



**The World Around and MoMA present a global convening of the voices defining the future of architecture at
The World Around Summit 2026—May 9, 2026**

The World Around’s annual flagship program returns to NYC with presentations from Alejandro Aravena, Tatiana Bilbao, Piet Oudolf, Søren Pihlmann, Sara Zewde, and more.

New York City, NY — April 28, 2026

The World Around, the global platform for architecture and design, and The Museum of Modern Art announce the international lineup for **The World Around Summit 2026**, an all-day program of presentations, panel discussions, and original videos highlighting the multidisciplinary voices at the forefront of “Architecture’s Now, Near & Next”.

Summit 2026 will take place on Saturday, May 9, from 11am to 6pm at The Museum of Modern Art. The program is co-organized by Beatrice Galilee, founder and executive director of The World Around, and Martino Stierli, Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture and Design at The Museum of Modern Art, marking the second collaboration between the two institutions.

Since its 2020 debut, The World Around’s annual Summit has brought together the most compelling projects completed around the world in the past year, creating an international platform for the innovators shaping the present and defining the future of architectural practice. Organized around three themes—Landscapes, Cultural Heritage, and Housing—Summit 2026 will explore how architects are confronting the environmental and social conditions that define our time.

Highlights from the program include three new videos commissioned by The World Around, exploring recent projects by Piet Oudolf, the celebrated Dutch garden designer who brought his distinct vision to the Calder Gardens in Philadelphia, and Danish architect Søren Pihlmann,

whose practice's renovation of a 1960s Copenhagen factory at Thoravej 29 demonstrates a radically conservative model of structural reuse. The day will also feature a presentation from Mohamed Salem Mohamed Ali, a permaculture designer and the Young Climate Visionary winner from Cycle 02 of The World Around's Young Climate Prize. Ali will share the improbable story of his Nomad Garden, an experimental farm he started in the Smara Sahrawi refugee camp, located in the Algerian Sahara—one of the driest places on Earth—to address water scarcity and food insecurity within his community.

The program will conclude with a major panel on mass housing, convening some of the most influential architects addressing the future of accommodating urban populations today. The discussion is conceived as an opportunity to bring the specific and grounded expertise of architects into the public sphere—offering concrete models, lessons, and policy-relevant ideas that could meaningfully contribute to NYC's housing agenda. The conversation will be moderated by Michael Kimmelman, architecture critic for The New York Times, and joined by Leila Bozorg, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Planning in New York City. Throughout her tenure in public service, Bozorg has played a central role in landmark initiatives including the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity zoning reform, public housing preservation efforts leveraging billions in public and private investment, creating the City's first comprehensive fair housing plan, and designing innovative housing finance and development programs.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Alejandro Aravena, *Executive Director, Elemental (Santiago, Chile)*
- Tatiana Bilbao, *Founder, Tatiana Bilbao Estudio (Mexico City, Mexico)*
- Gabriela Carrillo, *Founder, Colectivo C733 (Mexico City, Mexico)*
- Marie Combette & Daniel Moreno Flores, *Founders, La Cabina de la Curiosidad (Quito, Ecuador)*
- François-Xavier Gbré, *Photographer (Abidjan, Ivory Coast/Lille, France)*
- Roísín Heneghan, *Founder, Heneghan Peng Architects (Dublin, Ireland)*
- Mariam Issoufou, *Founder and Principal, Mariam Issoufou Architects (Niamey, Niger/New York City, USA)*
- Nguyễn Hải Long & Trần Thị Ngụ Ngôn, *Founders, Tropical Space (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)*
- Piet Oudolf, *Garden Designer (Hummelo, Netherlands)*
- Søren Pihlmann, *Founder, Pihlmann Architects (Copenhagen, Denmark)*
- Bas Smets, *Founder, Bureau Bas Smets (Brussels, Belgium)*
- Peggy Weil, *Artist and Designer (Los Angeles, USA)*
- Sara Zewde, *Founding Principal, Studio Zewde (New York City, USA)*
- Mohamed Salem Mohamed Ali, *Permaculture Designer and The World Around Young Climate Prize winner (Smara Camp, Tindouf Province, Algeria)*

[Download Images and Bios](#)

“The World Around strongly believes that architecture and architects should be the center of the cultural, social, and ecological questions shaping our time. This year’s program highlights issues of cultural heritage, landscapes, and the future of housing and shows how the very best designers today are working to create a more equitable and verdant world.

I am especially proud to be working with the exceptional team at MoMA to bring this event to life, and to ensure it is free and accessible to all. A conversation on the future of our built and natural environment belongs in the public sphere, and it is fitting to host it in the heart of New York, in one of the world’s great cultural institutions.”

—Beatrice Galilee, Founder and Executive Director, The World Around

Ticketing Information

[Registration for Summit 2026](#) is free. Seats are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis to registered ticketholders. The World Around Circles members receive reserved VIP seating, as well as tickets to the afterparty. More information about Circles membership can be found on [The World Around website](#).

As part of The World Around’s mission to make the best ideas in architecture and design accessible to all, those unable to attend the Summit in person can also [register for the livestream](#). The full program recording will be uploaded to The World Around’s website following the program.

Summit 2026 is co-presented by The World Around and The Museum of Modern Art. The World Around is supported by its Global Cultural Partner the Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain, and its Partners UniFor & Molteni&C and Fisher & Paykel. The World Around is grateful to its Supporter the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

Notes to Editors

About The World Around

The World Around is the global platform for architecture and design, championing the visionary ideas and voices that shape our cities, planet, and future. Led by curator and critic Beatrice Galilee and founded as a nonprofit in New York City in 2020, The World Around's mission is to advance the outstanding practices, people, and solutions that can build a more equitable and regenerative world. Often working in collaborative partnership with cultural institutions and likeminded organizations, The World Around's output includes: Programs, offering cutting edge, global and interdisciplinary perspectives; Initiatives, including its flagship Young Climate Prize; Insights, published interviews and exclusive Dispatches that synthesize the research and perspectives of its global network; and its online platform, including an extensive Archive of original talks, interviews, and presentations, making the latest work and new ideas of the world's remarkable practitioners accessible to all.

theworldaround.com | [@theworldaround](https://twitter.com/theworldaround)

About the Young Climate Prize

The Young Climate Prize is a mentorship and award initiative that supports global leaders under the age of 25 who are living and working on the front lines of the climate crisis. These young innovators are delivering immediate, locally grounded, and scalable climate solutions through self-initiated projects rooted in community, proven in real-world conditions, and designed for adaptation across regions. Since its launch in 2022, the program has supported 50 young innovators from 35 countries, working on solutions ranging from waste management and alternative fuel sources, to material innovation and birdwatching.

youngclimateprize.org | [@youngclimateprize](https://twitter.com/youngclimateprize)

About The Museum of Modern Art

The Museum of Modern Art connects people from around the world to the art of our time. We aspire to be a catalyst for experimentation, learning, and creativity, a gathering place for all, and a home for artists and their ideas.

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