ASF-UK Associates

Job Descriptions

Closing date for applications:
Monday 16th January 2017
Background information

About ASF-UK

ASF-UK is a charitable organisation that aims to influence the production of the built environment by initiating learning and capacity-building activities that promote more socially just and sustainable practices of urban and environmental change. The work of the organisation is structured into three programmes:

• Change by Design
• Resilience by Design
• Challenging Practice

Across the three programmes, the main form of operation of ASF-UK consists in organising collaborative and participative action-learning workshops in partnership with local NGOs and grassroots organisations. Workshops focus on: building the capacity of workshop participants; generating and highlighting locally embedded, transformative practices; and contributing to the on-going activities of partner organisations.
Our approach

ASF-UK’s objectives are focused on three areas: Training and Capacity Building, Live Projects and Advocacy.

1. Training and Capacity Building

Ensure that an understanding of the core principles behind community participation, appropriate design, urban resilience and sustainability becomes an integral part of the education and practice of built environment practitioners by: working with universities and bodies (such as RIBA) to influence the way built environment disciplines are taught; creating capacity building opportunities through independent-learning initiatives, seminars, and action learning workshops; and producing and disseminating learning resources.

2. Live Projects

Support emergency and development programmes to ensure that they lead to equitable built environment processes and outcomes, by forging relationships with the governments, civil society organisations and community groups running initiatives, and encouraging and facilitating the involvement of built environment professionals with a people-centred and participatory approach.

3. Advocacy

Influence urban policy and planning processes by mainstreaming methodologies and practices focused on democratic and resilient city-making aimed at producing more equitable and sustainable urban development processes.
Change by Design Associates

Salary: Voluntary position, travel expenses covered
Time commitment: Minimum of 20 hours per month
Location: UK based, you will be required to attend some meetings in London, with the majority of work carried out remotely. In the medium term, the position will offer opportunities for work abroad, for instance on an international workshop.

Change by Design – an introduction

Change by Design unites a series of workshops and seminars developing and disseminating participatory design methods that contribute to the empowerment of urban marginalised groups and communities. The programme is concerned with advancing the thinking and practice of participatory design in ways that contribute to the democratisation of city-making and to addressing social and spatial inequalities. Activities focus on contested urban sites such as informal settlements and inner city areas that have been earmarked for regeneration, both in the global south and the UK. Through its commitment to action-learning and knowledge co-production, Change by Design uses spatial design and planning skills to support community groups in developing plans and strategies that foster the production of more equitable cities.

In 2017, the Change by Design programme will focus on the collaboration with its partners, Citizens UK in London and Development Action Group in Cape Town, South Africa. Both partnerships focus on enhancing the capacity of community-based organisations to engage with complex urban regeneration processes, and on the production of educational tools that make planning and policy issues more accessible to local communities.

About the roles

The Change by Design programme is seeking two new Associates to join the team. At least one of the new team members will have a proven track record in the field of community-led design & planning and participatory city making. The other Associate could be less experienced, however we would be looking for someone who is engaged, willing to learn and committed to train.

As an Associate in the Change by Design team, your tasks will be varied and wide-ranging, depending on the project that you will be focusing on. Working closely with the other Associates in the team, you will be required to help with the preparation and implementation of learning & capacity development initiatives and live projects both within the UK and internationally. Your responsibilities will include coordination with local partners, designing training sessions, facilitating workshops and giving presentations, as well as fundraising, event planning, advertising, and communication. You will be required to record and disseminate information to a variety of audiences, through written and visual work. After the workshops, you would play a pivotal role in writing ASF-UK reports and publications.

As well as your tasks relating to the Change by Design programme, as an Associate of ASF-UK you will also be asked to contribute to the running of the whole organisation, helping to organise events, writing bids, fundraising, and attending meetings.

You will receive relevant training, including the Challenging Practice Stage A: Learning in Action seminar.
About you

**Personal qualities:**
We are looking for volunteers that are enthusiastic, committed to the ASF-UK vision and mission, proactive, with the ability to work independently but also a clear disposition to work collectively within a team.

**Qualifications:**
We are looking for volunteers who have a background in one or more of the following areas: urban planning, urban design, architecture, social development, urban studies, international development, humanitarian, education, strategic and service design, design for social innovation, public art, information design.

**Required – experience / interest working in:**
- Participatory design and planning
- Community-led settlement planning and upgrading
- Community-led and self-provided housing
- Community-driven processes
- Urban regeneration
- Urban conflicts
- Community mobilisation
- Urban pedagogy
- Public education and training

How to apply

Please submit the following:
1. a covering letter (max 2 pages) outlining which position you are applying for, your motivation for joining ASF-UK and the Change by Design team specifically, what relevant experience you have, and what you feel you can contribute to the organisation and the programme
2. your CV
3. contact details for two referees (we will not contact them without your permission)

Please email the above to: changebydesign@asf-uk.org
Closing date for applications: **5.00pm Monday 16th January 2017**
Expected start date: **End of February 2017**
Resilience by Design Associates

Salary: Voluntary position, travel expenses covered
Time commitment: Minimum of 20 hours per month
Location: UK based, you will be required to attend some meetings in London, with the majority of work carried out remotely. In the medium term, the position will offer opportunities for work abroad, for instance on an international workshop

Resilience by Design – an introduction

Resilience by Design is a programme that unites a series of live projects and international workshops exploring socio-ecological issues in the context of rapid urban change, climate hazards, resource scarcities and depleted ecosystems.

It focuses on bridging local with scientific knowledge through spatial design by utilising an innovative participatory, action-learning and interdisciplinary methodology. With this approach we facilitate the formulation of integrated scenarios and concrete solutions that can facilitate long-term resilience in urban contexts, while retaining a strong pedagogical focus that allows communities and different stakeholders to understand and reflect on the complex interaction between humans and the ecosystems and territories they inhabit and transform.

About the roles

The Resilience by Design team are seeking two new associates to join the team in early 2017. At least one of the new team members will have a proven track record in the field of community-led resilience. The other Associate could be less experienced, however we would be looking for someone who is engaged, willing to learn and committed to train.

As an Associate in the Resilience by Design team, your tasks will be varied and wide-ranging, depending on the project that you will be focusing on. Working closely with the other associates in the team, you will be required to help with the preparation and implementation of learning & capacity development initiatives and live projects both within the UK and internationally. Your responsibilities will include coordination with local partners, designing training sessions, facilitating workshops and giving presentations, as well as fundraising, event planning, advertising, and communication. You will be required to record and disseminate information to a variety of audiences, through written and visual work. After the workshops, you will play a pivotal role in writing ASF-UK reports and publications.

As well as your tasks relating to the Resilience by Design programme, as an Associate of ASF-UK you will also be asked to contribute to the running of the whole organisation, helping to organise events, writing bids, fundraising, and attending meetings.

You will receive relevant training, including the Challenging Practice Stage A: Learning in Action seminar.
About you

Personal qualities:
We are looking for volunteers that are enthusiastic, committed to the ASF-UK vision and mission, proactive, with the ability to work independently but also a clear disposition to work collectively within a team.

Qualifications:
We are looking for volunteers who have a background in one or more of the following areas: architecture, urban planning, engineering, construction, international development, humanitarian, ecology, environmental management, climate change, social sciences.

Required – experience / interest working in:
• Participatory design and planning
• Community-led settlement planning and upgrading approaches
• Urban crises
• Low carbon design
• Disaster risk reduction
• Resilient engineering and construction
• Ecology and environmental risk
• Heritage
• Local governance

How to apply

Please submit the following:
1. a covering letter (max 2 pages) outlining which position you are applying for, your motivation for joining ASF-UK and the Resilience by Design team specifically, what relevant experience you have, and what you feel you can contribute to the organisation and the programme
2. your CV
3. contact details for two referees (we will not contact them without your permission)

Please email the above to: resiliencebydesign@asf-uk.org
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Monday 16th January 2017
Expected start date: End of February 2017
Challenging Practice Associates

Salary: Voluntary position, travel expenses covered
Time commitment: Minimum of 20 hours per month
Location: UK based, you will be required to attend some meetings in London, with the majority of work carried out remotely. The position will offer opportunities for short-term work abroad, for instance on international meetings and training events

Challenging Practice – an introduction

Challenging Practice is a RIBA accredited, independent learning programme that encourages built environment professionals to engage in the production of habitat for the world’s most vulnerable groups. It is specifically targeted at those who have an interest in the challenges that are impacting on the human development of billions of people in cities across the world. The course is based on principles of active, dynamic, and action-based learning. Its pedagogical framework is grounded in theories of situated knowledge and reflective practice, and places a strong emphasis on the ethical component of engaged learning.

About the roles

The Challenging Practice team are seeking two new Associates who will be able to start in early 2017. At least one of the new team members will have a proven track record in the field of education, training, and capacity building for development. The other Associate could be less experienced, however we would be looking for someone who is engaged, willing to learn and committed to train.

Joining a small, motivated and dynamic team, you will contribute to the review of the current Challenging Practice curriculum and to the preparation and delivery of future Challenging Practice training events within the UK. In addition, you will be working with the team to design a ‘Training for Trainers’ programme aimed at enabling other ASF organisations across the world to deliver Challenging Practice in their local contexts. You will be required to communicate with the ASF-International network and work together to ensure the streamlining of Challenging Practice across ASF.

As well as your tasks relating to the Challenging Practice programme, as an Associate of ASF-UK you will be asked to contribute to the running of the whole organisation, helping to organise events, writing bids, fundraising, and attending meetings.

You will receive relevant training, including the Challenging Practice Stage A: Learning in Action seminar.
About you

Personal qualities:
We are looking for volunteers who have a background in urban development and the built environment and have previous experience in the design, delivery and management of learning. We would like to appoint someone who is enthusiastic, committed to the ASF-UK vision and mission, proactive, with the ability to work independently but also a clear disposition to work collectively within a team.

Qualifications:
We are looking for volunteers who have a background in one or more of the following areas: education, training, learning and teaching, research, capacity development, urban planning, urban design, architecture, social development, urban studies, international development, humanitarian work.

Required – experience / interest working in:
• Education and training for adults
• Active learning and learner-centred pedagogy
• Community development
• Community-led design and planning
• Community-driven processes
• Urban development
• International development

How to apply

Please submit the following:
1. a covering letter (max 2 pages) outlining which position you are applying for, your motivation for joining ASF-UK and the Challenging Practice team specifically, what relevant experience you have, and what you feel you can contribute to the organisation and the programme
2. your CV
3. contact details for two referees (we will not contact them without your permission)

Please send the above to: challengingpractice@asf-uk.org
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Thank you for showing an interest in our Associate positions, we look forward to hearing from you.
We are excited to be welcoming more people to our team!

Architecture Sans Frontières-UK
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For general information please email: info@asf-uk.org
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