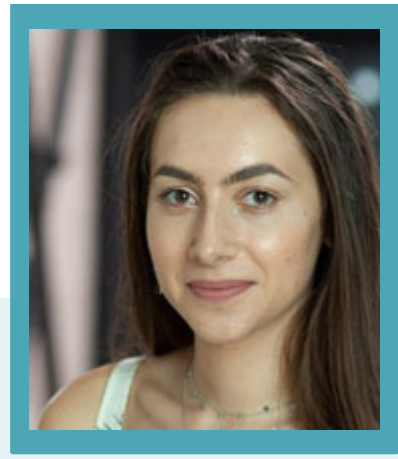


## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SERIES

# Haroulla Georgiou

Associate Architect, Align



**Please provide a short 50-word intro about yourself and your career path. If you are not from London, what brought you here?**

*I am an architect and I'm originally from Cyprus. It had always been my dream to work in London, so I moved here for work in 2014. Then, whilst studying for my Part 3 in 2017, I happened to work on an interior design fit-out project and I enjoyed it so much, I decided that I wanted to focus my career primarily on interior design. I haven't looked back since!*

**What has been a highlight of your career so far? OR What has been your biggest career challenge so far and how have you overcome it?**

*The highlight of my career was completing my Part 3 studies and becoming a fully qualified architect. As far as projects go, a real highlight has been the amazingly sustainable workspace project just completed for The Economist Group, where we had to relocate 530 people onto a new floor. The biggest challenge here was re-purposing the existing and inherited furniture from the previous tenant. We also re-used and re-located existing glazing and converted a double-glazed door into two single ones. In total, we achieved an 82% reduction in the embodied carbon of the project, compared to a normal procurement route. The project has just won the Silver Award in the Corporate and Commercial category at the London Design Awards 2022. As well as being an exemplar project in terms of sustainability, it also looks really neat!*

**What brought you to CREW UK?**

*I was first introduced to CREW through a colleague at Align who was already a member. From our conversations together and my increased understanding of the great opportunities on offer, I decided to join. I wanted to meet and network with inspiring women from the industry and obtain new skills sets through the amazing mentoring programmes offered by CREW UK.*

**Plan B - if you were not in real estate, what would you be involved in now?**

*It's really difficult to imagine myself doing something else, as I love interior design and the job I now do at Align, where I recently was promoted to Associate. At the same time, I have always been fascinated by languages and word origins, so maybe I would have been a linguistics expert if I wasn't an architect?*

**What are your interests/passions outside of work?**

*I am fascinated by different cultures. I believe travelling and meeting people is one of the best ways to understand and appreciate different cultures. I love exploring new cities, their architecture, cuisines, and lifestyles, which influences the way I then design interior spaces. We are fortunate at Align, in that our projects are located all over the UK and in Europe, which means we get to travel to different cities every so often, which is always exciting.*

**Is there a book or a podcast that you have found insightful and would like to share with the community?**

*Yes, a Secret Santa gift that changed my life! It was "The Little Book of Colour" by Karen Haller. This book has been hugely inspirational to me in my design work and has changed my whole understanding of the power of colour. This book examines our deepest reactions to colour, from personal associations through to cultural and psychological reactions and advocates the use of colour to aid wellbeing and support in mental health in all kinds of environments.*

**Did you like what you've read, and now keen to get involved in CREW UK?**

Visit <https://crewuk.org/why-join/benefits-qualifications> to explore membership and benefits