



# **LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2024 ANNOUNCES PROGRAMME FOR GLOBAL DESIGN FORUM AT THE V&A**

**14-22 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**[londondesignfestival.com](http://londondesignfestival.com)**  
**#LDF24**

**22 August 2024 - London, UK:** London Design Festival announces details of this year's Global Design Forum, the Festival's curated thought leadership programme, celebrating design and the minds shaping its future. The talks programme returns to the V&A this year celebrating 10 years since it first took place at the Museum.

The programme for 2024 will focus on some of the most pressing and crucial challenges that designers currently face. Daily themes will include Please Design Responsibly; The Healthy City; Resilience and Repair and More than Human. Within these headers there will be a focus on: responses to conflict and disaster; communication of cultural heritage; what it means to be human; designing through a non-human lens; design for connection; creating resilient, healthy, green cities; redefining the role of the designer; designing a regenerative society and opening up collaboration to move towards critical shared goals.

Over 60 speakers from across the global design and creative community will share new perspectives on how design can be more accessible, inclusive and sustainable and at the forefront of change.

This year GDF is excited to be partnering with [Johnnie Walker Blue Label](#), [VELUX](#) and [Türkiye Design Council](#).

## **Global Design Forum Programme**

**Saturday 14 September 2024: Please design responsibly**  
**Supported by Johnnie Walker Blue Label**

### **Material progress: pushing the boundaries of luxury design**

Jeremy Lindley (Global Design Director at Diageo) and Jennifer English (Global Brand Director for Johnnie Walker) will join Nic Monisse (Design Editor at Monocle) for a conversation exploring key strategies for innovating in luxury design. They will discuss navigating the barriers to alternative material approaches at a global, mass scale and share creative solutions to reducing material use. The panel will emphasise the importance of prioritising progress over perfection and highlight how striving for collaboration over ownership is key to achieving meaningful advancements in the field.

### **Redefining the role of the designer**

In a panel discussion chaired by Priya Khanchandani, with contributions from Danah Abdulla (Decolonising the Arts Institute at UAL), Liang-Jung Chen (Industrial Designer and Artist), Rama Gheerawo (Director of The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design at the Royal College of Art), and Shawn Adams (Co-founder of POoR Collective), the role of the designer will be critically examined. The panel will explore whether the designer's role needs to be redefined to address the environmental, social, and technological challenges of our time. Key topics will include the real-world impact of creativity and design—how it can be quantified, valued, and enhanced—and the designer's role in influencing policy makers, clients, and communities to make informed decisions. Additionally, the discussion will address how designers can break down barriers to inclusion and accessibility both within the industry and in broader society.

### **Designing a regenerative society**

Angela Ford (Founder of Studio Raw Origins), Guan Lee (Architect and Co-director of the Material Architecture Lab at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL), and Marjan van Aubel (Solar Designer), will discuss how designers can contribute to and collaborate with regenerative systems. The conversation will focus on design strategies that promote environmental stewardship by preventing the mismanagement and overuse of natural resources. Key themes include the integration of local and indigenous knowledge, alongside natural systems, to develop resilient and equitable regenerative strategies for biodiversity and waste management. The panel will also explore how global industries can adopt a more responsible and regenerative approach to natural resources.

### **Keynote: Is there a future for luxury?**

A keynote from artist and designer Jaime Hayon, will address pressing questions about luxury in today's world. He will explore the future of luxury as consumers prioritise sustainability and meaning over consumption. Hayon will discuss how designers can lead with sustainable, re-purposed, circular biomaterials and systems. The talk will also examine how designers can use technology to embrace and elevate heritage crafts, and conserve cultural identities in the luxury sector.

### **Sunday 15 September: More than human**

#### **Playtime: Understanding the human need to be surprised, challenged and delighted**

This panel featuring Ben Channon (Author of "Happy by Design" and Director at Ekkist), Hideki Yoshimoto (Co-founder of Tangent and Founder of Craft x Tech), and Nina Tolstrup (Co-founder of Studio Mama) will explore how design can create sensory immersive experiences that connect with our desire to be moved. They'll discuss play's impact on wellbeing, cognition, and social connections across all ages, and how design can foster play and curiosity in both real and digital worlds. The panel will also examine if play can be designed for wider global impact and how designers can embrace play in their practice to prevent creative burnout.

#### **Changing the Human Experience**

Leanne Elliott Young (Co-founder and CEO of Institute of Digital Fashion), Melek Zeynep Bulut (Artist and Designer), and Tobias Rylander (Stage, Lighting and Conceptual Designer for Beyoncé Renaissance World Tour, The 1975, FKA Twigs, The XX) will discuss creating impact, wonder, and curiosity in music, fashion, film, design, and technology. They'll explore designing with light, movement, and sound for immersive experiences, amplifying experiences beyond physical realities, and how imagined worlds on screen and stage impact the lived world. The panel will also address how gaming and technology are changing our engagement with real-world experiences.

#### **Design for Connection**

Arjun Singh Assa (Designer, Furniture Maker, and Founder of Assa Designs), Barnaby Steel (Artist and Creative Director at Marshmallow Laser Feast), Giles Tettey Nartey (Multi-disciplinary Artist and Architect), and Kusheda Mensah (Designer and Founder of Modular by Mensah), chaired by Carrie Chan (Contemporary Programme Curator at V&A South Kensington), will explore how design can connect humans to each other and the world. They'll discuss rediscovering lost connections, designing for social connection in an

increasingly isolated world, and the impact of quantum computing and AI on human connections. The panel will also examine shifting paradigms in our approach to viewing our place in the world.

## **Understanding the Non-Human World**

This keynote will address what it means to be human by viewing our designed world through a non-human lens, reconnecting with lost ways of seeing ourselves and the natural world through a planet-first approach, exploring the big system drivers impacting how we inhabit the world, and examining what a post-humanist design approach.

## **Tuesday 17 September: The healthy city Supported by VELUX**

### **Breathe Easy: Cleaning up urban air pollution**

This panel will discuss how designers can harness urban geography to tackle air pollution. They'll explore strategies to improve indoor air quality, using new technology for environmental impact evaluation, and working with communities and politicians for impactful solutions. The discussion will cover design strategies to reduce building emissions, improve air quality, and meet climate targets.

### **The healthy home**

Anna Graaf (Sustainability Director at White Arkitekter), Nick Newman (from Studio Bark and author of "Protest Architecture"), Richard Williams (Senior Architect Development Manager at Velux), and Uffe Leth (Principal at Leth & Gori), chaired by Michelle Ogundehin (Editor, Creative Consultant and Presenter), will discuss rethinking homes to address inefficiency and health issues. They'll explore designing for climate change effects, understanding material toxicity, and improving ventilation and natural light. The panel will focus on how to enhance domestic settings by designing with nature and improving air quality.

### **Sleep and the city**

Chaired by Chris Sanderson (Co-founder and Director of Future Laboratory), Jacu Strauss (Architect and Creative Director at Lore Group), Katherine Templar Lewis (Human and Cognitive Scientist and Co-Founder of Kinda Studios), Michael Edwards (Associate Director Building Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience, Retrofit Leader at Arup), and Shumi Bose (Architectural Historian, Curator and Teacher) will explore design's role in combating poor sleep and climate-induced sleep inequality. They'll discuss designing around Vitruvian principles, addressing urban noise and light pollution, and how sleeping patterns affect future urban spaces. The panel will examine how design can help sync the body's circadian rhythms in urban environments.

### **Keynote: The resilient green city**

A keynote will discuss designing spaces for dynamic urban environments and community engagement. The talk will cover agricultural interventions for unused land, new urban agriculture benefiting communities, and collaboration between agronomists, architects, and designers to tackle urban biodiversity, health, and mobility challenges. Thorsen will also explore how cultural institutions can support environmental and social sustainability

in their local areas.

## **Thursday 19 September: Resilience and repair Supported by Türkiye Design Council**

### **Responses to conflict and disaster**

Ammar Azzouz (Research Fellow at University of Oxford), Harry Blakiston Houston (Founder of Insulate Ukraine), and Mehmet Kalyoncu (Founder and Member of Board of Trustees, Türkiye Design Council) and Jenia Gubkina (Architect, Architectural and Urban Historian, Curator) will explore how designers can meaningfully respond to conflict and disaster impacts. They'll discuss design interventions aiding conversation and diplomacy, fostering unity, and long-term impact projects for displaced communities. The panel will also examine the role designers should play in global politics.

### **Community resilience: A community building a community building**

Rose Gibbs (Artist and Founder of Montford Estate Community Organisation) and Sahra Hersi (Artist, Spatial Designer and Practitioner) will discuss designing for human resilience, addressing community cohesion and health challenges. They'll explore creating non-profit-driven social spaces and improving community collaboration in public space design. The talk will highlight the Mountford Estate Community Hall Project as an example of involving underrepresented youth in the design process.

### **Adapt to survive: how to design for adaptability, longevity and resilience**

Valeria Segovia (Principal, Gensler) and Neil Pinder (Honorary Professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture) will explore designing buildings and cities for future climate challenges. They'll discuss the concept of growing walls, buildings, and cities, and examine regenerative cultures that embrace natural capital and adaptability. The talk will cover bio designs and materials enabling adaptable and intelligent buildings that respond to their surroundings.

### **Keynote: Preserving Identity**

This keynote featuring Furkan Demirci, (Chairman, Türkiye Design Council), Cem Yılmaz (Chairman and Founding Partner, KEYM) and Loukia Iliopoulou (Partner, Urban Designer, Foster + Partners) will focus on the recovery from the February 2023 earthquakes in the Hatay region of southeastern Türkiye, where an international design-led collaboration effort is underway to revitalise it in a way that honours its past, prepares it for the future and embraces its community. The keynote will address a challenge becoming increasingly important in global disaster recovery: how can architecture and design protect and reinforce cultural identity in a time of crisis, and how much of a priority should this be?

Speakers will share how the design principles and plans developed by Foster + Partners, DB Architects, KEYM Urban Renewal Centre with Buro Happold and MIC-HUB recognise that post-disaster, revitalization is not only about buildings and a place's future economic and climate resilience, but rebuilding communities' feelings of trust, safety, and belonging.

**- ENDS -**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information, please contact Bianca Gidwani on +447853848640 and [bianca@londondesignfestival.com](mailto:bianca@londondesignfestival.com)

All images and assets can be [downloaded here](#).

## ABOUT LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

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

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

#LDF24

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