STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY

EVERY FUTURE NEEDS A FOUNDATION

# ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE NETWORK

## Building Pathways into Architecture

Join the SLDF Architectural Practice Network; connecting students with quality placements, supporting diversity in the profession, and funding scholarships for future architects.

# WHY THIS NETWORK MATTERS ???

To qualify as an architect in the UK, students must complete three stages of study and training. After their first degree (Part 1), they are expected to spend at least one year working in practice before progressing to Part 2. A further year of practice is then required after completing Part 2, before students can advance to their final Part 3 qualification. While some universities allow students to move directly into Part 2 due to the difficulty of securing placements, this highlights the significant gap the sector must address.

For many students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, gaining access to respected practices remains one of the biggest challenges in this journey. Limited networks, bias in recruitment, and the lack of visible role models all create barriers. Even when placements are secured, students may struggle to feel included, supported, or able to see their own lived experiences reflected within the profession.

The SLDF Architectural Practices Network has been created to change this. By bringing together a collective of committed practices, we provide students with equitable access to placements in welcoming environments, while also funding scholarships and bursaries that support their progression through every stage of architectural study.

# HOW IT WORKS

### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

Followed by at least one year in practice.

### POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

Followed by a further year in practice.

### FINAL QUALIFICATION

Leading to registration as a fully qualified architect.

These two years in practice are essential. They allow students to apply their learning, develop their professional identity, and gain the confidence needed to succeed in the profession.

However, for many underrepresented students, these crucial stages are also the most difficult to access. Without strong networks or visible role models in the profession, finding high-quality, paid placements can feel out of reach.

# THE SLDF ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE NETWORK BRIDGES THE GAP BY:

- Partnering with leading practices to create structured placement opportunities.
- Supporting students both after Part 1 and after Part 2.
- Ensuring placements are welcoming, supportive, and fairly paid.
- Using membership fees to fund scholarships and bursaries, reducing financial barriers to progression.

This model ensures that talented young people are not lost between stages of study and that the profession benefits from the full range of creativity, experience, and perspective that diverse voices bring.

# MEMBERSHIP TIERS

### SUPPORTER PARTNER
## £1,000/YEAR
*Recognition & updates.*

### PLACEMENT PARTNER
## £5,000/YEAR
*Host students, feature in our trusted directory, recognition on our partner page.*

### LEADERSHIP PARTNER
## £10,000/YEAR
*Sponsor scholarships, advisory role, recognition at national events.*

**Whether you're a boutique practice or an international firm, there's a place for you in the network. Each tier demonstrates your commitment to equity and inclusion while offering tailored benefits.**

# IMPACT

## FOR STUDENTS

- Equitable access to paid, high quality placements after both Part 1 and Part 2.
- Supportive environments where they feel welcomed and represented.
- Scholarships and bursaries to reduce financial barriers to progression.
- Greater confidence and readiness to continue their journey to Part 3.

## FOR PRACTICES

- Access to a more diverse pool of future architects.
- Support and training to embed recruitment and mentoring.
- Recognition as leaders in equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Opportunity to contribute to systemic change in the profession.

## FOR THE SECTOR

- A stronger, more diverse pipeline of architects shaping the built environment.
- Recruitment practices that reflect equity and fairness across the industry.
- A profession that better reflects and serves the communities it designs for.
- Embedding Stephen Lawrence's legacy into the heart of architecture.

# HOW PRACTICES WILL BENEFIT:

Joining the SLDF Architectural Practice Network gives firms the opportunity to:

- ☑ **Access a broader, more diverse pool of emerging talent**
- ☑ **Strengthen recruitment and mentoring**
- ☑ **Be recognised as leaders in equity, diversity and social impact**
- ☑ **Contribute to systemic change in the architecture sector**
- ☑ **Help shape the next generation of architects and the communities they will serve**

# ALIGNMENT WITH STEPHEN'S LEGACY

Stephen Lawrence dreamed of becoming an architect. His life and legacy remind us of the importance of creating opportunities, breaking down barriers, and ensuring that young people can thrive in careers where they are often underrepresented.

The Architectural Practices Network honours this vision by building a pipeline of talented, diverse architects who will shape the future of our built environment.

# GET INVOLVED

**Together, we can create a profession that reflects the communities it serves.**

**Become part of the SLDF Architectural Practices Network and help us open doors for the next generation of architects.**

# SCAN TO DONATE

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STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY

Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation
124 City Road, London
EC1V 2NX

info@stephenlawrenceday.org

stephenlawrenceday.org

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