

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Amps

ARCHITECTURE_MEDIA_POLITICS_SOCIETY

An Urban Renaissance: Livable Cities 2026

MANCHESTER



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Day One
Day Two
Day Three

SOCIETY MANCHESTER: Social Gathering
VENTURE CAFÉ: Keynote | Social | Exhibition
THE NEW OXFORD: Social Gathering

DAY ONE

DAY ONE SOCIETY MANCHESTER

On the evening of Day One, delegates are invited to meet socially at **Society**, a hub of street food, craft beer, wine and cocktails provided by local independent traders. Society features five independently-owned kitchens, from the burgers of *Slap & Pickle*, pan-Asian specialists *Manzoku Street Food*, authentic Italian pizzeria, *Noi Quattro*, experts in Korean street food, *Yoki Social Table* and the Mexican street-food restaurant *El Piloto*. Society also houses a cocktail bar and specialist taproom by craft brewery *Vocation*.

Welcoming guests from 12pm every day, the high-ceilinged space can welcome up to 350 guests and is filled with nooks, banquettes and long tables designed to allow visitors to dine, drink and socialise throughout the day. As the lights go down, the space invites local workers and residents to gather for a drink at the cocktail bar or freshly brewed pints from Vocation's taproom.

Wednesday 17th June. 6-10pm.

Food and drink is individually priced.

Where: 100 Barbirolli Square Manchester M2 3BD



DAY TWO VENTURE CAFÉ

The activities for the evening of Day Two are co-organised by [Venture Café](#), an initiative aimed at connecting innovators across the North West of England and further afield. There will be an exhibition of work from the University of Salford & the keynote talk. Refreshments are provided by Venture Café.

Keynote

RICARDO SOSA-MEJIA

A Senior Associate & Project Leader, Heatherwick Studio. [Ricardo Sosa-Mejia](#) is a London-based design leader with nearly two decades of experience shaping cultural, workplace, education, and public realm projects. As a Senior Associate at Heatherwick Studio, he leads major global projects and drives the studio's future talent strategy through strategic partnerships. His previous roles at Zaha Hadid Architects and Laing O'Rourke strengthened his expertise in design innovation and manufacturing technologies. Ricardo is an inclusive leader whose curiosity fosters collaboration and enriches how people experience spaces.

Keynote Title

EVERYWHERE, EVERYTHING, EVERYONE

A talk that will introduce [Heatherwick Studio](#) and share 3 reflections that illustrate the core beliefs, design approach, and the impact the Studio aims to have: Founded by Thomas Heatherwick, 'Heatherwick Studio' is a team of over 260 problem solvers dedicated to making the physical world around us better for everyone. Based out of its combined workshop and design studios in London and Shanghai, it aims to create buildings, spaces, objects and infrastructure. It seeks a world where the buildings and places around us are radically more joyful, engaging and human. The team of architects, designers, makers, engineers and landscape architects share a motivation to design soulful and impactful places, which celebrate the complexities of the real world.

Thursday 18th June. 5-8pm.

Where: [Sister - Renold Building, 32a Altrincham St, Manchester, M1 7JR](#)

DAY THREE THE NEW OXFORD – TRADITIONAL PUB

On the evening of Day Three, delegates are invited to meet socially at [The New Oxford](#), a historic public house located in Bexley Square, Salford.

Dating back to the nineteenth century, The New Oxford is a well-known local venue with a strong reputation for real ale, craft beer, and Belgian beer. Its informal character, central location, and traditional pub atmosphere make it an ideal setting for delegates to relax after the third day of the conference.

The primary aim of the evening is to provide an informal opportunity for delegates to spend time together, continue conversations from the day, and enjoy the social atmosphere of one of Salford's distinctive local pubs. Delegates are welcome to drop in at any point during the evening.

Friday 19th June. 6–10pm.

Food and drink are individually priced.

Where: [11 Bexley Square, Salford M3 6DB](#)