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THE HISTORY OF OPEN HOUSE

The Open House concept was founded in 1992 in London by Victoria Thornton, with the aim of fostering a better understanding of architecture and the built environment.

Frustrated by the barriers between the architectural profession and the capital's citizens, Victoria set out to make London's buildings accessible to all, in line with her belief that direct experience is the most effective way to learn about, understand and argue for quality in the built environment.

"Well-designed buildings and public spaces are vital in creating and sustaining a vibrant city and Open House London enabled the wider community to become more knowledgeable, engage in dialogue and make informed judgements about architecture," says Victoria.

By 1994, 200 contemporary and historic buildings across London featured in the event. Access to the buildings is always free and this has remains core to the event's ethos to encourage inclusivity for all.

In London, about 1000 buildings now open to the public across two days each September with more than 250,000 visitors attending buildings and side events.

The concept is being replicated across Europe, the United States, Latin America and Australia.

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For more information, please contact Kate Innes on 0418 667 330 or kate@hellomarketing.com.au;
Melanie Holloway-Hoad 0431 742 910 or melanie@hellomarketing.com.au