



Open House Worldwide

2018 International Conference

**Shaping our Cities for the Future**

London, UK

31 January to 2 February 2018

# Shaping our Cities for the Future



**Venue: London, UK / Date: 31 January – 2 February 2018**

**#ohww18 #citiesforall**

Cities around the world face many common challenges, but also remain places of inspiration and aspiration. The global task for policymakers, built environment professionals and agencies is to create vibrant and liveable cities where people can and want to live and work – but also where they have a voice to help shape their city's future.

The conference will bring together about 150 international member city representatives, cultural and economic agencies, urban designers and architects, researchers and others to explore the key issues facing cities today. It will highlight new ways to build greater public participation in cities – especially in planning, design and regeneration – focusing on real solutions and practical examples happening around the world.

This, the third Open House Worldwide conference, presented by Open City, also celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first Open House initiative in London and the launch of a major new piece of its research examining the global impact of this concept.

**Booking: you can book for the full conference programme or one or more day sessions.**

**Ticket prices and booking online at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shaping-our-cities-for-the-future-cities-for-all-tickets-39058375653>**

## **Conference Introduction: Wednesday 31 January (afternoon only)**

**Theme: Making liveable cities**

**Location: The Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, NW1 4LE**

**Time: 13.30 for 14.00 – 17.00 [optional building tours from 12.45]**

Urbanization is the defining global trend of the 21st century, with over half of the world's population now living in cities, and 70% expected to do so by 2050. But cities cannot just grow and expand in a linear way – they need to constantly evolve. Cities around the world face many common challenges: not least in supporting the wellbeing of expanding populations, and economic and social resilience in the face of changing demographics, increasing inequality and climate change. We will hear from those at the forefront of policy, thinking and practice about what makes a 'liveable city' in the 21st century, and how solutions must be placed within a global context.

**PLEASE NOTE: tea and coffee is served at registration but lunch is not provided for this session. Delegates will therefore need to make their own lunch arrangements.**

- 12.45 **Building tours exclusively for conference delegates of the Royal College of Physicians, designed by Sir Denys Lasdun (1964)**
- 13.30 **Conference registration**
- 14.00 **Opening of conference by Victoria Thornton, OBE, Founder, Open House Worldwide**
- 14.05 **Public space as the key to urban life**  
Riccardo Marini, Founder, Marini Urbanismo
- 14.30 **Making better places for people**  
Terri Wills, CEO, World Green Building Council
- 14.55 **Knowledge, innovation and health & wellbeing: the key to future cities**  
Clive Constable, Deputy Chief Executive, Royal College of Physicians
- 15.20 **Tea break**
- 15.40 **Psychology and the city**  
Charles Landry/Chris Murray
- 16.05 **Open-source housing in the 21st-century city**  
Alastair Parvin, Co-founder, WikiHouse Foundation
- 16.30 **Q&A with speakers; discussion and comments from Open House Cities**
- 17.00 **Session ends**

## **Special Evening Event**

- 18.30 **Open House Worldwide Celebratory Reception**  
For conference delegates and invited guests.  
Kindly hosted by His Excellency the Argentine Ambassador to the UK at his residence:  
49 Belgrave Square
- 20.30 Reception ends

## Conference Programme: Thursday 1 February (full day)

**Theme: Cities for all citizens**

**Location: Hosted by U+I, 7A Howick Place, London SW1P 1DZ**

**Time: 08.30 for 09.00 – 17.00**

'Citizen participation' or 'active citizenship' is becoming a cornerstone of global public policies as a means of ensuring that cities remain sustainable, liveable, healthy and – most importantly – inclusive. But how do we encourage and support this? The morning session will debate this question to identify how policymakers can provide the right steps in city governance, through presentations from and a discussion between Mayors and City Architects. The afternoon session looks at innovative solutions to build better dialogue between professionals and wider communities, and to harness the power of new technologies to create new inclusive platforms.

08.30 Registration

09.00 **Morning session: Making cities for all citizens: governance and design leadership**  
Dr Suzanne Hall, Director, Cities Programme, LSE (Chair)

09.20 **London**  
Matthew Ryder, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement

09.45 **Vienna**  
Maria Vassilakou, Vice-Mayor and Vice-Governor, City of Vienna

10.10 **Bilbao**  
Asier Abaunza Robles, Councillor for Urban Planning, Bilbao City Council

10.35 **What can cities learn from one another?**  
Panel discussion 1 and Q&A with speakers, chaired by Dr Suzanne Hall

11.00 **Coffee break**

11.20 **Dublin**  
Ali Grehan, City Architect, Dublin City Council

11.45 **Brisbane**  
Malcolm Middleton, Queensland Government Architect

12.10 **Stockholm**  
Chief Architect, City of Stockholm (invited)

12.35 **What can cities learn from one another?**  
Panel discussion 2 and Q&A with speakers, chaired by Dr Suzanne Hall

13.00 **Lunch**

14.00 **Afternoon session: Making cities for all citizens: innovation in research and practice**  
Rory Olcayto, Chief Executive, Open-City (Chair)

14.05 **Citizen research**  
David Burney, Board Chairman, Center for Active Design, New York (invited)

14.30 **Effective dialogue**  
Mark Cridge, CEO, My Society

14.55 **Radical technologies and cities**  
Dan Hill, Associate Director, Arup

15.20 **Tea break**

15.40 **What makes everyday spaces work?**  
Lily Bernheimer, Founding Director, Space Works Consulting

16.05 **Cities as places of happiness**  
Marten Sims, European Operations Lead, Happy City

16.30 **Panel discussion and Q&A with afternoon session speakers**

17.00 **Session ends**

### **Special Evening Event**

18.30 **'London meets the World' International Reception**  
For conference delegates and invited guests.  
Kindly hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

## **Conference Programme: Friday 2 February (full day)**

**Theme: How to create an 'open city': knowledge-sharing session**

**Location: Hosted by the Architectural Association School of Architecture, 36 Bedford Square, WC1B 3ES**

**Time: 09.30 for 10.00 – 17.00**

Introducing this session will be leading designers at the forefront of urban innovation, including **Elma van Boxel and Kristian Koreman, of ZUS, responsible for the Luchtsingel pedestrian bridge, Rotterdam, the world's first crowdfunded public infrastructure project.**

Following this, representatives from cities in the Open House family across five continents will be presenting perspectives on different aspects of their Open House activity as a powerful means of public and civic engagement, and of research into public attitudes towards the built environment.

These presentations will highlight key practical issues of interest to architecture organisations, practitioners and others including:

- Engaging stakeholders: the role of decision-makers from municipalities and other city authorities
- Corporate, public-sector and other partnerships
- Volunteering
- Special and 'fringe' programmes: talks, debates and seminars
- Knowledge-sharing exchange
- Audience/visitor research and evaluation

### **Special Evening Event**

**18.30 Open House Worldwide Architectural Lecture and Reception**

For conference attendees and invited guests.

Kindly hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute.

## **Day 4: Saturday 3 February (morning only)**

**Morning: optional half-day building tours**

09.30 – 13.00 A choice of expert-led tours and visits to key contemporary developments in London, with a focus on buildings with international links.

**To book your conference ticket go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shaping-our-cities-for-the-future-cities-for-all-tickets-39058375653>**

**For further information about the conference programme please contact:**

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Victoria Thornton, OBE, HonFRIBA

Open House Founder and Conference Programme Chair

*Image credits: front cover: bottom left: © Kayvon Aspern*

# Background

## What is Open House?



The aim of the Open House concept is to help change perceptions, break down barriers and inspire people to demand – and to influence the development of – high-quality places and spaces in their cities.

Over its 25-year history a simple but universal way of achieving this has remained at the heart of Open House – enabling everyone to explore high-quality buildings and create a dialogue between the citizens, the professionals and the politicians.

## The Open House Worldwide Family

Since 1992, more than 40 cities across five continents have taken up the Open House concept, and they now form the **Open House Worldwide Family**. Today **1 million people** take part globally in Open House initiatives, from Lagos to Brisbane and Barcelona to Buenos Aires. New cities are coming on board every year and the ‘family of cities’ continues to grow. Open House is a worldwide phenomenon with common values, but each city operates independently with programmes developed by and tailored to local people – a factor that is critical to its global success.



## What is the impact of Open House?

There is a clear recognition that this type of public engagement contributes a major role in how their cities are shaped; and to an understanding that social and economic aspects of the built environment are always interlinked. Open House is unique in creating a shared and non-political community of interest and a forum where policymakers, the public and professionals meet on an equal footing. By providing an independent platform – but one with significant private- and public-sector support – it has become a powerful conduit to influence policy and decision-making about the built environment.

Behind every Open House programme is the idea that direct experience leads to engagement, empowerment and advocacy, and this has been reinforced through the recent Open House Impact Study. Physical experience of places and spaces allows people to explore how architecture, landscape, public realm and infrastructure actually work in real time, and focusing on high-quality design opens eyes and minds to the ‘art of the possible’. In turn it encourages citizens to advocate for good design in their own neighbourhood and city.

[www.openhouseworldwide.org](http://www.openhouseworldwide.org)

<https://openhouseworldwide.wordpress.com>

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