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Issue 2 Spring 2018



### Editor's Note

Now that we are into Spring (I think?!) we are all feeling very positive and enthusiastic about our year ahead.

The first quarter of 2018 has seen us secure 70% of our workload total already this year which is hugely satisfying. We celebrated the turn of the year by relocating our office in London and soaking up some sun in MIPIM.

This Spring edition of discover showcases some of our projects around the UK and as you will see spans a huge variety of sectors. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing these projects develop whilst pulling this edition together and I hope you all enjoy reading about them.

Thank you

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*dİscover* is published by Doig+Smith for employees of the company and colleagues throughout the industry.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact Kirsten Sadler on the email above.

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## **Expert Opinion**

### **Offsite Manufacture - Finally Maturing?**

Offsite manufacture (OSM) has been promoted and its merits debated for many decades. Having been seen as the answer to post-war housing shortages it failed to gather momentum and support. To date, in spite of significant interest, it has yet to achieve critical mass but I do think it's getting there.

One of the most memorable and successful OSM projects I have been involved with to date was a residential development in Cornwall where local labour was in short supply. Twelve years ago Doig+Smith, on behalf of our Client, approached a Polish manufacturer to pre-fabricate and construct twelve houses utilising their patented panel timber framed system. Groundworks were procured locally and the panels were delivered to site as the international multi skilled workforce arrived. The project was completed within programme, on budget and without defects. Even at the end of the 12 month defects liability period there was no remedial action required. Was it plain sailing throughout the process? Well not exactly, and it was a steep learning curve for all involved. Our client is still delighted with the quality and durability to this day.

More recently I acted for a Spanish volumetric manufacturer to help bring their product to the UK market, their patented steel framed modules with insitu concrete floors offered and delivered high quality completed projects in truly groundbreaking timescales. Examples of the many projects completed throughout Continental Europe included the erection of a four storey 500m2 residential development in a gap site on a one-way street in four nights. Internal finishes and M+E were completed three weeks thereafter. Another example was a 2500m2 budget hotel which was erected on prepared foundations in two weeks and trading six weeks thereafter. Current unfavourable exchange rates and high transportation costs have delayed this products entry to the UK market but there are now a number of manufacturers, with comparable systems, based in the UK.

In 2017 we completed a benchmarking study for a public sector residential developer. The aim is ultimately to showcase a number of alternative forms of OSM alongside one another on a high profile site in Scotland. As part of the initial study we visited a number of UK factories specialising in steel framed volumetric, cross laminated timber framed volumetric, closed panel and open panel timber frame systems. It was encouraging to see evidence of a market embracing the technology and finally readying itself for larger scale developments.



Amongst those we visited, Legal & General are arguably the most ambitious with plans to produce 5,000 homes per annum. Their modular product utilises CLT components and it is planned to initially focus on low rise developments. Within a short timescale multi storey flatted developments will be rolled out. L+G have to date spent considerable time and effort in de-skilling aspects of the construction process, through smart design, to improve volumes of production and reduce costs, without compromising quality.

OSM is becoming ever more economically viable and for the first time we are now evidencing parity of construction costs between OSM and Traditional Construction. When programme savings and improvement in quality are factored in, the argument for change is more compelling than ever.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of OSM, including the challenges surrounding procurement, please call me.

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## Mackintosh at the Willow

The Willow Tea Rooms Trust (WTRT) are currently undertaking a full restoration and refurbishment of the Grade A Listed Miss Cranston's Willow Tea Rooms Building, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1903, at 217 Sauchiehall Street.

This historic building is of the greatest significance for Scotland's design heritage as it is the only Tea Room where Mackintosh was in full control of the exterior and the interior design and his arrangement of the internal spaces and designs for the furniture and interiors are unparalleled in his designs for Tea Rooms. The building is recognised internationally for its importance as the only surviving Tea Room designed in its entirety by Mackintosh and is also considered one of the world's most important and complete examples of Art Nouveau. It is the WTRT's purpose to restore it to its former glory for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

217 and the adjacent 215 Sauchiehall Street were purchased by The Willow Tea Rooms Trust in 2014 in order to prevent the forced sale and almost certain destruction of the Tea Rooms building, with the fabric, structure and design integrity having been severely compromised through years of neglect and decay. The Willow Tea Rooms Trust, a registered charity, was established by Celia Sinclair, founder and Chairperson of the Trust, to purchase the building with the aim of fully restoring Mackintosh's masterpiece and returning it to public use. In addition to restoring the Tea Rooms to their former glory, the aim was also to create a new, integrated world class Visitor Centre at 215 Sauchiehall Street. The Visitor Centre includes an interactive exhibition, conference and retail facilities as well as a dedicated learning and education suite.

The fully restored Tea Rooms and new Visitor Centre will open under the name 'Mackintosh at the Willow' and the doors will reopen to the public from June 2018, in line with Charles Rennie Mackintosh's 150th birthday celebrations.

Visitors will be able to enjoy afternoon tea and lunch across the three floors of the Tea Rooms including in the beautifully re-created famous Salon de Luxe, as commissioned by Miss Catherine Cranston in 1903.

Mackintosh has been identified as one of Glasgow City's four key strategic tourism pillars that support the City Centre Strategy for the regeneration and development of a new cultural, historical and activity hub in the city. The restoration of the Tea Rooms and launch of Mackintosh at the Willow are a catalyst for the regeneration of this part of Glasgow and will become a focal point for Cultural Tourism, attracting both domestic and international visitors.

Going forward, Mackintosh at the Willow will operate as a social enterprise that will deliver a range of exciting and sustainable activities and opportunities both directly and in partnership.





Photographs courtesy The Willow Tea Rooms Trust



A schools and community outreach programme is already running and will be further developed. Partnerships have been agreed with the Charles Rennie Mackintosh (CRM) Society who will provide an all year round information and visitor service within the new Visitor Centre which will support Glasgow's wider tourism offering. Another important partnership is with Dumfries House, Ayrshire, and The Prince's Trust, Scotland who will provide support for the recruitment and training of front of house catering and kitchen staff, creating opportunities for employment and skills development for young people.

The project generally comprises:

Restoration and/or reinstatement of historic interior elements and exterior elements, formation of a new commercial kitchen and restaurant/dining facilities for 200 people, creation of new





learning and exhibition spaces and the creation of new office and conference accommodation.

Expert craftsmen and women have been involved in the restoration project with 420 pieces of furniture plus glassware, wrought iron work, textiles, carpeting and more being commissioned as part of the project.

The project commenced with the Enabling Works contract which involved the complete restoration of the external facade of 217 Sauchiehall Street works, to the facade and significant repair to 215 Sauchiehall Street. This involved painstaking refurbishment to the external rendered facade, shop frontage at the ground floor, the first floor 'Salon De Luxe' bow window



Angus Ross, Master Craftman, furniture maker and designer







and the refurbishment of all the windows to both 215 and 217 Sauchiehall Street. It also involved the replacement of the entire roof finishes and creation/refurbishment of chimneys. These works were completed in August 2017 and allowed the Main Works to focus on the internal restoration of 217 Sauchiehall Street and the creation of 'World Class' facilities in 215 Sauchiehall Street.

This project represents a significant investment of £10m. The Trust has received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the restoration and the project has been able to move forward thanks to money raised by National Lottery players. Supporters include The Monument Trust, Historic Environment Scotland, Glasgow City Heritage Trust, Glasgow City Council, Dunard Fund, Scottish Enterprise, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Hugh Fraser Foundation, Robert Barr's Charitable Trust, Tunnock's and others.

Doig+Smith are delighted to be providing both Project Management and Quantity Surveyor Services on this highly significant project.

More details on the project can be found on the Trust website at <a href="http://www.willowtearoomstrust.org">www.willowtearoomstrust.org</a>

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### **Bicester**

Doig+Smith's London office continue to build on their strong hotel sector experience and close working relationship with London+ Regional, having been appointed to provide Employer's Agent and Quantity Surveying services for this new build 149 bed Holiday Inn Express hotel in Bicester, Oxfordshire.

The development is located close to the popular Bicester Designer Outlet centre and is part of a wider development of a greenfield site that will eventually consist of the hotel and a new office development. With enhanced road access and pedestrian facilities as part of the scheme that will upgrade the current cycling and pedestrian access routes around the A41 and the Park & Ride.

Doig+Smith have worked closely with the client's hotels team, the Holiday Inn Express operating company Atlas and the professional team to develop a well thought out scheme. Aside from the main hotel building itself, the development includes extensive hard and soft landscaping externally creating a welcoming entrance to the hotel and a mix of high quality finishes to the exterior of the building ensuring the building sensitively blends with the existing surroundings. The scheme has been procured on a design and build basis and Doig+Smith played a key role in the tender process which had been progressed rapidly due to the client requiring commencement of the scheme as soon as planning was granted.

With a contractor now appointed, works will begin on site in mid May 2018 and will complete in late 2019.

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## Ardnahoe Distillery, Islay

Doig+Smith are delighted to be providing Quantity Surveying services for Ardnahoe Distillery. Construction is currently underway on what will become the 9th operational distillery on Islay and one of only 2 new distilleries to be built on the island since the 19th Century! Given its importance to the 'Whisky Isle', the project is attracting significant attention from across the globe and has already featured in a number of publications.

Once complete (mid 2018) the distillery is aiming for a production volume of circa 640,000lpa and will distill a classic peated style of Islay malt, using the finest barley and water from the depths of Loch Ardnahoe itself. The building nestles nicely into it's site, being hidden from view until you're almost upon it and also features a bar/restaurant, shop and guided tours. The design is across split levels, making use of the steeply sloping site, and keeps the visitor experience all on one level without limiting which parts of the 'workings' can be seen.

The views from the bar and the Still House (which includes 2 copper stills handcrafted in Scotland) take full advantage of the stunning location with exceptional views across to the Paps of Jura in the distance.

The design team have been working in Revit to develop a

fully integrated building model which D+S has then used in the production of tender documents. The model has subsequently expanded beyond BIM and developed into a full Oculus VR model that can be visited and walked through.

The work on Ardnahoe adds to our expanding portfolio of distillery projects.

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We chose to work with Doig+Smith based on their professionalism, track record, pragmatic approach and capability to add value to our project. They have exceeded our expectations as they have merged seamlessly to become part of our team, working together to deliver a world-class project on time and within budget. Ian Bowd and Gordon McLintock have been great to work with and we will definitely use them again in future projects

> David Armour, Director Hunter Laing & Company Ltd

Ian Bowd MRICS Associate ibowd@doigandsmith.co.uk



### **MIPIM 2018**

Having spent several years debating the merits of going, Doig+Smith decided that 2018 was the year in which to make its debut at MIPIM. Alastair Archibald and Chris Jones, both based in our London Office, jetted off to Cannes on March 12th for the week long international property conference.

Why, after 82 years in business, was 2018 the year that Doig+Smith finally took the decision to attend? Alastair Archibald, director responsible for London explains. "From the middle of 2017 we started to see some of the major opportunities that we had been chasing become live projects. In addition to that, Chris Jones joined our London team as an Associate from Colliers in July 2017 and brought with him many years of experience working for a range of clients in the commercial sector in London. We had already identified the potential for significant growth in London over the next few years, particularly in the commercial sector where we were seeing strong potential for development in both the office and hotel sectors. Based on discussions that we were both having with clients, consultants and contractors alike we were getting a clear and consistent message from all of them – the chance to have exposure to clients, consultants and contractors allowing you to develop new relationships and seek out opportunities is too good an opportunity to miss."

Over the course of the week Alastair and Chris spent time meeting with consultants, clients and contractors focusing on opening up potential opportunities, forging new relationships with organisations who we haven't previously worked with and reinforcing already existing relationships with organisations who we are already working with. In the run up to MIPIM both Alastair and Chris had been invited to a range of events including breakfast receptions, lunches, dinners and drinks receptions. Chris was even lucky enough to get an invitation



to a boat trip to a private island for lunch. However as the day for that particular event happened to coincide with the worst day of weather in Cannes that the MIPIM regulars that we spoke to could remember, Chris wasn't feeling quite so lucky after all! Chris recalls "*The trip out to the island was the worst 20 minutes that I have ever spent on a boat!*" However despite that, he was in no doubt as to the value of attending MIPIM. "The ability to meet so many people in such a short concentrated period of time was invaluable. Both Alastair and I have returned from Cannes with dozens of new contacts *each. While the trip to MIPIM was a great experience, it is essential that we follow up on the contacts that we made to ensure that we are in the best possible position to realise any opportunities that may be forthcoming as a result.*"

We are already looking forward to our return to MIPIM 2019 and the planning starts now.

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Chris Jones MRICS, Associate cjones@doigandsmith.co.uk





### hub South West Scotland

hub South West is an infractructure focussed partnership that has now delivered £380million worth of projects to communities throughout South West Scotland.

Doig+Smith have now been a supply chain consultant to hubSW for the past 5 years, delivering Project Management, Cost Consultant and Principal Designer Services on a wide range of projects across a variety of sectors. This includes working with hub South West on their largest project to date –  $\pounds$ 44 million Largs Academy Campus as well as the Muirfield Community Enterprise Centre for North Lanarkshire Council which has been shortlisted for the RIAS Awards 2018.

In 2018, our current projects with hub South West include the delivery of North Lanarkshire Council Office Rationalisation projects, Taylor and Braidhurst High Schools new build / refurbishment projects along with various projects for Police Scotland.

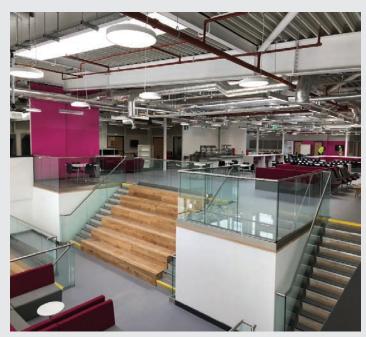
#### Lauren Meldrum MRICS Senior Surveyor Imeldrum@doigandsmith.co.uk

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Doig+Smith have been an important partner for hub South West over the last 5 years. They have worked with us on projects of varying sizes across multiple sectors providing a professional, diligent and high quality service across Project Management, Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying and Principal Designer service lines. The commitment and expertise of their partners and staff has helped us to deliver the success hub South West has achieved over the last 5 years in delivering high quality best value projects for our clients

> Andrew Munro, Project Director hub South West Scotland







### **D+S Relocating London Office**



No sooner had the Christmas and New Year break come to an end for another year before Doig+Smith's London team were getting ready for their first major event of the year – moving offices.

After 10 years in Great Sutton Street, Clerkenwell, 12th January 2018 saw our London Office relocate to new premises on the 6th floor of the Red Lion Building at 12 Cock Lane. The new office is only 10 minutes walk from the old office so we are still in the Farringdon area, close to Smithfield Market, St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey. However we are now even better served by public transport as we are only a few minutes walk from City Thameslink, Farringdon, St Pauls and Blackfriars stations.

In addition to moving office, our London team has had a busy start to 2018 with a number of new projects having been secured. These include a major refurbishment of a five star hotel in central London, a new residential project in Mayfair, a feasibility study for the refurbishment of airline lounges at Heathrow Airport and a refurbishment project at a major London hospital. This complements the existing workload in the office, in particular, commercial offices, hotels, residential, aviation and healthcare sectors. The director responsible for our London Office, Alastair Archibald, believes that the relocation to new premises is an important step in the development of the office. "*The expansion of our London Office is a key focus for the business. With the workload that we already have and the sizeable opportunities that we are already pursuing there is a big opportunity for Doig+Smith to make significant progress in the next couple of years in establishing itself in the London market*"

"Since the beginning of the year we have secured several major commissions with high profile clients in the hotel, residential and aviation sectors. As a result we are recruiting new staff to supplement our strong existing team - both project managers and quantity surveyors - to ensure that we successfully deliver our current workload but that we also have the capacity to deliver the anticipated future workload. There are a number of opportunities that we are actively pursuing and following our trip to MIPIM in March there are a lot of new contacts and leads that we are also following up on. The initial feedback on our new office has been very positive from both clients and staff alike and we believe that the move will help us attract the right calibre of staff that we will need to recruit to meet the anticipated workload and help us achieve sustainable long term growth in London."

> AlastairArchibald MRICS Director aarchibald@doigandsmith.co.uk

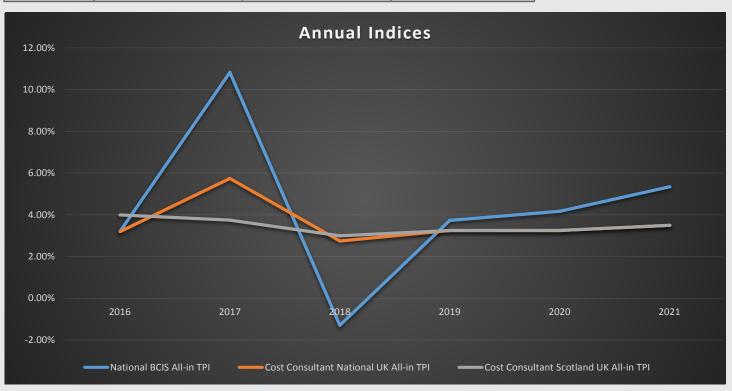
## **Construction Inflation Analysis**

### Inflation is proving challenging to predict at the moment with statistics from major industry bodies varying wildly and changing rapidly.

Doig+Smith utilise our own internal databases and research in favour of the industry standard approach of using the BCIS TPI. In compiling our view we have considered published information including UK Government, Bank of England, Scottish Government and Financial Times reports as well as formal discussions with seven major contractors to understand their views and the supporting logic.

Annual Indices			
Date	National BCIS All-in TPI (1st Feb 2018)	Cost Consultant National UK All-in TPI	Cost Consultant Scotland UK All-in TPI
2016	3.21%	3.20%	4.00%
2017	10.83%	5.75%	3.75%
2018	-1.29%	2.75%	3.00%
2019	3.73%	3.25%	3.25%
2020	4.17%	3.25%	3.25%
2021	5.35%	3.50%	3.50%

Our findings are that both the UK and Scotland projections trends do not align with the BCIS projection, specifically in the immediate short term. Over the longer term the projections are not as pessimistic as BCIS, albeit this out-turn is tempered with the level of uncertainty reverberating through the Construction Industry.



If you would like to discuss inflation for particular projects or regions, please contact your local D+S Director.

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### Flying High with Aberdeen International Airport's Managing Director Carol Benzie

#### **Q** Introduction: name and position?

A Carol Benzie, Managing Director, Aberdeen International Airport.



**Q** Can you provide a brief background of your career and roles held?

A Qualified Accountant working the oil and gas industry with both operators and service companies for over 14 years.

Worked as Head of Finance and Social Enterprises with a local charity, Inspire, as they developed a new multi-resource centre, café and head office on Aberdeen's Beach Boulevard.

Joined the airport as Head of Finance and Commercial in 2008, and have held a variety of roles, including Operations Director before becoming Managing Director in 2013.

#### Q Describe a typical day at work?

A There is no such thing as a typical day at an airport. Best laid plans can be scuppered by airline delays causing congestion, weather (fog, snow, ice, wind), technical issues, airline meetings, retail meetings, politicians etc. It's great, as there's literally never a dull moment.

### **Q** Can you describe the current Terminal Redevelopment Project and the challenges in delivering projects in an airport environment?

**A** The extension and transformation of the Aberdeen Airport Terminal represents the biggest change to the airport since the terminal was built back in 1976. We are changing almost 90% of the building and passenger flow, whilst maintaining a 24-hour, 365 days per year operation. Phase 1 of the project involved demolishing an old cargo facility and building a new 2-storey extension to the north of the terminal. This now hosts our international arrivals area and UK Border Force and Special Branch offices, our domestic reclaim area and our new executive lounges, which have stunning views over the runway. Phase 2 is now more than 50% progressed, and will open in June 2018 with a new central search facility and the start of our new retail and catering offerings, bringing in new retailers as well as creating much better space for existing partners. Once Phase 2 is open, we immediately begin Phase 3 which demolishes the old security area and old world duty free and other retailers, and changes our landside/airside boundary, giving almost 60% more space to our airside departure lounge.

#### **Q** Are there any unique features of this project?

A We were challenged to bring a sense of place to the transformation, and with this in mind, we will be installing a 'Northern Lights' feel to our decompression area, on the exit of the new security. We have mounted lots of interesting facts and images of the region on the walkways from the reclaim areas, and our new Northern Lights Executive Lounge serves up only local produce, from the Brewdog beers and Huntly Castle Gin to the local Aberdeen Angus burgers, which are delicious.

#### Q What are your views on the industry market?

**A** The aviation industry is always a high profile market with ever-changing technology, regulation and aspirational standards. The Aberdeen traveller is a global one, due to the high involvement in the energy market. Therefore our passengers see what is on offer in airports around the world and are quick to give feedback to me and my team on their aspirations for our airport. Not all of them are scalable to a £3.2million airport, but we do try to listen.

#### Q What aspects of the construction industry work well?

**A** It never fails to impress me how our design team and contractors manage to translate a vision from someone like me and turn it into reality. We were just delighted with the end results of the extension and can already see that the shape of Phase 2 is equally going to wow our regular passengers.

#### **Q** And what doesn't work so well?

A There's always the fun of matching aspirations to budgets and trying to balance that is never an easy part of a project.

#### Q If you could improve one thing in construction what would it be?

A Specifically for airports, who have a very different environment with security and maintaining boundaries between the airside and landside areas, I'd like to see fair costs for same type of work. We have experience of costs being quoted for airside work being almost 100% higher than a similar job in a landside area, when the job is exactly the same. The only difference being that the workers and materials have to be security screened, but there are ways of doing this quickly and efficiently, so it doesn't justify the cost differential.

#### **Q** Can you give a summary of future Aberdeen Airport strategy?

**A** The evolution of technology and passenger expectations means that we will constantly be reviewing the strategic objectives in both an external airfield environment (aircraft parking stands, runway and taxiway resurfacing, baggage facilities etc), and within the terminal – check in, security, departure capacity. Needs fluctuate depending on passenger forecasts, so we need to always be flexible and adaptable.

### ${\bm Q}$ Having delivered many projects for Aberdeen Airport., including the current redevelopment, what are your thoughts on the relationship with D+S?

**A** Doig+Smith have worked closely with us in building the business case for the current development, and assisted in addressing the various challenges from our shareholders on delivering the best value outcomes from the project. Our key contact, Ian Jamieson has shared in the highs and lows of the project, and joined us to celebrate the official Royal opening of Phase 1 in October last year.

### Aberdeen International Airport

## Life in the eyes of Stewart McKillop, Principal, South Lanarkshire College

#### **Q** Introduction: name and position

A Stewart McKillop, Principal, South Lanarkshire College, East Kilbride.



### **Q** Can you provide a brief background of your career and roles held?

**A** At Glasgow University I achieved an M.A. (Hons), a Diploma in Accounting and a Diploma in Education. After leaving University I was employed by Thomson McLintock as a trainee CA, that later became KPMG.

Having decided that an auditor's life was too exciting for me I returned to Glasgow University and undertook teacher training.

I taught at Eastwood High School in Glasgow

as well as teaching evening classes in English as a Foreign Language to au pairs!! I enjoyed all my teaching but particularly enjoyed teaching adults. I joined Cardonald College as a lecturer then became a Senior lecturer after which I moved to James Watt College of Further and Higher Education as a Depute Head of Department and then a Head of Department then finally an Associate Principal.

I became the Principal at South Lanarkshire College in 2001. The College was in recovery from fairly significant financial difficulties and the first phase of the job was to improve the organisation which was in a pretty poor place. Once things were sorted out and income streams developed the next stage was to sell all the property that the College owned and to secure funding for our first new build which was completed 10 years ago. The third stage of the plan was to significantly increase the student numbers and ensure that we achieved outstanding KPIs and that while we were expanding we kept a really strong focus on quality.

#### **Q** Describe a typical day at work?

A We keep Tuesdays for Senior Management Team meetings and Thursdays for College Management Team meetings as immovable feasts. Most of my job is to ensure that we actually do what we say we will do in our plans so there is a very strong focus on implementing our operational planning. The College is run as a business with a really strong focus on our customers who are both our students and employers. I am employed, as are all staff, by a Board of Management. Nearly all of my time is spent in the College as it is my employer and I do as little swanning about as possible. Some things outside the organisation are essential to attend, but that is kept well under control. Obviously most of my day is about trying to drive things forward but there is always an element of having to be reactive as well as proactive. Occasionally the right choice can be to not react at all and see what pans out.

Every single prospective new member of staff is either interviewed by myself or the depute (or for promoted posts both of us) as well as an appropriate small group of the College staff. 70% of our costs are staff costs and the staff is the really valuable part of the organisation. In the interview we are trying to spot talent as well as being gate keepers for the business. Appointing staff is one of the key roles of the job. We also want to ensure that the current staff are treated as well as possible and we are always looking at ways to make their job more enjoyable. We are all employed in the same business and I absolutely believe we are all equally important.

#### **Q** Can you describe the Low Carbon Teaching Building Project?

A The low carbon building came about because we want to ensure that we teach our students the latest technologies and it would not be possible to do this and construct a new campus which was not in line with what we teach. So we wanted to make sure that the technologies that we teach were part of the building. So fabric first, ground source heat pumps, photovoltaic cells etc were all incorporated to make sure we could showcase what we taught. We also had some experience in this field in building our low carbon house. The campus was a natural progression from what we were already doing and the Depute Principal, Associate Principal and one of our

Curriculum Managers had a key focus on renewable energies and working in partnership with a wide range of suppliers. The building functions above our students' expectations and has helped us in achieving a reduction in our carbon footprint.

As with all aspects of our business we desperately want to be the best we can be and the Outstanding BREEAM reinforces that achievement. We really enjoyed working with CCG, Gardiner & Theobald and of course Doig+Smith who have been our key partners in several projects.

#### **Q** What aspects of the construction industry work well?

**A** We like to work with companies that are producing innovative projects such as off site fabrication and new techniques that we can pass on to our students. Sometimes I struggle with very large companies who may well abuse subcontractors, have no apprentices and very few staff of their own.

#### Q If you could improve one thing in construction what would it be?

A If I had a magic wand I would try to smooth out the cycle of boom and bust in construction and ensure that it is possible for people starting out on life to get on the property ladder if that is what they want to do. Affordable decent housing needs to increase in availability.

#### **Q** Can you give a summary of South Lanarkshire College strategy?

**A** We have three strategic aims: Have satisfied students / Deliver effective skills training / Promote sustainable behaviours. As incorporated into the vision statement we want to be Scotland's leading vocational institution. What underpins all this is that we want our students to have the experience that we would all be delighted with for our own children or friends.

## ${\bf Q}$ Having delivered many projects for SLC, including the Low Carbon Teaching Building, what are your thoughts on the relationship with D+S?

A We want our partners to be the best in their field. We absolutely believe that Doig+Smith is the best in their field and that's why we want to work with them. The best for us means that they work as an equal partner with us in the project. Doig+Smith have a huge pool of knowledge that they bring to our projects. They are there to guide us through the challenges and we absolutely trust them to do that. The honesty that Doig+Smith bring to the project is key for us. We also know that contractors respect Doig+Smith so they tend not to "try things on". We also really value the flexibility of approach in that there is never a problem with early morning meetings or meetings at the weekend. There is an obvious honesty in advice that we are given and we always know where we sit in terms of the costs and time frame for the project.

#### **Q** What are the key highlights of your career so far?

**A** The key highlight of my job is that ever since we moved to our East Kilbride campus more than 50,000 students have been through the College and I'm absolutely convinced that by coming here we have improved their lives in so many ways. We do this because I'm convinced that we employ the very best of staff.



### Guest Lecture at Scottish Universities

We continue to support Edinburgh Napier University and Glasgow Caledonian University with a roll out of guest lectures from our Doig+ Smith teams. This year alone we have provided lectures to both 6 establishments on BIM. Contract Administration and Practice (SBCC and NEC3), and Cost planning to students at all levels. We contribute to authoring exam



questions and sit on Project Evaluation panels. One of our staff is the Industrial External Examiner for the QS programme at Napier.

## Ronald McDonald House Charity

At Doig+Smith we have had a fabulous 2017 fundraising for the amazing Ronald McDonald House Charity (RMH) and we have most certainly continued into 2018 with even greater enthusiasm!



In December the Glasgow office volunteered again in fundraising in the annual RMH Christmas Carol Bucket shaking at St Enoch's centre, which was absolutely wonderful because we all got into the festive spirit! There was also a Christmas Jumper Day for RMH in the Glasgow Office to help fundraise even more to finish off 2017 fantastically; there were many sights from quirky to light-up jumpers!

Both our Glasgow and Edinburgh Offices took part in raising money for our annual 'Wear it Pink Day' for the worthwhile Breast Cancer Now Charity. It was an absolutely marvellous successful pink-filled day and we raised a fantastic total!

Now that we are into 2018, the efforts have well and truly continued. A team of Doig+Smith staff have set a goal to run a total of 20km split across two separate 10km runs, and all within 7 days! And it doesn't stop here, we have many more charity events up our sleeve.

In 2017, Doig+Smith raised a fantastic £4,532.20!

Emily Hughes BSc(Hons) Project Manager ehughes@doigandsmith.co.uk In overall total you guys are almost at the £10,000 mark in just two years

> Kirsten Graham Corporate and Major Donor Fundraiser

### Edinburgh Teams Curling Outing



On 27th March, the Edinburgh office team enjoyed a night of Curling at Murrayfield Curling Rink. With widely varying levels of abilities, the team enjoyed an hours coaching session followed by a competitive bonspiel, if we can call it that! Our team are providing Quantity Surveying, Employer's Agent and Project Design in connection with a significant refurbishment project at Murrayfield Curling Rink.

# D+S Annual Away Day



The Annual Doig+Smith Away Day has been planned for 22nd June this year at Ayr Racecourse. This is a chance for the whole company to meet and enjoy a day out together. There are a couple of company presentations giving updates on the vision for the future, before enjoying a 4 course dinner prior to the races. Let's hope for some good weather this year!

Back page image: 310 St Vincent Street, Glasgow Photograph courtesy of Clark Contracts and Alexander Fraser Photography



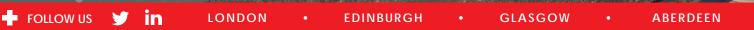
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