

Seminar programme

Chair's opening remarks

Jan-Carlos Kucharek, Deputy editor RIBAJ & Editor PiP

Urban Playground: How child-friendly planning and design can save cities

Tim Gill, author, Urban Playground and Design Council built environment expert, Churchill Fellow

Designing compliance: A case study on Cobham Free School

Justin Lewis, technical specification manager (flat roofing), Rockwool UK

University of Leicester's School of Business at Brookfield Campus

Sapna Shah, associate, Shepheard Epstein Hunter

Refreshment break / interlude

Education for all, toddlers to adults by VMZINC

Jonathan Lowy, operational marketing manager, VMZinc

Hackney School of Food - MacEwen Award Winner

Tom Surman, co-founder, Surman Weston

Sustainability that makes a statement: The Centre for Agricultural and Biosciences International (CABI)

Chris Roddick, green roof product manager, Bauder

University of Cambridge Primary School

Julia Barfield, managing director, Marks Barfield Architects







Speaker biographies



JULIA BARFIELD Managing director Marks Barfieldf architects

Sulia founded Marks Barfield Architects in 1989 with husband David Marks (1952 - 2017); a multi award-winning practice with a portfolio of work across many sectors. Recent projects are The Cambridge Central Mosque in Cambridge, with sustainability at its heart, and Stephenson House in London, a workplace exemplar of well-being principles and biophilic design. Sulia is on the steering group of Architect's Declare, and lectures on the design, construction, and product changes needed for improved sustainability. She sits on several quality and award judging panels, examines at the University of Bath and is an honorary professor at Queen's University, Belfast.



Author and Design Council built environment expert

Tim Gill is a global advocate for children's outdoor play and mobility. His book Urban Playground: How child-friendly planning and design can save cities was published by RIBA in 2021. His first book No Fear: Growing up in a risk-averse society was described in the New York Times as "a handbook for the movement for freer, riskier play." Tim is a Design Council Built Environment Expert and Churchill Fellow, and former director of the Children's Play Council (now Play England). His client list includes Argent, London Legacy Development Corporation, Mayor of London/GLA and National Trust.



JAN-CARLOS KUCHAREK Deputy Editor RIBAJ & Editor PiP

San-Carlos is an architectural journalist and registered architect. He studied his part 1 at Canterbury College of Art and his architecture diploma at The Bartlett (UCL) and worked for five years at Foster + Partners. He took a parttime role at the RIBAJ in 2004 and continued working freelance at Marks Barfield, Hudson Featherstone, David Morley and Fourthspace architects. He became editor of Products in Practice (PiP) in 2013 and deputy editor of RIBAJ in 2021.



JUSTIN LEWIS Technical specification manager Rockwool

With construction industry expertise spanning 14 years, Justin Lewis has spent the majority of this time with Rockwool UK. Joining the specification team back in 2008, Justin focuses on developing solution-driven flat roof solutions that address thermal, fire and acoustic performance requirements. In his current role as technical specification manager, Justin provides a range of support to specifiers, contractors and system holders - including the delivery of CPDs, project-specific support with technical calculations and guidance on the most appropriate flat roof insulation solution required to deliver regulation compliance.



JONATHAN LOWRY Operational marketing manager VMZinc

Jonathan has over 23 years experience working with VMZinc. Having operated in both technical and sales positions in three different countries he has an excellent understanding of not only the market needs but also the technical possibilities of zinc as a roofing and cladding material. Jonathan has also been involved in technical certifications whether that be, Environmental Profile Declarations or technical systems certifications such as BBA certificates. Much of this knowledge has been used to write technical literature aimed both at architects and installers. Before joining VMZinc, Jonathan worked as a land surveyor in Paris, ironically spending quite a lot of time on the zinc roof tops of Paris! Jonathan graduated from Nottingham Trent University in Construction Management



CHRIS RODDICK Green roof product manager Bauder

Chris Roddick is the green roof product manager at Bauder and is responsible for the development and management of Bauder's range of green and blue roof systems. Chris has nearly 20 years' experience in the green roof industry and has been with Bauder since 2014. Chris sits on the board of GRO (Green Roof Organisation) and was one of the authors of the new 2021 GRO Code.



SAPNA SHAH Associate Shepheard Epstein Hunter

Sapna has extensive experience of architecture and space planning in education and housing in both private and public sectors. Recent work has included complex transformations of existing buildings, often occupied and/or listed, within demanding cost and time constraints, where sensitivity to the diverse requirements of multiple stakeholders in the design stages needs to be combined with rigorous control of delivery during the construction phase. Sapna leads the BIM Implementation and Innovation working groups within the practice and has a special interest in interior design, particularly our experience of colour.



Co-founder Surman Weston

Surman Weston is a London-based architecture studio established in 2014 by Tom Surman and Percy Weston. Eschewing a house style, the practice has developed a portfolio of unique developments that are contextually sensitive, with careful consideration of materiality, construction technique, use and function. Built works to date include: new-build house Ditton Hill House, Surbiton (2020); new-build garden annexes including Lantern Studio (2016) and Cork Study (2015); and extensive London refurbishments such as Mayow Road (2017), Replica House Studio (2018), and Makepeace Mansions Apartment (2019). In the education sector, Surman Weston created Brunswick Park Cookery Cottage for Brunswick Park Primary School (2017), and a new student cafe for the practice directors' alma mater, the Royal College of Art (2012). Committed to the process of making, the studio has developed a number of bespoke products, fittings and furniture, including Wedge Table, a minimal chandelier and a contemporary doorknob. Tom and Percy are regular tutors for the undergraduate course at the University of Cambridge; Percy is visiting critic at University of Nottingham: and both have taught and lectured at institutions including the Royal College of Art and the University of Westminster.





