

## Totally Modular launch revolutionary 'House iO' design competition for students, which aims to tackle homelessness in Bristol.

Totally Modular have today announced the launch of their 'House iO' competition in collaboration with MOBIE, Value Shift, Infill Works, Bristol Housing Festival and Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, University of West England (UWE) Bristol.

The competition asks architectural students from UWE to form teams, to design a prefabricated housing scheme. Using Totally Modular's system, solutions using sites allocated for housing in Bristol will aim to address particular conditions of homelessness in the city.

The weeklong competition runs from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February and finishes Friday midday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The competition is sponsored by Totally Modular (a volumetric housing manufacturer), who is providing £500 of prize money for the winning team and a chance to visit the Totally Modular factory in the West Midlands.

The number of homeless people in Bristol is on the rise — by a shocking 128% over the past three years, according to statistics from Homeless Link. In order to drive forward change to help tackle this homelessness crisis head on, collaboration is key. This competition is hoping to highlight that modular methods of construction can help and alleviate both the housing and homeless crisis in the UK. The competition is a great opportunity to engage students in the issues of homelessness and land use and the surrounding issues but by focusing on solution finding and innovation.

Totally Modular's motivations behind this revolutionary competition were to bring new entrants into the MMC arena & provide students with real life design case studies, whilst also increasing and highlighting the discussion around homelessness and its possible solutions.

Totally Modular's concept of House iO utilises a common frame approach, maximising efficient design of the modules both internally and externally to create a cost effective design solution.

### The House iO competition challenges the student's to develop a proposal for housing that:

- 1) Responds to contemporary issues of homelessness by addressing the housing needs of new and emerging residents in the city;
- 2) Uses an innovative 'common frame' volumetric approach that co-ordinates the manufacture of services Inside and structure and envelope Outside to create an efficient design solution.
- 3) Provides housing on a real site in the city that has been identified as suitable for affordable housing &/or that can be built on for 'meanwhile use' – that is, demountable housing allowing future site redevelopment;
- 4) Creates a safe, healthy and beautiful place for people to live in.

The brief of the competition will include expert input and judging from:

**Totally Modular** on their inside/outside ('House iO') servicing/structural concept for prefabrication.

**Judge – Ele George - Innovation Lead**

**MoBIE** [Ministry of Building Innovation + Education] the education charity encouraging design innovation and advanced creative thinking in 21<sup>st</sup> century living.

**Judge – Mark Southgate -Chief Executive.**

**Values Shift** who are specialist consultants in sustainable communities and homelessness.

**Judge - Zoe Metcalfe – Director.**

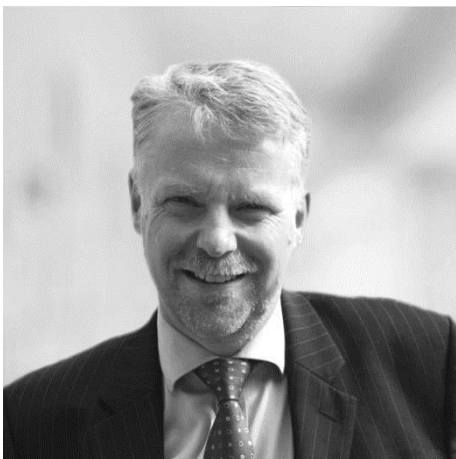
**Bristol Housing Festival** providing advice on the strategy and approach to housing and site selection in the city.

**Judge – Jessie Wilde – Deputy Project Director.**

**Infill Works-** former UWE architecture student and founder of 'Infill Works' planning and architecture consultancy.

**Judge – Oliver Sanger – Founder.**

The head judge Mark Southgate (Chief Executive, MoBIE) will announce the winners on Friday 12<sup>TH</sup> February – with a total of £500 in prize money to be won.



Mark's expressed that MoBIE's motivations for getting involved in this competition was because...'connecting young people to the built environment is vital, as they are the future of housing and construction. It also important to highlight manufacturing in housing; stressing importance of people/users in home design; engaging young people in real life cases'. He further went on to say 'this competition allows for exposure to the MMC industry; generate new inventive ideas about homelessness and meanwhile uses, whilst also engaging students to the MMC industry so they can see the range of career opportunities and 'hit the ground running' upon graduation.

Zoe Metcalfe, from Value Shift sums up the competition by saying... 'The pandemic has demonstrated the need to create homes that nurture, fifteen-minute neighbourhoods that are cohesive, healthy and sustainable. At a time where we are facing the climate and housing crisis more individuals and families face homelessness, threat of eviction, substandard living conditions, rough sleeping.'

This collaboration between an innovative manufacturer, Totally Modular, and an outstanding university, creates a unique opportunity to innovate and link academic study to pathways to delivery.

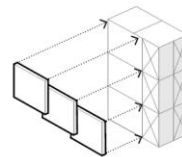
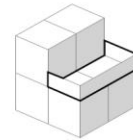
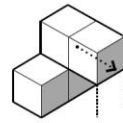


Image - Students are asked to use interchangeable elements (pictured) on the outside of the standard modules, alongside efficient design internally to create an interesting and sustainable community.

Image - House iO Partners

## ENDS

For further information and images, please contact:

Sophie Chater, Sales & Marketing Executive, 01384 880 630

[sophie.chater@totallymodular.co.uk](mailto:sophie.chater@totallymodular.co.uk)

### All Partners include:

**Totally Modular** – [totallymodular.co.uk](http://totallymodular.co.uk) @totallymodular on twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook & Youtube.

**MoBie** - [www.mobie.org.uk](http://www.mobie.org.uk); @mobiehome (twitter); @mobiehomefutures (insta); MOBIE (LinkedIn)

**Bristol Housing Festival** - a five year project, in partnership with Bristol City Council hosting an ongoing conversation in various forms to incubate and pilot new housing solutions.

[www.bristolhousingfestival.org.uk](http://www.bristolhousingfestival.org.uk); twitter: @bristol\_hf; @bristolhousingfestival on insta and facebook and youtube.

Value Shift

Infill Works

University of West England



### Information for Editors:

- Totally Modular are a manufacturer of residential housing solutions based in the West Midlands producing volumetric modular homes to near carbon zero standards for the much needed affordable housing crisis. The homes are precision engineered on a factory production line and start as a robust hybrid steel frame and achieve a build status of up to 95% completion before they are delivered to site.
- We offer a range of solutions consisting of; houses, bungalows and apartments, including airspace developments and offer bespoke designed emergency accommodation to support homeless individuals and families. The homes can be delivered as a full turnkey solution based on a design and build all the way through to delivery. These homes can provide higher quality solutions with lower risk and greater speed, cost-effectiveness and build consistency.
- Totally Modular 'News' updates are available on the website at [www.totallymodular.co.uk](http://www.totallymodular.co.uk)
- Further information, or for regular news and updates, is available on our LinkedIn pages or follow @totallymodular on Twitter.