



# RIAS

The Royal Incorporation  
of Architects in Scotland

## RIAS Presidential Election 2018 - Candidate

Robin Webster OBE RSA FRIAS RIBA FRSA

### Statement:

I am a practising architect and designer with wide experience as partner of award winning architectural practice cameronwebsterarchitects, which I founded in 1984. I am a director of Otago Developments and chair a number of professional and community groups. I was Professor of Architecture at Scott Sutherland for 20 years.



It is easy to promise all things, but harder to deliver. I have been encouraged to stand by a wide range of members and non-members from all corners of the country. With these committed and enthusiastic people I aim to make this a more collegiate, transparent and effective organisation, that is more accountable and represents the whole of our membership, focusing on the challenges of the day: more politically engaged; build on recent initiatives in investment & infrastructure; influence housing policy, land reform and community empowerment. I want to improve the debate on energy and environment, challenge norms, and make our existing commitment to sustainability more meaningful; address our social purposes ethically; make our labour, education and skills better valued and understood; have better procurement and encourage new talent. Our support for conservation should be stronger and our commitment to sustainability more wholehearted. In this Post-Brexit world we need to reach out to our neighbours not only south of the border but internationally too – even if that means a change in our constitution.

I am currently the Treasurer of the Royal Scottish Academy, and serve as a Trustee of the Scottish Stained Glass Trust, the Friends of Glenan Wood, am Chair of Clyde Classic Keelboats, and a consultant to Glasgow City Heritage Trust. I am the author of a number of technical and non-technical publications. I am a past President of the Aberdeen Chapter, a current member of Council and serve on the Strategy Committee, representing the GIA. I have been a member of “A New Chapter” since its inception, and believe this was necessary to reinvigorate the Incorporation, if painful at times. I want to build on this momentum and move forward to “The Next Chapter” with a more purposeful organisation supporting architects and students, and promoting the value of architecture to all. I hope to bring together all members of our community with an increased sense of shared purpose and the belief that we can make a difference.

I will promote a more balanced approach to age, gender and minority groups across our profession, and reflected in our governance structure going forward. I will promote Council meetings across all our regions, and better support rural practices. Whether elected or not I will vote for the post having a modest financial reward, as otherwise it will always be restricted to the retired or the rich.

As a practitioner and educator I can demonstrate a life long passion for architecture and an enthusiasm that is stronger than ever. If I am fortunate enough to be elected as President I look forward to applying this energy and experience to serve the Incorporation and profession at large.