

Built Environment Summit

28 - 29 October 2021

Open Call for Climate Action
Evidence and Research





The Built Environment Summit is a report and conference hosted by the RIBA in partnership with Architects Declare.

The aim of the summit is to embolden governments to support and work with the international built environment industry to decarbonise construction.

We cannot meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit above pre-industrial levels without making substantial changes to the way we design, build, operate, and adapt our built environment. The Built Environment Summit will bring that message from the international construction industry to governments at COP26.



Call for Evidence

The RIBA and Architects Declare are inviting submissions to support a report to governments to be presented at COP26.

The report will be developed over the coming months with partners across the international built environment industry. It will be backed up by evidence, research, and exemplar projects from across the globe that will be discussed at a conference on 28-29 October 2021 hosted by the RIBA and Architects Declare.

Both strands of the summit, the report and conference, will be structured around the six themes. This international open call invites contributors to:

- Submit research, exemplar projects (built or un-built), and supporting evidence in any form under these six themes.
- Express interest in presenting your research/project(s) at the conference, either in person or online.
- Express interest in supporting or endorsing this initiative, especially if you are a built environment focused organisation or institution

Alongside this, we are inviting expressions of interest to sit on an Expert Advisory Panel to support the selection of contributors and curation of the conference. More information about this Panel is included below.

THEME 1

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is central to our quality of life and needs greater emphasis in government policy. Under this theme we are looking for evidence such as:

- Demonstrable environmental, social and economic benefits of healthy, safe, and secure Housing, Workplaces, Educational, Civic and Infrastructure
- Demonstrable environmental, social and economic benefits of energy efficient and low carbon buildings
- Social Value of an environmentally and economically sustainable construction industry
- Demonstrable cultural, educational, and governance benefits associated with a sustainable built environment

Demonstrable models of best practice in environmental design for a post-Covid 19 world

THEME 2

THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

We cannot address the climate emergency without making significant changes to the way we build, operate and adapt the built environment. Under this theme we are looking for evidence such as:

- Analysis and commentary on the built environment's current environmental impact by nation, region, sector, or other factors
- How international, national, sector based and other carbon budgets are being set and met (or otherwise) by the built environment
- The impact of the Nationally Determined Contributions on the built environment and vice versa
- The impact of renewable energy budgets on the built environment
- The environmental impacts of the built environment beyond carbon and energy, including material footprint, water, habitats, biodiversity, soil health etc

THEME 3

HOW TO AFFECT CHANGE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The construction industry is a complex system that spans many sectors, governments' departments, regulations, and areas of concern and influence. Understanding how to affect change within these landscapes that vary across the globe while also interacting through trade, culture etc is difficult yet critical to bringing about change. Under this theme we are looking for evidence such as:

- System mapping of the built environment / construction industry by city, region, nation, sector, or other, recognising that this varies across the globe, sectors, etc
- Policy and regulation landscapes (system maps) impacting and affected by the built environment
- Research into the key leverage points for affecting change in the built environment

THEME 4

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

INDUSTRY'S CAPABILITIES

The industry has the knowledge and technology to make the changes needed, though some elements need scaling back and others need scaling up. Under this theme we are looking for evidence such as:

- Ways in which we are able to meet clients needs or solve problems without building, eg through strategic consultancy, use of advanced simulation or machine learning, through deep engagement with communities etc
- Ways in which we are able to create buildings, spaces and infrastructure with recovered, reclaimed, refurbished, remanufactured, and recycled materials so avoiding raw material extraction and waste.
- Ways in which we are able to build from low-carbon, low-energy and other low-impact materials through design, engineering and material innovation.
- Ways in which we are able to create new and retrofit existing buildings to be zero-carbon(-enabled) and low-energy
- Ways in which we are able to integrate generate renewable energy into the built environment
- Ways in which we are able to restore ecosystems and employ nature-based solutions
- Ways in which we are able to improve the resilience of human and non--human habitats against climate change and other adverse events

THEME 5

THE INDUSTRY IS COMMITTED TO CHANGE

The industry has committed to and working towards the change we need. Under this theme we are looking for evidence such as:

- Initiatives, declarations, educational reforms etc from around the world demonstrating how the industry is committed to climate action (to include both commitment to certain activities and divestments from or decisions to abstain from certain activities)
- Design processes and guidance to ensure the most sustainable solutions are explored, tested, developed, implemented etc
- Workflows, tools and ways of collaborating and thinking to facilitate the change needed (for example contract documents)
- Examples of how we measure success towards our goals, eg certification schemes, awards, key performance indicators, post-occupancy evaluation etc
- Initiatives to challenge siloed design practices, linear design practices that place ideas before resources, high carbon aesthetics etc
- Examples of research and development work taking place to bring about the transition to a sustainable built environment, especially partnerships between industry and academia
- Examples of where the industry is developing formal environmental, social and governance standards to rate the wider impact of projects on the environment through measurement of environmental gain/harm facilitated by new buildings and infrastructure

THEME 6

THE INDUSTRY NEEDS GOVERNMENTS' SUPPORT TO CHANGE

Governments can provide the national, international, sector-focused, cross-sectoral regulations, infrastructure, and foresight to support the built environment in making the changes required to meet the 1.5°C target. Under this theme we are looking for evidence such as:

- Research and evidence of the benefits of environmental regulations in a variety of global contexts
- Learnings from environmental regulations affecting the built environment already implemented
- Literature review of policy recommendations for environmental regulations in the built environment and how these can be applied in a variety of global contexts
- Evidence-based proposals for policies and changes to the current regulatory landscape to bring about a transition to a sustainable / regenerative built environment
- Evidence-based proposals for infrastructure, funding, and other support to bring about a transition to a sustainable / regenerative built environment
- Examples of where the move to more sustainable practices is driving cost and efficiency savings and environmental gains and where new policy frameworks could incentivize private investment



How Your Evidence Will Be Used

Submissions to the open call may be used to:

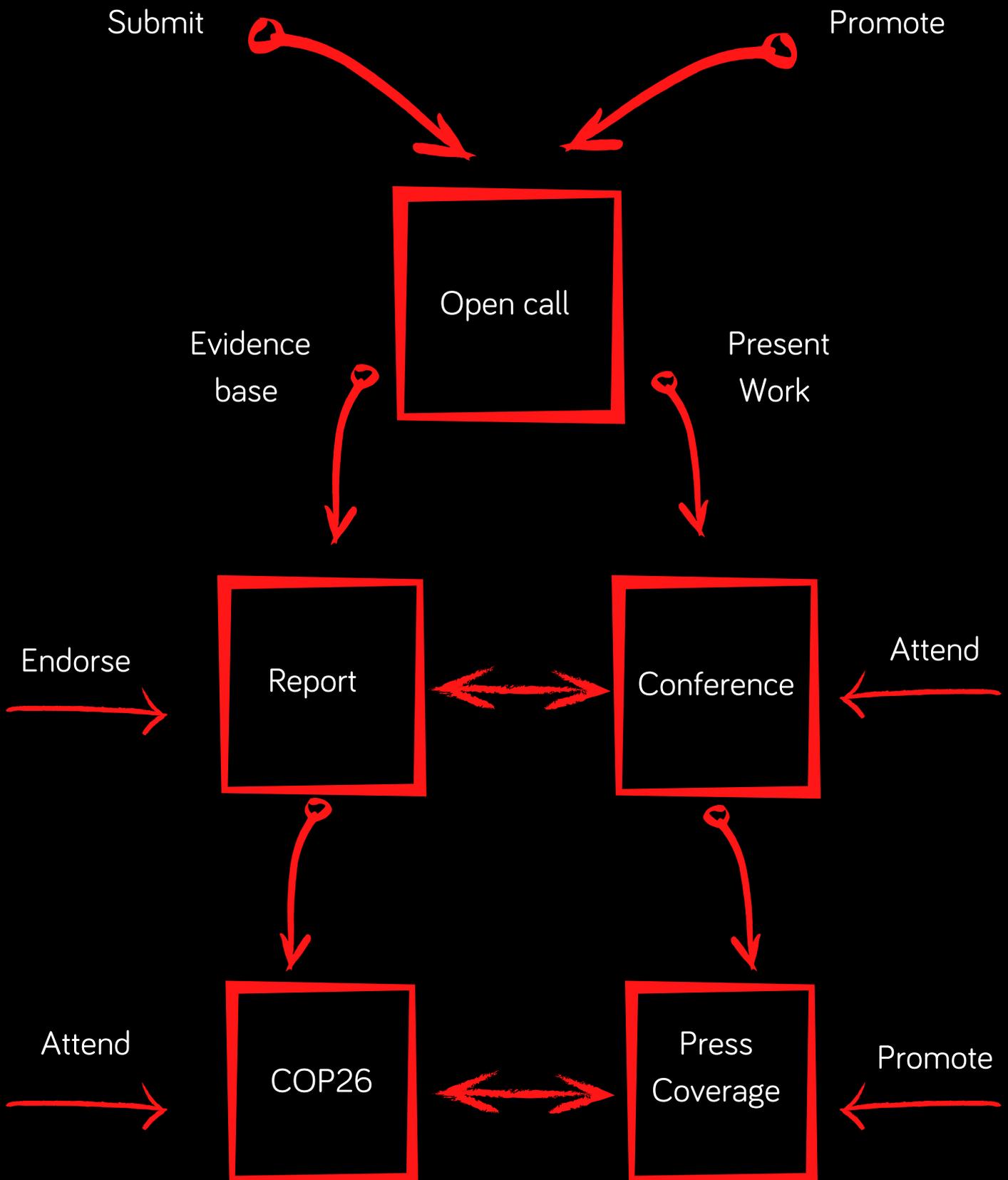
- Inform the report
- Provide an evidence base for the key messages in the report to governments
- Be linked to the report to be held on the RIBA website
- Presented by you at the conference

Submissions

To submit an application to contribute to the report and/or conference click [HERE](#) and complete the form by 9am BST Monday 5th July 2021.

Get Involved

You can support in a number of different ways during the build up to COP26.





(C) Devin Blair



About Us

The Built Environment Summit is co-hosted by the RIBA and Architects Declare. The summit is organised by a steering group with representatives of these two organisations including:

Simon Allford, RIBA President Elect, and Director of AHMM Architects

Maria Smith, RIBA Nationally Elected Councillor and Director of Sustainability and Physics, Buro Happold

Andrew Waugh, Architects Declare Steering Group Member and Director of Waugh Thistleton Architects



Join the Expert Advisory Panel

Alongside this call for evidence, we are inviting expressions of interest to sit on an Expert Advisory Panel to support the selection of contributors and curation of the conference.

We are seeking a range of people, skills, backgrounds and experience, representative of the global construction industry and society at large. This is a paid opportunity with a fee of £250 a day and we anticipate between 3 – 5 days' work will be required.

Depending on their expertise the Expert Advisory Panel, will be invited to:

- 1) Support the selection of contributors and curation of the report.
- 2) Support the selection of contributors and curation of the conference.
- 3) Input into the writing of the report

To submit an expression of interest to sit on the Expert Advisory Panel click [HERE](#) and complete the form by 9am BST Tuesday 1st June 2021.

Contact

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