

Brian Towers dipl Arch (Oxford) ARIBA, NRAC Consultant.
The Access Consultancy
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Born 7 February 1939

Current employment: self-employed access consultant. Founder member of the Access Consultancy

Brian Towers has a diploma in architecture from the Oxford School of Architecture. He has been a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and a registered architect since 1966. He is an access consultant, registered with the National Register of Access Consultants (NRAC), and a member of the panel of access consultants of the Centre for Accessible Environments.

Mr Towers' work as an access consultant includes a range of activities related to universal access as well as access for disabled people. He has experience of the access problems of people with all types of disability. His access consultancy work over the last 28 years has included:

1. Advice to large institutions, including:

- The English Tourism Council, finalising the national standards for access to hotels etc. He is a member of the Trade Advisory Group for the National Accessible Scheme for the newly formed Visit Britain.
- The Magistrate Court services for Humberside and Dorset
- Hull City Council, designing and setting up a computer based access auditing system, plus training of staff
- Two town councils, advising on the Disability Discrimination Act

1995 (DDA), auditing buildings and assisting with the production of access plans

- Two of the leading banks, advising on access policy in relation the DDA, advising consultants and auditing sample buildings
- Four universities, advising on access policy, auditing campus, advising consultants on the design and development of new buildings
- Four hospitals, advising on access policy and advising consultants on the design and development of new buildings
- A national retail company and a national insurance and finance company, advising on access policy and auditing buildings throughout the UK.
- The Peak District National Park
- Yorkshire County Cricket Club
- Rugby Football League
- United Utilities
- Sport England, editor of the Design Guidance Note: Accessible Sports Facilities

2. Design consultant, advising clients, contractors and leading architectural practices on the access design for major new building projects and the refurbishment of major buildings. These have included:

- Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, The Heart Centre – New Cross Hospital
- Holbeck Urban Village Redevelopment, Leeds
- Doncaster College, two major new college buildings in Doncaster
- Creative Arts Building, Huddersfield University
- Leeds City Council, Leeds Swimming and Diving Centre
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Swimming Pool
- YCCC Cricket School and East Stand
- Art House capital project, studios and support facilities in Wakefield
- The Public a major arts centre in West Bromwich
- The Centre for Early Music in York
- Leeds Metropolitan University Learning Centre

- University of Northumbria, Carlisle Campus Learning Centre and Pandon Building in Newcastle
- The Royal Court Theatre in London (Civic Trust Access Award for 2002)
- Alexander Stadium, Birmingham
- St John's House, (Tax Offices) Bootle
- Towneley Hall Museum and Art Gallery (Grade 1 Listed)
- Burnley Town Hall and Mechanics Institute
- Burnley Youth Theatre
- The Millennium Stadium in Cardiff
- Magistrates Court in Liverpool

3. Access audits of many buildings in order to assist in the production of access policies and access plans and to identify access improvements. The buildings audited include Hotels, Hospitals, Magistrates' Courts, a University Campus, Schools, Council Buildings, Sports Centres, Museums, Art Galleries, Theatres, Railway Stations, Banks, Offices and Shops, several have been of historic importance. The more significant of these include:

- Osborne House on the Isle of Wight
- Hull and Humberside Magistrates' Courts
- Dorset Magistrate's Courts
- Direct Line buildings throughout the UK
- Salford Town Hall
- City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds.
- British Museum Study Centre, London
- Scarborough Sixth Form College
- Sulgrave Manor, courtyard development
- The Museum of Film Photography and TV, Bradford.
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.
- Rampton High Security Hospital
- Rugby Football League headquarters, Red Hall, Leeds
- The buildings, footpaths, car parks and camp sites for the Peak District National Park

Mr Towers has a wide range of experience within the architectural profession. Up to 1997 he was associate partner in a major architectural practice, running large projects in Hull, York and Preston. He also managed the practice offices in Hull and Liverpool. His building experience has included projects ranging from individual houses to a £15,000,000 office building and £16,000,000 housing refurbishment. He has experience of working on buildings of historic and architectural importance.

Between 1971 and 1989, Mr Towers combined his work as an architect with teaching in schools of architecture. When he retired from teaching he was a Principal Lecturer and deputy head of school. As well as the normal architectural design subjects his teaching experience included contract administration and building law. From 1981, he ran courses on designing for disabled people.

In addition to undergraduate and graduate teaching Mr Towers has considerable experience of running courses for architects in practice. He is also an assessor for the RIBA Continual Professional Development Providers Network.

Since 1974, Mr Towers has assisted in many litigation and arbitration cases as a witness in expert evidence for professional negligence claims and building disputes. Since 1995, he has assisted in cases related to access for disabled people. He has extensive experience and knowledge of legislation and regulations relating to access and disability.

Since 1999, Mr Towers has worked with the rehabilitation cost consultants Bush and Company and a team of medical and care specialists, assisting in over 500 litigation cases, preparing designs for specialist housing for severely disabled people, preparing reports and giving evidence in court.

Throughout his career Mr Towers has taken an active role in the affairs of the architectural profession, and has been Chairman of the Schools of Architecture Council, President of the Humberside Society of Architects and a Member of the Yorkshire Region Council of the RIBA. He is a member of the panel of assessors for the RIBA CPD Providers Network.