
Citizen magazine
A new quarterly
magazine for
everybody engaged
in the challenge of
creating the future city

Published by the
London School
of Architecture



Citizen launch and the London School of Architecture Summer Party

Citizen Magazine is a new, quarterly magazine, which reflects the principles and mission of the LSA – to allow people living in cities to have more fulfilled and sustainable lives.

The magazine is put together by a team of highly-experienced and award-winning editors, journalists and designers with contributions from leaders at the forefront of policy, finance, development, architecture, urbanism and academia as well from students and staff from the LSA.

The prototype issue will be launched at the LSA Summer Party at Second Home London Fields from 6 – 9 pm on Thursday 4th July. We expect some 300 guests including rising stars and prominent figures within the architectural world.

Party sponsors will be given special positioning on the night, with special thanks in the Founder's speech, and of course the opportunity to invite your own guests. This is the culmination of the year and also the launch of a new and exciting magazine with some amazing content and contributors. This will be a fantastic opportunity to connect in a meaningful way with a highly engaged community of London's architects and leading figures from associated fields.

Citizen's target audience and the London School of Architecture Community

One thousand copies of the launch issue of Citizen Magazine will be distributed free of charge to key opinion formers including policy-makers, commentators, and journalists as well as the LSA's founding partners and practice network, a cohort of 100 of the UK's leading architectural practices that includes some 20,000 employees.



The launch venue

Second Home is a social business which sets up workspaces in cities throughout world. Its mission is to support creativity and entrepreneurship by building a community of individuals and organisations that draw on each other's knowledge and skills. Second Home London Fields was designed by Spanish architect Selgas Cano with biophilic principles in mind. Its bold, stimulating interiors reflect the belief that surprising and complex environments are a spur to creativity. The building lies at the heart of London's design community and a minute's walk away from the LSA.

Citizen is a quarterly magazine aimed at everybody engaged with the challenge of designing innovative proposals to bring about real improvements to the city.

The first magazine to address design not in terms of visual aesthetics but as a transformative force, *Citizen* will promote, challenge and develop ideas that build on the mission of the London School for Architecture – to allow people living in cities to have more fulfilled and more sustainable lives.

Citizen sets out to come up with cross-disciplinary proposals and ideas from across urbanism, architecture, design, finance, economics, planning, sustainability, anthropology, sociology, transport and policy – and to bridge the gap between academic, professional and popular audiences.

Born of the belief that today we suffer from a crisis of imagination and not resources, *Citizen* aims to connect all those engaged with the future of the city with stimulating insights from a world bristling with new knowledge and ideas. The aim is to connect different areas of thought and knowledge to produce holistic solutions to the issues that impact on the quality of urban life.

Executive Team

Co-Founder and Head of the LSA **Will Hunter**

Will Hunter was Executive Editor of The Architectural Review and editor of the onthly magazines of The Architects' Journal and Building Design before founding the London School of Architecture. He has contributed to many titles including Wallpaper*, Blueprint and the Financial Times. He has taught architecture at both London Metropolitan University and the RCA and judged numerous competitions including the Global Architecture Graduate Awards and the RIBA Presidents' Medals.

Editor-in-Chief **Isabel Allen**

Isabel Allen was Editor of the Architects' Journal from 1999-2007. She won numerous awards for journalism and editing and was a member of the jury for the Stirling Prize for four consecutive years. She left the AJ to launch HAB Housing with the broadcaster Kevin McCloud. HAB projects have won several awards for sustainability, landscape and architecture. Between 2007 and 2010 she was Head of Communications for Design for London, Ken Livingstone's Design and Architecture Unit, and the curator and co-curator of various national and international exhibitions on architecture, urbanism and the public realm. She is currently Creative Director of the London pavilion at the Seoul Biennale 2019. Isabel is an Honorary Fellow of the RIBA.

Creative Director **Simon Esterson**

Simon Esterson has had a huge influence on editorial design, through his ground-breaking work on projects such as Blueprint, Domus and The Guardian. Since 2008 he has co-owned and designed Eye magazine. Esterson Associates produces has produced numerous magazines including Art Quarterly, Museums Journal and King's College's alumni magazines. Simon has a keen interest in subscription-based, niche publishing start-ups, with strong production values and a full integration with digital products

Editorial Board

We have appointed an Editorial Board which reflects the magazine's sphere of interest and will be drawn from a range of disciplines including architecture, urbanism, product design, technology, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, policy, finance and sustainability.

Arthur Kay

Entrepreneur and CEO of Skyroom

Peter Buchanan

Architect, urbanist, writer, critic, lecturer and curator

Richard Sennett

Writer on cities and Professor at the LSE

Sherry Dobbin

Cultural Director, Futurecity

Tom Mann

Director – Head Office London, Savills UK

Crispin Kelly

CEO of the developer Baylight

Farshid Moussavi

Architect and Professor at Harvard GSD

Matthew Claudel

Head of Civic Innovation, MIT

Nils Jean-Mairet

Associate Director, McKinsey

Pooja Agrawal

Co-Founder of Public Practice, GLA Regeneration Team

Professor Dame Henrietta Moore

Director, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity

Kat Hanna

Insight Associate, Cushman & Wakefield

Soheb Panja

Co-founder of the quarterly publication Courier

Citizen Launch Issue Content

● Henrietta Moore, Director of the UCL's Institute for Global Prosperity & Richard Sennett, of New York University and the London School of Economics, in conversation about the emerging role of the citizen in relation to the neighbourhood, cities and planet.

● Isabel Allen, Editor of Citizen Magazine, looks at the current challenges to our understanding of the rights and obligations of citizenship and the implications for new approaches to architecture and public space. Accompanied by photo essay of Extinction Rebellion protestors reappropriation of London's key symbols, civic spaces and monuments.

● Chris Williamson, co-founder of Weston Williamson + Partners, looks at the way the duties and demands of citizenship have evolved since the days of the of the Roman Empire and explores the potential for green technologies and infrastructure to transform the way we travel, live and work.

● Thomas Bryans, partner at IF_DO Architects, draws on his work with the Loneliness Lab research unit and reviews current projects across the capital to tackle the issue of how design can help the current crisis in social health.

● Soheb Panja, Head of Content at Second Home, considers the challenges and issues facing today's generation of British Muslims and argues it's time to radically rethink the design of British mosques.

● Nigel Coates, architect and member of the LSA's academic court, writes about relationship between gay culture and the city.

● Neil Lee, Associate Professor of Economic Geography at the LSA, examines the concept of inclusive growth and ask how policymakers can balance equality and economic growth.

● Will Hunter, Head of the LSA, makes the case for a new multi-disciplinary Civic University.

● James Soane, Director of Critical Practice at the LSA, challenges architects to counter the status quo with an agenda which prioritises sustainability and equality over economic growth.

● LSA students Joe Walker and Tom Badger argue that architectural practice has to become more proactive, collaborative and outward-looking to retain its relevance and power.

● Richard Hyams, founding director of Astudio, discusses the impact of the current housing crisis on London's workforce and presents his practice's initiative to tackle affordability issues by selling off-site modular housing directly to councils.

Work from the LSA Think Tanks

● New Knowledge – Floating Exchange Rates
Design for a symbiotic and reciprocal relationship between new forms of residential and industrial programme along London's river and canal infrastructure to enable responsible consumption and production and minimize waste.

● Architectural Agency – Social Cohesion
Prototypes for dense housing that rebalances the relationship between private dwelling and public programme to enable a more connected society.

● Adaptive Typologies – The Last Mile
Proposals for public space and infrastructure in Stratford that transform 'the last mile' – a person's journey from transport node to destination – improving local connectivity and capitalizing on the opportunities for future mobility.

● Emerging Tools – Homesteading in the City
Proposal for a high-density neighbourhood on the banks of the Lea River that feeds itself, using self-sustainable agriculture, with new rituals for community eating.

● Global Currents – InstaCity: Holidays versus the Everyday
Proposal for an integrated cultural and residential strategy for Walthamstow – London Borough of Culture 2019 – that uses mass tourist growth to benefit the local community.

● Metabolic City – Home Economics
Proposals for housing that uses advanced construction technologies to reduce the cost for key citizens vital to London.

● Jason Sayer, *Citizen* Magazine's Assistant Editor, interviews innovators and entrepreneurs who are working across and beyond disciplinary boundaries and creating opportunities for diverse voices to impact on city life. Accompanied by specially commissioned portraits of the subjects at work.

● Round-up and summary of selected TED Talks relating to issues of citizenship, urbanism and the need for cross-disciplinary collaboration to bring about improvements to the city.

● PLUS opinion pieces/columns from:
Victoria Glendinning, biographer, critic, broadcaster and novelist
Max Cotton, former BBC political correspondent
Suzanne Trocmé, Editor-at-Large, Wallpaper Magazine

How can design help to solve the current social health crisis and make our fragmented communities more cohesive? *Thomas Bryans*

Lonely cities

Human beings are social animals; we need other people to survive. This is a hard-wired evolutionary trait that helps to explain why loneliness and social isolation can be so psychologically painful. Within hunter-gatherer societies, to be isolated would have had potentially fatal consequences, both from starvation and potential predation. Feeling lonely was a powerful driver to rejoin your tribe. Loneliness today carries fewer immediate risks, but its damage to our health is equally profound. Evidence indicates that it is deadlier than obesity, and equivalent to smoking around 15 cigarettes a day.

Loneliness can be particularly acute within cities, which have been shown to have a detrimental effect on our mental health and wellbeing, and increase the risk of major depression and anxiety. This is known as the Urbanicity Effect, and the larger the population, the greater it is.

The city is not a habitat that we evolved with, it is one that we created for ourselves. With over half of humanity now living in urban

environments, it is essential to ask whether the places we are shaping are helping or hindering our innate human need for connection. As psychologists Rhiannon Corcoran and Graham Marshall have argued, our prosocial tendencies exist in context. We are profoundly affected by our perception of the environment around us, so our towns and cities must be designed to enable and support sociability.

The contemporary urban crisis

The problem of urban loneliness is not isolated to any one country or culture. It is global and is being increasingly recognised as a crisis at both national and local levels around the world. Various governments, including the UK, are looking at ways to help address it. To do so successfully, however, requires an initial understanding of how we got to where we are.

The agricultural revolution of around 10,000 years ago led to the first emergence of permanent human settlements, and eventually to the earliest cities. For many thousands of

years, these cities remained small. It has been claimed that social loneliness within these communities would have been low, largely due to the intense cooperation and co-production that was required for survival.

The larger cities became – particularly with the exponential growth of urban populations over the past 200 years – the more they offered individual anonymity. For some this anonymity provided an essential level of protection, but the weakening of social ties that came with it led to increasing levels of social isolation.

Over the past half-century, the way we design and develop our cities has become increasingly privatised. In the 1970s half of all architects were employed by the public sector; now it's less than 9 per cent. Today, most new public spaces are built as part of large regeneration projects and are privately owned. They are almost always economic in purpose: shopping is paramount; casual socialising is not. Private security can evict anyone perceived as loitering or undesirable. To be thrown out of a seemingly

Park Hill, Sheffield
Studio Egret West and Hawkins' Brown's refurbishment of Sheffield's Park Hill estate focused on small moves that would impact on residents' lives. The width of the iconic 'Streets in the Sky' was reduced to a more intimate scale, while corner-windows in the new flats provide 'eyes' on the street.

Lang Eng, Copenhagen
Designed by the architect Dorte Mandrup, this co-housing community includes a shared garden, a 20-seat cinema for collective film and TV watching and an industrial-sized kitchen where residents take turns to prepare shared meals.



Modern Mosques

Soheb Panja says it's time for a radical rethink of the design of the British mosque
Photographs by Freddie Ardley

My granddad used to run a mosque. Well, he and some of his friends hired a scout hall. I was forced to help with the set-up for Friday prayers during school holidays and stay through to the very end. I used to curse the stragglers who hung about way too long and pray for an early finish. The tedium of it all was brutal. (My prayers were answered when one of my granddad's friends ran off with the donations, bringing the whole enterprise to an end.)

Maybe it's the memory of those painful years but I remain fascinated by where Muslims pray in Britain.

There are 1,500 mosques in the UK, many of which solely operate as spaces for Friday prayers. They don't include the thousands of repurposed spaces British Muslims jam themselves into. Standalone mosques meanwhile range from the decaying one by Regent's Park to one of my favourites – the incongruously located four-storey block in the middle of Soho's Berwick Street.

Although it's not clear what proportion of the 2.7 million Muslims in the UK regularly visit a mosque, it's a safe bet it's a lot. Mosques in the UK function almost entirely for prayers. Some have small spaces for women to pray. Some teach children how to read the Quran and the basic principles of Islam. Very few mosques run activities to attract people who aren't Muslims but live or work in the local area.

It's a shame. The design and function of the British mosque has hardly evolved since the first wave of Muslims arrived in the UK, largely from South Asian countries, in the 1960s and 1970s. It's especially surprising when you consider how sensitive community relations often are in areas with large numbers of Muslims, how much cash mosques generate through collections, and how they've been identified by government authorities as places sometimes targeted by extremists to cultivate dangerous ideas.

Many British Muslims talk of a complete rethink. What should a mosque function like for the next 20 or 30 years? How would it be interpreted in the mind of a world-class modern architect with an ambitious brief? How can we build a radical mosque – in a good way?

The brief should start with some fundamental questions. Should broader British society have a more active stake in mosques? Should mosques be open public buildings, with a range of activities? Do they need to be aesthetically appealing?

What would that mean?

The needs of a mosque today are very different to that period in the '60s and '70s when Muslims first arrived. Back then, they were designed to meet a single, very simple, requirement – to have somewhere to pray.

In his book about mosques in Britain, Shahed Saleem, says mosques were 'vehicles for the dynamic reconstruction of tradition' by immigrants; a place of comforting familiarity to the homeland and perhaps a refuge from any feeling of hostility in their new environment. How relevant are those feelings for a generation of Muslims who not only were born in Britain, but have parents who were born here too?

Dr Tim Winter, lecturer in Islamic Studies at University of Cambridge, says: 'Contemporary European models of society and growth are evidently unsustainable, as the decline of family life, the growth of loneliness, and the collapse of the environment, all demonstrate. Hence mosques (and all places of worship) should witness to an alternative and more humane and spiritual form of life.'

Remaking a mosque to meet the needs of today's Muslim community should represent an appealing challenge for ambitious architects; one where they can demonstrate the power of good – even beautiful – design to achieve community cohesion, dispel suspicion towards an ethnic group and bring communities together. It's something costly government policy initiatives have aimed for and more often than not, failed to achieve.

They should be open to Muslims and non-Muslims alike and designed to function for women as well as men. They should provide educational services, and facilitate activities for the local community, whatever faith they are. And the design should signal this as well as enable it. The modern mosque should communicate the fact that it encompasses a wide range of activities while projecting an image that is transparent, welcoming and alive.

The design industry has long fought for recognition for the intangible value of great design, its ability to attract people, create positive feelings and stimulate people to interact in a positive way. In April this year the new Cambridge Mosque opened, pointing to a kind of building no one has seen before in the UK. Designed by Marks Barfield and built to a cost of £23m, it could well inspire other trusts and architects. It's billed



Muslims gather for prayer at the Islamic Centre on Soho's Berwick Street

All change

A new generation of practitioners are challenging our definitions of experts and expertise and calling for more diverse voices to be heard. Citizen talks to some of the innovators and entrepreneurs who are working across and beyond professional boundaries to improve city life. Interviews by Jason Sayer. Photographs by Freddie Ardley.



Alisha Morenike Fisher is Co-founder and Director of multi-disciplinary design collective, 3.09, an international collective that works through digital networks to facilitate social change both geographically and culturally through the lens of migration, tech and the built environment and co-founder of Black Females in Architecture.

Why did you launch 3.09?

We were all frustrated that we haven't designed our cities, regions and landscapes to serve citizens in the best possible way. There are too many pockets of spatial inequity and injustice and we want to improve communities who, like us, have been overlooked, disenfranchised or not even seen.

We're currently piloting a programme to facilitate underrepresented groups where we're being

mentored by OneTech and supported by Studio Egret West, Tibbalds, RIBA South West and a few others to ensure more young people are able to access and gain support in the built environment and produce into a digital service.

What's the biggest challenge you face in trying to do your job?

Around the same time as 3.09 was initiated, I founded the Young Architect's Network on Facebook and, shortly afterwards, Black Females in Architecture. So I can't spend as much time on ensuring 3.09 is as successful as I would like.

What's next for you?

I'm currently working at Public Practice, an incredible initiative to encourage and facilitate more built environment practitioners to work in the public sector and I'm learning so much. I'm slowly realising my strengths, but I definitely see myself challenging the industry. Whether it's through 3.09, Black Females in Architecture or a new venture in the future.

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