

**LONDON FESTIVAL OF
ARCHITECTURE**

Community Architecture Now



The Charles Knevitt Memorial Debate

21 June 2016

Tonight's event honours Charles Knevitt, a much-missed supporter of the arts and architecture who died in March this year. Charles was an award-winning journalist, author and broadcaster, educating and entertaining the British people on the subject of architecture.

In 1975 Charles coined the term 'community architecture' and later wrote the definitive book on the subject with co-author Nick Wates. In 1986, with Wates and others, he organised the first international conference on community architecture which featured HRH the Prince of Wales as a keynote speaker. While Director of the RIBA Trust from 2004 – 2011 Charles initiated the first major British exhibition on Le Corbusier in a generation. In 2012 – 2013 he performed his one-man show, 'Le Corbusier's Women' in London and New York. In 2016 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the RIBA for his contribution to architecture.

For many years he was Chairman of the Swiss Cultural Fund in Britain, and the Chelsea Arts Club Trust has recently inaugurated the Charles Knevitt Award for Study and Research in Architecture in his memory. If you would like to donate, please go to the Chelsea Arts Club Trust on [BTMyDonate](#).

Paul Finch - Chair

Paul Finch is programme director of the World Architecture Festival, and editorial director of the Architects' Journal/Architectural Review. He is a former chairman of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. He edited Building Design for 11 years, during which period Charles Knevitt was a weekly contributor.

Rod Hackney

Born in Toxteth, Rod Hackney graduated from Manchester University before founding Kansara Hackney. He led community architecture projects throughout the world, and was dubbed "community architect mark one" by Charles Knevitt. He is a Past President of both the International Union of Architects and the RIBA.

Peter Runacres

Peter is part of developer Argent's commercial team where he is responsible for Google's King's Cross headquarters. Peter chairs the design management group. Peter's background is in architecture and he has a particular interest in sustainability and IPD. He was involved in the Egan initiative – Rethinking Construction – which looked to improve quality and efficiency in UK construction.

Sarah Wigglesworth

Sarah Wigglesworth leads Sarah Wigglesworth Architects - an award-winning practice with a clear focus on sustainability and community engagement. She is professor of architecture at Sheffield University, and in 2012 was appointed a Royal Designer for Industry, becoming the first woman to receive the award for architecture.

Robert Adam

Robert Adam is director of ADAM Architecture, a major figure in the development of traditional and classical architecture, a pioneer of contextual urban design, a designer of furniture, author and scholar. He has been a prolific author on the theory and practice of traditional architecture and urbanism since 1975.

Rebecca Davies

Rebecca Davies is the artist responsible for the London Festival of Architecture event Dreamers or Builders - a comical but thought provoking performance discussing the evolution of London's social communities. Davies' characters draw on women common in every UK community: funny and instrumental in bringing people together.

Community architecture has emerged as a powerful force for change in the way people all over the world are creating their own homes, neighbourhoods and cities. The basic principle is simple: the built environment works better if the people who use it are directly and actively involved in its creation and management. The movement embraces planning, development, landscape, art and design as well as architecture and other forms of technical aid. It has brought together an extraordinary alliance of community groups, professionals, churchleaders and politicians of all parties - and caused major ructions in the professions as a result.

Nick Wates (co-author with Charles Knevitt, *Community Architecture*)

Throughout its 179 years VMZINC has been regularly involved with architects, from the re-development of Paris by Baron Haussmann to the transport depot in Basel designed by Herzog & De Meuron. In 2012 VMZINC teamed up with Charles Knevitt to provide a series of successful architectural evenings and is delighted to support tonight's debate.

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The Charles Knevitt Memorial Debate has been generously sponsored by VMZinc and hosted by the RIBA.