

Group highlights the importance of women in the construction industry

# The chicks with bricks who have built up a good career



By EMMA MIDGLEY

**TWO ARCHITECTS who have set up a practice are calling on Docklands women to join their group for women working in the construction industry – Chicks with Bricks.**

Pascale Scheurer, who runs the Surface to Air practice in Poplar High Street along with her business partner, Holly Porter, set up the networking group last year to create more women role models in the industry.

She said: "I'm an architect. Only 14 per cent of architects are women overall, and the percentage is about the same for engineers.

"About nine per cent of quantity surveyors are women.

"Architecture is relatively badly paid and has long hours, so women find it difficult to manage with a family."

Chicks with Bricks already has 600 members, including both senior women and young entrepreneurs in the construction industry.

According to Ms Scheurer, members of her group work in Canary Wharf on projects such as the construction of the

HSBC Tower, or in surrounding areas such as Stratford and the Lea Valley.

Ms Scheurer said: "This is an interesting time for east London.

"We work on education and regeneration projects. We want to get involved in bidding for projects to do with the Olympics.

"I helped design Stratford Station before I set up this practice.

"We are interested in making sure the infrastructure, such as the stadia and the sports buildings, is well tied into the community.

"We're looking at what the legacy of the Olympics will be in 2020, not just in 2012."

Ms Scheurer said that joining a group such as Chicks with Bricks could help small practices and companies to form a united front when bidding for large projects such as luxury developments in Canary Wharf or the Olympics.

Companies interested in finding out more about Chicks with Bricks should get in touch by emailing [info@surface-to-air.com](mailto:info@surface-to-air.com) or by calling Holly Porter on **07803 282033**.

The next event is at the Royal College of Art on March 28.

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