



# No Building As Usual

Scoping Document 2021

RIBA   
Architecture.com

Studio Bark

STRUCTURE  
WORKSHOP



## OUR MISSION

In order to halt global heating, we have to stop building as usual.

Our Mission is to celebrate and support diversity in the design profession. **No Building As Usual** offers the opportunity for hands on construction experience, teaching participants how to design and build in response to the climate emergency.

#NoBuildingAsUsual

## WHO ARE WE?

# Studio Bark

### Project Lead

Studio Bark is a forward-thinking practice, seeking opportunities for thoughtful design, experimentation and environmental best practice.

The establishment of the practice's construction arm, Studio Bark Projects has provided scope to work more meaningfully with local communities and in education.

We have run over 10 successful live build projects in our short history.



# STRUCTURE WORKSHOP

### Supporting Engineer

Structure Workshop is an engineering design studio responsible for a diverse portfolio of contemporary structures.

Across all projects there is a commitment to collaboration and engagement. This has resulted in a series of carefully detailed and widely acclaimed projects.



No Building As Usual

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## THE PREMISE

The climate emergency will be the defining challenge for the next generation of built environment professionals

The UK government has committed to de-carbonising the built environment, but the sector is not responding in the time-scales demanded.<sup>1,2</sup>

Architects, engineers and other built environment students are paying upwards of £45,000 for their education

Yet graduates are unable to deliver on de-carbonisation targets set out by the RIBA, and are entering professional practices where skills are equally, and almost ubiquitously, lacking.

Course leaders have a responsibility to students to address climate knowledge gaps

Over-reliance on desk-based learning is failing to teach the technical skills and construction knowledge and approach needed to design sustainable buildings.

1 Paris Agreement/ UN Sustainable Development Goals: [www.ukgbc.org/news/why-sustainable-development-goals-matter/](http://www.ukgbc.org/news/why-sustainable-development-goals-matter/)

2 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): [www.ipcc.ch/sr15/resources/headline-statements/](http://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/resources/headline-statements/)



Bark Live Build 2016 - Holloway Lightbox - Timber Framing

## OVERVIEW

Through integrated teaching about construction and the climate emergency, **No Building As Usual** aims to:

- Work with people from different backgrounds, ethnicities and
- Increase cross-sector collaboration within construction
- Educate using real projects with real clients
- Increase 'carbon literacy' and 'energy literacy'
- Raise awareness in performance standards such as Building Regulations vs Passivhaus
- Educate in sustainable construction methods through hands on 1:1 building
- Introduce environmental principles and specific technical skills
- Develop skills in using low-energy hand tools
- Increase ecological knowledge and understanding of environmental impact of supply chains
- Provide project and site management experience and team-working including different types of leadership skills
- Take an open book approach, running the programme as a not for profit arm of Studio Bark.



Photos from 2018 'Bark Live Build'. Students learning about sustainable woodland management from a forester. The felled tree was then used to create Oak 'shakes' that clad the student-designed woodland folly.

# PRINCIPLES

## GENERAL CLIMATE AWARENESS

**#1** 'No Building as Usual' will broadcast the importance of environmentalism to a diverse range of people. Participants will consider the opportunities they have as both citizens and designers to improve the status quo.

**#2** Teaching around the climate and ecological crises will be broad, science-based and practical, with a focus on understanding the likely impacts of our designs.

## SPECIFIC TECHNICAL SKILLS

Few students (or practitioners) have the technical skills to deliver built environment targets such as the RIBA 2030 Challenge, or the LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide that are set to define our profession over the coming decades.

**#3** 'No Building as Usual' will teach students *how* to design within planetary limits, including:

- general environmental design principles
- use of analytical software tools
- understanding of how procurement, the construction process and human factors impact design
- Understanding of the value of money and how it flows around construction projects

## SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION EXPERTISE

**#4** 'No Business as Usual' will be led by enthusiastic experts, who will demonstrate best-practice construction in a way that is clear, practical, memorable and fun.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SECTOR

The built environment is for everyone, but diversity across the built environment sector is uniformly poor.

**#5** Participation in 'No Building as Usual' will be affordable and based on principles of 'radical inclusivity', actively seeking meaningful BAME representation at all levels.

## LOCAL CONNECTIONS

**#6** 'No Building as Usual' will support local communities and businesses.

## COLLABORATION

Upskilling at the speed and scale demanded won't be possible if we continue working in the silos that typify our sector. We need to practice, and to embrace, working as part of interdisciplinary teams.

**#7** 'No Business as Usual' will bring together architects, engineers, scientists, landscape architects and ecologists, include construction management, surveyors, sociologists etc.

**#8** 'No Building as Usual' will bring together students and practitioners to work on build projects, to directly address the gap between education and practice - a topic that is fast gaining attention as barriers to addressing climate challenges are better understood.

## EXPERIMENTATION

**#9** We will test new materials and techniques to build upon the work of others and catalyse industry change. (see [www.margentfarm.co.uk](http://www.margentfarm.co.uk))

**#10** 'No Building as Usual' will test working methodologies such as inter-institutional working that can have a positive impact on education and support and support a longer-term gradual culture change in practice.

## CARE, COMPASSION, RESPECT

We need to respect each other, and the natural environment, in order to create an enjoyable and positive experience that appeals to the widest audience.

**#11** 'No Building as Usual' will be a supportive framework for skill and confidence building.

# RACIAL DIVERSITY IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

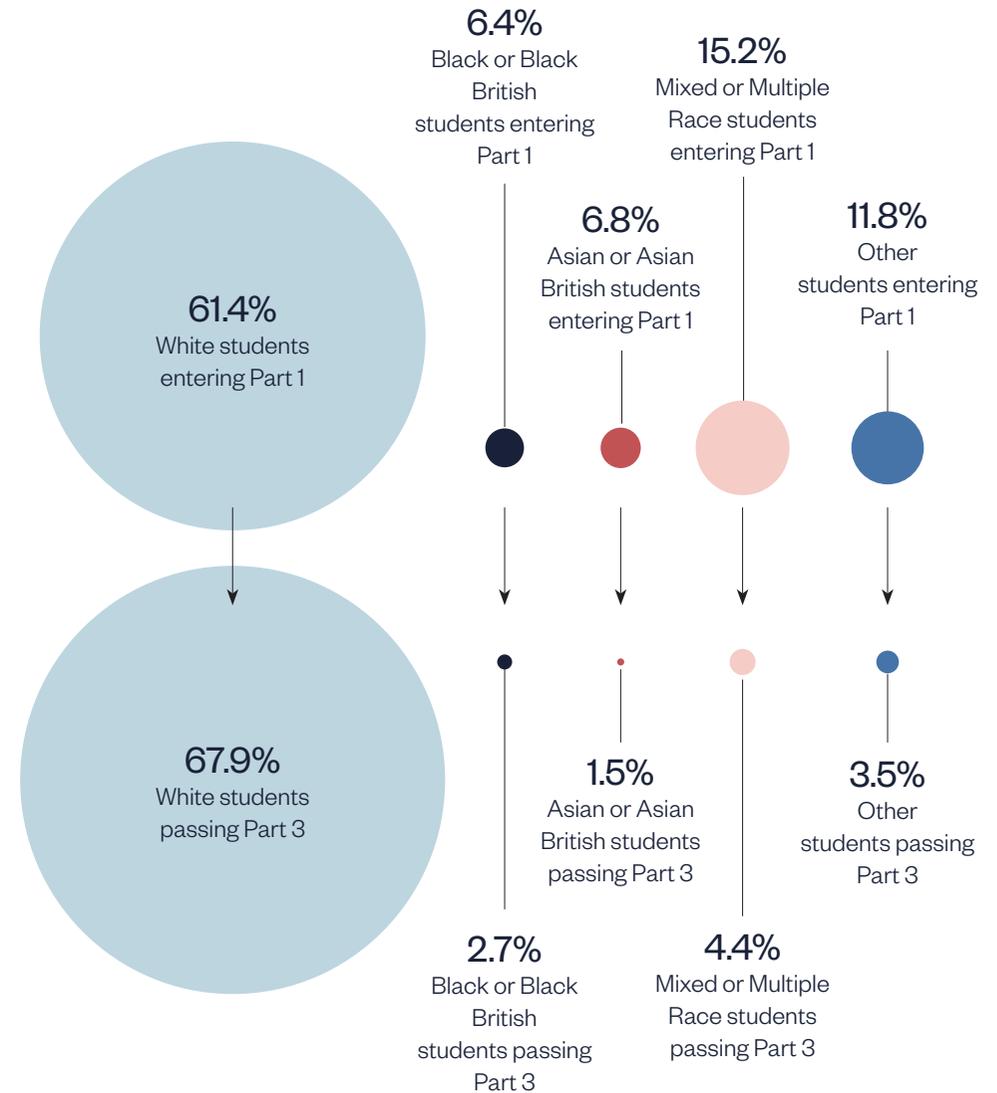
Diversity across the built environment sector is poor, however good data from different professions is not easily available.

Within architecture, data from the ARB and the RIBA has been made public, which demonstrates the lack of diversity within one of our target groups. For us, these figures, alongside our increasing awareness of inequality in education and in practice, point to the role we can play in better supporting students through No Building as Usual.

We believe that neither race nor gender should hinder the progress of talented young practitioners. However there is a lack of representation in the Architectural profession, which is 72% male<sup>1</sup> and under 1% black<sup>2</sup>. Equally, in universities, only 1% of professors are from ethnic minority backgrounds, despite the UK population being roughly 14% non-white<sup>3</sup>.

*“How can we create a shared environment that everyone can benefit from if our profession is not representative of the society we aspire to serve?”<sup>4</sup>*

1 ARB Report on Statistics and Trends, 2019 [www.arb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/8-Reporting-to-the-Board-Annex-A.pdf](http://www.arb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/8-Reporting-to-the-Board-Annex-A.pdf)  
 2 ARB Equality and Diversity Data, 2020 [www.arb.org.uk/about-arb/equality-diversity/data/](http://www.arb.org.uk/about-arb/equality-diversity/data/)  
 3 Guardian Article, 2020 [www.theguardian.com/education/2020/feb/27/fewer-than-1-of-uk-university-professors-are-black-figures-show](http://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/feb/27/fewer-than-1-of-uk-university-professors-are-black-figures-show)  
 4 Black Females in Architecture, 'Decolonising Architecture' presented at the Architecture Foundation's 100 Day Studio 22.05.20



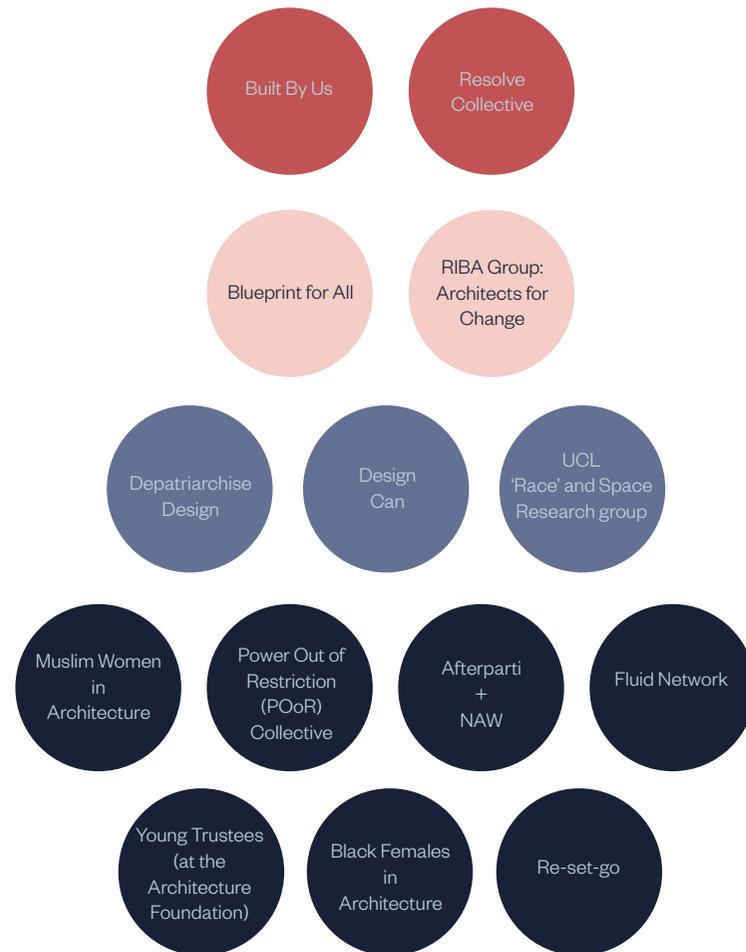
The graphic here shows the proportion of students from ethnic groups entering architectural education and subsequently qualifying. The drop in (already low) proportion of minority groups would suggest that university structures are not supporting students' needs equally. Source: RIBA Education Statistics - 2017/18 Report.

# SCOPING WIDER SUPPORT

Many long-standing, as well as younger groups, exist to support people from under-represented groups entering, and working in, the building sector

We seek to make links with others who share our values, crediting them as collaborator or partners on the build projects that they are involved with.

Please note this is a scoping document and no confirmation has been made by any of the groups, businesses or individuals listed. The diagram opposite is representative of our initial research, but not limited to, potential collaborators.



-  Potential build partners
-  Potential advocates
-  Groups with work that can inform our approach
-  Help to reach people from under-represented backgrounds

# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND RADICAL INCLUSION

Current educational structures have delivered very little shift in terms of ethnicity and gender balance, we therefore require innovation in educational practice.

By working collaboratively to develop a supportive framework, we aim to use construction projects to set a path, breaking down the invisible structures that are holding our sector back. We will:

- #1 Reach out to, and amplify, voices that are not being sufficiently heard in the profession
- #2 Create an environment in which participants speak and work together in a way that reflects equality and mutual respect
- #3 Break down potential barriers to participation, such as lack of on-site facilities
- #4 Regularly critique how we're doing as part of a formal review structure



Bark Live Build 2015 - Warren Lodge - Detailing Workshop

## LONG TERM AIMS

We see 'No Building As Usual' as playing a positive role in the necessary evolution of the building sector drawing on the positive benefits of collaboration.

More specifically we aim to:

- Engage with the RIBA and other professional bodies (RICS, ICE, CIBSE etc.) to establish Live Build as part of professional programme validation requirements
- Engage with professional bodies to bed similar/ the same type of scheme within continued professional development programmes
- Collectively address pipeline issues around gender, diversity and inequality through best-practice interdisciplinary working
- Support culture change in the sector towards collaborative working between professions - we foresee the establishment of various 'No Building as Usual' platforms as helping to make this necessary step change



Bark Live Build 2017 - Box House - Installing the last Box