

**My name is Martin Trentham and I am the Head of National Design for Interserve Engineering Services. This is a role that I have aspired to fulfil since undertaking my traineeship some 30 years ago. In this time, I have developed a wealth of technical design, construction and refurbishment expertise in the building services industry. I take pride in leading my engineering design team to support clients and deliver projects in complex live environments across all UK and International sectors up to £125million (MEP).**

#### **WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER AND WHAT PATH DID YOU TAKE TO ACHIEVE THIS?**

In all honesty, I knew very little about this industry prior to joining Ove Arup & Partners, so it is fair to say that I completely fell into this role by accident. However being part of a good structured training programme, in which I was taught good basic principles/fundamentals of design, has stood me in good stead throughout my career.

Rather than taking the traditional academic route as described by so many of my peers, I opted for the hands-on practical approach that gave me a valuable insight into required practical considerations which need to be fully considered by designers, something that I still believe is sadly lacking in our sector.

#### **WHAT IS THE MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF YOUR JOB?**

Engineering is a discipline where collaboration with industry peers is an integral part of project delivery and the associated continuous improvement aspects. I enjoy being part of a close-knit work winning community that takes pride in creating long-standing

partnerships and that truly values & encourages a professional development ethos.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT TO DATE?**

The successful outcome of a project and the legacy it provides gives me an enormous sense of personal satisfaction. Leading the design function of a £100m business during an industry-wide revolution in digital engineering through BIM has been challenging.

I am Engineering Service's BIM champion and a strategic member of Interserve's BIM Steering Group. This involves piloting new technologies and latest software as we strive to keep at the forefront of compliance.

BIM is not just about processes, software and hardware; it's about a shift in culture and realisation that we need to adapt the way in which we work as individuals and as a team. I am facilitating this change at Interserve through development of training and education by up skilling and investing in our people and the provision of our new digital engineering learning hub, which provides a central access point to BIM, new technologies and training for all.

I am proud of the business improvement measures that we have implemented and the exciting opportunities that have been created for colleagues on our journey to BIM competency. This was recently recognised when I received Interserve's first annual National BIM award for promoting and developing BIM within our business.



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**THE BEST ADVICE I WOULD PASS ON IS TO SELECT A GOOD SPONSOR, SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS AND IS ABLE TO OBJECTIVELY PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS.**



### **WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER?**

With so many different roles to choose from in our sector, I believe it is important to equip yourself with a strong understanding of all core elements. Training and academic study should be tailored around this requirement to encourage an all-round, integrated approach to building services.

Based on my own experience, a traditional education route will not suit everyone. Our industry needs to inspire the next generation. Providing a more hands-on, practical route should not preclude candidates for later development and progression.

### **WHY DID YOU BECOME MCIBSE?**

I have been an Affiliate member of CIBSE for some time, and this has given me invaluable access to an array of advice and the ever expanding technical guidance documentation needed by modern day engineers. It wasn't until working in the Middle East that I fully appreciated how well regarded CIBSE was around the globe; it is held in high regard and can certainly open doors to new opportunities.

I have enjoyed my career to date and now feel ready to

give something back through mentoring and helping to develop the next generation of engineers. Becoming MCIBSE has provided the recognition needed to support this initiative.

### **HOW DID YOU FIND THE APPLICATION FOR THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE?**

At first glance it did seem a very onerous, daunting and long winded process, however, nothing could have been further from the truth and in fact I had completed my EPR within only a few short weeks. There is excellent documentation, and help is always willingly provided, just don't be afraid to ask.

It is easy to forget a life time of personal achievement and I actually enjoyed the required research. It is really positive to remind yourself of your successes and how your competencies have naturally developed over time. Experience is invaluable and should never be underestimated.

The best advice I would pass on is to select a good sponsor, someone who has been through the process and is able to objectively provide constructive comments. In my case, this has led me to re-writing my document, placing greater emphasis on my achievements.

Additionally, I was also able to gain IEng status, which I would have no hesitation in recommending for colleagues who underwent a vocational learning path.

It is my intention to apply for CEng status through the completion of a Technical Report and interview, to be undertaken in the next twelve months.

### **WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE BENEFITS OF CIBSE MEMBERSHIP? AND WHY?**

CIBSE provide an invaluable provision for maintaining and identifying key areas for personal development tailored to suit new legislation and requirements faced by modern day engineers. This includes:

- Free access to the latest technical publications through the Knowledge Portal
- Networking and peer support opportunities
- CPD accredited seminars, regionally and nationally
- Regular issue of monthly journals and technical insights

### **BUILDING SERVICES IS GREAT BECAUSE?**

Since an early age I have enjoyed learning about how things work. Being able to apply this knowledge practically, and gaining an opportunity as a school leaver with Ove Arup & Partners has forged my career as an engineer. Working for leading contractors has defined my path in the design and installation of services and a passion for making buildings come to life.

Gaining hands-on experience in delivering building engineering design solutions early in my career has provided me with an invaluable insight into the dynamics of client teams, main contractor construction operations and an all-round capability in services requirements that underpin our MEP community. ■