

SOM Celebrates 40 Years in London with Exhibition Exploring the Future of Design

New exhibition during this year's London Design Festival celebrates 40 years of the London office and features a special SOM-designed installation that explores the future of construction.

LONDON — Throughout [London Design Festival](#) 2026, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) is celebrating its London office's 40th anniversary with a new exhibition at Marylebone Hall. Running from 12-19 September, *Change: 40 Years of SOM London* will reflect on four decades of the office's work alongside the global practice's 90-year history, while looking ahead to the approaches to technology, materials, and construction set to shape the future of design.

Organised into four chapters that trace the evolution of SOM's work—Our Practice, Design, Society, and Economy—the exhibition will explore design as a cultural practice that embodies the ways that people understand, shape, and imagine the world around them. It considers design as a shared process through which communities, technologies and environments evolve.

The exhibition will also feature a bespoke installation designed by SOM London's structural engineering and architecture teams. Building on previous research into the future of construction through projects such as [Angelus Novus Vault](#) and [The Glass Vault](#), the structure comprises around 2,000 wooden bricks made with reclaimed scaffolding boards and relies solely on contact forces, with no mortar or mechanical connections. Made entirely by untrained participants guided by VR goggles, the installation explores the democratisation of construction methodologies, testing the level of precision that can be achieved without the assistance of skilled masons or robots.

Through models, mock-ups, and extensive archival and concept imagery, the wider exhibition will highlight nearly 40 projects that showcase the breadth of SOM's work across architectural design, engineering, planning, sustainability, and interior design. It explores the milestones and relationships that tell the London office's story, while looking forward to ongoing and upcoming projects from across the global practice like [Urban Sequoia](#) and [Moon Village](#).

"Forty years in London has taught us that looking back is only useful if it propels you forward," said **SOM Design Partner Kent Jackson**. "This milestone isn't about legacy, it's about momentum. Our exhibition isn't just celebrating where we've been; it is radically rethinking the built environment to prioritize planetary health and design a more resilient future."

"For SOM in London, the past four decades have been a story of growth, achievement and evolution. Beyond projects like Canary Wharf and Exchange House in Broadgate, this exhibition explores the firm's ongoing evolution and innovation over 40 years, from collaborations with leading artists and universities to significant expansion in regions such as the Middle East," said **SOM Managing Partner Thomas Behr**.

The exhibition is free to enter, with no registration required.

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Notes to editors

Location: Marylebone Hall, Corner of St. Vincent St. and Cramer St, London W1U 4DF

Exhibition hours:

- Saturday, September 12, 4-6 p.m.
- Sunday, September 13, 12-4 p.m.
- Monday, September 14, 12-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 15, 12-5 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 16, 12-5 p.m.
- Thursday, September 17, 12-2:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 18, 12-2:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Open House Festival guided tours

Saturday, September 12

1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m.

The SOM London office will host two guided tours as part of this year's [Open House Festival](#). The tours are ticketed, but visitors without tickets are welcome to explore the exhibition during the tour times, as well as 4-6 p.m.

Open Studio Emerging Professionals Mixer

Friday, September 18

9-11 a.m.

Join us for a breakfast mixer for emerging professionals, hosted in collaboration with [Open Studio](#), (to)scale's research-led events program. Bringing together young designers, architects, and a practice network championing next-gen talent, the event will offer an opportunity to connect and learn more about Open Studio.

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About Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) is a global practice of architects, designers, engineers, and planners, known for some of the world's most innovative and enduring buildings, public spaces, and urban strategies. From a strategic regional plan to a single piece of furniture, SOM's designs anticipate change in the way we live, work, and communicate. In 2026, SOM celebrates its 90th firmwide anniversary, alongside 40 years of its London office. Over four decades, the London office has delivered projects across the UK, Europe and the Middle East, from major urban developments to environmentally advanced buildings that thoughtfully respond to their communities and context. SOM is a carbon neutral business. Read our [Climate Action Report](#) to learn more. www.som.com

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