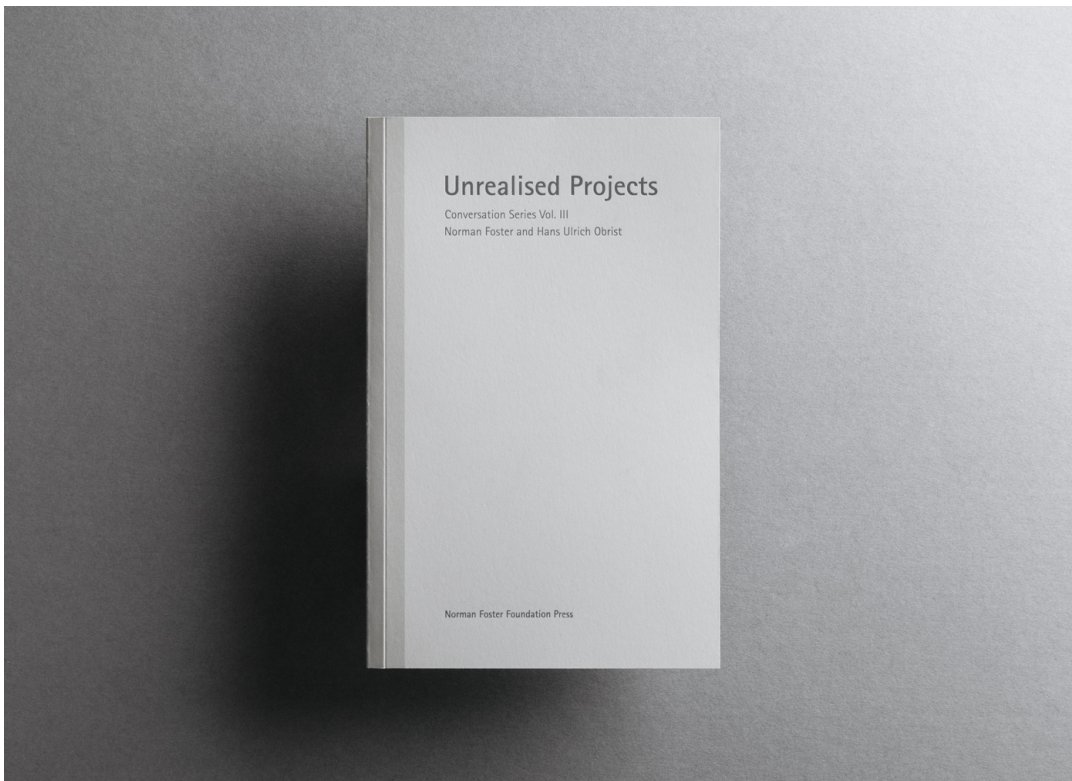


For Immediate Release

**UNREALISED PROJECTS**

*Conversation Series Vol. III*

**Norman Foster and Hans Ulrich Obrist**



**Madrid, 3 October 2024**

The Norman Foster Foundation Press presents *Unrealised Projects*, the latest instalment in the Norman Foster Foundation's Conversation Series, featuring an interview by Hans Ulrich Obrist with Norman Foster on the topic of his unrealised projects, a recurring theme of exploration in Obrist's career. The conversation, conducted in 2019, has been carefully transcribed and edited into written form. The book includes an introduction by Hans Ulrich Obrist who rightly points out that the subject of unrealised projects is often not well explored, even for architects such as Norman Foster.

Beginning with the early years of Foster's career, the interview traces the various reasons why some projects remain unrealised—from politics and finances to misleading competition guidelines. It becomes clear that whilst a project may be unrealised, elements from its design can later be incorporated into built projects, sometimes even decades later.

This publication includes a small selection of drawings from the Norman Foster Foundation Archive that illustrate some of the unrealised projects that Foster and Obrist discuss. The result is a compact and personal telling of Norman Foster's career from a different perspective, one which celebrates projects big and small, unrealised.



**Norman Foster** (born Manchester, 1935) is the Founder and Executive Chairman of Foster + Partners. He is president of the Norman Foster Foundation, based in Madrid with a global reach, promoting interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations of architects, designers, and urbanists anticipate the future. He was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II to the Order of Merit in 1997 and in 1999 was raised to the peerage in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

**Hans Ulrich Obrist** (Zurich, 1968) is Artistic Director of the Serpentine Galleries in London, and Senior Artistic Advisor of The Shed in New York. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Since his first show *World Soup (The Kitchen Show)* in 1991, he has curated more than 300 shows.



## 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 to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. 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. Consequently, the Norman Foster Institute was inaugurated in 2024 to train the civic leaders of the future.

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 and other prominent architects. The Archive is also fundamental in disseminating its materials by contributing to exhibitions worldwide. 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, and the Foundation has the unique ability to link its mission and educational programme to the execution of projects by an in-house architectural team. From these initiatives come the Norman Foster Foundation Press' publications that serve to disseminate the work of the Foundation and Archive.

The Norman Foster Foundation is the recipient of various awards and was recognised as a Centre of Excellence by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2021. The Norman Foster Foundation is based in Madrid and operates globally.

Visit [www.normanfosterfoundation.org](http://www.normanfosterfoundation.org) for more information or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Vimeo.

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