

Paul Karakusevic, Principal

BA (Hons) MArch RIBA ARB

Paul Karakusevic is an architect and design leader with over 25 years' experience dedicated to shaping resident-led, socially sustainable homes and cities. He founded Karakusevic Carson Architects to transform the quality of social housing and public buildings in the UK, working closely with residents and clients to turn shared ambitions into places that genuinely reflect the needs of real communities. This commitment has established the studio's public sector focus and international reputation for award-winning architecture, as well as Paul's leadership in housing policy, public investment and socially responsible practice.

Designing inclusive, affordable and well-integrated cities is one of the defining challenges of our time. Paul leads the practice's design excellence and housing expertise across all scales, from individual homes and public buildings to complex masterplans, frameworks and urban strategies. Bringing together design, policy, delivery knowledge and a collaborative ethos, he ensures homes and neighbourhoods are thoughtfully crafted and well detailed, creating places that bring pride, delight and opportunity to the people who live there.

Paul works closely with resident and community groups alongside ambitious public-sector clients in the UK and internationally. Throughout his career he has championed grassroots involvement in the shaping of cities and established the practice's in-house engagement team and social value programme to ensure communities are active participants in the design of their own environments.

Alongside his architectural work, Paul supports organisations committed to well designed housing and equal opportunity. An advocate for genuinely affordable housing and strong public-sector leadership, Paul advises on public investment and the role of councils and city authorities in shaping equitable and sustainable neighbourhoods. His advisory and board level roles have contributed to the development of housing policy, inclusive procurement approaches and delivery models across various cities, advancing social value, design quality and long-term public benefit.

Research and knowledge sharing are central to Paul's ethos and that of the wider practice. He has co-authored several publications and regularly speaks on the role of architecture and the public sector in creating sustainable housing and cities. Through this work, he has built an international network across practice, policy and academia, united by a shared ambition to raise standards in public housing design and urbanism around the world.



Education

MA Architecture, Royal College of Art (1995)

BA (Hons) Architecture, Manchester University (1991)

Strategic Appointments

2025-: Panel Member, Housing Minister's Design and Placemaking Advisory Board

2024-: Fellow, University Health Network (UHN), Toronto - Social Medicine Department & Housing Initiative

2024-2025: Judge for housing competitions in Europe and Australia

2018-2025: Trustee, Stephen Lawrence Trust and Blueprint for All

2016-2022: Design Advocate, Mayor of London

2018-2021: Design and Investment Advisor, Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region Strategic Investment Committee

2016-2021: Design Advisor, Homes England

2016-2020: Trustee, Architecture Foundation

2014-2020: Advisor, UK Design Council

Speaking Engagements & Lectures

- 'Madrid 2050'** - Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Madrid, Madrid, 2025
- 'The Housing We Want'** - Fundación Arquitectura y Sociedad, Navarra, 2025
- 'Housing Innovation Symposium'** - Boston Society of Architects, Boston, 2025
- 'Dual Cities: Social Housing in London & New York'** - The Architecture Foundation, London, 2025
- 'Architecture for Housing'** - RIBA Journal with RIBA, London, 2025
- 'Health, Housing and Climate'**- Future for London: Housing, Climate Change and Health Equity Programme, London, 2024
- 'Rethinking Housing'** - RIBA North, Liverpool, 2024
- 'Architecture and the Right to Housing'** - John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, Toronto, 2024
- 'Public Housing Works'** - Pratt Institute, New York City, 2024
- 'Public Housing Works'** - Robin Boyd Foundation, Sydney, 2024
- 'Culture / Process / Housing'** - School of Architecture & Design, University of Sydney, Sydney, 2024
- 'A Public Housing Manifesto'** - The Architecture Foundation, the Barbican Centre, London, 2024
- 'Public Housing and Social Equity'** - 7th International Congress of Architecture, Fundación Arquitectura y Sociedad, Madrid, 2023
- 'Public Housing Works'** - UIA World Congress of Architects, Copenhagen, 2023
- 'Public Housing Works'** - International Social Housing Festival, Barcelona, 2023
- 'Public Housing, Practice and Design'** - AIANY Center for Architecture, New York and London, 2022
- 'Affordable Housing Activation'** - International Union of Architects (UIA) /UN-Habitat International Forum (AHA Madrid), Madrid, 2022
- 'Creating Socially Valuable Housing'** - The 2021 Housing Assembly, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, 2021
- 'Housing London'** - Architectural Association (AA), London, 2021
- 'Public Housing Works'** - Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA, 2021
- 'Public Housing Works'** - ETSAB, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, 2020
- 'Better Housing Now /The Architectures of Affordability'** - Sydney Architecture Festival, Sydney, 2019
- 'Design Innovation in European Social Housing'** - Future of Affordable Housing Symposium, University of Calgary, Calgary, 2019
- 'Housing Design Excellence: European Narratives'** - University of Calgary, Calgary, 2019
- 'Re:Housing Detroit'** - Taubman College, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2019
- 'A Place to Call Home: Urbanism and Affordable Housing'** - The Academy of Urbanism, Eindhoven, 2019
- 'Public Housing: Type and Place'** - Yale University, New Haven, 2019
- 'Public Housing: Type and Place'** - University of California, Berkeley, 2019

'Successful Social Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods' - Australian Institute of Architects, Sydney, 2019

'Affordable Housing: Case Studies from the UK to the Bay' - SPUR, San Francisco, 2019

Selected Publications

'Social Housing: Definitions and Design Exemplars Volume 2', RIBA Publishing, forthcoming 2026

'Dual Cities: Social Housing in London + New York', RIBA Publishing with American Institute of Architects, 2025

'Retrofit Social Housing: A Practical Guide for Local Authorities & Registered Providers of Social Housing', self-published, 2023

'Part of a City: The Work of Neave Brown Architect', Canalside Press (by Patrick and Claudia Lynch), 2022

'Public Housing Works', Lund Humphries, 2021

'Revolutionary Low Rise: Informing London's Suburban Densification', self-published, 2019 (with the benefit of a £10,000 grant from the RIBA)

'Social Housing: Definitions and Design Exemplars', RIBA Publishing, 2017

'Exemplary Housing Estate Regeneration in Europe', Architects' Journal, 2015

Exhibitions

Royal Academy of Arts - Summer Exhibition - curated by Farshid Moussavi, London, 2025

Royal Academy of Arts - Summer Exhibition - curated by Assemble, London, 2024

'Social Housing: New European Projects' - curated by AIA Center for Architecture New York, New York, 2018

'Social Housing: Definitions and Design Exemplars' - curated by RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects), London, 2017

'Listening + Doing: An Exploration of Contemporary Council Housing' - Karakusevic Carson Architects Studio, London, 2016

'In the Making: New Social Housing Projects' - curated with RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects), London, 2015

'10 Social Housing Projects in London' - curated for London Festival of Architecture, London, 2014

Selected Press

'Can you tell it's social housing?' - Público, 11th January 2026

'How to make a town' - FT Weekend Magazine, 6 September 2025

'Lessons from London' - Architecture, AU, 29 July 2025

'Toronto's university health network takes on the housing crisis' - Azure Magazine, 7 March 2025

'Could, or should, Melbourne's public housing towers be saved?' - Architecture, AU, 2 May 2024

'Toronto's University Health Network aims to treat homelessness as a health issue' - The Toronto Globe and Mail, 17 June 2024

'Architects call for Ministry of Housing with cabinet-level leader' - Architects Journal, 23 May 2024

'Labour should commit to a public housing ministry in its manifesto' - The Guardian - letters, 14 May 2024

'London's new investment in social housing is taking shape' - Arkitekten Magazine, 1 October 2022

'Let's just call it housing' - Oculus Magazine, AIA NY, 1 September 2022

'Toronto should approve new plan for redevelopment of final sections of Regent Park' - The Toronto Globe and Mail, 4 May 2022

'Can Social Housing in Regent Park set the bar for an urban neighbourhood?' - The Toronto Globe and Mail, 10 January 2022

'In Print: Lit Review - Healthy Housing' - Oculus Magazine AIA NY, 1 September 2021

'New York has a public housing problem, does London have an answer?' - New York Times, 1 March 2019

'London has an ambition for quality public housing not seen since the 1970's' - Dezeen, 25 January 2019

'Hoxton Press: Hackney's exemplary housing development' - Financial Times, 27 December 2018

'Democratic Regeneration: Kings Crescent Estate' - Architects Journal, 17 December 2018

'Dujardin Mews' - Architectural Record, 1 October 2018

'Council housing: How Hackney has raised the game' - The Observer, 23 September 2018

'European social housing show presents thinking outside the box' - Architects Newspaper, 20 February 2018

'New Exhibition Highlights the Best of European Affordable Housing Architecture' - Metropolis, 20 February 2018