



Chris Darling, RIBA
Founder + Chair

Chris set up Darling Associates Architecture in 2003, drawing on his wide-ranging experience and quickly established the company as a leading design-led practice. He offers vision and leadership in all our projects, ensuring the highest of standards in both design output and client satisfaction.

After studying Architecture at the University of Edinburgh, he was awarded a Carnegie Scholarship for design and graduated with honours. Chris joined Frederick Gibberd where he was appointed Principal Associate. His main achievement was a 30,000 sqm retail centre involving extensive urban improvements.

After ten years at Gibberd he joined Terry Farrell and Partners where he was responsible for the practice's Crossrail team before joining Hamilton Associates in 1994. At Hamilton's he worked on a mixture of workplace and major residential projects, and was appointed an Equity Director in 1997. He was responsible for the 40 Berkeley Square, Cambridge Business Park offices schemes together with major residential projects in London at Richmond Bridge, Artillery Mansions and Trevor Square.

Chris' interest lies with developing an architectural language around the principles of proportion, harmony and the careful selection and detailing of materials. Whilst his expertise lies in the areas of residential, hotel and offices design, he pushes the practice forward into new and constantly evolving territory, always striving to ensure the approach remains fresh and the highest standards are achieved.

In recent years, Chris has transformed Darling Associates into a top 25 UK architectural practice, including the acquisition of a Manchester business and the establishment of a successful subsidiary in Studio Luna. Chris is currently working on strategies to secure the long term future ownership of the practice via an Employee Share Ownership Trust.

Outside the office, he is an enthusiastic yachtsman and a keen member of Itchenor Sailing Club.

Experience

2023 - present	Founder + Chair
2003 - 2023	Darling Associates London Managing Director
1994 - 2003	Hamilton Associates
1992 - 1994	Terry Farrell & Partners
1982 - 1992	Frederick Gibberd

Portfolio

Chris directs all the projects of the practice and has a wide range of experience, including:

- Luxury residential
- High density residential
- Affordable residential
- Private houses
- Tall buildings
- Masterplanning
- Hotels
- Offices
- Business parks
- Retail and shopping centres
- Transportation

Qualifications

1982	RIBA, ARB
1981	Diploma Arch.
1980	MA (Hons) Arch.

Education

Edinburgh University
Stewart Melville College