



# TRANSFORMING HOMES

## NEWSLETTER

The Transforming Homes consortium is an ecosystem of stakeholders working together to transform existing homes through design using biobased materials and low carbon solutions to provide better places to live for future generations.

### Happening across our consortium

#### New Ideas for Old Buildings

Joel Cady and Laura Brain, Research Associate, Cardiff University

On November 5th, we spoke at the 'New Ideas for Old Buildings' conference in York, hosted by the [Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings](#) and the [Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance](#). The conference's dual emphases on building conservation and environmental sustainability align strongly with the Transforming Homes GTE's aims and ethos, providing an opportunity to present our developing research to a knowledgeable and varied audience.

In our presentation we introduced the project and summarised three key elements of our research. Firstly, the historic development and design influences of interwar housing. Secondly, the research we have undertaken to inform proposals for the demonstration homes in Swansea, focusing on the benefits of using bio-based materials. Finally, the opportunities and design challenges emerging as we develop wider scalable, transferable proposals for interwar housing across the UK.

It was inspiring to hear excellent presentations, meet diverse people from the design and construction industries, and learn about innovative projects revitalising traditional buildings. We look forward to continuing these discussions and exploring potential collaborations.

#### Launching our Community Co-Design Charrettes

Laura Brain, Research Associate, Cardiff University



On Thursday, November 14th, Prof Pete Walker, Dr Steve Coombs, Dr Lucy McFadzean, Joel Cady and I led a co-design charrette in East Anglia. This was the first in a series of interactive workshops with residents of the more than 1 million houses built by councils in England and Wales during the interwar period. The charrettes will inform the development of a catalogue of design solutions to transform homes of this type across the UK.



During the event, residents made models of their homes and discussed how these spaces, built over 100 years ago, work for them today. Participants then reimagined their homes, testing ideas to make them great places to live for another 100 years. Our team was inspired by the residents' innovative design ideas and gained valuable insights into what their homes are like and how they use them.

This charrette was made possible not only by the Transforming Homes team but also by local organisations that helped engage residents and facilitate the event, and the residents themselves. As our research continues to evolve, we are excited to integrate these insights into design solutions that will help transform homes into even better places to live.

Credits: Joel Cady



# Introducing the Transforming Homes website

Veronica Albarran Carrillo, Research Associate, Cardiff University

The Connecting, Communicating, Collaborating team is pleased to launch our fully developed project's [website](#).

Browse to:

- Learn about our objectives and the team behind the project.
- Discover how we're using design research, demonstration homes and stakeholder engagement to create transferable design solutions to transform 1920s-1940s council housing.
- Explore insights from our research process.
- [Sign-up](#) to stay updated on the Transforming Homes project.



## Featured Articles

Collaborating for Climate Action: Reflections from the GTE Research Forum



Gain insights from **Simon Corbey**, CEO, and **Richard Broad**, Director of the **Alliance for Sustainable Building Products**, as they reflect on the **GTE Research Forum** hosted by the Future Observatory. This event brought together partners from the four UK's Green Transition Ecosystems looking to address the climate emergency through innovative, design-led approaches. Discover the projects' unique focuses and the pivotal role of community engagement and co-design in shaping impactful, sustainable solutions.

Supporting collaboration through positive disruption



Explore perspectives from **Prof Jo Patterson**, Co-Director of Transforming Homes, as she highlights the power of **collaboration and communication** in addressing the challenges of transforming the UK's ageing housing stock. Drawing from her participation at recent events across the UK, Jo highlights the value of co-design, evidence-based decision-making, and innovative ways needed to engage with a wide range of people to create scalable, transferable solutions to improve the quality of existing homes for future generations

## Spotlight on ...



**Richard Hawkins**  
Technical Innovations Manager, Sevenoaks Modular  
Co-investigator, Transforming Homes



**Dr Lucy McFadzean**  
Research Associate, University of Exeter, Transforming Homes



# Insights from beyond Transforming Homes

Podcast suggested by  
Salah Ud Din, Future Observatory



Article suggested by  
Emmanouil Perisoglou

**The UK Net Zero Carbon  
Buildings Standard: The  
One Standard to Rule  
Them All?**



Webinar suggested by  
Laura Brain

**Is Stopping New Homes the  
Solution to the Twin Climate  
and Housing Emergencies?**

with Anna Pagani



## External events of interest

21-22  
Jan

Transforming  
Homes @



NHMF Maintenance  
Conference 2025  
Stratford-upon-Avon

29  
Jan



Good Homes 2025  
Annual Conference  
London

26  
Feb



Healthy Buildings  
Conference & Expo 2025  
London

4-6  
Mar



Futurebuild 2025  
London

1  
Apr



Warm and Safe Homes  
Summit  
London

24  
Apr



The State of Housing  
Conference an Exhibition 2025  
Manchester

Interested in contributing our next issue? Contact  
Veronica at [AlbarranCarrilloV@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:AlbarranCarrilloV@cardiff.ac.uk) to get  
involved!

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