

Role summary

Reporting directly to Suzan Ucmaklioglu, Associate, you will be responsible for advising design disciplines on Inclusive Design, and implications, including compliance with Building Code or Regulations and Equality legislation. Foster +Partners aims to apply international best practice principles and performance standards across all projects regardless of jurisdiction therefore the role extends to relevant Inclusive Design input on international projects.

Inclusive Design sits within the Safety by Design team, a multi-disciplinary team comprising specialists in Safety by Design (CDM, BSA and international equivalents), Access and Maintenance, and Inclusive Design.

Our team forms part of the Technical Design Group which also includes the Technical Review Team, Specifications, Fire Engineering, Façade Engineering, and Quality Assurance.

The Technical Design Group supports the work of Foster and Partners' six Studios and all engineering and design disciplines within the practice.

Role Definition

Job title: Inclusive Design Advisor
Reporting to: Inclusive Design Specialist

Responsibilities

- Advise in-house design teams on inclusive design and how the requirements apply to the design work undertaken by Foster + Partners. In the UK this will also include the implications of compliance with the Equality Act 2010
- Support Foster + Partners studio teams to deliver the role of Building Regulations Principal Designer on projects in the UK, including appraising and challenge design work, relevant to the field of Inclusive Design, such as Parts, M, K, B of the Building Regulations, in a way that helps designers to reach consensus on compliance.
- Advise designated individuals and specific Project Design Team members (including client organizations) on UK building regulations compliance, to fulfil Foster + Partners' duties as Principal Designer in accordance with current UK Building Regulations.
- Aid with the development of the in-house Inclusive Design 'Design Guide' to be published on the intranet as part of the wider TDG suite of Design Guides.
- Assist design teams in the preparation of Design and Access Statements
- Advise when specialist external input is required.
- Review projects and designs on both a planned and ad-hoc basis giving priority to UK projects and advising on any other projects, as appropriate, to allow office wide consistency on design work .
- Advise on the suitability of standards and guidance in relation to a particular design to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements of the current UK Building Regulations
- Assist with the development and delivery of Inclusive Design training to in-house design disciplines.
- Carry out research into aspects of Inclusive Design, emerging guidance and the applications of relevant design standards (National and International) and good international practice.
- Assist with liaising with external stakeholders and enforcing authorities (for example, local authorities and Registered Building Control Approvers).
- You will be expected to engage with life-long learning within the field of Inclusive Design with the intent to gain UK and or internationally recognised accreditation in access consultancy.
- Contribute, or otherwise assist, as required

- Equity, diversity & inclusion (EDI) is a core priority. To support and champion the embedding of this focus as a collective workforce responsibility, EDI should be integrated, where relevant, into all workstreams.
- Thorough knowledge of and compliance with F+P procedures and standards

Qualities and Skills required

- Able to demonstrate ability to undertake the above responsibilities
- Legally able to work in the country in which the position is based
- Demonstrate experience and understanding of design and construction methodologies.
- Able to explain technical terms and regulations to the design teams.
- Able to manage and prioritise tasks and time efficiently in accordance with workload and project requirements.
- Able to adjust to project specific timeframes and key milestones.
- Pragmatic, resourceful and persuasive.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English - articulate and diplomatic manner.
- Methodical, accurate and consistent attention to detail.
- Able to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.
- Computer Literate and proficiency in design-tools (including Autodesk suite)
- Excellent organisational skills
- Able to manage sensitive and sometimes confidential information
- Self motivated and able to take responsibility
- Able to demonstrate initiative and a proactive approach to daily tasks
- Good interpersonal skills and able to work independently and as part of an effective team
- Flexible attitude
- Able to build good relationships at all levels, internally and externally
- Resilient to cope with conflicting demands, able to prioritise duties and work effectively under pressure.
- Able to work as part of an effective team assisting and supporting team members

Desirable

- Hold a degree level in an architectural, architectural technology or engineering subject.
- Lived experience of the needs for Inclusive Design
- Knowledge of international standards/guidance relating to Inclusive Design
- Knowledge on emerging equity, access, and inclusion movements within architectural discourse.
- NRAC/ AA/ IAAP membership or similar.

This description reflects the core activities of the role but is not intended to be all-inclusive and other duties within the group/department may be required in addition to changes in the emphasis of duties as required from time to time. There is a requirement for the post holder to recognise this and adopt a flexible approach to work. Job descriptions will be reviewed regularly and where necessary revised in accordance with organisational needs. Any major changes will be discussed with the post holder.