



Orla Fitzgerald

**DipArch BSc (Arch) (Hons) PGDip (Arb)
PGDip (Constr Law & Contract Admin)
MSc (Constr Law) FRIAI FCI Arb**

- Over 30 years' experience
- Architect expert witness
- Arbitrator
- Conciliator
- Brief development
- Project coordination

Overview

Orla is an established Architect and Expert Witness with over 30 years of experience and an impressive international portfolio. Since opening her own practice in 1999, Orla has expanded her horizons to act as Arbitrator and Conciliator, developing strong ties within her field and advising practising architects in matters relating to Building Control Regulations and Building Contracts. She now focuses on Dispute Resolution and Construction Law and has taken instructions for projects in the UK and played a key part in complex and high value cases abroad.

Education

MSc. in Construction Law & Dispute Resolution (Distinction), Kings College London - 2016

Post-Graduate Diploma in Construction Law and Contract Administration, Trinity College Dublin - 2011

Post-Graduate Diploma in Arbitration, University College Dublin - 2010

Project Supervisor Design Process - RIAI Accreditation - 2009 (CDM)

Grade Three Accreditation in Conservation, RIAI - 2005

BSc Hons. (Arch) Dip. Arch, Bolton Street College of Technology

Experience

Orla has been involved in a wide range of bespoke "owner occupier" commercial developments, including HQ's for professional services, R&D facilities for Health Sciences; Corporate fit-out in both office and restaurant sectors; Commercial speculative developments, including pension fund & private investor office and mixed-use developments, refurbishment and upgrade of corporate pension portfolio properties. She has also been involved in

Private Residential projects from inception through to “turn-key”, including partial refurbishment/ new build and conservation projects.

Experienced in all stages of project work, including design brief development, production information, technical specifications, technical review, project management, contract administration, strategic master plans, client, stakeholder and consultant interfaces. Orla’s skills in contract administration and project coordination have been acknowledged by clients, contractors and other professionals to have actively contributed to dispute avoidance on active projects. This led her to acquire formal skills in Dispute Resolution and Construction Law, this is the area within which Orla now practices.

Orla has acted as Arbitrator and Conciliator and has provided Expert Evaluation as to the merits of a potential claim. She has been appointed as Expert in relation to construction disputes and Professional Competency claims including reports for the Registration Body in Ireland and also provides advice to practicing architects on behalf of the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland (RIAI). Orla has represented the RIAI

in the Construction Industry Council (CIC) in matters particular to Building Control and Amendments to RIAI Building Contracts.

Positions held

Member Building Control Project Management Board (Ireland)

Professional memberships

Orla is a Chartered Architect and Registered in Ireland, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland (FRIAI) and the Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb). She is also a member of both the Society of Construction Law and the Institute of Commercial Mediators Association (Ireland).

Orla participated in the development of supporting practitioner documentation particular to BC(A)R: Preparation and presentation of relevant/ related CPD to a cross section of professionals and others working in the industry, including the RIAI, RIAI & EI private practices and a leading contractor organisation.

Orla can be contacted by email at [**Orla@sensestudio.co.uk**](mailto:Orla@sensestudio.co.uk)