



Andy Sutton^{RIBA}

Co Founder, Director of Design & Innovation

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Academic Qualifications

RIBA Chartered Architect (from 1999)

PG Dip. Architectural Practice (De Montfort)

BArch (Welsh School of Architecture)

BSc (hons) (Welsh School of Architecture)

Specialisations & Other Roles

Trained BREEAM Accredited Professional,

Trained Code for Sustainable Homes Assessor,

Board Member, CEW Enabling Zero Waste Project,

Steering Group, Welsh Government Innovative Housing Fund,

Steering Group, Welsh Government Smart Living Group,

Treasurer, Design Circle RSAW South.

Previous roles include

Associate Director, BRE Wales

Member, Building Regulations Advisory Committee (Wales),

President, Royal Society of Architects in Wales (RSAW),

Steering Group, Wales Low/Zero Carbon Hub; Councillor,

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA),

Member, RIBA Sustainability Committee,

Chair, Concrete Society (Wales),

Founder & Chair, Design Circle RSAW South.

Sero's Co Founder and Director of Design & Innovation is a chartered architect, past president of the RSAW, and past chair & founder of the Design Circle. Before Sero, Andy was Associate Director for the BRE for almost a decade, with a dozen years as a practicing architect at Gaunt Francis Architects.

Amongst other activities, he is active on the Welsh Government's "Decarbonisation of Existing Homes" and "Innovative Housing Programme" steering groups. Just don't remind him he was once also chair of the Concrete Society!

Andy spends time out of work with his wife and 'furry family' (that's cats and dogs, not especially hairy children!), and trying to find the time to keep up with friends and family. He occasionally tries to find time to read a good book, which he enjoys though it rarely lasts very long! The secret to winning Andy over is almost certainly befriending hedgehogs, though striking up conversations about "Iron Man" also works...

Career Summary

Believed to have graduated as the youngest Chartered Architect, Andrew worked and helped manage private practice "Gaunt Francis Architects" for twelve years, where he was made an Associate in 2000. Based in Cardiff and London, Gaunt Francis deliver primarily private sector schemes, and whilst working there Andy won half-a-dozen awards for architecture and sustainability, as well as being shortlisted as Wales' "Architect of the Year" (2008). Andy was invited to join BRE in 2010 as Associate Director to broaden the range and remit of BRE across Wales and beyond. Following a successful career at BRE, Andy joined as Sero's Director of Design & Innovation 2019.

Experience

Andy is a Chartered Architect with considerable knowledge across a broad range of construction, sustainability and technology topics, including BIM, as well as experience conceiving and delivering research and innovation.

Andy's architectural work includes leading the conception, national competition win and subsequent completed construction of Barratt's zero carbon Code 6 "Green House", and he has worked with many large housebuilders on schemes from masterplanning and house type design (up to 500 homes, Cardiff), through to research & development projects. Andy also designed the "Maes-yr-Onn" off-grid farmhouse (winning RTPI 'Planning' Award, 2013) and the "Retrofit for the Future" Cwmbach Cornish Type 2 refurbishment, both being two rare examples of BRE providing direct architectural services.

At commercial scale, Andy has been the lead architect for BREEAM rated commercial developments, including major schemes such as new build offices (up to 250,000sqft, London) and refurbishments (up to 200,000sqft, Reading). Recent work includes being Client Sustainable Design Advisor for Admiral Insurance Group's new offices (220,000sqft, Cardiff & 120,000sqft, Newport), both BREEAM rated, where he worked from creating the initial brief through to witnessing practical completion (the Cardiff building winning regional BCO 'Corporate Workplace' Award, 2016, & RICS 'Commercial' & 'Project of the Year' Awards).

In innovation, he has conceived and managed many research-to-market projects, including: "EMC2" 2nd generation energy management device for domestic home

energy optimisation; “Trailblazer” trailer-based portable photovoltaic renewable & battery storage solution for off-grid power; and “LENDERS”, embedding energy performance into UK mortgage lending, launched in July 2017 by Minister for Industry & Climate Change Claire Perry MP and subsequently confirmed in the UK Government’s “Clean Growth Plan” as a government strategy. Innovation project partners have included Nationwide & Principality Building Societies, Siemens, IBM, Bentley, Skanska, EE and many more, alongside a wealth of smaller SMEs and third sector organisations.

Alongside innovation, Andy’s research-led work has included leading projects such as: “Clouds4CoOrdination” for Level 3 BIM; “RegBIM” partial automation of Building Regulations using BIM Level 2; “Design for Future Climate” mitigating future weather effects in buildings; and “Waterproofing Insulated Cavities” for UK Government’s BEIS. He has been BRE’s lead on wider EU research projects such as: “MaTrID” integrated design guidance for better buildings; and “QUANTUM” looking to close the building energy systems performance gap. Together with Future Cities and other proposals, he has successfully won research funding from both UK and EU sources and successfully delivered work with project partners including Cardiff University, University College London, SPECIFIC (Swansea University) in the UK and partners across Europe ranging from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in the North, through partners in the majority of EU countries, to the University of Athens in the South.

Andy has authored or co-authored over a dozen research, best practice and guidance papers ranging from Integrated Design processes through to using low embodied carbon construction materials, and he has delivered talks at national and European events such as EcoBuild and LABC’s National Conference on topics ranging from BIM to zero carbon. He has also formally facilitated for construction events, including for Constructing Excellence Wales on Welsh Government’s ‘Well-being of Future Generations’ Act.

Example Projects

Maes-yr-Onn “Off Grid” Farmhouse won the RTPi Wales Planning Award in 2013, and was built as an off grid, sustainable home for Sue & Arthur Davies. The concept design was developed to sensitively echo historic Welsh long houses and fit into the mountain-top scenic location, whilst delivering a low energy, modern quality of life despite the harsh external environment. Fitted with photovoltaics, water storage & filtration, battery storage and multi-fuel biomass, the home has been monitored since completion to demonstrate ‘off grid’ living can be successful.

“The Mill” Cardiff was a site masterplan developed for Redrow Homes for land held by Welsh Government. The scheme included a community-owned centre and self-build plots amongst the site, cycle, bus and pedestrian priority and planned wildlife routes, whilst delivering a zero regulated energy performance for the site.

Barratt’s “Green House” was the first Code for Sustainable Homes Level 6 (highest) rated home by a housebuilder, meaning it achieves zero carbon performance for regulated and unregulated energy over a year. The house was conceived from first principles and designed through to detailed construction on site, including weekly attendance to verify site details. The completed house won several national awards and remains a popular home on the BRE Innovation Park at Garston. Following its success, a range of house types inspired by the competition design were developed.