

My name is Jennifer Bousfield and I'm an Associate Public Health Engineer with Arup. After leaving university 17 years ago I joined Arup and I have been involved with multi-disciplinary teams designing a broad range of construction projects in the building services industry, including a number of healthcare projects.



My experience covers the development of strategic plans, conceptual designs and the translation of these into appropriate implementation routes and construction documentation. I have headed multi-disciplinary teams as a project manager and lead the public health team on large complex healthcare projects. My specialist skills in particular include drainage, sanitary plumbing, rainwater, piped water services, specialist water services, natural gas, laboratory gas and medical gas services.

Shortly after joining Arup I became a Graduate member of CIBSE and followed the company's structured training scheme. Six years later, in November 2002 I became a Chartered Engineer. It was shortly after this that I became pregnant with my first child. Following my maternity leave I made the decision to return to engineering at Arup on a part-time basis. I continued to take on a

lead role in projects and though sometimes I found it challenging being a mother and progressing my career, but with the support I have received from Arup, the balance works well. It certainly hasn't prevented me from progressing in my career, taking on new challenges and bringing up my two children.

CHOOSING BUILDING SERVICES AS A CAREER

I first knew that I wanted to be an engineer after going to a careers seminar run by Laing's when I was 14 years old. At this stage I wasn't sure what discipline to follow and I kept my options open. At university I chose to study Environmental Engineering & Resource Management as I realised I could make a difference at a time when people were starting to become more aware of the environment and the impact we are having on it in terms of how we design and construct our buildings. Throughout my degree course I started to take an interest in hydraulic engineering and fluid dynamics and expressed my interest in these areas when applying for jobs. Arup invited me to interview for a role as a public health engineer and in all honesty I didn't really know what this role would entail. My duties explained to me at my interview sounded interesting and I liked the idea of the challenge's awaiting me.

I graduated from Nottingham University in July 1996 with a first class honours degree and then joined Arup the following September as part of their yearly

graduate intake. Since starting in the industry I have been involved in a wide range of building engineering projects from offices to schools to a children's theatre. In 1999 I encountered my first project in the healthcare sector and it was through my experience on this project that I decided to specialise in the design of public health systems on healthcare projects, for both NHS and private healthcare clients.

THE MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF MY JOB...

By their very nature healthcare facilities are complex, in terms of the building engineering systems within them. As a public health engineer the scope of my work is extended to include specialist water supplies, drainage systems and medical and laboratory gas supplies. No healthcare project is the same, each brings with it a new set of challenges due to the constantly evolving way in which healthcare is delivered and the new technologies and equipment that are available now and will be in the future. The environment I work in enables me to be constantly challenged and learn new things.



AS A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER YOU CAN IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT BY DESIGN.



GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

I would say that there are two things I've accomplished in my career of which I'm extremely proud, the first being when I achieved CIBSE Fellowship in December 2011, the second when I was promoted to the position of Associate at Arup in April 2013.

APPLYING FOR FCIBSE

I was encouraged by my fellow CIBSE Members Panel colleagues to apply for Fellowship. At the time I thought I didn't have enough years in the industry. However when I sat down and put pen to paper I soon realised that I did have the required experience in terms of my technical capability, management roles my contribution to the industry.



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FELLOW APPLICATION PROCESS

I always thought I didn't have the time to complete the paperwork and apply for FCIBSE but having sat down and put pen to paper I found the application process relatively straightforward. There was a little bit of research involved in searching back through the projects I'd been involved in since achieving MCIBSE, but after I'd done that I completed the application form in just one evening.

I would advise others considering upgrading to fellow to go for it, don't put it off until tomorrow. Speak to colleagues, look at the guidance on the CIBSE website, then put pen to paper and complete the application for the professional recognition that you deserve.

HOW CIBSE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ME

For me personally it's being part of a community of like-minded

individuals and being able to share experiences within the industry. I have found being a member of the Female Fellows Group particularly beneficial as it's given me the opportunity to speak with other women within the industry about their careers. The group has been used as a forum to discuss particular challenges individuals have faced. I have found this network of people to be extremely supportive.

GIVING BACK TO THE INDUSTRY

In May 2005 I was asked by CIBSE to join the Members Panel and become a Professional and Competence Review Interviewer. I was keen to accept both these roles as I'd found the process of achieving my professional qualifications quite daunting and I thought that by becoming involved in the process I could then help other people working towards professional qualifications to achieve their goals. I am currently sub-chair of the Members Panel and I am very involved in the Membership Process within CIBSE, regularly taking part in Membership Briefing Sessions and Application Surgeries.

I also mentor a number of Arup graduate engineers and technicians following the approved Arup CIBSE Structured Training Scheme, making sure that they develop their competence in the CIBSE objectives to the level required to achieve their professional qualifications.

Within Arup, this is a role that I carry out across the whole of the UK. It's something I'm particularly passionate about as it gives me

a real buzz when someone I've helped go from application to interview then achieves their goal. I help people in all the building services disciplines, applying for all levels of membership from EngTech through to Fellowship, by reviewing applications, reviewing presentations and conducting mock interviews.

More recently I have become involved in the graduate recruitment process and I hope to extend this role to become actively involved in attracting young people into the industry.



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FOR ME BUILDING SERVICES IS GREAT BECAUSE...

Of the wide variety of buildings I am challenged to design. Each building demands different approaches to deliver low tech and high tech solutions to achieve sustainable and environmental solutions whilst still ensuring the building performs and functions to meet the occupants and client's requirements. ■