

I am a Senior Engineer at Kaizenge Design, an employee owned building services and sustainability consultancy formed in 2012, based in London and Bristol. I have worked at Kaizenge for two and a half years, having previously spent five years at Mott MacDonald. I now manage our Bristol team in addition to overseeing the operation of Kaizenge LLP, our ownership structure where I work on behalf of the other members to manage the capital interests and rights of partners. I currently manage projects across a number of different sectors and have particular experience in providing sustainability advice and low energy options, from concept and planning stages, through to design and construction. I am currently in the process of completing my Technical Report in order to achieve Chartered Engineer (CEng) registration.

department led by a new Director and Mechanical Engineer. When I joined Mott MacDonald, I was exposed to a number of disciplines including utility and civil engineering design, before gradually honing my craft in mechanical engineering and sustainable design. Opportunities in building design were initially limited, but through perseverance and as the team became more established, I developed a niche offering in the Bristol team providing energy and sustainability services. Following further postgraduate study in sustainable design I then joined Kaizenge to develop the sustainability and pre-planning department.



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

Building services engineering wasn't a sector I was familiar with until I had already commenced my undergraduate studies. I undertook a Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) degree in aeronautical engineering at Bristol having been initially torn between mechanical, automotive and aeronautical engineering. I became aware of work opportunities in the built environment during my first year of studies, modules in business management, economics and sustainability were of great interest and this sparked me to carry out further reading and research into building and sustainable design. Building services, once I became aware of the subject, was a natural fit.

Following my undergraduate degree award I pursued a number of multidisciplinary consultancies in Bristol and joined Mott MacDonald, which attracted me as there was a fledgling M&E

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

I enjoy a number of areas of my job; meeting new clients and people and helping to coordinate successful building strategies, developing and managing junior staff, providing alternative or innovative solutions. However, if I were to pick one it would be the ability to influence, inform and extend a client's brief in order to improve the outcome for either the occupants or environment. I am lucky to work for a company and in an industry that allows me the freedom to achieve this through exploring my interests and philosophy.

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

Thus far my greatest professional accomplishment is two-fold, firstly helping to establish and form the employee ownership structure at my company following the Incorporation of Kaizenge LLP, our partnership structure. Secondly moving our Bristol office location and establishing a team over the last six months which has enabled



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me the opportunity to create a new team that can grow and extend our offering in the South West. These have essentially provided me with greater autonomy and control over my work life in terms of direction of the company and type of business that I will be working in.

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

It is extremely rare that two projects will ever be exactly alike, in some instances 'off the shelf' or simple solutions may well be the most sustainable and practicable outcome, while for others we need to exhibit the necessary skills to provide more complex or dynamic solutions. There are a myriad of specialities and aspects under building services and, while keeping abreast of technology advances and innovations can sometimes be difficult, it will help enable you to maintain a critical thinking approach to carrying out options studies and design solutions while also giving scope to improve building design. As an industry we are, in my opinion, often in a privileged position to be able to influence building forms, spaces and the environment as we manage change through ever evolving legislation and technological advances.

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

I wanted to achieve MCIBSE grade as it is firstly a personal recognition for my ability and achievements as an engineer. In addition I hope it will help extend my exposure in the industry, through gaining respect from peers, clients, external teams and within CIBSE itself. Ultimately the MCIBSE award will now help in my drive towards my next goal of Chartered Engineer (CEng), further establishing my standing in building services as an experienced senior engineer. My personal development goal is to progress towards Associate and latterly Director level within my company as I look to lead and extend our team's offering and capabilities in Bristol.

#### **HOW DID YOU FIND THE APPLICATION PROCESS TO BECOME MCIBSE AND WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS CONSIDERING THIS GRADE?**

I was guided by my mentors who were already MCIBSE registered, both in Mott MacDonald and now at Kaizenge. After graduating and commencing work I initially signed up to IMechE as an Associate Member under their graduate programme but I decided to transfer to CIBSE as it was more aligned and relevant to my professional goals and aspirations.

My advice would be to find a suitable mentor, someone who has been through the process already and can guide you. Attend the CIBSE membership briefings, these are informal and provide opportunities to raise queries and clarify any reservations you may have about your competency level.

Discuss the application process with peers, I found this particularly helpful as another colleague was applying for MCIBSE at the same time. Rather than being competitive, this was a collaborative process, helping us both to highlight our strengths and weaknesses and how we could develop and meet the MCIBSE competencies.

Start tracking your competencies early. It is in both yours and your company's interests to develop you as an engineer. Don't leave it to the last minute as you will lose track of a vast array of projects and experiences you are exposed to.

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

CIBSE membership provides access to a wealth of knowledge and experience. I have been able to consult a community of peers and met many interesting people, it also provides access to CPDs, industry leading advice and news, and assistance with training and development plans.

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

For me, building services engineering is a vocation which can provide genuine social and environmental value. We have the freedom to explore and drive innovation in building design for the betterment of buildings and their occupants. It is very rare that two projects will be the same, each brings risks and opportunities and these are all valuable learning experiences. Building services provides exposure to many aspects of design allowing room for exploration of interests across an array of sectors and projects. ■