

Please find below a non exhaustive list of confirmed speakers that you can interview :

Toyo Ito is a Japanese architect known for creating conceptual architecture, in which he seeks to simultaneously express the physical and virtual worlds. He is a leading exponent of architecture that addresses the contemporary notion of a "simulated" city, and has been called "**one of the world's most innovative and influential architects.**"

In 2013, Ito was awarded **the Pritzker Prize**, one of architecture's most prestigious prizes. He was a likely front-runner for the Pritzker Prize for the previous 10 years. A recent trend has seen less experienced and well-known winners, for example Chinese architect Wang Shu in 2012, and the award to Toyo Ito is seen as recognition of a lifetime's achievement in architecture.

Richard Florida is the founder of Creative Class Group, an international consulting firm which works closely with government agencies. His book "The Rise of the Creative Class" became a worldwide best seller. Florida is Adjunct professor at the University of Toronto and York University and he often appears in major media. His achievements have been widely recognized and he is known as one of the world's most influential thinkers on the topic of urbanism. BusinessWeek has hailed him "Voice of Innovation 2010".

Tim Parker, Chairman and CEO of Samsonite. He has worked with on a number of successful LBO investments: Kenwood Appliances, Kwik-Fit and the Automobile Association, as well as being previously CEO of Clarks Shoes. Tim is also Chairman of the Autobar Group and has served on the Boards of Alliance Boots

Jean-Pierre Lutgen, CEO of Ice- Watch. He created the Ice-Watch concept in 2007 by marketing a watch, a real fashion accessory, stylish and affordable, initially available in ten colours and presented in a matching packaging. In six years, Ice-Watch has become a leading brand in its sector and the vibrant timepieces can now be found in all five continents (more than 12,000 points). The unique design comes in several models and colours (more than 500 combinations). Something for every taste, style and situation.

Anne Chapelle, Born in Belgium, Anne Chapelle (54) studied at the Tropical Institute for Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. In 1994, after a successful pharmaceutical career she was asked by the fashion designer Ann Demeulemeester for her help with the building up of her brand.

Today Anne Chapelle is the CEO and owner of the companies of the fashion brands Ann Demeulemeester and Haider Ackermann. Next to an impressive but steady growth with international resonance, emphasis in the company is put on respecting values, cherishing young creative and professionals and providing them a framework to unfurl their talents.

Daan Roosegaarde, In projects ranging from fashion to architecture, Daan Roosegaarde and the designers and engineers at Studio Roosegaarde in Rotterdam and Shanghai create interactive and social designs that explore relationships between space, people, and technology in renowned projects, such as Dune, Intimacy, Smart Highway and Sustainable Dance Floor. He has won numerous design awards, and his work has been exhibited at the Tate Modern and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the National Museum in Tokyo, and other venues.

Larry Keeley, he has worked as a strategist helping multinational companies to implement comprehensive and effective innovation methods that improve their success rates. He is the President and Co-founder of Doblin Inc., which is now a unit of Deloitte Consulting LLP. In addition, Keeley teaches at the Institute of Design in Chicago, the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, University of Chicago, and business schools worldwide. Bloomberg Business week has named him one of seven Innovation Gurus who are changing the field.

Stefano Giovannoni, he was awarded as “Champion of Super and Popular of the years 2000” (Alberto Alessi), “King Mida of design” (Cristina Morozzi) and “Most bankable designer” (Eugenio Perazza, Magis). His design comes across industrial products, furniture, kitchen, bathroom ware, domestic appliance, electronics products and automotive.

Lowie Vermeersch is a Flemish automotive designer. He is the Founder & Creative Director of Granstudio. He was the Design Director of Pininfarina with notable design works including Pininfarina Sintesi, Alfa Romeo Zuetto, Pininfarina B0 and Pininfarina Nido. His works in emerging markets such as the Chinese JAC B18 and the Brilliance Splendor SW, both presented at Beijing Auto Show in 2008.

Marina Yee is a prestigious Antwerp Royal College of Art graduate who became famous after showing her collections in London and being referred to as one of the "Antwerp Six." She later started her own studio, designing a wide range of fashion pieces that emanate spirituality and respect. One of the designs she was famous for is a dress made from vintage Japanese kimono fabric from the 1930s and IKEA curtains. She won the Brussels Young Designers Fashion Awards, the highest honor for this most original piece.

Patrick Le Quément is known as the most imaginative car designer of the 20th-21st century. His 42 years in the automobile design industry began with Ford, Audi, Volkswagen and Renault. Since 2010, he has pursued a new career as a naval designer and as a design strategy and design management consultant to international companies. He is a Co-founder of The Sustainable Design School in Nice. Patrick Le Quément has received numerous awards: he was named Designer of the Year in Europe, and also won the "Raymond Loewy Foundation Prize".

Antoni Vives Tomas is a politician, economist and writer, and the incumbent Vice Mayor of Barcelona. He has also served as senior consultant for the London School of Economics. His writings on politics, which include “The Nationalism to come” and “Why am I a politician? An open letter to my children”, were awarded the Joan Fuster Essay Prize, Prat de la Riba Award and many others.

Christine Conix : Operating from Antwerp, Brussels, Rotterdam and Terneuzen, Christine Conix manages CONIX RDBM Architects, together with her partners Jorden Goossenaerts and Frederik Jacobs. All of its concepts carefully adjust to open spaces and offer a meaningful cultural answer. Its goal is clear-cut: to create an identity and enduring value for present and future.

Christine is known for her innovative approach to architecture and her ability to reconcile functionality with aesthetics. She co-founded the G30, the association of leading architects in Belgium, and is a much sought-after lecturer and jury member for architectural competitions.

Thierry Brunfaut : As Head of Creation and Founding Partner of Base Design, Thierry Brunfaut imparts a philosophy of graphic and conceptual simplicity that emphasises concise communication.

With offices in New York, Brussels, Geneva, and Santiago, Chile, Base Design specialises in not specialising. It works on branding, graphic design, art direction, digital design, copywriting, and typeface design for clients ranging from fashion houses and museums to educational institutions and big corporations. Brunfaut is also a professor at La Cambre Visual School of Arts, Brussels.

Julien De Smedt's numerous prizewinning projects have helped to re-energise the discussion of contemporary architecture. The Founder and Director of JDS/Julien De Smedt Architects & MWA/Makers With Agendas, which has offices in Brussels, Copenhagen and Shanghai, has received many global awards, including a Henning Larsen Prize, the Maaskant Prize for Architecture and an Eckersberg Medal. In 2004, his Stavanger Concert Hall was named as the World's Best Concert Hall at the 2004 Venice Biennale, and the Maritime Youth House won the AR+D Award in London.

Richard Florida is the Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, Global Research Professor at New York University, and founder of the Creative Class Group, which works closely with governments and companies worldwide. He is also the author of several global best sellers and a senior editor of The Atlantic. He appears regularly on TV news programmes and writes for major newspapers and magazines.

Charles Kaisin: Belgian Architect and Designer Charles Kaisin is a pioneer in using recycled materials to create sustainable and contemporary design. He has been commissioned to create products by well-known brands, and he has worked as the Art Director at Val Saint Lambert and as a Project Manager for Hermann Miller. He has been a Guest Lecturer at the Hong Kong Design Institute, and he is currently a Design Teacher at the Institut Supérieur d'Architecture Saint-Luc.

Six Lee : After graduating from the world famous Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerpen in 2009, Hong Kong native designer Six Lee moved to London for a collaboration at the Alexander McQueen menswear team. The traditional British tailoring - translated in clean cuts and sharp lines - combined with soft colors and dreamy, boyish details result in unique silhouettes. As well as a new fresh level with modern twists and new proportions, to make a statement on traditional tailoring. As an overly romantic person, Six Lee gets inspired by the most diverse genres of music and films. The emotion he puts into writing poems or pressing flowers, will be found in every single piece from his hands. Carrying a touch of his love - never ever disappointing.

Elvis Pompilio is a successful Belgian fashion designer who has opened ateliers in Brussels, Antwerp, Paris and London. He has worked on collections for Chanel, Mugler, Céline, and others, and adorned the heads of celebrities as well as European royalty. His works are also sold in the US and Japan. His partner, Jean Paul Masse, was formerly a lawyer, economist, diplomat and journalist before he turned his hand to writing novels and working on the business side of Pompilio's activities.

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