

# 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

## Engaging, Exploring, Evolving: Early 2026 Highlights

Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo, Research Associate, Cardiff University

The start of the year has marked a period of significant activity for Transforming Homes. Prof [Jo Patterson](#) participated in the National Housing Maintenance Forum ([NHMF Conference 2026](#)) plenary session 'Keeping Warm Homes Healthy: How to Avoid Unhealthy Retrofit', attended by housing providers, landlords, asset managers, maintenance practitioners and supply chain partners. The team at the [Welsh School of Architecture](#), Cardiff University, delivered a keynote at the WSA MArch Conference, sharing project insights with future generations of design and built-environment professionals.



Upcoming activities will further extend the project's reach, including an exhibition at the [Festival of Tomorrow](#) at The Deanery CE Academy in Swindon, a stakeholder workshop at the [Design Museum](#) in London — marking the consortium's first [Early Career Researcher](#)-led event — and a presentation at the 2026 [CIBSE Technical Symposium](#) at Loughborough University. Planning is also underway for this year's Transforming Homes Webinar Series, scheduled for early summer.



Alongside these engagement activities, the consortium has continued to advance a range of outputs, from the project's illustrated scrapbook to the ongoing development of the Transforming Homes Catalogue featured in this month's blog. We are exploring formats that make research insights accessible to diverse audiences.

With work on the Bristol demonstration homes having started and preparations progressing in Swansea, the project is entering a new phase that will generate valuable insights on the design solutions and the different delivery approaches, working closely with our partners at [Swansea Council](#), [Bristol City Council](#), and [WeCanMake](#).



These activities highlight the momentum of Transforming Homes. The year ahead promises further opportunities to engage stakeholders, gather insights from demonstration homes, and refine approaches, contributing to a cycle of learning and evidence-based decision-making in home transformation.

## Transforming Homes Blogs

### The Role of Design Research in developing a Transforming Homes Catalogue



Join Research Associates [Laura Brain](#) and [Joel Cady](#) as they reflect on the design research processes shaping the Transforming Homes Catalogue. They outline how research *into, for* and *through* design has enabled the team to develop a deeper understanding of these homes, their histories and the needs of the people who live in them. From archival analysis to opening up walls to investigate their current condition, Laura and Joel highlight the value of collaborative, design-led methods in tackling the complexities of housing transformation and developing scalable, transferable strategies to create homes fit for the future.

## Spotlight on...



[Dr Eleni Toumpanaki](#)

Co-investigator,  
University of Bristol,  
Transforming Homes



[Joel Cady](#)

Research Associate,  
Cardiff University,  
Transforming Homes

## Insights from beyond Transforming Homes

The Guardian

### The death of the living room:

'It's hard to invite people over – not everyone wants to sit on a bed'

by Leah Harper

HOMES FOR HEROES

RIBA  
Architecture.com



Solving the energy efficiency crisis in England's interwar suburbs

CULTURE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Webinar & Public Consultation

23 – 26 Feb 2026

Article suggested by  
Lucy McFadzean

Report suggested by  
Veronica Albarran Carrillo

Public Consultation suggested  
by Christopher Whitman

# External Events of Interest

20-21  
Feb

Transforming  
Homes @



Festival of Tomorrow  
Swindon

26  
Feb



Healthy Buildings Annual  
Conference & Expo  
London

03-05  
Mar



Futurebuild 2026  
London

11  
Mar



Housing Horizons 2026  
London

26-27  
Mar

Transforming  
Homes @



CIBSE Technical Symposium  
Loughborough

15  
Apr



Warm and Safe Homes  
Summit  
London

20-22  
Apr

Housing  
Studies  
Association



Housing Studies Association  
Annual Conference  
Sheffield

11-12  
May



International Conference on  
Bio-based Building Materials  
Amsterdam



Editors:  
Dr Veronica Albarran Carrillo and Prof Jo Patterson

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