

CYCLE 02
2025

THE
WORLD
AROUND

YOUNG CLIMATE PRIZE

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CYCLE 02

TMELINE

JULY 2024

Applications closed

**OCTOBER–
DECEMBER 2024**

Mentorship program and
Design Academy takes place
online

**EARTH WEEK
APRIL 22–27, 2025**

Prize winners present their
projects at The World Around
Summit 2025, held at
The Museum of Modern Art
in New York City

**EARTH WEEK
APRIL 2026**

Applications open for
Young Climate Prize Cycle 03

**EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 2024**

Applications opened for
Young Climate Prize Cycle 02

SEPTEMBER 2024

25 under 25 finalists selected

JANUARY 2025

Cycle 02 prize winners selected
by international jury

**NY CLIMATE WEEK
SEPTEMBER 21–28, 2025**

New York Climate Week reunion
celebrating the growth of
Young Climate Prize alumni
projects from Cycles 01 & 02
and open call for Cycle 03
Design Champions begins

The Young Climate Prize alumni
community continues long beyond the
end of the program. Many members of the
previous cycle have stayed in contact with
each other or continued to collaborate
with their mentors following their
sessions—and plan to for years to come.

INTRODUCTION

The Young Climate Prize was founded by curatorial platform The World Around to identify, empower, and celebrate a new generation of climate leaders who are addressing some of the world's most urgent social and environmental challenges.

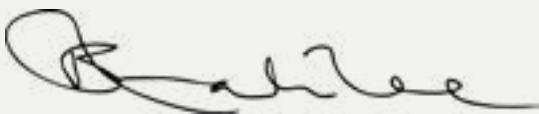
This hybrid mentorship-award program offers more than recognition, it cultivates a growing global network of changemakers whose shared knowledge can become a positive force in our world.

Every two years, a cohort of 25 finalists under the age of 25 is selected through a global open call, then matched with international architects and designers who serve as their mentors. Through the Young Climate Prize Design Academy, the 25 finalists participate in training sessions, lectures, and workshops that equip them with the tools to develop more resilient, impactful and scalable projects.

What makes the work of these young people so powerful is not just their creativity, but the urgency and insight born from their lived experience. Confronting the climate crisis firsthand—many under conditions of profound hardship—these young people are transforming daily challenges into profound and scalable solutions we can all learn from.

I am deeply grateful to The World Around's board of directors for their steadfast belief in this initiative, as well as the individuals involved from the Young Climate Prize Design Partner, MillerKnoll, for their impactful support. I also thank the Young Climate Prize team, advisory board, jury and this cycle's Design Champions who together made this program possible.

I hope you enjoy reading about the remarkable Young Climate Prize cohort as much as we've enjoyed working with them.



BEATRICE GALILEE
THE WORLD AROUND
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEET OUR CYCLE 02 COHORT

This year's cohort of extraordinary young people come from 19 different countries. Their projects range from solar-powered modular housing for refugees in Nigeria and furniture made from corn cob waste in Indonesia, to a labor-saving water carrier in Pakistan and a youth-curated cultural space centering Indigenous ecological knowledge in the Philippines. As well as meeting their mentors, the weekly online sessions created a space for exchange, where ideas, experiences, and mutual support could flourish across borders.



**ZAFIRA RASHID, MIDORI MISHYEL
& NASHRA HASAN**
BANGLADESH



**AMARA
NWUNELI**
NIGERIA



**MOHAMMED
ANOWER**
MYANMAR/
BANGLADESH



**KARINNE
TENNENBAUM**
USA



**CARLOS
AYVAZIAN**
LEBANON



**BLOSSOM
EROMOSELE**
NIGERIA



**ISABELLA & NATASHA
TANJUTCO**
PHILIPPINES



**ZOHA
WAGAS**
PAKISTAN



**PEDRO
ARLES**
BRAZIL



**STEFFANY ANDREA HOSEA, AHMAD YOGA FIRMANSYAH
& NATASHA NISA ISLAMI**
INDONESIA



**ALMA ARREDONDO MEDELLÍN, ANDREA VILLARREAL RODRÍGUEZ
& SUSANA SCOTT AYALA**
MEXICO



**OWEN
CHIOU**
UK



**MCKENNA
DUNBAR**
USA



**GRACE
JAMES**
NIGERIA



**FILBERT
MINJA**
TANZANIA



**MOHAMED SALEM
MOHAMED ALI** ★
ALGERIA



**FOWOTA
MORTOO**
USA



**FRANCESCA
NORRINGTON**
GREECE



**ALINTA
FURNELL**
AUSTRALIA



**JEREMIAH
THORONKA**
SIERRA LEONE



**DAYANA
BLANCO**
BOLIVIA



★
**WAWA
GATHERU**
AUSTRALIA



**LAWRENCE
KOSGEI**
KENYA



**VALENTINA PEREZ ESCOBAR, MARIA ALEJANDRA PARRA GARCIA
& LINA NATALIA SANCHEZ MEDINA**
COLOMBIA

“I used to think I was alone in [the climate space], but it’s incredible to know that there are other young people striving to make a difference in their communities.”

Lawrence Kosgei
Cycle 02 Cohort

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Meet the projects
fostering resilience
through solidarity
and collaboration





**MOHAMMED
ANOWER**
EDUCATOR
MYANMAR/
BANGLADESH
19

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION



Mohammed Anower fled Myanmar with his family to the Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh, the largest refugee camp in the world. Still a teenager, Anower founded The Community Climate Action Initiative with a goal to address the immediate climate challenges he and his family faced, such as heatwaves, landslides, and flooding. The initiative includes a tree planting campaign designed to combat deforestation and mitigate heat impacts by increasing local green cover, while climate awareness sessions are held to educate community members in the camp about climate change and effective resilience strategies. Anower also offers youth leadership training designed to equip young leaders with the skills needed to advocate for climate action and promote sustainable practices.

@mgmgsoe838



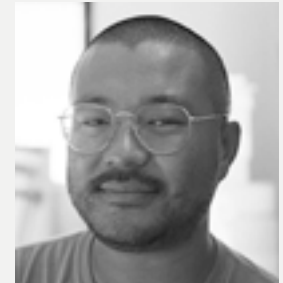
**GURMEET
SIAN**
MENTOR

Gurmeet Sian is the founder of Office Sian Architecture + Design, an award-winning community-centered architecture firm. Alongside his London-based practice, Sian is a Design Council Expert and sits on the design review panels of many of the city's local authorities. He is a winner of the RIBA London Project Architect of the Year award.



BALAY YATU TEAM COMMUNITY LEADERS PHILIPPINES 22 & 24

BALAY YATU



**DONG-PING
WONG**
MENTOR

Dong-Ping Wong is an architect and the founding director of Food Architects, an international environmental design practice located in Chinatown, New York.

Founded by sisters Isabella and Natasha Tanjutco, Balay Yatu (Balay: home in Filipino; Yatu: earth or memory in Kapampangan), is set in Manila and is poised to become Asia's first youth-curated creative space focused on regenerating traditional cultural and ecological knowledge for nature-based climate solutions. The collaborative project connects urban spaces with a network of island community museums across the Philippines, designed using neo-vernacular architecture. With the Philippines on the frontlines of the climate crisis, the sisters collaborate with designers, artists, and youth movements to reimagine climate solutions through spatial experiences, product design, and research that fosters intergenerational co-creation.

@kidsforkidsph



WAWA GATHERU ACTIVIST USA 25

BLACK GIRL ENVIRONMENTALIST



Black Girl Environmentalist is a US-based organization founded by 25-year-old Wawa Gatheru, dedicated to creating pathways and fostering retention for Black girls, women, and gender-expansive individuals in the climate movement. By empowering emerging climate leaders of color, the organization seeks to help them unlock their full potential and drive impactful environmental change. Gatheru is a trailblazing advocate whose accolades include Glamour College Woman of the Year, L'Oréal Paris Woman of Worth, and Forbes 30 Under 30. Black Girl Environmentalist is committed to reshaping the climate movement by centering and uplifting the voices of underrepresented communities.

@wawa_gatheru



MARIAM ISSOUFOU MENTOR

Mariam Issoufou is the founder and principal of architecture and research practice, Mariam Issoufou Architects. The firm's portfolio includes public, cultural, residential, commercial and urban design projects. The practice is headquartered in Niamey, with a design studio in New York. Issoufou is a professor of Architecture Heritage and Sustainability at ETH Zurich.



KARINNE TENNENBAUM BIRDWATCHER & EDUCATOR USA 20

TAKING FLIGHT



Taking Flight is Karinne Tennenbaum's educational initiative that is inspiring the next generation of climate leaders by fostering an environmental ethic among youth through the magic of birding. There are three core pillars to her work: research and conservation; environmental education and community engagement; and diversity, equity and inclusion. Tennenbaum seeks to combat climate change by acknowledging and empowering the unique ornithological perspectives of students, teachers, scientists, advocates, photographers, artists, and podcasters. Founded in 2019, her initiative has impacted hundreds at the local, state, national, and international level. The project is a grassroots mission that can revolutionize the future, one young birder at a time.

@karinnetennenbaum



ELLIE STATHAKI MENTOR

Ellie Stathaki is architecture and environment director at Wallpaper*, where she has been on the editorial team since 2006. Over her career, Stathaki has visited buildings across the globe and interviewed leading architects such as Tadao Ando and Rem Koolhaas. Stathaki has also participated in judging panels, moderated events, curated exhibitions and contributed to other design publications.

MAKING M^{HOUSE}TTERS

Meet the projects
reassessing our material
world to build a more
sustainable future





**PEDRO
ARLES**
URBAN DESIGNER
BRAZIL
23

MORE FAVELA, LESS TRASH



Urban waste management poses a significant challenge for major cities in Brazil and globally. As with many social issues, the populations most affected are often the most disadvantaged, such as in Aglomerado da Serra, one of Brazil's largest favelas, in Belo Horizonte. In response to community demands for improved local waste management, 23-year-old designer Pedro Arles founded More Favela, Less Trash. The initiative involves the design and installation of a network of over 400 waste hooks to keep garbage off the ground; a 20-meter mural featuring maps of waste collection sites and other key information; guidance on the proper disposal of construction debris and accessing services for vehicle removal; and the development of community gardens and vegetable plots.

@maisfavelamenoslixo



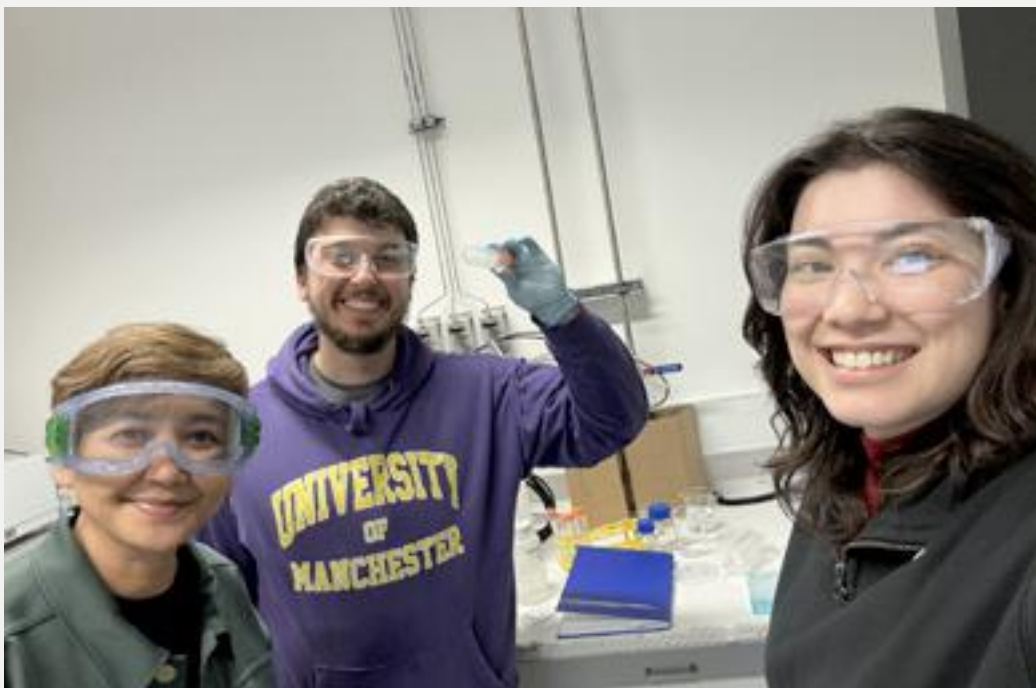
**STEPHEN BURKS
& MALIKA LEIPER**
MENTORS

Designer Stephen Burks and writer & cultural strategist Malika Leiper are co-founders and directors of Stephen Burks Man Made, an internationally recognized collaborative design studio deeply invested in the transformative power of craft techniques that challenge the limits of new technologies within industrial production.



ALINTA FURNELL MATERIAL SCIENTIST AUSTRALIA 24

SYNBIOTE



Sydney-based biodesigner Alinta Furnell is pioneering a breakthrough in material science with her Synbiote lab, developing high-performance, engineering-grade biomaterials to replace non-renewable materials. While traditional bio-based materials have so far been limited in industrial applications, Furnell's innovative approach uses bio-waste to create sustainable alternatives that outperform conventional materials in advanced use cases. Her work not only promotes a circular supply chain but also highlights the crucial role of materials in combating the climate crisis. Furnell believes that by revolutionizing material science, we can lay the foundation for a new wave of sustainable innovation across industries.

@alintafurnell
synbiote.com



HELLA JONGERIUS MENTOR

Hella Jongerius is one of the world's leading designers, known for her research-driven approach and vigorous work on uniting craftsmanship and industrial production. She founded her Jongeriuslab design studio in 1993, and has worked on commissioned projects for entities such as the United Nations Headquarters and the Dutch airline KLM.



KEEBON TEAM DESIGNERS INDONESIA 22

KEEBON



Keebon is an Indonesian design studio that was inspired by its founders witnessing the vast quantities of corn cobs that were being wastefully burned after harvest season. Natasha Nisa Islami and team members Steffany Andrea Hosea and Ahmad Yoga Firmansyah saw the potential of these corn cobs as a wood alternative in her native Indonesia, which is experiencing deforestation due to high demand for lumber. Keebon has already processed over 170 kg of corn cobs sourced directly from farmers in Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta, and transformed them into wall panels, chairs, and other interior products. The organization aims to continue to create sustainable products and positively impact communities in the region by involving villagers in the production of eco-friendly souvenirs from agricultural waste.

@keebon.id



FORMAFANTASMA MENTOR

Formafantasma—formed of Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin—is a research-based design studio investigating the ecological, historical, political and social forces shaping the discipline of design today. Formafantasma's analytical nature translates in meticulous visual outcomes, products and strategies.



**LAWRENCE
KOSGEI
DESIGNER
KENYA
25**

TWENDE GREEN ECOCYCLE



Founded by Lawrence Kosgei, Twende Green Ecocycle is a Kenyan social enterprise on a mission to combat plastic pollution and empower communities through sustainable education. The organization achieves this by collecting, marine plastic waste, primarily from Mombasa's informal settlements. This plastic is then transformed into high-quality, durable, tree-saving school furniture, specifically eco-desks, offering a sustainable alternative to traditional wood furniture. By providing affordable, eco-friendly desks, Twende Green Ecocycle not only fosters environmental responsibility, but increases access to education and creates job opportunities for young people.

@twendegreen



**AMY
LUTHMAN
MENTOR**

Amy Luthman leads the Design for Environment Engineering team at MillerKnoll to set goals, drive innovative solutions, and positively impact people and the planet. Luthman was an instrumental player in MillerKnoll's participation in NextWave Plastics, a pioneering consortium dedicated to combating ocean-bound plastic waste by creating a scalable supply chain.

SOURC[⚡]NG ENERGY

Meet the projects
mobilizing the global
energy revolution
on the ground





CARLOS AYVAZIAN ENTREPRENEUR LEBANON 22

WASTED TREASURES



Founded by 22-year-old Carlos Ayvazian, Wasted Treasures offers a cost-effective, eco-friendly heating solution by transforming organic waste into high-calorie biomass products, addressing Lebanon's dual energy and environmental crises. By converting waste into sustainable fuel, the project not only reduces reliance on traditional wood and fossil fuels, but also helps communities lower their heating expenses by up to 60%. Wasted Treasures's biomass logs and pellets products are produced from organic materials such as olive mill waste and forest prunings, which contribute to environmental hazards like deforestation and wildfires. The organization not only provides cleaner energy alternative, but promotes responsible waste management, diverting waste from landfills while engaging communities in sustainable practices.

@ayvazoskii



**SCOTT
MASSING**
MENTOR

Scott Massing is an intrapreneur from MillerKnoll's Global Innovation group, where he works to integrate emerging technologies within scalable business models. He draws from over two decades of experience in start-ups, corporate R&D, and product development. Scott is currently focused on enabling carbon footprint reductions across MillerKnoll's portfolio through biomass-balanced foam technologies.



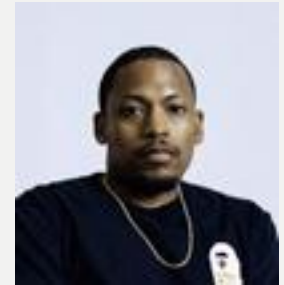
JEREMIAH THORONKA SOCIALENTREPRENEUR SIERRA LEONE 24

OPTIMENERGY



Optim Energy, founded by Jeremiah Thoronka, is a pioneering organization dedicated to eradicating energy poverty in Sierra Leone through innovative, sustainable solutions. The initiative specializes in harnessing local resources and developing solar mini-grids for energy-deprived communities. Thoronka's mission is to illuminate lives and empower communities, enhancing livelihoods and fostering socioeconomic growth. By transitioning households and educational institutions away from fossil fuels, Optim Energy promotes environmental stewardship, climate education, and entrepreneurship through energy projects, making sure the true social value of energy is experienced by each member of the community Thoronka works with.

@jeremiahthoron



GERMANE BARNES MENTOR

Germane Barnes is a Chicago-born, Miami-based architect, designer, and founder of research and design practice Studio Barnes. He is an associate professor and the director of the Community Housing & Identity Lab (CHIL) at the University of Miami School of Architecture, a platform for investigations of architecture's social and political resiliency.



MCKENNA DUNBAR ENERGY TRANSITION ADVOCATE USA 23

ELECTRIVIVE



McKenna Dunbar's project Electrivate bridges the skilled labor gap in renewable energy by creating green energy training programs for marginalized communities and incarcerated individuals in Virginia. Developed with co-founder Jake Barnet and Flipp Inc., Electrivate's curriculum on energy-efficient building design, grid-interactive solutions, and funding priorities is making a real impact. The group aims to partner with the Virginia Department of Corrections to expand its training to high-need prisons and jails across the state. By equipping participants with marketable skills, Electrivate aims to reduce recidivism, foster economic growth, and promote sustainability.

@mocokono



ARANCHA MARTINEZ MENTOR

Arancha Martinez is the co-founder and chief executive officer of The Common Good Chain, a blockchain-powered digital impact platform that provides purpose-driven organizations around the world with the tools to measure, report and maximize their social and environmental impact. Martinez received the Citizens Award and the European Commission Innovator Woman 2020 for her contributions to the humanitarian field.

“This opportunity to speak more about Electrivate and the work that we’re doing would not be possible without The World Around.”

McKenna Dunbar
Cycle 02 Cohort



On January 24, 2025, McKenna Dunbar was invited to present Electrivate and their work and ideas to a lecture hall packed with students and faculty members at the University of Kentucky. The talk formed part of the opening events of the “Life on Earth” exhibition showcasing the work of The World Around and Young Climate Prize. In a powerful, enlightening presentation, McKenna explained how Electrivate is seizing the US’s green labour shortage to empower marginalized communities, travelling from prisons to schools across Virginia to equip people with the in-demand skills required to help more homes and businesses electrify.

SAVING WATER

Meet the projects
wading deep into water
awareness, restoration,
and conservation





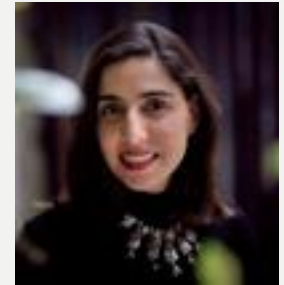
ECOWAVE TEAM ACTIVISTS BANGLADESH 13

ECOWAVE



With EcoWave, a trio of school-age activists—13-year-old Zafira Rashid, Midori Mishyel, and Nashra Hasan from Bangladesh—aims to draw attention to the issues affecting four of Dhaka’s most polluted lakes and rivers. While each body of water faces a different challenge, all are affected by climate change and the increased temperatures and varied rainfall patterns currently impacting Bangladesh. Their website aims to raise awareness through social media and a research journal, educating fellow students about the issues they are experiencing. Project Ecowave includes a self-tutoring segment offering practical steps to restore these rivers and lakes, emphasizing the need for climate resilience, sustainable practices, and environmental stewardship.

@project.ecowave_
project-ecowave.com



**DIANA
CAMPBELL**
MENTOR

Diana Campbell is the founding artistic director of the Samdani Art Foundation and the chief curator of the Dhaka Art Summit, recognized as South Asia’s premier research and exhibition platform and the most visited contemporary art exhibition globally. Previously, she was the curator for Frieze Projects in London (2018–19) and the Founding Artistic Director of Bellas Artes Projects in the Philippines (2016–18).



LIXILAB TEAM BIODESIGNERS COLOMBIA 24

LIXILAB



LixiLab—started by Valentina Perez Escobar, Maria Alejandra Parra Garcia, and Lina Natalia Sanchez Medina—is tackling heavy-metal water contamination using a biodesign approach that bridges the gap between science and real-world applications. In collaboration with a farming community located near Colombia’s main landfill site, LixiLab designed Bacua: an on-site, portable water filter system that employs dead bacteria to cleanse water of heavy metals intended for irrigation purposes. LixiLab also addresses concerns of crop loss and animal illnesses due to metal contamination through educational workshops, which raise awareness, foster community engagement, and broaden the technology’s adoption.

@lixilab
@21valentina21



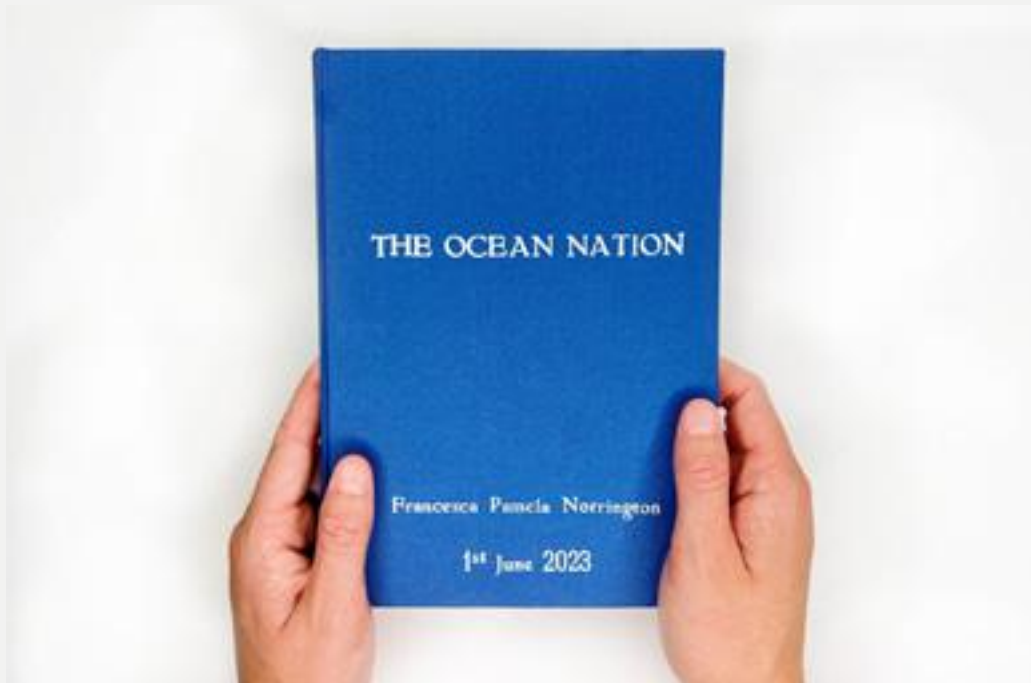
**ROSARIO
HEVIA**
MENTOR

Rosario Hevia is the founder of ECOCITEX, a textile circular economy model based in Chile. The company recycles five tons of clothing monthly, transforming it into high-quality threads while offering marginalized women jobs. Hevia’s multi-pronged initiatives combat textile waste while drawing global attention to this growing issue.



FRANCESCA NORRINGTON WRITER GREECE 23

THE OCEAN NATION



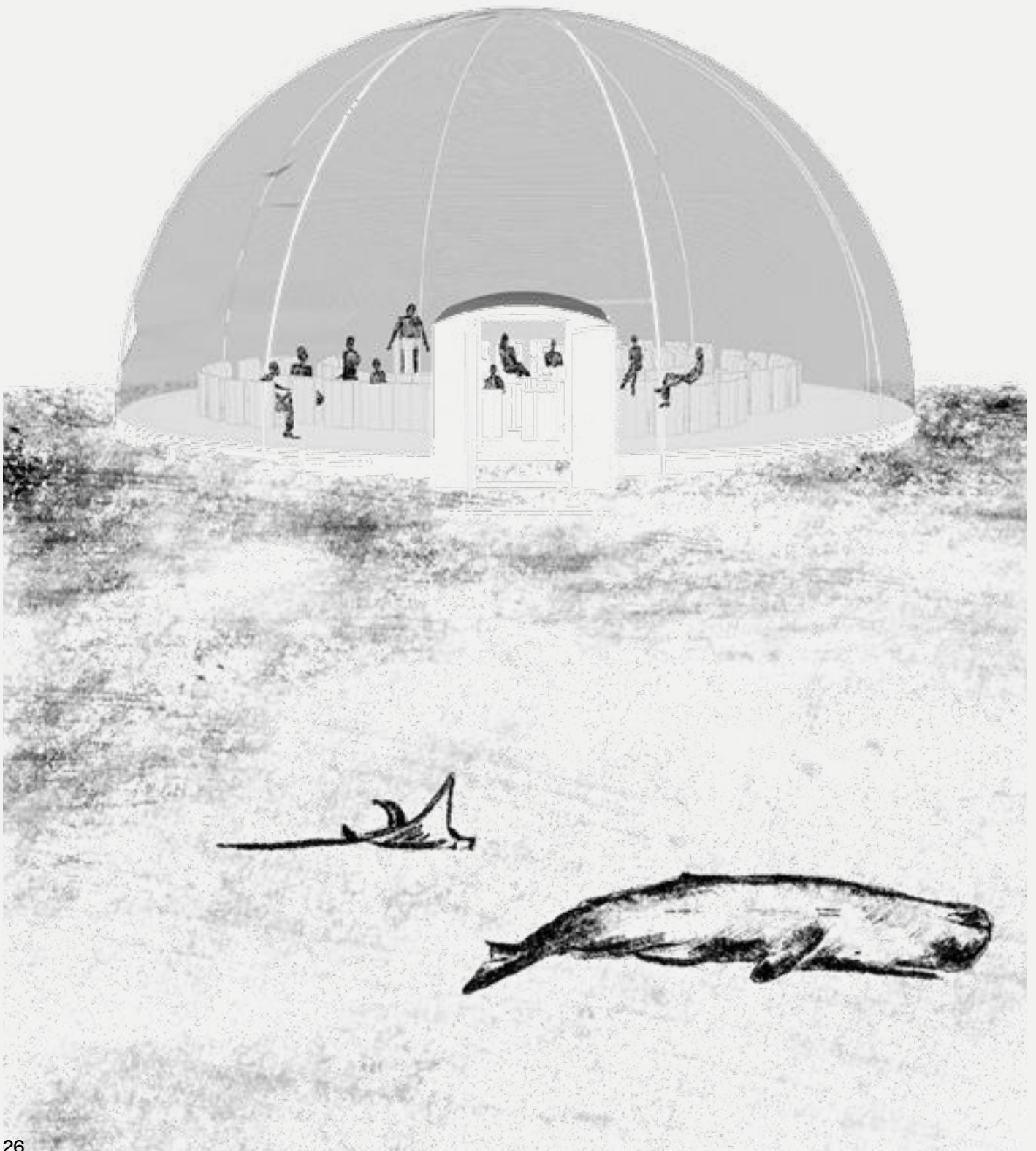
Francesca Norrington's *The Ocean Nation* proposes a way of legally recognizing the High Seas as an independent country, to highlight its essential role in the survival of both human and more-than-human realms, and address the disconnection between people and nature. The project draws on two key perspectives: one rooted in art, history, and philosophy; the other focused on the political, social, and economic structures that have led to the exploitation of marine resources. *The Ocean Nation* proposes a legal framework for the High Seas, with a parliament comprising scientists, artists, and historians, who would act as guardians of the more-than-human realm.

@franckienn



**JUSTIN
MCGUIRK**
MENTOR

Justin McGuirk is the director of Future Observatory, the UK's design research programme for the green transition, and the former chief curator of the Design Museum. A writer, editor, and curator, McGuirk has produced numerous high-profile exhibitions and publications. In 2012 he was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture.





VIAJE AL MICROCOSMOS CONSERVATIONISTS MEXICO 23

VIAJE AL MICROCOSMOS



**SEAN
CONNELLY**
MENTOR

Dr Sean Connelly is a Pacific Islander American artist born, residing, and working in Honolulu, Kona, O'ahu. Connelly's multidisciplinary practice encompasses sculpture, installation, film, design, and cartography, frequently expanding to experimental methodologies. Alongside their art practice, Connelly runs AFTEROCEANIC Built Environments Lab.

The Viaje Al Microcosmos team is Alma Lucero Arredondo Medellín, Andrea Villarreal Rodríguez, and Susanna Scott Ayala. Led by a belief that cities and nature can coexist in harmony, they combine science and art to foster citizen environmental stewardship, and bridge the historical disconnect between communities and their natural surroundings. The team's Water Field Journal invites locals to explore and monitor the Santa Catarina River in Monterrey, Mexico, using printable templates. Participants document water characteristics, quality indicators, and personal reflections. With over 250 entries, this project drives evidence-based conservation and deepens our connection with water, elevating it from a resource to a fundamental element in the web of life.

@vmicrocosmosnl



ZOHA WAQAS CLIMATE LEADER PAKISTAN 22

H2O(HELP-2-OTHERS)



H2O (Help-2-Others) Solutions for Climate Action addresses the urgent crisis of safe water and sanitation access in rural Pakistan, where 80% of women are responsible for collecting water from distant sources using heavy traditional clay pots. The H2O Wheel—a climate-smart, labor-saving 40L water-carrying device—alleviates the physical burden of water collection. It reduces the physical strain by 90% and cuts water-collection time in half, giving women more time for productive activities. Additionally, the H2O Pads are made by rural women who are trained to produce them, creating an income-generating opportunity and empowering them and their communities to manage menstruation confidently.

@tayabaorg



JULIA KING MENTOR

Dr Julia King is the founding director of urban research and design practice Julia King & Associates. Trained as an architect, King's design-led research and teaching have focused on sanitation, housing, and public engagement in the context of rapid urbanization and inequitable infrastructure developments, primarily based in the UK and India.

THE NEW NARRATORS



Meet the projects
widening access to
climate education
through storytelling



OWEN CHIOU ARTIST UK 23

WE NEVER FALL APART, BECAUSE WE NEVER FALL TOGETHER



We never fall apart, because we never fall together is an interactive, experiential assemblage exploring life, more-than-human relationships, and the expanding notion of multiplicity and selves. Using “social fermentation” as a concept, this work invites multiple human and nonhuman agents to collaborate and interact, forming as much appearing as disappearing. Designed as a site for rituals and reflections, Chiou’s project includes diverse formats that include a drag comedy series that interviews non-speaking objects, ceramics and film created in collaboration with the River Thames, and live cultures within jars of fermented tea and vegetables.

@owen.chiou



LUCY MCRAE MENTOR

Lucy McRae’s multi-disciplinary, art-research studio investigates the impact future technologies have on human evolution. By designing hypothetical worlds that use speculation as a tool, McRae’s work seeks to provoke an exploration of who we are, and where we are headed.



GRACE JAMES GAME DESIGNER NIGERIA 23

GREENQUEST



GreenQuest is an innovative platform that leverages gamification, storytelling, and augmented reality to educate youth, small enterprises, and communities about climate change and sustainability. The platform offers both video and board games that allow players to engage in climate-related challenges, such as waste reduction, conservation, and sustainable development. As they progress, players earn rewards, empowering them to take real-world action. GreenQuest has already impacted over 1,500 children directly and engaged more than 2,000 virtually, removing over 1,000 tons of plastic waste from local communities through gamified waste-reduction challenges. By incorporating gamification with climate action, GreenQuest is addressing the gaps in climate change education while creating tangible impact.

@playgreenquest



**LIAM
YOUNG**
MENTOR

Liam Young is a designer, film director and BAFTA nominated producer who operates in the spaces between design, fiction and futures. Described by the BBC as “the man designing our futures,” his visionary films and speculative worlds are both extraordinary images of tomorrow and urgent examinations of the environmental questions facing us today.



FILBERT MINJA FILMMAKER TANZANIA 23

TERRATALES



Filbert Minja uses documentary filmmaking to raise awareness about the pressing issues of climate change, through authentic and engaging storytelling. His focus is on amplifying the voices of underrepresented individuals from marginalized communities who are at the forefront of climate action but often overlooked. Through a series of documentaries and short films, their stories of resilience, innovation, and determination are shared with local and global audiences, connecting viewers to the human side of climate change while presenting actionable solutions. Minja also organizes community film screenings twice a year, allowing local communities to engage with the content and discuss the importance of environmental conservation.

@filbertminja_



HUNTER BRAITHWAITE MENTOR

Hunter Braithwaite is a prolific writer and the founding editor of the Miami Rail. He has previously written for publications including Artforum.com, The Brooklyn Rail, Modern Painters, and The Paris Review Daily. Braithwaite is currently senior vice president of New York-based consultancy Cultural Counsel.



FOWOTA MORTOO RESEARCHER USA 23

MAPPING KETA'S ECOLOGIES



Fowota Mortoo's project seeks to preserve the ecological and cultural heritage of Keta, a town on the southeastern coast of Ghana through a curated online library and archive comprised of maps, contemporary photography and oral histories. Having experienced significant sea erosion over the past few decades, much of Keta's ecological knowledge has similarly been eroded, with many words from the local Ewe language fading out of use or being replaced by English. Conscious of how language functions as an archive of our relation to place, Mortoo is creating her own maps of Keta, shaped by Ewe words and composed of images and stories that safeguard the town's history.

@fowotamortoo



**CLAUDIA
SCHMUCKLI**
MENTOR

Claudia Schmuckli is the inaugural curator of contemporary art and programming at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and a co-founder of the Art+Climate Action collective. Since 2020, A+CA has united and supported institutions and artists in their efforts to address the art sector's climate impacts, while supporting and producing exhibitions and programs that foreground the climate emergency.

ABOUT THE DESIGN ACADEMY

A fundamental component of the Young Climate Prize program is the Design Academy, which invites the entire cohort of 25 under 25 to enroll in a three-month program of weekly participatory group lectures, workshops, and discussions hosted by the prize's Design Champions. Supplementing the cohort's individual mentoring sessions, this bespoke program was designed to cover a broad range of topics that would help all of these young thinkers and makers to further expand their knowledge, learn valuable skills related to their climate-focused work, and pick the brains of some of the brightest minds in art, architecture, film, design, fundraising, marketing, public speaking and more. In addition, the cohort could spend time together and share ideas and reflections during occasional 'potluck' meetings. The Design Academy sessions were a highlight of the week for all involved.



**“These sessions were
a great way to start the weekend!
I loved listening to inspiring stories and
getting to know the rest of the cohort.”**

Lina Natalia Sanchez Medina
Cycle 02 Cohort

**DESIGNING FOR
LONG-TERM IMPACT**
VALENTIN ABEND

Valentin Abend, architect and founding director of Climate Words, offered a blueprint for building climate initiatives that last. Grounded in organizational clarity, he championed the power of aligning roles with personal passion and creating inclusive structures that sustain purpose, expand climate literacy, and help turn vision into durable, collective action.

**CENTERING COMMUNITY
BY DESIGN**
LINDA BRAND

Linda Brand, president of the MillerKnoll Foundation and director of MillerKnoll Global Philanthropy, elaborated on how the leading design collective’s philanthropic practice embeds equity into design. Highlighting long-term partnerships and a practice of active listening, she emphasized that the role of designers is not only create objects, but to build relationships. Her presentation reframed design as a tool of social change, whose power lies in its potential to uplift those most overlooked.

FILMMAKING
CG FOISY

Film director, educator, and founder of award-winning production company 4Hawk Productions, CG Foisy gave an overview of the fundamentals of filmmaking and editing so that the cohort could learn the necessary tools to create new videos to share with the prize jury at the end of the program. The filmmaker went over key elements to consider while making a film as well as narrative strategies and post-production tips.

**HARNESSING AI
FOR THE SHARED GOOD**
JIN GAO

MIT researcher and Young Climate Prize Cyle 01 cohort member Jin Gao demystified artificial intelligence through the metaphor of the “black box.” Rather than focusing on technical opacity, he encouraged intentional input and output design—framing AI as a co-creator that can drive accessible, data-informed solutions to collective challenges.

SCALING SUSTAINABILITY SEAN MCDOWELL

Sean McDowell, Senior Vice President of Innovation and Sustainability at MillerKnoll, traced his path from inventing cutting-edge sportswear technology for Nike to climate-centered innovation. His presentation encouraged the cohort to think in terms of systems, bridge generations, and build products that pair resilient materials with business viability—demonstrating to potential stakeholders that good design is design that lasts.

TED TALKS TRAINING CHEE PEARLMAN

Sharing decades of experience as a leading design editor and curator, TED's Arts & Design Curator Chee Pearlman mentored the Young Climate Prize winners in the leadup to their Summit presentations, helping them refine their scripts and strengthen their delivery.

STORYTELLING ALICE RAWSTHORN

Design writer, author and critic Alice Rawsthorn guided a conversation about the importance of storytelling in communicating important messages and ideas. Rawsthorn drew on her work with Design Emergency, the climate-focused platform she co-founded with curator Paola Antonelli, as an example of how carefully crafted copy can draw attention to both issues and solutions that are key to solving the climate crisis.

FIELD NOTES FROM A WARMING WORLD KLAUS THYMAN

Explorer Klaus Thymann revealed how art, science, and storytelling converge in his climate work. Sharing glacial expeditions and underwater mapping, he urged designers to engage with complexity, challenge dominant narratives, and “show the invisible”—reminding us that climate action demands both realism and imagination.

FUNDRAISING & SETTING GOALS TOM FERNANDEZ & JACE SCHINDERMAN

Colleagues and friends Jace Schinderman and Tom Fernandez, who have both lectured at Columbia University, led an inspiring and insightful discussion about how to reach one's potential, overcome obstacles, and reach targets, whether personal or financial. Their combined experience working with non-profit organizations and as teachers meant they had boundless advice for the cohort.

GOOD SHOUT PUBLIC SPEAKING TRAINING AMY KEAN

Amy Kean, creative sociologist, best-selling author and founder of internationally recongized training school, Good Shout, led a dynamic public speaking workshop designed to help the cohort communicate with clarity and confidence. Encouraging participants to move beyond rehearsed scripts and speak in their own voice, Kean offered practical tools to make their project communications more engaging, authentic, and memorable.

**“You opened my eyes
to see the world beyond
my own home. I am so
honored to be part of this
community.”**

Grace James
Cycle 02 Cohort

MEET OUR JURY

In January 2025, a distinguished panel of eight influential industry experts reviewed the work of our talented cohort to select this program cycle's Young Climate Prize awardees: our Young Climate Voice, Young Climate Designer, and Young Climate Visionary awards—plus their honoree prize.



**SHEIKHA
REEM
AL-THANI**
DESIGNER &
CURATOR

Sheikha Reem Al-Thani is the acting deputy CEO of exhibitions, public art, and Rubaiya, as well as the director of Qatar Museums. She also oversees the development and implementation of Qatar Museums's expansive exhibition schedule that brings world-class programming to Qatar, and introduces Qatar's culture and burgeoning art scene to the rest of the world.



**ARIC
CHEN**
CURATOR &
WRITER

Aric Chen is the director of the Zaha Hadid Foundation. He previously served as general and artistic Director of Nieuwe Instituut, the Netherlands' national museum and institute for architecture, design, and digital culture, in Rotterdam; professor and founding director of the Curatorial Lab at the College of Design and Innovation at Tongji University in Shanghai; curatorial director of the Design Miami fairs in Miami Beach and Basel; and creative director of Beijing Design Week.



**ABRAHAM
CRUZVILLEGAS**
ARTIST

Abraham Cruzvillegas is a visual artist born in Mexico City. His work has been presented in exhibitions at institutions such as ParaSite, Hong Kong (2024); SFMoMa, San Francisco (2024); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2024); The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach (2022), among others. In 2016, Harvard University Press published his collected writings, *The Logic of Disorder*.



**ELIZABETH
DILLER**
ARCHITECT

Elizabeth Diller is a partner of Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R). Alongside partner Ricardo Scofidio, Diller's cross-genre work has been distinguished with TIME's "100 Most Influential People" list and the first MacArthur Foundation fellowship awarded in the field of architecture. Most recently, she led two cultural works significant to New York: The Shed and the expansion of MoMA. Diller is a member of the United Nations Council on Urban Initiatives and a professor of Architectural Design at Princeton University.



**LADY
ELENA
OCHOA FOSTER**
CURATOR &
PUBLISHER

Lady Elena Ochoa Foster is a Spanish curator and publisher. As vice president and trustee of the Norman Foster Foundation, Ochoa Foster supports a variety of museums and foundations and collaborates with several international schools of contemporary art and photography. She also serves as the chair of the Council of the Serpentine Galleries in London. Ochoa Foster was a tenured professor at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid for almost two decades.



**TOSIN
OSHINOWO**
ARCHITECT,
DESIGNER &
CURATOR

Tosin Oshinowo is a Lagos-based Nigerian architect and the founding principal of Oshinowo Studio. Oshinowo's key designs include a project with the United Nations Development Programme to build a new community in northern Nigeria for a village displaced by Boko Haram, and the Maryland Mall in Lagos. Oshinowo co-curated the second Lagos Biennial in 2019 and curated the second Sharjah Architecture Triennial in 2023.



**ZOË
RYAN**
CURATOR

Zoë Ryan is director of the Hammer Museum at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the former Daniel W. Dietrich, II Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), University of Pennsylvania. Prior to ICA, Zoë was John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she set the vision for collecting and exhibiting modern and contemporary architecture and design as expanded fields of practice that are in dialogue with the socio-political conditions of the time.



**BEN
WATSON**
CREATIVE
STRATEGIST

Ben Watson serves as the chief creative and product officer for MillerKnoll. He has responsibility for the teams shaping the MillerKnoll brand, and for those leading the Herman Miller and Knoll brand's products, design and marketing—guiding every touch point of the brands globally. Watson's fifteen years of creative leadership has been credited with re-invigorating the brand's design heritage, connecting to new generations of talent and reaching new customer bases.

MEET OUR WINNERS

After three months of skills development and training during the Design Academy, each member of the Cycle 02 cohort was invited to submit a two-minute video designed to tell the story of their project to our international jury. After discussion and deliberations, the jury selected four changemakers who will travel to New York City to present their projects at the Museum of Modern Art as part of The World Around Summit 2025. The winners are:

Young Climate Visionary for excellence in the creation of new ideas, materials or systems

Mohamed Salem Mohamed Ali, 23, Algeria

Young Climate Designer for excellence in the application of design to create or accelerate positive change

Blossom Eromosele, 22, Nigeria

Young Climate Voice for excellence in communicating and creating visibility for climate concerns

Amara Nwuneli, 17, Nigeria

Jury Prize for exemplary climate action

Dayana Blanco Quiroga, 25, Bolivia

“It is an incredible group of projects and such a meaningful prize. Kudos to you all.”

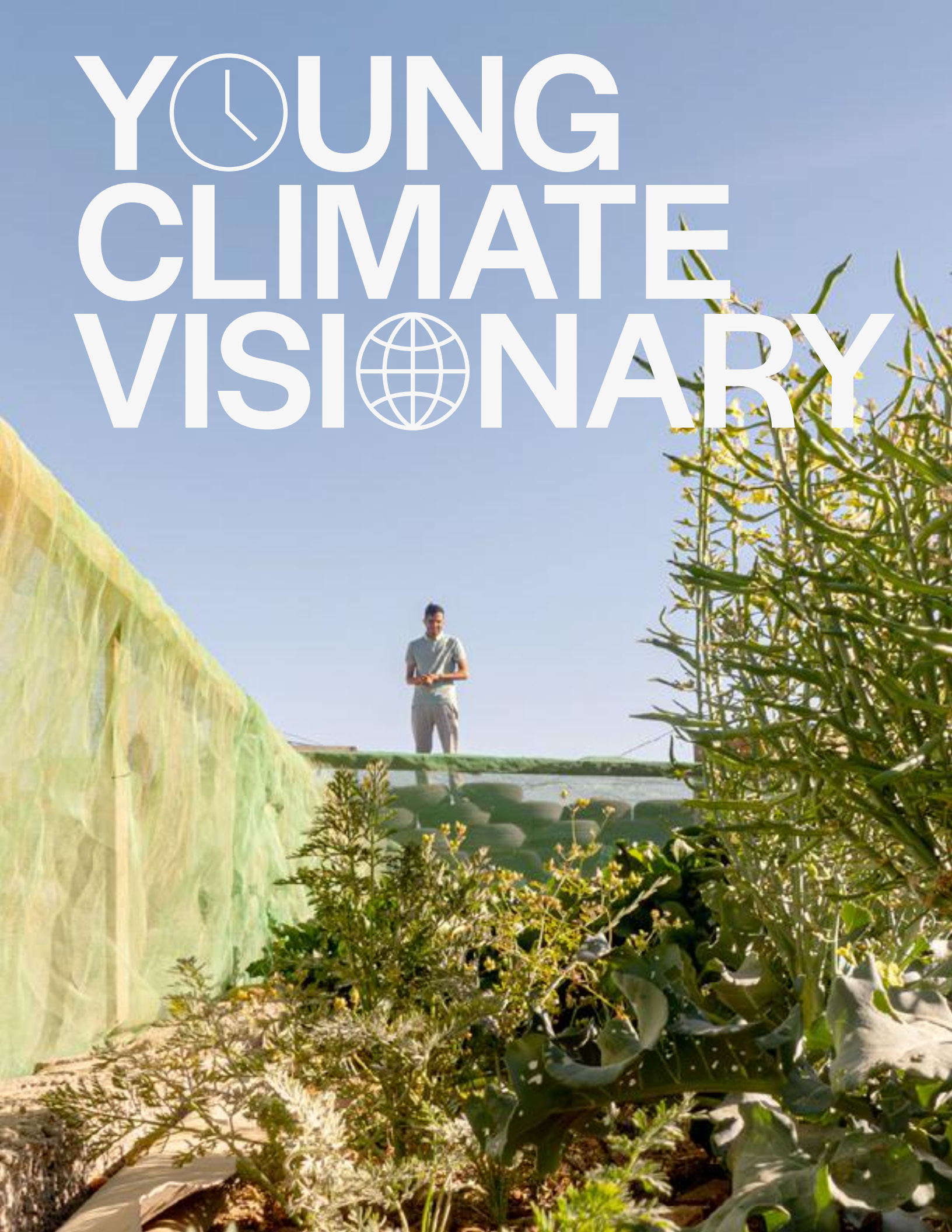
Zoë Ryan

Cycle 02 Jury



On stage at The World Around Summit 2025.
April 27, 2025 at the Museum of Modern Art, NYC.

YOUNG CLIMATE VISIONARY



YOUNG CLIMATE VISIONARY WINNER



In April 2025, The World Around visited the winner of the Young Climate Prize Visionary award, Mohamed Salem Mohamed Ali, at his home in Smara Refugee Camp in Algeria. Mohamed's mentor in the Young Climate Prize, Dubai-based curator and critic Brendan McGetrick joined the trip to meet Mohamed and learn more about his work in creating a sustainable farm using few resources and much imagination in the harsh desert conditions of the camp.

“Farming in the desert is a huge challenge. Mohamed’s project solves a basic human need and by doing so he’s become a hero in his community and beyond.”

Sheikha Reem Al-Thani
Cycle 02 Juror



MOHAMED SALEM MOHAMED ALI AGRICULTURALIST ALGERIA 23

THE NOMAD GARDEN



In Algeria's Smara refugee camp, 23-year-old Mohamed Salem Mohamed Ali a refugee, artist, and environmental visionary, is transforming the desert with his project, The Nomad Garden. As international aid dwindles and temperatures rise, Mohamed Ali decided to use innovative methods like sandponics and hydroponics to grow organic food. His garden includes livestock, greenhouses, and a water filtration system, offering a sustainable model for communities facing similar challenges. A short film he created has inspired other refugees to adopt these practices, signaling a shift toward resilience and independence in one of the world's harshest environments.



**BRENDAN
MCGETRICK**
MENTOR

Brendan McGetrick is a leading writer, designer, and curator and has served as creative director of Museum of the Future in Dubai since 2019. From 2015–19, McGetrick served as director of Global Grad Show, an annual exhibition of graduate projects from the world's leading design and technology schools, held as part of Dubai Design Week.

An architectural rendering of a sustainable housing development. The scene features several white, hexagonal houses with flat roofs and large windows, arranged around a central path. The houses are set on a grassy area with some trees and shrubs in the background. A person is walking on the path, and another person is visible near one of the houses. The overall aesthetic is modern and eco-friendly.

YOUNG CLIMATE DESIGNER

YOUNG CLIMATE DESIGNER WINNER



Near the end of her mentorship, Blossom Eromosele traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, for a design charette at MASS Design Group's African Design Centre.

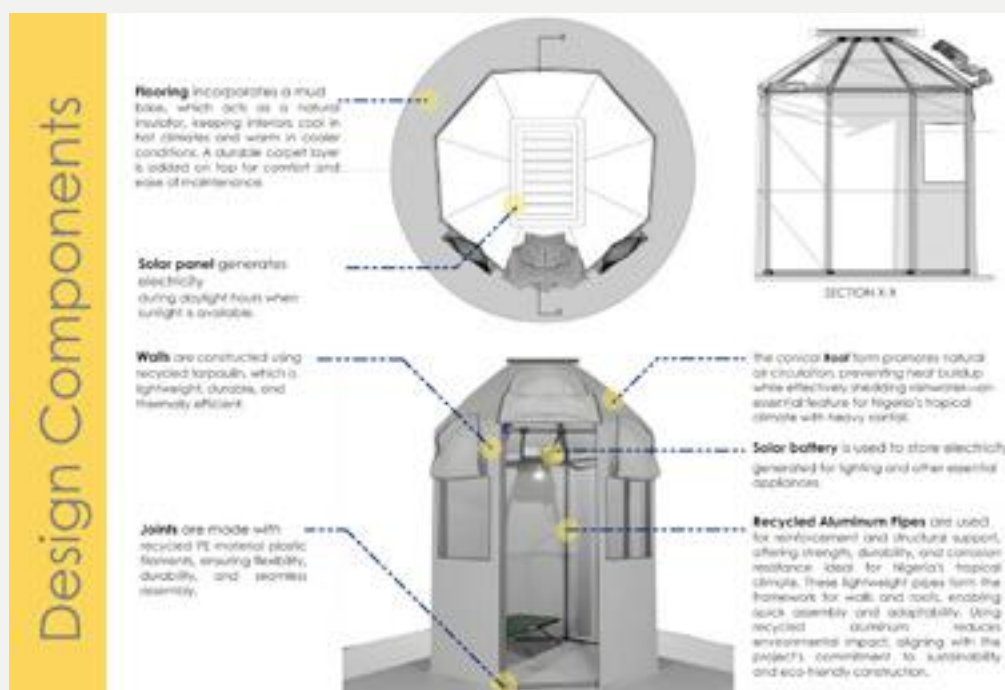
“Blossom’s dedication to addressing the urgent housing crisis for displaced communities is truly inspiring. It’s been a privilege to be in conversation with her, and I look forward to following her journey and supporting her in any way possible.”

Katie Swenson
Mentor



BLOSSOM EROMOSELE ARCHITECT NIGERIA 22

THE ALLSPACE MODULAR HOME



KATIE SWENSON
MENTOR

A nationally recognized design leader, researcher, writer, and educator, Katie Swenson is a senior principal at MASS Design Group, where she leads the Advocacy team with Amie Shao. Swenson's work explores how critical design practice can, and should, promote economic and social equity, environmental sustainability, and healthy communities.

Blossom Eromosele creates sustainable solar-powered modular housing for refugees. Crafted from recycled tarpaulin and aluminum, and drawing inspiration from traditional African huts, these solar-powered housing units are locally produced in Nigeria for just \$120 each. This innovative solution combines tradition with modern technology, offering dignified shelter in a sustainable manner. The project also empowers refugees through job opportunities, developing cultural connections to their heritage, and fostering a holistic and sustainable method of support.

@blossomeromosele

dezeen



AllSpace creates modular refugee shelters from recycled materials

Ben Dreith | 29 April 2025

7 comments

Nigerian startup AllSpace has been recognised by both the Swarovski Foundation's Creatives for Our Future programme and The World Around's Young Climate Prize for its prototypes for modular shelters.

AllSpace has created affordable, easy-to-assemble structures to address the growing refugee crisis worldwide, basing the design on vernacular forms made from on-hand and recycled materials, including aluminium, tarpaulin and 3D-printed plastic components.

"It looks like the typical Nigerian traditional African architecture, like hearts with the windows, cross ventilation and everything," AllSpace founder Blossom Eromsele told Dezeen.

"So I think for them, it just felt more like home. It was easier for them to accept that kind of form."

[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

YOUNG CLIMATE VOICE



YOUNG CLIMATE VOICE WINNER



“Amara is a powerful communicator who’s using the strength of her voice to lead a movement. She has the determination to act on what she’s advocating, which has allowed her—and will continue to allow her—to bring people along with her.”

Aric Chen
Cycle 02 Juror



AMARA NWUNELI ACTIVIST NIGERIA 17

PRESERVE OUR ROOTS



The GREEN Sustainability Park is an initiative from Preserve Our Roots, the Nigeria-based youth climate justice movement Amara Nwuneli founded when she was just 13-years-old. The project is transforming an underutilized area in a low-income Lagos community into a sustainable hub for environmental education, youth empowerment, and recreation. Constructed entirely from recycled and repurposed materials, the park aims to achieve a minimal environmental footprint while maximizing its social impact. As the central hub for all Preserve Our Roots operations, the park will host educational programs and capacity-building initiatives that empower young people to implement sustainable practices within their communities. Nwuneli was named the African Winner of The Earth Foundation's annual award, The Earth Prize.

@preserveourroots @amaranwuneli



JOSEPH ZEAL-HENRY MENTOR

Joseph Zeal-Henry is a designer, curator and writer whose work attempts to bring the world of public policy and cultural production together in city-making practices. He is currently the 2024 ArtLab Loeb Fellow at Harvard University and co-curator of *Dancing Before the Moon*, the British Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2023. He is co-host of SOUND ADVICE and a former speaker at The World Around Summit.

JURY PROZE



JURY PRIZE WINNER



“Dayana is engaged in a community of people interested in the same goal: applying traditional knowledge from specific local contexts, and using scarcity to produce a solution.”

Abraham Cruzvillegas
Cycle 02 Juror



DAYANA BLANCO QUIROGA COMMUNITY LEADER BOLIVIA 25

URU URU TEAM



Uru Uru Team was initiated by Dayana Blanco Quiroga and a group of fellow Indigenous youth from the Vito community in southwestern Bolivia. The group assembled to protect the Uru Uru Lake, an internationally recognized wetland reserve which has been severely polluted by mining waste from the nearby city of Oruro—threatening the Indigenous community, local flora and fauna. The team looked to Indigenous knowledge to solve the problem, using a native aquatic plant which absorbs heavy metals and contaminants through phytoremediation. The team developed floating rafts made from recycled materials, upon which they place the Tortura plants, and have successfully reduced pollution in parts of the lake by up to 30%.

@uru_uru_team



SEBASTIÁN ACAMPANTE MENTOR

Sebastián Acampante is the co-founder of TRIMARCHI, a design gathering that has brought together thousands of designers inside a stadium for the past 20 years. He collaborated with DieGestaltenVerlag (Germany) and NaverPress (Korea) on their volumes around Latin American design and joined the London Design Biennale as curator.

Lifestyle

Meet the Women Fighting for the Climate in Their Communities

Our editor in chief led a discussion with the next generation of activism.

BY **THE EDITORS** PUBLISHED: APR 28, 2025

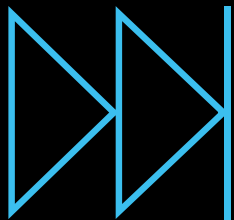
On April 23, 2025, *Cosmopolitan* editor in chief Willa Bennett hosted a conversation with actor and producer Auli'i Cravalho and two winners of **The World Around Young Climate Prize** during the Hearst Eco-Conscious Living Summit.



Eugene Gologursky/Getty Images for Hearst

Amara Nwuneli listens as Dayana Blanco explains how she and others helped clean the Uru Uru Lake.

[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

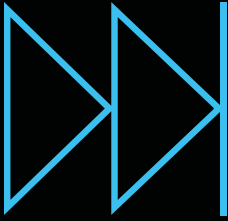


CYCLE 01: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Namra Khalid, the Young Climate Visionary behind Karachi Cartography, launched her AafatInfo.pk platform—a real-time information app that aims to support humanitarian response to natural disasters, harnessing the power of crowdsourcing to share critical updates about conditions on the ground. The app's beta version is currently being tested for urban flooding in Karachi and will eventually be scaled to cover major disasters across Pakistan.



Young Climate Designer Foday David Kamara (center) has opened his own school, the Central Leadership Academy (CLA). Based in Bokay Town, Liberia—a community that had no school for more than 14 years—the CLA has already enrolled 300 children, and is preparing to welcome 600 more at the start of the new school year in September, 2025. Kamara's initiative carries forward the values that guided his Ecovironment project during the Young Climate Prize program, working within local communities to build more sustainable and equitable futures.



The inaugural cycle of the Young Climate Prize ran from April 2022 to April 2023. Since then, members of the cohort have gone on to secure further funding for their projects, earn international recognition, and expand their platforms—continuing to advance the initiatives they developed during the program. These pages highlight just a few of these trailblazers and their latest achievements.



Winner of the Young Climate Voice award, Pamela Elizarrarás Acitores went on to participate in the CNN Academy Global South Climate Storytelling program. The self-taught documentary photographer and co-founder of Climate Words was selected from more than 15,000 applicants to join an elite cohort of 14 young journalists dedicated to investigating the profound impacts of human-related climate change. The short documentary she made during the program—*From Seed To Soil*—follows farmers across Mexico as they prepare for a

In March 2025, **Stanley Anigbogu** was named the Commonwealth Person of the Year for his astounding work tackling energy poverty with his LightEd company. Prior to receiving the award, Anigbogu was offered an internship at the London studio of globally renowned design firm Pentagram. Since then, he has also been selected as one of 20 fellows for the 776 Foundation 2024 Climate Fellowship and named the winner of the ORG. Impact Rising Star Award. Meanwhile, LightEd's Light for Peace program has provided more than 22,000 internally displaced people in Nigeria with access to electricity, replacing harmful household fuels.



CLIMATE CIRCLE



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

CONNECT

Join a global network of leading architects, designers, innovators, and climate experts—united by a shared commitment to the Young Climate Prize and to advancing climate justice through design.

EVENTS

Receive priority access to inspiring programs—like our Summit, In Focus panels, On Site activations, and exclusive YCP events—supporting the brilliant minds your contributions help elevate.

VISITS

Take part in curated studio and site visits curated by The World Around team to renowned architectural firms and groundbreaking projects shaping today's climate conversation.

CHANNELS

Support storytelling and opportunities for emerging climate leaders. Your membership sustains Young Climate Stories and drives innovative design responses to today's most urgent social and environmental challenges.



We invite you to join the Climate Circle with an annual donation starting at \$10,000, granting you access to all benefits and opportunities outlined above.



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Membership is active from the date of purchase and lasts 12 months.

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Debra Lehman Smith
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Cycle 02 Design Champions
Cycle 02 Jury Members

ABOUT

The World Around is a nonprofit curatorial platform dedicated to advancing the most critical architecture and design ideas of our time. Focused on and with a passion for social and ecological justice, we believe great design at all scales and by all people can be a catalyst for extraordinary change, which is why we collaborate with the world's leading arts and design institutions to curate and commission public programs, exhibitions, events, and initiatives.

Learn more at theworldaround.com and follow @theworldaround on Instagram.

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