



## Chatham House and London Design Biennale announce **Design Resonance in an Age of Crisis**

A new strategic initiative calling for radical design ideas in the face of international crisis

**1 June 2020, London, UK** - London Design Biennale and Chatham House today announce **Design Resonance in an Age of Crisis**, which calls for action by designers around the world to create radical design solutions to critical problems across four key areas: Health, Environment, Society and Work.

Over fifty international designers, academics, entrepreneurs and business leaders will work in four steering groups to create briefs which will be published via an online portal on 1 July 2020, with a deadline for responses on 31 July. Centred on the theme of **Design Resonance in an Age of Crisis**, these virtual round table discussions will create a unique open call inviting submissions from the world's design community and members of the public. From established practices to budding young designers from across all disciplines, the partnership will seek radical and rapid responses to problems facing humanity, today and tomorrow.

During June, Chatham House and London Design Biennale will convene leaders, professionals, academic experts, and eminent designers. The four groups will be co-chaired by Alice Rawsthorn, Design Critic and Author, and Kara Hanson, Professor of Health System Economics, LSHTM (Health); Lisa Witter, Co-Founder & Executive Chair, Apolitical, and Ben Terrett, CEO Public Digital (Society); Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, and Keith Priest, Architect and Co-Founder, Fletcher Priest (Environment); Lucy Parker, Senior Partner, Brunswick Group, and Professor Jeremy Myerson, Helen Hamlyn Professor of Design, RCA (Work).

The steering groups will evaluate all submissions and create a shortlist of the most ground-breaking concepts this Summer. These will be published and exhibited by Chatham House and London Design Biennale online from September 2020, leading up to the London Design Biennale exhibition at Somerset House, June 2021.

**Sir John Sorrell CBE, President, London Design Biennale**, said: *"During times of adversity, creativity always shines through. This new major partnership will show how designers all over the world are constantly creating ideas that can help solve some of the critical problems facing humanity. I am excited to see the responses from the world's design community."*

Dr Robin Niblett CMG, Chatham House, said: *“The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of our societies, economy, and global connectivity in highly disruptive and tragic ways. But it has also presented an opportunity for pause, reflection and a chance to rebuild better and work smarter. Through this partnership, we will harness the best creative thinking about a more sustainable and equitable future and work to match these ideas with policy pathways to make them reality.”*

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For further information on London Design Biennale, please contact: Brunswick Arts | Annabel Hoyng - van der Meijden / Charlotte Sidwell | [ldb@brunswickgroup.com](mailto:ldb@brunswickgroup.com) or +44 7834 502346

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[www.londondesignbiennale.com](http://www.londondesignbiennale.com)

- Twitter: @londonbiennale
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#### About London Design Biennale

Established in 2016 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, London Design Biennale is a prestigious biannual event and a highlight on the global cultural calendar. The 2018 Biennale welcomed the world’s most exciting and ambitious designers, innovators and cultural bodies to the capital with over 200,000 visitors to Somerset House over the three-week period. The third edition of London Design Biennale, June 2021, will be curated by Artistic Director Es Devlin. Taking over the entirety of Somerset House, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court and River Terrace, participants will respond to the theme, Resonance.

London Design Biennale's International Advisory Committee and Jury includes: Ms Paola Antonelli, Ms Victoria Broackes, Mr Aric Chen, Es Devlin, Ms Nipa Doshi, Mr Ben Evans CBE, James Lingwood MBE, Professor Jeremy Myerson, Jonathan Reekie CBE, Dr. Christopher Turner, Ms Suhair Khan, Sir John Sorrell CBE, Ms Marva Griffin Wilshire and Mr Waldick Jatoba.

#### About Chatham House

Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is an independent and world-leading policy institute. Founded in 1920, its mission is to help governments and societies build a sustainably secure, prosperous and sustainable world.

From its foundation in the aftermath of the First World War to the start of its second century in 2020, the story of Chatham House is one of bringing people together with a common purpose to help shape a safer and fairer world. Today, it also seeks to empower the next generation to take forward their own ideas for a better future. This partnership with the London Design Biennale – enabled by the Chatham House-SNF CoLab – is a major initiative in delivering these goals.