STOP, COLLABORATE and LISTEN
9–11 November 2021

Conference Programme (2:00 – 4:45pm each day)
Afternoon sessions are dedicated to exploring the theme of Collaboration.

Tuesday: Shared Skills
Wednesday: Joining Forces
Thursday: Making Friends

Friday: Practice Speed Mentoring (limited places, registration will open beg Oct)

Creative Directors: Rob Fiehn, Mellis Haward and Kyle Buchanan
Tuesday 9 November – Shared Skills

2:00-2:10pm  Welcome and Introduction  
Creative Directors

2:10-2:40pm  Keynote  
Stephen Hill, Public Interest Practitioner  
Stephen Hill is an experienced public interest practitioner with a history of working in the commercial, governmental and non-profit housing sectors. He is skilled in Urban Planning and Development, Community Engagement, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, Project Design and Action Learning. Stephen has a strong research and innovation record on alternative forms of housing delivery and ownership, including a Churchill Fellowship, and senior governance roles in the community land trust and cohousing national bodies.

2:40-3:10pm  Learning from System Designers  
Speaker tbc  
Learn about ways of creating strategic design solutions that enable collaborative working. Challenging societal issues require bold approaches and carefully organised systems that can encourage participation across the board.

3:10-3:30pm  Break & Online Networking

3:30-4:10pm  Green Knowledge Sharing  
Speakers tbc  
Collaboration is the only way that we are going to be able to solve the climate emergency and smaller studios are well positioned to adopt new techniques. In this session, practices of various sizes will explore different tools of the trade, how to share knowledge with one another and when it’s a good idea to engage with external expertise.

4:10-4:50pm  Planning and Participatory design  
Speakers include:  
- New Practice, Glasgow  
- Studio Polpo, Sheffield  
- Glass-House, London  
- DK-CM, London  
- Office Sian, London  
A series of built environment professionals will present case studies in rapid succession to reveal how participatory design can improve community engagement and unlock projects for planning. By working closely with key stakeholders at the earliest stages of the process, it is possible to create proposals that are welcomed by local people rather than rejected.

4:50pm  Closing words  
Creative Directors

6:30-8.00pm  London Social, 66 Portland Place
Wednesday 10 November – Joining Forces

2:00-2:10pm  Welcome and Introduction
Creative Directors

2:10-2:50pm  Academia + Practice
Speakers tbc
Architecture has a long-standing relationship between academia and practice. Design teaching has been used by many an emergent practice to ferment their design approach and supplement their income in their early years. For some this symbiosis remains fundamental throughout their careers, providing a space to develop and test approaches outside of routine commercial pressures. Similarly, research collaborations between academics and practitioners can yield new approaches that further the impact of the architecture sector more widely. This talk explores the practice / academia axis and considers how collaborations in this area can give practitioners working in both sectors a cutting edge.

2:50-3:10pm  Break & Online Networking

3:10-4:00pm  Transitioning Sectors through Collaboration
Speakers include: Peter George, Meridian Water; more tbc
It’s hard for architects to find opportunities in new sectors, especially when working for the public sector, where track record and a ‘safe pair of hands’ is usually valued above design innovation. So how have clients and larger practices been designing their procurement and project processes to foster and support the talents of smaller practices in new sectors?

4:00-4:40pm  Empowering Practices to Punch Up
Speakers include: Collective Works, more tbc
Sole traders and micro practices cannot operate in isolation, working with others is essential. But you might not be ready to grow, so how do you level-up without the commitment? Learning to outsource tasks creates the freedom to uncover new and exciting opportunities. Trusting collaborators and consultants can transform a small project into a big idea that captures imagination and therefore more clients. A series of presentations will prove that small can be mighty.

4:40-4:45pm  Closing Words
Creative Directors

6:30-8:00pm  Bristol Social
Thursday 11 November – Making Friends

2:00-2:10pm  Welcome and Introduction  
Creative Directors

2:10-2:55pm  Teamwork to Make the Dream Work  
Speakers include Dinah Bornat, ZCD; more tbc  
The era of the ‘hero’ architect is drawing to a close, with competitions and frameworks dominated by teams that harness the best of big and small. What is the experience of the smaller practice joining a much larger team? What are the benefits and what are the pitfalls? Small practices reveal all.

2:55-3:15pm  Break & Online Networking

3:15-3:45pm  Digital Collaborative Design Tools for SMEs  
Speakers include Clare Nash, Clare Nash Architecture; more tbc  
The pandemic forced us all to address the technology that was already at our fingertips. Many of the meetings and workshops that were dependent on face-to-face gatherings are now being conducted via digital platforms but designing collaboratively online remains a challenge. This show-and-tell format event will reveal some of the tools of the trade from architects of different scales.

3:45-4:30pm  How to set up a Collective of Architects  
Speakers from:  
- London Architecture Group  
- ACAN  
- Paradigm Network  
Never before has there been so many collectives within the architectural profession. These self-initiated groups are able to achieve so much more together than apart. But how does one go about setting up such a group? Hear from different such organisations and ask questions during this informal setting.

4:30-4:35pm  Closing Words  
Creative Directors

6:30-8:00pm  Northern Social
Friday 12 November – Practice Speed Mentoring

12:30-2:00pm   Practice Speed Mentoring
               Online

To be launched in early October, communications will go out to registered delegates