

# Rethinking Sustainable and Survivable Built Environments



Environmental and social changes are accelerating at blistering paces, but to what extent is industry adapting to meet the sustainability and resilience challenges presented by our buildings and the wider built environment sector? Given the outsize impacts of this sector, is our future survivable without radical change? Do we need new construction or refurbishment and retrofit? What is being done at the forefronts of the professions and industry?

As our planet's climate and natural systems are unravelling at unprecedented rates, the resilience of our buildings, towns and cities and the sustainability of our ways of living and working – perhaps even our survivability -- are under real threat. The science is clear:

avoiding the worst impacts for our planet, ourselves and our future generations means immediate, radical changes need to be made to the way we design, build and operate our built environments. This is a once-in-a-generation challenge, yet the opportunity presented is enormous: the potential for social and economic benefits of a 'moonshot' effort to address our sustainability and resilience challenges is virtually immeasurable.

Professionals in the built environment sector – including developers, designers, engineers, constructors, asset operators and managers – and financiers, policymakers and others are increasingly aware of how rapidly realities are changing. In a sector notorious for being slow to adapt and innovate, momentum toward real, meaningful change is suddenly accelerating.

This talk will review the changes, trends and emerging pressures that create this new reality for industry, and it will examine what needs to be done to address these unprecedented challenges in construction and retrofit, and what is being done at the leading edge of innovation in industry.

**Dr Tim Forman** is a partner at Undivided Ventures and a Senior Teaching Associate and Director of Studies at the

University of Cambridge. Alongside his work building a deep green investment platform at Undivided, Tim teaches at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) on postgraduate courses for built environment practitioners and sustainability professionals. Tim's research background spans architecture, construction and engineering; and he completed several years of postdoctoral research on energy efficiency retrofitting at the Department of Engineering at Cambridge before serving as a Senior Research Associate at CISL. Tim has taught numerous postgraduate courses in sustainable built environment practice at leading UK universities, he has worked as a consultant to industry, he has been a regular participant in thinktank, industry reform and policy debate activity and in prestigious national and international conferences. His work for change in industry and policy includes roles on the UK's Concrete Decarbonisation Taskforce, the Technical Working Group on Retrofit at the UK Centre for Moisture in Buildings, the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings, the Association of Researchers in Construction Management, and the Edge Debate, and a recent appointment as Senior Fellow at the Centre for Global Security and Resilience at Norwich University. Tim is a passionate advocate for disruptive innovation and radical rethinking of practice, norms and policy in the built environment sector to address the climate, nature and sustainability emergencies we face.