

Bernadette Barker BA (Hons) Dip Arch RIBA MSc (Construction Law & Arbitration)
FCIArb C.Arb DipICArb ACIEH MIFireE C. Build E MCABE MAE

Chartered Architect | Chartered Building Engineer | Chartered Arbitrator |
Accredited Adjudicator | Practicing Member, The Academy of Experts



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Professional Summary

Bernadette is a Practising Member of The Academy of Experts and is listed with the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Panel of Experts.

Bernadette has over 35 years' experience in the construction industry and is a Chartered Arbitrator with extensive experience acting as an arbitrator, adjudicator, and expert witness. She is a member of the CIArb Presidential Panel of Construction Adjudicators, the CIArb Presidential Panel of Arbitrators, the SCMA Panel of Arbitrators, the HKIAC List of Arbitrators, the SIAC Panel of Arbitrators and the CEA Madrid. Bernadette is also an expert member on list of neutrals of the Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre (PMAC/Centre) for the EU Unified Patent Court.

Bernadette has undertaken comprehensive training in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, including the MSc in Construction Law and Arbitration at King's College London, the CIArb Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, ICC Arbitration training, and the CIArb Diploma in International Maritime Arbitration.

Bernadette holds the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate (Civil) (2021), the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate (Criminal) (2022), and the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate (2025). She has also completed the Bond Solon Discussions Between Experts training (2022) and the Bond Solon Scottish Law & Procedure course (2023) and a Bond Solon bespoke expert witness master class in criminal law and procedures (2023).

Bernadette has appeared in court as an expert witness and has also given evidence as a witness of fact before an employment tribunal in Sri Lanka.

Bernadette qualified as an architect in 1986 and gained wide-ranging experience in private practice with Laing Design, Marks and Spencer, and the specialist construction claims consultancy James R Knowles, before establishing her own practice, Barker Consultants, in 1993.

Bernadette's work encompasses appointments as an expert witness, mediator, adjudicator, and arbitrator, as well as roles under the CDM Regulations as Principal Designer and the monitoring of remediation works under the Building Safety Act.

Bernadette's expertise as a forensic architect is both broad and highly specialised. She has undertaken numerous expert witness appointments covering building defects, cladding issues, drainage matters, professional negligence, construction contracts, project coordination, health and safety, fire safety, regulatory compliance, and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations. This wide-ranging experience ensures she is well equipped to address complex issues across the construction and regulatory landscape.

Expert Witness Services Summary

- Expert reports for cladding and fire safety defects, including StoTherm, Equitone, Corium, WM Zinc, Marley Eternit, Kingspan, and EPS systems (including s120 Building Safety Act 2022 relevant defects).
- Professional negligence (architects/designers), CDM duties, workmanship and specification, building defects.
- Single Joint Expert and party-appointed roles; advisory reports for adjudication/litigation.
- Attendance at meetings of experts, joint statements, and evidence to court/tribunals.

Expert Witness Appointments

2019-2025 (selected):

- 2025 - Preliminary advisory report: brick wall and parapet defects and workmanship to a block of flats.
- 2025 - Preliminary advisory report: external cladding and cavity barriers to a block of flats.

- 2025 - Preliminary advisory report: roofing defects;
- 2025 Preliminary advisory report: professional negligence in relation to drawings and levels/flood zones.
- 2025 - Advisory report: professional negligence of architect for barn conversions.
- 2024-2025 - Apartment block: copper rainscreen, Kingspan K15, internal & external intrusive investigations.
- 2024 -Expert report: Improvement Notice, programmes: timber, zinc & copper cladding; fire stopping, cavity barriers, spandrels, render - time-critical remediation sequencing.
- 2024 - Expert report: Walkway at roof level: use of Kemper System and BSA s120 relevant defects.
- 2024 - Expert report: External levels and professional negligence of architect in relation to a commercial building.
- 2024 - Expert report: Breach of contract and duty of care by architect - RIBA Stage 4, 9-storey office block.
- 2023 - Expert report: Block with Reynobond ACM &Corium; fire doors, cavity barriers, compartmentation; FRAEW review; intrusive inspection. and BSA s120 relevant defects.
- 2023 - Expert report: Advisory report: Marley Eternit Equitone rain-screen cladding on 4-storey office block.
- 2023 - Expert report: Expert witness appointment re: care home fire and flat roof works.
- 2022-2023 - Expert report: Internal fire-stopping for four London blocks; professional negligence aspects.
- 2022-2023 - Expert report: Three apartment blocks (5-14 storeys):StoTherm EPS, K15, sheathing boards, cavity trays/closers & workmanship; intrusive inspections.
- 2022-2024 - Advisory report: Reference CDM Regulations 2007 & 2015 - performance of CDM Coordinator for multi-storey block of flats.
- 2022 - Expert report: Sheffield apartments: cavity trays, brickwork support, steelwork clashes, façade coordination; architectural performance.
- 2022 - Expert report: Dryvit EPS external wall insulation, hospital in Northumbria fire safety defects and product review.
- 2021 - Expert report: Alphaton terracotta rainscreen cladding - fire safety, cavity barriers, compartmentation, remedial works.
- 2021 - Expert report: University accommodation: fire stopping, RRFSO.
- 2021 - Single Joint Expert report: defects and workmanship in timber garden building.
- 2021 - Expert report: Hotel in Scotland: granite, zinc, Optima metal, Webertherm, StoTherm - cladding defects, cavity barriers & workmanship.
- 2020 - Single Joint Expert: fire escape between commercial buildings.
- 2019 - Expert report: Principal Contractor appointment under CDM Regulations (Scotland).

Shadow Expert Witness Appointments

- 2025 (ongoing) Appointed to advise a firm of architects on architectural design, professional negligence and standard of care in claims against the architect, providing confidential technical analysis in relation to blocks of flats.

Cladding and External Wall Matters (Investigations & EWS1)

- 2020-2022 - High Wycombe & Luton: construction-phase monitoring of insulation and cavity barriers (Corium, Rockwool Duo Slab).
- 2021 - Cambridge: zinc cladding and Velfac ACP; EWS1.
- 2021 - Rayleigh: Cedral composite cladding, timber frame, EWS1 monitoring.
- 2021 - Northwood: green walls and Xtratherm SR; EWS1.
- 2021 - Rochester: remedial advice on sheathing boards and WM Zinc rainscreen; Rockwool Flexi/Duo.
- 2020 - Worthing: EWS1 external walls review.
- 2020 - Edinburgh: StoTherm Classic, Marley Eternit Natura, aluminium/metal composites.
- 2020 - Glasgow: student accommodation; fibre cement and metal composite façade review.
- 2019-2020 - Timber cladding/fire risk reviews in Norbury, Hackney, Twickenham.
- 2020 - Greenwich: four residential blocks; EWS1 forms and reports.
- 2020 - Freeholder advisory reports on EC1 blocks.
- 2019-2020 - Lincoln: timber-clad apartments; EWS1.

Monitoring & Reviewing External Walls

- 2025 Monitoring during construction and remediation works in relation to defects under the Building Safety Act;
- Intrusive and non-intrusive inspections, defect diagnosis and photographic/recorded monitoring programmes;
- Assessment of EWS1 scope and evidence;
- Compliance reviews of façade build-ups: StoTherm, Kingspan K15/Thermaboard, Equitone/Marley Eternit, Corium, ACM/MCM, EPS, zinc/copper/metal rainscreen, sheathing boards, curtain walling and spandrel panels.
- Fire performance and safety: cavity barriers, fire stopping, compartmentation;
- Independent monitoring reports with actions, and photographic schedules.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations

- Advisory support to Principal Contractors, contractors and designers on construction phase plans, building manuals, risk assessments, and method statements.
- Appointments as Principal Designer.

Credentials & Panels

- Chartered Architect (RIBA)
- Architects Registration Board ARB
- Chartered Arbitrator (C.Arb, FCIArb)
- Accredited Adjudicator (CIArb)
- Chartered Building Engineer (C. Build E MCABE)
- Member, The Institution of Fire Engineers (MIFireE)
- Practising Member, The Academy of Experts (MAE)
- RIBA Register of Experts
- UK Register of Expert Witnesses.
- Panels/Lists: CIArb Presidential Panels (Arbitrators & Adjudicators); SIAC, SCMA, HKIAC; CIC/UKAdjudicators; Hunt ADR; ICC UK Arbitrator & ADR Database, and CEQ Madrid.
- Expert member on list of neutrals of the Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre (PMAC/Centre) for the EU Unified Patent Court.

Professional Memberships

- Society of Construction Law.
- Adjudication Society (Senior Vice-Chair).
- LCIA, LSLC, WISTA, Baltic Exchange.
- Fire Protection Association.
- CWCT. (Centre for Windows and Cladding Technology).
- ArbitralWomen.
- Worshipful Company of Arbitrators (Court Member).
- Council Member, The Academy of Experts.
- Committee Member CIArb Iberian Chapter.

Specialist Training (Selected for External Walls & Expert Witness)

- Bond Solon: Expert Witness Certificates (Civil 2021, Criminal 2022) and Scottish Law and Procedure. (2025);
- Bond Solon - Discussions Between Experts (2022);
- Bond Solon bespoke expert witness master class in criminal law and procedures (2023).
- Scottish Law & Procedure (2023); Courtroom Skills (2024);
- Bond Solon bespoke training for provision of oral evidence; (2024)
- SCL Expert Advocacy and Witness Training Day (2025);
- CWCT Modules: Curtain Walling (C201); Built-Up Walls (PR2); Weather Tightness & Testing (C205); Loads/Structural (C108); Acoustics (A101); Fire Performance of Façades (F101); Glass & Glazing (C202); Materials; Thermal & Moisture Performance;
- BRE BTech Diploma - Fire Risk Assessment (Life Safety);
- Level 5 Diploma - Retrofit Coordination & Risk Assessment (2021);
- CIArb Diplomas in International Commercial Arbitration & International Maritime Arbitration;
- MSc Construction Law & Arbitration (King College London);

- *In progress:* XACT Level 5 Fire Engineering Diploma. (2 of 3 modules completed 2025)

Teaching/Webinars

- Guest Lecturer (ADR/Adjudication):Oxford Brookes University (2025 and 2026), Kingston University (2025).
- HS2 Webinar on Adjudication (2024).

Employment

- Barker Consultants -(1993-Present)
- James R Knowles - Senior Consultant (1989-1993)
- Marks and Spencer plc- Management Architect (1988-1989)
- John Laing plc- Project Architect (1986-1988)
- Other Architectural Practices- Project and Assistant Architect (1984-1986)