

For Immediate Release

NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION WORKSHOP 18-22/02/2019 – DIGITAL X

- The Norman Foster Foundation presents the second edition of its annual Digital X Workshop with public debates in which practitioners from the fields of design and innovation will participate, including Amber Case, W. Daniel Hillis, Mary Lou Jepsen, David Moinina Sengeh, Nicholas Negroponte and Ben Vickers.
- The 2019 Digital X Workshop is designed to pose key questions and come up with some considered conclusions in a week-long event hosted in the Madrid headquarters of the Norman Foster Foundation.
- A distinguished group of specialists will engage with ten selected students from ten universities around the world who share a common interest in the subject. The workshop mentor is Nicholas Negroponte, co-founder and former director of MIT Media Lab.

Madrid, 23 January 2019

The second edition of the Norman Foster Foundation Digital X Workshop will take place on 18-22 February 2019, in association with e-flux Architecture.

'All things digital are simultaneously local and global, large and small, inside and outside of any given boundary' states workshop mentor **Nicholas Negroponte**. 'The digital world brings together previously separate worlds, like those of discovery, invention and expression. It does that because it has become the DNA of each. The natural world and the artificial world are becoming interchangeable. Change will happen very rapidly. Fasten your seatbelts.'

With that concept as a background, the workshop is designed to pose key questions and come up with some considered conclusions. Can you build a city without infrastructure: no roads, no sewers, no water or power? Why bother? The answer is to renovate informal settlements without bulldozing them, which is something that could impact two or three billion people. Call it a new autonomy, that of a house or a small community, taking some pages from outer space and bringing them back to earth.

The Academic Body spans a wide range of practitioners from the fields of design and innovation, including **Amber Case**, Co-founder of CyborgCamp, Cambridge, MA, United States; **W. Daniel Hillis**, Co-founder of Thinking Machines Corporation and of Applied Invention, Cambridge, MA, United States; **Mary Lou Jepsen**, Founder of Openwater, San Francisco, CA, United States; **Hasier Larrea**, Founder and CEO of Ori Inc., Cambridge, MA, United States; **David Moinina Sengeh**, Chief Innovation Officer at the Government of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone and **Ben Vickers**, Chief Technology Officer at the Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

After reviewing applications submitted by hundreds of candidates from around the world, the selection committee awarded ten scholarships to students from the following universities and institutions: American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon; American University in Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Ashesi University, Berekuso, Ghana; Cambridge University, Cambridge, United Kingdom; Cape Town University, Cape Town, South Africa; Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands; George Washington University, Washington, DC, United States; Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL, United States; Polytechnic University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain and the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.

These ten students will be asked to park reality at the door. Inviting them to bring their most advanced thinking, craziest ideas, whether they relate to architecture or not, to apply them, their derivatives or simply their point of view to the needs of the world's poorest people, especially the increasing number who live in informal settlements.

The Digital X Workshop will include seminars, lectures, one-to-one tutoring and architectural tours to learn more about the context of Madrid culminating in a five day workshop led by the Atelier mentor, Nicholas Negroponte, co-founder and former director of MIT Media Lab.

e-flux Architecture will join this year's edition of the Digital X workshop as its editorial partner. Editors Nikolaus Hirsch and Nick Axel will conduct a series of interviews during the duration of the workshop, the result of this joint initiative will be unveiled in Spring 2019.

Norman Foster Foundation

Public Debates

Tuesday 19 February 2019, 12:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Fundación Francisco Giner de los Ríos
Paseo del General Martínez Campos 14, 28010, Madrid, Spain

With the participation of Amber Case, W. Daniel Hillis, Mary Lou Jepsen, David Moinina Sengeh, Nicholas Negroponte and Ben Vickers.

Tim Stonor, Managing Director of Space Syntax, London, United Kingdom, and part of the Advisory Board of the Norman Foster Foundation, will chair the debates.

Limited spaces are reserved for press. If you are interested in attending the Public Debate above, please contact us at press@normanfosterfoundation.org

Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations anticipate the future.

The first mission of the Norman Foster Foundation is to promote the importance of architecture, infrastructure and urbanism for the betterment of society. To this end, the second mission is to encourage new thinking and research across traditional boundaries to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. In particular, it addresses those professionals who are concerned with the environment—architects, engineers, designers, urbanists, civic leaders, planners and artists. This is at the heart of a holistic approach to design and is ever more relevant as populations shift to cities. With the implications of climate change, robotics and artificial intelligence, sustainable design is not about fashion but about survival.

The Foundation holds the Norman Foster Archive and Library, which provide a window into the larger narrative and history of our built environment through the work of Norman Foster. This is complemented and supported by drawings and models from other significant architects such as Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Charles and Ray Eames, Buckminster Fuller, Richard Rogers, Zaha Hadid, and Tadao Ando.

Through its research initiatives and programmes, the Norman Foster Foundation encourages the transfer of advanced knowledge in a wide range of design fields. The Foundation's educational initiatives are structured around research and workshops, fellowships and forums around the Foundation's core objectives.

The Norman Foster Foundation is based in Madrid and operates globally. Visit www.normanfosterfoundation.org for more information or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Vimeo](#).

e-flux Architecture

e-flux Architecture is a sister publishing platform of e-flux, archive, and editorial project founded in 2016. The news, events, exhibitions, programs, journals, books, and architecture projects produced and/or disseminated by e-flux Architecture describe strains of critical discourse surrounding contemporary architecture, culture, and theory internationally.

Since its inception, e-flux Architecture has maintained a dynamic international program of projects and events in collaboration with leading institutions and practitioners. Editorial content commissioned and published by e-flux Architecture consistently showcases rigorous, critical, sincere and engaged theoretical work being produced today in and around the fields of architecture, urbanism, and design.

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