

## BTEC CONSTRUCTION

#BUILTBYBTEC



**Name:** Nick Riley

**Job Title:** Architect and Board Director,  
Whittam Cox Architects

**BTEC studied:** BTEC Level 3 National in  
Building Studies at Wilmorton College, Derby

**What are your main job responsibilities?** I co-own and manage a large Architectural practice employing over 130 people. We deliver projects all over the UK for predominantly commercial clients in the retail, residential, leisure and commercial sectors. I remain involved with clients and projects daily.

**Why did you choose to study a BTEC in Construction?**

I knew where I wanted to go, and the BTEC was more specific in an area I was really interested in. It was an apprenticeship route into Architecture practice, initially as an Architectural Technician.



**How do you think studying a BTEC helped you in your career?** I did my **BTEC part-time for two years whilst working full time in practice**. This entry route into the industry worked incredibly well for me and created **an amazing platform to build my career**. I've used all my learning through later training and qualifying to be an Architect, as well as every day in practice in present day. In my experience, so many recently qualified architects lack real-world experience and practical knowledge about building. **The BTEC gave me a distinct advantage** and enabled me to progress my career far earlier than normal.

**What did you enjoy most about studying a BTEC?**  
The combination of **academic and practical learning**.

**Would you recommend a career in construction?**  
Yes, without doubt. The challenge, however, is attracting a new generation of talented people who think differently to the industry today. The great thing about BTEC is that you can get a **broad understanding** which can give you a **broad skillset** which you can develop according to your interests.

**As an employer, why do you value BTEC qualifications and skills in candidates?** Because it gives individuals **invaluable knowledge** about the **technical and practical aspects of constructing buildings**. This can directly influence and inform design and support in delivering quality buildings which will stand the test of time.

To find out more about BTEC Construction qualifications, visit **[quals.pearson.com/BuiltbyBTEC](https://quals.pearson.com/BuiltbyBTEC)**