2050: Designing Our Tomorrow (Architectural Design)

By Chris Luebkeman

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Envisioning a positive future through design

2050: Designing Our Tomorrow describes the ways in which architecture and design can engage with the key drivers of change and provide affirmative aspirations for a not-so distant future. With a focal date of 2050, this issue of AD asks when and how the design community *can*, *should*, and *must* be taking action. The discussion centres on shifts in the urban environment and an established way of life in a world of depleted natural resources and climate change. Featuring interviews with Paola Antonelli of MoMA and Tim Brown of IDEO, it includes contributions from thought leaders, such as Janine Benyus, Thomas Fisher, Daniel Kraft, Alex McDowell, Franz Oswold, and Mark Watts. High-profile designers like FutureCitiesLab, SHoP, and UrbanThinkTank, are featured as examples of forward thinking and innovation in the field, highlighting the need for — and possibility of — a shift in the global perspective. The discussion includes the challenges we face in creating a positive tomorrow, and the solutions that architecture and design can bring to the table.

Despite the proliferation of global crises possibly threatening human survival, our current moment provides the opportunity to write a new, positive story about our future. *2050: Designing Our Tomorrow* describes how the design community can contribute to that vision by asserting positive aspirations for the worlds we create ourselves.

• See how architects and designers inspire global positive change
• Consider architecture's role in shaping cultural outlook
• Learn the key drivers of change for the built environment
• Explore the perspectives of leading experts and designers

Architects and planners over the centuries have put a stamp upon the planet through the physical manifestations of their belief structures. Today's design community faces a rising wealth gap, climate change, shifting paradigms of nationalism, and myriad other challenges. *2050: Designing Our Tomorrow* phrases global issues as a design problem, and describes how architects and designers can rise to the challenge of creating a more positive future.

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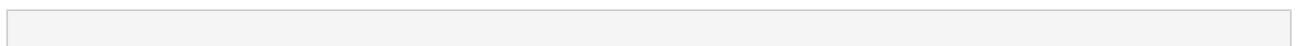
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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

What are we collectively imagining, and how might it shape our future? Each of the world's most iconic and celebrated structures was once merely the unexpressed idea of a fateful dreamer, a vision to elevate the present environment into something greater. Architects and planners over the centuries have put a stamp upon the planet through the physical manifestations of their belief structures. When we walk through the streets of Paris or Brasília, we experience the worlds envisioned years earlier by Baron Haussmann and Oscar Niemeyer. From visionaries like these, we inherit the grand tradition of dreaming up and asserting positive aspirations for the worlds we create for ourselves. There has never been a time, though, when we have been in greater need of a positive view of tomorrow. There are all too many dystopian views of the story of tomorrow and all too few which offer curious and hopeful glimpses into the world to come. Factors such as the rising wealth gap in many countries, as well as the implications of climate change, ubiquitous data acquisition, and shifting paradigms of nationalism require the input of architects and designers to inspire positive global change._Despite the proliferation of global crises possibly threatening human survival, our current moment provides the opportunity to write a new, positive story about our future. The obstacles in our way have been endlessly discussed. With a focal date of 2050, this issue of *AD* asks when and how the design community can, should and must be taking action.

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Scott Lowe:

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Becky Duncan:

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