



## UK Architects Declare Climate & Biodiversity Emergency

### Regenerative Design Resources & Next Steps: Regenerative Design Primer V2

Thanks to everyone who took part in this online event on 9th October 2024. We've brought together the information from the Zoom chat, including

- AD and other resources presented in the session
- Other resources participants shared
- Q&A within the chat - with summaries of any responses during the live discussion.

### Links from the chat

AD links:

- AD Regenerative Design primer:  
<https://bed-dev.com/uploads/AD-Regenerative-Design-Primer-March-2024-new-cover.pdf>
- Our next Primer event on January 21st 2025 (12:00-13.30) will be an interactive online workshop and will include the formation of our revised RDP working group. Eventbrite link coming soon... In the meantime, do send any feedback on the Primer to: [hello@architectsdeclare.com](mailto:hello@architectsdeclare.com)
- AD's 'Our story' page includes Our Plan for Change download link:  
<https://uk.architectsdeclare.com/our-story>
- Support us includes a link for donations to AD:  
<https://uk.architectsdeclare.com/support-us>
- Other AD policy/systems change resources:  
<https://uk.architectsdeclare.com/changing-the-goals-of-the-system>

Other links:

- Regenerative Architecture Network, Architecture Today  
<https://architecturetoday.co.uk/the-regenerative-architecture-index/>
- Regenerative Design Lab (Oliver Broadbent)  
<https://constructivist.co.uk/regenerative-design-lab/>
- Mailing list: <https://mailchi.mp/db730de6d774/imvsage783>
- UKGBC Regenerative Places Programme  
<https://ukgbc.org/our-work/topics/regenerative-places/>  
This is launching on the 16th October with a webinar to explore the ways you can get involved: <https://ukgbc.org/events/regenerative-places-programme-launch/>
- Regenerative Practice Tool is produced by Planit <https://planit-ie.com/>
- Regenerative Symposium was held by FCBStudios <https://fcbstudios.com/>

## Resources mentioned in the chat

Neil: I can recommend listening to Nate Hagens podcast for a really wide understanding of our predicament.

- The Great Simplification: <https://natehagens.substack.com/about>

Hattie: Building Sustainability podcast is also excellent, but the opposite of Nate in that it's a technical deep dive.

- Building Sustainability: <https://www.buildingsustainabilitypodcast.com/>

Brendon: My Institute for Healthy Urban Living is keen to become involved in this work and to incorporate expertise in Human health and wellbeing and the tricky area of biodiversity and natural ecosystem management.

- Institute for Healthy Urban Living:  
<https://blog.westminster.ac.uk/instituteforhealthyurbanliving/>

Pete: For those who want to know where to start in terms of how you lead and establish a Regenerative Business - have a look at the book *Do Build* by Alan Moore. Changed the way we think and work... and teach.

- *Do Build*: <https://beautiful.business/books/>

## Questions & Answers from the chat (with summaries of any responses during the live discussion)

Nuria: **There are some other resources, like Miro boards, etc. is this content previous to the primer? Or additional?**

- *Subsequent answer*: AD does have other resources, such as our Practice Guide (2021) and our Practice Action Masterclasses (2022) that built on that. The Primer expands on (and replaces) the Regenerative Design section in the Practice Guide. You can find all our resources via the AD links above. The Masterclasses included Miro boards we built in the workshops and you can find a template in this guide: <https://bed-dev.com/uploads/Guide-to-AD-Masterclasses.pdf>

Michelle: **Would you open submissions for the index again in the future?**

- Isabel: Regenerative Architecture Index call for 2025 submissions will be in November.

Ze'ev: **How about historical precedents for regenerative design? Thinking about Hassan Fathi, Rainwater collection in Venice, use of bamboo in SE Asia etc.**

- Marc: Yes, very good point - there is much to relearn from history.
- Neil: Yes, v important in my mind looking back at systems and reinterpreting to utilise within the current systems.
- Isabel: Yes, historical precedents on the online platform is a great idea.

*Further comments on this from the Zoom (summary):*

- Isabel: Historical precedents and precedents from other cultures, things that we don't recognise as the mainstream professional disciplines in terms of materials and also cultures and societies, are fascinating and maybe outside our comfort zones. So we should be open to suggestions.

Charline: **Hi everybody, are you partnering with other groups/institutions overseas?**

- Mark: Speaking for UK AD, we are part of the Built Environment Declares group, which includes ADs and others in many other countries too.  
<https://www.builtenvironmentdeclares.com/>

Martin: **Within the Regenerative Playbook we talk about regenerative meaning 'being ready to learn, especially from those communities who have stewarded traditional knowledge about how to live in good relationship with our world, and whose voices have often been marginalised' How is this reflected in the AD Regenerative Primer?**

- Marc: Much of the advice in the Primer is about engaging with the community both locally and wider

*Further comments on this from the Zoom (summary)::*

- Anna: I think we do talk about how indigenous design is much better in its impact on the planet and relationship with nature. We don't go into it into any depth. We were quite careful not to give too many concrete examples in the Primer, looking at glimpses because we are aware that there aren't any completely regenerative projects from beginning to end, but we would like to do that more in the next iteration.
- Kevin: The overarching intent of the Primer was to be open-ended, so it talks about sharing knowledge, iterative learning, about networking and going beyond silos of professions, cultures, knowledge. So although we don't say it explicitly, it was set up with the mindset of being able to absorb knowledge and best practice wherever we find it. That's why we have a section on being explorative - looking at historical examples, cultural examples, all worthy of being drawn into a regenerative framework, depending on the project.
- Isabel: Historical precedents and precedents from other cultures, things that we don't recognise as the mainstream professional disciplines in terms of materials and also cultures and societies, are fascinating and maybe outside our comfort zones. So we should be open to suggestions.

Mike: **Through my personal exploration of regenerative thinking, I have found mindset shifts have primarily occurred through collaborative exploration (such as the Regen Design Lab, UKGBC Systems Change Programme). Does the future development of the Primer provide an opportunity to enable more of these types of spaces to emerge? Perhaps with a growing place based focus?**

- Eike: Yes, collaboration is key. It is also the idea of the working groups - spaces for more collaboration, diverse perspectives and imagination.
- Jo: Agree, collaboration is key. I think we also need to bring in the voice of non-technical communities e.g. resident community groups and building occupiers

**Alex: How is housing affordability factored into regenerative frameworks? It's something I don't often see being talked about. Important to ensure regenerative projects aren't only for the benefit of the wealthy!**

- Eike: I think it is captured in the 3rd pillar of "just space for people".
- Alex: Thanks Eike - I'm interested in practical actions / principles rather than this notion of 'justice', which I find quite woolly. Which regenerative architects are boldly pursuing radically participatory / distributive housing development?
- Charline: I don't have names of those examples but I know in France and Spain you can find new systems for building development without developers, made and managed by users that are in the affordable housing range.
- Neil: How do we regenerate capitalism and politics!

*Further comments on this from the Zoom (summary):*

- Jo: We need to help with the costs of this. There is a section of the population that is able and willing to pay. They need a few more drivers from government to retrofit their homes: Stamp Duty incentives is something we advocate for. But there are a lot of people who aren't able to afford this and do need help. We advocate for funding for government and for a blended approach for people who may be able to afford part of it but will need subsidy. We need a more sophisticated funding framework to ensure that everybody can retrofit their home and bring it up to a standard that is decent for the 21st century.
- Pete: The point around our toolkit is that 50% of it lives in the social foundation, and if you read *Doughnut Economics* you can't have one without the other. If you think about being a good ancestor, you have to consider things in the round, and affordability is about bricks and mortar and also about simple things like: Do you have the ability to garden, the ability to be in nature without having to get in the car to get to it. It is a fundamental element.
- Kevin: The Primer doesn't explicitly talk about affordability. What it advocates for is a more holistic process. I would argue that affordability is a systemic issue: land value speculation is a huge part of housing affordability, so processes of how we develop and where we position housing are fundamental. In a regenerative mindset, we need to think about the affordability of a home throughout its lifespan, and through a series of currencies: health, wellbeing, happiness, carbon, as well as financial costs and benefits of development. I think we need a different financial framework, looking at costs through time and cost savings down the line versus investment in regenerative practices, materials and building processes early on. A holistic approach to cost and affordability is one way this needs to change.

Scott: **Interesting insights all round, and a thank you to the organisers for hosting this session and each of the contributors. Very curious and think it important that we note the continuation of the notion of 'leaders' being those who are invited into and encouraged towards regenerative programmes - being someone who has seen the power of holacratic/flat hierarchies in spaces within and beyond the built environment sector, and wondering how the primer, practice guide and our collective work shall be envisioned to empower earlier career and less senior-level workers to cultivate and be part of realising regenerative outcomes?**

- Martin: Absolutely equipping and developing future leaders (those who will be leaders of the built environment in 2040+) is vital.
- Helen: There should not be any leaders as part of regeneration- as we are all in service of the system and the development of others.
- Martin: A great humbling of 'leaders' in the built environment - thanks for stating this Helen.
- Helen: Ego centric to Eco.
- Martin: And beyond to Seva (as being in service to ...)
- Neil: Not sure there will ever be a completely regenerative project. Change is inevitable.
- Martin: As in nature!
- Neil: Absolutely Martin!
- Anna: Change is all part of the process, I think it's whether the change is regenerative or degenerative is key!

Thanks again to everyone for taking part. If you haven't already, please do fill out our event [feedback form](#). And if you would like to make a donation to support our work, do visit our [Support Us](#) page.

Our journey together

## We're grateful to everyone who has supported us in our first five years!

- ★ Made their declaration alongside us
- ★ Begun delivery on the Declaration
- ★ Joined our Steering Group or working groups
- ★ Worked with us on our resources, events & campaigns
- ★ Shared their AD stories in media & social media
- ★ Joined others in making an annual donation - responding to our call for £20 per architect: see the Support Us page on our site

Your support is key to our continued successes together!

● UK Architects Declare Climate & Biodiversity Emergency

