



## EMPLOYER CASE STUDY

### ***Pollard Thomas Edwards architects,***

*Dispeker Wharf, London*

Mr Christian Gibbon, General Manager

Ms Theresa Borsuk, Director

Marina Lopez, IAESTE trainee 01 September – 28 May 2010

Pollard Thomas Edwards architects, holder of more than 45 major design awards, have hosted an IAESTE trainee for almost 20 years with placements ranging from six months to one year in length.

The sending country and IAESTE UK's dedication and commitment to securing the best potential trainees has motivated PTE to host IAESTE trainees for about 20 years

***“We tried it once and it was such a success we kept going....everybody has been fantastic in ability as well as fitting in. We’ve never had a case where their work wasn’t outstanding” (Teresa Bosrsuk)***

PTE's trainee for 2010 is Maria Lopez, an architecture and Urbanisation graduate from San Juan National University, Argentina. Prior to commencing the IAESTE programme she established her own small Architecture practice.

PTE allocates projects to trainees according to their skills and interests. In Maria's case, she was given more than ten housing projects, in charge of elevations. Her favourite project being “Mill Farm” in London. The thrust of trainee work includes design, detailing of buildings, learning building regulations and other guidelines and then applying these to the design.

Maria wanted to open her mind to different ways of working and living, to find her speciality, improve her English and understand how Architecture works in England. She says.. ***“As a global citizen I have to be conscious of what is happening in other countries. To have not just a local perspective, but to be open to new ideas! We don't get the opportunity for work experience when we study in Argentina”***

The IAESTE scheme has not only allowed Maria to achieve her learning goals, but it has created a mutually beneficial, sustainable partnership for both her and PTE.

Says Christian Gibbon (of the benefits IAESTE placements bring to PTE)... ***“A real skill and willingness to learn has been evident in all our IAESTE students. They bring a refreshing new perspective to the team....Maria is an exceptional student with a thorough understanding of architecture. She has applied herself to learning the UK way of building and has thrived”***

Many staff at PTE still maintain professional links with past trainees.