

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN RESEARCH CONFERENCE

ARCHITECTURE OF THE URBAN COMMONS

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The notion of "urban commons" refers to shared spaces, resources, and services within cities that are accessible to all members of society, contributing to the collective well-being and inclusivity of urban life. The architecture of the urban commons addresses how these spaces are designed, maintained, and adapted to serve a diverse population amidst rapid urbanization, technological advancement, and environmental challenges. It is about rethinking urban space to support communal life, foster social equity, and promote ecological sustainability.

As cities around the world grapple with housing crises, shrinking public spaces, and the rise of privatization, the urban commons serve as critical sites for experimentation and innovation in architecture and urban design. From parks and plazas to digital infrastructure and community gardens, these commons represent opportunities to rethink how shared spaces can be cocreated, managed, and preserved by communities.

The International Design Research Conference aims to explore the architecture of urban commons through multidisciplinary perspectives, bringing together a diverse range of students and professionals. The conference seeks to stimulate critical discussions on how architectural practices can engage with the concept of commons to create inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities for the future.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Explore the role of architecture in fostering urban commons that are accessible, socially inclusive, plural and equitable.
- 2. Understand how urban commons can mitigate the effects of climate change and urban sprawl through sustainable development.
- 3. Investigate participatory design methods that allow communities to take an active role in creating and managing their shared spaces.
- 4. Share global case studies and innovative practices that have successfully integrated the urban commons into contemporary urban life.

SUBTHEMES:

- Designing for inclusivity, plurality and social equity
- Climate resilience, renewable energy and energy optimisation in the urban commons
- Governance, policy, and community engagement
- Reimagining the public realm: Social spaces for cultural expression

ELIGIBILITY:

COLLABORATORS

IDRC 2024 will offer a platform for students, architects, researchers, and urban practitioners to share knowledge and collaborate on how design can contribute to the commons. By exploring the dynamic interaction between architecture and the commons, we aim to push the boundaries of traditional urban design, advocating for a more equitable and collective future.

DEMONSTRATION OF FINDINGS:

Participants are invited to submit research papers on innovative design interventions that enhance the architecture of urban commons. These could include adaptive reuse of underutilized spaces or integrating sustainable technologies for energy efficiency and climate resilience. Papers may also explore participatory design processes that empower communities to co-create inclusive, equitable public spaces. Research could also examine various case studies, blending ecological sustainability with social infrastructure, addressing challenges like housing shortages, privatization, and urbanization.

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Proposals for governance models ensuring long-term stewardship and collaborative management are also encouraged, offering a comprehensive view of design's role in creating resilient, inclusive urban environments.

REGISTER FOR FREE

STAGE 1: Registration Open: 18th September 2024 STAGE 2: Abstract submission: 18th October 2024 STAGE 3: Notification of selected abstracts: 25th October 2024 STAGE 4: Final submission of full paper: 2nd December 2024

Selected entries will be published in ACA's research publication with ISSN No. and ACA website for 2024-2025





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