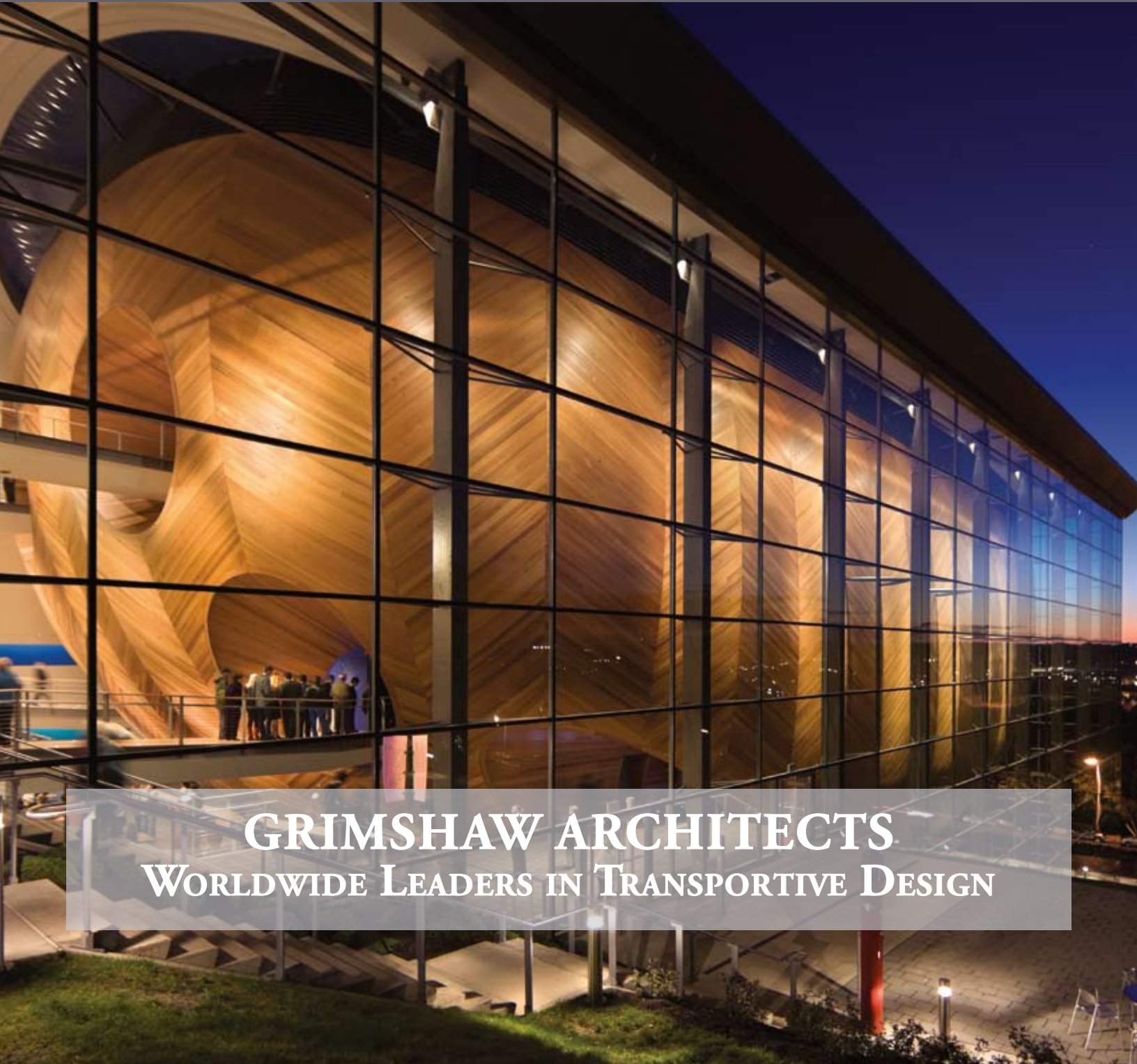


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GRIMSHAW ARCHITECTS
WORLDWIDE LEADERS IN TRANSPORTIVE DESIGN

THE MAGAZINE FOR CONSTRUCTION EXECUTIVES

Worldwide Leaders in Transportive Design

*Produced by Chuck McKenna
& Written by Shelley Seyler*

Grimshaw Architects was founded in 1980 by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, originally operating under the name Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners. For 30 years the highly decorated, award-winning Grimshaw firm has been setting the tone for the architecture industry with its reputation for finely crafted buildings tailored to suit the needs of each client and the environment in which they reside.

With offices in London, New York City and Melbourne, the firm is quite literally a worldwide leader in its field. Grimshaw has approximately 220 employees in total, with about 65 in the New York office. The firm completes the architectural design and collaborates with engineers, cost consultants and program managers for the necessary trades.

Grimshaw has extended its high-tech approach to architecture to the global market – with completed projects in Switzerland, Spain, Lebanon, Japan, Mexico and Canada, among others – and is responsible for such innovative designs as the world’s largest plant enclosure, numerous airports and train stations, trade halls and countless other centers of economic and cultural exchange. The firm puts an emphasis on structural legibility, integrity and virtuosity.

Indeed, Grimshaw not only works across oceans, but also across sectors. The firm has a strong niche in the transport industry, but leaves no stone unturned; commerce, arts and leisure, science and education, industry, bridges, retail and exhibition halls, masterplanning and residential, and industrial design are among its forte, applying to each an eye for detail and an innovative approach.



Groundbreaking as They Break Ground

“We were known to be on the leading edge of sustainable design before it was fashionable,” says Andrew Whalley, managing partner.

The company insight to which he refers is embodied in its management process/design tool: EVA, or Environmentally Viable Architecture. This allows architects to assess the environmental impact of buildings from the time they are conceived. The tool also allows the architect to reassess the project at each new stage.



The EVA was developed following the company's ISO 14001 certification, which is based on the international standard for environmental management systems. Grimshaw was one of the first firms practicing in Europe to receive this certification

Several recent projects showcase Grimshaw's structurally expressive and humanistic approach. Grimshaw is currently working on a project for the Metropolitan Authority Capital Construction in New York City. The firm collaborated with HDR Daniel Frankfurt and Page Ayers Cowley Associates to develop designs for the new transit hub at Fulton Street in Lower Manhattan. The Fulton Street complex is one of the busiest underground interchanges in the New York City

subway system. It is expected to handle approximately 275,000 passengers each day.

The reorganization streamlined the center to better manage the interconnection of 12 subway lines. The design also allows for new connections of commuter trains and ferries at what was once the World Trade Center site. This project is playing an integral part in the reorganization of Lower Manhattan.

Grimshaw recently completed the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) in Troy, N.Y. This cutting-edge facility was designed for the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy.



Located on a steep hillside, the building houses a 1,200-seat concert hall, a 400-seat theater with flytower, two black box studios, a dance studio, a suite of artist in residence workshops, and a professional audio and video recording, editing and production facilities. Perhaps the most impressive feature is the concert hall, which occupies the majority of the north wing of the building and is visible to the outside through a breath-taking 100-foot high glass curtain wall.

In 2009, the firm won the AIA Honor Award for its work on the Horno 3: Museo Del Acero in Mexico. It was also recognized for its work designing a new academic building for the London School of Economics with the Camden Building Quality Award-Large Commercial Category. Of course, the firm is no stranger to accolades.

In 2007 Grimshaw was awarded the prestigious RIBA Lubetkin Prize for the most outstanding building outside the United Kingdom for Southern Cross Station in Melbourne, Australia, and in the following year was the recipient of the BD Transport Architect of the Year

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award and was on the shortlist for the RIBA Sterling Prize for building of the year for Amsterdam Bijlmer Arena Station. These among other numerous successes cemented the firm's reputation as a practice at the forefront of global transport design and development.

However, Grimshaw specializes in the design and delivery of complex projects, whatever the scale, and enjoy working with the diverse range of specialists necessary to deliver these projects.

Rapid Growth

Already with three offices around the world, Grimshaw is hoping to open two more: one in Asia and one in the Middle East. For a company that managed to double in size even in today's floundering economy, this certainly appears to be a feasible goal.

"It takes a while to get established internationally, but we want to be immersed in the environments we are working in," explains Whalley.

"For us, the opportunities are just getting better," he continues when asked about the economy. "I think that's because of the sectors we work in."

To be sure, the government has filtered large sums of money into infrastructure projects, bridges and rail, and many funds in the education sector remain allocated for smart growth. But Grimshaw Architects' success is also thanks to the firm's quality control and innovative, modernist designs. ■

COMPANY AT A GLANCE

ESTABLISHED : 1980

MANAGING PARTNER : Andrew Whalley

EMPLOYEES : 220

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