Niall Kirkwood is a landscape architect, architect, technologist, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Academic Dean) and a tenured Professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA where he has taught full time since 1992. He held the position of Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the GSD (2003-2009), Program Director (1998-2003, 2005-2008) and Advisor, Master of Design Studies Environment Track, (1999-2003). Kirkwood serves as Chairman of the GSD Faculty Review Board and Academic Misconduct Panel and has served as a faculty member of the Harvard Medical School Center for Health and the Global Environment, the Harvard University Center for the Environment and a member of the faculty steering committee of The Harvard Global Health Institute. He currently serves as the GSD representative on Harvard University's Title IX Policy Review Advisory Committee and the Vice Provost for Advanced Learning's (VPAL) Planning Council.

He holds two architecture degrees from the University of Manchester (UK), a MLA degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, an honorary degree from Harvard University, Cambridge, MA and an Honorary Doctorate in Science from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland in 2009.

He is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) USA, a Honorary Fellow of the Kew Guild, Royal Gardens at Kew, England, UK, a founding Member of the Welfare Landscape Institute, Seoul, Republic of Korea and was formerly a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and The Landscape Institute (TLI), UK.