

## Annual Conference 2025: Back to the Future: University Design: Past Present and Future’.



This year's conference celebrates 30 years since the founding of the Forum, previously HEDQF. Based at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, London, the conference will explore university building design, past, present and into the changing future.

The conference will be held at Plexal, Here East, on 25 & 26 June. It will include visits to recent buildings on the Olympic Park, contributing to the new cultural and educational quarter, and include a drinks reception and buffet dinner in UCL Marshgate.

### Outline of Programme *(subject to change)*

#### Tuesday 24 June 2025

18:00 - 20:00 Pre-Conference Drinks Reception at the London College of Fashion and an overview of the UDF Student Competition by Andy MacFee, AMA.

#### Wednesday 25 June 2025

08:30 Registration with Refreshments

09:45 Welcome and Introduction to the Conference by Trevor Wills, Chair of the University Design Forum and Julie Whetton, Executive Director of Estates Development, UCL.

10:00 Keynote: Using futures-thinking to shape better places by Peter Madden, Professor of Practice in Future Cities, University of Cardiff. Facilitator by Ian Goodfellow, Perkins & Will.

10:45 Session 1 Looking to the future: The technological future: Interactive Session by Craig Chettle, former CEO, Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, Nottingham. Facilitated by Trevor Wills, Director of Estates, University of Plymouth and UDF Chair.

12:00 Lunch

13:00 University Design Forum Student Prize 2025, Bartlett School of Architecture. Overview of winning designs. Facilitated by Andy MacFee, AMA.

13:40 Session 2: Creating a cultural and educational quarter, and lessons for the university of the future – client perspectives. A Panel Discussion session by UCL Julie Whetton, Executive Director of Estates Development, UCL; UAL London College of Fashion: Mark Farthing, Programme Director (Major Capital Projects), Sadler's Wells; Britannia Morton, Executive Director and Co-Chief Executive of Sadler's Wells & V&A; Jen McLachlan, Project Director, V&A East. Facilitated by Mike Borkowski, National Business Development Director, Morgan Sindall.

14:55 Pecha Kucha presentations providing an overview of the design of several of the new buildings on the Olympic Park by the architects. Facilitated by Matt Hutton, Bond

Bryan Partnership.

Plexel: Grimshaw, Andy Barnes

Olympic Park Masterplan: Allies and Morrison, Daniel Elsea

V&A: O'Donnell & Tuomey, John O'Tuomey

UAL College of Fashion: Allies and Morrison, Bruno Marcelino

Sadlers Wells: O'Donnell and Tuomey, John O'Tuomey

UCL: Stanton Williams, Gavin Henderson.

15:40 Tea & Coffee

16:00 - 18:00 Guided tours to Sadlers Wells, The London College of Fashion, UAL and UCL Marshgate.

18:00 - 22:00 Drinks and Buffet Dinner in UCL Marshgate, with after dinner reflections by Professor Tony Travers, Professor in Practice and Associate Dean of the LSE School of Public Policy, London School of Economics. Drinks and dinner kindly supported by Stanton Williams.

### Thursday 26 June

08:30 Refreshments and guided tours to Plexal.

09:30 Lessons from Antwerp: University Design, Past, Present and Future, by Rod McAllister.

10:00 Session 3: Looking to the future: the 21<sup>st</sup> century Estate Plan: Discussion Session, Will Reid, University of Leeds & Elie Gamburg, KPF. Facilitated by Lyle Christie, Reiach & Hall.

11:00 Tea and Coffee

11:30 Session 4: 30-Year Look Back. Debate and Discussion on projects designed and built around 30 years ago: what has stood the test of time and what are the lessons for the future? Facilitated by Helen Groves, Atkins Realis.

12:30 Session 5: Looking to the future: University Design Forum, Research Discussion. Facilitated by Cora Kwiatkowski, Stride Treglown and Alex Grigull, Grimshaw Architects.

13:20 Lunch

14:10 Session 6: The University in 30 years' time, by Professor Hugo Spiers & Dr Fiona Zisch, University College London. Facilitated by Adam Scott, Freestate Studio.

15:30 Session 7: Debate: AI: Friend or Foe: Is AI on the side of the angels or an invention of the devil? Do we need physical universities at all? By Professor Andrew Murray and Professor Connor Gearty, LSE's Law School. Facilitated by Julian Robinson.

16:20 Finish & Conclusion, Trevor Wills, Chair of University Design Forum.