**Sophia de Sousa  
Chief Executive**

Sophia joined The Glass-House as Chief Executive in 2005. She is an impassioned champion of design quality and enabler of design practices that empower people and organisations and that help communities thrive. She is also a leader in the field of research on community-led, participatory and co-design practices.

Sophia plays an active role in designing and delivering our support to communities and practitioners, our events and in co-designing research, innovation and resources. She is also an active spokesperson and enabler for our mission, contributing regularly to external events, panels and advisory groups and to policy responses.

Sophia has lived and worked in the UK, US and Italy. Her background in architecture and urbanism, education, community and voluntary sector work and in multiculturalism, means that she always considers a place and a project from multiple perspectives. She is passionate about finding opportunity in complexity and diversity, and is committed to working collaboratively to find informed and creative solutions. She strives to help others to do the same.

Sophia is fascinated by the connection between design, people and place, and believes that our sensory and emotional connections with the places around us shape how we live, and who we are.

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