



A New Chapter is an independent, open association of around 200 architects expanding and galvanising support from others across the country to work together for transparency, accountability and a new progressive future for the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.

A New Chapter seeks a membership organisation for architects in Scotland fit the 21st Century that can lead, flourish and evolve to promote design quality within the physical environment. It should enhance conditions for architects through support, unity and the pursuit of excellence in architecture.

During 2017, A New Chapter asked the RIAS President and Council some direct and straightforward questions that shone a spotlight on a number of governance and financial irregularities. The group also asked why all members - and potential future members - had not been invited to participate in a developing 5-year strategy. In parallel with this ongoing work the group has identified a draft 5-point plan for wider discussion under the following themes and headings:

1. Unity and Support
2. Collaboration and Transparency
3. Excellence and Learning
4. Federalism and Internationalism
5. Governance and Best Practice

<https://www.anewchapter.org>

	Relevant Original RIAS Charter and Byelaws	<b>Aims/actions</b>
<p><b>1. Unity and support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To organise, unite and support architects in their practice for the benefit of society.</li> <li>• To encourage cooperation and collegiate-working between all parties working within the built environment in Scotland.</li> <li>• To advocate for the important role that architecture plays within Scottish civic life and the economy and embed this within the way design services are procured and delivered.</li> </ul>	<p>To organise and unite in fellowship the Architects of Scotland.</p> <p>To maintain the status and protect the interests of the profession.</p> <p>To foster the study of the National Architecture of Scotland and to encourage its development.</p> <p>To consider and discuss all subjects connected directly or indirectly with the profession of Architecture, and to ascertain and express the considered opinion of the profession on such subjects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the original Royal Charter and develop a democratic constitution appropriate to the 21st Century.</li> <li>• Engage members in the development of the proposed 5-year strategy to ensure this puts the challenges and opportunities in a changing world at the heart of any action plan e.g. ecology, housing, production/pre-fabrication, climate change/sustainability, health/ageing population, etc.</li> <li>• Formulate and agree with the Scottish government an architecture and environmental policy linked to government's sociological, economic, industrial and cultural policies.</li> <li>• Seek to be better recognised and directly represented within the rich mosaic of cultural organisations within Scotland.</li> <li>• Lead creatively, fairly and practically regarding industry procurement, continue the provision of practice services and engage effectively with other industry disciplines.</li> <li>• Foster links with the construction industry in the exportation of design, management and construction skills and make effective connection with the resource available in Scotland's network of innovation centres.</li> </ul>

	Relevant Original RIAS Charter and Byelaws	<b>Aims/actions</b>
<p><b>2. Collaboration and Transparency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work collaboratively to foster open-ness and transparency.</li> <li>• To promote the practice of architecture with a full and active commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity.</li> <li>• To broaden the membership through the sharing and exchange of information and ideas.</li> </ul>	<p>There does not appear to be items in the charter relating directly to this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an Induction procedure and Equalities, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) training for the President, Trustees, Council members and staff.</li> <li>• Reduce size of RIAS Council (eg. maximum of twenty) with a demographic matching that of the profession in terms of sex, age, type of practice etc. Range of diversity to include Committee Chairs e.g. Finance, Communications, Education and Practice.</li> <li>• Create improved and dynamic membership and public information platforms to encourage discussion, provide ready access to information and encourage the sharing of ideas/communications.</li> <li>• Implement a Mentor Programme to support young architects and those re-entering the profession akin to RIBA recent Practice Role project or Student Mentoring to encourage greater diversity and retention within the profession. Foster this through institutional advocacy and support in procurement, insurance requirements and design opportunities.</li> </ul>

	Relevant Original RIAS Charter and Byelaws	<b>Aims/actions</b>
<p><b>3. Excellence and Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To achieve and uphold the highest standards in attainment in architecture and discussion relating to the built environment.</li> <li>• To lead the development and implementation of unique, quality educational and developmental projects related to the physical environment.</li> <li>• To refocus and place ecology, health and well-being at the centre of design and development of the built environment.</li> </ul>	<p>To promote and facilitate the acquirement of the knowledge of the various Crafts, Arts, and Sciences connected with Architecture.</p> <p>To devise and impose means for ascertaining the qualifications of Candidates for admission to the professional Membership of the Royal Incorporation by examination in theory and in practice, or by any other actual and practical tests, and to grant Certificates of Qualification to the successful Candidates.</p> <p>To apply, acquire, extend, and improve a library for the use of the members of the Royal Incorporation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate and encourage a frank, self-critical discussion regarding the current social and political landscape for the design and delivery of architecture.</li> <li>• Consider ways in which clients and the general public might be better educated about the benefit, skill and value relating to architects and design excellence.</li> <li>• Promote and strengthen the RIAS Sustainable Accreditation, support the work of the Scottish Ecological Design Association and better advise clients of the benefits of a sustainable approach</li> <li>• Re-consider the ways to engage, operate and present architecture publicly (both physically and virtually). Set these against strict performance criteria to include public-facing aspects of the organisation, media appearances and publications/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Encourage practical research in architecture and consider opportunities for meaningful CPD, research, design studies, open competitions, publication and/or other extra-curricular activity.</li> <li>• Develop educational and cultural resources to include Library and archive of architectural books, drawings, designs, images and models.</li> </ul>

	Relevant Original RIAS Charter and Byelaws	<b>Aims/actions</b>
<p><b>4. Federalism and Internationalism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote and represent architects at both local and international level.</li> <li>• To operate a federal organisation of local chapters</li> <li>• To foster links with international partners with a distinctive Scottish agenda.</li> </ul>	<p>To consolidate, and co-ordinate the interests and activities of the existing Chapter organisations relating to the profession of Architecture throughout Scotland, to each of which a definite portion of the territorial area of Scotland shall be assigned as its sphere of influence.</p> <p>To purchase, lease, rent, hold, and dispose of any building or hall to be used as a place of meeting for the members of the Royal Incorporation, or as a college, lecture or reading rooms or library, for the advancement of the above objects or any of them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforce support, finance and activity at Chapter level to embolden and better empower Chapter Presidents and Regional Councils to lead and strategise within the organisation.</li> <li>• Review current assets, including Rutland Square, and consider opportunities to create sustainable, chapter-based architecture centres around Scotland that could re-imagine membership opportunities in physical, virtual and cultural terms.</li> <li>• Establish new relationship of equal partners worldwide with ability to foster both an international profile and a distinctive Scottish agenda.</li> </ul>

	Relevant Original RIAS Charter and Byelaws	Aims/actions
<p><b>5. Governance and best practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To represent members, their finances and their interests in an open, transparent and accountable way.</li> <li>• To operate, manage and lead in a clear and democratic manner.</li> <li>• To support members in the challenges and opportunities within an ever-changing world.</li> </ul>	<p>To exercise professional supervision over the members of the Royal Incorporation, to promote competence and to secure for them such definite professional status as may assist them in the discharge of their duties.</p> <p>To allocate and set apart the funds of the Royal Incorporation or some part thereof, and to receive, hold, and administer Gifts, Donations, Bequests, and other Trust Funds for providing Prizes, Medals, and other Rewards and for the endowment of Scholarships, the provision of Pensions, and the making of Grants, or for other Educational or Charitable objects in connection with the profession of Architecture in Scotland.</p> <p>To do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the benefit of the above objects or any of them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RIAS and Chapter Presidents and Council members should all be elected by all RIAS membership based on manifestos (as per RIBA).</li> <li>• Separate executive staff and financial management and, with an open mind, consider a interplay of roles and responsibilities to create a robust executive that covers management, finance, communications and practice.</li> <li>• Separate the role of Trustees from RIAS Council to create a leaner, executive group (of Trustees) with full responsibility assisted by training in their fiduciary responsibilities.</li> <li>• Reduce size of Council with representatives appointed directly by membership eg. one from each local chapter or via endorsement / nomination by members (taking cognisance of EDI policy).</li> <li>• All material produced by RIAS to be available on website with full sharing of minutes with the membership ( except where it impacts on an individual's privacy or on commercial sensitive issues)</li> </ul>

