



Murray Armes

BA, DipArch, MA, MSc, RIBA,
FCI Arb, FPD

- Chartered Arbitrator
- Dispute Board Member
- FIDIC President's List International Adjudicator
- Adjudicator
- Mediator

Qualifications

- BA(Hons) in Architecture, Sheffield University, 1978 DipArch with distinction, Sheffield University, 1981
- MA with distinction in Architecture, Sheffield University, 1981
- MSc in Construction Law, King's College, London, 2003
- Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 2007
- RICS Diploma in Adjudication, 2020

Project Geographical Experience

UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa,
Central and SE Asia

Murray has enjoyed a diverse and rewarding career in the international construction industry, where prior to setting up Armes-ADR he was the Founder and Managing Director of Sense Studio Limited.

Specialising in dispute avoidance and resolution, he is a FIDIC President's List international adjudicator and on the arbitration, dispute board, adjudication and mediation panels of CI Arb, RIBA, RICS and CEDR, working on significant appointments relating to construction disputes. His verifiable track record in dispute avoidance influences his work as a Dispute Board Member, and he is a Past President of Region 2 of the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation. In recent years, Murray has been appointed as Dispute Board Member for the ITER nuclear fusion project in France and also for the High Luminosity Project at CERN. More recently he has been appointed for a large nuclear project under the ICC DB Rules in Scandinavia, an embassy project in Central Africa, a power distribution project in West Africa, a cutting-edge commercial development in Iraq, a metro rail project in SE Asia and a medical programme in the Caribbean.

As well as large building projects, Murray has developed specialist expertise in energy, transport infrastructure projects, including airports and metro rail projects and other major infrastructure projects.

He has given evidence in litigation and both domestic and high-profile international arbitrations and as an expert witness in some of the world's most complex and highest value disputes.

Professional Memberships

- Chartered Architect (RIBA)
- Chartered Arbitrator (RIBA, FCI Arb, CEDR and ABTA Panels)
- Adjudicator (RIBA, CI Arb and CEDR)
- Accredited Mediator (CEDR, CI Arb)
- Dispute Board Member (DRBF, FIDIC President's List, RICS, CI Arb)
- Member Society of Construction Arbitrators
- Member, Adjudication Society
- Fellow, Prime Dispute
- Member, International Bar Association

Positions Held

- FIDIC President's List of International Adjudicators
- RICS A and B Panel Dispute Board Member
- Council member of the Society of Construction Law
- Past Executive Board Secretary and Treasurer of the DRBF
- Past President of Region 2 of the DRBF
- Freeman and Liveryman, Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
- Past Member and Committee Member, Kings College Construction Law Association
- Member of the RIBA Disciplinary Panel
- Past member of the RICS adjudicator assessment panel
- Past Member of the CI Arb Practice and Standards Committee
- Chair of the ISE Disciplinary Board (since 2016)

Background

Murray founded Sense Studio, a specialist practice of architect expert witnesses in 2012, and was acquired by a large international consultancy in 2021. An established Chartered Architect, Arbitrator, Adjudicator, Dispute Board Member, Mediator and Expert Witness, Murray has worked on major global projects in sectors such as residential, commercial, aviation and airports, power, rail transport, healthcare, and retail, as well as being involved in engineering projects and commercial interior design. He has been instructed on over 350 cases as expert, covering almost every aspect of the design and construction of building projects and professional negligence for contracts in the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and Far East.

Murray is a FIDIC President's List international adjudicator, on the adjudication panels of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, CEDR and the Royal Institute of British Architects, on the CI Arb DB panel and both the A and B lists of international dispute board adjudicators for the RICS and a Member of the Dispute Board Panel of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is an accredited mediator with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the RIBA and CEDR. He is listed as an arbitrator by the CI Arb, CEDR and the RIBA.

Involved in Dispute Board activities since 2003, Murray is a Past Region 2 President of the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation, an organisation which promotes the use of dispute boards worldwide, has also acted as Treasurer and both Executive and R2 Board Member of that organization, is on the FIDIC President's List of International Adjudicators and is on the FIDIC FCL Panel for APA Assessments of potential adjudicators.

In 2014, Murray was appointed by F4E, and has sat for the last 11 years on the Panel of Adjudicators for the European Undertaking for "ITER" an international joint nuclear fusion venture, reputedly the largest energy project in the world. Murray also currently sits on a dispute board for CERN for a new low energy building project and previously for the High Luminosity Project. He has also been appointed to the DAB for a large nuclear project in Scandinavia, for two other projects in Africa, and for a large foreign government project in the Middle East.

As arbitrator, Murray has decided disputes concerning design fees, design management, latent defects insurance, mining subsidence, renewable energy and consumer issues and to date has published around fifty awards, for both domestic and international disputes.

As adjudicator, Murray has decided disputes concerning a wide range of technical matters, including delays, project management and quantum and final account issues and he is appointed as a standing adjudicator for a series of PFI education projects. He is familiar with FIDIC (post-1999, including MDB and 2017), JCT, NEC and other contracts including bespoke agreements. As mediator, he has mediated disputes between architects and employers as well as developers and contractors and sub-contractors.

Murray delivers training workshops, conferences and seminars in Dispute Avoidance and Resolution, Dispute Boards and FIDIC contracts and has given seminars in the UK, USA, Europe, South Africa, Eastern Europe, South America, Asia and the Middle and Far East. He has contributed many articles for academic journals, industry newsletters and professional guides and takes an active role as an academic tutor and participant in international mediation and arbitration competitions. Murray has an active involvement in the annual Vis Moot arbitration competition as arbitrator and judge and the ICC International Mediation competition as mediator and judge, as well as the author of mediation problems.

Murray carried out his first architectural commission at the age of fifteen and went on to establish his own architectural practice in 1990 and has worked on a wide range of projects around the world including the UK, Europe, Middle and Far East, and Africa. His project experience includes hospitals and healthcare theatres, railways, airports, universities, hotels, leisure, listed buildings, retail and residential work, both in refurbishment and new build projects.

Speaking Engagements & Seminars

- Training and seminars on Dispute Boards and FIDIC Contracts carried out on behalf of the DRBF in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Bucharest, Washington, Chicago, New York, London, Istanbul, Brussels, Paris, Barcelona, Bucharest, Doha, Bali, Jakarta, Genoa, Madrid, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, The Hague, Mexico City, Bogota, Lima, Tokyo, the UAE, Doha, Jakarta and Singapore.
- Speaker at FIDIC and ICC/FIDIC events in London, Paris, New York, Delhi, Istanbul, Brussels, Bogota, Edinburgh and Rome.
- Speaker at the IBA conferences in Washington (2016), Edinburgh (2017), Rome (2018), Berlin (2019) and Mexico City (2024), member of the working group on the IBA Site Visit Protocol (2024)
- Speaker at the South Africa Construction Forum 2018 and 2019
- Seminars for the Adjudication Society (London), Society of Construction Law (Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Lima), Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (London), the RIBA (London), the RICS (London), TECSA (London) and for various law firms.
- Joint organiser and contributor to the King's College "Introduction to International Adjudication" symposium held in London in June 2011.
- International Nuclear Law association seminars in Aix-en Provence, and online
- Seminars for organisations in London, Dublin, Israel, the UK and Europe.
- Dispute Board Module for the Kings College FIDIC Summer School, London
- Professional practice lectures for Kingston University, Surrey, UK
- Regularly writes scenarios for the ICC International and Asian Mediation Competitions and participates as mediator and judge and also as arbitrator and judge in the Vis Moot, Vienna.

Selected Publications

- "News & Views", CIArb SE Branch newsletter, editor 2006-2009 and regular contributor during that period.
- "An Inspector Calls: Architects' Site Visits", article for Probyn Miers "Perspective" (2010).
- "AJ legal Handbook", joint author of Chapter on Construction Legislation in England and Wales (2010, 2019 and 2021)
- "Prevention Better Than Cure", article on dispute boards, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors "Construction Journal" (2010).
- "To Have and to Hold", article about adjudication meetings for the Adjudication Society newsletter (2011).
- "All Have Won and All Must Have Prizes", article for Construction Law Journal (2011).
- "The Concept of Dispute Avoidance", paper given at the Kings College/DRBF conference "An Introduction to International Adjudication" in June 2011.
- "Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is, The Funding of Dispute Boards by the Multilateral Development Banks", Construction Law Journal, 2013.
- "Dispute Boards: Counting the Cost", DRBF Forum magazine, April-May 2015.
- Two chapters 11 & 12 for the RIBA publication "Being an Effective Construction Client", 2016.
- Foreword for "A Practical Guide to Successful Construction Projects", by Arent van Wassenaeer, 2017.
- Chapter 8 of "International Contractual and Statutory Adjudication", edited by Andrew Burr, 2017.
- "Angles", Sense Studio newsletter (2012-2020).