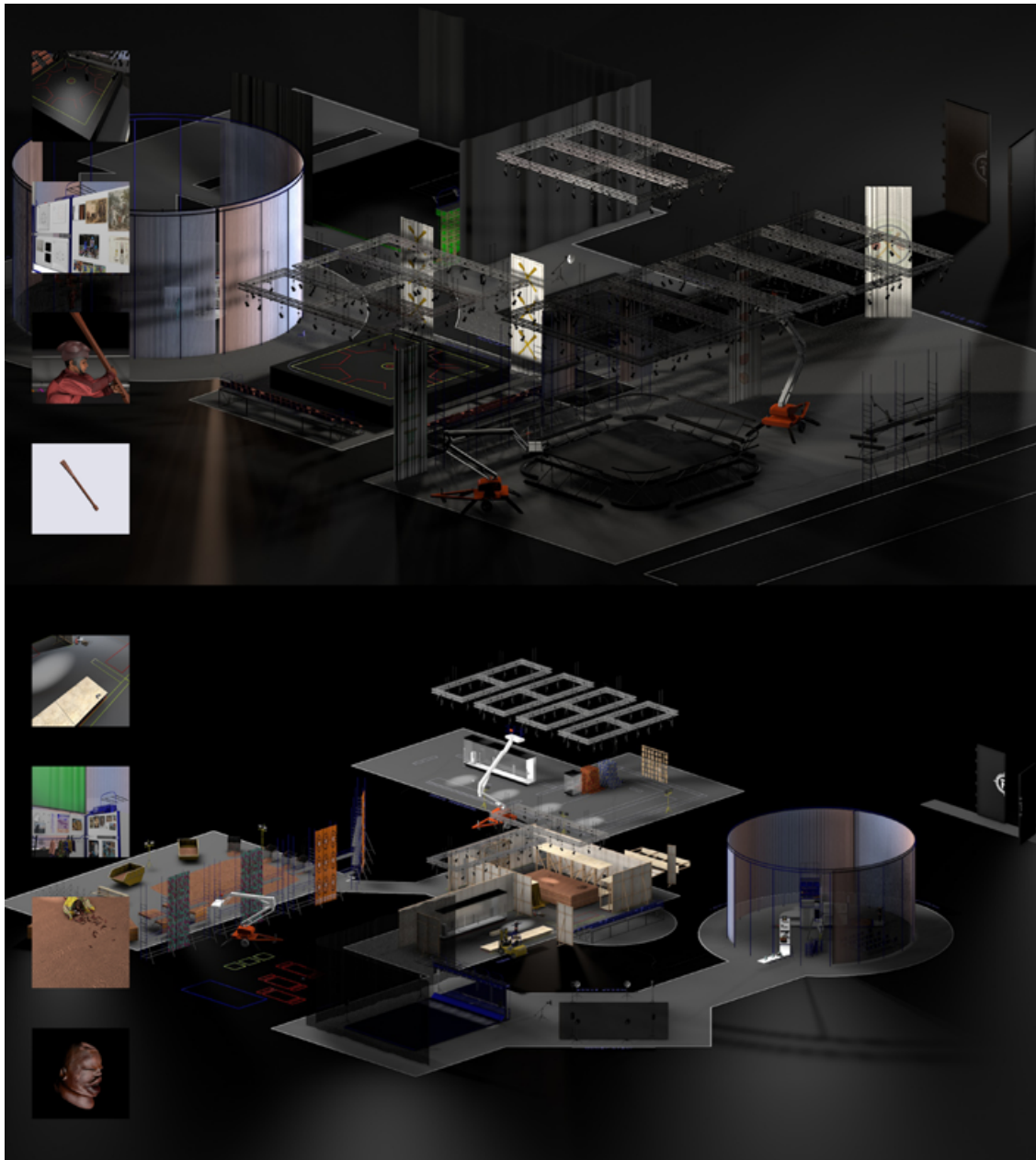




AN ONLINE FIRST: RIBA UNCONDITIONAL REVALIDATION OF THE AA FOR 5 YEARS

8 December 2020



@AASchool @RIBA

London, UK. The RIBA Revalidation Visit has concluded, and the RIBA Visiting Board (subject to ratification by the RIBA Education Committee) have unconditionally revalidated the Architectural Association, School of Architecture for the next five years. The AA is the first school of architecture to undergo a Virtual Revalidation process by the RIBA. The AA developed a new and seamless virtual facility for the Visiting Board that integrated the formal documentation of its academic governance, the work of our students in the form of digital portfolios and an online exhibition of student projects. This innovative communication platform was accessible across five days, and concluded with two days of interviews and discussions involving over 50 students and academic staff.

The RIBA Visiting Board report 'commends the school's continued pursuit of ensuring a democratic structure and culture, which enables students to identify their own position within the context of architecture and the built environment' and further 'commends the efforts and dedication of the Senior Management Team (SMT) who oversaw the application for Taught Degree-Awarding Powers (TDAP), which the school received in 2019, as well as initiating remote learning systems in response to the pandemic. In particular, the board acknowledges the proactive response to support the mental wellbeing of students and staff during this difficult time'.

While the usual face-to-face interactions with the RIBA team were certainly missed, not to mention enjoying a much-loved and delicious AA lunch together, members of the SMT and academic staff noted that some aspects of the quinquennial revalidation process were enhanced by the revalidation taking place online. For example, discussions with students and tutors, who are now experienced with conducting meetings online, were particularly focused and forthright.

Michael Weinstock, the school's Chair of the Academic Committee, who led the AA's online preparations for the visit noted, 'While the AA also achieved unconditional validation in 2015, attaining this result again is exceptionally pleasing, especially due to the challenges that Covid-19 presents, such as having to transition both teaching and the revalidation process to being fully online. The RIBA Visiting Board acknowledged the candour and transparency of our approach to revalidation and commended the students and staff for their wholehearted engagement. The Virtual Validation was a productive way of managing a potentially difficult situation, and the entire experience was positive for both the RIBA and the AA, with new and enhanced ideas and processes setting up an exciting future for the school'.

For the next five years, this positive result of the RIBA validation enables the AA to continue its aim of challenging the status quo of architectural education, and to provide a platform for its students to invent new forms of practice within a variety of different design disciplines.

Support

For more information about the AA or to support the school, please contact us at communications@aaschool.ac.uk

Members of the Press

If you would like to arrange an interview with the school or source press images please send an email to communications@aaschool.ac.uk

About the AA

The Architectural Association (AA) is the oldest independent school of architecture in the UK. The school was founded in 1847 as a student-centred collective that aspired to radically transform architectural education. Quite unlike any other institution operating today, the school offers a broad range of flexible, self-directed programmes, courses and curricula that empower students and staff to challenge the accepted methods within contemporary architectural education and professional practice. The school offers a Foundation Award in Architecture, a BA(Hons) and MArch (and AA Diploma) throughout its five-year course within the Experimental and Diploma Programmes, and nine Taught Postgraduate Programmes leading to MA, MSc, PG MArch, MFA and MPhil awards as well as the PhD Programme.

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