

The Design Council invites businesses and designers to collaborate for a net zero future at Design for Planet Festival 2023

The Design Council announces the third edition of the award-winning Design for Planet Festival 2023. Under the theme COLLABORATE, the festival aims to mobilise the UK's powerful design community to unite efforts in addressing the climate crisis.

In support of COP 28, the two-day free hybrid event will take place on Tuesday 17 October and Wednesday 18 October 2023 at the Enterprise Centre, University of East Anglia in Norwich - one of the world's most sustainable buildings.

Guests will hear from some of the leading voices in sustainability and design today, across a series of online and in person events, seminars and keynotes, including design anthropologist, Dr Dori Tunstall, science communicator Asher Minns, illustrator and designer Stefanie Posavec, housing campaigner and television presenter Kwajo Tweneboa and many more.

The festival is free to all designers, universities, students and businesses alike – with registrations open from today.

Today (13 June 2023) the Design Council opens its free online registrations and announces curatorial team and programme highlights for the **Design for Planet Festival 2023**.

The **Design for Planet Festival** is the Design Council's flagship event as part of the Design for Planet mission: to galvanise the 1.97 million people working in design in the UK to design our way to a net zero world and beyond.

This year's **festival theme COLLABORATE** champions design innovation and advocacy in the face of climate crisis as a collective act. The event brings together

leading experts from the world of design, fashion, built environment, policy, media and education to empower an important cross-industry dialogue. Placing the planet at the heart of this conversation, the festival highlights the shared responsibility and power of collaboration, in the lead up to the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference - COP 28 in the United Arab Emirates, later in the year.

Amplifying the importance of collaboration, **Design for Planet Festival 2023** has introduced a new approach to its curatorial panel - inviting for the first time an inspiring and diverse group of cross-sectorial experts to help curate the festival alongside Design Council experts.

Design for Planet Festival 2023 curatorial panel includes, **Cat Drew, Chief Design Officer, Design Council, Natasha Trotman, Design Council Expert, Inclusion, Alice Fisher, Design Journalist at The Guardian, Shawn Adams, Co-Founder of Poor Collective and Fiona Lettice, Research and Innovation, University of East Anglia.**

The festival will feature over 60 cross-industry experts from many diverse disciplines of sustainability and design, from fashion and built environment to energy, mobility, inclusivity, policy, media, education. Keynote speakers include **Bas Van Abel, Founder of Fairphone, Dr Dori Tunstall, Dean of the Faculty of Design at Ontario College of Art and Design University, Asher Minns, Science Communicator at Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, Stefanie Posavec, Designer, Artist and Author, Kwajo Tweneboa, Housing Campaigner and Television Presenter, Zoe Robinson, Producer at Headlong Theatre, Helen McGowan, Production Director at TOAST, Tiffanie Darke, Director of Story Futures at Story Studios, Baroness Helene Hayman, Co-Chair at Peers for the Planet and Head of Marketing EMEA at Patagonia** will deliver a keynote on the importance and impact of collaboration in design.

Further speakers and panel discussions announced today include **Asher Minns, Executive Director, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change alongside Stefanie Posavec, illustrator and designer of 'The Climate Book' by Greta Thunberg, Rosslyn Colderley, England North Director of Sustrans and housing campaigner and television presenter Kwajo Tweneboa.**

Minnie Moll, Chief Executive, the Design Council said:

“This will be our third year of curating the sustainable design event of the year; discovering what design needs to do to solve the greatest challenge of our time. We will bring together designers, businesses, and policy makers to connect, inspire and help make this year's theme of COLLABORATE a reality.

The theme COLLABORATE is an opportunity to champion the ways in which design happens with others, has impact at scale with multiple actors in the room, and is more meaningful when we do it together.”

Professor John Gordon, Academic Lead, Creative University of East Anglia said:

“UEA is delighted host the Design Council’s Design for Planet festival, which promises an exciting week of events and debates exploring and supporting the UK design industry’s role in a sustainable, climate-first future.

The EnterpriseCentre on our campus is a fitting location for this conversation. As one of the greenest buildings in Europe, it is a shining example of how to design for the planet. Innovations by the thriving creative and cultural industries of Norwich and the

Eastern region demonstrate how it is possible link place and communities to realise an ethos of sustainability, an ethos that connects local and global outlooks. We expect that the festival will be an inspiring call for action for our students and researchers, and for artists, designers, businesses and individuals.

The festival will be held at one of the greenest buildings in the UK, The Enterprise Centre at UEA completed in 2015. The original challenge for the team building The Enterprise Centre was to create the UK's most sustainable building. As a result, it was constructed sourcing low-carbon local materials. The innovative Enterprise Centre has the two highest sustainability certifications possible; Passivhaus and BREEAM Outstanding. The low embodied carbon building is made from timber, local thatch and reclaimed materials. It is one of only a handful of buildings to achieve an energy certificate DEC A rating, the most energy efficient specification, for a sixth year in a row.”

Get involved

Visitors can expect talks, practical sessions, design tools and a full list of speakers to be announced in September 2023.

Sign up today to the Design for Planet Festival 2023 [HERE](#).

- ENDS -

Notes to Editor:

IMAGES

#DesignForPlanet

Design for Planet Festival is the Design Council's flagship event as part of our Design for Planet mission: to galvanise the 1.97 million people working in design in the UK to design our way to a net zero world and beyond. The festival will be held in the Enterprise Centre at the University of East Anglia in Norwich on the 17 and 18 of October 2023 with site tours in the area on 16 October. The festival will host 120 invited guests in person and be streamed online.

Keynote Speaker biographies:

Bas Van Abel, Founder of Fairphone

Bas van Abel is an entrepreneur, designer and technician with more than 20 years of experience with social innovation. He has a passion for changing the economic system through a design approach. He believes that companies play an essential role in the transition that is needed to achieve a more sustainable economic system. As a designer, Bas delves into the invisible world behind our production systems, brings the problems to the surface and uses his companies as a means to show that things can be done differently.

Dr Dori Tunstall, Dean of the Faculty of Design at Ontario College of Art and Design University

Elizabeth Dori Tunstall is a design anthropologist, researcher, academic leader, writer, and educator. She is dean of the faculty of design at OCAD University (Ontario College of Art and Design University) in Toronto, Canada, and the first black dean of a faculty of design anywhere. Tunstall holds a PhD and an MA in anthropology from Stanford University and a BA in anthropology from Bryn Mawr College.

Asher Minns, Science Communicator at Tyndall Centre for Climate Change

At the forefront of innovation in science communication and impact, Asher Minns specialises in knowledge transfer of climate change and other global change research to audiences outside of academia. Minns has developed and embedded many of the techniques around coproduction and policy relevance that are today standard in interdisciplinary research, and is also the Executive Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, and co-Chair of the Norwich Climate Commission.

Stefanie Posavec, Designer, Artist and Author

Stefanie Posavec is a designer, artist, and author focused on creating playful, accessible, human-scaled approaches to communicating with data and information to all ages and audiences. With this mindset, the projects Stefanie creates can be found in hospitals, museums, or on television, and will often use a human-scaled, hand-crafted design process. Stefanie's work has been exhibited at major galleries including MoMA, the Storefront for Art and Architecture, the Centre Pompidou, ArtScience Museum, the V&A, the Design Museum, the Wellcome Collection, the Science Museum, The Southbank Centre, Somerset House and Bletchley Park.

Kwajo Tweneboa, Housing Campaigner and Television Presenter

Kwajo Tweneboa, a 24-year-old activist from south London, uses social media to give a voice to social housing tenants and expose the derelict living conditions that many are forced to endure. Kwajo travels the UK, shining a light on the conditions which housing providers and governments have kept hidden, passionately campaigning for change. Kwajo has appeared on Sky News and Good Morning Britain. Kwajo recently presented Untold: Help! My home is in Disgusting on Channel 4, where he took on social housing tenants and private renters calls for help.

Zoe Robinson, Producer at Headlong Theatre

Zoe Robinson is a Creative Producer & Collaborator. Zoe was the Senior Producer at Polka Theatre, and also freelancer as Producer and collaborator for performance artists Paula Varjack, Haley McGee and storyteller Jan Blake.

Helen McGowan, Production Director at TOAST

Production Director, Alongside the production management of commercial products, Helen is creating and delivering workshops with the aim of inspiring a community of like-minded people to create and repair.

Tiffanie Darke, Director of Story Futures at Story Studios

A fashion writer and activist, Tiffanie Darke is a storyteller in the fashion and sustainability space and a regular contributor to the Financial Times 'How to Spend It magazine'. Tiffanie Darje is a communication and brand specialist with over 20 years experience combining editorial sensibility with commercial strategy, she has worked with global brands, start ups and founder led businesses.

Baroness Helene Hayman, Co-Chair at Peers for the Planet

Baroness Helene Hayman is a Crossbench peer and former Lord Speaker of the House of Lords. She was MP for Welwyn and Hatfield in 1974. After losing her seat in 1979 Helene founded a charity, Maternity Alliance. She was involved in the NHS and a range of national and international organisations working on global health and development and chaired the Whittington Health NHS Trust for five years She then entered the House of Lords and, following the 1997 General Election, held Ministerial posts in the Transport, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Health Departments, and was made a Privy Counsellor. In 2006 she was elected by members of the House of Lords to be the first ever Lord Speaker, serving a full term until 2011. Helene previously served as a trustee of the Disasters Emergency Committee and is a former Chair of Malaria No More UK.

Head of Marketing EMEA at Patagonia

Patagonia is an American outdoor recreation apparel retailer, operating in stores in 10+ countries globally, as well as factories in 16 countries. Patagonia uses 100% renewable energy globally, and a high proportion of its materials are made from recycled fabrics, including its polyester, nylon and wool. Patagonia's business model is different - rejecting fast fashion by creating high quality long lasting products, also offering a repair and reuse program.

About Design Council

The Design Council is the UK's national strategic advisor for design, championing design and its ability to make life better for all. It is an independent and not for profit organisation incorporated by Royal Charter. The Design Council uniquely works across all design sectors and delivers programmes with business, government, public bodies and the third sector. The work encompasses thought leadership, tools and resources, showcasing excellence, and research to evidence the value of design and influence policy. Their Design for Planet mission was introduced in 2021 to galvanise and support the 1.97 million people who work in the UK's design economy to help achieve net zero and beyond.

www.designcouncil.org.uk

About University of East Anglia

The University of East Anglia has an international reputation for breaking new ground in the study of climate science, international development and creative writing. They are a globally significant centre of research, driving social, cultural, environmental and economic innovation far beyond its Norwich campus. The University is in the World Top 50 for research citations in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and in 2022, 91% of UEA's research was ranked as world-leading or internationally excellent by the Research Excellence Framework.

www.uea.ac.uk