

**Urban Design Group**

**Annual Report and Accounts 2025**

# **Urban Design Group: Annual Report 2025**

## **Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 July 2025**

**Address:** 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

**Charity Number:** 326123

**Trustees as at 31 July 2025:** Janet Tibbalds Marcus Wilshire

### *Statement of trustees' responsibilities:*

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its incoming resources and resources expended during that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the activities of the charity will continue
- Confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In the course of the year, the trustees produced a report on conflicts of interest and member behaviour, leading to the adoption of an updated constitution. It is expected that in the coming year, the Urban Design Group will progress from being an unincorporated charity into a charitable incorporated organisation.

### **Constitution**

The Urban Design Group is governed by a constitution approved at a Special General Meeting held on 26 April 2023. It is based on the Charity Commission SG3 model constitution for unincorporated charities.

### **Transition of Urban Design Group from Unincorporated Charity to Charitable Organisation**

The Annual Report and Accounts cover the 17 month period between 1 March 2024 and 31 July 2025, marking the transfer of all activities, assets, creditors, debtors and contractual obligations from Urban Design Group Unincorporated Charity 326123 to the Urban Design Group Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1211478 commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

## Executive Committee 2024-2025

The UDG Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the UDG.

Members as at 31 July 2025 were:

### Elected:

Paul Reynolds (Chair)	Husam AlWaer
Hannah Smart (Honorary Secretary)	Leo Hammond
Louise Thomas (Treasurer)	Lucy Fineberg
Katja Stille (Past Chair)	Naïke Zambotti
Amanda Reynolds	Rob Thompson
Ana McMillin	Scott Adams

### Patrons

Alan Baxter	Roger Evans
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## Performance & Achievements

*The year 2023-2025 efforts were made to re-establish activities in the post-pandemic era, with sustained efforts by the membership, Executive Committee, Editorial Board, and staff.*

### Membership

Category	July 2025	Feb 2024	Feb 2023	Nov 2022	Mar-2021	Mar-2020	Mar-2019	Aug-2017	May 2015	Jun-2013	Jun-2011
Standard Individual (UK)	508	562	550	531	539	523	548	582	633	647	714
Standard Individual (International)	65	80	47	67	72	66	66	80	81	81	79
Recognised Practitioner All nations	320	218	202	203	173	154	122	112	104	88	63
Concession All nations	139	185	165	163	160	139	153	155	158	175	192
Practice (UK)	137	148	149	151	138	138	128	118	120	128	135
Practice (International)	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	4	5	6	7
Local Authority	56	57	53	52	42	42	33	25	25	36	36
University	4	4	4	1	12	12	11	16	19	15	14
Library (UK)	25	28	29	29	29	31	34	41	42	44	41
Library (International)	31	32	24	30	31	35	43	46	42	42	39
Sub-total	1288	1317	1224	1230	1198	1142	1140	1179	1229	1262	1320
Newsletter only	3724	3029	2839	2660	1909	1451	1380	1131	926	675	476
Totals	5012	4346	4063	3890	3107	2593	2520	2310	2155	1937	1796
Design Officers Network	240										

## Urban Design Journal

*Urban Design* is directed and managed by the UDG Editorial Board. The membership of the Editorial Board for 2024-25 comprised:

Louise Thomas (editor)  
Jane Manning (editor elect)  
Sebastian Loew (editor emeritus)

Patricia Aelbrecht  
Matthew Carmona

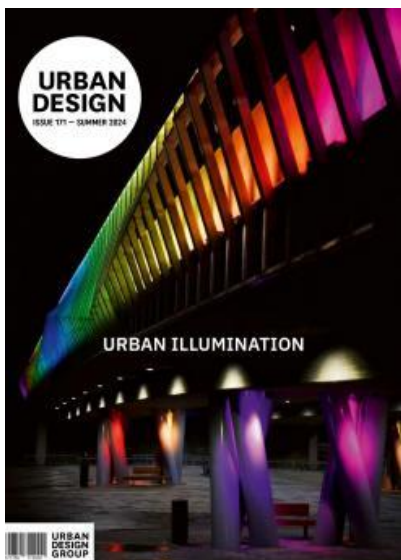
Richard Cole  
Richard Crappsley  
Tim Hagyard  
Joe Holyoak  
Krystallia Kamvasinou  
Daniela Lucchese

Chris Martin  
Geoff Noble  
Judith Ryser  
Todd Strehlow

Sebastian Loew retired during the course of the period, as editor following many years of dedicated service.

Over the past year a number of high-quality contributions were received on a variety of topics, occasionally fairly controversial. The Editorial Board always welcomes these and encourages members to make contact if there is an issue that they would like to share with others.

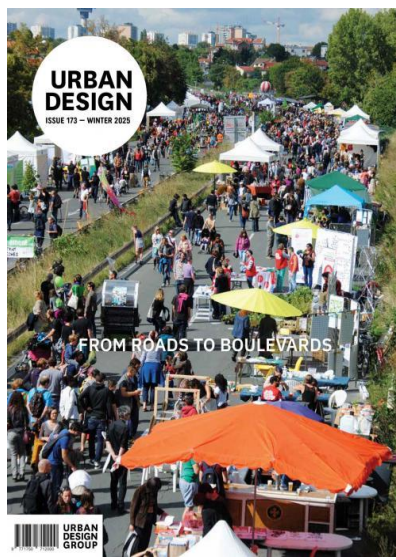
The editions of *Urban Design* published were:



171 – Urban Illumination - Sharon Stammers & Martin Lupton, guest topic editors



172 – Making Vibrant Places - Martyn Saunders, guest topic editor



173 From Roads to Boulevards - Paul Lecroart, guest topic editor



174 – India - Vinita Dhume, guest topic editor



175 – Community-led Urbanism - Paul Reynolds, guest topic editor

## Events

The UDG continued its programme of events, where possible, working in partnership with other organisations.

### National Urban Design Conference 2024

The conference was held in Plymouth over 2 ½ days, under the theme of Towards a New Urban Renaissance, marking the 25th anniversary of the report. Attendance was in excess of 160. The Urban Design Group is grateful for the leadership and hard work of Martin Ivatt, and Niki Read of Plymouth City Council in the organisation of the conference.



UDG Chair Paul Reynolds



The conference stage of the Theatre Royal, Plymouth.





*Plymouth city centre public realm works – tour led by Martin Ivatt*

### **Design Officers Network**

The Network continued to be convened, to provide a safe space for anyone involved in design in the public or not-for profit sector to share views, ideas, concerns and latest intelligence. Leo Hammond took over the role of convenor from Lisa Richards.

### **General Events**

Online and in person events included

- Community Led Urbanism
- Rhythms of Brazilian Cities - An introduction to Brazilian urbanism
- Mohenjo Daro and Ancient cities of the Indus valley and India
- The Future of Council Housing
- Make it Happen 2025! - Housing - Regeneration - Active-Design - SuDS and more. – 1 day conference held in Nottingham in partnership with RIBA & RTPI East Midlands.
- New perspectives on walking and wheeling in the city
- UDG at Building New Communities Conference 2025
- Designing Child Friendly Neighbourhoods
- Utrecht Nearby - the Ten Minute City
- Understanding the 20-Minute Neighbourhood
- Creating better places through vision-led transport planning
- Porto City: Renaissance, Renewal and Reinvention
- Research Handbook on Urban Design - A Book Launch and Discussion
- Speakeasy and Book Launch: Meet Laura Alvarez and Rob Cowan
- Lunchtime Consultation Seminar: Policy for Brownfield Development
- Property: A Lunchtime Talk with Rowan Moore, Architecture Critic, Observer
- UDG at FutureBuild
- Applied Urban Design - Book Launch
- How high-quality housing can be delivered in less well-off areas
- UDG Film Night - The White Flats - Designed for Children
- Design Codes - An International Comparison

- Designing for social interaction in high-density housing
- Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean: Insights from Damascus and Aleppo
- Concrete Dreams - The Rise and Fall of Cumbernauld Town Centre
- When Driving Is Not An Option
- National Urban Design Conference 2024, Plymouth
- Better Streets to Stations
- EcoResponsive Environments - New Book Launch
- Foundation Certificate in Urban Design -supported by UDG
- Al Za'atari - urban design by refugees
- Towards a Neighbourhood Renaissance Living-well locally
- Housing Atlas: Europe - 20th Century
- Urban Design and Young Children

Many of these can be viewed on Urban Nous.

### **UrbanNous- Video on Demand**

Thanks are due to Fergus Carnegie who continues his largely voluntary work. He has recorded and packaged the UDG zoom events making them available to a global audience through the Urbannous website and Youtube channel. They are also embedded on the UDG website events archive pages and shared on the UDG Youtube channel.

This is a great resource and a tremendously valuable archive of the huge number of presentations given at the UDG over recent years.

### **Urban Update**

The UDG's weekly email newsletter Urban Update continued throughout the year, featuring latest news, research and events relating to towns, cities and urban design. Circulation was in excess of 5000.

## Financial Review

### Reserves policy

The definition of 'reserve' is: 'Income which becomes available to the Charity and is to be expended at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the Charity's objectives, but which is not yet spent, committed or designated'. This definition therefore excludes restricted funds and sums already invested in fixed assets.

The trustees have reviewed the reserves of the charity and, in view of the current financial situation, are of the opinion that they should fall no lower than a minimum of £50,000. This will provide sufficient funds to enable the charity to meet outstanding obligations.

Approved by the Trustees on 15 December 2025  
and signed on their behalf

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Marcus Wilshire, Trustee, UDG



## Summary of Accounts

	2025 17 Months	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>											
Subscriptions	170,459	126,394	114,160	115,987	98,320	113,911	108,816	96,075	113,410	100,072	114,461
Publications and Awards	17,135	12,374	8,601	10,944	31,864	7,225	46,755	8,842	10,291	40,939	6,099
Conference Fees and Sponsorship	32,204	31,229				23,916	21,026	18,975	17,163	20,213	14,246
London Events	2,899	30	381	208	331	3,488	3,010	2,456	1,040	1,912	
Study Tours & Recruitment Services	17,925	7,850	18,550	19,500	2750	23,557	46,758	41,170	45,599		
Donation				18,779						26,102	13,963
Activities to Generate Funds											
Interest Received	1,964	930	202	85	86	85	85	32	315	338	373
Inland Revenue: Gift Aid										(3,600)	4,216
Miscellaneous Income	3,918	1,500	70		750		5,638	703		-	458
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	246,504	180,307	141,964	165,503	140,293	172,182	232,088	168,253	187,818	185,976	153,816
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>											
Charitable Expenditure											
Publications & Awards	72,854	44,269	40,231	45,836	41,717	42,425	63,953	36,584	38,193	57,846	24,110
Conference Expenditure	20,399	23,039		3,652	621	15,183	9,836	12,774	18,273	18,295	16,201
General	187,297	105,529	82,629	135,759	117,582	107,472	104,980	90,280	78,886	72,019	65,538
Study Tours Expenditure							15,300	22,284	25,296		
Development Expenditure											-
Governance costs (accountancy)	1,440	1,360	2,040	1,230	1,630	1,740	1,680	2,753	2100	1,200	1,200
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	281,990	174,197	124,900	186,477	161,550	166,820	195,749	164,675	162,748	149,360	107,049
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>	(35,486)	6,110	17,064	(20,974)	(21,257)	5,362	36,339	3,578	25,070	36,616	46,767
<b>PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT</b>	32,168										
<b>FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	228,642	222,532	205,468	226,442	247,699	242,337	205,998	202,420	177,350	140,734	93,967
<b>FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</b>	225,324	228,642	222,532	205,468	226,442	247,699	242,337	205,998	202,420	177,350	140,734
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	227,469	263,923	18,144	252,711	268,244	276,382	257,188	218,879	220,890	182,418	188,044
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	2,146	35,282	204,388	47,244	41,803	28,684	14,852	12,881	18,471	5,069	47,271
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	225,324	228,642	222,532	205,468	226,442	247,699	242,337	205,998	202,420	177,350	140,733

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF URBAN DESIGN GROUP**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Urban Design Group**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Urban Design Group (the Group) for the period ended 31 July 2025.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Group you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Thurburn  
Andrew Thurburn & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
38 Tamworth Road  
Croydon  
Surrey CR0 1XU

15 December 2025

**URBAN DESIGN GROUP**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE 17 MONTHS ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Period Ended 31/7/25 Totals £	Year Ended 29/2/24 Totals £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities					
Subscriptions		170,459	-	170,459	126,394
Publications & Awards	2	17,135	-	17,135	12,374
London Events		2,899	-	2,899	30
Conference Income		32,204	-	32,204	31,229
Recruitment Services		17,925	-	17,925	7,850
Miscellaneous Income		3,918	-	3,918	1,500
Activities to Generate Funds					
Interest Received		1,964	-	1,964	930
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>246,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>246,504</u>	<u>180,307</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable Expenditure					
Publications & Awards	3	72,854	-	72,854	44,269
General	4	187,297	-	187,297	105,529
Conference Expenditure		20,399	-	20,399	23,039
Governance Costs	5	1,440	-	1,440	1,360
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u>281,990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281,990</u>	<u>174,197</u>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>		(35,486)	-	(35,486)	6,110
<b>PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT</b>	12	32,168	-	32,168	-
<b>FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<u>210,498</u>	<u>18,144</u>	<u>228,642</u>	<u>222,532</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>£207,180</u>	<u>£18,144</u>	<u>£225,324</u>	<u>£228,642</u>

**URBAN DESIGN GROUP  
BALANCE SHEET  
AT 31 JULY 2025**

	31/7/25	29/2/24
	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b> (Note 6)	1	1
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank	225,875	249,110
Cash Float	104	310
Debtors (Note 7)	1,490	14,503
	<u>227,469</u>	<u>263,923</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors Falling Due Within One Year (Note 8)	<u>2,146</u>	<u>35,282</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>225,323</u>	<u>228,641</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>£ 225,324</u>	<u>£ 228,642</u>
Represented by:		
<b>ACCUMULATED RESERVES</b>		
Restricted Funds (Note 11)	18,144	18,144
Unrestricted Funds	207,180	210,498
	<u>£ 225,324</u>	<u>£ 228,642</u>

Approved by the Trustees on ..... 15 December 2025  
and signed on their behalf

.....  
Janet Tibbalds

.....  
Louise Thomas, Treasurer, UDG

**URBAN DESIGN GROUP  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE 17 MONTHS ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*(i) Accounting Convention*

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

*(ii) Depreciation*

Equipment is depreciated at 25% on a straight line basis.

*(iii) Incoming Resources*

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Subscriptions are recognised when due and not when received.

*(iv) Resources Expended*

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

*(v) Taxation*

The Charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**2. PUBLICATIONS INCOME**

	<b>Period Ended 31/7/25 £</b>	<b>Year Ended 29/2/24 £</b>
Sales of Journal	12,735	7,274
Journal Sponsorship	3,100	2,700
Urban Design Awards & Events Sponsorship	1,300	2,400
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 17,135	£ 12,374
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**3. PUBLICATIONS EXPENDITURE**

Journal Production & Printing	69,709	44,245
Urban Design Awards	-	24
Urban Design Directory	3,145	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 72,854	£ 44,269
	<hr/>	<hr/>



**URBAN DESIGN GROUP  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE 17 MONTHS ENDED 31 JULY 2025  
(Contd)**

	<b>Period Ended 31/7/25 £</b>	<b>Year Ended 29/2/24 £</b>
<b>4. GENERAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE</b>		
London Events	5,632	565
UrbanNous	8,403	-
Expenses for Regions	11,194	1,886
Events Online Expenses	225	779
Consultant Director's Fees	55,422	36,801
Consultancy Fees	20,669	-
Salaries & Pension Costs	26,158	18,277
Rent, Rates, Light & Heat	16,020	10,680
Telephone & Broadband	1,692	531
Postage, Stationery & Office Supplies	1,151	940
Website	233	14
Insurance	498	241
Bank Charges	2,200	1,456
Payroll Admin & HR	696	1,433
Grants	20,829	5,000
Bad Debt Provision	15,964	26,926
Miscellaneous Expenses	311	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 187,297	£ 105,529
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>5. GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>		
Independent Examination Fees	£ 1,440	£ 1,360
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>6. FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>£</b>
Cost of Equipment		
As at 1.3.24		5,766
Additions		-
		<hr/>
As at 31.7.25		5,766
		<hr/>
Depreciation		
As at 1.3.24		5,765
Charge for the Year		-
		<hr/>
As at 31.7.25		5,765
		<hr/>
Net Book Value		
As at 29.2.24		£ 1
		<hr/>
As at 31.7.25		£ 1
		<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE 17 MONTHS ENDED 31 JULY 2025  
(Contd)**

<b>7. DEBTORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>31/7/25</b>	<b>29/2/24</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions	(101)	13,360
Sundry Debtors	1,591	1,143
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 1,490	£ 14,503
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>8. CREDITORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>31/7/25</b>	<b>29/2/24</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade Creditors	376	30,402
Other Creditors	1,770	4,880
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 2,146	£ 35,282
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION**

No Trustee received any remuneration or expenses during the year, nor were any expenses reimbursed.

<b>10. STAFF COSTS</b>	<b>Period ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>
	<b>31/7/25</b>	<b>29/2/24</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries	26,158	18,277
Social Security	-	-
Pension Costs	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 26,158	£ 18,277
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The average number of employees was	0.7	0.7
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**11. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

The restricted fund is reserved for use according to the charitable objects of the former Francis Tibbalds Trust including the funding of publications.

**12. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT**

A prior year adjustment of £32,168 has arisen as a result of a previously excessive provision for trade creditors in connection with the charity's previous trading company, which is now in the course of dissolution.

**URBAN DESIGN GROUP  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE 17 MONTHS ENDED 31 JULY 2025  
(Contd)**

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE SOFA	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities:			
Gifts & Donations	-	-	-
Other	180,307	-	180,307
	<u>180,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,307</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
Publications & Awards	44,269	-	44,269
Other	129,928	-	129,928
	<u>174,197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,197</u>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	6,110	-	6,110
<b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<u>204,388</u>	<u>18,144</u>	<u>222,532</u>
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>£ 210,498</u>	<u>£ 18,144</u>	<u>£ 228,642</u>