

ALEX SHIELDS

McMullen Facades



STEERING A COURSE IN A CONSTRUCTION CAREER

Alex has been in the construction industry for just three years, having graduated with a BSc in Architecture in 2011, and she has already gained valuable experience working on large projects in London such as Regents Place, Commercial Street Aldgate, the Crossrail Project at Canary Wharf and the Elephant Road West Tower. A designer with McMullen Facades, Lakesmere, she is currently completing a part-time Masters in Project & Construction Management at Queens University Belfast, a Graduate Diploma in Facade Design specific to her company, and a Chartered Management Institute certificate.

As part of her company Graduate Diploma, Alex is learning about the systems used, company processes and quality standards. She spends some time on site, some on the factory floor, and some at test centres to broaden her skills. She is also gaining experience in different parts of the business and will be spending time in estimating, programming, contracts, procurement, design and operations. She hopes that the in-house training and the Masters will allow her to move into a Project Management Role. "There is a lot of room for movement within the different areas of construction which can be within one project. For me, the attraction is in the flexibility of having a

job that offers a vast array of talents all working on one project in a professional and exciting industry and within this, offers a huge amount of room for progression and sideward movement within one company as so many roles are brought together under one roof."

As well as working full time and studying part-time, Alex has still found time to take part in the Little Britain Challenge Cup – the Annual Construction Sailing Regatta in Cowes.

Alex says, "The demand for women at the minute within this industry is huge, after speaking with directors at a three day construction event in Cowes it is clear that what is missing from these predominantly male companies is strong, female ambassadors who can create a certain persona for a company and fill a gap in the current market within major companies all over the UK. I feel it is important to recognise, support and boost strong, passionate women in construction so that they progress within the industry and make a contribution to this industry."



CASE STUDY