

Luan Deda, Urban Planner / Urban Designer

Professional History

April 2020 - Present
Living-Places – London, UK
Director

January 2021 – Feb 2023
Gillespies – London, UK
Associate – Urban Planner

April 2019 - 2020
AECOM Middle East
Senior Associate – Urban Planner

May 2016 - 2019
Boyer Planning – London, UK
Associate Director – Masterplanner

December 2012 – May 2016
PRP Architects – London, UK
Senior Urban Designer

November 2005 – December 2012
Scott Brownrigg Architects – London, UK
Senior Urban Designer

January 2004– November 2005
Alan Baxter & Associates
Urban Designer

January 1996 – September 2002
Executive Board Member, Co-Plan,
Centre for Habitat Development, Tirana,
Albania and the Balkans region
Executive Board Director

January 1996 – November 1998
Breglumasi Development Program,
Tirana, Albania
Program Assistant

Academic Training

MSc Planning Development – Urban
Economic Development, University College of
London, UK 2003

Post Grad Certificate Urban Land
Management,
The IHS, Institute of Housing and Urban
development Studies, Rotterdam, The
Netherlands 1998

Diploma in Architecture and Urban Planning
Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania 1996

Institutional Memberships

Chartered Member of the RTPI (Royal Town
Planning Institute), UK since March 2011



Luan is a chartered Town Planner (MRTPI) with over 26 years' experience in urban planning, urban design, masterplanning and community-based planning and research. He has managed a broad range of masterplanning projects for residential and mixed-use developments across the UK and internationally from inception through to planning applications. In the past he has also worked with government and international institutions in Urban Planning and Development projects in the Balkans Region. He has extensive knowledge of spatial planning, regeneration, social and economic assessments, masterplanning, visioning, urban design and placemaking.

Relevant experience

Luan is the founder of Living-Places, a planning and design consultancy and manages large and medium scale masterplanning work in the UK and internationally. He has delivered high profile masterplanning work for new cities and hospitality projects particularly in the Middle East using his extensive expertise in Urban Planning and design. He has over 26 years' experience in Planning and Development ranging from large scale spatial planning strategies at regional and city level to site specific regeneration or greenfield masterplanning and urban design.

Luan's experience in masterplanning includes primarily mixed use and residential development in both urban and sub-urban environments. He has extensive knowledge of managing and executing masterplanning work from inception through to planning application.

His multidisciplinary approach in masterplanning is based on knowledge of the various disciplines influencing the built

environment, including Architecture, Town Planning, Urban Economics, Community planning and Land Management. This has enabled him to better understand the social, economic and physical context of the development sites and propose appropriate actions for development.

Previously, Luan has worked for Gillespies leading landscape led masterplanning particularly in KSA, AECOM in their Abu Dhabi office where he also lived for about 2 years. Before this, Luan has worked for Boyer Planning leading the Visioning & Masterplanning Team as well as several large renown architectural practices in London such as PRP Architects, Scott Brownrigg and Alan Baxter and Associates.

Before moving to London in pursuit of Post Graduate studies, Luan was one of the founders and a board director of one of the most successful and pioneering Planning Consultancies in Albania and the wider Balkans region. Co-Plan, Center for Habitat Development was established with the support of international donor agencies to encourage the development of local capacities of a country engulfed by harsh transition. Co-Plan was the first stopping point of most international consultancies in the country in the period 1998 to 2002 and a key actor of disseminating best practice in the international arena. In this position Luan has led and managed large-scale projects of Community and Infrastructure Planning in collaboration with large development organisations such as The World Bank, UNDP, OSCE and other donor or development agencies. In this position he has led large undertakings of social and economic and infrastructure interventions for rapidly growing informal settlements of Tirana which was part of Tirana's Strategic Development Plan approved by the government in 2002. He was also involved in training programs to raise capacities within local and central government institutions and disseminate lessons learned in international conferences.

Luan has led various consultancy missions in war conflict areas such as planning and reconciliation missions in Kosovo during and post conflict in 1999-2000.

Work experience in the UK

Wolfson Economics Prize “A New Garden City”

Masterplanning and urban design strategy for developing a new ‘Garden City’ in the Hoo Peninsula, Southeast England to accommodate approximately 10,000 new homes, employment and other community, public and commercial facilities including water and wind energy generation. Runners up prize.

https://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/941324/SHELTER_WolfsonPrize_WEB.pdf

Dover District Employment Land Study

Assessment of employment land for the Dover District to contribute to the emerging Local Plan. The study used a new empirical method for sustainable land (SALD) that Luan has created and for which he won a prize from the Brownfield Regeneration Group awards.

Brightwells Yard, Farnham, The UK (Former East Street Farnham)

Urban Designer for the initial visioning and masterplanning of this major urban regeneration in the historic city center of Farnham in Surrey. The project secured planning permission and is now in completion stages.

Lower Herne Village, Canterbury

Design and Project Leader to prepare the outline planning application for a residential lead mixed use scheme including a large shopping facility.

Ninewells, Cambridge

A detailed Planning Application and S73 amendment of the Outline Application for 162 contemporary, high-specification family homes and apartments set in a beautiful natural setting to the south of Cambridge city.

Henley Gate Urban Extension

Senior Urban designer preparing the application information for a large urban extension in Ipswich of a new community of circa 1300 new homes including Community Centre, green facilities and infrastructure provision.

SE Maidstone Strategic Land

Project Leader and Urban Designer responsible to prepare a Vision development document on behalf of Golding Homes to promote a large site of 142 Ha in the South East of Maidstone. The resultant document has been consulted to various stakeholders including high profile public offices.

Work in the Middle East

xxxxxx Peaks, KSA (ongoing – confidential)

Luan was leading the Detailed Master Plan for a large hospitality site of unique landscape, cultural and historical value in a mountainous area in KSA.

AlUla Masterplan, KSA

Luan was a leading senior member to deliver the Concept Masterplan for a new city of approximately 150,000 people - a high profile heritage sites in KSA near the Red Sea. Luan was responsible to oversee the coordination with the external consultants of the consortium including transport, infrastructure, heritage, safety and security, and the real estate and economic inputs. He contributed in the population and visitors model and formulating a development brief that would maximize value.

Al Ain University Campus masterplan, UAE

Luan led the design and project management for the Detailed masterplan for the Al Ain University in UAE. The submission to the Abu Dhabi Municipality was compliant to the DMP Multiple plot requirements and the work for the construction is imminent.

North Coast Resort, Egypt

Luan led the design and project management for the Pre-Concept design of this high profile sea resort in the north coast of Egypt.

Airport Terminal Masterplan, KSA

Luan was coordinating the international design competition and the masterplanning pre-concept stage for what was aspired to be the largest airport in the world. The project is confidential.

Work in the Balkans

Greater Tirana Strategic Development Plan

Local consultant assisting PADCO (the lead consultant) to gather social economic data for the informal settlements of the city and contribute in the development of the spatial plan for the rapidly expanding city. The final plan was approved by the Government of Albania in 2002.

Bathore Community development Program

Lead and management of one of the largest Community Development Projects in Albania at the time, seeking the legalization of a large informal settlement in the outskirts of Tirana. The project was funded by a partnership between the Government of Albania, The World Bank and other international Donor Agencies and visited by President of the World Bank Mr James Wolfensohn in 1999.

Training for Peace, Mitrovica, Kosovo

Training the newly appointed Planning Staff of Mitrovica City in Kosovo on both sides of the river of this divided city. The training was a program funded by OSCE (The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) aiming to use Planning development as a tool of cooperation between two antagonist parts of the city.

Work in Africa

Assessing the Fishing Industry in Accra, Ghana

Short consultancy assignment on behalf of the DPU, University College London to the Municipality of Accra to assess the issues with the fishing industry and propose necessary policy recommendations.