

Join Design Council's Expert Network

Are you passionate about the natural and built environment? Can you contribute to making the places we live, play, work and travel function well for every one of us? If you are motivated by creating a world which enhances people's everyday experiences and interactions, you may be interested in joining Design Council's expert network.

About Design Council

Design Council is an independent charity and the government's advisor on design. Our mission is to make life better by design, working with people to create better places, better products and better processes, all of which lead to better performance. Our focus over the next four years is to improve health and wellbeing, enable sustainable living and to increase the uptake of design skills across the UK.

We are a global pioneer in championing and demonstrating the power of the built environment to make life better for all. We have a rich history of setting the standards, enabling the change and delivering the quality that has made a positive difference in the way we live and experience our homes, neighbourhoods and infrastructure. As we increasingly face the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and growing social inequality our service will focus more sharply on the environmental, social and economic resilience that we need to build a better and more just future.

About our expert network

Building on our success, we are now refreshing our current expert network. This is so we can bring in a wider range of active leaders and change-makers – from various professions, backgrounds and localities – who will better represent the diverse communities they serve. We particularly welcome applications from people in the design and built environment sectors who are currently under-represented, including black people, women, and those with lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage. We are keen to work with professionals who are based outside of the capital. And we are especially interested in hearing from specialists in biodiversity and climate change.

Members of our refreshed network will have the skills and experience that enable us to respond even more effectively to growing societal, environmental and economic challenges. As part of a dynamic and engaged expert community, they will be ready to share their different perspectives and collaborate closely with others, as they seek to make life better by design.

Our expert roles

As a Design Council expert, you will help inform and deliver a range of design advice and support services that will enable our clients to best serve their communities and wider society. Our clients include MHCLG, the FCO, Network Rail, Highways England, Guys & St Thomas' and a number of local authorities across England. You will also help with policy development, thought leadership and contribute to, or represent us, at events.

You will be assigned by Design Council to specific workstreams according to your skills and expertise. You will provide independent advice, challenge, encourage and support clients in their

work. As a key advocate for Design Council, you will share our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and be able to show how you are achieving this through your own practice.

Network structure

Individuals and organisations are can apply for one of the following roles within our new structure:

Design Council Expert – Corporate partner

Corporate partner organisations will support Design Council's aims and values, partner on projects, including research and delivery. We can support each other on tenders, public events and thought leadership work. Corporate partners can supply expertise from among their staff for distinct projects, including design support programmes, secondment opportunities and mentoring exchanges.

Design Council Expert – Associate

Associate Experts will support and contribute to our ongoing work with existing and future clients, such as providing strategic design support.

Design Council Expert – Specialist

Specialist experts will contribute to our ongoing research, policy, thought leadership and inform our overall thinking and approach. Where appropriate, they will also be involved in delivering particular Design Council programmes. Specialist experts will collectively bring specialised knowledge, experience and skills, and will include people from academia and community, campaigning and grassroots movements or organisations.

Network benefits

Experts will benefit from:

- coming together with others from diverse professions, backgrounds and regions
- building relationships within and across the design disciplines and sectors, including an extended remit of business innovation, service design and systems thinking
- sharing expertise, experiences, learning and ideas across disciplines
- developing knowledge on the current and future systems, infrastructure and behaviours that enhance how we live our lives, interact with others, and protect the planet.
- working together to understand and address a variety of challenges, from neighbourhood to global scale, within a rapidly changing social, environmental and technological context
- facilitating and creating space for collaboration, co-creation and partnership approaches to new projects, programmes and business opportunities with Design Council and/or other members of the expert community
- keeping abreast of the latest research and best practice.

Skills and experience

As a Design Council expert, you will have a broad and active network, and be able to bring insight, innovation and best practice to the organisation. You will have a demonstrable track record in

influencing better design with an emphasis on the built and/or natural environment, and community engagement.

We welcome applicants with expertise in specific areas, including:

- Anthropology, sociology and social resilience
- Architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, planning and urban design
- Climate change, climate justice, circular economy and net zero
- Development
- Ecology, biology, biodiversity and arboriculture
- Economics and viability
- Equality, diversity and inclusion, including social inclusion
- Facilitation
- Food growing and farming
- Heritage & conservation
- Housing, transport, energy and water infrastructure
- Interior spatial design
- Law and legal procedure
- Play
- Policy
- Pollution
- Public art
- Public health
- Regeneration
- Stakeholder consultation and community engagement
- User experience
- Smart and digital technology and data
- Soil
- Water and land management

and experts from organisations, such as:

- Campaigning organisations
- Central government
- Community groups
- Development corporation
- EU
- Highways authority
- Housing association
- International charity
- Local authority
- NHS
- Private practice
- Regional authority
- SMEs
- Statutory body
- Third sector
- UN
- WHO

We value inclusion, equality and diversity. For example, our recent [Black Lives Matter statement](#) details our commitment to delivering the changes required within our organisation, the sector and our work to create a more just society. We are therefore actively recruiting for, and welcome, a diversity of candidates that reflects the 'all' of the society we are designing with and for, in terms of age, gender reassignment, marital status, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, gender, race (including colour nationality, ethnicity or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

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Term of service

You will be appointed for a three-year term. All client delivery work will be paid. Some work, however, such as participation in roundtables, may not be paid. Please note that whether work is paid or not is not dependent on whether your role is as an associate expert or specialist expert, but on the nature of the work.

Next steps

If you are interested in joining Design Council's expert network, please register your interest [here](#). Applications will formally open on 14 December 2020 and close on 25 January 2021. Recruitment will take place during January and February 2021.

For any accessibility needs, please contact Sabina.Mohideen@designcouncil.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!