January 2025 Knowledge Share Sessions

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AEW Architects Knowledge Share Sessions





At AEW, we are committed to sharing our knowledge, experience and lessons learnt with our clients and wider design team network. It's an essential part of our continuous development.

The menu on the following pages is a cross section of the sessions we are able to offer to our clients and partners to help share this industry knowledge and experience.

Each session is led by one of our sector or service experts and can be hosted in person or digitally. Please get in touch with main@aewarchitects.com should you be interested in setting up a session.



BREEAM, the UKs most widely recognised environmental assessment method for non-domestic buildings is getting a major update in 2025. Energy and carbon are key areas of change amongst a number of smaller but significant tweaks. The session aims to help you understand the implications of BREEAM v7 for your projects.

In this session we cover:

- + What is BREEAM?
- + Why does it need updating?
- + Key changes
- + Alignment with other standards
- + What do the changes mean in practice?
- + Transition arrangements



Demystifying Net Zero Carbon

In recent times Net Zero Carbon has been a key trend within the construction industry. However, the interpretation of Net Zero Carbon in practice has differed with a wide range of building performance being claimed to be Net Zero. This session aims to simplify this technical issue and advise about the emerging UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard.

In this session we cover:

- + What does Net Zero Carbon mean?
- + Why does Net Zero Carbon matter in the built environment?
- + The evolution of Net Zero Carbon definitions in UK construction
- + The emerging UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard
- + Where do other environmental certification schemes such as BREEAM and NABERS fit in?



The Retrofit Opportunity

Around 80% of the UK buildings that will be standing in 2050 are already built. How do we tackle upgrading these buildings to be fit for a low carbon future and what opportunities are there for wider placemaking benefits? PAS2035 and PAS2038 standards have brought in lots of new jargon and process, we aim to get you up to speed on the basics as well as exploring what best practice looks like.

In this session we cover:

- + Why is retrofit so important?
- + What advantages can retrofit provide to wider communities?
- + PAS2035/PAS2038 primer
- + PAS 2035 in practice
- + What does best practice look like?



Demystifying Passivhaus

Passivhaus is a proven method for delivering best practice operational energy performance underpinned by over 30 years of data. This session aims to bust some myths about passivhaus (spoiler: it's not just houses!) and explain what lessons we can learn for high performance construction, whether a project seeks passivhaus certification or not.

In this session we cover:

- + What is passivhaus?
- + Benefits of a passivhaus approach
- + Busting myths
- + What does passivhaus project delivery look like?
- + Learning lessons from passivhaus





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Building Safety Act -Getting Through the Gateways

With a number of secondary legislations now in place, our industry is faced with significant and much needed change. Dame Judith Hackitt has been clear, the Building Safety Act (BSA) should not be the reason for change. All projects, not just those involving High Risk Buildings, are subject to new regulatory reform. In this session, we'll look at what this means during the delivery and life-cycle of your project and our experience of the new procedures and Gateways.

In this session we cover:

- + BSA '22 Secondary Legislation
- + Higher Risk Buildings
- + The New Regime
- + Gateways 1, 2 and 3
- + Change Control
- + Golden Thread
- + The UK BIM Framework
- + BS 8644



Consultation in Estate Regeneration

Regenerating estates cannot succeed without the support of residents and stakeholders. It is their community and they should be placed at the heart of regeneration decisions. In this session we share our tried and tested approach to stakeholder management and engagement and the key success factors to ensure inclusive and meaningful consultation and build confidence in regeneration proposals.

In this session we cover:

- + Stakeholder Management
- + Community Engagement
- + Desk Study
- + Confidence Building
- + Community Design Workshops
- + Statutory & Legal Requirements
- + Co-ordination Of Designers / Consultants
- + Social Value



This session will provide key underpinning knowledge about what BIM is and, just as importantly, isn't. We will discuss the subject in its widest forms and navigate some of the key issues within our industry today. The learning outcomes from this session will provide you with the ability to understand and critique the subject and will provide you with a solid foundation for further development.

In this session we cover:

- + Historical context
- + Origins
- + The journey so far
- + Use cases
- + Links to sustainability
- + The future







The UK BIM Framework

- + The evolution of the framework
- + ISO 19650
- + The information delivery cycle
- + Responsibilities for appointing parties
- + Lead appointed parties

Industrial Trends

This session will provide an overview of the current trends we are seeing in the industrial sector. Drawing on our vast sector experience, from large speculative logistics schemes to complicated end user led manufacturing facilities, we will use our expert knowledge to tailor a presentation to suit your needs. The session will focus on several case study projects, where we will highlight key elements of design and innovation and share best practice advice.

In this session we cover:

- + Placemaking and user amenity
- + Landscaping, ecology and BNG
- + Quantum and scale (yards, building heights etc.)
- + Office and welfare spaces
- + Sustainability



The self-storage sector tends to fly under the radar. However it is a flexible sector which has seen significant growth in recent years. With minimal parking requirements, low running costs and the capability to lend itself to a range of sites, it is proving to be a popular alternative for our developer clients. This session will provide a general overview of the self-storage sector, how it works, how it is designed and how it can create added value.

In this session we cover:

- + Sector overview
- Typical design and construction
- + New build and refurbishment
- + Operation and use
- + Maximising site potential
- + Case Study
- + Sustainability

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Cost of living, societal changes and altered work habits add to the list of external factors contributing to the changing face of our high streets and local centres. Retail isn't dead, rather traditional consumer habits have changed and high streets need to adapt to encourage footfall through alternative uses and curated experiences which capitalise on the uniqueness of the place. This session will explore the opportunity of the high street as a catalyst for regeneration and the key role local authorities and external funding can play in rediscovering our town centres.

In this session we cover:

- + The need
- + What is town centre regeneration?
- + How can it be achieved?
- + AEW case studies







The most important asset of any business is its people, but employers are finding that attracting and retaining talent is increasingly difficult in the post pandemic world of flexible working. The modern workspace has evolved as a result, with offices now needing to provide a setting for collaboration, a hub to encourage togetherness and respond to ESG aspirations of employees, customers and investors - all whilst remaining flexible, adaptable and viable. This session looks at how workspace is evolving and how institutional design can respond to the bespoke needs of clients and end users.

In this session we cover:

- + Workspace post covid
- + Trends in workspace design
- + Sustainability and ESG
- + Cost effective, bespoke yet institutional design
- + AEW case studies



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