

Programme 2025

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CB Circular Build R&R Retrofit & Reuse

Wed 10, Sep

View Sessions by Time

Time **Sessions**

9:45 am **Welcome Address** 👤

Opening Remarks

9:45 am - 9:50 am 📍 1. Porter Tun

Will Hurst, the managing editor of *The Architects' Journal*, opens the conference by underscoring the urgent need for retrofit, reuse, and circular build—and the critical role architects and built environment professionals must play in driving systemic change.

Speaker

 **Will Hurst**
managing editor - The Architects' Journal

9:50 am **Retrofitting and Reuse at Scale: Inside Canary Wharf's Diversification Masterplan** 👤

Keynote

9:50 am - 10:30 am 📍 1. Porter Tun

Join Tom Venner, Chief Development Officer at Canary Wharf Group (CWG), as he delivers an insightful keynote on the critical opportunities and challenges of retrofit and reuse in today's evolving landscape, highlighting the pivotal role architects play in building a more sustainable future through thoughtful design.

Drawing from CWG's extensive experience as one of the UK's largest sustainable developers and significant development portfolio, Tom will explore how the neighbourhood continues to adapt and diversify to deliver its diversification masterplan.

Discover practical strategies for architects and firms to upskill and adapt to industry demands, with real-world examples from Canary Wharf's transformation journey. Learn how this mixed-use neighbourhood is reimagining its office buildings, large floorplates and the public realm through innovative partnerships, including collaboration with the Eden Project, while maintaining its commitment to transform urban spaces into extraordinary environments.

Speaker

 **Tom Venner**
chief development officer - Canary Wharf Group

Retrofit & Reuse

10:30 am **Coffee Break**

Refreshment break

10:30 am - 11:00 am 📍

11:00 am **PD: Permitted to Dream – Retrofitting Apollo and Lunar House** 👤

Presentation

11:00 am - 11:35 am 📍 1. Porter Tun

Frogmore and Studio Egret West present their placemaking vision for Apollo and Lunar House, charting a bold journey that begins with Permitted Development rights. This transformative scheme reimagines two space-age Brutalist towers—formerly occupied by the Home Office—into 583 high-quality homes.

Discover how adaptive reuse, design ingenuity, and Croydon's "space-age" architectural legacy converge in what is set to become the UK's largest office-to-residential conversion. The presentation will explore the architectural challenges, planning strategies, and creative opportunities that have defined this pioneering project.

Speakers

 **George Edwards**
development manager - Frogmore

 **Vincent Lin**
director - Studio Egret West

Retrofit & Reuse

Why Aren't We Reusing More? 👤

Presentation

11:00 am - 11:35 am 📍 2. Queen Charlotte

To transition to a circular economy, we must reuse more and waste less. The Engineers Reuse Collective is dedicated to promoting and accelerating greater reuse on projects. Here we highlight key issues, challenges, and lessons learned that are currently hindering our ability to increase reuse across the industry.

Speakers

 **Anna Beckett**
associate director - Buro Happold

 **Gareth Atkinson**
director - Civic Engineers | steering group member - The Engineers ReUse Collective

Circular Build

Policy, Finance, and the Future of Empty Buildings 👤

Workshop

11:00 am - 12:30 pm 📍 3. Lower Sugar

This workshop will explore how government policy and financial instruments can better incentivise adaptive reuse. Drawing on case studies from the UK and abroad, and early findings from AI-powered research into VAT and taxation, participants will discuss practical steps to scale up reuse and avoid unnecessary demolition.

(By invitation only)

Speakers

 **Leanne Tritton**
co-founder - Don't Waste Buildings

 **Richard Nelson**
co-founder - Don't Waste Buildings

11:40 am **Innovation and Solutions Showcase** 👤

Presentation

11:40 am - 11:55 am 📍 1. Porter Tun

Learn from the best in this short and impactful presentation, which discusses the latest trends and technologies in building upgrades and their potential for driving sustainability outcomes.

Speakers

 **Jonathan Lowy**
operational marketing manager - VMZINC

 **Nicholas Dabney**
technical advisor - Selectaglaze Ltd

Innovation and Solutions Showcase 👤

11:40 am - 11:55 am 📍 2. Queen Charlotte

Learn from the best in this short and impactful presentation, which discusses the latest trends and technologies in building upgrades and their potential for driving sustainability outcomes.

Speakers

 **Graham Coulter**
Boon Edam Limited - senior service sales manager

 **Pelin Haynes**
staff product marketing expert - Graphisoft

12:00 pm **Lessons From Park Hill: Technical, Social, and Design Realities in Estate Regeneration** 👤

Presentation

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm 📍 1. Porter Tun

Retrofit at scale is rarely smooth—but it can be transformative. In this in-depth talk, architect Annalie Riches reflects on the latest phase of the Park Hill estate regeneration, sharing practical insights into post-occupancy performance, technical constraints, and what's still to come. From exposed concrete frames to improving

The London Museum Reimagined 👤

Presentation

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm 📍 2. Queen Charlotte

Focussing on the new London Museum at Smithfield, in this talk Sharon Ament and Paul Williams will explain the thinking and process behind the repurposing and reinvention of existing buildings for a museum of the 21st century.

thermal performance whilst minimising condensation risk, this session offers valuable lessons for any architect working on large-scale reuse and housing projects.

Speaker

 **Annalle Riches**
founding director - Mikhail Riches

Retrofit & Reuse

Harnessing the sheer physicality of 2 market buildings in Smithfield, the design team working on the London Museum has been decoding and repairing the existing fabric, removing redundant elements, where appropriate, and adding contemporary interventions in order to create a clear organisational logic and maximise opportunities for future transformation.

In presenting the project, they will focus on the ways in which these practices of maintaining, reusing and repairing our existing built fabric require, first and foremost, a deep understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of existing spaces and their appropriateness in relation to the new functions we wish to impose upon them. This is an aspect that is poorly understood in education and practice, but is key if we are to preserve our heritage and resources, while meeting our current needs and those of future generations.

Speakers

 **Paul Williams OBE**
principal director - Stanton Williams

 **Sharon Ament**
director - London Museum

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12:30 pm **Lunch Break**

Lunch

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

1:30 pm **The Human Factor: Why Behaviour Change Must Come First in School Decarbonisation**

Presentation

1:30 pm - 2:10 pm 1. Porter Tun

Delivering up to 30% operational carbon savings across 25 schools, this Department for Education Net Zero Accelerator Pilot demonstrates why behaviour change must precede retrofit. Alma-nac and Harris Academy Bermondsey share insights from working directly with students to transform energy behaviours, revealing how engaging young people as climate champions creates immediate impact and amplifies future building investments.

Speaker

 **Chris Bryant**
co-founder - alma-nac

Retrofit & Reuse

Creating Policy Which Unites: Research Insights and Ways Forward

Presentation

1:30 pm - 1:50 pm 2. Queen Charlotte

How do we bring everyone along on the journey? A key lies in creating policy that is designed for everyone—policy that works in different contexts, is user-friendly for developers, consultants and policymakers, and gives us the comparable data we need. The team's research into UK embodied carbon policy has involved analysing existing policy and data, talking to local authorities, and developing practical ways forward. In this session Miriam shares what they've discovered and explores how we can design policy that overcomes current challenges, is designed for the people who use it, and builds the datasets that will power our collective progress.

Speaker

 **Miriam Graham**
researcher / consultant - University of Sheffield / Arup

Circular Build

Enlightened Retrofit: Rediscovering The Power of Daylight

Workshop

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm 3. Lower Sugar

Reacquainting ourselves with thoughtfully designed daylight solutions in the built environment can have a profound impact on health and wellbeing. This workshop will explore simple, powerful, and aesthetically appealing approaches to creating meaningful and inspiring daylight solutions that enhance both architecture and quality of life.

Speaker

 **Lars Courage**
architect (daylight architect / CEO) - COURAGE architecten bv

Circular Build

1:50 pm **Scaling Adaptive Reuse: Key Takeaways from the Workshop**

Presentation

1:50 pm - 2:10 pm 2. Queen Charlotte

A recap of the *Don't Waste Buildings* workshop, highlighting practical insights on how policy and financial levers can support adaptive reuse. Learn the key barriers identified and potential solutions to bring empty buildings back into productive use.

Speakers

 **Leanne Tritton**
co-founder - Don't Waste Buildings

 **Richard Nelson**
co-founder - Don't Waste Buildings

2:15 pm **New Roles, New Routes to Impact**

Panel discussion

2:15 pm - 3:00 pm 1. Porter Tun

Retrofit isn't just about materials and detailing—it's about systems, strategy, funding, and community change. This session brings together professionals working across local government, policy, engineering, and climate innovation, each forging unconventional career paths to accelerate retrofit.

From founding climate startups to driving borough-wide housing strategies, our speakers will share what it takes to lead retrofit in ways that go beyond traditional roles—and what this means for the future of built environment practice.

Speakers

 **Amandeep Kalra**
ceo - GreenFlip

 **Anna Woodeson**
sustainability director - Buro Happold

 **Chris Brown**
director - Future Fit Homes

Retrofit & Reuse

Jujitsu Urbanism

Panel discussion

2:15 pm - 3:00 pm 2. Queen Charlotte

David Kohn presents the design approach behind the competition-winning design for the expansion of the S.M.A.K. Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art in Ghent, Belgium. He will share how the project reuses the museum's original building as a material quarry, while reorienting the institution to integrate more fully with Ghent's largest urban park.

Speaker

 **David Kohn**
director - David Kohn Architects

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3:00 pm **Afternoon Break**

Refreshment break

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

3:30 pm **Keynote by Minister Mary Creagh, DEFRA**

Keynote

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm 1. Porter Tun

Speaker

 **Mary Creagh**
minister for nature - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

3:45 pm **From the Ground Up: Community, Collaboration, and Long-Term Impact**

Panel discussion

3:45 pm - 4:30 pm 1. Porter Tun

What happens if local people decide they want to sort out their own neighbourhoods – taking buildings into community ownership, capping rents for homes and workspace, creating shared non-transactional social space, declaring themselves a commons as they undertake £multi-million developments? What is the designer's role in this DIY community ecosystem? Through a case study of community-led transformation in Hastings, we'll explore the learning and challenges of partnership working between architects and their non-traditional clients.

Speakers



Jess Steele
CEO and commoner-at-large - Hastings Commons



Sarah Castle
director and co-founder - IF_DO

Retrofit & Reuse

4:30 pm

From Ruin to Revival: Reinventing Buildings with Soul



Keynote

4:30 pm - 5:10 pm 1. Porter Tun

I've spent my career rescuing buildings that others wrote off. This is the story of how I've taken everything from crumbling Georgian shells to unloved brutalist hulks and reimagined them for modern life. I've turned cotton mills into homes, courthouses into cafés, concrete bunkers into creative hubs. It's a talk about how I've used architecture, community and culture to turn the forgotten into the unforgettable, the obsolete into the extraordinary. This talk explores how design, partnership and bold ideas can reshape our towns and cities from the inside out, one building at a time.

Speaker



Tim Heatley
founder - Capital&Centric

Retrofit & Reuse

5:10 pm

Day in Review



Close of event

5:10 pm - 5:15 pm 1. Porter Tun

Will Hurst will highlight the day's key discussions, from policy shifts and best practices to the role of the circular economy. This session will distill the most impactful insights, leaving attendees with a clear sense of momentum for the future of retrofit.

Speaker



Will Hurst
managing editor - The Architects' Journal



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