



Life On Earth

An audiovisual exploration of architecture & design's relationship to our planet, presented by The World Around

New York-based nonprofit organization The World Around is proud to present its first exhibition, *Life On Earth*. Taking place at the University of Kentucky's College of Design, the platform—known for its social and ecologically-focused public programs, events and initiatives—has curated a video exhibition that champions the work of individuals and communities building an alternative future for our planet.

Life On Earth opens on January 24th, 2025, at the newly-opened Gallery of the Gray Design Building, designed by the award-winning practice of Jeanne Gang, Studio Gang.

Assuming a vantage point from space, *Life On Earth* invites the University's students to examine human civilization with critical distance. The exhibition presents video dispatches from 18 international members of The World Around community, alongside stories of intergenerational learning and collaboration from participants in The World Around's Young Climate Prize program, all commissioned and produced in-house between 2020 and 2024. *Life On Earth* conceptualizes architecture and design at a planetary scale, mapping the global extent of the systems that have enabled us to build and live as we have for the past 50 years—and the long reach of their environmental and social consequences.

The international array of experts and leaders, all of whom have been speakers at past events organized by The World Around, includes: Alice Rawsthorn (UK), Cave_Bureau (Kenya), Comunal (Mexico), David Chipperfield (UK), Deanna Van Buren (USA), Ecocitex (Chile), El Futuro Imposible (Argentina), Ensemble Studio (Spain), Ernesto Picco (Argentina), Etta Madete Mukuba (Kenya), Feral Atlas (USA, China), Formafantasma (Italy), Francis Kéré (Burkina Faso/Germany), Holly Jean Buck (USA), Hsieh Ying-Chun (Taiwan), Liam Young (Australia), Top Manta (Senegal and Spain), and waiwai (UAE).

Featuring on-the-ground videos from the salt flats of Argentina to the caves of Kenya's Great Rift Valley, the exhibition brings into focus the diversity and uniqueness of our planet, celebrating the efforts of those using design to conserve and heal it in the face of compounding

environmental crises. While celebrating the interconnected nature of life on Earth, the exhibition aims to emphasize the necessity—and urgency—of collective action in addressing climate breakdown, and to invite a broader discussion on the role of the architect in the Anthropocene, asking students to consider how as designers they can make an impact.

The exhibition will also present The World Around's Young Climate Stories, a video series celebrating the intergenerational collaborative relationships formed between pre-eminent designers from The World Around community and the young people designing to address the climate crisis through our Young Climate Prize. The Prize is a unique award and mentorship program created to empower the generation born into the climate crisis by pairing young designers with mentors from our global community with the expertise and experience to accelerate their impact. Mentor-mentee pairs featured in Young Climate Stories: Alfonse Chiu (Singapore) and mentor Paola Antonelli (Italy/US); Lulu Goulet-Hofsass and Sophia Tabibian (US), and mentor Bruce Mau (Canada); Namra Khalid (Pakistan) and mentor Henk Ovink (Netherlands); and Stanley Anigbogu (Nigeria) and mentor Jon Marshall (UK).

The videos were all first shown within the global programs that form the pillars of The World Around; including the platform's all-day Summit in New York City, created to convene and champion the now, near and next of architecture; and its In Focus programs, which travel to meet the moment in the cities at the epicentre of the conversation with thematic curation.

The World Around: Life On Earth is at the University of Kentucky College of Design's Gray Design Building, 349 Scott Street, Lexington, KY 40506, USA, from January 24 to March 14 2025.

About The World Around

Founded in 2020, The World Around is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making the newest and boldest ideas in architecture and design accessible to all, with a focus on sustainability and social justice. Through collaborations with international institutions, The World Around curates and commissions international conferences, events, and climate initiatives, including its flagship Annual Summit, itinerant In Focus programs, and the Young Climate Prize, all aimed at fostering dialogue and action towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

theworldaround.com

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