Norman Foster Foundation **Newsletter** April–June 2026

Take a look at the Norman Foster Foundation, the Norman Foster Institute and Ivorypress' activities, achievements and news from the second quarter of 2026.

Video

As part of the Bloomberg CityLab 2026, one of the world's most preeminent global cities summit, held April 27–29 in Madrid (Spain), the Norman Foster Foundation hosted a reception for mayors and city leaders from across the globe. Guests had the opportunity to visit the Norman Foster Institute (NFI) Centre for City Science, our applied research facility dedicated to the study of sustainable urban futures through architecture, technology and city governance.

As part of the Bloomberg CityLab, Norman Foster participated in the Bloomberg Mayors Innovation Studio, reflecting on 'the city as a design legacy' and how decisions made today shape the long-term future of urban life. Furthermore, Michael Bloomberg visited the NFI Centre for City Science, taking the opportunity to explore the ongoing research into sustainable urban futures being undertaken there by the NFI team.

Video

The Norman Foster Foundation (NFF) was honoured to receive one of the most prestigious design awards for its WING display vitrine. The Compasso d'Oro ADI Prize was awarded at an official ceremony in Milan in May 2026.

The WING display vitrine was the result of a successful collaboration between the NFF, led by Norman Foster, and the leading manufacturer Goppion Technology. It is a modular system that combines art lighting and climatic control to meet conservation standards, with integrated adjustable lighting for each unit. Adaptable for displays of multiple objects, the resulting design is an enduring tribute to skill and expertise, propelled by imagination, to rise to the challenge of realising new exemplars of design within a highly specialised field. WING was used in the *Norman Foster* Centre Pompidou exhibition and is the display tool that is used in the NFF Archive.

Video

As part of the 2026 Master’s Programme on Sustainable Cities, students undertook field visits to this years’ pilot cities: Greater Manchester (UK), Lusail (Qatar) and Mexico City (Mexico). Through hands-on site work, local research and dialogue with urban stakeholders, they explored key challenges related to climate resilience, mobility, governance, public space, social inclusion and metropolitan growth. These visits reflected the Programme’s applied and international approach, combining immersive fieldwork and collaborative research to develop innovative strategies for more sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities.

Video

Gateway to Venice's Waterways was honoured with the BIGSEE Architecture Award in Venice. The award ceremony took place in May, and it was followed by the conference 'Architecture and Relevance', inviting Diego Tobalina González, NFF Head of Innovation and Design, to discuss the *Gateway* project and the NFF's ongoing commitment to advancing interdisciplinary thinking in architecture and urbanism. The discussion examined the evolving role of architecture in an age shaped by climate urgency, technology and artificial intelligence, questioning whether the discipline has shifted from serving human life to serving image and machine-driven processes.

Video

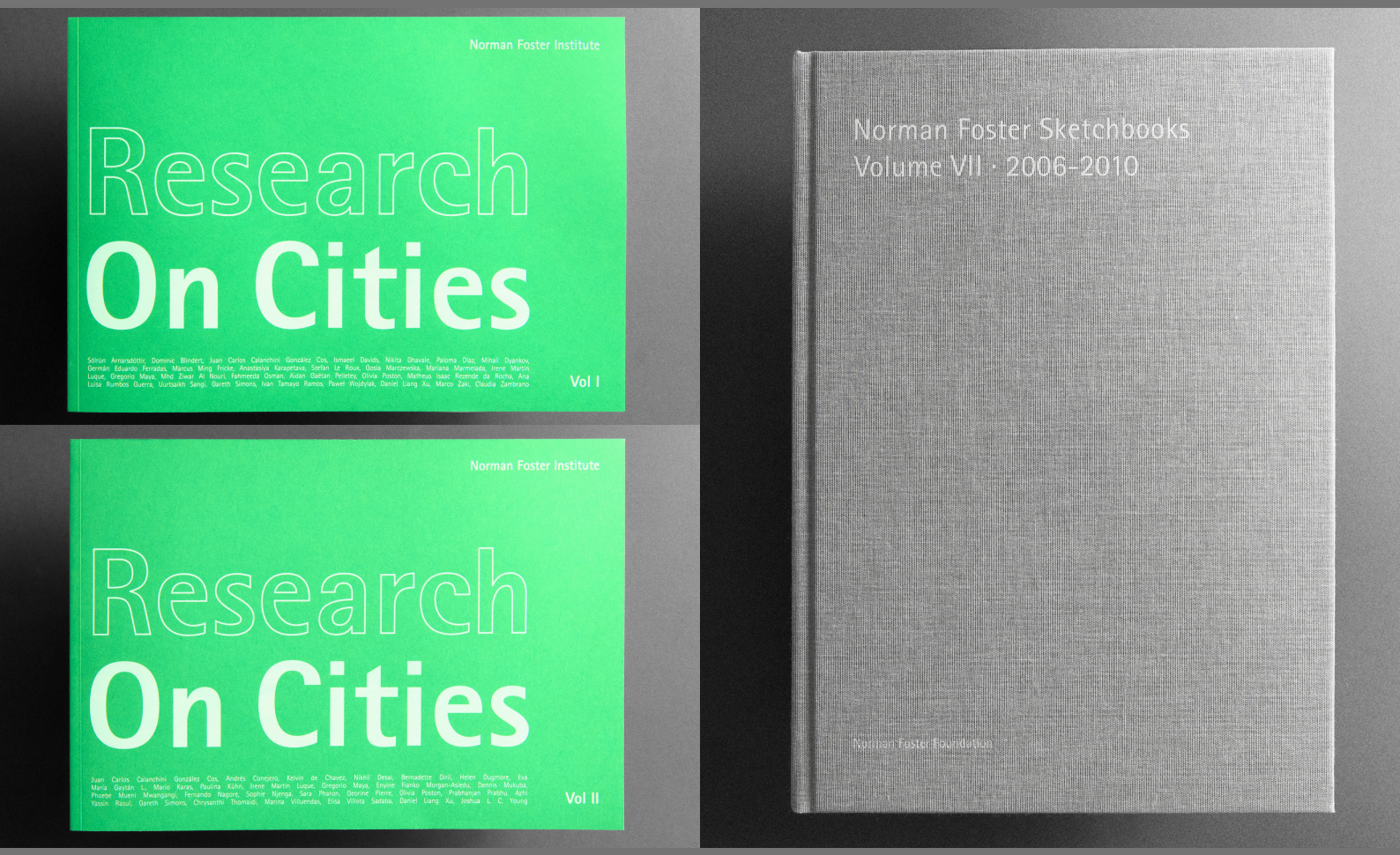
Ivorypress has continued its weekly cultural agenda, inviting writers, architects, visual artists, politicians, film directors, publishers and designers to discuss their work in hourly sessions that are open to the public. The last three months have featured Alejandro Aravena, Alfredo Thiermann, Marcos Giralt Torrente, Andrea Aguilar, Nazareth Castellanos, Antonio Basanta, Norman Foster, Janette Sadik-Khan, Aleix Plademunt, Ricardo Cases, Antonio Xoubanova, María Folguera, Julia de Castro, Sergio C. Fanjul, Javier Pérez Iglesias, Isabel Coixet, Estrella de Diego, Elena Foster, Diego Moreno, Patxi Eguiluz, Sandra Ollo, Milena Busquets, Javier Aznar, Patricia Urquiola, Fuensanta Nieto, Taba Rasti, María del Mar Arnús, Andrés Barba, Alberto Pina and Joaquín Reyes.

Cultural Agenda

The Norman Foster Foundation (NFF) is open to students, researchers and visitors from institutions all over the world by appointment. The NFF is not a museum but an active hub devoted to research on cities and academic actions. Over these last three months, the NFF has welcomed more than one hundred visitors to its headquarters. Visitors have come from different countries and organisations, including J.P. Morgan, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, Herzog & de Meuron and the School of Architecture at the State University of New York (SUNY), along with individual visitors. The guests are shown the NFF's various spaces, such as where projects are developed by the Publications Unit and the Model Making Unit, and the NFF Archive and Pavilion, where academic lectures and think tanks take place. Through the visit, the guests are able to analyse and observe drawings, models, objects and artworks which are displayed together—forming an interdisciplinary dialogue between different fields related to architecture.

Porto Rocha has been selected to design the forthcoming Hans Ulrich Obrist Catalogue Raisonné, to be published by Ivorypress in collaboration with Norman Foster Foundation Press. The selection process featured proposals from a number of outstanding international design studios. Each submission demonstrated editorial excellence, making the final decision particularly challenging.

Porto Rocha’s proposal was chosen for its originality, the depth of research underpinning the design and its fresh and international approach—aligning with the Norman Foster Foundation’s commitment to support talent worldwide. Founded by Brazilian designers Leo Porto and Felipe Rocha and based between New York and London, the studio combines a global sensibility with a thoughtful and meticulously crafted approach to design.



The Norman Foster Foundation Press has published three new publications this quarter. The latest volume of the *Norman Foster Sketchbooks* series—Volume VII—presents a compelling survey of drawings across the five-year period from 2006 to 2010. Continuing the coverage into the second decade of the present century, it features illustrations of almost 400 original sketches selected from fifty-two sketchbooks, the majority of which are published for the first time in this volume.

Research On Cities Volume I and Volume II bring together the Norman Foster Institute's (NFI) research over six cities in 2024 and 2025: Athens, Bilbao, San Marino, Cape Town, Freetown and Melilla—each presenting its own unique challenges and opportunities. These books, the first resulting from the NFI's research, serve as practical guides to sustainable urban development. This series will be continued every year. 2026's volume will be devoted to Greater Manchester (UK), Lusail (Qatar) and Mexico City (Mexico).

Shop here

Edmund de Waal, Elena Foster and Hans Ulrich Obrist came together to discuss the meaning of archives in a conversation that marked the thirtieth anniversary of Ivorypress. The event also inaugurated Ivorypress' new space in Madrid at Calle Orfila 5, as well as the release of de Waal's book *an Archive* in Spanish. Read the full conversation below, which will be published as part of an upcoming publication within the NFF's Conversations Series.

Read the full conversation here

The Norman Foster Institute (NFI) was proud to participate in the Smart City Expo LATAM Congress 2026 in Puebla, Mexico on 4 June, and the World Cities Summit 2026, held in Singapore from 14–16 June.

Irene Martín Luque, Head of Research at the NFI, was invited to join the plenary session ‘What strategic decisions do we need today for a more inclusive and resilient urban transformation?’ at the event in Puebla, in a panel that brought together leading voices from government and urban planning. In Singapore, the Summit convened mayors, ministers, policymakers, researchers and industry leaders under the theme ‘Liveable and Sustainable Cities: ACT Now!’ Lead Researcher Olivia Poston presented ongoing research at the Summit's Science of Cities Symposium, and Cities + Design Lead Daniel Liang Xu presented an overview of the NFI and its Master’s Programme on Sustainable Cities.

Other News

Bloomberg Connects

The Norman Foster Foundation (NFF) has joined a growing network of more than 1,250 cultural institutions around the world. The outcome of a new initiative with longstanding partner Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bloomberg Connects free app hosts a series of specially commissioned videos exploring the Foundation's spaces, introduced by Norman Foster himself. This further extends the NFF's goal to disseminate its ever-growing collection of more than 120,000 items to a global audience.

Video

Norman Foster Institute (NFI) x Bupa Health Week

During Health Week, in collaboration with Health Patron Bupa, students at the NFI worked side by side with city leaders to address some of the most pressing health challenges facing urban environments today. From air quality and access to green spaces to mobility, density and social infrastructure, students explored how key urban features directly shape physical and mental wellbeing, and how design can shift the focus from treatment to prevention.

Video

Alumni Spotlight

Having hosted hundreds of students from five continents and over fifty countries across the Norman Foster Foundation's (NFF) educational initiatives such as workshops, think tanks and the Norman Foster Institute's (NFI) Master's Programme on Sustainable Cities, we will feature one alumnus in each Newsletter to share their trajectories and achievements.

A scholar in the 2022 *Cities: Affordable Housing* Workshop and a student in the inaugural 2024 NFI's Master's Programme on Sustainable Cities, graduating with honours, Ming is now Industrial PhD Fellow of the Innovation Fund Denmark at Henning Larsen and Leiden University (Netherlands). Recent achievements include contributing to the first Danish Construction Innovation Atlas, developing award-winning biodiversity tools with the Dutch National Biodiversity Center, and securing a four-year multi-million Horizon Europe grant to apply regenerative design to the built environment.

Ming Fricke, Germany

Open Call 2027

Apply now for the NFI's 2027 Master's Programme on Sustainable Cities

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https://normanfosterfoundation.org

https://normanfosterinstitute.org

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The Norman Foster Foundation is part of Bloomberg Connects, see our virtual guide here

Download the Norman Foster Foundation's 2023–2025 Annual Report here

The Norman Foster Foundation teams want to thank all of their Patrons, benefactors and supporters for their contributions to making all our endeavours possible. We wish to stress special thanks to the Family Foster and Bloomberg Philanthropies for their generosity, as well as to Bupa/Sanitas.

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