

## A stellar line up of speakers confirmed for this year's World Architecture Festival 2017



Speakers at World Architecture Festival 2017 will include (clockwise from top left): Alison Brooks, creative director, Alison Brooks Architects; Pierre de Meuron, founding partner Herzog & de Meuron; Charles Jencks, critic and co-founder of the Maggie's Cancer Care Centres, Jacob Kurek, Partner Henning Larsen Architects; Rafael Viñoly, principal, Rafael Viñoly Architects; Kim Cook, director of art and civic engagement, Burning Man Festival.

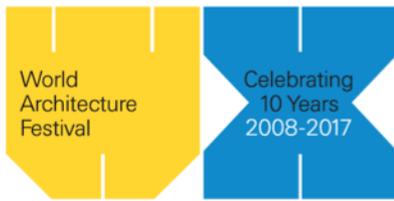
World Architecture Festival (WAF) has announced its speaker line up for this year's event, which takes place in Berlin from 15-17 November 2017. A collection of world-class architects will come together to speak in Berlin including Pierre de Meuron, Alison Brooks, Rafael Viñoly and Charles Jencks. This year's programme responds to the Festival's theme, 'Performance', and will include speeches, discussions and debates examining the topic of performance from the perspectives of housing, public spaces, festivals, cultural institutions and new technologies. The event takes place in Arena Berlin, a converted 1920s bus station in Treptow, in former East Berlin.

### **Opening Keynote:**

***Performance space, time and architecture, Wednesday 15 November 10.20 -11.00***

**Speakers** *Rafael Viñoly, Principal, Rafael Viñoly Architects*

Internationally acclaimed architect Rafael Viñoly will examine how the concept of performance – creating flexible and integrated architecture that fosters and encourages a wide-range of interactions – is applied in the practice's projects across a variety of building types, including the Tokyo Forum convention centre, the Walkie Talkie office tower in London, and a current project for a temporary mobile performance facility in Berlin.



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**Programme highlights include:**

***Keynote – The Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg, discussed. Thursday 16 November, 18.15-19.15***

**Speakers:** *Pierre de Meuron, Herzog & de Meuron, Charles Jencks, Co-Founder Maggie's Care Centres*

Pierre de Meuron and Charles Jencks, will give the Festival's opening keynote talk. After 15 years in the making Hamburg's greatly anticipated new concert hall

Elbphilharmonie opened earlier this year to much critical acclaim. Architect Pierre de Meuron and cultural theorist Charles Jencks will present the building and Pierre de Meuron will comment on it, reversing the role of critic and architect. Pierre de Meuron: *"With the architecture of the Elbphilharmonie, we redefined performance: The people, that is the combination of audience and performers, determine the space; the space seems to consist only of people."*

***Performance Spaces, Wednesday 15 November, 12.00-12.40***

**Speakers:** *Alison Brooks, Creative Director Alison Brooks Architects, Jacob Kurek, Partner Henning Larsen Architects*

Alison Brooks will look at performance embedded in the nature of housing and the many roles it plays: as urban form; as a backdrop for public streetscapes; as a sign of

neighbourhood identity and a stage for domestic life. Her housing scheme Ely Court was shortlisted for the 2017 Mies van de Rohe Prize. Jacob Kurek has extensive experience in building projects in challenging climates, from deserts in the Middle East to the Faroe Archipelago in the North Atlantic. He will examine what lessons can be learned from coping with extreme weather conditions.

***Keynote – Life, spectacle, performance. Friday 17 November, 17.40 – 18.40***

**Speaker:** *Kim Cook, Director, Art & Civic Engagement, Burning Man Festival*

Burning Man is a spectacular annual event in Nevada's Black Rock desert, where thousands of people gather to create their own 'city'. Programme Director Kim Cook will introduce this ultimate performance event and discuss the temporary structures created in the middle of the Nevada desert, which is home to 70,000 people each year.

***Digital Performance – London newly remodelled. Wednesday 15 November, 16.00-16.40***

**Speakers:** *Jason Wagstaff and Gordon Ingram (Wagstaff and Gordon Ingram Architecture)*

A session exploring implications of new technologies on designers and how planning can perform better as a result of accurate city modelling. Jason Wagstaff and Gordon Ingram developed the first fully interactive 3-D model of London and will discuss the possibilities technology will offer architects and planners as a result.



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Paul Finch, Programme Director of the World Architecture Festival, commented:  
‘This is the tenth anniversary of the Festival and we are delighted to be back in Berlin, for a second year. Our conference theme is an opportunity to review the contribution architecture and design makes to the economic, technical and psychological performance of buildings and interiors – with 2,000 professionals to share their experience and expertise.

Ends

For more details on how to enter the WAF Awards please visit [www.worldarchitecturefestival.com](http://www.worldarchitecturefestival.com)  
[@worldarchfest](https://twitter.com/worldarchfest) #WAF2017

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Why get involved in World Architecture Festival?**

World Architecture Festival is now the world’s largest, annual, international architectural event. It includes the biggest architectural awards programme in the world, dedicated to celebrating excellence via live presentations to an audience of high-profile delegates and international juries.

After four years, the World Architecture Festival will be returning to Europe and will take place in Berlin on the 15-17 November.

#### **The 2017 World Architecture Festival (WAF) comprises 5 key elements:**

- The WAF Awards
- A thematic conference programme
- An exhibition of Award entries
- Sponsor and exhibitor stands
- A series of networking/social events, as well as WAF fringe activities

**INSIDE World Festival of Interiors** runs alongside WAF, with its own awards and conference programme. Delegates have access to both events.

**WAF** and **INSIDE** are organized by EMAP, publishers of The Architectural Review and The Architects’ Journal.

The entire WAF 2017 programme can be downloaded here:

[Main stage programme](#)

[Festival Hall stage programme](#)