Afolabi Spence
Director

Afolabi is a Senior Architect and director of Fluid, responsible for managing Fluid’s architecture portfolio.

Afolabi joined Fluid in 2003 to work on the award winning Gateway Centre, and later was project architect on the CABE recommended Maryland Children’s Centre for Newham Council. He currently leads Fluid’s work on a range of community, housing and strategic urban projects, including the Wood Green Investment Framework.

Other recent projects include the masterplan and architectural design of the Park Prewett Northern area masterplan for 585 units of housing for David Wilson Homes and the Homes and Communities Agency, with phase 1 Reserved Matters for 300 units. Other key projects include the co-design of a community workspace hub for the Wharves Deptford Masterplan being brought forward by Lend Lease and King Square public realm masterplan and co-design of the acclaimed Park Building.

Current projects include coordinating the public consultation for and leading the production of the overarching Statement of Participation for the Cultural & Education District projects for LLDC. The Alperton Residential commission to develop a masterplan for circa 200 new homes and design a 25-storey building within a Housing Zone on the Grand Union Canal is another key current project.

The £37m scheme aims to be a prototype for medium rise mixed uses and to act as an iconic figure at a key turning point on the canal. Afolabi is also working on the appointment by Northamptonshire City Council to produce a housing masterplan and development appraisal for Brackley.

Afolabi is passionate about the power of architecture to make a difference, and has been instrumental in helping shape Fluid’s approach to the process of design. Through competition, research and commission Afolabi has developed a location specific approach to design that reflects the needs and aspirations of communities, families and individuals.

He has worked closely with complex client and stakeholder groups to deliver responsive, well-judged and high quality architecture that is driven by the specificity of each project, with participation on all levels. His experience in realising urban and public realm projects ensures functionality and deliverability.
He has also been key in exploring Fluid’s innovative use of materials and intelligent forms in public and educational projects leading to the production of wholly owned, robust and uplifting architectures that provide new possibilities for everyday use (See Maryland Children’s Centre and King Square Park Building).

Afolabi has run a number of CPD programmes for London Metropolitan University on school design as well as participatory summer workshops for young people.

Afolabi graduated from London Metropolitan University in 2001 and is a RIBA qualified architect. Prior to joining Fluid, Afolabi gained extensive architectural expertise in the commercial, public, academic and residential sectors.