

UK Architects Declare
Climate & Biodiversity
Emergency

Impact Report

2019-2024



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Introduction

Welcome to our inaugural impact report. As UK Architects Declare celebrates five years of action and activism, we are proud to share some of our achievements with you, our signatories, supporters and the wider built environment community.

Launched in May 2019, we were the first declaration under the umbrella of what soon became Built Environment Declares, a global network with 40 declarations across 28 countries and more than 8,200 signatories between us. Across the UK, more than 1,370 practices have made their declaration with us. 30 volunteers have served on our Steering Group since 2019, and in 2024 alone SG members donated more than 2,700 hours to our work.

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Raise awareness of the emergency among clients and supplier



Advocate for faster change in our industry



Establish climate and biodiversity principles as key success measures



Share knowledge and research on an open-source basis



Evaluate projects against mitigating climate breakdown



Upgrade existing buildings for extended use



Evidence design with whole life carbon accounting and post occupancy evaluation in scope in work



Adopt more regenerative design principles



Collaborate to reduce construction waste



Accelerate the shift to low embodied carbon materials



Minimise wasteful use of resources in architecture and urban planning



Support those who are working for climate justice

Our declaration: the full text of our 12 principles is available at architectsdeclare.com

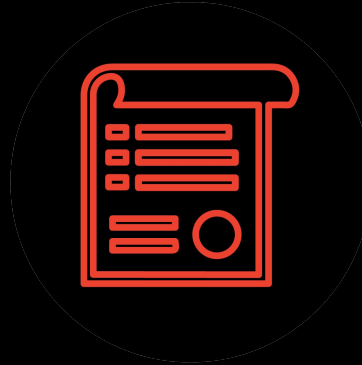
How do we work for change?

Architects Declare is many things: a declaration, a programme, a network, a charity, a critical friend, and a partner for change.

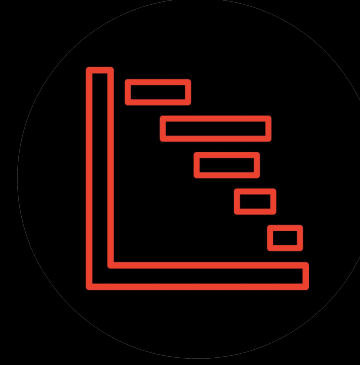
Our dual approach has a common focus on building agency and delivering change:

1. Supporting and encouraging our signatories on pathways to deliver their declaration.
2. Demonstrating where leaders can change the systems behind the crisis: to move us away from degenerative 'business-as-usual', beyond 'sustainability' and towards fully regenerative solutions.

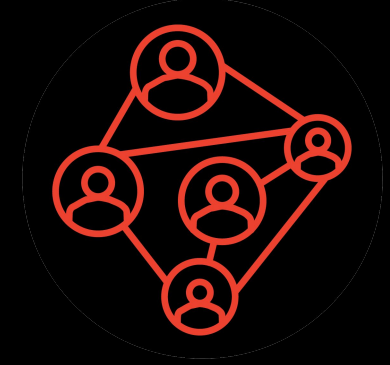
See [Our Plan for Change](#).



Declaration



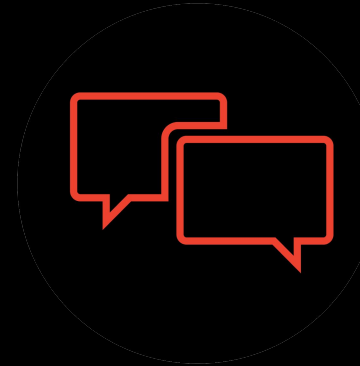
Programme



Network



Charity



Critical friend



Partner

Our story so far...



2024

AD as a charity
Registered as a CIO, formalising AD's work for the public benefit.

Building Blocks to Transform the Built Environment

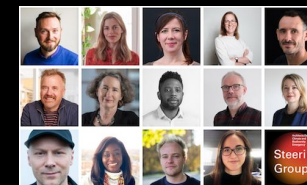
Parliamentary launch of manifesto for impactful policies, with MPs, Peers and industry experts.

Regenerative Architecture Index

Launched with Architecture Today to benchmark architects' progress on regenerative practices and projects.

Regenerative Design Primer

Launched to help architects lead a transition to positive outcomes for people, planet and nature.



2023

Meet the Steering Group

First of a series of quarterly, short online meetings for signatories to explore topics of their choice with SG members.

2023 was also a year of focus on developing [Our Plan for Change](#) and the foundations for each of the major activities we launched in 2024.

We recruited a part-time communications officer to support the Steering Group and our part-time manager (recruited in 2021).



2022

Designing Your Own Practice Roadmap + Practice Action Masterclasses

Series of events with ACAN and supported by RIBA, focused on key topics in our Practice Guide. Available as videos.

Building Justice: Crisis Solutions

Special in-person and live-streamed event as world leaders gathered for the COP27 talks.



2021

Ideas into Action

Online 2-day conference focused on how to put bold ideas into practice.

Built for the Environment Report & Summit

Worked with RIBA to research and publish report ahead of COP26 in Glasgow.

Practice Guide

Launched to help signatories act on their declarations.



2020

Architects Declare: One Year On

In our survey, 80% of signatories said that joining AD affected their organisation and how they approached projects.

Regional events

Collaborated with Built Environment Declares to hold 19 online regional events over 10 months.



2019

AD launched

More than 750 practices signed in our first 6 months. 14 other countries launched declarations.

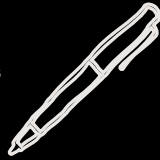
Battersea Conference

Hundreds gathered for our inaugural event.

Our impact at a glance...

1370+

architectural practices across the UK have signed our declaration (1/3 the number of all RIBA registered practices).



We have held

38

national & regional events, with

4300+

people.



5390+

people have spent

2500+

hours watching our videos.

6

other built environment sectors across the UK have been inspired to launch their own declarations

We have published

20+

policy responses and statements,

2

policy initiatives &

2

expert guides



27

other countries have launched their own declarations.



We have held

1

Parliamentary launch with MPs, Peers & industry experts, for our Building Blocks policy manifesto.

In total,

6800+

additional built environment organisations have signed declarations inspired directly by ours.

68

organisations entered our inaugural Regenerative Architecture Index, developed with Architecture Today.



We celebrated their achievements at our results event & in

1

special issue of AT's magazine.

Your Impact Stories

A top priority for us is supporting our signatories to advance a just transition to regenerative design and enabling change within their practices and projects and across the industry.

To identify whether we are meeting practices' needs and expectations, we will undertake an annual survey of signatories to highlight any gaps, as well as evidencing impact.

The majority of signatories surveyed this year say their practice has changed since becoming an AD signatory.

We also regularly canvas signatories for feedback and to inspire ideas for future activities. Our quarterly online Meet the Steering Group sessions are an opportunity for signatories to bring their questions and ideas.



"It inspired the whole practice to employ more ambitious and evidence supported sustainability metrics in design. It was more of a mindset evolution."

Hugo Santos - Senior Sustainability and Regenerative Design Manager, dRMM



"Signing on to AD catalysed our journey into getting to grips with Embodied and Whole Life Carbon. We've up-skilled, built-up processes and a range of approaches for developing this within our projects."

Tom Bennett - Director, Studio Bark



"We review annually our office processes, and projects at the end of each RIBA stage, against the AD declaration points and other key requirements."

Victoria Timberlake - Senior Associate, MICA Architects



"Bringing people together with the same mission always ignites feelings of hope and encourages collective change!"

Lily Bell - Architectural Assistant, Useful Studio

Looking forward

From 2025, we'll be reporting against each of our key workstreams, which include:



Advocacy

Influencing policy through our Building Blocks manifesto



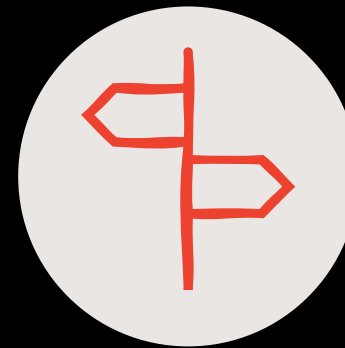
Paradigm Shift

Developing the next iteration of our Regenerative Design Primer



Engagement

Bringing more practices into the Regenerative Architecture Index



Guidance

Updating sections of our 2021 Practice Guide



Education

Empowering the next generation of architects to drive change

Get involved!

Thank you to all of our supporters and allies who have been part of our journey over the last five years.

There isn't space to name everyone, but we'd particularly like to thank our former Steering Group members and our signatories who have supported us with donations, venues or time for employees to volunteer - see our [Steering Group](#) and [Support us](#) pages. We are hugely indebted to all of you and couldn't have achieved a fraction of all this without your hard work and dedication.

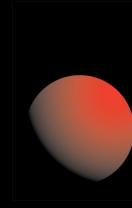
We'd love to hear more of your stories about how Architects Declare has supported your practice's work; please do get in touch.

We'll also be running our impact survey annually, to understand how we're helping you achieve our goals and learn where we can do more.

We invite signatories to make an annual donation to support our work, at a suggested rate of £20 per architect employed. More and more signatories of all sizes around the country are supporting us this way, enabling us to expand our activities. We're grateful for each donation; they make a huge difference to what we can achieve.

To find out how you can make a donation, see our [Support us](#) page.

To find out how to get involved in our work, email hello@architectsdeclare.com.



UK Architects Declare
Climate & Biodiversity
Emergency

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Email hello@architectsdeclare.com

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Linktree [ukarchitectsdeclare](#)

 [Architectsdeclare_uk](#)

 [@architectsdeclare.bsky.social](#)

 [UK Architects Declare](#)

Design: Meha Patel [@m.exhibit](#)

Based on original UK Architects Declare design guidance (January 2024) by Gareth Wild / [Apropos](#)

February 2025



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