

OC OF THE MONTH

January 2019



MINA GOSPAVIC (NG 2006)

A LEVELS: MATHEMATICS, ART, ENGLISH LITERATURE

UNIVERSITY: UNIVERISTY OF NOTTINGHAM, BARTLETT
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE UCL, UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER

[LINKEDIN PROFILE](#)

1. Tell us about yourself – where do you currently work, and how did you get into that?

I'm working as an architect for an award winning architecture studio, Coffey Architects. We are based in Clerkenwell and I have been working here for over 2 years now. We are renowned for designing beautifully crafted, intelligent buildings with a focus on people, culture and light. I got the job to work on a part of a larger masterplan to develop 1,000 high quality new homes by 2019 for the London Borough of Croydon. I am project architect for 9 sites that contain apartment blocks and houses across Croydon, due to complete in 2020.

2. What are some of your proudest achievements since graduating?

- Qualifying as an Architect.
- Receiving a commendation for Best First Time Exhibitor at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2013.
- Winning an RIBA Regional Award and being shortlisted for the Stephen Lawrence Prize in 2016 for the Observatory, a mobile artists studio that travelled across the UK to bring the public closer to art and landscapes of outstanding natural beauty.
- Completing my first building in London last year, a 32 storey, terracotta tower in Vauxhall.

3. What advice would you give someone who is looking to follow a similar career path?

Architecture requires dedication to learning. You need to be inquisitive about everything, because the built environment is related to every detail of our lives. My advice would be to study architecture if you have a creative drive and curious about the world we live in. The sheer scope of this field means that you won't be limited professionally. There are many kinds of architectural practice and professions that connect to it - and it is a common misconception that architects design buildings alone. An architect can also be an expert in urban design, sustainable methods of construction, architectural history, contract law, architectural illustration or planning policy.

4. How has your experience at Highgate contributed to your life and successes since leaving school? (i.e. skills learned)

We were always encouraged to question and explore the subjects we studied beyond the curriculum. We had great facilities to do this and support from teachers. This approach has been important in my studies and how I've built my career to date.

5. In three words, how would you describe Highgate?

Progressive, Inclusive, Aspirational

6. What's next?

To work on an international project of cultural significance.