

## NEWS ALERT

Enbargoed until 9 April 2025

# The Design Council welcomes inspiring new trustees to help deliver their Design for Planet mission.

The Design Council announces the appointment of five new trustees to their board, bringing expertise in design, architecture, innovation, higher education, and sustainability.

Their expertise will bolster the board's knowledge base and help deliver their Design for Planet mission.

**Tom Crawford**, Vodafone's Group Head of Sustainable Business will join **Patrick Bellew**, Founder and Executive Chair, Atelier Ten and **Elena Marco**, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College, Arts, Technology and Environment College of Arts, Technology and Environment at the University of the West of England, bringing their expertise to championing and supporting the 1.97m people working in the design sector and the mission to upskill one million designers in green skills by 2030.

**Ben Ramalingam**, Chief Strategic Development Officer at UNICEF UK is a recognised thought leader in innovation and design and **Sadaf Hosseini** in her role as UpLink Head of Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Ecosystems at the World Economic Forum brings her experience in forging partnerships and initiatives to accelerate start-ups that create positive change for people and the planet.

The Design Council also thanks their outgoing trustee **Biljana Savic** for her incredible contribution over the last three years and wishes her all the best in her role as Head of Placemaking at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The new Trustees join in a monumental year for the Design Council as they prepare to host the prestigious World Design Congress™ in September this year at the Barbican Centre in London. The 34th edition of the World Design Organization's global Congress is a key moment for British design on the global stage and highlights the UK's position as a critical player in the international design sector. The event will bring together over 1,000 designers, design advocates and policymakers, to showcase some of the most innovative design solutions to the climate crisis from designers and business leaders through keynotes, interactive workshops and exhibits.

**Minnie Moll, Design Council** says, *"We are excited to have such a dynamic group of new Trustees join the board, who want to be part of our Design for Planet mission to address the climate and nature crisis. The breadth of experience they bring will be invaluable as we continue to champion the power of design to deliver economic, environmental and social value"*

**William Eccleshare, Design Council Chair** says, *"It is a great pleasure to see such a wealth of talented voices join the Design Council. I am looking forward to working alongside the new Trustees and the enthusiasm and commitment they bring to our mission will help us to strengthen the UK's design focus towards Design for Planet"*.

As a charity with a Royal Charter, the Design Council is governed by an unpaid board of trustees which sets the strategic direction, monitors the delivery of objectives and upholds the organisation's values.

[Images can be downloaded here.](#)

The full Trustee listing can be found at [designcouncil.org.uk/ who-we-are/our-people/trustees](https://designcouncil.org.uk/who-we-are/our-people/trustees).

For further information, please contact [Press@designcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Press@designcouncil.org.uk).

#DesignForPlanet

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### **About Design Council**

The Design Council is the UK's national strategic advisor for design, championing design and its ability to make life better for all. It is an independent and not for profit organisation incorporated by Royal Charter. The Design Council uniquely works across all design sectors and delivers programmes with business, government, public bodies and the third sector. Their work encompasses thought leadership, tools and resources, showcasing excellence, and research to evidence the value of design and influence policy. Their Design for Planet mission was introduced in 2021 to galvanise and support the 1.97 million people who work in the UK's design economy to help achieve net zero and beyond. In September 2025 the Design Council will host the prestigious World Design Congress as a catalytic moment in driving the sector towards designing for planet.

[designcouncil.org.uk](https://designcouncil.org.uk)  
[@designcouncil](https://twitter.com/designcouncil)

### **About World Design Congress**

The prestigious World Design Congress is coming to London for the first time in over 50 years. The 34th edition will be hosted by the Design Council at the Barbican Centre for 1,000 in-person delegates and global online attendees. The World Design Organization's two-day event takes place every two years, gathering together the international design community and thought leaders from business, research and education to discuss and debate design issues of global importance. The theme for 2025 will be Design for Planet. The effects of climate change are more evident than ever and design has a crucial role to play to help reduce carbon emissions and increase biodiversity. This is a moment to convene and accelerate design's power in building a regenerative future for all. Tickets now on sale.

Find out more [here](#).