



EVENT PARTNER

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MANCHESTER**

FABRIC MATTERS

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026



09:00 - 18:00



SCIENCE &
INDUSTRY MUSEUM
MANCHESTER



LIMITED TICKETS
AVAILABLE
WWW.AECB.NET



FRINGE EVENTS
THU 24TH SEP
SAT 26TH SEP



09:00am Registration & Refreshments

09:30am Welcome Jonathan Davies (Trustee), Louise Charlton (Trustee), Ste Garlick (CEO) & Chris Iredale (COO)

09:50am Lecture Barnabas Calder - *Fabric and Energy: The Long View*

10:20am Lecture Beth Williams & Joe Garbett - *Closing the Loop: How Reused Steel Can Drive Low-Carbon Design*

10:50am TBC

11:15am Refreshments & 11:15am showing of 'Samudaya Beyond the Arches' by Paige Hurst

11:45am Workshops Marianne Heaslip & Helen Grimshaw / Nick Grant & Jon Broome / Oliver Henshall - see page 2 for details

12:30pm Lunch & 1:00pm showing of 'Samudaya Beyond the Arches' by Paige Hurst / opportunity to explore the museum

1:30pm Sponsor Panel

2:00pm Workshops Angela Connelly, Dan Dickinson & Ste Garlick / Sarah Naidoo-Banks / Tim Martel - see page 2 for details

2:45pm Refreshments & 2:45pm showing of 'Samudaya Beyond the Arches' by Paige Hurst

3:15pm Lecture Professor David Glew - *No Retrofit, No Heat Pumps; Why Retrofit and Heat Pumps Must Go Hand-in-Hand*

3:45pm Lecture Evan Davis - *Heat Pumps in the UK: Problems and Possibilities*

4:15pm Panel Discussion Panellists TBC

5:00pm Drinks Reception Conversation and connections to round off the day

6:30pm Post Conference Dinner around the corner at the Castlefield Hotel, Manchester YMCA - tickets available at www.aecb.net

Join the AECB's growing community of leaders, innovators and practitioners shaping the future of sustainable construction.

0845 456 9773

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11:45am

Workshop 1 - Engine Room

People First Retrofit

Marianne Heaslip & Helen Grimshaw

Arguments about whether retrofit should be 'fabric first' or 'heat pump and energy systems first' are getting tiresome. PPR take a different approach — focusing on people, context, and understanding first. We'll explore through case studies and discussion what this means in a range of homes — and the implications of this for policy makers and practitioners.

Workshop 2 - Atom Room

Lessons from the Good Building Book: What Works, What Doesn't, & Why

Nick Grant & Jon Broome

The Good Building Book is Jon and Nick's attempt to answer the question, why do so many buildings perform so badly and what can we do to improve them? In this workshop they will use some real world examples of highly praised but poorly functioning buildings to explore why affordability, good performance and beauty are often seen as mutually exclusive goals. They think they have some practical tools to share but look forward to their ideas being challenged and hopefully refined by robust debate.

Workshop 3 - Assembly Hall

AECB Meets Tier 1 Contractors, What Did We Learn?

Oliver Henshall & Lauren McVeigh

Working with Tier 1 contractors, and their internal process's gives you something else to think about, and impacts on your own internal processes. Some things worked well, some things we could have done better.

2:00pm

Workshop 4 - Atom Room

Practical Tools for Collaborative Conversations

Sarah Naidoo-Banks

A practical and evidence-based workshop exploring the core principles of collaborative conversations, this session will equip participants with a tool-kit for communicating with empathy and assertiveness. Through interactive exercises and real-world scenarios, attendees will learn about practical techniques to handle challenging workplace interactions with confidence and clarity. We will cover:

- The 5 common approaches to collaborative conversations
- Identifying positions vs underlying needs
- Managing mindset and emotions under pressure
- Building empathy and active listening skills
- Models of assertive and respectful communication

Workshop 5 - Assembly Hall

Beyond Carbon: Toward Place Based Performance

Angela Connelly, Dan Dickinson & Ste Garlick

Climate change is reshaping the conditions under which our buildings and places must perform. Industry standards and policy rightly prioritise operational and embodied carbon reduction, yet carbon is only one dimension of a much broader challenge.

Our built environment must perform under increasingly extreme and unpredictable conditions, with more frequent heatwaves, intense rainfall and flooding. We also need our buildings and places to be healthy, efficient, adaptable, and productive over the long term. Carbon reduction is a necessary condition, but it is not sufficient to create places that thrive in a changing climate.

What does it mean in practical terms to move beyond carbon as the sole metric of success?

Workshop 6 - Engine Room

PHPP, PHribbon and CarbonLite Certification

Tim Martell

In this session participants will have the chance to ask any question about PHPP, PHribbon or CarbonLite certification.

For example:

- In PHPP how are components brought in from the PHI and other websites?
- In PHribbon for Whole Life Carbon, why is it useful to arrange materials by RICS category?
- In CarbonLite certification what is FRsi and why is there a limit on it?

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