

ANNUAL
DINNER
2025



THE
WORLD
AROUND

WELCOME

On behalf of The World Around's Board of Directors, it is a pleasure to welcome you to our third Annual Dinner at the Refinery at Domino.

Since last year, our organization has made significant strides. We are honored to have welcomed two extraordinary new leaders to our board, Mariam Issoufou and Wendy Fisher, whose visionary work in architecture, philanthropy, environmental advocacy, and culture inspires us all.

With an expanded budget and a 50% increase in programming and global reach, our core initiatives are achieving new levels of visibility and impact worldwide.

In the past year, we launched our new website, introduced our "On Site" program at the Venice Architecture Biennale, and saw record attendance during our Annual Summit at the Museum of Modern Art, presented our debut public commission in Times Square, and opened our first exhibition in Kentucky. During Summit 2025, we held the second Young Climate Prize awards ceremony, celebrating a new generation of creative leaders at the forefront of climate action. We visited Paris and Marfa, Texas, and launched "Insights," an editorial series for our new website. We are grateful to our community of supporters, gathered here tonight, who have been instrumental in building the momentum we feel across our global network.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are proud to collaborate with the Hammer Museum on a program co-curated with the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain. We will launch the third cycle of the Young Climate Prize and our Annual Summit will return to New York City.

As we look to the future, this evening marks a meaningful milestone in our shared journey. Together with our community of laureates, architects, and partners, we remain committed to championing the role of design in shaping a sustainable and equitable world.

Beatrice Galilee
Founder, Executive Director
The World Around

EVENING PROGRAM

6PM **COCKTAILS & PASSED
HORS D'OEUVRES**

7PM **CONVERSATION:
*ON WATER***

**PAOLA ANTONELLI &
ALICE RAWSTHORN
DESIGN EMERGENCY
YVES BEHAR
FUSEPROJECT
SHOHEI SHIGEMATSU
OMA NEW YORK
JOSHUA ICHOR
YOUNG CLIMATE PRIZE**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH
BEATRICE GALILEE
THE WORLD AROUND**

8PM **SEATED DINNER**

9PM **YOUNG CLIMATE PRIZE
PRESENTATION**

**MOHAMED SALEM
MOHAMED ALI
YOUNG CLIMATE PRIZE**

IN CONVERSATION: ON WATER

In water, climate change finds a profound and wide range of expression. Whether supply is too much, too little, in the wrong place, or unsafe—this essential resource has become a pressing, global concern.

The work of tonight's honorees and panelists offers a path to a more sustainable relationship with water. With Design Emergency, their joint project, podcast, and social movement, Paola Antonelli and Alice Rawsthorn remind us that if design has contributed to some of the world's most pressing environmental issues—in the form of poor urban planning and resource consumption—it can also lead us to the solutions. Providing a platform to the designers driving positive change, their podcast has become a guiding light in the global conversation on environmentalism in design, foregrounding perspectives and topics that are often neglected. The transformative potential of design is central to OMA partner Shohei Shigematsu's master plan for the Reefline: an underwater sculpture park and artificial coral reef off the coast of Miami Beach that aims to raise awareness on the importance of coastal ecosystems. Following last month's announcement that mass coral die-off has pushed the Earth past its first climate tipping point, the project could not come sooner. To Yves Behar, the power of design resides in its ability to meet technology with humanity. With his studio Fuseproject, the renowned product designer has established a reputation for taking groundbreaking innovation and using design to make it accessible to a wider portion of society. And in sub-Saharan Africa—where lack of access to safe drinking water presents the most significant health risk—our Young Climate Prize alumnus Joshua Ichor is doing just that, leveraging innovation to bring clean, reliable water to underserved communities.

As a coastal city formed of islands, New York is inherently vulnerable to the impacts of the water crisis. Throughout tonight's conversation, we invite you to reflect on the powerful role that water holds in each of our lives—and the role of design in how we share, protect, and relate to this vital resource.

PAOLA ANTONELLI

CURATOR



@paolantonelli
@design.emergency

Paola Antonelli is senior curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art, and the museum's founding director of research and development. Her work considers various design practices within a multidisciplinary framework, highlighting its connections with technology, society, and the environment. Antonelli produces MoMA R&D Salons, a renowned public series that demonstrates the potential of museums as R&D departments for society.

ALICE RAWSTHORN

CRITIC



@alice.rawsthorn
@design.emergency

Alice Rawsthorn is an award-winning design critic and author, whose books include *Design as an Attitude* (JRP Ringier, 2018), *Hello World: Where Design Meets Life* (Hamish Hamilton, 2013), and *Design Emergency: Building a Better Future* (Phaidon, 2022), co-written with Paola Antonelli, senior curator of design at MoMA, New York. Rawsthorn's weekly design column for The New York Times was syndicated worldwide for over a decade.

Rawsthorn and Antonelli are co-founders of the Design Emergency platform and podcast.

YVES BEHAR

DESIGNER



@yvesbehar
@fuseprojectsf

In 1999, industrial designer Yves Behar founded Fuseproject, an award-winning, international multidisciplinary design studio. As CEO and creative lead, Behar works with brands like Herman Miller, Samsung, L'Oréal, Puma, SodaStream, and Prada. He has also co-founded start-ups including August Home, Canopy Space, and FORME Life. Behar's work is presented in permanent museum collections worldwide and he speaks frequently on topics including design, technology, and sustainability.

SHOHEI SHIGEMATSU

ARCHITECT



@shohei_shigematsu
@omanewyork

OMA partner Shohei Shigematsu has been a driving force behind a diverse portfolio of global projects for over a decade. His completed works include the Audrey Irmas Pavilion, the Buffalo AKG Art Museum's renovation and expansion, and the Toranomom Hills Station Tower. His expansion to the New Museum in New York City is currently under construction. Shigematsu is the lead architect of The Reefline, a new underwater public sculpture park and hybrid reef off the coast of Miami Beach.

JOSHUA ICHOR

ENTREPRENEUR



@joshuaichor
@geotek_water

Young Climate Prize alum Joshua Ichor is globally recognized for his work in sustainable water innovation across sub-Saharan Africa. A trained hydrologist and the founder of Geotek Water Solutions, Ichor has led the development of democratized systems to combat water poverty in conflict-affected and underserved communities. Since launching Geotek in 2021, these initiatives have restored water access to over 100,000 people across Nigeria and the Sahel. His mission is profoundly personal, driven by his early experience of waterborne illness.

BEATRICE GALILEE

THE WORLD AROUND



@beatricegalilee
@theworldaround

Beatrice Galilee is the founder and executive director of The World Around. She is the author of *Radical Architecture of the Future* (Phaidon, 2021) and served as the first curator of contemporary architecture and design at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Galilee was chief curator of the 2013 Lisbon Architecture Triennale, and co-curator of the 2011 Gwangju Design Biennale and the 2009 Shenzhen Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism.

MOHAMED SALEM MOHAMED ALI

PERMACULTURE DESIGNER



@mohamed_salem_
mohamed_ali

Mohamed Salem Mohamed Ali is the Young Climate Visionary award winner of Young Climate Prize Cycle 02. A Sahrawi farmer, artist, and environmental practitioner, his work connects caring for the land, creativity, and helping his community stay strong. In 2018, he started a special garden in the very tough conditions of Algeria's Hamada desert. Growing food there is hard, but his garden is more than that: "a sculpture in the middle of the desert," making it a living artwork. This garden is his way of fighting climate change and the pain of being forced to leave home, using imagination as his tool. world, even in the hardest places.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo: Sebastián López Brach

Marking the fifth year of our organization, 2025 has been a year of exciting firsts for The World Around.

WINTER

The year began with the opening of *Life On Earth*—our first physical exhibition—which charted the evolving relationship between design and the planet at the University of Kentucky. The reception was immense, with students and faculty members from across the university’s design departments filling out the college auditorium for commemorative lectures from The World Around founding director Beatrice Galilee, and McKenna Dunbar, an inspirational energy justice organizer from Cycle 02 of our Young Climate Prize.

As Valentine’s Day approached, we unveiled our debut public art curation in Times Square, partnering with Times Square Arts for the 17th edition of its annual Love & Design Competition. Pernilla Ohrstedt’s winning proposal—a technicolored cube composed of 40 recycled oyster cages—engaged both with New York’s material histories and its

ecological future in a powerful collaboration with the Billion Oyster Project, a nonprofit on a mission to restore oyster reefs to New York Harbor. By March, the cages had been donated to the Billion Oyster Project and deployed around the city's coastline to defend against storm damage and rising flood risk.



Photo: Naho Kubota. Courtesy of Pernilla Ohrstedt Studio

SPRING

At the end of April, commemorating the start of an exciting new institutional partnership, our flagship Annual Summit came to the Museum of Modern Art, convening speakers from around the world to highlight the most groundbreaking projects and ideas from the past year. Curated with MoMA's Emilio Ambasz Institute for the Joint Study of the Built and Natural Environment, the day-long program amplified voices from Korea, Morocco, Puerto Rico, Senegal, and Thailand among many others, as well as the four winners of our Young Climate Prize Cycle 02, who each presented their extraordinary climate action initiatives to a full theater. The Summit was livestreamed to an international audience of thousands, and—as with all our programs—the presentation videos will remain available as a free resource on The World Around website (more on that later).



Courtesy of Douglas Cardinal

SUMMER

For the vernissage days of the Venice Architecture Biennale, The World Around partnered with SMAC San Marco Art Center for the debut event in our new On Site series, which offers insight from the centers of architecture and design innovation through our eyes on the ground. Bringing together the Biennale's most exciting contributors and critics, the panel generated an animated discussion, packed with insider takes on the show ahead of its official opening. We were gratified to see so many contributors from The World Around Community represented across the exhibition.



FALL

As crowds filled New York City for Climate Week, trailblazers from the first cycle of our Young Climate Prize took the stage at the Climate Film Festival to discuss the power of narration in mobilizing climate action. Later in the week, acclaimed architect and The World Around board member Mariam Issoufou hosted a climatic design workshop for Young Climate Prize alumni and a group of aspiring architects at her NYC studio.



Courtesy of CG Foisy

Finally, in October, we launched our new (and very much improved) website, complete with a designated space for our new editorial platform, Insights, and a directory of all the Community members who have joined us on our journey to date. The redesign not only enables us to share the full breadth of our programming in one place, but gives us room to grow—all of which is made possible by your support.

So, thank you for being part of an extraordinary year at The World Around. Come visit us at our new online home—we can't wait to share more of what we're up to.



↑ TITUS THEATER 1

THE WORLD AROUND

**“Congratulations to Beatrice
and the entire team at The World
Around on a year of remarkable
achievements.”**

**Adam Flatto,
Chairman, The World Around**

YOUNG CLIMATE PRIZE



Young Climate Prize Cycle 02 winner Blossom Eromosele presenting at The World Around Summit 2025.

The Young Climate Prize is The World Around's award and mentorship program for young climate leaders. The prize materialized from a belief that those who were born into the climate crisis—and who bear the least responsibility for it—would benefit from support in using design to overcome this emergency on multiple fronts. It is our mission to use education, community-building, networks, and training to transfer the knowledge, tools, strategies, and connections that can help bring that vision to life.

This biennial program pairs 25 young people under the age of 25 with a mentor from our international design community, often former speakers or sustainability experts, whose expertise and experience will help them accelerate the impact of their projects.

Finalists' projects in the most recent cycle ranged from building school desks using recycled ocean waste in Kenya, to training incarcerated people in energy transition jobs in

the US; creating sustainable agriculture in a refugee camp in the Algerian desert, to protecting Bolivia's Lake Uru Uru with Indigenous knowledge.

At the end of the program, four winners—our Young Climate Designer, Young Climate Voice, Young Climate Visionary, and Jury Prize honoree—were flown to New York City to present their work and share their stories with our global audience at The World Around Summit 2025.

This is the generation designing the change. Find out more about their projects—or nominate a young climate leader for our next program cycle—at youngclimateprize.org.



Mentor Brendan McGetrick (center-right) joins Cycle 02 Young Climate Visionary Mohamed Salem Mohamed Ali (center-left) at his home in the Smara refugee camp, Algeria. Photo courtesy of CG Foisy

OUR YEAR AHEAD

Following an expansive year for The World Around and our partner organizations, our 2026 calendar is filling-up fast and we cannot wait for what's to come.

Throughout the year, we'll be hosting private events, studio tours, and dinners for our Circle Members. For all these exclusive benefits and more, join our Circles and support our mission.



Photo: Iwan Baan. Courtesy of Hammer Museum

In February, The World Around will travel to Los Angeles for In Focus: Transformation, a program exploring how designers, thinkers, and makers contend with a world in flux. Bringing together global leaders in architecture and design, the program will survey how the world is changing today—and where designers can find agency within it. The program is curated with our Global Cultural Partner, the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, and presented by LA's Hammer Museum. We'll be sharing more event details, our full lineup, and links to tickets soon. For now, save the date: Saturday, February 21!

Meanwhile, production will continue on *Young Climate Stories*, a documentary series that follows the young people at the forefront of climate action, made possible by our Young Climate Prize Design Partner, MillerKnoll. Each short film in the series centers a different participant from our Young Climate Prize, bringing into focus the varied yet interrelated impacts of the climate crisis around the world, and the young climate leaders rethinking what's possible for their communities, and the planet.

On Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, we'll open applications for the third cycle of the Young Climate Prize. The next cohort of 25 under-25s will then be announced at the end of the year.

In May, we'll be returning to MoMA for a second year with our acclaimed Annual Summit. Now a staple in the New York cultural calendar, this daylong program of talks and conversations will convene the most exciting names in architecture, design, and environmental fields to explore architecture's 'Now, Near, and Next', highlighting powerful projects and ideas from the past year.



Dayana Blanco Quiroga, our Young Climate Prize Cycle 02 Jury Prize honoree, gathers *titora*: the reed she and her team are using to restore the polluted Lake Uru Uru in Bolivia. Photo courtesy of CG Foisy

PARLEY × THE WORLD AROUND



Parley Ocean Plastic® is a versatile textile made from marine plastic debris.
Photo courtesy of Parley.

Parley for the Oceans is a global environmental organization and network that addresses the major threats facing our oceans through creativity, collaboration, and innovation. Through the Parley AIR strategy (Avoid, Intercept, Redesign), the organization works with communities, companies, and creators worldwide to reduce plastic pollution, protect marine environments, and inspire new ways of thinking and making. At the heart of this approach is Parley Ocean Plastic®: a range of premium materials created from upcycled plastic intercepted in areas where mismanaged waste poses a threat to marine life and coastal communities.

In dialogue with the dinner's theme of On Water, Parley has collaborated with The World Around to give tactility to the invisible problem of marine plastic pollution. Parley Ocean Plastic® has been used to craft tablecloths and curtains for the dinner, furnishing the space with plastic that once threatened our oceans. The material becomes more than decoration: it is a storytelling medium, a reminder of the urgency of protecting our waters, and a call to reimagine what our future can be. Celebrating the intersection of architecture, design, and ecology, the collaboration is an invitation to see materials as active participants in a larger narrative—one where the choices we make in what we design, produce, and use can either contribute to destruction, or lead toward a better tomorrow.

PAU



TWA

SUPPORT OUR WORK



Photo courtesy of Nieuwe Instituut

The World Around is a 501(c)(3) registered charity.

Our work is made possible thanks to the support of our generous and engaged community. By joining our circles—as either an individual or a company—you ensure that our public programs including our Annual Summit and our educational initiatives including Young Climate Prize can continue.

Circle members receive year-round invitations to private screenings, openings and studio visits. Give to The World Around and become part of a global network of forward-thinking creatives.

[LEARN MORE](#)

THANK YOU

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Wendy Fisher

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Audemars Piguet
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WHY Museums

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