



KOSKI SOLOMON RUTHVEN

Koski Solomon & Ruthven (KSR) Architects is an expanding London based firm well known for their innovative and sensitive approach to urban design. **Les Koski** and **Richard Solomon** formed the practice in 1983. **Mark Ruthven (B.Arch.84)** joined the following year. **Gordon Jefferys**, who joined KSR in 1996, became a partner this year.

The fact that the four partners came to the UK from South Africa and Canada brings a unique international perspective to their work, and sets an interesting cultural backdrop to working in London. This is reflected in their design approach and their use of materials. An appreciation of landscape, the importance of light and space, and the blurring of boundaries between the interior and exterior are shown in a number of their completed projects.

Although KSR is experienced in a broad range of sectors including leisure, office and retail, they specialise in residential architecture. In addition to undertaking large scale residential schemes for developers and housing associations, the practice is well known for providing high quality and innovative modern homes for individual clients. They are currently working on several multi-unit developments and a large private house in Hampstead, north London, a new family home/business premises in London's West End and a weekend retreat on an island in the middle of the Thames in Henley.

The practice has won a number of awards in international competitions including: Bibliotheca Alexandria; Parco di Centocelle, in Rome; and second place for our Faculty of Architecture and Planning Building extension. More recently KSR has received multiple awards for completed residential projects in London including the City Heritage and Civic Trust awards for Wardrobe Court near St. Paul's. Last year, the Best New Development in the Evening Standard's New Homes Awards was bestowed on the Pavilion Apartments in St John's Wood. The project was described by one judge as being both "bold and beautiful".

Over the years KSR has enjoyed close contact with Dalhousie (TUNS) as there has almost always been a student or graduate or a combination of both working in the studios in Greenland Street. The cultural backgrounds of the partners reflect in the national make up of the studio, and are manifest in a healthy rivalry and reasonable balance between the South Africans and the Canadians. Needless to say, thanks to 'foreign imports' the practice generally excels in competition with the indigenous architectural population in the Regents Park Summer Softball League.

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