

BUILDING NATURAL CONNECTIONS

A series of three chaired talks in the run-up to COP26 that explores how the interdependence of nature, society and economy can be leveraged to provide solutions for a sustainable built environment. The series – hosted by Make Architects' Future Spaces Foundation, in collaboration with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership – features diverse perspectives from business, policy, finance, academia and civil society. With an audience of investors, developers, asset managers and policymakers, the talks will trigger fresh thinking around how the built environment can deliver a resilient and prosperous future for all.

CHANGING CLIMATE, CHANGING CULTURE

Wednesday
29 September 2021
2pm BST

Despite the availability of low-carbon solutions, buildings and construction still account for nearly 40% of energy-related CO₂ emissions. This indicates that it's industry culture – not technology – which must change to incorporate net zero into a business mindset and at a practice level. What does it mean to be an organisation committed to net zero? Where does responsibility start and end? How can climate-positive solutions and operational excellence be valued in a way that makes all stakeholders want to engage and drive positive action? How will we work differently as a result?

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BANKING ON BIO-RESILIENCE

Wednesday
6 October 2021
2pm BST

Rapid biodiversity loss and land degradation present significant risks to the global economy. However, they're rarely given financial value or integrated into decision-making in the built environment, where projects often ignore or downgrade nature-based options in choosing short-term, cost-saving measures. The sector must learn to assess, appreciate and integrate the value of nature into commercial decisions in order to improve resilience, human wellbeing, carbon reduction and economic stability. Where are the incentives to do this effectively? How can externalities be incorporated into decision-making for all parties across the life of assets?

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UNLOCKING SOCIAL VALUE

Wednesday
13 October 2021
2pm BST

Two-thirds of the global population will live in cities by 2050, yet most urban spaces are not created with human wellbeing as their goal. The built environment must deliver better social outcomes, such as reducing socioeconomic inequalities, enhancing access to nature, supporting food security, and prioritising health and wellbeing. How can we engage all parties early in the design process on this front? How do we draw on communities' experiences and embrace social value in practice to learn from each other? How can we measure these outcomes?

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