

# Jenny Gibbs

The president of the British Institute of Interior Design is injecting new energy into the revamped organisation

Words KATE BURNETT

Anyone who is familiar with professional interior design in the UK will surely have heard of Jenny Gibbs. In the first place, because she has spent the past quarter of a century educating a generation of interior designers and now because she is the new president of the British Institute of Interior Design. Gibbs was appointed at the beginning of the year — taking over from another educator, Iris Dunbar — and will be president until June 2011. This will hopefully give her enough time to work through a long list of tasks that should further reinforce the organisation's new institute status, which was awarded in 2009 (it was formerly the British Interior Design Association).

'Being president was not something I set out to do,' she explains. 'I was a BIDA member for many years then, three or four years ago, I had time to get more involved and was asked to help with the continuing professional development programme. Given my background in education, it was something I felt I could contribute to.'

Gibbs became increasingly involved and the organization's new status has also increased the importance of CPD. 'An association is all about members,' Gibbs clarifies, 'whereas an institute is all about professional competence. And, of course, we are working hard to find ways to increase the

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