

**For Immediate Release**

**Norman Foster Foundation and Holcim to unveil Essential Homes Research Project**



Norman Foster, President of the Norman Foster Foundation and Christophe Levy, Director at the Holcim Innovation Center.

**Madrid, 29 March 2023**

- Essential Homes Research Project proposes a model for dignified housing for people in displacement.
- Project will be presented in Venice during the 2023 Architecture Biennale.
- A real-size prototype will be placed in the Marinaressa Gardens, and an exhibition hosted in Palazzo Mora will present the development of the project.

Driven by its purpose to build progress for people and the planet, the Norman Foster Foundation partnered with Holcim to develop the Essential Homes Research Project, a model for comfortable, durable and dignified housing for people in displacement. The project will be presented at the Time Space Existence exhibition organized by the European Cultural Center during the 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale. A real-size prototype will be placed in the Marinaressa Gardens, and an exhibition hosted in Palazzo Mora will present the development of the project. Perfectly in line with the Biennale's theme 'Laboratories of the Future', this research project opens the conversation around providing essential housing for all.

The Essential Homes Research Project aims to provide a model for comfortable, durable and dignified living for people in displacement, sustainably. From ECOPact low-carbon concrete to Elevate and Airium innovative insulation systems, the Norman Foster Foundation and Holcim put their most innovative and sustainable solutions at the service of this socially fundamental project.

Norman Foster, President, Norman Foster Foundation, stated: 'Natural and manmade disasters create a continuous exodus of people seeking instant shelter. Traditionally tents or variations on them are the primary response, offering scant protection from the elements. How can we do better? During the Venice Biennale we show our work-in-progress on this idea – it is the outcome of a few months of intensive activity in collaboration with Holcim!'

Jan Jenisch, CEO, Holcim, said: 'Today, over 100 million people are forcibly displaced, stripped of the basic human right to adequate housing. As part of Holcim's commitment to improve living standards for all, we are proud to partner with the Norman Foster Foundation to propose a model for how we could turn shelters into homes, and camps into communities. Our innovative and sustainable solutions bring safety, comfort and weather resistance to this durable and dignified housing model, and we are excited to unveil it in Venice.'

Through this partnership, the Norman Foster Foundation and Holcim are working together to imagine a future where everyone has the dignified living conditions they need to thrive. The project will be unveiled on May 17th, during the opening of the Venice Biennale.

### Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations anticipate the future. The first mission of the Norman Foster Foundation is to make visible the centrality of architecture, infrastructure and urbanism for the betterment of society. To this end, the second mission is to encourage new thinking and research across traditional boundaries in order to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. In particular, the foundation speaks to those professionals who are concerned with the environment— architects, engineers, designers, urbanists, civic leaders, planners and artists. This is at the heart of the foundation's holistic approach to design and is ever more relevant as populations shift to cities. With the implications of climate change, robotics and artificial intelligence, sustainable design is not about fashion but about survival.

The Foundation holds the Norman Foster Archive and Library, which provide a window into the larger narrative and history of our built environment through the work of Norman Foster. This is complemented and supported by drawings and models from other significant architects such as Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Charles and Ray Eames, Buckminster Fuller, Richard Rogers, Zaha Hadid and Tadao Ando. Through its research initiatives and programmes, the Norman Foster Foundation encourages the transfer of advanced knowledge in a wide range of design fields. The Foundation's educational initiatives are structured around research, workshops, fellowships and forums, built around the Foundation's core objectives. The Norman Foster Foundation is based in Madrid and operates globally.

Visit [www.normanfosterfoundation.org](http://www.normanfosterfoundation.org) for more information or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Vimeo.

### Holcim

Holcim is a global leader in innovative and sustainable building solutions. Driven by its purpose to build progress for people and the planet, its 60,000 employees are on a mission to decarbonize building, while improving living standards for all. The company empowers its customers across all regions to build better with less, with its broad range of low-carbon and circular solutions, from ECOPact to ECOPlanet. With its innovative systems, from Elevate's roofing to PRB's insulation, Holcim makes buildings more sustainable in use, driving energy efficiency and green retrofitting. With sustainability at the core of its strategy, Holcim is becoming a net-zero company with 1.5°C targets validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Learn more about Holcim on [www.holcim.com](http://www.holcim.com).

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