



**GLOBAL DESIGN FORUM ANNOUNCES
ECLECTIC PROGRAMME OF CONVERSATIONS
TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE, INSPIRE AND
EMPOWER**

18-26 SEPTEMBER 2021
londondesignfestival.com
#LDF21

London, UK – 14 September 2021: London Design Festival today announces an inspiring programme of keynotes, talks and panel discussions for Global Design Forum 2021. Taking place from 18-24 September, this year's programme is a hybrid of live events hosted at the V&A and digital talks online.

From care to co-creation and collaboration, designers' response to environmental and social issues are top of the agenda. Highlights include the **Circular Design Project** in partnership with **SAP** and the **Ellen MacArthur Foundation**, innovations in powering the home presented by **OVO Energy**, how developers are working with cities in response to the pandemic presented by **Lendlease** and a talk on magnifying the beauty in the unseen or unexpected in partnership with **No3 Gin**. This year's speakers will represent a range of design disciplines and include **Ilse Crawford**, **Sadie Morgan**, **Joseph Henry**, **Paul Priestman**, **Malcolm Garrett** and **Lucienne Roberts**, **Marije Vogelzang**, **Peter Marigold**, **Georgia Lupi**, **Sebastian Cox**, **Bethan Laura Wood** and **Fernando Laposse**.

Every year, the Global Design Forum hosts dynamic debates around key topics within the design sector. This year's Forum will comprise an eclectic programme of conversations bringing together different creatives to share their practice and facilitate a dialogue that will inspire and empower.

At the heart of the Forum will be The Circular Design Project by SAP, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and London Design Festival. Building on discussions at last year's Global Design Forum, and in the lead up to the UK hosting COP26, three curated talks will take place during the Festival, focusing on regenerative fashion, plastics, and food. The programme will culminate in a final panel discussion hosted by **Scott Russell**, executive board member of SAP, immediately ahead of COP26 in October 2021, and will explore how together business, design and innovative thinking can facilitate tangible solutions.

These curated talks will bring together leading design thinkers and global brands that are changing their business models to be more sustainable, and for whom the circular economy is a core pillar of their practice and values. Conversations will highlight the urgent need to empower and equip the design community to adopt a circular framework, and present alternative ways of living without having a detrimental impact on the environment and society as a whole. The talks will be hosted online and are free to attend, enabling audiences around the world to access content from some of the world's leading design voices and opinion leaders.

In addition, over 50 speakers from the global design community will come together to share inspiring new perspectives in another year when both the industry and the wider world have undergone significant change and disruption. Talks include: **Ilse Crawford** together with **Dame Laura Lee**, Chief Executive of Maggie's Centre will discuss the spaces that provide care in

different contexts; **Arup**, **vHM Design** and **Takram**, together with **Michelle Little**, Head of Propositions and Partnerships for OVO Smart Home, **OVO Energy**, will discuss innovations and new possibilities in generating energy for our domestic environments; **Selina Mason**, Director of Masterplanning at Lendlease will host a talk about regeneration projects and their scope and scale, featuring **Sadie Morgan**, **David Kohn** and **Sowmya Parthasarathy** from Arup; A panel featuring consultants and cultural organisations share a new initiative in partnership with the Mayor of London on how public buildings can be more inclusive and accessible for both neuro-diverse and dementia patients; **Sebastian Cox**, **Bethan Laura Wood** and photographer **Justin Zoll** present a talk on design, detail and aesthetics in partnership with **No3 Gin**; **Giorgia Lupi**, Pentagram partner and information designer challenges the impersonality of data, creating visual narratives that reconnect numbers to what they stand for: stories, people and ideas; **Lucienne Roberts** in conversation with **Malcolm Garrett** will discuss the political nature of Graphic Design; **Usha Raghavachari**, Innovation Director from D-Ford will present the importance of a human-centred approach to design; **Tim Fendley** from agency Applied presents the power of graphic design in relation to behavioural science; Graphic designer **Patrick Thomas** together with **Tony Brook** from Spin and **Jenny Balfour-Paul** will present the impact of Indigo on both culture and the manufacturing of the textile trade; and architectural practices **Resolve** and **Unknown Works** talk about their approach to co-creation and collaboration.

Global Design Forum is the Festival's curated thought leadership programme, celebrating design and the minds shaping its future. Tapping into the Festival's unrivalled network of industry-leading designers and experts, the Forum features a unique mix of talks, debates and workshops that together reflect the most innovative thinking in the world of design today.

Ben Evans CBE, London Design Festival Director, said: *"The 2021 Global Design Forum programme will explore the role of design in a shifting future. From thinking in a post-pandemic world and innovations within digital futures, to the power of design thinking to influence and inform our society and environment, we hope the talks will inform and inspire audiences."*

The 2021 Global Design Forum is free to attend, making the talks accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

Details of the full programme as well as booking information can be found here: globaldesignforum.com/talks

Global Design Forum 2021 is supported by Headline Sponsor SAP, Sustainability Day sponsor OVO energy, and Programme Partners D-Ford, Lendlease and No3 Gin.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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ABOUT LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

Established in 2003 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world.

London Design Festival has since earned the reputation as a key calendar moment of London's autumn creative season, alongside London Fashion Week, Frieze Art Fair and the London Film Festival, attracting the greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to the capital, in a citywide celebration.

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