

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

Resident Stories Take Centre Stage at the International Social Housing Festival

Dr Lucy McFadzean, Research Associate, University of Exeter &
Dr Louise King, Research Associate, University of Bath

In July, we attended the [International Social Housing Festival](#) in Dublin, joining social housing providers, policymakers, and urbanists to explore this year's theme of storytelling. We connected with inspiring tenant groups from Northern Ireland, Barcelona city councillors, and European policymakers addressing the housing affordability crisis.

This was a great platform to share our work within Transforming Homes, emphasising the importance of resident knowledge and stories in creating more comfortable, energy-efficient homes. We ran an engaging interactive session on transforming interwar homes, underscoring the importance of communicating our work to wider audiences.

Sharing residents' stories and exploring contextual complexities helped participants connect more closely with the challenges and opportunities of transformation. Discussions included co-design, co-delivery, and biobased materials, alongside a call to reinvigorate narratives of social housing as vibrant, community-driven spaces of change, resilience, and innovation.



From Ideas to Outputs: Transforming Homes 2025 Writing Retreat

Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo, Research Associate, Cardiff University



This summer, researchers from Cardiff, Bath, Bristol, and Exeter universities came together for the second Transforming Homes Consortium Writing Retreat on the outskirts of Bristol. Surrounded by nature, the retreat created space to focus on key outputs of the Transforming Homes project—from glossary development and conference papers to internal reports on stakeholder engagement and the emerging design catalogue.

With the project's fast pace, this dedicated environment proved invaluable. Beyond the concentrated sessions, the retreat also offered a welcome chance to connect in person, share progress, and strengthen collaboration. As Phase 1 concludes, we look forward to seeing these outputs take shape and demonstrate the project's findings.

AHRC Visit to TH Demonstration Homes

Prof Jo Patterson, Principal Investigator and Director, Transforming Homes

Our Consortium recently welcomed delegates from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) — Allan Sudlow, Cathy Kerfoot, Katherine Mansfield, Tom Stranks, and Abigail Fisher — to 1920–1940 council-built housing estates in Bristol and Swansea, where our demonstration homes are located.

It was a valuable opportunity to share the progress we've made so far, and to reflect on how our co-design approach ensures that research is shaped by input from a broad range of stakeholders. With such a multi-disciplinary team, we continue to challenge assumptions, exchange perspectives, and generate solutions informed by both evidence and lived experience.

Our goal remains clear: to maximise the value and impact of this research for residents, supply chains, and government, while contributing to net-zero ambitions and reimagining homes for future generations. Thanks to the AHRC team for visiting us and to the whole consortium for their continued dedication and collaboration.



Wrapping up Phase 1 of the Transforming Homes project

Dr Dilek Arslan, Research Associate, Cardiff University



In September, the Consortium gathered at the University of Bath for the final Phase 1 meeting of Transforming Homes. The day was filled with presentations from each Work Package, focusing on progress, challenges, and outcomes while offering space to reflect on our journey.

A highlight of the meeting was a scrapbooking session, where groups used photos, quotes, newspaper headlines, and other materials to create collage-style outputs. This creative exercise helped share personal reflections, capture collective experiences, and imagine future aspirations for the project. The meeting was both a celebration of achievements and a springboard for shaping the direction of Phase 2.

Practitioner Perspectives on Transforming Homes at Scale

Dr Louise King, Research Associate, University of Bath

In early autumn, the team convened two stakeholder workshops to explore how homes can be transformed more effectively at neighbourhood scale. 32 participants took part, drawn from local government, social housing providers, delivery contractors, community organisations, policy and governance roles, resident engagement specialists, and academia. All had experience of working with interwar housing.

Conversations revealed a strong shared commitment to transformation, but also recurring frustrations: misalignment between national policy and local delivery, rigid compliance frameworks, and limited capacity to meaningfully engage residents. Despite challenges, participants identified clear opportunities for collaborative action, including stronger cross-sector coordination and locally adaptable delivery models. These insights are informing the development of practical routes to accelerate housing transformation informed by both evidence and lived experience.

Transforming Homes 2025 Webinar Series – Live Now!



[Design Research approaches for transforming homes](#)



[Giving everyone a voice through Co-Design](#)



[Transforming homes at scale](#)

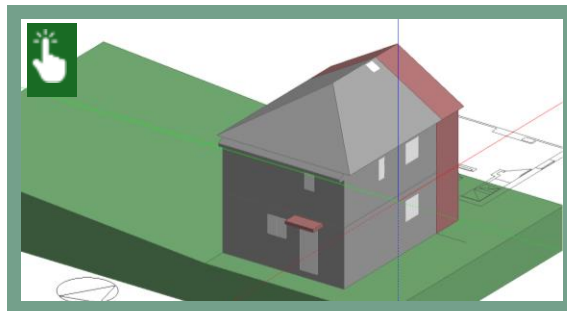
Transforming Homes blogs

[A Night at the Museum: Attending the Launch of the Tools for Transition Exhibition](#)



Join **Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo** as she takes us behind the scenes of **Tools for Transition**, an exhibition showcasing the work of the four Green Transition Ecosystems, including Transforming Homes. The Transforming Homes display highlights the urgent need to transform existing homes, the challenges within the UK housing stock, and the innovative approaches emerging from our research to create healthier, better homes. The exhibition showcases how design research is helping to address distinct challenges posed by the climate emergency.

[Transforming Homes with Dynamic Simulation Modelling: A Vital Tool for the Energy Transition](#)



In this blog, **Dr Dilek Arslan** and **Dr Emmanouil Perisoglou** explain how **dynamic simulation modelling** is helping to inform the transformation of UK homes. By testing strategies, evaluating energy performance, and optimising low-carbon heating solutions, the modelling team is turning complex data into practical insights that improve comfort, efficiency, and sustainability in 1920–1940 low-rise, council-built homes. The generated data also helps communicate findings to stakeholders and ensures that proposed solutions are technically robust and scalable.

Spotlight on...



Sanjukta Jitendhar

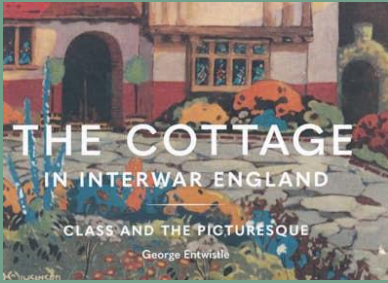
Architect,
Mikhail Riches
Co-investigator,
Transforming Homes



Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo

Research Associate,
Cardiff University,
Transforming Homes

Insights from beyond Transforming Homes



Book suggested by
Laura Brain



Living with extreme
heat: perceptions and
experiences

Article suggested by
Joel Cady



Exhibition suggested by
Veronica Albarran Carrillo

External Events of Interest

8
Oct



Treasury in Housing
Conference & Exhibition
London

16-17
Oct



Int'l Conference on
Biobased Building Materials

Int'l Conference on Biobased
Building Materials
London

22
Oct



Delivering Homes Together
National Conference
Manchester

6
Nov

BE-ST
Fest '25

BE-ST International Retrofit
Conference
Paisley

13
Nov



Greater Manchester Retrofit
Summit & Expo 2025
Manchester

25-26
Nov



HOMES UK
London

Interested in contributing our next issue? Contact Veronica
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Stay connected

