

Youmeshe is a practice formed by two ex-Grimshaw architects Simon Beames and Simon Dickens design carefully composed people friendly buildings.

Innovation and sustainability has underpinned our work from the very beginning.

Youmeshe was founded 05-05-05 by Simon Beames and Simon Dickens who have worked together closely with Simon Catton since 1988.

We are committed to the idea that a successful building is one which responds thoughtfully and gracefully to our client's needs, local conditions and the buildings' future communities.

We work with our clients to help identify their potential requirements for each project, then, together, develop the brief and the design.

Our particular approach allows us to tackle the most challenging, complex and diverse architectural projects.

We take an holistic approach to design which aims to bring together the best minds in their relevant fields; identifying the project needs and then assembling the project team. Our task as designers is to create the vision and guide the team members to achieve architecturally workable and economically viable solutions.

Learning and Sharing

As a young design practice, we have an open mind about the way we operate in the construction industry.

At YOUMEHESHE, we combine research projects and teaching sessions with everyday studio operations so we can gain further knowledge through debate and discourse.

Thinking away from the demands of commercial practice helps to challenge the way we address each new project, and gain fresh insight into new developments within, and related to, the profession. This gives us a good opportunity to test new ideas and further their aims.

We work closely with the industry of construction and in particular those involved in rapid manufacturing. Early adopting of software such as Bentley's Generative Components allows us to manipulate construction form, pushing the boundaries of material systems to their full potential. We are the first office to design a building using GC that has been constructed successfully, the Pavilion at the Cutty Sark.

Working with Partners

YOUMEHESHE collaborated on many major international projects and understand the associated challenges.

A particular challenge is realising the emotive, operational and economic potential of the project. We achieve this through obtaining the best brief possible from those who will build, fund, operate and most importantly use the development.

// YOUMEHESHE is a practice which is ethical; in trade, ecology and sustainability //

Local actions, global awareness

Our approach to environmental design encompasses a range of considerations which benefit the overall building development. We start from a thorough understanding of the immediate environmental, social and economic concerns of the site context. This in depth analysis of the site will give us an understanding of the use of natural resources, landscape, ecology and social dimension.

We believe that the socio-economic sustainability of architectural projects is as important as the environmental considerations. When designing specific projects we must consider all aspects of the impact of the architecture. Whether it be local employment creation during the construction process; the availability of local materials to reduce 'embodied' energy or the long term affect of the buildings functionality on a neighbourhood; these factors and many more contribute to the 'ecological footprint' of any built project.

Experiences

YOUMEHESHE are currently developing a strategy for designing using Modern Methods of Construction. In particular our approach uses prefabricated and modular units of timber construction. The design intention is to create affordable buildings flexible enough to be adapted to many site, social and typological conditions.

Our ambition is to create contextually responsive architecture that touches the planet lightly while nurturing people that use them. We endorse a systematic and strategic approach to construction but want to design people friendly buildings.

Using these methodologies we have recently developed and built a prototypical pre-fabricated pavilion that benefits from off-site engineered timber construction. The Pavilion creates a magical and wondrous place within the Greenwich Unesco World Heritage site.

Projects we are currently working on are expanding our knowledge and experience in design of environmentally positive and energy efficient buildings and facilities, we are leading the research into passive buildings with our housing schemes in Norway, a technology we intend to demonstrate in the UK shortly.

Current and realised projects have given us the skills to design to the requirements of sensitive sites, creating an architecture that surpasses the aspirations of the Client.

Our approach to planning, cost control, supervision and contract administration of construction works have been well tested.

Youmeshe thrive when working within a team environment, helping develop and enhancing the group to surpass expectation.

Simon Beames

Simon graduated with distinction from the Bartlett School of Architecture, he cut his teeth at Foster Associates then was a senior associate at Grimshaw Architects where he worked for 11 years, is a Diploma Unit Master at the Architectural Association, is a CIBE Enabler focused on Surestart and works as Architect for the Non Government Organisation, Children-on-the-edge.

He has been involved at the inception of several major projects across the world including Chek Lap Kok airport Hong Kong, the Reichstag Berlin, The American Air Museum Duxford; lead the design team for Battersea Power Station London for 5 years and currently leads the design for the conservation of the tea clipper Cutty Sark in Greenwich, London.

For Children-on-the-Edge he has completed several exemplar social projects including the Haluacesti Orphanage, Romania, conversion into Family Units and the Cabra Village School Kosova. He is currently studying the design of a 'child friendly Space' strategy for application in disaster relief.

Simon built his family home in Asilah, Morocco host to the renowned International Arts Festival. Simon has worked with Arts Festival Group in furthering the cultural offering of Asilah.

Simon Dickens

Simon graduated from the Royal College of Art where he benefited greatly from collaboration with designers across the entire design spectrum.

Time spent with Team Zoo in Japan, introduced the importance of understanding the site and the surrounding environment. Japan provided the opportunity to combine traditional materials such as mud and bamboo with modern materials to form contemporary structures.

Simon worked for 6 years at Grimshaw Architects where he worked on many high profile projects such as a Stadium at Lords Cricket Ground and Zurich Airport. He was the Concept Architect for Bath Spa, the first truly contemporary building in the UNESCO World Heritage site. Simon was the Project Architect for the Rolls Royce Factory, a project that managed to form a poetic relationship between the formality of an industrial process with the landscape of Goodwood Stately Home.

He later joined Gensler Architects as an Associate where he developed a keen interest in school design and the future of education.

Simon has worked with many of the internationally acclaimed architectural practices in London, including Richard Rogers Partnership, Norman Foster Partnership and Grimshaw Architects.

Simon Catton

Simon is a design consultant specialising in environmental and social issues in the built environment. He has been responsible for providing eco design advice for projects ranging from individual dwellings to new settlements.

Simon joined the Battle McCarthy Urban Design Group after studying at the University of Westminster. He was responsible for providing strategic vision and co-ordinating the project objectives within the multi-disciplinary team. Projects include the innovative Greenwich Millennium Village development in London, UK.

He was a founding member of SEA Ltd, a design practice promoting sustainable design issues at all project scales. Interests in emerging communication technologies, led to a series of projects related to environmental sustainability and regenerating community services and values. 'The Intelligent' community initiative, for Orange Personal Communications, instigated projects from reducing home energy bills to promoting local facilities and services.

Simon has worked with many of the internationally acclaimed architectural practices in London, including Richard Rogers Partnership, Norman Foster Partnership and Grimshaw Architects.

He has taught at the Architectural Association in London, Brighton University and lectured at the Architecture Foundation in Stavanger, Norway.

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