



## Anca Mihalache ARB RIBA Architect

co-founder  
RoundRobin studio

[www.roundrobinstudio.com](http://www.roundrobinstudio.com)

Experience	2015 • 2021 Co-Founder Round Robin studio 2010 • 2014 Lead Project Architect Building Design Partnership 2007 • 2009 Part 2 Assistant Building Design Partnership 2005 • Part 1 Assistant at CE+CA
Education	2010 • RIBA 3 London Metropolitan University 2007 • RIBA 2 DipArch(Dist) 'Ion Mincu' School of Architecture, Bucharest 2004 • RIBA 1 Erasmus BArch Sheffield School of Architecture First Class 2001 • MEcon International Economics, University of Economics, Bucharest
Languages	Fluent in Romanian, English, French Conversational Spanish & Japanese

Anca is co-founder at RoundRobin studio, a London based design practice working to deliver high quality residential projects. Previously Anca gained ten years experience working on a series of projects with Building Design Partnership in London and with Sheffield based CE+CA. Her portfolio spans healthcare, further and higher education, schools, master planning, housing and private residential projects. She notably was the design team leader for the Norwich City College Creative Arts Hub and engaged with the British Council in London and Madrid to develop an educational template for their Global Schools.

As an invited speaker to London Metropolitan University for their RIBA Practice in the UK course, Anca uses her experience to explain the position of the British architect when compared to that of European counterparts. In 2016 Anca was an invited OECD speaker at the 12th INIFED Congress in Mexico, reflecting on education infrastructure. A one-off talk for students at the University of Westminster on the 'Meaning of Detail' brought to the fore a collaboration project with Everyday Press on what makes a good or a bad detail.

## ARCHITECTURE FOR EDUCATION

Anca has got a wealth of experience as an architect in the education sector, most recently with a focus on the briefing, design and delivery consultancy for the British Council. She is committed to a user centred design ethos, with a sense of place achieved through careful consideration of site conditions, sustainability, and a genuine concern for the well-being of end users.

University Of Cambridge, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Project Architect with BDP

Anca was project architect for the CEB building, successfully securing planning consent. The completed building supports the Client's vision of promoting collaboration and interdisciplinary work among research groups and students. It provides purpose-built space for a wide range of biological laboratories to Bio Safety Levels Two and Three, clean-rooms, sensitive laser, optics and imaging laboratories, a Magnetic Resonance Research Centre, materials and processes laboratories and an undergraduate teaching laboratory.

The CEB Building is a landmark project for the University of Cambridge and adds further to its international reputation for learning and research in its field.

Creative Arts Hub, City College Norwich, Lead Project Architect with BDP

Anca was the lead project architect for City College Norwich, an innovative design seeking to showcase Creative Arts & Drama, which also achieved BREEAM excellent. In 2014 the project won an AJ Excellence Award, Civic Trust national Award and was short-listed for BCIA and RIBA Award regional award.

This building shelters a multifunctional programme for Art & Drama based activities. Its strong architectural frame means that it can absorb transient and messy activities. The black timber clad pavilion is set on the edge of a tree lined south facing garden. The north facing wall is designed to allow glare free north light into the gallery space.

British Council Schools Global Template, Lead Project Architect with BDP

The British Council School Design Template was prepared to inform designers and developers of the British Council's Global Estates intent for a network of bilingual and bi-cultural schools. Building on her experience in educational design, Anca was in charge to deliver their design manual, a comprehensive advisory document.

Wellington Academy, Wiltshire, Project Architect with BDP

Anca was the project architect for the Wellington Academy and the adjacent Boarding House. Wellington Academy responds to its rural setting in the heart of Wiltshire, providing a wide variety of spaces for formal and informal learning.

The design reflects the Wellington College house system, creating a sense of order and belonging. The buildings actively respond to the local micro-climate and maximise natural ventilation whilst realizing the full potential of sustainable cross laminated timber construction.

Milton Keynes Academy, Architectural Assistant BDP

Anca was a junior architect for Milton Keynes Academy, the first of the BSF schemes to achieve planning permission. Three blocks radiate from the central hub, accommodating the different departments, each with access to its own garden. Teaching spaces are arranged into five separate year-based 'villages'. A large proportion of the area is open-plan with the aim of promoting self-directed learning and a greater mix of small group activities. There is also a strong community aspect to the new academy allowing locals to use of the facilities.

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

In a framework tending towards standardization, housing continues to be a highly inertial sector. Anca believes that new housing should be conceived through diversity and plurality rather than homogeneity, and that shared spaces are essential for community cohesion.

Peacock Green, Haringey, London,  
Lead Project Architect with RoundRobin studio

The proposed vision for Peacock Green is to develop and nurture it as the heart of the neighbourhood, intelligently articulated with the adjacent elements of the wider area masterplan. The client vision is for better housing, maintaining and enhancing job opportunities, and a safer, greener community. In order to achieve this aim, the proposal is to undertake the design, monitor the delivery and post-build occupancy of Peacock Green by actively promoting place making.



Park View, Croydon, London,  
Lead Project Architect with RoundRobin studio

The 18 unit residential project is at planning pre-application stage and investigates appropriate densification in a suburban setting. Negotiating the client vision with the local authority requirements and the neighbourhood has shaped the design without giving up space standards or the quality of outdoor spaces. Reinterpreting the traditional terrace, each of the carefully designed homes will achieve the spatial quality of an individual house.

#### PRIVATE HOMES

Anca designs with the client, working towards creative solutions where no personal preference is considered out of style. She thus enables the client to curate their home within an overarching space framework.

Shoreditch Grade II Listed Loft, Family home in London, Lead Project Architect with RoundRobin studio

The project was featured in the Don't Move, Improve! New London Architecture exhibition at the Building Centre. It draws on the powerful character of the Grade II Listed roof structure. The main challenge of the project was to morph the original dysfunctional open plan arrangement into a flexible four bedroom home. The children bedrooms are imagined as tree-house pods overlooking the courtyard, as if under an old oak.

House in Earl's Court, Family home in London,  
Lead Project Architect with RoundRobin studio

The remodel and extension of a handsome Victorian home situated in Sedlescombe Road Conservation Area recently gained planning consent. The proposal makes the most of the retained original features and split level arrangement by bringing natural light deep into the heart of the house. The stair, usually a mere functional device in a terraced house is activated by spanning the double height dining room. Built in furniture is designed to support the evolving family life within, the natural materials palette will allow it to grow the pleasant and tasteful clutter that we call home.

Primrose Hill Conservation Area, Family home remodel,  
Lead Project Architect with RoundRobin studio

A handsome terraced house falling into disrepair required remodel and adaptation to a modern lifestyle. The house was given a new lease of life. Original features were retained and the typical Victorian terrace plan was tested for modern open plan living. Natural light is maximised, corridors are minimised for a free flow between levels.

#### ARCHITECTURE FOR HEALTHCARE

Anca's understanding is that healthcare buildings are places where many of us will experience profound life events, whilst also being highly complex technological facilities. Therefore the design should safeguard clinical effectiveness and efficiency, whilst also prioritising people – patients, their families and the staff who care for them.

Whittington NHS Trust, London Neonatal and Maternity Centre, Feasibility Project Architect with BDP

The feasibility study looks into re-designing and extending the hospital premises to enhance the quality and environment of the existing maternity services with a state of the art neonatal intensive care and high dependency care units, an additional obstetric theatre and refurbished labour ward. Current proposals would also increase capacity from 4,000 to 4,700 babies a year.

The refurbished maternity facilities would feature:

- Five new en-suite labour rooms offering additional comfort and improved privacy for women.
- A new purpose built Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. This specialist intensive and high dependency unit was relocated alongside the Pain clinic and Special Care Baby Unit.
- A new and dedicated operating theatre located next to the labour ward to enable fast and easy transfer.



## **CREATIVE ARTS HUB**

*Norwich City College*

Lead Project Architect with BDP

Type: Arts School and Exhibition Space

Location: Norwich, UK

Client: Norwich City College

Size: 2 530 m<sup>2</sup>

Cost: £ 5 700 000

Team: BDP - Multidisciplinary Design  
F W Properties - Project Managers  
J.Graham - Main Contractor

Role: Lead Project Architect  
Undertaken whilst at BDP

Status: Start March 2012  
Completed September 2013

Awards: Civic Trust Award 2014  
BREEAM Excellent Achieved





## **CREATIVE ARTS HUB**

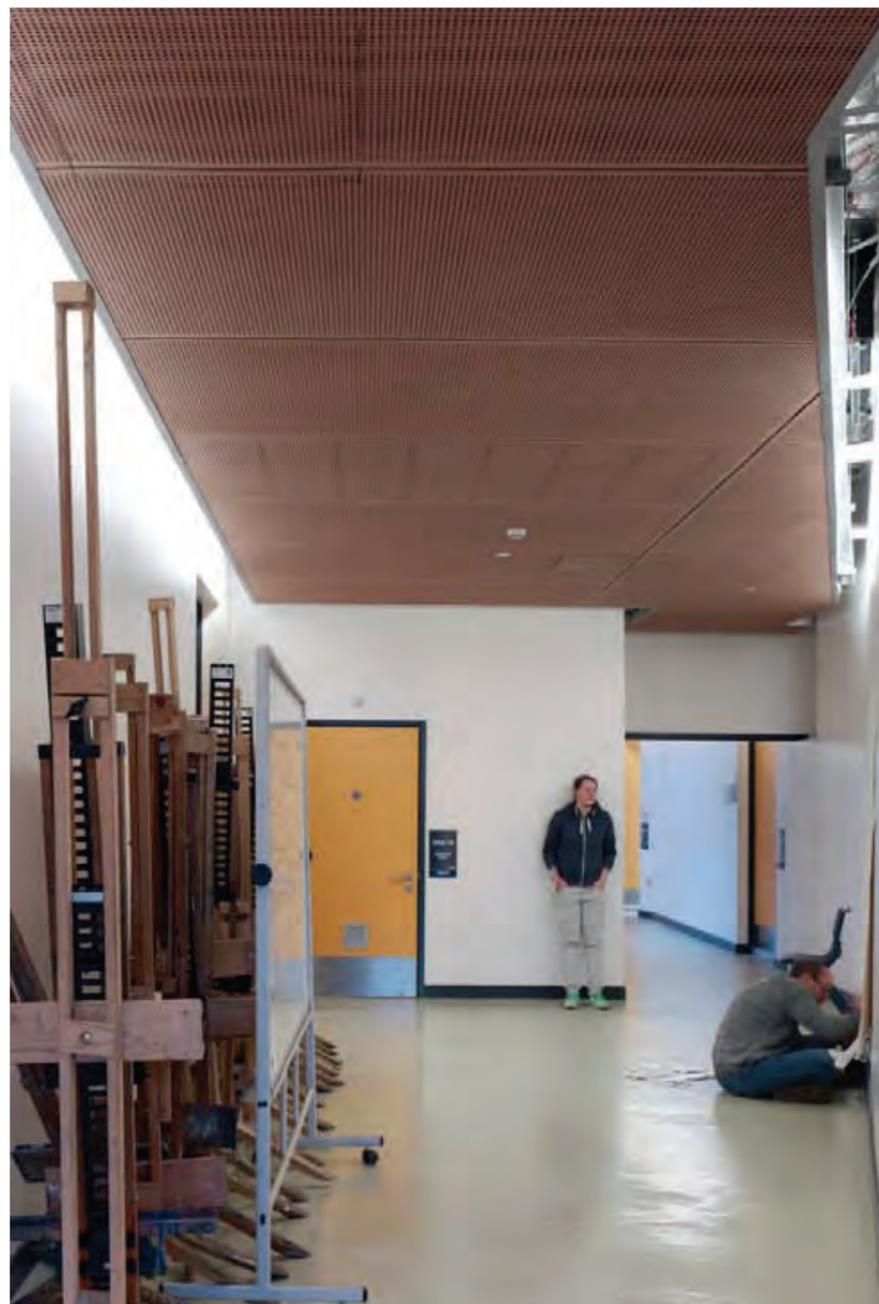
*Norwich City College*

The new three storey Creative Arts Building at the City College, Norwich was inspired by traditional Norfolk barns. The building is located at the Southern end of the College's main Ipswich Road campus, on the site of the former West Lodge accommodation block.

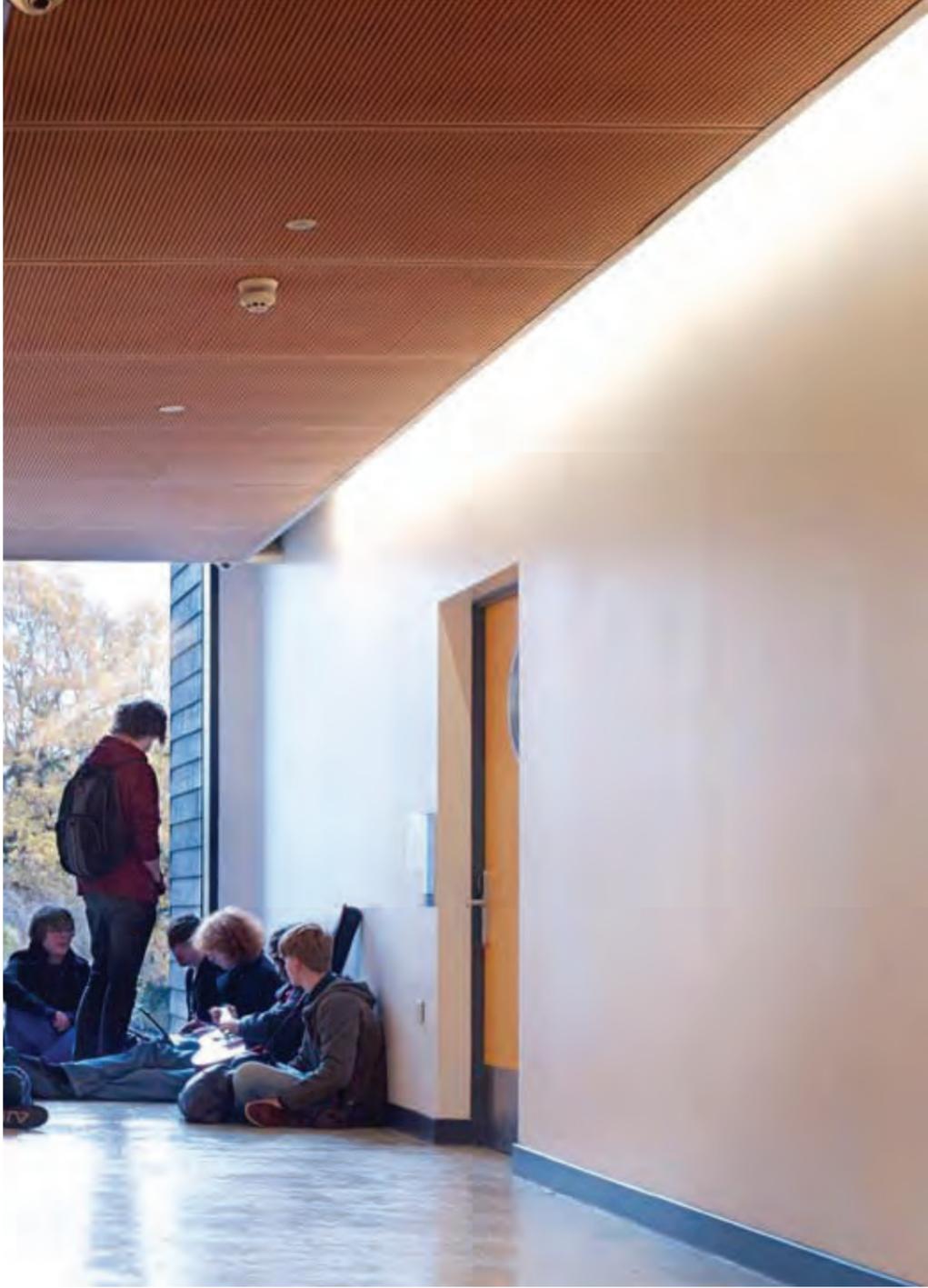
It provides a state of the art venue the community can be proud of. The loft-like interiors give a great sense of openness and create the atmosphere of a professional gallery arrangement.

The new building supports the College's vision to deliver outstanding and innovative creative arts provision:

- Performing arts rehearsal spaces for dance, acting and musical theatre. These required a box-in-box solution to allow for the acoustic treatment of music rooms.
- Digital Arts spaces including interactive media, graphics, animation, media editing suites, a TV studio and music rehearsal and recording studios.
- Traditional art and design, fashion and textiles and cultural heritage/craft based programmes. The floor also needed to accommodate higher than standard floor loadings for specialised equipment.
- The ceiling and truss arrangement allowed for art works to be supported from the high levels.



**CREATIVE ARTS HUB**  
**DANCE STUDIO**







## WELLINGTON ACADEMY

*Building Schools for the Future*

Project Architect with BDP

Type: School / Academy Framework

Location: Ludgershall, Wiltshire, UK

Client: Wellington Academy

Size: 13,000 m<sup>2</sup> Academy Building

5,000 m<sup>2</sup> Boarding House

500 m<sup>2</sup> CCF Unit

Sports Hall Refurbishment

Cost: £25 million

Team: BDP - Multidisciplinary Design

Kier Education - Main Contractor

Role: Project Architect  
Undertaken whilst at BDP

Status: Completed September 2011

WELLINGTON ACADEMY  
STUDENTS LOUNGE



WELLINGTON ACADEMY  
RECEPTION ATRIUM



**WELLINGTON ACADEMY**  
MAIN HALL / THEATRE



**WELLINGTON ACADEMY**  
SCIENCE COMMONS





**MILTON KEYNES ACADEMY**  
*Building Schools for the Future*  
Part 2 Architectural Assistant with BDP

Type: School / Academy Framework

Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Client: Sir F.Markham Community College  
Milton Keynes Council

Size: 13,100 m<sup>2</sup>

Cost: £27 200 000

Team: BDP - Multidisciplinary Design  
Kier Education - Main Contractor

Role: Part 2 Architectural Assistant  
Undertaken whilst at BDP

Status: Completed September 2009



## **MILTON KEYNES ACADEMY**

*Building Schools for the Future*

Milton Keynes Academy was the first of the new Academies Framework schemes to achieve planning permission. The academy for 1,550 11 to 18 year olds, specialising in business enterprise, replaced Sir Frank Markham community college when it opened in September 2009 and takes students from across the city and beyond.

All practical or vocational space of this three storey school is on the ground floor and is visible and celebrated from the welcoming entrance space. Three blocks radiate from this hub accommodating the Art & Design Technology, Science, and Drama & Music departments each with access to its own garden, or in the case of the latter, to an outdoor performance space. Other teaching spaces above are arranged into five separate year-based 'villages'. A large proportion of the area is open-plan with the aim of promoting self-directed learning and a greater mix of small group activities.

There is also a strong community aspect to the new academy allowing members of the community use of the facilities. Local businesses will be encouraged to rent space in the Business and Enterprise Hub, situated above the entrance, in return for practical teaching. This Hub will be designed and furnished in a manner akin to commercial office space.

The academy is naturally ventilated and day lit achieving a Very Good BREEAM rating.



**CAMBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL  
ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

*New Research Facilities*

Planning Stage Project Architect with BDP

Client: University of Cambridge

Location: West Cambridge

Size: 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>

Cost: £42M

Main Contractor: Morgan Sindall

Status: Completed 2016

Role: Planning Project Architect  
Undertaken whilst at BDP

The project brief was to support the Client's vision of promoting collaboration and interdisciplinary working among research groups, researchers and students.

It provides purpose-built space for a wide range of biological laboratories to Bio Safety Levels Two and Three, clean-rooms, sensitive laser, optics and imaging laboratories, a Magnetic Resonance Research Centre, materials and processes laboratories and an undergraduate teaching laboratory.

The CEB Building is a landmark project for the University of Cambridge and will add further to its international reputation for learning and research in this field.



**CAMBRIDGE CEB DEPARTMENT  
COMPLETED LABS WING**



**CAMBRIDGE CEB DEPARTMENT  
RESEARCHERS ENTRANCE**





## REFERENCES

Doctor Tom Matthams  
University of Cambridge  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
and Biotechnology

Chris Hickey  
Director British Council Schools

Giovanni Gnechi-Ruscione  
CEO Hallborough Investments

Herveline Revenue & Loic Fossiez  
Private Clients

Corrienne Peasgood  
Principal of City College Norwich

Stuart Mullineux  
Director Campus Services  
Norfolk Educational Services