



Architect in Profile

Cambridge-educated Luke Tozer set up Pitman Tozer Architects in 2002 with Tim Pitman. Here, he talks to Future Constructor & Architect about his earliest memories of wanting to pursue a career in architecture and his most notable project to date.

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of driving construction costs down as low as possible. In housing, it's tended to mean a rush towards airtight and highly insulated homes which rely on mechanical systems that residents often don't understand.

What is your favourite building?

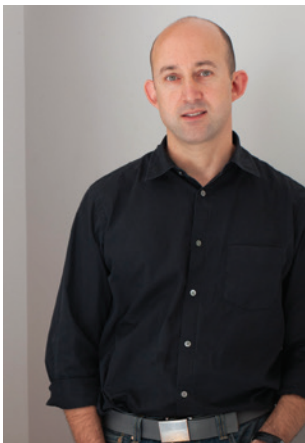
The Monadnock building in Chicago is high up there. It's actually designed in two parts by two different architects. The north part by Burnham and Root was built in load-bearing brick and the south by Holabird and Roche was steel frame. When completed in 1893, it was the largest office building in the world.

What do you think is the greatest challenge for architects today?

In terms of practice, enjoying the benefits of computer technology in terms of design and translating that into practice on site. So often, that is seen as a press of the button, when it is anything but. These tools should allow more time and give design and cost certainty within the design process prior to construction and yet it's usually seen as a drive to cut the time for the project.

What can we expect to see from Pitman Tozer Architects over the next year?

Further projects for Peabody and new private rented sector housing in Newham for Red Door, a housing company owned by LB Newham, as well as housing and a bus station in Croydon for Brick by Brick Croydon.



Luke Tozer is the Director of Pitman Tozer Architects

Please tell us a bit about your career background

I studied at Cambridge, where I met Tim Pitman and, following a year studying and working in Japan, I went on to study at the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow. I worked for Julian Wickham in London and Amsterdam alongside Munkenbeck & Marshall and Wright & Wright before setting up Pitman Tozer Architects with Tim in 2002.

Had you always wanted to pursue a career in architecture?

No, whilst I'm the son of an architect and art teacher they passively, rather than actively, discouraged me from following either of them. I initially wanted to be a mathematician or a cyclist, until I realised I had the legs of a mathematician and the brains of a cyclist. Then I saw the light; it had to be architecture.

Who/what has been your greatest influence and source of inspiration?

My environment. I grew up in interesting houses, including a 12th century priory. I remember early on sitting reading in arrow slit windows within 6ft thick stone walls. In Glasgow, Isi Metzstein was an inspirational figure and is still quoted in the office.

What has been your most notable project to date?

As a completed project, it's Mint Street, Bethnal Green, a new housing block and public street for Peabody in London's East End, adjacent to a noisy railway.

What do you think is the greatest challenge for designing in sustainability?

A combination of an unclear and moving regulatory framework and the challenge