

Circular Cultures: Materials

Beyond Recycling

29 & 30 March 2021

Speakers Bios



Marcos Cruz, Professor of Innovative Environments, The Bartlett School of Architecture, Faculty of the Built Environment

Marcos Cruz is an Architect and Professor of Innovative Environments at the Bartlett. He is the co-Director of Bio-ID, a cross-disciplinary research platform between architecture and biochemical engineering at UCL created with Dr Brenda Parker to develop new forms of bio-integrated design for the built environment. In addition to his architectural practice and academic leadership, which includes his Directorship of the Bartlett between 2010-14, Cruz's research and teaching has been focused on the utilisation of living matter in buildings. It ranges from neoplastic design to bioreceptive materials and poikilohydric systems. Cruz has published numerous books and articles, lecturers and exhibits internationally, and regularly serves on juries and advisory boards.



Dr Brenda Parker, Associate Professor in Sustainable Bioprocess Design, Dept of Biochemical Engineering, University College London

Dr Brenda Parker is an Associate Professor in Sustainable Bioprocess Design at the Department of Biochemical Engineering, UCL and is Co-Director of the MSc Bio-Integrated Design (Bio-ID) together with the Bartlett School of Architecture.

Brenda holds an MEng and PhD in Biochemical Engineering from University College London. Her postdoctoral research was conducted as part of the Algal Biotechnology Consortium at the University of Cambridge, and she has worked on biomanufacturing with photosynthetic organisms for over ten years. Brenda was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2014 to

investigate the role of design when considering biological approaches to remediation of pollution. Her research and teaching are highly interdisciplinary, bringing together the fields of synthetic biology, sustainability and design for applications within the built environment.

Brenda's research investigates scale up photosynthetic systems for industrial biotechnology. She is particularly interested in how this can make products or processes more sustainable and using life cycle metrics to quantify this. Her current work investigates the key challenges of working with systems such as microalgae at large scale. This has resulting in a number of peer-reviewed publications. Brenda's research on algal bioremediation of heavy metals has been supported by EPSRC GCRF and BBSRC. At present, she is developing a process for recombinant protein manufacture in microalgae, towards production of edible vaccines.



Shneel Malik, Architect & Biodesign Researcher, PhD Candidate & Design Tutor at Bio-ID Lab

Shneel Malik is an Architect, a Biodesign Researcher, a social entrepreneur and a TEDx Speaker. She is currently pursuing her PhD Research as part of the Bio-Integrated Design (Bio-ID) Lab at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, UK. Working at the intersection of design, biology, engineering and material sciences she investigates the fabrication of large-scale photosynthetic systems for applications within Architecture.

Shneel's research stems from fabricating novel living materials that can perform natural processes from the bottom-up, by developing new tools of 3D Printing and Robotic Fabrication.

Challenging her research's application within the existing urban context, she proposed Indus - a wall designed to clean polluted water using the natural processes of micro-organisms, specifically microalgae. The project is developed in close collaboration between the Departments of Architecture and Biochemical Engineering at UCL. A system designed to empower small-scale artisanal communities to adapt futuristic solutions of treating polluted water by themselves, through the cultural techniques readily available to them.



Areti Markopoulou, Academic Director at IAAC in Barcelona

Areti Markopoulou is a Greek architect, researcher and urban technologist working at the intersection between architecture and digital technologies. She is the Academic Director at IAAC in Barcelona, where she also leads the Advanced Architecture Group, a multidisciplinary research group exploring how design and science can positively impact and transform the present and future of our built spaces, the way we live and interact. Her research and practice focus on redefining the architecture of cities through an ecological and technological spectrum combining design with biotechnologies, new materials, digital fabrication and big data.

Areti is co-founder of the art/tech gallery StudioP52 and co-editor of Urban Next, a global network focused on rethinking architecture through the contemporary urban milieu. She is the project coordinator of a number of European Research funded Projects on topics including urban regeneration through data science, circular design and construction and multidisciplinary educational models in the digital age.

Areti has founded and is currently chairing the Responsive Cities International Symposium in Barcelona and she has served as a curator of international exhibitions such as Future Arena and On Site Robotics (Building Barcelona Construmat 2017-19), Print Matter (In3dustry 2016), HyperCity (Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale, 2015) and MyVeryOwnCity (World Bank, BR Barcelona, 2011), while her work has been featured in exhibitions worldwide. She is the Co-Head Curator of the forthcoming Tallinn Architecture Biennale 2022 on the topic of circular design and food titled: Edible, Or, the Architecture of Metabolism.



Yasmine Ostendorf, Founder of Future Materials Bank and Green Art Lab Alliance

Researcher/curator Yasmine Ostendorf is the convenor of the Green Art Lab Alliance, a network of 45 cultural organisations in Latin America, Europe and Asia that is in pursuit of environmental justice. She is the founder of the Nature Research Department at the Jan van Eyck Academie (Netherlands) and the Future Materials Bank. She has been curator-in-residence in various art institutions, including Bamboo Curtain Studio (Taiwan) Kunst Haus Wien (Austria) Labverde and Capacete (Brazil). She is currently based at a permaculture farm and food forest in Minas Gerais, Brazil, where she is tending mushrooms and working on her research 'Mycelium as Methodology.'



Gina Buenfeld-Murley, Exhibitions Curator at Camden Art Centre, London

Gina Buenfeld-Murley is Exhibitions Curator at Camden Art Centre, London where she has co-curated *The Botanical Mind: Art, Mysticism and The Cosmic Tree* (2020-21); *A Tale of Mother's Bones: Grace Pailthorpe, Reuben Mednikoff and the Birth of Psychorealism* (2019); and solo exhibitions with Athanasios Argianas (2020); Wong Ping (2019); Yuko Mohri (2018); Joachim Koester (2017); João Maria Gusmão & Pedro Paiva (2015); Bonnie Camplin (2016) and Rose English (2016). Recent independent curatorial projects include *Gãa: Holistic Science and Wisdom Tradition*, at Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange, Cornwall, and *Origin Story*, at The Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art, Turku, Finland (both 2019). In 2017 she was curatorial resident at Helsinki International Curatorial Programme, Finland and has been researching the place of plants within indigenous cultures in Europe and South America, including in Finnish Lapland (Samí shamanism) and in the Colombian, Peruvian and Brazilian areas of the Amazon Rainforest where she spent time with the Shipibo, Kukama, Yawanawá and Ticuna peoples.

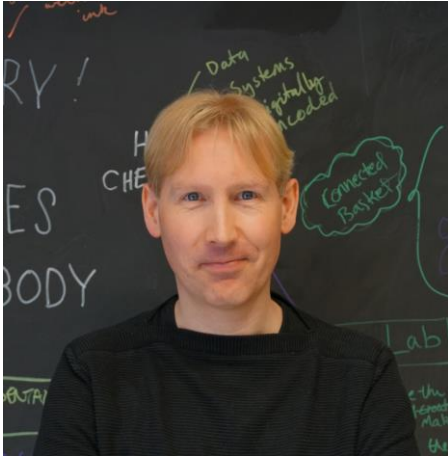


Christopher Brellis MA (RCA), Design innovation, education and management

Trained as a designer at the Royal College of Art, he has been a practicing designer and consultant for over 20 years, focusing on the process and methodologies for innovative, creative and efficient problem-solving of design challenges – in a multidisciplinary context.

In parallel to his design practice, he is the coordinator of the Graphic Design program at the Frances Rich School of Fine and Performing Arts, American College of Greece, Deree. In addition to his teaching duties at undergraduate and graduate level, he is currently leading the process of curriculum redesign and design education strategy formation.

Furthermore, he is adept at design thinking, design management practices and design research methodologies, focusing on maximizing user experience and humanizing the design practice. Has many years in team management and creative leadership and is an inventor and signee of 10 international patents. He is also a handyman and is currently restoring a classic sailing yacht.



Matthew Drinkwater, Head of Fashion Innovation Agency

Matthew is a world-renowned expert in emerging technologies and their application to the creative industries. A specialist in immersive technologies (XR/MR/AR/VR), he and his team are building pathways for a truly digitized world. Named as a 'fashion-tech trailblazer' by Draper's and a 'pioneer and a visionary' by Wired, Matthew has delivered groundbreaking experiences and a stunning range of projects that have captured the imagination of both the fashion and technology industries, including what Forbes described as 'the first example of truly beautiful wearable tech'. He was also named as a "Digital World's Influencer" by Stylus for 2020.



Jolyon Bexon, Head of Retail at RÆBURN

Prior to joining RÆBURN as Head of Retail, Jolyon has worked within the fashion retail industry for a range of contemporary and heritage craft brands over a 17 year period.

Starting professional life at Paul Smith in Covent Garden, Jolyon then progressed to the GM position at Gieves & Hawkes No.1 Savile Row. A move to Italian tailors Brioni followed as UK and Spain Sales Manager, before joining the RÆBURN team in 2019 to oversee the activation of the brand's first physical retail experiences. "The immersive retail experience the physical RÆBURN store offers aims to provoke and inspire new ways of resourcing materials, designing and consuming".



Cathrine Barth, Founder of Circularities, Board Member of Nordic Circular Hotspot

Cathrine Barth is a visionary and vocal ambassador for a future Circular Society, dedicated to work within network structures to drive the transition to a low carbon society.

Barth is a domain expert on circular economy, business development, circular design and innovation strategies. She is the co-founder of Circular Norway and Managing Partner of Nordic Circular Hotspot.

Barth provides a learning mindset for a new economic system, and uses proven methodologies within systems design thinking, collaborative innovation programming and business model methodologies for circular development. Her background emerges from creative industries and animation film and

broadcast media. She is a skilled journalist and beholds a Master of Management degree from Oslo Business School within green economies, finance and business model innovation.



Anastasia Pistofidou, Researcher, Co-founder of fabtextiles.org and Fabricademy, Textile and Technology Academy

Researcher, practitioner and educator on digital fabrication, textiles, wearable technologies and biofabrication. Specialized in hardware development, integration design, rapid prototyping and design to production. Co-founder of fabtextiles.org, a research laboratory on textiles, soft architectures and innovative materials at IAAC Fab Lab Barcelona. Co-founder of [Fabricademy, Textile and Technology](https://fabricademy.com)

[Academy](https://fabricademy.com), a radical educational platform on the future of textiles that merges online learning with hands-on prototyping. Combining digital fabrication techniques and crafts, she demonstrates how new technologies can shift the massive consumption and fast production to a customized, open source, personal and local fabrication applied on education, everyday life and new enterprises.



Maria Varela, Multidisciplinary Artist

Maria Varela is a multidisciplinary artist focusing on ways in which the archival event is transcribed from the digital environment into the physical world. She creates digital and physical objects, systems, environments and live events exploring concepts of identity, memory, tradition and their constructions.

She has presented her work in numerous museums and exhibitions in Greece and abroad, in Athens, Brussels, Sao Paulo, Wroclaw, Vancouver, Berlin, Seattle, Bergen, Istanbul. She is nominated for the 2021 Contemporary Art Award of the Taoyuan Museum in Taiwan.



Olga Hatzidaki, Curator and Co-Founder Tavros

Olga Hatzidaki is a curator and cultural producer. Since 2012 Hatzidaki has curated numerous exhibitions and projects under the nomadic profile of locus athens. These projects range in format and scale and have received the support of several institutions locally and internationally operating.

In 2019 she co-founded TAVROS, a non-profit art space with a focus on new artistic productions and exhibitions, thematic one-off events and community projects linked to the neighbourhood. Hatzidaki is a graduate of the Courtauld Institute of Art with a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation.



Maria Olga Vlachou, Designer and Founder of Postfolk

Maria Olga was born and raised in Athens, Greece with studies in Graphic Design and Interior decoration. She is a multidisciplinary graphic designer and has always been curiously restless and excited about pop culture.

She worked for 15 years in the advertising industry as a Senior Art Director in major multinational companies and when the economic crisis hit Greece, she decided to take a risk and go on her own as a freelancer branding expert and as a brand owner creating the POSTFOLK brand -idea

She created a digital heritage brand inspired by the Greek folk traditional embroidery and turned it into dot by dot invention. Her purpose is to maintain our heritage tradition in the future.



Wilson Oryema, Artist, Writer and Entrepreneur

Wilson Oryema is an artist, writer, and entrepreneur. His work primarily focuses on the theme of human consumption and the different ways it impacts human behaviour and the environment. He is a Co-Founder of the social change initiative, Regenerative Futures. Also a co-founder of Surface Tension; a platform for realising the positive benefits of materials on the body and planet.



Diti Kotecha, Designer and Founder of Thela

Diti is a graphic designer from India, living in Greece. She is the founder of Théla, a plastic upcycling initiative that handcrafts products with plastic waste. This initiative has emerged out of her love for design & traditional crafts and living mindfully & as sustainably as possible. She started Théla not only to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills and oceans but to also increase awareness about its harmful impact and easy alternatives.



Danielle Elsener, Founder DECODE

Elsener has dedicated her life's work to proving zero-waste as a valid and robust design model. For over a decade, she has learned from industry, educational institutions, and self-run initiatives to understand how best to do this. What began as a love for puzzle solving through zero-waste pattern-making, became a way to fix the fashion industry's biggest problem.

Her work revolves around the notion of "Circling the Square," solving the impossible problem of sustainability within the fashion industry. It focuses on using a bold graphic language, color theory, and pattern cutting manipulation to tell the story of its Zero Waste Design. The pieces are classic menswear staples with a twist that highlight the minimal yet beautiful differences that Zero-Waste pattern cutting creates.



Savvas Laz, Designer

Savvas Laz is a designer with a true passion for the sensual and the exceptional. He is dedicated to creating bespoke, handcrafted objects that celebrate the superior quality, allure and richness of the arts and crafts. After completing a master's degree in civil engineering, Savvas Laz graduated with distinction from the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Design for Luxury & Craftsmanship of ÉCAL (École Cantonale D' art de Lausanne), Switzerland. As a designer, he worked next to Joep Van Leishout at the Atelier Van Leishout in Rotterdam, Netherlands, where he developed his skills in sculpture making – an element he always makes part of his work.



Tessa Silva Dawson, Artist

Tessa is a British-Brazilian visual artist and materialist. Her practice focuses on the use of unique materials as vessels for storytelling, exploring how materials can act as a mirror to society, and what that can tell us about human behaviours. Her focal body of work is a study into the use of (surplus) milk proteins as a material for the handcrafted production of bespoke objects and sculptural works.



Costas Kazantzis, Creative Technologist

Costas uses 3D Design and XR to reshape the way fashion content is disseminated. His background lies at the intersection between fashion media production and computer science, providing insight into how emerging media can influence how fashion brands engage with their audiences. As part of the team, Costas develops proof of concepts for 3D, AR, VR and creates visuals, and animations to help FIA communicate ideas to diverse partners. He is also an Associate Lecturer at LCF School of Media and Communication.



Seetal Solanki, Founder and Director of Ma-tt-er

Seetal is Founder and Director of Ma-tt-er, a materials research design studio, consultancy and school, advising, designing, communicating and educating what materials are and can be in order to implement a more responsible future. The Ma-tt-er consultancy advises and supports the implementation of responsible materials across our network which stretches beyond the world of design into science, technology, culture, geology, agriculture and food. By following our three-stage methodology the suggested material applications and processes are informed by the concurrent timeframes of immediate, near or far future. Seetal is the author of the book *Why Materials Matter*, Textiles Tutor of Royal College of Art and Associate Lecturer of MA Architecture, Central Saint Martins.