

JAMES BELL

Architect

Architect focused on residential and mixed-use buildings, working across design phases from concept and tender to execution, grounded in building systems and modular construction, with experience across the UAE, UK, Netherlands and Italy.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Architect

Freelance · May 2025 - July 2026

Residential Renovation · Concept Design · Visualisation

- Town Head, Cumbria, UK; under construction: Grade II listed Georgian farmhouse: concept design, planning drawings for the renovation and heritage-compliant conversion; outbuilding-to-residential conversions: concept and planning applications.
- Office 289, Dubai, UAE; completed: apartment-to-office conversion: concept according to Vastu requirements, visualisations; delivered through to completion.

Architect & Business Developer

Marc Koehler Associates · Amsterdam, Netherlands · April - July 2025

Residential · Mixed-use · Timber Construction

- Poppies, Amsterdam, Netherlands; construction/execution phase; completed: modular CLT mixed-use development; construction detailing, FF&E, contractor/property management liaison, project branding.
- Sluisbuurt, Amsterdam; tender: mixed-use, socio-economic concept.
- Acquisitions: developer pitches and strategy and concept visualisations.
- Led PR and communications: production, copywriting and visualisation of project narratives.

Architectural & Business Development Trainee

Marc Koehler Associates · Amsterdam, Netherlands · February - April 2025

Building Systems · Feasibility Studies · Timber Construction

- MaMa Milano, Milan, Italy; under development: process optimisation of the prefab timber development; aligning design, construction and prefab specialist workflows; factoring in future change of use from PBSA to BTR.
- Superstudios, Amsterdam, Netherlands; technical design phase; under construction: development of a modular CLT building system.
- Feasibility studies: conventional-to-timber transition for municipal residential development.

Architecture & Urban Design Trainee

FABRICations · Amsterdam, Netherlands · August 2024 - February 2025

Residential · Mixed-use · Concept Sketching to 3D Massing

- Innovation Quarter Den Bosch Build Quality Plan, Den Bosch, Netherlands; concept & developed design phases; under consultation: concluded strategies of activated plinths, massing, mobility.
- Domus Dolomiti, Dolomites, Italy; developed and technical design phases; under construction: residential villa's spatial sequencing, form and materiality; under construction.
- Mixed-Use Competition, Braunschweig, Germany; concept and developed design phases: mixed-use competition entry.

Language Consultant

Milano Fluency Studio · Milan, Italy · March - July 2024

- Consulted and advisory support in the establishment Milano Fluency Studio; tutored students in the English Language.

Design Assistant

TAU-Lab · Politecnico di Milano · Milan, Italy · Apr 2023 - Jul 2024

- Reformatted published research; revised WordPress navigability and backend functionality; SEO optimisation; collaboration with Propp Design Studio.

Founder & Designer

Locale House · London, UK · September 2020 - August 2024

- Data-driven platform for scalable regenerative housing; developed from Global Grad Show, Dubai Design Week, Dubai, UAE.

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Portfolio: jamesbell.me

LinkedIn: [jamesrobertbell](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamesrobertbell)

Location: Dubai, UAE

EDUCATION

Politecnico di Milano

MSc Architecture & Urban Design

Milan, Italy · 2021 - 2023

110/110 (133/120 Credits)

Thesis, published: *From Obsolescence to Relevance:*

The Case of The London Borough of Tower Hamlets

University of the Arts London

Chelsea College of Arts

BA (Hons) Interior & Spatial Design

London, UK · 2017 - 2020

First Class Honours

Dissertation: *Value of Space*

Project: *One and All Dwellings; One and All Locales*

SKILLS

Software

Rhino3D, AutoCAD, Revit, ArchiCAD;
Grasshopper, Enscape, V-Ray;
Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign
WordPress, Touch Typing.

Languages

English (Native), French (B2),
Italian (A2), Dutch (A2).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Erasmus+ Activation of Public Spaces

2022 - 2023 · Krakow University of Technology,
Krakow, Poland · Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy

Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

Bronze, Silver & Gold

2013 - 2017 · DoFE Award, UK

Journey Award for North East & Cumbria Student of the Year for North Cumbria

2016 · Young Enterprise, UK

EXHIBITIONS

OpenLAB Series

Politecnico di Milano · 2021 & 2022

Chelsea Degree Show

Cookhouse Gallery, London · 2020

Tate Exchange

Tate Modern, London · 2019

14-18NOW!

Rootstein Hopkins Parade Ground, London, UK · 2018

RHS Art Fair

Lawrence Hall, London, UK · 2018

Young Cumbrian Artist of the Year

The Vallum Gallery, Carlisle, UK · 2016-17