

James Barnes

Senior Partner

James Barnes is a senior partner and is responsible for the procurement and management of work across North America. Formerly based in the New York office, James has been responsible for projects such as The Bow in Calgary, Jameson House in Vancouver, 425 Park Avenue and 50 Hudson Yards in New York, and most recently the new Headquarters for the PGA TOUR in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

He studied architecture at Manchester University and after graduating in 2001 he joined Foster + Partners. He initially worked on the McLaren Technology Centre in Woking, UK. The group headquarters incorporates design studios, laboratories and testing, and production facilities for Formula One and road cars; he also worked on several fit-out and specialist equipment packages.

He went on to participate in several architectural competitions, including the winning schemes for the Monaco Yacht Club and the University of Toronto's Leslie L Dan Pharmacy Building for which he was involved in further developing the design. In addition, he led the design team for Sovereign Bay Marina, Gibraltar – a large-scale development comprising hotels, shops and a marina where he was responsible for the day-to-day running of the project, liaising with the consultants and acting as the key client contact.

As project architect for The Bow, a 58-storey commercial headquarters, he was responsible for complete coordination and day-to-day running of the project. The Bow was the first significant mixed-use development east of Centre Street in downtown Calgary. Providing an environmentally sustainable headquarters for one of Canada's leading corporations, the design has transformed the surrounding public space and create a new commercial and civic destination.

Following a series of high profile international competitions, he relocated to the New York office in 2013 to manage the design and construction of 425 Park Avenue, an office tower set to achieve LEED Gold and WELL certification, and 50 Hudson Yards, an office development that forms an integral part of the new Hudson Yards district on the western edge of Manhattan in New York.

In 2016 Foster + Partners were selected to design the new global home for the PGA TOUR in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Nestled within the verdant landscape and surrounded by a large freshwater lake, the innovative building embraces new ways of working and collaboration in response to changing media landscapes and audiences, as the TOUR looks towards the future.

More recently James has returned to London but continues to support the design and delivery of projects across the east coast of North America. He was promoted to associate in 2004, associate partner in 2006, partner in 2008 and senior partner in 2018.

Foster + Partners



The Bow, Calgary, Canada, 2005 - 2013



425 Park Avenue, New York, USA, 2012 - 2020



PGA TOUR, Florida, USA, 2016 - 2020



50 Hudson Yards, New York, USA, 2016 - 2022