



Ruth Reed, BA, DipArch, MA, PGCertEd, HonAIA, FRIAS, PPRIBA

Ruth is an architect with a career that spans public and private practice and the Planning Inspectorate. She was the first woman president of the Royal Institute of British Architects and continues to represent the profession in planning matters.

Brought up in Shrewsbury, Ruth Reed studied architecture at the University of Sheffield where she completed a Masters in Landscape.

She set up Reed Architects in Mid-Wales in 1992, where she rapidly won a reputation for successfully gaining planning consents, often in the face of restrictive rural planning controls, becoming a fee-paid planning inspector determining built environment appeals. Much of the practice's work was in the self-build sector and Ruth joined and became a Director of Associated Self-Build Architects, a national network of architects in the sector, promoting architecture through a variety of marketing techniques including stands at trade shows and magazine articles. In 1997 she designed and oversaw the construction of her own house using hardwood and softwood timber frames and breather-wall construction.

Her association with teaching started in 1993 with roles at the Welsh School of Architecture and also Plymouth and Bath Universities. With her extensive experience and knowledge of professional practice in a variety of business types, in 2006 she took over as Course Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Practice at the Birmingham School of Architecture. She was given professorial status by BCU at the end of her RIBA presidency in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the profession.

Ruth was the first woman and first academic to be president of the RIBA in its 175-year history. Elected to take up office in 2009 she faced challenging economic times for the profession and oversaw organisational change at the Institute. Her policy focus was on architectural education, particularly the economic circumstances facing students, and on planning reform, for which she led the RIBA's successful campaign for recognition of good design in the NPPF. Once her term as president finished Ruth took over chairmanship of the Planning Group and continues to represent the profession to policy-makers in this area.



In 2007 she joined Green Planning Solutions llp as a part-time Partner providing architectural and landscape consultancy support for the practice's caseload of unusual and challenging planning cases. The Practice is developing innovative concepts of developments in sensitive rural areas and has already developed an enviable success record in winning planning appeals. In July 2013 Ruth left academe to become a full-time Director in the newly formed Green Planning Studio Ltd leading the practice's work in the built environment.