

I was in the Build a Building competition in 1997. It was an enjoyable exercise culminating in a great weekend in London. The thing I remember from the experience was that the main message from the competition was to try and avoid "fuzzy edge syndrome" (though on the Sunday morning I think we were all trying to avoid "fuzzy head syndrome"!) by trying to get us all to think outside our own particular specialisms and the effect on other parts of the construction process and to communicate to other team members rather than the pigeon hole mentality so often encountered. I actually found that quite a useful lesson and something I do remember and implement in my own dealings on various projects.

Following 17 years being an employee in various QS consultancies, I set up my own limited company in 2007 and continue to specialise in Mechanical & Electrical Quantity Surveying/Claims and have worked abroad extensively in Germany, Austria, USA, Canada, Brasil, Jordan, Hong Kong, China, Qatar & Ireland.

Iain Walton, TB 1997  
Founder, MEQSICO Ltd

As a direct result of participating in the 2006 Teambuild competition I have made connections and created a network across the international construction industry that has seen me move to Hong Kong and take on a senior project management position, helping to build the office for a major UK company as well as take leading roles on major projects in Hong Kong. Those who formed my team that year are now some of my most valued friends and the judges and organizers from the weekend I am now fortunate enough to count as valued advisors. Winning Teambuild gave me the confidence to work in any team, to lead, to delegate but also to support and listen. Out of the many learning and development opportunities I have been given I still value Teambuild most highly and consider it one of the most worthwhile experiences of my professional career.

Ruth Bailey. TB 2005  
Project Manager, MACE, Hong Kong

That was a blast from the past first thing this morning - ! Yes, that was me who lead the team from Mowlem.

A lot has happened since - I qualified as a Chartered Civil Engineer and a Chartered Builder and I've also changed career paths somewhat from being based on site to predominately being office based. I now work at the very front end of projects, bidding in markets where we have not got a strong track record but demonstrating that we do have the capability.

Rubina Raj-Scott. TB 1999  
Project Manager at Miller Construction

Yes I was a member of the Bovis Construction team, it was great fun. Actually, I don't think that I have presented in front of so many people since then. It was very daunting!  
I am now working at Director level within an M&E design consultancy based in Manchester.

Laura Dunlop. TB 1995  
Director at ESD Ltd

Yes Team Fusion! Was it really 1997?

I am currently Managing Director of Ruddy Joinery limited a £50m specialist joinery and Fit Out, generally working in London. Build a Building was a great experience. In our team we had designers and engineers (and a lowly QS!) and to work with them closely to provide a development plan was both very interesting and great fun. We were quite a young team and certainly my first experience of working with people in that way. I would thoroughly recommend others taking part.

Alan Ruddy. TB 1997  
MD at Ruddy Joinery

The Build a Building competition, aside from being an enjoyable and challenging experience reinforced the reality that our industry is a team game and the best teamwork produces the best results. I have subsequently worked in integrated multi-disciplinary environments delivering complex technical projects in different parts of the world where teamwork is not just a benefit but a necessity. I would recommend young professionals in the industry to get engaged in TeamBuild.

Ed Burton. TB 1995  
Vice President of HOK, Los Angeles

As a young professional, it was a great opportunity to work with people from other disciplines and get some experience of how a successful team works best together. It was also really good fun!

I am now an Associate in Davis Langdon's Consultancy Group, based in the London office. For the last twelve years I've specialised in providing property tax advice and I currently manage the Fiscal Incentives teams in the London and Southampton offices. The experience gained in the Build A Building Competition has been helpful throughout the last eighteen years as it enabled me to appreciate how an effective team works best. This has been beneficial when working with external organisations comprising other professionals and clients, and also now that I am responsible for teams made up of people with diverse strengths and personalities. I would encourage any young professionals to take part as it's a great experience.

Tim Jackson. TB 1995  
Associate at Davis Langdon

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Yes, I was involved in the Merit Build a Building competition some years ago. I recall it was a good chance to meet with my contemporaries from other disciplines – the group of us were all representing members of the design team for a much larger project. As a junior engineer at the time, it provided an opportunity to practice project management and planning.

Some of my colleagues here at Expedition have entered in recent years. It seems a lot more competitive – with far more entries – than when we participated. It also seems to be more design and sustainability focused than I remembered – which is a good thing.

Julia Ratcliffe. TB 1995  
Director, Expedition Engineering

Build-a-Building in 1997; distant but great memories! Going to the ICE HQ at One Great George Street and spending a couple of full-on, intense days working with our multi-disciplinary team was a superb experience. The high pressure yet fun challenges were certainly character and confidence building. I distinctly remember our pride in returning having won the Contract Strategy Prize but the highlight was definitely just the team spirit developed from the shared experience.

After the competition, I became Chartered, got a MBA degree and moved to New Zealand. I'm now based in Auckland where I lead AECOM's NZ Water & Infrastructure Services business. I'm sure the Build-a-Building competition was one of several significant experiences that have helped shape me and my career.

Geoff Milsom. TB 1997  
Water & Infrastructure Services Group Leader (New Zealand) at AECOM

As a young graduate I didn't get much opportunity to go to design team meetings or get to interact with other disciplines so this competition was a great chance to network and also work with a team. The personal skills I learnt while on the competition were fantastic. I hadn't had to give many presentations so having to do this has certainly provided a great foundation for the jobs I have had since. I certainly gained knowledge of what each job role entailed and also got to take on some of the responsibilities that I would have not got the chance to in my job.

Since leaving engineering 5 years ago my career has been focused on trying to raise the awareness of construction to young people. I have done this through outreach activities and career presentations, which I have to say the presentation skills I gained on Teambuild certainly came into play again.

I am now moving onto a career as a primary school teacher and I have no doubt I will draw upon these skills again.

Hannah Collie. TB 2006  
Project Co-ordinator, CIC