



<https://www.fdcapital.co.uk/job/fractional-finance-director-architecture-practice/>

Fractional Finance Director – Architecture Practice

Description

Location: Manchester (hybrid)

Commitment: Around 1 day per week initially, likely to reduce to 2–4 days per month

Day rate: £600–£750 per day

Start: Immediate

Role

FD Capital is working with a well-established architecture practice in Manchester to appoint a Fractional Finance Director. The practice has a capable in-house finance team producing monthly and quarterly management accounts. The leadership team now wants a senior, independent finance voice who can look past the numbers to the underlying financial health of the business, and help put it right.

This is a strategic role rather than a reporting one. The previous arrangement leaned heavily on spreadsheets and described problems without solving them. The practice wants a Finance Director who will diagnose the causes, set out clear and practical solutions, and build a finance function that runs on its systems rather than offline workbooks.

You will start at around one day per week, working with the leadership team and the board. As the finance function matures, the commitment is expected to reduce to three or four days per month, and later to around two. This pattern is agreed from the outset. The role is hybrid, with regular time in the Manchester studio and the rest delivered remotely.

Responsibilities

Act as a strategic, independent finance adviser to the leadership team, including preparing for and supporting board meetings.

Assess the overall financial condition of the practice and turn the findings into clear, prioritised actions.

Lead, coach and develop the existing finance team, including the finance lead who produces the management accounts, a finance assistant and a trainee bookkeeper.

Improve management information so it is clear, concise and decision-ready, making full use of Xero and Fathom.

Strengthen financial routines and controls across month end, cash management, forecasting and reporting.

Introduce and drive regular project-level financial and commercial reviews, covering fee tracking, scope control, resourcing against fee, work in progress and project profitability.

Extract useful data from CMap (timesheets, expenses, scheduling, invoicing and reporting) and join it to the financial data, so project and practice performance tell one consistent story.

Bring commercial discipline to a design-led culture, working with project teams rather than against them.

Advise the leadership team on pricing, margin, cash flow and growth decisions.

Qualifications

Hiring organization

FD Capital

Employment Type

Part-time

Beginning of employment

1st November 2026

Duration of employment

Perm

Industry

Professional Services

Job Location

Manchester, Lancashire, United Kingdom

Working Hours

905

Base Salary

£ 600 - £ 750

Date posted

October 17, 2026

Valid through

31.10.2026

Qualified accountant (ACA, ACCA or CIMA).

Proven experience as a Finance Director, fractional FD or senior finance lead in an SME.

Strong hands-on Xero experience. Working knowledge of Fathom or a similar reporting tool.

Experience in project-based businesses such as architecture, engineering, construction consultancy or other professional services.

A track record of moving a finance function from spreadsheet-heavy reporting to clear, system-led management information.

Experience of fee management, WIP and project profitability reviews.

A coaching style, with the confidence to develop an existing finance lead and a junior team.

Able to present clearly to a leadership team and board, and to explain the “why” behind the numbers.

Desirable: direct experience of CMap or similar practice-management software, such as Deltek or Synergy.

Available to start promptly and able to attend the Manchester studio when needed.

Job Benefits

Day rate of £600–£750, paid on approved timesheets through FD Capital.

Flexible fractional engagement of around one day per week, with a hybrid working pattern.

A clear, upfront view of how the commitment is expected to change over time.

The chance to shape a finance function and have a visible impact at leadership and board level.

Work with a creative, design-led practice that values commercial insight.

Support from FD Capital throughout the engagement, with each search led personally by Adrian Lawrence FCA.