

RIBA Academy

AI in Practice 2025

Date: Thursday, 8 May 2025

Time: 9:30am to 5pm

Location: The Florence Hall, 66 Portland Place, London, W1B 1NR

AI in Practice Summit: Unlocking AI's Potential in Architecture

This summit marks a vital moment in the evolution of architectural practice. As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes the built environment, today's event brings together leading voices to examine how AI is already being applied in architecture - and where it's heading next.

Through data-led insights, hands-on case studies, and open discussion, we'll explore what's working, what isn't, and how practices can meaningfully adopt AI tools. From design innovation and policy to legal frameworks and business transformation, the programme offers practical, evidence-based guidance for architects navigating this complex and fast-moving landscape.

Thank you for joining us - and welcome to a day of insight, challenge, and opportunity.

Who is the conference for?

Architects and allied professionals who are curious about AI use in practice. Whether you're interested in language models, image diffusion, or the legal foundations required for responsible AI use, this event offers practical insights and evidence-based discussions for those eager to explore AI's growing role in architecture.

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This summit delves into how AI is transforming architectural practice, offering real-world insights into its successes and challenges. Attendees will gain a clear, evidence-based understanding of AI integration - what's working, what's not, and how to effectively implement AI-driven strategies in their own practice.

09:30 – 10:00:	Registration and refreshments
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and RIBA AI Report findings, Adrian Malleson (RIBA)
10:05 – 10:20	RIBA AI Group Report, Philip Allsopp (Orbis Dynamics)
10:20 – 10:45	Text and Image – AI Workflows from Practice, Keir Regan-Alexander (Arka.Works) Exploring practical experiences in integrating AI workflows and setting effective AI policies in architecture
10:45 – 11:05	Large Language Models and How to Use Them in Practice, Stephen Hunter (Buckminster AI) Best practices for harnessing LLMs, including unabridged prompting and promising new reasoning models
11:05 – 11:25	Diffusion Architect, Using Image Models in Practice, Ismail Seleit (Foster + Partners) How AI diffusion models, beyond simple rendering, can unlock unexpected design dialogues in the creative process
11:25 – 11:45	Coffee Break and Networking
11:45 – 12:10	Evaluating the Legal Risks of AI in Architecture, May Winfield (Buro Happold) An evidence-based discussion on mitigating risks such as 'negligent use' and establishing robust organisational policies for responsible AI
12:10 – 12:45	Panel Discussion: Testing the Boundaries in Practice - Moderated dialogue with May Winfield, Stephen Hunter, Ismail Seleit, Keir Regan-Alexander & Tomas Millar Examining current boundaries for AI use across practice, administrative tasks, and the evolving skills needed for the digital age
12:45-13:45	Lunch

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13:45-
13:50

Welcome Back & Introduction to the Afternoon Programme

13:50 –
14:20

Keynote: Architecture Practice to Architecture Start-Up, Tomas Millar (Millar Howard Workshop)
Highlighting how proactive engagement with AI is expanding professional scope towards product-based solutions and unlocking new market opportunities

14:20 –
15:05

Pecha Kucha Session - Flash Insights: Accelerating AI in the Built Environment
AI in Practice experts share their best ideas

- **Hamza Shaikh, Gensler** - Making AI Work Within Practice Culture – people-centred adoption and recentring the narrative
- **Julia Brookfield, Levitt Bernstein** - Making AI Work Within Practice Culture – people-centred adoption and recentring the narrative
- **Tim Fu, Studio Tim Fu** - Leading with AI – integrating LLMs and data-driven design into architectural process
- **Fredy Fortich, MVRDV** - Designing with AI – leveraging tools across the entire architectural process
- **Josephine Tyrrell & Beth Starling, WILL+Partners** - AI and Wellbeing – shaping resilient, future-focused practices
- **Breffni Greene, Henry J Lyons Architects** - From Architect to AI Leader – driving change and strategy in a shifting landscape
- **Pablo Zamorano Mosnaim, Heatherwick Studio** - Speaking Your Language – tailoring AI tools in large practice environments

15:05 –
15:20

Coffee Break and Networking

15:20 –
15:40

Panel Discussion: Moderated dialogue with Hamza Shaikh, Julia Brookfield, Tim Fu, Fredy Fortich, Beth Starling, Josephine Tyrrell, Breffni Greene, Pablo Zamorano Mosnaim & Keir Regan-Alexander.

15:40 –
16:00

Audience Insights: Live Polling via Mentimeter
Gathering real-time data and sentiment on AI adoption from the audience

16:00 –
17:00

Networking Drinks – Enjoy drinks and light refreshments as the day concludes with open networking

17:00

Event Close

Speakers



Adrian Malleson

Head of Economic
Research and Analysis,
RIBA

Adrian is an experienced economist and research analyst, with work focusing on sustainability, economics, and technological innovation. As Head of Economic Research and Analysis, Adrian carries out a range of economic research, including RIBA Future Trends and the RIBA Business Benchmarking report. Adrian has recently co-led the RIBA's Horizons 2034 programme, providing a ten-year view of the significant global trends affecting the built environment. From 2018 to 2023 Adrian worked in partnership with UN-Habitat, leading a Global Development programme, as part of the UK Government's Global Future Cities initiative. Adrian leads the RIBA Economics Panel and is a regular contributor to the RIBA Journal and other professional publications.



Philip Allsopp

Global Institute of
Sustainability and Innovation

Philip is a RIBA Trustee and Council representative for the Americas region. He is CEO of Orbis Dynamics Inc., delivering digital twin technologies for urban policy and design simulation globally. Phil is also a Senior Scientist at Arizona State University's Global Futures Laboratory and an adjunct professor at Mohawk College's School of Climate Action in Ontario. A graduate of Kingston University School of Architecture, he holds an MSc in public health from Columbia University and received a Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Award. His career spans senior roles in the US government and private sector, including EDS, A.T. Kearney, Perkins & Will, and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.



**Keir
Regan-Alexander**
Principal, Arka Works

Keir is an Architect and AEC Domain Expert working at the intersection of architectural practice and software development. Following a Directorship at London's Morris+Company, Keir founded Arka Works with a mission to better prepare the architectural profession for AI-driven transformation in the coming decade. He specialises in integrating Generative AI tools into professional workflows, helping organisations adapt to a rapidly evolving digital landscape. In 2024, he co-founded OmniChat.uk, an enterprise-grade multi-model LLM platform now deployed in practices across Europe. In summer 2025, he will launch the Omni Accelerator, a digital learning platform providing on-demand training and practical AI resources to Architects at scale.



Stephen Hunter
Founder,
Buckminster AI

Stephen is the founder of Buckminster AI, a consultancy specialising in AI applications within the AEC sector. With extensive expertise in software development and Large Language Models (LLMs), Stephen helps professional organisations implement practical AI solutions that enhance quality, productivity, and decision-making processes. His pioneering work in Agentic workflows, "Unabridged Prompting", and AI-assisted bid writing has established him as a leading voice in the practical application of AI within professional services. Through Buckminster AI, Stephen works with firms to bridge the gap between cutting-edge AI technology and real-world business challenges in the built environment sector.



Ismail Seleit
Architectural Designer,
Foster + Partners

Ismail is a design architect at Foster and Partners, specialising in design technology. With a strong background in architecture and computational design, he has contributed to a wide range of projects, from design competitions to large-scale building realisations. Ismail focuses on leveraging BIM and computational design to achieve efficient, collaborative design outcomes. He also engages in applied research, exploring generative AI tools like Stable Diffusion and ControlNet. In addition to his architectural work, Ismail is an ambient-electronic music producer, composing soundtracks for architectural films.



May Winfield

Global Director of
Commercial, Legal and
Digital Risks,
Burro Happold

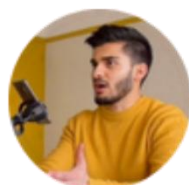
May is the Global Director of Commercial, Legal, and Digital Risks at Burro Happold, with over 19 years of experience as a construction lawyer. Recognised as a global expert in digital and construction technology risk management, she provides pragmatic legal advice on the impact of technology in construction. May has authored key industry documents, including guidance on ISO19650 and the Digital Twins Toolkit Report. She is a Nima Ambassador, co-founder of BIM4Legal, and has received multiple awards, including 'Best Women in Construction Law' in 2020.



Tomas Millar

Director,
Millar+Howard Workshop

Tomas Millar is an architect, coder, and founder of Millar+Howard Workshop and Livedin Custom Build. He explores how AI can be used creatively to rethink architectural practice itself. With a focus on real-world applications - from navigating planning appeals to streamlining project management - Tomas is interested in how architects can use AI to unlock new forms of agency, agility, and innovation. Combining hands-on building experience with a startup mindset, his work tests how technology can break open bureaucratic systems and empower better placemaking. At the AI in Practice Summit, Tomas will share practical strategies for architects ready to experiment and lead change.



Hamza Shaikh

Digital Artist and
Architect, Gensler

Hamza is a creative AI leader at Gensler, pioneering a human-first approach to generative AI in design. With a background as a digital artist, architect, and author, he integrates emerging technologies to enhance, not replace, human creativity. Named a RIBA Journal Rising Star in 2023, Hamza leads global AI strategy, training, and adoption. His bestselling book *Drawing Attention* explores storytelling and experimental drawing, reflecting his commitment to innovation across architecture and design culture.



Julia Brookfield

Architect,
Levitt Bernstein

Julia leads the Design Technology Working Group at Levitt Bernstein. Under her leadership, the group focuses on the ethical use of AI in practice. Her expertise within architecture centres on mixed-tenure housing, often with a social or extra-care element. Her experience ranges from high density apartments in city centres, to houses in sub urban and rural contexts. Since joining Levitt Bernstein's Manchester office in 2021, she has worked collaboratively with both the London and Manchester teams, to deliver projects across the country. Her architectural work reflects the practice's social and environmental values. These same values underpin her approach to AI adoption in practice.



Tim Fu

Director, Designer and
Founder, Studio Tim Fu

Tim is a renowned designer recognized for his pioneering use of artificial intelligence (AI) in architecture. Emerging from the research team at Zaha Hadid Architects, he has founded Studio Tim Fu, a high-tech architectural practice pioneering in the integration of AI into visionary designs. As a prominent voice in the field, his work has been showcased at conferences and exhibitions worldwide. Leading a specialized team of architects and technologists, he undertakes projects around the globe. Through his design and technological insights, Tim has amassed a significant online following, establishing his influence as a thought leader in the industry.



Fredy Fortich

Architect Technical Specialist,
MVRDV

Fredy is an architect and engineer specialising in computational design, with expertise in BIM coordination in Revit, performance-based and generative design, and machine learning. Holding Master's degrees from TU Delft and Universidad de los Andes, he has worked at MVRDV, El Equipo Mazzanti, and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners. His experience spans BIM management, AI research on diffusion models, and sustainable high-rise design. Fredy is skilled in team leadership, visual communication, and developing efficient simulation workflows.



Beth Starling

Interior Designer,
Will+Partners

Beth is a creative interior designer and member of the WILL Academy since 2020. She earned a BA (Hons) in Architecture from Oxford Brookes University in 2017 and a Master's in Interior Design from Brighton University in 2020. Her research, *The High Street of Tomorrow*, explores adaptive reuse and workplace wellbeing, highlighting the role of connected communities. At the WILL Academy, she continues to explore wellness, sustainability, and flexible working in interior design.



Josephine Tyrrell

Director of People,
Workplace Change
Management
Will+Partners

Josephine is a workplace change specialist and business coach at WILL+Partners, helping clients thrive by prioritising wellbeing and human connection. With experience across sectors including law, aviation, banking, and media, she works with leaders and teams to foster collaboration and success. Her 'Being Limitless' programme inspires growth through clear strategy and deep listening. A trained acupuncturist and qualified pilot, Josephine brings a unique, holistic perspective to performance, psychology, and leadership.



Breffni Greene

Head of AI and Design Innovation
Henry J Lyons

Breffni is Head of AI & Design Innovation at Henry J Lyons Architects, Ireland's largest architectural practice. With over 14 years' experience, he has led major projects like Clerys Quarter and Central Plaza. Combining deep architectural expertise with advanced knowledge in AI and ethics, Breffni champions the ethical, sustainable use of emerging technologies. His leadership bridges traditional design and future-facing innovation, positioning the firm at the forefront of an evolving architectural landscape. .



Pablo Zamorano Mosnaim

Senior Associate
Head of Geometry and
Computational Design,
Heatherwick Studio

Pablo is an architect, technologist, and academic, currently Head of Geometry and Computational Design at Heatherwick Studio, where he leads applied research and a team of specialists. Since joining the studio in 2015, he has been central to shaping its strategic vision on A.I. and emerging technologies. Previously, Pablo worked at SOM London, contributing to key projects like the Greenwich Peninsula high-rise development. He is also a tutor at the Architectural Association and lectures internationally. His personal work has received global recognition, with awards and exhibitions worldwide.

Acknowledgments and Special Thanks:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event possible. Special appreciation goes to Keir Regan-Alexander and Tomas Millar for their dedication and invaluable support throughout this project.

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8 May

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