

## The SCHOLARSHIP

### BACKGROUND

Amongst the SPAB founders and early members was a group of architects who worked on buildings with their own hands, travelling from site to site. Inspired by the teachings of John Ruskin; that building and design should be brought together under the control of one mind and ideally, as in medieval times, under the control of one hand.

Instrumental amongst these was Philip Webb, a founding member of the SPAB ([link to SPAB Manifesto](#)), who would base his young colleagues on a site to help with the work and learn from the craftsmen. Webb went out of his way to ensure that young architects associated with the SPAB were not only fully equipped to deal with the repair of ancient buildings but also had a true understanding of the craft and spirit that created these buildings in the first place.

It was the absence in professional training of any direct practical experience or real understanding of traditional materials and techniques that prompted the SPAB committee to award its first Scholarship in 1930. Initially for a single architect to be based on site to “take the opportunity to see and understand the organisation necessary for the successful repair of an ancient building and the methods best employed to that end”.

To this day this ethos remains; teaching young professionals the SPAB’s philosophy of sympathetic repair of old buildings; recognising the need to educate them in the merits of understanding a building before they commence work on it; to appreciate the accretions of time and the additions of their forebears as a part of the building’s history not to be torn apart for modern convenience, nor dragged back to a point in history thought desirable for the time being.

Initially the Scholarship was awarded to architects but over the years has broadened to encompass building surveyors and structural engineers who now travel from one site to another during the first six months of the programme.

The six, site based months of the Scholarship is called the Lethaby stage after W.R. Lethaby, Surveyor to the fabric of Westminster Abbey, Professor of Design and founder of the Art Worker’s Guild who was closely involved with the work of the SPAB and one of the most inspiring teachers of his time.

In 1979 the Society accepted a generous endowment from the Patrick Plunket Memorial Trust and in recognition of the interests of the late Patrick Plunket, Deputy Master of the Queen’s Household, the Scholarship programme was extended from six to nine months, the extra three months being devoted to a study of the art and culture of the country house. For the last three months of the programme the Lethaby Scholars become Plunket Scholars.

## The SCHOLARSHIP

### FUNDERS

In 1988 a group of Scholars combined to raise money to endow a Scholarship to honour Monica and Harry Dance, Mrs. Dance was Secretary of the SPAB for many years and guided dozens of young architects through the Scholarship. Each Scholar that completes the programme becomes a member of the Dance Scholarship Trust and the first Dance Scholarship was awarded in 1990.

The SPAB Scholarship would not be possible without financial assistance from:

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation  
Dance Scholarship Trust  
The Patrick Plunket Memorial Fund  
Drake Trust  
Alan Baxter Foundation

Since the early 1950's the following have made donations and bequests towards Scholarship funds

Sir Banister Fletcher  
The Pilgrim Trust  
Mrs Heelis (Beatrix Potter)  
Jack Heinz II of Pittsburgh  
The Grocer's Company  
The Ernest Cook Trust  
The Getty Grant Programme  
Jonathan Vickers Charitable Settlement  
Norman and Underwood  
Cathedral Architect's Association  
Dame Gillian Brown in memory of her brother-in-law Raven Frankland

## NOTES FOR CANDIDATES

### The Course:

The Scholarship is a nine month, continuous training programme running from mid March to mid December. It is split into two parts.

The first six months, is spent travelling from one site to another witnessing repair techniques across a wide variety of trades and learning the SPAB's philosophy of conservative repair (see SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME below for further detail).

The final three months of the Scholarship is spent visiting a small number of country houses selected with the Scholar. The aim being to allow for a period of absorption of the art and culture of the country house, to further the Scholars' appreciation and understanding of the crafts that brought these pieces about and to train the eye through periods of sketching, painting, reading & observation etc.

### Eligibility:

The Scholarship programme gives a practical basis to the education of designers and specifiers of building repair. It is aimed at architects, building surveyors and structural engineers who have completed the academic based part of their courses. Applicants should have some practical experience and though near the start of their careers, they should be aiming towards, if not completed, their full professional qualification. For further guidance on eligibility please contact the Scholarship organiser.

### Funding:

There is no course fee. Training and administrative costs are borne by the SPAB. Successful candidates will receive a non taxable award in the region of £9,200 dispersed in monthly payments from March to November inclusive.

As Scholars are expected to travel together as far as possible it is recommended that a joint car is purchased between them at the outset. Funds may be advanced for this purpose and the monthly payments reduced accordingly. Access will generally be available to a car sponsored by Norman and Underwood Ltd which is to be shared between the Scholars and Fellows. For further advice on this please contact the Scholarship Organiser.

Candidates should note that the grant is a contribution towards Scholars' living and travelling expenses, it will not cover full expenses of the nine-month Scholarship and most Scholars need access to extra funds.

To find out more about the financial implications of the course it is essential to speak with the programme co-ordinator who will put you in touch with recent past Scholars.

### Application Process:

Apply by submitting a completed application form (available on the [SPAB website](#)) by 1st December to:

"Scholarship Application" SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London, E1 6DY or by e mail to [catharine@spab.org.uk](mailto:catharine@spab.org.uk).

8 or so candidates will be selected for interview and will be given the names of one or two former Scholars to contact. It is important that applicants contact and ideally meet, at least one past Scholar to gain an accurate impression of the Scholarship and what it entails personally, professionally and financially.

### Interview:

Interviews are held at Spital Square in mid January with an informal evening beforehand to meet the previous year's Scholars, the interview panel and a few SPAB staff members. The interview panel consists of six or so people, drawn from the SPAB's committees and staff. It always includes past Scholars.

Applicants are asked to bring along not simply portfolios of their academic work but evidence of other interests, particularly of a practical or artistic nature.

## The SCHOLARSHIP

### NOTES FOR CANDIDATES cont...

#### Selection:

Principally the panel look for candidates who:

- satisfy the eligibility criteria
- are enthusiastic about old buildings
- are observant (and preferably have some ability to draw accurately)
- are willing to learn (or reflect on and question what they have been taught at university), ask questions, and argue through difficult ideas
- are practically minded (and preferably used to working with their hands)
- have the ability to get on with other Scholars for the full duration of the programme. The personal interaction of the Scholars makes all the difference to the success of the programme in any given year
- have good social skills (they visit a large number of people who have often gone to considerable trouble to prepare for them, and who are giving their time voluntarily)
- preferably have previous experience of working with old buildings
- are reasonably fit, the programme is demanding both physically and mentally
- have a permanent UK base for the duration of the programme and
- are prepared to contribute to the SPAB and spread its principles after their Scholarship

Above all the panel look for Scholars who will take the very fullest advantage of the unique opportunity offered by the programme and will commit themselves 100 per cent to it for the whole period.

Three or four Scholars are chosen and candidates are generally notified within a week after interview whether they have been successful or not.

#### Reference Material:

Scholars are provided with copies of SPAB technical literature and other documents which should be referred to during the course to supplement their site based learning.

Throughout the Scholarship and afterwards, Scholars have access to the reference library and archival material at the SPAB. Hosts are always ready to recommend further reading in their specialist areas.

#### Accommodation:

The Scholarship organiser will often be able to help arrange accommodation for Scholars with local contacts of the Society (who may often be previous Scholars). Otherwise Scholars make their own arrangements with friends & family. Scholars are provided with contact details of past Scholars and Fellows who will generally be willing to help wherever they can.

## The SCHOLARSHIP

### NOTES FOR CANDIDATES cont...

#### **Supervision:**

The day to day running of the programme is the responsibility of the Scholarship co-ordinator with whom Scholars have regular contact in order to provide feedback and discussion over past and potential visits. Scholars might hear of useful visits from hosts while they are on site and this can often feed into the planned programme.

Scholars also have contact with a volunteer tutor (usually a past Scholar) whose role in broad terms is to enable them to get the most out of the Scholarship experience. Such contact will vary from year to year depending on the needs of the individuals. Many individual hosts also provide useful support and feedback along the way.

Overall control of the Scholarship lies with the Education Training and Advisory Committee (ETAC). Scholars present and critically analyse one or two of their visits at ETAC meetings, where their progress is discussed and their notebooks reviewed.

## The SCHOLARSHIP

### PROGRAMME

The aim of the SPAB Scholarship is to provide the knowledge and skill often missing from architectural, surveying and engineering training in the UK and enable Scholars to “take the opportunity to see and understand the organisation necessary for the successful repair of an ancient building and the methods best employed to that end” (documented in the SPAB 1930 Committee Report). We also aim to improve Scholars’ communication primarily with craftspeople on site, but with clients and funders too.

We expose Scholars to the widest possible range of conservative repair methods and craft skills via site visits rather than through classroom lectures.

For the first six months (Lethaby stage) of their study Scholars travel together to meet a range of the country’s leading professionals - architects, surveyors, engineers, conservators, analysts and craftspeople. They will visit building sites and offices, workshops and yards, quarries and foundries and see repair techniques at first hand. Wherever sites permit and expert guidance is available Scholars gain hands on experience.

Scholars are expected to discuss general philosophy and principles of building conservation with those they encounter. It is hoped that through discussion, direct experience and analysis, they should develop and carry into their future careers; sympathy for the SPAB’s philosophy of repair, a feeling for materials and a discerning mind in the choice of sympathetic repairs and design criteria.

Scholars are expected to record details of these visits in their notebooks. They are encouraged to adopt a primarily graphic style to record details but also notes of technical discussions and personal thoughts on the issues met onsite; a bound selection of which must be submitted to the SPAB at the end of the course.

The Scholarship is run as a series of opportunities based on the projects and venues made available for the year. An informed host will guide them through the topics demonstrated by the site in question and there is ample opportunity to discuss the issues and ask questions. Subjects are not studied in a predetermined sequence; the programme content will depend largely upon access granted to projects being undertaken in the UK at the time, as well as the Scholars’ own needs and interests. Tuition is personal and directed to each Scholar.

It is essential that the Scholars are sufficiently excited or disturbed by what they see to argue through the issues among themselves. Much of the learning takes place informally. If Scholars are given accommodation by the days’ host or other interested parties, evening sessions (sometimes long into the night) can provide helpful periods for more relaxed debate.

The following notes about the programme content are for guidance only. Inevitably chance meetings and site visits will occur and these are often as beneficial as those organised many weeks in advance. In order to accommodate interesting work occurring at short notice and to take into account the developing interests of each year’s group of Scholars, the programme is maintained with a degree of flexibility. There is ample scope for the Scholars to show their own initiative in using their time in the best way possible, by visiting interesting buildings and workshops.

## The SCHOLARSHIP

### PROGRAMME cont...

#### Stage I – The Lethaby Scholarship (6 Months)

During the first six months the following subjects are normally covered:

##### 1 The Philosophy of Repair and Conservation

The central theme of the entire Scholarship is the understanding and application of the Society's philosophy on building conservation – that of honest and skilful repair. Scholars will encounter the dilemmas which abound in conservation work. Through practical application, discussion and debate, with leading exponents in the field, they will be encouraged to develop a sound practical and philosophical basis for all future conservation work they undertake.

##### 2 The History of Architecture and Vernacular Construction in the UK

An introduction to the historic framework within which old buildings have their place demonstrated through visits to buildings, town walks and guided observation.

##### 3 Materials of Building

Visits to places of extraction and production to develop an understanding of how materials central to traditional buildings and their repair are won and prepared such as :

Stone and Slate - characteristics of different stones and methods of quarrying and dressing

Timber - growth in managed woodland, methods of drying and conversion

Brick and Tile - characteristics of various clays, their preparation and manufacture

Mortars - properties of different mortars, their constituent materials, preparation and use

Various - bell foundry, lead casting shops, glassworks, plaster workshops etc.

##### 4 The Building Craft Skills in the United Kingdom

An appreciation of the skills and techniques required in the field of building repair and conservation will be nurtured by discussion with experienced exponents of trades such as:

Stone and masonry carving

Glazing

Carpentry and carving

Iron and other metalwork

Plumbing

Rendering

Roofing

Internal and decorative plasterwork

Joinery

Painting and decorating

##### 5 Structural Analysis of Historic Buildings and Analysis of Construction

Structural engineer hosts introduce the structural principles and the methods employed in the construction of historic buildings - essential to an understanding of their present condition and the diagnosis of defects.

##### 6 Decay Mechanisms in Historic Buildings

Site visits demonstrate the various problems of decay in historic building fabric, supplemented by lectures and visits to research laboratories where possible.

##### 7 Methods of Repair, Analysis and Selection of Repair Techniques

Consideration of commonly used methods of repair, their longevity and the financial, practical and aesthetic considerations in final selection.

## PROGRAMME cont...

### **8 Conservation Techniques**

Conservation techniques of a variety of materials and their practical application to buildings, e.g. stone; timber; plasterwork; lead; cast and wrought iron; painted decoration (including wall paintings); wallpaper, and mosaics.

### **9 Alteration, Conservation and the Design of New Construction in Historic Settings**

An introduction to solutions for new design in the alteration, or sensitive conversion, of redundant buildings to new uses and to new construction in historic settings.

### **10. Energy conservation and retrofit in historic buildings**

An introduction to the use of green technologies, retrofit and the contribution of traditional materials to energy conservation.

### **11 The Design and installation of Building Services**

Principles involved in the introduction of building services into historic building fabric. Fire Protection and the Provision of Security Installations. The conflicting demands of these related issues may be discussed on site, at research labs or with those pioneering new approaches.

### **12 Professional Skills Related to Historic Buildings**

The programme aims to bridge the gap left by professional training in the UK to deal sensitively with the conservation of historic buildings. To adapt that training and provide the skills needed for the analysis of historic buildings, the preparation of proposals, and running jobs onsite.

### **13 Conservation Law and Finance in the UK**

A basic grounding will be gained in the respective roles of Central and local Government, Voluntary Societies, the Church, Grants, Listing and Legal Controls.

### **14 Continued Care and the Preparation of Maintenance Programmes**

A thorough understanding of the maintenance requirements - the importance of planned maintenance and the need for continued and regular care of historic buildings.

### **15 Course on the Repair of Old Buildings**

Scholars attend the five-day repair course, run by the Society, for architects and other professionals and builders. It is intended as an introduction to the complex issues affecting the conservation of historic buildings and a broad view of the philosophy and practical problems involved.

## **Stage II – The Plunket Scholarship (3 Months)**

The second stage of the Scholarship was introduced in 1980 to reflect the interests of the late Patrick Plunket and provides a complete contrast to the highly practical first six months. It allows the Scholar to “widen their interest in the allied arts, and take every opportunity to develop to the full their sensibility and taste” in the context of the Country House. In view of the diversity of arts and craftsmanship that contribute to the finest historic buildings, these three months are spent based at a small number of country houses sketching, painting, reading and otherwise absorbing the atmosphere of these homes. A topic of study is chosen by each Scholar with the guidance of ETAC and the Plunket tutors, for them to pursue at various houses they visit.

## The SCHOLARSHIP

### **TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE**

Before accepting an invitation for interview candidates should be aware of the following requirements and confirm that they would be prepared to comply with them all upon accepting a Scholarship offer.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Scholars are encouraged to travel together where possible and expected to attend all programmed visits unless unforeseen circumstances dictate otherwise. In these instances you must notify the SPAB & the planned host at the earliest possible opportunity and request permission for absence.

Failure to notify or turn up at visits may result in a written warning and the pro rata forfeiture of the Scholarship bursary (in the region of £35/day).

The SPAB must be notified, prior to your acceptance of the Scholarship offer, of all known commitments during the Scholarship period (mid March – mid December).

Pre-existing commitments may incur the bursary forfeiture above.

### **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

The SPAB Misconduct Guidelines are available on request. Whilst Scholars are not staff members they will be expected to abide by the spirit of these guidelines. Should behaviour, for example: lateness or poor timekeeping / swearing or abusive language / lack of application, be exhibited such that; after a written warning; further consultation is needed, then the Scholar will be in jeopardy of losing his/her place on the programme.

### **WORKING**

Scholars - No paid work whatsoever may be undertaken during the Scholarship period.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Scholars are deemed to be competent professionals who are conversant with health & safety issues on building sites. Most importantly they are expected to act professionally and remain attentive at all times. They should feel under no obligation to enter a site or climb a scaffold which they consider to be dangerous. They will receive a health & safety briefing during their first week, and may consult the programme organiser or any member of staff in instances of uncertainty at any point in the programme. Accidents should be recorded onsite and reported to the programme organiser. A great deal of driving will be undertaken over the course of the programmes and it is the obligation of the car owner(s) to ensure that their vehicle(s) is (are) road worthy and legal. It is the obligation of every Scholar/Fellow not to undertake a journey unless they feel entirely fit to do so within the allotted time. The SPAB Driving on Business Policy is available on request. Difficulties experienced on site or en route to site should be reported to the SPAB as soon as possible.

## **TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE cont...**

### **INSURANCE:**

The SPAB carries limited personal injury insurance which extends to Scholars & Fellows. Injuries have to be fairly severe for the insurance to take effect, such as loss of life or limb and do not cover loss of earnings resulting from an accident. Candidates may wish to take out additional personal injury cover or ensure that their current employers' insurance provisions will continue to cover them for the duration of the programme.

### **FURTHER OBLIGATIONS:**

Over the course of the Scholarship, Scholars are encouraged to take an increasing role in the work of the SPAB: they attend the annual summer Working Party as part of their programme and may be asked to lecture on their experiences, undertake casework (reporting on applications for listed building consent), or investigate technical issues. It is an expectation of the SPAB that Scholars will continue their involvement with the Society after completion of the Scholarship and it is a requirement that Scholars submit a bound extract of their notebook for retention in the SPAB archives.

In addition to the above terms, by accepting a Scholarship offer candidates agree to the following obligations:

- to act politely and in a manner befitting a Scholar at all times and to write thanks to each of their hosts,
- to keep a sketch book journal of their visits, a selection of which you will copy and bind for the SPAB by the January following their Scholarship. A retention of £250 from the Scholarship bursary is made until this is received,
- periodic contribution to a Scholars' & Fellows' Blog for the SPAB website,
- attendance at the Dance Scholarship Trust's AGM (September time),
- a two page report on your Cathedral Week and miscellaneous casework or other reports requested by hosts
- presentation to next year's applicants (January time) and
- giving time, during and after the Scholarship, to promoting the SPAB and the Dance Scholarship Trust

## KEY SCHOLARSHIP DATES

1st December:	SPAB Scholarship Application deadline candidates notified before Christmas
3 <sup>rd</sup> week in January:	Pre interview drinks (partners invited), meet the previous years' Scholars, interview panel and other candidates at the SPAB offices in London the night before the interview
3 <sup>rd</sup> week in January:	Scholarship interviews
mid March:	Fellowship & Scholarship programmes start at the SPAB offices
July:	Working Party week (partners invited) & SPAB Members' weekend
Sept:	Dance Scholarship Trust AGM (partners invited)
mid Dec:	Programme Ends
March – November	inclusive on 21 <sup>st</sup> of each month Scholarship bursary payments final payment November (approx £1,000/month total in the region of £9,200)

# The SCHOLARSHIP



APPLICATION FORM

CLOSING DATE

1st December

**Please do not extend this form beyond the 3 page format. Extensions / attachments such as CVs cannot be considered.**

Please handwrite this form if you can however should this cause difficulties do not hesitate to contact us.

Make sure that you read all notes in the Scholarship folder and contact Catharine Bull, Scholarship Organiser  
07891 637705 catharine@spab.org.uk if you have any queries about the Scholarship.

Return by e mail to the above or post to "Scholarship Application" SPAB 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY

SURNAME FIRST NAME (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss)

ADDRESS HOME TEL (HOME)

EMAIL

WORK:  
Name and Address of Employer

TEL (WORK)

EMAIL

DATE OF BIRTH (optional): DRIVING LICENCE? Y / N CAR OWNER? Y / N

HAVE YOU ATTENDED ANY SPAB COURSES? Y / N If so which

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF SPAB? Y / N

WHERE DID YOU HEAR OF THE SPAB SCHOLARSHIP?

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (post GCSE state RIBA Ptl/II/III or equivalent where appropriate):  
Institution Name Qualification gained Dates (from – to)

EMPLOYMENT

Employer's Name

Work undertaken

Dates (from - to)

IN NO MORE THAN THE SPACE PROVIDED STATE WHY YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP,WHAT YOU CAN  
CONTRIBUTE TO IT AND GIVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU THINK WILL ASSIST YOUR APPLICATION:

GIVE BRIEF DETAILS OF RELEVANT HOBBIES/INTERESTS (INCL. MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER SOCIETIES ETC):

PLEASE GIVE TWO REFEREES WHO MAY BE CONTACTED BEFORE INTERVIEW (at least one work connected):

NAME	NAME
Dates of acquaintance	Dates of acquaintance
POSITION	POSITION
ADDRESS	ADDRESS
TEL	TEL
E mail	E mail

PLEASE GIVE DETAILS OF ANY DISABILITY WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THAT YOU FEEL WOULD IMPACT ON YOUR ABILITY TO BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAMME. CONTACT US TO DISCUSS HOW THIS MAY BE OVERCOME:

THE SCHOLARSHIP INVOLVES ALMOST TOTAL COMMITMENT FOR NINE MONTHS, INCLUDING MANY WEEKENDS AWAY FROM HOME. ARE YOU ABLE TO MAKE THAT COMMITMENT?

I have read the Scholarship notes and terms of acceptance and agree to the commitment required.

SIGNATURE DATE