GRIMSHAW

Grimshaw announces Katarzyna Jurkiewicz as partner

MEDIA RELEASE

GRIMSHAW

MEDIA RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE GRIMSHAW HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF SYDNEY-BASED TRANSPORT SECTOR LEADER KATARZYNA JURKIEWICZ AS A NEW PARTNER.

For Release: 19 October 2026

As Partner, Jurkiewicz joins a global cohort of fourteen experienced leaders underpinning the practice's strategic direction and continued evolution.

Partners are appointed based on their significant contributions to business development, strategic client relationships and delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects, as well as demonstrated industry leadership and studio mentorship.

With over 20 years' experience, Jurkiewicz is a highly competent design leader with a diverse portfolio spanning multiple sectors and project typologies. With special expertise in complex transport infrastructure, Jurkiewicz has played a key role in shaping Grimshaw's rail and infrastructure portfolio, embedding transport projects with strategies for resilience and sustainability.

Joining Grimshaw's London studio in 2007, Jurkiewicz relocated to Sydney in 2011, where she was made principal in 2022. A recognised sector leader in metro and rail infrastructure, her significant projects include the Elizabeth Line, Sydney Light Rail, Martin Place Metro, City of Sydney Street Furniture, Hunter Street Integrated Station Development.

Over her career at Grimshaw, Jurkiewicz has worked out of the global practice's studios in London, Sydney, and Auckland. Her inter-studio experience arms her with a unique global perspective and equips her to understand the matrix of challenges facing the industry.

Martin Place Station Sydney AUS

“Working in London and having the ability to work with Nick [Grimshaw] was such a privilege and an opportunity to learn the essence of who we are as a practice: what we do and how we think about design,” Jurkiewicz says.

From 2022, Jurkiewicz co-led the Auckland studio for 18 months, where she was instrumental in elevating Grimshaw’s local New Zealand presence while spearheading the design for Auckland Light Rail.

“Leading the Auckland studio was a valuable opportunity to develop my understanding of practice management in a challenging market,” says Jurkiewicz. “I learnt the importance of understanding local priorities and positioning Grimshaw’s expertise in a way that resonated with local clients and demonstrated the value we could bring”.

Serving a critical role in Grimshaw’s regional sustainability leadership, Jurkiewicz embeds environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes within designs, integrating processes for decarbonisation, regenerative design, and circularity in large-scale projects. Jurkiewicz previously served on the Circular Australia’s Precincts & Infrastructure Taskforce, supporting the ransition to a net-zero economy, and is currently a member of the New South Wales State Design Review Panel, providing independent expert evaluation and practical advice on state-significant developments.

A champion of diversity, equity and inclusion, both within the organisation and in the broader industry, Jurkiewicz says she hopes her elevation will help to illuminate a pathway for other future female leaders.

“It’s important to have someone in the studio for people to look to and say: ‘she’s done that – she’s been able to achieve this while running amazing projects and having two kids.’ I just really hope that this elevation is something that’s going to inspire others that they can do the same.”

Jurkiewicz is passionate about fostering inter-studio relationships, drawing on a wealth of resources and collective intelligence across a global network. “I really enjoy the cross-studio collaboration,” she adds. “I’m on the global metro group and the global industrial design group; I like to bring the studios together.

“It’s a great privilege to be able to tap into these global resources, and I think it’s something we could be doing even more.”

While much of her portfolio contains large-scale infrastructure, Jurkiewicz equally is equally adept in industrial design, dedicated to driving excellence in detail.

Elizabeth Line London UK

"I am incredibly passionate about the craftsmanship of architecture and an attention to the detailing of things," she says. "While in London, I worked on the design for the cladding for the Elizabeth Line. It was beautiful to see some of the early sketches I did for the cladding system actually built – and then, for the project to receive the [RIBA] Stirling Prize, that was incredibly rewarding."

Jurkiewicz adds she hopes her influence will be to instil a culture of enthusiasm and delight within the studio. "As well as project origination and revenue generation, I hope to champion the joy and creativity of architecture," she says. "We can't lose sight of the fact we are doing some amazing work, and the design is a core focus of what we do.

"I think we have a real opportunity to draw on our legacy and consider what that looks like for the future."

Global Managing Partner Mark Middleton says Jurkiewicz makes a valuable contribution to Grimshaw's leadership suite. "Kat's design leadership and recognised experience managing complex stakeholders have had significant impact on the organisation," says Middleton. "She has been an asset to Grimshaw over the past 20 years, and we look forward to her future contributions to organisational culture and a future legacy of design excellence."

Jurkiewicz's appointment is effective immediately. She joins a cohort of fourteen existing partners as part of Grimshaw's international network, where she will drive the growth of Grimshaw's opportunities and design excellence across the Asia Pacific region.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS

Isla Sutherland
Communications Manager, APAC
Isla.Sutherland@grimshaw.global

Images here.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NICK HUFTON, PETER BENNETTS, TIM ROBINSON AND ASHLEIGH HUGHES, COURTESY GRIMSHAW

ABOUT GRIMSHAW

Grimshaw is an international architectural practice delivering buildings, infrastructure and places that are underpinned by the principles of humane, enduring, sustainable design. With offices in New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Dubai, Melbourne, Sydney, and now Auckland. Grimshaw employs over 600 staff. The practice's international portfolio covers all major sectors and has been honoured with over 200 international design awards.

www.grimshaw.global