

## PRESS RELEASE

**Embargoed until: Friday 28 February 2025, 10.00am**

### **UCEM and LSA Announce Heads of Terms Agreement for Potential Strategic Merger**

The University College of Estate Management (UCEM) and the London School of Architecture (LSA) are pleased to announce exciting plans for the LSA to become a key part of UCEM, in support of our vision to become the centre of excellence for built environment education. Heads of Terms were jointly agreed and signed on 19 February 2025.

Capitalising on the strengths and aligned ambitions of both institutions, this strategic merger will advance and secure both institutions' core missions to widen access to high quality professional education that leads to a more sustainable and equitable built environment.

The name of the 'London School of Architecture' will be retained, recognising the School's well-established and distinctive identity and forward-thinking model for architectural education which is embedded within its Practice Network. The LSA will stay at its new studio at Beechwood Road in Dalston.

Peter McCrea, Chair of the UCEM Board, said, "UCEM is the leading provider of higher education to the built environment. The Board is delighted about the potential that this strategic merger will offer both institutions. With UCEM's vision to become the centre of excellence for built environment education, growing our provision in the field of architecture through LSA's expertise alongside our current offer, is an exciting prospect for students and industry."

Lucy Carmichael, Chair of the LSA Board, said, "LSA's approach to architectural education enables students to 'earn while they learn' ensuring our diverse and talented student body are critically engaged with practice and highly employable. We are excited about the opportunities created by joining forces with UCEM. This alliance will redefine a sustainable model for the LSA by driving forwards our ambitious shared aims within the wider context of professional built environment education."

UCEM and LSA are working through due diligence and engaging with critical stakeholders, including the Office for Students, students, teaching staff, industry networks and partners. It is anticipated that, subject to the agreement and execution of definitive written agreements, the strategic merger will be completed by May 2025.

**ENDS**

## NOTES FOR EDITORS:

### **ABOUT: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT (UCEM)**

UCEM is the leading provider of supported online education for the built environment, with more than 100 years' experience of providing the highest quality learning opportunities. At any one time, it has more than 4,000 students from more than 100 countries benefiting from its qualifications taught by tutors with extensive industry experience.

UCEM helps to enhance built environment professional careers through its accredited property-related and construction programmes, offered at postgraduate, undergraduate and apprenticeship levels. UCEM is a not-for-profit educational organisation with charitable status.

[ucem.ac.uk](http://ucem.ac.uk)

### **ABOUT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**

The London School of Architecture is the UK's first new independent school of architecture in 150 years and accepted its first students in 2015. It was established as a positive and proactive response to issues in higher education that led to fewer students completing or continuing into the architectural profession. The ambition was to create a distinctive new model of architectural education that resulted in the greater engagement, and retention, of talented students from all backgrounds and financial means, underpinned and enabled by a professional Practice Network and focussing the school's teaching on industry and community-led thinking.

The LSA's vision is that people living in cities experience more fulfilled and more sustainable lives. Their mission is to educate future leaders to design innovations that contribute to this change. They do this by removing barriers for talented students of all backgrounds, namely, by making architectural education more affordable and by opening up alternative routes to entry. Their students are both critically engaged and highly employable.

The LSA offers a range of programmes for students and professionals in the built environment. Their highly regarded Part 2 (MArch in Design Architecture) is undertaken alongside a paid in-practice placement through the school's Practice Network of more than 200 architectural firms.

The LSA is a registered charity overseen by a Board of Trustees.

[www.the-lsa.org/](http://www.the-lsa.org/)

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