of President, I have been working to re-establish links with the local Planning & Building Control departments to try and improve communication between the Chapter and the Local Authority as things have become strained during COVID, due to remote working, sudden changes in procedure and difficulty in getting feedback within the stated deadlines.

We have been able to start this process in Aberdeen City and have had a positive initial meeting with scope to have regular catch-ups throughout the year.

Through links to the Aberdeenshire Planning Department, we have made the initial steps to create a similar relationship, but due to time constraints we haven't got this going quite yet.

In the first half of the year, COP26 dominated Chapter business. We have created some interesting and challenging material across the Chapters, but have not managed to capture public engagement in a way we had hoped. We haven't given up hope, and are looking at setting up an exhibition in the city along with case studies of projects that have a particular focus on sustainability. Practices are encouraged to come forward with project suggestions so we can create a range of buildings that will show the public how varied "sustainable architecture" can be.

Through a lot of hard work from the Awards & Dinner Committee, we were able to host our first Chapter Awards dinner for 2 years. I am very pleased that so many tickets were sold, as there was a risk that people would still be wary of such a large gathering.

Considering we were only the 2nd event at the venue, I was very impressed with the level of service, as well as quality of the space. I am personally very thankful to Richard Slater, Gordon Smith & Andrea Stewart for their hard work in getting things organised.

The visits to the shortlisted projects were very rewarding and it was great that so many Architects & clients were willing to give the judges access to the projects, which felt like a very satisfying return to "normality".

I was pleased to see some new faces on Council over the past year, and I encourage anyone within the Chapter Area to get involved as we are always keen to get people along at all ages & stages of their career.

Tom Stewart

On behalf of the Aberdeen Society of Architects