

Brady comes out strongly in Q&A for presidency

Will Hurst

The RIBA could be run by two women in succession after Angela Brady cemented her position as the frontrunner in the race to succeed Ruth Reed.

Following a live question-and-answer session with the three candidates on bdonline, and the subsequent issuing of voting papers last Friday, many of those who took part said Brady was the clear winner ahead of Richard Parnaby and Roger Shrimplin.

This follows a BD poll last month which gave her more than 50% of the vote, with Parnaby on 37% and Shrimplin on 11%.

Responding to a range of questions, Brady said she supported the introduction of free membership for women on maternity leave and called for a members' room to be made available for free at 66 Portland Place.

She also hit out at the current leadership for hiring out the venue for weddings and for what she described as a "slow" response to the row over low pay.

"I don't think the RIBA is active enough in stopping low pay," she said. "What do you do – penalise



Angela Brady
Described as the "only credible candidate" after criticising RIBA's response to low pay row

the firms? Name and shame them? Stop them being RIBA members? Now there's an idea."

Chris Roche, an RIBA councillor who took part in the Q&A, complained that all three had been vague on policy but claimed Brady had been the most impressive.

"She is the person who is least close to the RIBA executive and... has fresh opinions and is more willing to push members' interests up the agenda," he said.

Low-pay campaigner Keith Tomlinson agreed, calling Brady the "only credible candidate".

During the Q&A, Parnaby said he would pursue "constructive conversation" with the Arb, and said he wanted to break down barriers between the built environment professions.

Shrimplin said he would lobby for the introduction of planning rules that favoured the use of architects.