

The urban environment is fundamental to the ebb and flow of life, for billions of people. Our lifestyles and our families, our health and our wellbeing.

And, just as the rush to our towns and cities is a defining feature of human history, the way cities are shaped, built and developed is set to define our future and that of the countless non-human species we share them with.

We work to examine how cities have developed over time, the way that the urban fabric was created and what's next for our urban environment – socially, culturally, ecologically and technologically.

We bring together design, architecture, landscape architecture, social science, the arts and more – a team built to explore important issues from a range of perspectives. To look beyond narrow, traditional confines and explore the less tangible – but no less important – aspects of the city and urban environments.

This matters – more than ever.

From population growth to climate change to global health, the urban environment is a key element to the biggest issues facing our planet.

And our work is making a vital contribution to those issues.

We're looking past the notion of cities as merely human habitats. We're working to understand the importance of darkness and different ecologies of cities. The capacity of architecture to be a living system. The materials, processes and methods that will build our future. The process of urban design and the people that drive it. We're challenging existing theories and practices to redefine the very concept of 'city'.

This is work at the cutting edge. Yet it's also work with impact in the real world, on real life. We've supported local councils and major government departments, the EU Policy Lab and the World Health Organisation. We've collaborated with bodies and businesses, with policymakers, practitioners and fellow academics. And our door is open for more.

We're offering new perspectives. New insights and new ideas. New opportunities to change the world.