

# MEET THE MENTORS

## Ruth Oates, Buro Four



### **Why do you think the BCO is important? Why did you join?**

The BCO sets the gold standard in office design, benefitting occupiers and shaping the future of workplace environments. I joined because it connects me with individuals and organisations who share a passion for innovation and best practice in the office sector. It's also provided me with a brilliant network across the industry.

### **What made you want to become a mentor?**

I'm passionate about encouraging the next generation of talent in the construction industry. I've been fortunate to have mentors throughout my career, and I'm incredibly grateful for their support. Becoming a mentor is my way of giving someone else that opportunity.

### **What has been your biggest achievement as a mentor?**

Seeing mentees achieve their goals is the most rewarding part of mentoring. It's wonderful to support people in finding their confidence and reaching their potential.

### **What are you most proud of in your career?**

It's hard to pinpoint one specific moment – I like to celebrate project milestones, personal qualifications, and life achievements. I'm motivated by the sense of accomplishment that comes from being part of a team that overcomes challenges and delivers successful projects. I've worked on many exciting office developments across London, as well as diverse projects like the London 2012 Velodrome and the forthcoming London Museum. Cumulatively, I'm proud of having built a rewarding 20+ year career in the construction industry, while also balancing life as a working mum.

### **What is the most useful piece of advice you've received during your career?**

Early in my career, the best advice was to gain work experience. So during my undergraduate degree, I spent every summer working in different roles to broaden my understanding of the industry. More recently, I've embraced the adage that "leaders never stop learning", which is a powerful reminder to stay curious and open to growth.

**To meet our other mentors or find out more about how to apply to the Mentoring Programme, visit the [BCO Website](#)**