

SPACE

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL DESIGN

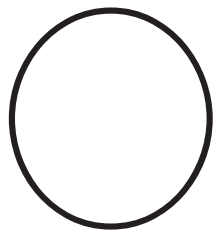
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NEWH UK, 2024 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

WORDS BY KATHRYN QUINN, PRESIDENT, NEWH UK CHAPTER



In July 4th, a group of industry experts – including SPACE Editor, Emma Kennedy – came together to form the judging panel for NEWH UK's 2024 Student Scholarship Awards. Beginning life in 2004, when NEWH joined forces with a charitable initiative launched by Jamie Oliver, the subsequent years has seen the award evolve into

the industry recognised event it is today.

"The calibre of entries was extremely high, and all participants brought individuality, passion, and flare. It was incredible to see the level at which students and graduates are now delivering – certainly will keep some professional designers on their toes!

It fills me with motivation and excitement for their careers, but also what it means for the design industry of the future." Arun Rana

This year, NEWH UK Director of Scholarship, Barbara Bischoff, set a compelling challenge for students: to envision the design of a hotel rooftop in Marrakesh, Morocco. Tasked with selecting a client from a curated list of hotel, restaurant, bar, or member's club brands, the students were provided with an architectural plan of the conceptual space. The brief encouraged them to let their creativity soar while thoughtfully considering the sense of place, brand philosophies, and unique selling propositions. With these elements in mind, the entrants submitted their innovative ideas, each a reflection of careful planning and inspired vision.

From a record number of entries, ten students were shortlisted from universities and colleges across mainland UK, with new applicants this year from the University of Edinburgh, University of Dundee and Loughborough University.

With just 20 minutes to impress the judges, the students presented their response to the panel, led by Barbara. Commenting on the day, Scholarship chair Kate Mitchell said, "The professional expertise, passion and insightful advice the judges shared with the students was inspiring. They were hugely impressed with the quality of work presented."

Meet the panel and read how their varied range of skillsets made for a diverse and engaging sounding board for the shortlisted students..

Barbara Bischoff

Barbara Bischoff is an interior designer, whose design approach for hospitality experiences is inspired by living and learning from multiple places, people and cultures – also drawing on her own experiences from Caracas to Los Angeles and London.



Her curiosity for design is fuelled by her life-long passion for art in all its forms and expressions, from film to interior architecture to AI, and with a background in set design, art direction, and interior design, her path has been an unconventional mix of creative perspectives resulting in a unique visual storyteller.

Barbara translates her clients' visions into spaces that seamlessly fuse functionality, aesthetics, and a distinct sense of place. The result is a collection of immersive and sensory-driven destinations, in projects ranging from large-scale to local boutique hotels.



Kristian Piolet



Arun Rana



Emma Kennedy



Chrissie Granger



Mo Mostakin



Maria Esquivel

Kristian Piolet, Head of Architects & Designers, Gessi

Kristian Piolet has worked in the specification industry for more than 13 years and has worked on prestigious and noteworthy projects across the world. As Head of Architects and Designers at Gessi, Kristian's role is to ensure the design community is well informed regarding Gessi projects and he is on hand to help designers create inspirational spaces.

Arun Rana, Design Director ENA – Accor Hotels

Head of interior design for hospitality projects for Accor Hotels Group, Europe & North Africa. Arun's remit covers multi-brands from Lifestyle, Premium, Midscale and Economy segments. Responsible for supporting Accor's vision of growth and creating a second to none, guest experience, he works closely with designers and architects to inspire, create, and push the boundaries of interior design.

Originally educated in contemporary furniture and lighting design, with a passion for graphic design, architecture, travel and food, Arun's creativity has found a home in hospitality interior design. Arun has a focus on designers of the future and has been working with universities, charities, and associations to collaborate to inspire and nurture the designers of tomorrow. Focusing on strong concepts to tell a story, he loves interiors that allow the guest to explore, discover, and find joy in subtle design touches.

"The scholarship is such a great initiative from NEWH as it encourages the younger generations to come up with new solutions and ideas that will for sure impact on our spaces when travelling." Maria Esquivel

Emma Kennedy, Editor, SPACE magazine

With a wealth of experience in all aspects of design, Emma's introduction to interiors began as a muralist and decorative painter, working closely with many of the designers she now writes about. Turning her focus to journalism, she honed her writing and editing skills across titles within the craft and design sector, before becoming Editor of SPACE, the industry's leading magazine dedicated to international hotel design.

Chrissie Granger, Associate Director, Indigo Art

An associate director for Indigo Art, Chrissie has always had a passion for art, with early career moves including working for Buckingham Palace's Royal Collection and Bonhams auction house. From a degree in Art History and study in Venice, Chrissie learnt an appreciation for art in situ, which has helped build art collections around strong narratives for a wide range of hospitality clients across Europe. Working as an art

consultant for 15 years, Chrissie has completed a huge variety of projects – from one-off restaurants, spas and independent boutiques to large scale roll outs. In her role at Indigo Art, she is passionate about delivering exceptional service and beautiful artwork schemes that harmoniously blend with the designers' vision. Chrissie serves as Director of Events and Programming for NEWH UK.

"There are few things as exciting as seeing emerging design talent - and when that talent is of the calibre, we saw at the NEWH Design Scholarship Awards 2024, it is quite special. Original ideas, peppered with thought provoking moments from supporting sketch books and samples, was as illuminating as it was enjoyable." Emma Kennedy

Mo Mostakin, Interior Designer, Studio Lost

An experienced interior designer with a demonstrated history of working in the design industry, Mo Mostakin is skilled in AutoCAD, presentation skills, sketching, Adobe Photoshop, and has a passion for research. Having graduated from the University of Portsmouth with a BA(Hons) in Interior Architecture & Design, he is a strong arts and design professional.

Maria Esquivel, Interior Architect, Six Senses

A creative minded interior architect, Maria draws from her background, and has contributed her skills to various hospitality projects throughout the UK, Europe, America and Asia spanning hotels, restaurants, members clubs and retail spaces. Since assuming her role at Six Senses, she remains focused on ensuring guest satisfaction by creating new and exciting experiences that respond to operational functionality, with a passion for merging design with sustainability practices. ▶

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Sponsored by Gessi, the student event was hosted at their destination showroom, Casa Gessi in Clerkenwell – a perfect location for students to explore the design district in which they will soon be immersed. 2024 also marks the inaugural year of the NEWH UK Hospitality management scholarship, expanding NEWH's support further across the broad spectrum of the hospitality industry. The winners of the 2024 NEWH UK Scholarship awards for Design and Hospitality Management will be announced at the annual fundraiser and scholarship presentation evening,

which will take place on 24th October at Sea Containers hotel. The evening event is preceded by a roundtable event from 3pm, offering an opportunity for business networking with some of the industry's leading designers and hotel operators.

Tickets are available now on the NEWH website or through the UK social media links. If you are interested in being an event sponsor and supporting the designers of the future, or have any queries about the event, please contact Kathryn at kathryn.newh@gmail.com



SHANNON BAUER

BA Interior Design graduate
**DESIGN INSTITUTE OF
 SAN DIEGO**

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Shannon has always had a deep passion for interior design, furniture, fabrics, and architecture. From a young age, she was captivated by home remodelling TV shows and enjoyed redesigning her room each year. When she discovered that bachelor's degrees in interior design weren't available in Utah, she felt uninspired by other career paths. After taking nine years off from school and relocating to California, Shannon finally pursued her dream and earned a degree in interior design, having recently graduated in 2024.

Selected project (pictured): The Treetop Retreat was one of Shannon's favourite university projects, as it combined several of her passions: nature, sustainability, and hospitality design. This project allowed her to explore creative ways to integrate these elements, making it a standout experience during her studies.

NEWH is an international not-for-profit organisation with 29 chapters across the United States, Canada, and Europe. Bringing together professionals from all facets of the hospitality industry, NEWH provides opportunities for education, professional development, and networking. To date, it has awarded more than seven million USD in scholarships that provide promising interior design and architecture students opportunities to pursue careers in the hospitality industry.

How has the NEWH scholarship benefited you so far?
 The NEWH scholarship has eased my financial burden, allowing me to focus more on my studies and less on financial stress. Additionally, attending the 2024 NEWH Leadership Conference enabled me to interact with industry professionals, and the recognition has helped boost my confidence. Maybe it will help connect me to my future employer now that I have graduated!

Pick a design innovation that's emerging, or a major change you are you foreseeing in hotel design
 Advanced air and water filtration systems are two amazing areas of sustainability in hotel design. State-of-the-art air purifiers ensure high indoor air quality by removing pollutants, allergens, and particulate matter,

enhancing guest comfort and health. Complementing this, innovative water conservation systems, such as greywater recycling and smart irrigation, significantly reduce water usage and waste. Together, these technologies contribute to helping the environment and provide guests with a cleaner, healthier stay.

Tell us about your dream design project
 A dream design project for me would be collaborating on any of Meow Wolf's immersive and fantastical buildings. Meow Wolf is renowned for its mind-bending, interactive art installations that blend storytelling with vibrant, otherworldly environments. Working on such a project would be exhilarating, as it would involve pushing the boundaries of creativity and design to create spaces that captivate and engage visitors in unexpected ways. The opportunity to contribute to an environment that stimulates imagination and exploration aligns perfectly with my passion for innovative and experiential design.

Something trending that you can't get onboard with
 A design style I can't get on board with is excessive minimalism. While minimalism offers a clean and streamlined aesthetic, excessive minimalism can sometimes feel stark and uninviting. The absence of visual interest and texture can make a room appear cold and empty, lacking the cosiness and character that make a space truly feel like home.

