

# TRANSFORMING HOMES NEWSLETTER

The Transforming Homes consortium is an ecosystem of stakeholders working together to transform existing homes through design using biobased materials and low carbon solutions to provide better places to live for future generations.

## Activities happening across our consortium

### Spring Design Research Workshops: Sharing Collective Knowledge

Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo, Research Associate, Cardiff University

Throughout February and March, partners from across the Transforming Homes consortium have engaged in a series of Spring Design Research Workshops. These sessions were built around themes from our Design Research to date, including a state-of-the-art review, demonstration homes in Bristol and Swansea, stakeholder and resident interviews, and nationwide co-design charrettes. Each workshop was based around a provocation, associated with topics such as space standards, operational carbon, human comfort and liveability, bio-based materials, architectural heritage, and placemaking.

The outputs will form the foundation for our Design Catalogue. The team are now synthesising this rich body of knowledge ahead of our Consortium Charrette in May. We look forward to seeing how this work shapes the next phase of the project.



Credits: Joel Cady

### Visit to 'Open House' Retrofit in Margam

Dr Dilek Arslan, Research Associate, Cardiff University



Credits: 1- Dilek Arslan  
2- Veronica Albarran Carrillo

Transforming Homes researchers recently visited the 'Open House' Retrofit in Margam, part the Homes as Power Stations project (HAPS). The initiative, funded by the UK Governments Shared Prosperity fund was a partnership between the Homes As Power Stations team at [Neath Port Talbot Council](#), the [Welsh School of Architecture](#) at [Cardiff University](#) and [Tai Tarian](#), showcasing 'real' whole house retrofit of social housing.

The two adjacent homes feature passive improvements such as airtightness and insulation, alongside technologies including an air source heat pump (ASHP), PV, and battery storage aimed at reducing fuel poverty while enhancing comfort, health, and wellbeing. The visit offered valuable insights into practical challenges around planning, design, procurement, installation and maintenance and operation, particularly in contexts where experience in deep retrofit is limited.

The visit has provided us with inspiration for the 10 Transforming Homes demonstration homes. Thanks to the [Centre for a Low Carbon Built Environment \(CLCBE\)](#) team, led by Prof Jo Patterson, and to all those involved in the delivery of this project.

# Farewell to our Principal Investigator, Professor Pete Walker

As Professor Pete Walker steps down from his role as Principal Investigator of Transforming Homes, we extend our heartfelt thanks for his leadership, insight, and unwavering commitment to the project. Pete's vision has been instrumental in shaping our collaborative approach to design research, and his contributions have left a lasting impact on both the team and the wider field. We wish him all the very best in his retirement and future endeavours.



## Transforming Homes blogs

### Mobilising Co-Design: The Role of the Charrette Cart in Transforming Homes



Learn about **Laura Brain**'s insights into the design and manufacture of the **Charrette Cart**—an innovative 'vehicle' created to support co-design workshops as part of the Transforming Homes project. Discover the principles behind its design and how the cart is enabling resident-led design through hands-on participation. From mobility and materiality to flexibility and community engagement, this blog explores how a simple cart can become a catalyst for creative collaboration and a vital tool in shaping our research on transforming existing housing.

### Inside Futurebuild 2025: A Day of Discovery and Debate



Join **Emma Taylor**, as she provides an overview on the final day of **Futurebuild 2025**. From panel discussions on natural materials and products to powerful conversations about community-led retrofit, this blog highlights how Futurebuild continues to foster critical dialogue and practical solutions in the transformation of UK's housing stock. Discover how Transforming Homes was represented on stage, what new materials are shaping sustainable construction, and how the event is helping to connect grassroots initiatives with national-scale impact.

## Spotlight on ...



### Prof Jo Patterson

Principal Investigator and Director, Cardiff University, Transforming Homes



### Simon Corbey

CEO, Alliance for Sustainable Building Products (ASBP)  
Co-Investigator, Transforming Homes

# Insights from beyond Transforming Homes

**FUTUREBUILD 2025**  
**ON-DEMAND**

**CATCH UP ON MISSED SESSIONS**

Videos suggested by  
Dilek Arslan

Report suggested by  
Veronica Albarran Carrillo



## External events of interest

14-16  
Apr



HSA 2025 Conference  
Sheffield

24  
Apr



The State of Housing 2025  
Manchester

24-25  
Apr



CIBSE Technical Symposium 2025  
London

13-14  
May



Housing Landscape UK 2025  
London

3-4  
Jun



WoodBUILD 2025  
Llandudno

4-6  
Jun



Int'l Social Housing Festival  
Dublin

19  
Jun



Housing Governance 2025  
London

24-26  
Jun



Housing 2025 Leadership  
Manchester

2  
Jul



Housing Cymru Conference 2025  
Cardiff

Interested in contributing our next issue? Contact Veronica  
at [AlbarranCarrilloV@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:AlbarranCarrilloV@cardiff.ac.uk) to get involved!

Stay connected

