

For Immediate Release

NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION SHELTERS WORKSHOP 6 – 10 JUNE 2022



Madrid, 31 May 2022

The first edition of the Norman Foster Foundation's Shelters Workshop will take place from 6 – 10 June 2022 with the support of Holcim.

'Eighty million people were displaced in 2021 due to conflict and natural disasters and, in just over two months, the Ukraine crisis has forced another 12.5 million people to flee within the country or to neighbouring ones. The average duration of displacement is twenty-six years, so, while we tend to think of displacement as something temporary, most often, it is not,' states the workshop's Mentor, Johan Karlsson, Managing Director, Better Shelter, Stockholm, Sweden. As he puts it, 'as an international community and humanitarian actors, we must do everything in our power to save lives, alleviate suffering and mitigate the effects of displacement. We must take action to reverse the course of the climate emergency, and the needs posed by ongoing crises must be met now.'

The Norman Foster Foundation's 2022 Shelters Workshop, supported by Holcim, will tackle the challenges and potential solutions to provide emergency shelter to vulnerable communities. The scholars will develop a concept for building 1,000 shelter units and a medical facility in one day.

A five-day event led by **Johan Karlsson**, Managing Director, Better Shelter, Stockholm, Sweden, the workshop will include seminars, lectures, one-to-one tutoring and architectural tours.

In collaboration with local and global partners, Better Shelter provides shelter as temporary homes for displaced families to live safely, and infrastructure to promote improved health, protection and education. One of the shelters will be at the Norman Foster Foundation Headquarters during the workshop to provide the scholars with the possibility of understanding how these communities live, and act as inspiration for new solutions.

The Workshop's Academic Body spans a wide range of practitioners that work in different fields related to sustainability. The Academic Body includes: **Shigeru Ban**, Founder and Principal Architect, Shigeru Ban Architects, Tokyo, Japan; **Teddy Cruz**, Professor of Public Culture and Urbanism, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), San Diego, CA, United States; **Fonna Forman**, Founding Director, Center on Global Justice, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), San Diego, CA, United States; **Elena Giral**, Project Manager, European Emergency Shelter and Emergency Transport and Logistics, European Commission (EC)–Directorate–General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Brussels, Belgium; **Christophe Levy**, Scientific Director and Director of Concrete and Aggregates Research and Development (R&D), Holcim Innovation Center (HIC), Lyon, France; and **John Orr**, University Lecturer in Concrete Structures, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

After reviewing hundreds of applications submitted by candidates from around the world, the selection committee awarded ten scholarships to students from the following universities and institutions: Advanced Architecture, Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), Barcelona, Spain; Barlett School of Architecture, University College London (UCL), London, United Kingdom; Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, United States; Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH Zürich), Zürich, Switzerland; Graduate School of Design (GSD), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, United States; Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy; and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.

Public Debate

Date and time: **Wednesday, 8 June from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

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

With the participation of **Shigeru Ban**, **Norman Foster**, **Johan Karlsson** and **Elena Giral**.

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 make visible the centrality 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 in order to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. In particular, the foundation speaks to those professionals who are concerned with the environment—architects, engineers, designers, urbanists, civic leaders, planners and artists. This is at the heart of the foundation's 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, workshops, fellowships and forums, built around the Foundation's core objectives. The Norman Foster Foundation is based in Madrid and operates globally.

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Holcim

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Better Shelter

Better Shelter is a humanitarian non-profit organisation based in Sweden. It started as a small social enterprise in 2010 with a big mission dedicated to sheltering displaced persons with safety, dignity and hope on their path towards a more stable life in a permanent home of their own.

While its work has grown in scale, its small team continues to offer support to partners and deliver shelters internationally from warehouses in Poland, Turkey and Panama. Since 2015, Better Shelter has delivered more than 68,000 shelters to emergency, crisis and development programs in over seventy-eight countries.

Better Shelter has been able to impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of displaced persons through collaborations with humanitarian NGOs and INGOs, United Nations bodies, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions, including the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the IKEA Foundation and the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat.

More info at www.bettershelter.org

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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