I'm a Technical Manager for Lendlease in Brisbane, Queensland and have been working in the Australian building services industry for over 12 years. I've enjoyed designing Electrical Services across a wide range of projects and in particular, have been extensively involved in Defence and Commercial projects. I became a Member of CIBSE in 2014 and recently attained chartership.

What inspired you to become a building services engineer and what path did you take to achieve this?

After completing my degree, I didn’t know a lot about building services, however, I was interested in science and electrical engineering and decided to give it a try. I was fortunate that building services happened to be a profession I enjoy working in. I arrived in Australia in 2006 and since then the population of the country has grown by up to 20% and has seen some significant investments in buildings. This massive growth has helped me to work on some fantastic projects around the country which I’m very grateful for.

I was drawn by the range of travel opportunities that are available as a building services engineer. In addition, the type and scale of projects looked exciting to be involved in and gave a variety of career paths to choose from.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

Interacting daily with a range of different professionals who are passionate, smart and forward thinking. Architects, Acoustic Engineers, Fire Engineering Certifiers, there are many extremely talented engineers in my company who are members and their enthusiasm for CIBSE influenced me.
ESD consultants, Mechanical and Hydraulic Designers, Clients, Builders and many other roles all bring their own ideas and new exciting aspects to the design.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment to date?

Trying and (occasionally) succeeding to convince all those mentioned above that electrical services are of paramount importance on a project.

In regards to projects, I was part of the largest national defence job since World War 2, which involved designing and building over 65 buildings in a very short period. It was great to see our efforts rewarded by winning the Australian Construction Achievement Award.

What one piece of advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a building services engineer?

This is a profession with a great variety of roles and responsibilities, which can appear rather daunting when beginning your career. I’d recommend having an open, hardworking and enthusiastic mindset and immerse yourself in the projects and delve into the detail. For example, engage in discussions and always ask why, read relevant articles in your spare time and attend seminars and lunchtime presentations. You’ll be amazed what you’ll have learnt and how quickly it happened. This will continue for the rest of your career which is the beauty of it.

Why did you become MCIBSE CEng?

There are several reasons why I became MCIBSE CEng accredited. The main reason was I believe the process allows you to formally demonstrate commitment and passion to strive to become the best engineer you can be. Engineers occupy positions of great responsibility and perform a critical role for many public and government sectors and having this accreditation recognises that you work to a high standard of practice.

There are many extremely talented engineers in my company who are members and their enthusiasm for CIBSE influenced me.

I also recently moved interstate to Queensland and chartership will help me to become a Registered Professional of Engineers in Queensland which is mandatory for a person who undertakes building services design.

"I'd recommend joining your local CIBSE region as you can get good advice and help from the other CIBSE members who are very encouraging"

How did you find the application process to become MCIBSE and what advice would you give to others considering this grade?

At the start of the application process, it can appear challenging to recall all the examples you have been involved in to meet the criteria. I would jot down notes of items as I remembered and from there it’s much easier to expand on later.

Secondly, I’d recommend joining your local CIBSE region as you can get good advice and help from the other CIBSE members who are very encouraging. It’s also helpful to get a sponsor who has been through the process and they can help guide your application process.

What do you consider to be the benefits of CIBSE membership? And why?

There have been many benefits for me since joining CIBSE. It provides the opportunity to rub shoulders with other like-minded colleagues in the industry. This, in turn, expands my personal network, builds my technical knowledge and develops my career.

Also, CIBSE membership grants me access to a large library of building services engineering knowledge, which allows me to stay in touch with the latest technology trends and industry news. If you put in the effort you’ll reap the rewards.

Building services is great because....?

Every day you learn something new and you get the pleasure of seeing your efforts come to fruition. It is an industry where you can help shape the future.