

Murray Armes, BA, DipArch, MA, MSc, RIBA, FCI Arb, MAE

Chartered Arbitrator, Dispute Board Member, Mediator, Adjudicator



Key Expertise

- 40 Years' Experience
 - Chartered Arbitrator
 - Adjudicator
 - Mediator
 - Dispute Board Member
 - Architect Expert Witness
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Education

Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 2007

MSc in Construction Law, King's College, London, 2003

MA with distinction in Architecture,

Sheffield University, 1981

DipArch with distinction,

Sheffield University, 1981

BA(Hons) in Architecture,

Sheffield University, 1978

Project Geographical Experience

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

Languages

English

Summary of Experience

Murray has enjoyed a diverse and rewarding career in the international construction industry, where prior to joining J.S. Held, Murray 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, among others, 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 €17bn ITER Project in France and also for the High Luminosity Project at CERN and more recently for a large nuclear project under the ICC DB Rules in Scandinavia and another in Turkey, an embassy project in Central Africa, a power project in West Africa and cutting-edge commercial development in Iraq.

He has developed specialist expertise in energy and transport infrastructure projects, including airports and metro rail projects.

Expert/Testifying Experience

Murray has been taking instructions to act as an expert since 1991 and has been instructed in over 350 cases as both a party appointed and single joint expert in litigation and arbitration in the UK and is a full Practising Member of the Academy of Experts. His instructions have included cases involving building defects, water ingress, professional negligence, delays, fire damage, fire compliance, regulatory compliance, interior design, defective basement and waterproofing construction, practical completion and handover, and project management, many involving complex technical and contractual matters. He has given evidence in litigation and both domestic and high-profile international arbitrations and has given evidence as expert witness on two of the world's highest value disputes.

Professional Affiliations/Memberships/Licenses/Training

Chartered Architect (RIBA)

Chartered Arbitrator (FCI Arb, RIBA)

Chartered Arbitrator (RIBA, CI Arb, CEDR and ABTA Panels)

Adjudicator (RIBA, CI Arb and CEDR) Accredited Mediator (CEDR, CI Arb)

Dispute Board Member

(DRBF, FIDIC, RICS, CI Arb)

Mediator

Contact

Armes-ADR

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Select Project Experience

Murray founded Sense Studio, a specialist practice of architect expert witnesses in 2012, based in London, and was acquired by JS Held 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. As expert, he has been instructed on over 350 cases involving some of the most complex projects and highest value disputes in the world, covering almost every aspect of the design and construction of building projects and professional negligence for contracts in the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa and 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 CIArb 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 CIArb, 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. Also, Murray has also acted as Treasurer and both Executive and R2 Board Member of that organisation.

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 within academic journals, industry newsletters and professional guides and takes an active role as an academic tutor and participant in international mediation and arbitration competitions.

In 2014, Murray was appointed by F4E, and currently sits on the Panel of Adjudicators for the €17 billion European Undertaking for "ITER" an international joint venture established under the European Atomic Energy Community Treaty and the reputedly the largest energy project in the world. Murray also currently sits on a dispute board for CERN, in relation to the new High Luminosity Project and major building projects. Both projects involve extensive civil engineering, below ground and tunneling works, as well as above ground road and infrastructure and vertical construction. More recently he has been appointed for another project at CERN and also to the DAB for a large nuclear project in Scandinavia and two other projects in Africa, one for which he is the chair and another for a large foreign government project.

As arbitrator, Murray has decided disputes concerning design fees, design management, latent defects insurance, coal mining subsidence, renewable energy and consumer issues and to date has published around fifty awards, for both domestic and international disputes. He has given evidence in seven international arbitration hearings, around ten in the TCC and domestic arbitration and has experience in chairing adjudication and arbitration hearings, as well as sitting as chair of the ISE Disciplinary Board and as a member of the RIBA Disciplinary Panel and the RICS adjudication assessment panel.

As an 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.

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Since founding Sense Studio, Murray has established a reputation in disputes concerning airport and aviation facilities on four large projects: two in the Middle East, one in Africa and the fourth in the UK. More recently he has been instructed on a fifth case in the Middle East. Murray has gained extensive experience of metro rail projects having been instructed on four cases to date. He has also been instructed recently on a petrochemical plant in the Far East. The services provided include the analysis of the quality of design information and whether it was at the right level of detail for D&B procurement, whether post contract D&B design amounted to a change or reasonable design development, the determination of reasonable design hours, whether termination was

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reasonable on the basis of the lack of progress and state of the works, evaluation of the state of completion prior to a remedial works contract and expert opinion on a counterclaim for defective works as well as assessment of compliance with national and international standards.

He has been involved in numerous cases concerning cladding design and failures which include compliance with fire regulations and in jointly working with fire consultants to investigate the cause of fires and also to investigate construction matters in respect of fire protection. This is especially relevant after the events that unfolded at Grenfell House in 2017.

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 (both UK and Middle East), theatres (UK and Middle East), railways, airports, universities (UK and Hong Kong), hotels, leisure, listed buildings, retail and residential work, both in refurbishment and new build projects. Some projects required significant involvement in the engineering aspects, including a bridge scheme for a railway as part of the Wembley Stadium redevelopment in North London and other specialist knowledge of facilities for the disabled. He has carried out a considerable amount of work in connection with commercial interiors and has given expert evidence on matters concerning interior design.

Murray is a past member of Council of the Society of Construction Law and past committee member of the King's College Construction Law Association and past president of Region 2 of the DRBF. In 2007 he became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, a Liveryman in 2009 and was a Court Assistant between 2012 and 2019.

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 for that competition.

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 President of Region 2 of the DRBF
- Member, Society of Construction Arbitrators
- Freeman and Liveryman, Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, newsletter and website editor and chairman of communications
- Past Member of Council, Society of Construction Law (since 2003)
- Member and Committee Member, Kings College Construction Law Association
- Member, Adjudication Society (since 2004)
- Practising Member of the Academy of Experts
- Member of the RIBA Disciplinary Panel
- Member of the RICS adjudicator assessment panel
- Past Member of the CIArb Practice and Standards Committee
- Member of the CIArb Dispute Board Panel
- Chair of the ISE Disciplinary Board (since 2016)
- Fellow of Prime Dispute (FPD)

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, New York, London, Istanbul, Brussels, Paris, Genoa, Madrid, Sao Paolo, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Bogota, Lima, Tokyo, the UAE, Doha and Singapore.
- Speaker at FIDIC and ICC/FIDIC events in London, Istanbul, Brussels, Bogota, Edinburgh and Rome.
- Speaker at the IBA conferences in Washington (2016) and Rome (2018).
- Seminars for the Adjudication Society (London), Society of Construction Law (Dubai and Abu Dhabi), Chartered Institute

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of Arbitrators (London), the RIBA (London), TECSA (London) and for various law firms.

- Past organiser of the DRBF UK Member's Meetings and regular contributor.
- Joint organiser and contributor to the King's College "Introduction to International Adjudication" symposium held in London in June 2011.
- Seminars for organisations in London, the UK and Europe.
- 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 VisMoot, Vienna.

Selected Publications

- "News & Views", CI Arb 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)
- "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.