

# IN FOCUS: RESEARCH

THE  
WORLD  
AROUND  
&



FUTURE  
OBSERVATORY

# WELCOME

I'm delighted to welcome you to The World Around's first program in London, a city I grew up in, and which has informed and shaped me and this organization in its progressive, global and ambitious outlook.

When we conceived The World Around in 2020, one of our fundamental goals was to share knowledge and connect and amplify important work and ideas in design, during a time when the world was both uniquely isolated and startlingly connected. Our keystone Annual Summit takes place in New York City once a year, but our "In Focus" series is itinerant: we travel to cities and collaborate with like-minded institutions to present curated talks on specific themes. We are proud to present this edition, IN FOCUS: RESEARCH, in close collaboration with Future Observatory at the Design Museum. I am grateful to Justin McGuirk and the whole team for this opportunity.

Research forms the backbone of The World Around's daily work, and in this program, we present the case for a new urgency in thinking about its impact across arts, ecology and architecture today. Our speakers will explore the ways that advanced research intersects with and forms a fundamental role in design. Expect to learn about radical biosynthetic laboratories, forensic architecture investigations, and the aftermath of colonial-era resource extraction, as well as the intersection of architecture and other disciplines from economics and urbanism to land use, labor and food production.

IN FOCUS: RESEARCH positions research as a critical tool for architects and those in overlapping fields who are actively tackling the issues of tomorrow by better understanding the possibilities we have today; taking an investigative, analytical and ever-questioning approach to comprehending our past and present in order to ensure and enhance our future.

I hope you enjoy and engage with the talks throughout the afternoon, whether in-person or virtually, and look forward to seeing you again at future events.

BEATRICE GALILEE  
CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
THE WORLD AROUND

# ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND

The World Around is a non-profit institution founded in 2020 with the goal of enriching and empowering architectural discourse. Through a robust series of international events and broadcasts, the platform seeks to connect and create a diverse and global network of thinkers and makers today.

Collaborative in spirit and global in scope, we have four pillars of practice: our fast-paced and cutting-edge all-day Summit in New York City created to convene and champion the now, near and next of architecture; our In Focus programs that travel to new cities presenting curated talks on specific themes; our online archive of live broadcasts, interviews and presentations; and our new Young Climate Prize mentorship program for under-25s.

In close to five years, we have covered the work of designers from over 150 world cities, each of them sharing visionary work on topics that range from the ecological crisis to social and racial justice, from landscape design and food scarcity to homelessness, from video game design and artificial intelligence to spoken word and literature. Working closely with our growing network of international partners that includes New York's Guggenheim Museum, Rotterdam's Nieuwe Instituut, London's Design Museum, and our global cultural partner the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain.

[theworldaround.com](http://theworldaround.com) | [@theworldaround](https://www.instagram.com/theworldaround)

# WELCOME

Design is unavoidably and thrillingly connected to the future. It is one of the ways we manifest change, be it through new objects and technologies or new strategic thinking. As such, it is an interface with tomorrow. The Design Museum has always been an institution striving to reflect such change, but only recently has it become one able to proactively drive it.

Future Observatory, the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition, funds and champions design research. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, it will support more than 100 research projects across the spectrum of design, from fashion to architecture. That is millions of pounds invested in a new generation of researchers seeking to lower carbon emissions, reduce waste and promote regenerative forms of practice. In that sense, Future Observatory is redefining what a museum can be and repositioning the Design Museum as a catalyst.

The theme of this collaboration with The World Around is 'Research' because we believe not just in the power of research but in its necessity. The decade ahead is no ordinary decade—we are at the tipping point of planetary warming the consequences of which we do not even fully grasp, and anyone can see that business as usual is failing us. Research is crucial to challenging those default systems. But what kind of research do we mean? Research that proposes alternative models, materials, narratives. Research that can demonstrate that other ways exist. Research that can challenge the de-futuring of the next generation's prospects. Research as activism. All of our speakers have developed research as a practice that reshapes their disciplines and, possibly, the future.

JUSTIN MCGUIRK  
DIRECTOR  
FUTURE OBSERVATORY

# ABOUT

## FUTURE OBSERVATORY

Launched in November 2021, Future Observatory is coordinated by the Design Museum in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). As a cultural institution, the Design Museum is ideally placed to bring cutting-edge design research to broad audiences, making it accessible and engaging and enabling it to have a greater impact. Indeed, Future Observatory redefines what a museum can be: a place not solely focused on the past or the present but one that can help shape the future. Acting as both a coordinating hub for a nationwide programme, as well as a research department within the museum, Future Observatory curates exhibitions, programmes events and funds and publishes new research, all with the aim of championing new design thinking on environmental issues.

[futureobservatory.org](https://futureobservatory.org)

# FUTURE OBSERVATORY DISPLAY



Images (c) Felix Speller for the Design Museum

20 November 2023 – 31 August 2024  
The Design Museum  
Free entry

The Future Observatory display showcases six researchers from across the UK who are confronting environmental concerns and working towards liveable futures. Visitors will encounter live research projects from a wide range of design disciplines including fashion, food and construction.

The exhibitors are: Faber Futures, CLIMAVORE, Julia King, Hub for Biotechnology in the Built Environment, Dunne & Raby and Dark Matter Labs.

the  
DESIGN  
MUSEUM

 FUTURE  
OBSERVATORY

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

# SCHEDULE

## SESSION 1:

## RESEARCH STRATEGIES

---

3:00PM INTRODUCTION:

**JUSTIN MCGUIRK**

FUTURE OBSERVATORY

**BEATRICE GALILEE**

THE WORLD AROUND

---

**INDY JOHAR**

DARK MATTER LABS

---

**HENK OVINK**

DARE TO COMPREHEND

THE ALTERNATIVE, BY DESIGN

---

**FEIFEI ZHOU**

BETWEEN LAND & WATER

---

**NATSAI AUDREY CHIEZA**

FABER FUTURES

---

**BREAK**



# SCHEDULE

## SESSION 2:

## RESEARCH NARRATIVES

---

4:30PM

INTRODUCTION:

CHER POTTER

FUTURE OBSERVATORY

---

SAMMY BALOJI

IN CONVERSATION

---

ADRIAN LAHOUD

SECOND SEA

---

JULIA KING

DESIGN AS RESEARCH

---

EYAL WEIZMAN

FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE

---

6:00PM

DRINKS RECEPTION

# **SESSION 1**

# RESEARCH STRATEGIES

# JUSTIN MCGUIRK

## FUTURE OBSERVATORY



@justinmcguirk  
[futureobservatory.org](http://futureobservatory.org)

Justin McGuirk is Director of Future Observatory at the Design Museum. In a diverse career, he has edited magazines, been a newspaper critic, founded a digital publishing house and been awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale for his curating. He was also the founding Head of the Design Curating & Writing MA at Design Academy Eindhoven and is the author/editor of several books, including *Radical Cities* (Verso, 2014).

# BEATRICE GALILEE

## THE WORLD AROUND



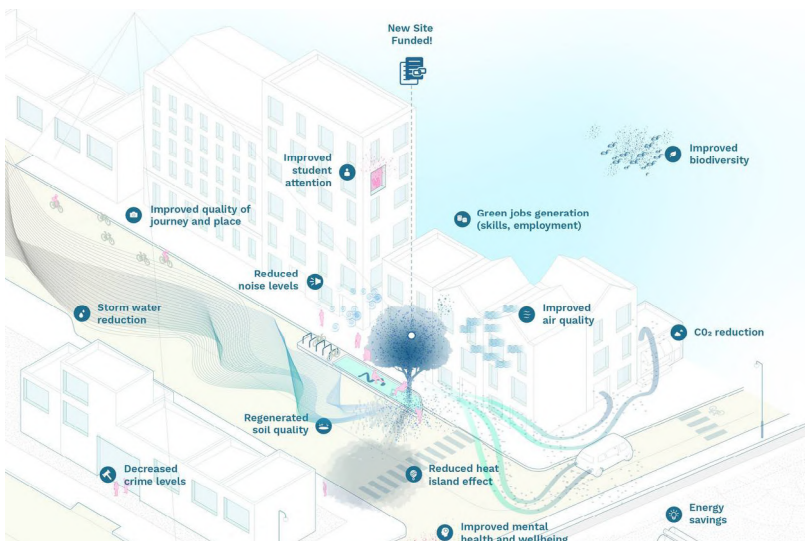
@beatricegalilee  
@theworldaround  
[theworldaround.com](http://theworldaround.com)

Beatrice Galilee is a London-born curator, writer and cultural advisor who is internationally recognized for her expertise in global contemporary architecture and design. She is the author of *Radical Architecture of the Future*, published by Phaidon in 2021, and between 2014-2019 served as the first curator of contemporary architecture and design at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Currently living in New York, Ms Galilee is Co-founder and Executive Director of The World Around, a new platform for contemporary design and architecture that is in residence at the Guggenheim Museum. Beatrice is a visiting professor at Pratt Institute where she lectures on curating.

# INDY JOHAR

## DARK MATTER LABS



Indy Johar is an architect and the co-founder of Dark Matter Labs—a field laboratory focused on building the institutional infrastructures for radical civic societies, cities, regions and towns. Dark Matter analyzes the shifts required in the underlying ‘dark matter’—monetary, economic, governance, regulatory and policy systems—to manifest transformations in our food, housing, land, material and nature systems towards a future of mutual thriving.



# HENK OVINK

## DARE TO COMPREHEND THE ALTERNATIVE, BY DESIGN

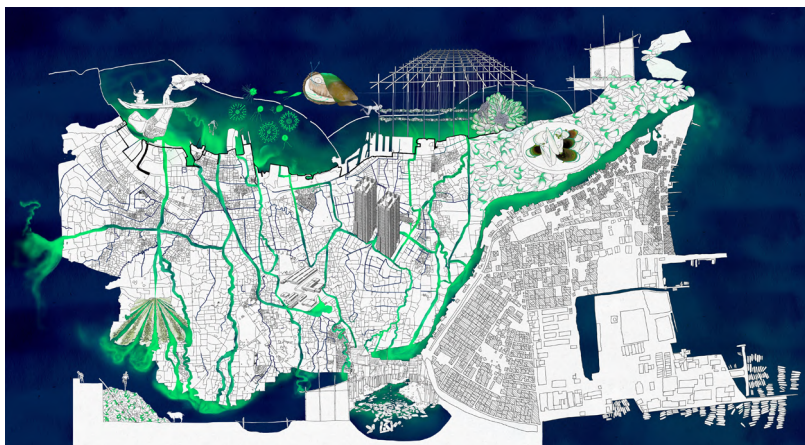


Henk Ovink is the Executive Director for the Global Commission on the Economics of Water and Senior Fellow at the World Resources Institute. Ovink served as the first ever global water ambassador for over 8 years, appointed in 2015 by the Cabinet of the Netherlands as Special Envoy for International Water Affairs. He is the author of the book “Too Big, Rebuild by Design: A Transformative Approach to Climate Change.”



# FEIFEI ZHOU

## BETWEEN LAND & WATER



Feifei Zhou is a Chinese-born artist and architect, whose work explores spatial, cultural, and ecological impacts of the industrialized built environment. With Anna Tsing, Jennifer Deger and Alder Keleman Saxena, Zhou co-edited *Feral Atlas: The More-than-Human Anthropocene*, an online interactive platform for scientific research into, and research dissemination about, feral species and feral dynamics in the Anthropocene.



# NATSAI AUDREY CHIEZA

## FABER FUTURES



Natsai Audrey Chieza is a designer and the founder of Faber Futures: a multi-disciplinary practice advocating the use of advanced biological technologies in response to urgent global challenges. Learning from non-human life forms, Chieza's work ranges from experimenting with bacterial dyes to reduce water waste in textile production, to structuring and envisioning policies towards sustainable, resilient bio-economies driven by technology.



# **SESSION 2**

# RESEARCH NARRATIVES



# CHER POTTER

## FUTURE OBSERVATORY



[futureobservatory.org](https://futureobservatory.org)

Cher Potter is Curatorial Director of Future Observatory, the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition. Previously, she was Senior Research Fellow in 'Design Futures' at the Victoria and Albert Museum, investigating emerging design responses to large-scale social and environmental change (2013–2021) and ran the Creative Direction at WGSN trend forecasting bureau (2008–2013).

# SAMMY BALOJI IN CONVERSATION



Sammy Baloji is an artist whose work explores the memory and history of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Born and raised in the contested, mineral-rich Katanga province of the DRC, Baloji's practice forms an ongoing research project into the cultural, architectural and industrial heritage of the region, studying the enduring impacts of Belgian colonization.



# ADRIAN LAHOUD

## SECOND SEA



Adrian Lahoud is an architect, urban designer and researcher, and Dean of the School of Architecture at the Royal College of Art (RCA) in London. Responding to a need for a planetary-scale response to the climate crisis, his project The Second Sea is an online platform that calculates the damages proportionately owed by the world's nations to coastal cities at risk from rising sea levels.



# JULIA KING

## DESIGN AS RESEARCH



Dr Julia King is an architect, teacher and urban researcher. Her design-driven practice studies the impacts of the urbanizing world and its impact on marginalized communities. From analyzing the impacts of mass-migration on UK high streets to co-designing sanitation systems for urban settlements in New Delhi, King's research aims to understand cultural and institutional relationships in areas of dense development, to collaboratively design and build site-based interventions. King is the founding director of Julia King & Associates



[illegible]

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH

**RESEARCH**

RESEARCH



# SAVE THE DATE

We have such an exciting year ahead! The second edition of our Young Climate Prize, a bespoke mentorship and award program for under 25s to amplify their projects tackling climate change, will officially launch and open applications on Earth Day, April 22.

Next up, the fifth edition of The World Around's flagship Annual Summit, convening global architecture's now, near and next, will take place at the Guggenheim Museum on May 11. This all-day program curated by Beatrice Galilee will present a year of architecture and design in a day, exploring the world's most cutting-edge and inspiring new projects and initiatives across art, culture, technology and design—all through the lens of social and ecological justice.

Our Annual Dinner at New York City's beautiful Park Avenue Armory is planned for November. This special evening will begin with a talk from a world-renowned architect (to be announced soon) followed by a cocktail reception and a delicious, internationally flavored dinner.

We'll end the year in Shanghai, jointly presenting with our Global Cultural Partner Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, the In Focus: Landscape program. On December 7, top landscape architects, environmentalists, and urban planners will convene to give a series of presentations about the most innovative projects and thought-provoking work in their field. We hope to see you at as many of our events as possible, either in-person or virtually!

## YOUNG CLIMATE PRIZE 2024-2025

APRIL 22, Global open call for applications and nominations

## SUMMIT 2024

MAY 11, Guggenheim Museum, New York City

## ANNUAL DINNER

NOVEMBER 15, Park Avenue Armory, New York City

## THE WORLD AROUND & FONDATION CARTIER IN FOCUS: LANDSCAPE

DECEMBER 7, To be announced, Shanghai

# THE WORLD AROUND

# YOUR TURN YOUR VOICE

**NOMINATE  
TODAY**

**APPLICATIONS  
OPEN APRIL 22**

Learn about The World  
Around Young Climate  
Prize mentorship  
initiative for under-25s  
at [youngclimateprize.com](https://youngclimateprize.com)

**THE  
WORLD  
AROUND**

**YOUNG  
CLIMATE  
PRIZE**



# EVENT PARTNER

## the DESIGN MUSEUM

The Design Museum is the world's leading museum devoted to contemporary architecture and design. Its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989 the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to high heels designed by Christian Louboutin. It has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over seven million visitors and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers and architects including Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray, Dieter Rams, Margaret Calvert and Yinka Ilori.

On 24 November 2016, the Design Museum relocated to Kensington, west London. John Pawson converted the interior of a 1960s modernist building to create a new home for the Design Museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions and significantly extend its learning programme. Since opening in Kensington in 2016, the Design Museum has hosted major exhibitions including Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition, Moving to Mars, Amy: Beyond the Stage, Sneakers Unboxed: Studio to Street, Electronic: From Kraftwerk to The Chemical Brothers, Charlotte Perriand: The Modern Life, Football: Designing the Beautiful Game, Waste Age: What can design do?, Ai Weiwei: Making Sense, The Offbeat Sari, and REBEL: 30 Years of London Fashion.

[designmuseum.org](http://designmuseum.org) | [@designmuseum](https://twitter.com/designmuseum)

# EVENT PARTNER



Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), part of UK Research and Innovation, funds internationally outstanding independent researchers across the whole range of the arts and humanities: history, archaeology, digital content, philosophy, languages and literature, design, heritage, area studies, the creative and performing arts, and much more. The quality and range of research supported by AHRC works for the good of UK society and culture and contributes both to UK economic success and to the culture and welfare of societies across the globe.

[ahrc.ukri.org](http://ahrc.ukri.org) | [@ahrcpress](https://twitter.com/ahrcpress)

# GLOBAL CULTURAL PARTNER

Fondation *Cartier*  
pour l'art contemporain

For nearly forty years, the Fondation Cartier has maintained a commitment to championing the work of groundbreaking thinkers in and around architecture and design from around the world with the critical presentation of projects, exhibitions, lectures and programs with practitioners such as Junya Ishigami, Jean Nouvel, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Alessandro Mendini, Formafantasma as well Solano Benitez and Gloria Cabral, Freddy Mamani, Mauricio Rocha, and the architect Bijoy Jain whose exhibition at the Fondation Cartier will open in December 2023.

[fondationcartier.com](http://fondationcartier.com) | [@fondationcartier](https://twitter.com/fondationcartier)



## JOIN THE WORLD AROUND CIRCLES

The World Around is a 501(c) (3) registered charity and our work is made possible thanks to the support of our generous and engaged community. By joining our circles as either an individual or a company, you ensure that our public programs including our annual TWA Summit and our charitable initiatives including Young Climate Prize can continue.

Give to The World Around and support Architecture and Design's Now, Near, Next.

**DONATE TODAY**

For inquiries about partnership opportunities please contact us at [partnerships@theworldaround.com](mailto:partnerships@theworldaround.com)

# THANK YOU

## TO OUR 2024 CIRCLE MEMBERS

### **Major Benefactors Circle (\$20,000+)**

Fondation Cartier pour l'art  
contemporain  
Curry Stone Foundation  
Georgetown Company

### **Young Climate Circle (\$10,000+)**

A4 Foundation  
Re:Arc Foundation  
Peter Guggenheimer

### **Benefactors Circle (\$5,000+)**

2x4  
Atla Capital  
Aesop  
John Alschuler & Diana Diamond  
Marc Benda, Friedman Benda  
Diana Darling  
Diller Scofidio + Renfro  
Peter Dillon, Brunswick Group  
MAD Architects  
Marian Goodman Gallery  
Andy Klemmer, Paratus Group  
Andy Rifkin, Nine Orchard  
PAU  
Phaidon  
WHY Architects

### **Supporters Circle (\$1,000+)**

Arup  
Kara & Dov Barnett  
Laurie Beckelman  
Louise Braverman  
Barbara Flynn  
Lula Galeano  
Eric Gertler  
Claudia Glasser  
TJ Gottesdiener  
Randall Griffey  
Rockwell Group  
Molly Heintz  
Marilyn Hernandez

Elise Jaffe  
Monika McLennan  
Kat McElroy  
Sara Meltzer  
Meryl Meltzer  
Deidrea Miller & Jens Knudsen  
Louise Neri  
SO – IL  
Yana Peel  
Ben Rawlingson Plant  
Suchi Reddy  
Adam Rolston

### **Friends & Family Circle (Up to \$1,000)**

Margaret Arbanas  
Benjamin Ball  
Justin Beal  
Felix Burrichter  
Lori Camilleri  
Aric Chen  
Angharad Coates  
Hlin Helga Gudlaugsdottir  
Robert Kasdin  
Marisa Katz  
Jessica Merritt  
Charles OByrne  
Henk Ovink  
Avani Parikh  
John Patrick  
Chee Pearlman  
Stephan Wurster

**The World Around works in  
partnership with global museums  
and organizations to provide  
international programming of the  
highest standard. Our institutional  
partners are:**

**Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum,  
New York City, USA**

**Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, NL**

**Design Museum, London, UK**

# IMAGE CREDITS

- P6 Image (c) Felix Speller for the Design Museum
- P11 Justin McGuirk portrait by Zissou  
Beatrice Galilee portrait by Sangwoo Suh
- P12 *Trees as Infrastructure:*  
*A platform to value and invest in nature beyond carbon*  
(c) Dark Matter Labs  
Indy Johar portrait by Cherihan Photography
- P13 *Water as Leverage*  
Henk Ovink in Khulna, Bangladesh, 2018. (c) Cynthia van Elk  
Henk Ovink portrait by Cynthia van Elk
- P14 *Flowing Toxins* by Feifei Zhou, Kirsten Keller (c) Feral Atlas  
Feifei Zhou portrait by Jos Diaz Contreras
- P15 *This Is Living* campaign for Normal Phenomena of Life  
Photo by Toby Coulson  
(c) Faber Futures  
Natsai Audrey Chieza portrait by Ollo Weguelin
- P17 Cher Potter portrait by Matthew Klatenborn
- P18 *Sans Titre 17*, Sammy Baloji, 2006, from *Mémoire* (c) Sammy Baloji  
Image courtesy of the artist and Galerie Imane Farès  
Sammy Baloji portrait by Nick Harvey
- P19 *Second Sea* by Dr. Adrian Lahoud, Prof. Sam Jacoby, Benjamin Mehigan, Accept & Proceed (c) On  
Adrian Lahoud portrait (c) Rabee Younes
- P20 *Oysters to Filter* (c) Julia King  
Julia King portrait courtesy of the Design Museum
- P21 *Rafah Master Drawing* by Forensic Architecture, 2015 (using a Pléiades satellite photograph of eastern Rafah, taken on 1 August 2014 at 11:39 am)  
Eyal Weizman portrait (c) Forensic Architecture

# THE WORLD AROUND

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Beatrice Galilee

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Satomi Blair

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Dan Howarth

## ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Ana Minujin

## PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Laxmi Andrews

## SOUND DESIGN

Guido Colzani

## FILM PRODUCTION

Satomi Blair

CG Foisy

## DESIGN

Creative Direction 2x4

Jae Ee

## COPY EDITOR

Dan Howarth

## THE WORLD AROUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Flatto, Board Chairman

Vishaan Chakrabarti

Elizabeth Diller

Peter Dillon

John Haskell

Beatrice Galilee

Diego Marroquin, Founder and  
Chairman Emeritus

## THE WORLD AROUND

## GLOBAL CULTURAL PARTNER

Fondation *Cartier*  
pour l'art contemporain

## THE WORLD AROUND

## GLOBAL MEDIA PARTNER

de  
zeen

## IN FOCUS: RESEARCH

## EVENT PARTNERS

the  
DESIGN  
MUSEUM



Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council

THE  
WORLD  
AROUND