

Young engineers embrace social responsibility

The new chair of BESA's Future Leaders group believes one of the most exciting things about being a building engineering professional is the opportunity to improve people's living and working conditions.

Reinaldo Melendez is highly motivated to bring engineering designs to life so that they make an impact on society. "I like to see how my work shapes the places where people live, work and play," he says.

Reinaldo was a founding member of the Future Leaders and represents the group on the main BESA Council. He has now stepped up from vice-chair to succeed Reanna Taylor as chair and wants to build on her achievements, particularly in the areas of mental health and the wider adoption of digital technologies – two key project areas for the group.

Digital technologies also play a major role in Reinaldo's 'day job' with Imtech Engineering Services, who he joined after moving to the UK from his home in Venezuela. He achieved a first-class degree in Mechanical Engineering from Universidad Central de Venezuela in 2014 and thought a great way to develop his passion for engineering further would be to experience a different continent.

He was able to fund his own place at London South Bank University where he completed an MSc in Engineering Management while also holding down a full time job at Imtech.

His belief in the social role of building services engineers was put into practice in his work with the charity CRASH where he was part of the team that delivered the refurbishment of a homeless shelter.

Reinaldo was also selected by BESA to attend the Primeast Leadership course, to develop his individual leadership style and capability. He believes this has been a major contributory factor in his success at Imtech.

His first role at the company as a trainee was delivering the commissioning of the £8m Chelsea Creek Project, which included an energy centre and 140 luxury apartments. He is now working on Imtech's largest London project The Madison; a 53-storey residential tower with 423 apartments. The project makes use of BIM 360 and Reinaldo is the quality controls engineer running the digital platform. This is a new position for the company and involves developing and implementing the digital strategy, liaising with the production manager and supply chain.

His employer describes him as "a great role model" adding that it is only through "young, passionate and dynamic individuals like him that we will be able to develop and safeguard the future of our industry".

Reinaldo is passionate about embracing emerging technologies and collaborating with peers across the industry. He is determined to use his time as Future Leaders' chair to improve cross-sector collaboration and share lessons, knowledge and best practice with other young engineers – both those working for BESA members and beyond.

For more information about BESA Future Leaders group go to www.theBESA.com/future-leaders