

● Biographical Notes

Valerie Owen is a multi-disciplinary property professional – a Chartered Architect, Chartered Town Planner and Chartered Surveyor. Valerie operates at the highest levels, and has recently set up her own consultancy, Le Vaillant Owen, specialising in community regeneration and sustainable development. Valerie currently holds three Ministerial appointments in the environment, a number of Non-executive Directorships in housing, health, the environment and development businesses, and she is a CABE Enabler. Prior to setting up Le Vaillant Owen Consultancy, Valerie was Managing Director of London First, a business membership organisation representing 24% of London's workforce and 22% of its GDP. Valerie pioneered economic development programmes in Sustainable Development.



Up until 2000, Valerie was a Director of Jones Lang LaSalle; the most significant international Real Estate Company in the world with over 18,000 staff, 100 offices around the globe, and a fee income of £565M. Valerie's commercial business skills, and expertise in public relations and government affairs, are complemented by an initial career at Shenstone & Partners, Chartered Architects & Surveyors, where Valerie rapidly rose to Equity Partner, specialising in historic buildings and complex town planning applications. Valerie is currently RIBA Hon Treasurer, and has served the Institute for nearly 20 years, including a term as Chair RIBA London Region, and Board appointments to RIBA Holdings and RIBA Trust. Valerie was awarded an OBE in 2001 for 'services to architecture and to the community in east London'. She is married to Bob Le Vaillant, and has three young daughters.



Bloomsbury Street development, constructed 1989

Vote Valerie Owen RIBA

- a President for a more sustainable profession

I have a passion for architecture, design and the environment, coupled with real commercial acumen and good business sense which, if elected as your next President, I will use to best effect on behalf of the profession. I hope you will vote for me.

Contact details, email info@valerieowen.com,
www.valerieowen.com, or Tel +44 (0)1304 361338

● Career Summary

2006 to date Ministerial appointment to the Environment Agency (Thames REPAC), advising on environmental protection in Thames Gateway and the SE Growth Areas.

2005 to date Ministerial appointment to the Board of Covent Garden Market Authority, managing a significant whole sale market on a 23ha developable site.

2005 to date Ministerial appointment to the Board of the National Forest Company - a national sustainability exemplar project in Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

2005 to date Main Board NED appointment to Barts & The London NHS Trust, managing a world class teaching hospital undertaking the UK's largest PFI project.

2005 to date Vice Chair, Walker Riverside Project Board – £400M Housing renewal programme to regenerate the east end of Newcastle; a pilot design code project.

2004 to date Main Board NED appointment to Places for People Group, the most significant social housing and regeneration group in the country, based in Preston.

2004 to date Managing Director - Le Vaillant Owen Consultancy.

2000 - 2004 Managing Director - London First.

1989 - 1999 Director - Jones Lang LaSalle.

1980 - 1989 Equity Partner - Shenstone & Partners, Architects.

● Qualifications

1998 Financial Exams Corporate Accounts (Distinction)

1997 Fellow of Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)

1994 Chartered Valuation Surveyor (MRICS)

1991 Chartered Town Planner (MRTPI)

1984 Assoc Member Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (ACI Arb)

1982 Chartered Architect (RIBA) Welsh School of Architecture



Ocean Wharf
Isle of Dogs
axonometric view

2006: Vote Valerie Owen for RIBA President



www.valerieowen.com



Valerie Owen RIBA Presidential Campaign to deliver a more sustainable profession, which is:

- **Economically sustainable**

Ensuring we are no longer a low margin, high risk profession with a culture of low pay and long working hours, by improving client confidence and increasing market share, and by improving architectural training.

Architects' salaries are appallingly low given the value we add and the skills and experience we provide. The profession needs a value based fee scale, so that practitioners and practices - both small and large - are properly compensated for their services. Architects need to increase their status and market share through education and training in leadership, development appraisal, financial and business skills, in order to re-claim the pivotal role in development teams.

Finally, Protection of Title is valuable, and independent regulation is important to the profession and its customers. We need to manage a better relationship with ARB.

- **Socially sustainable**

Reversing the decline in overseas members, supporting diversity in the UK profession, and constantly promoting the community benefits of good architecture and design.

Architectural practices need to make best use of the talent pool by embracing diversity and youth. The profession needs to maximise the potential of its international stature and reach, by nurturing and widening our membership base – particularly overseas.

Public sector procurement methods can stifle originality and restrict access, particularly to small firms, so we need to champion innovation and design as integral components of Best Value in PFI procurement. Finally, architects need to place design at the heart of the Sustainable Communities agenda, and help lead beneficial policy change. If we are going to build 250,000 more houses, their designs must lift the spirit and make the heart sing.

- **Environmentally sustainable**

Tackling climate change through improved resource management and environmentally aware design; as well as championing sustainable policies and construction methods.

Development - demolition, construction and occupation - is easily the greatest contributor to global warming. Architects need to take a leadership role in tackling climate change by embracing environmentally friendly design, green procurement codes and local supply chains, by devising standard NBS 'eco clauses'. Building designs and facilities management systems need to minimise environmental impacts, and make best use of finite resources and renewable energy sources to improve quality of life.

The profession must help shape and lead policy on major issues affecting the built environment, and demonstrate best practice globally. We should start by making the London 2012 Olympics a world exemplar sustainability project.

Valerie Owen RIBA

- a President for a more sustainable profession

My current role as Managing Director of Le Vaillant Owen, a consultancy specialising in sustainable development and community regeneration, requires excellent communication, influencing and leadership skills. My work encompasses housing, health, the environment and development - particularly focussing on the Thames Gateway and the key Growth Areas in the Sustainable Communities Plan.

Further details are given at www.levaillantowen.com

I have considerable experience of business at the highest levels, and in advocacy and lobbying. I am skilled in government and community relations, helping to shape and lead policy on major issues affecting the built environment. I hope you will give me the opportunity to use this experience for the benefit of the architectural profession by voting for me as your next President.

'Valerie Owen is a rare professional; one who understands design, planning and commercial issues. She will make an excellent President, championing the importance of design in sustainable communities, while making certain the architect is placed in a pivotal role to secure a truly profitable and sustainable engagement.'

Will Alsop, SMC Alsop Architects

'Valerie will be a breath of fresh air for RIBA. She has a very relevant strategic vision and a breadth of skill which will really help shape the Institute for the future and for the benefit of the profession. She will be an exciting President and has our full support.'

David Marks and Julia Barfield, London Eye Architects

'Valerie understands what makes development tick. A President like Valerie Owen will really help boost client confidence in the architectural profession – she will be great news for RIBA.'

Wally Kumar, Director, Development Securities PLC

Valerie Owen RIBA - a President for a more sustainable profession

Examples of some restoration, refurbishment and fit-out projects, undertaken 1990-2000.

