



13th & 14th September

2025

BOOK OFABSTRACTS

Seminar



CONTRIBUTIONS

The UDL Thesis Publication - 2025 witnessed an exceptional influx of thesis projects hailing from different countries, underscoring its global recognition as a hub for academic excellence. The esteemed jury panel, comprising eight distinguished members from renowned institutions across the world, lent their expertise and discernment to the meticulous evaluation process, reaffirming the publication's commitment to upholding the highest standards of scholarly assessment on an international scale.

COUNTRIES

- 1. Peru
- 2. Lebanon
- 3. Argentina
- 4. India
- 5. Indonesia
- 6. United Arab Emirates
- 7. United States
- 8. Italy
- 9. Russia
- 10. Sweden
- 11. Egypt
- 12. Bangladesh
- 13. Spain
- 14. United Kingdom
- 15. France
- 16. Saudi Arabia.
- 17. Australlia

INSTITUTES (Jury Associations)

- Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Barcelona / Politecnico di Milano
- Harvard University Graduate School of Design / New York Institute of Technology
- 3. The American University in Cairo
- École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville
- Architectural Association, London
 / Politecnico di Milano
- 6. Al Akhawayn University / Saudi Urban Planners Association
- 7. Politecnico di Milano
- 8. Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia
- 9. Upalghosh Associates, Delhi
- IIT Kharagpur, IIT Gandhinagar,
 IIT BHU /University of Illinois
 Urbana-Champaign
- Institute of Urban Designers
 India (IUDI)
- Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture (KRVIA), Mumbai

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- 1. Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira
- 2. Evan Shieh
- 3. Nabil Mohareb
- 4. Fatouma Sarah El Phil
- 5. Federico Fauli
- 6. Ibrahim Hegazy
- 7. Giulia Setti
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- 1. Ujan Ghosh
- 2. Amita Sinha
- 3. Brinda Sastry
- 4. George Jacob

SEMINAR MODERATORS

- 1. Tanya Kaur Bedi
- 2. Vishrut Goswami
- 3. Shubham Taparia
- 4. Kristi Verma
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Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally!

The UDL Thesis Publication 2025 brings together 40 outstanding thesis abstracts selected from graduate and postgraduate submissions across 17 countries, showcasing fresh perspectives in urban design, landscape architecture, and planning. Curated for originality and relevance, these works highlight critical global challenges and innovative responses shaping the future of cities. This volume serves as a preview to the complete publication, which will present the full projects alongside these abstracts in December 2025.

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PUBLICATION

UDL Thesis Publication



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS Seminar THESIS SEMINAR

13th-14th

September 2025

Register Now!

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of urban environment together! et's Explore the avenues

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OUR NARRATIVE

About Us

Urban Design Lab (UDL) is a distinguished platform for Urbanists, Architects, Designers, and Planners, offering a dynamic space for sharing working methods, acquiring advanced skills, and exploring new dimensions within the urban environment.

UDL's programs are meticulously crafted to facilitate interaction among urban professionals, ensuring that valuable resources are accessible on a global scale. Our platform is dedicated to reflecting and addressing the concerns and aspirations of urban communities worldwide.

At Urban Design Lab, we understand that the urban landscape is everchanging. Our initiatives are designed to resonate with the evolving needs of cities globally, shaped by the diverse voices and experiences of urban professionals. We aim to foster a space for creative exchange, innovation, and meaningful dialogue.

Beyond serving as a hub for urban professionals, Urban Design Lab stands as one of the most influential urban design publications. With a website that engages over a million visitors annually, we are committed to curating a selection of the most inspiring design projects, grounded in research, to stimulate our global community and various design disciplines.

Our online community encompasses thousands of members from over 95 countries, united by a shared passion for learning and creative growth. Whether you are an established urban professional or a design enthusiast, Urban Design Lab offers a unique platform to expand your knowledge and develop new skills within the urban domain.

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THE PROLOGUE

Preface

The UDL Thesis Publication is conceived as a distinguished platform for presenting visionary, research-driven projects in urban design, landscape architecture, and planning. It celebrates the confluence of creativity and scholarship, bringing together the work of undergraduate and postgraduate students who extend the boundaries of inquiry and design practice in the urban realm.

At its core, this publication seeks to amplify international currents of design and research, engaging academics, professionals, and students in a shared discourse. It aspires to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas that illuminates how urban environments might be reimagined with innovation, equity, and resilience. Within these pages, readers encounter the collective imagination of a generation of scholars who contribute not only to personal recognition but also to a global conversation on the evolving landscape of urban thought.

The abstracts presented here form the foundation for the forthcoming UDL Thesis Publication Seminar on 13–14 September 2025. This convergence of intellect and imagination exemplifies the academic community's creative spirit, highlighting projects that interrogate the relationship between human habitation and the built environment. The themes addressed range from sustainable urban development and community-centered planning to adaptive landscapes and innovative design strategies, each offering critical insights into the challenges and opportunities of contemporary urbanism.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the students whose work animates these pages and to the jurors whose expertise ensures the rigor and depth of the selection. It is our hope that these projects will spark curiosity, invite reflection, and inspire new trajectories of thought and practice. More than a publication or an event, the UDL Thesis Publication is a testament to the collective power of intellect, vision, and aspiration—a reminder that the pursuit of knowledge is inseparable from the pursuit of more just, sustainable, and vibrant urban futures.

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PROGRAM GUIDE

Seminar Schedule

Day 1: Urban Landscape & Management

Session 1

03:00 PM - 06:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 09:30 AM - 12:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

Jury Composition: Ujan Ghosh, Nabil Mohreb & Ibrahim Bahreldinr

Convenor: Tanya Kaur Bedi Moderator: Kristi Verma

Session 2

07:00 PM - 10:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 01:30 PM - 04:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

Jury Composition: Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira, Federico Fauli, & Brinda Sastry Moderator: Ravjyot Kaur

Day 2: Urban Networks & Renewal

Session 1

03:00 PM - 06:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 09:30 AM - 12:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

Jury Composition: Beta Paramita, Fatouma Sarah & George Jacob

Convenor: Tanya Kaur Bedi Moderator: Vishrut Goswami

Session 2

07:00 PM - 10:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 01:30 PM - 04:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

Jury Composition: Giulia Setti, Evan Shieh & Amita Sinha

Moderator: Shubham Taparia

Note: The UDL Thesis Publication book is scheduled for release, in the month of December 2025, that will feature the abstracts published here along with the Thesis Projects.



September

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally!

Seminar Schedule

Day 1

13th September, 2025, Saturday

Themes: Urban Landscape & Urban Management

03:00 PM - 03:05 PM (IST)

09:30 AM - 09:35 AM (UTC)

Inaugural Note - Urban Design Lab

03:05 PM - 03:10 PM (IST)

09:35 AM - 09:40 AM (UTC)

Seminar Foreword - Tanya Kaur Bedi

Session 1 _

03:00 PM - 06:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 09:30 AM - 12:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) Panel Members: Ujan Ghosh, Nabil Mohreb & Ibrahim Bahreldin

03:10 PM - 03:20 PM (IST) 09:40 AM - 09:50 (UTC)	Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Kristi Verma
03:20 PM - 03:35 PM (IST) 09:50 AM - 10:05 (UTC)	Metropolitan Agricultural - Cultural Park: Cultivating the productive and the sacred in the lower lurin river valley through the gobernance of its water resources Lima, Peru Kelly Jazmin Quispecondori Gomez (Under Graduate) Urban Landscape
03:35 PM - 03:50 PM (IST)	Heritage-Led Regeneration Of The Northern Governorate Bahrain Sergio Zgheib, Marita Chamou & Maria Rajha (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
03:50 PM - 04:05 PM (IST) 10:20 AM - 10:35 AM (UTC)	Purmamarca as a Key Point of Integration Between the Quebrada and the Puna Jujeña Purmamarca, Argentina Agustina Wierna, Jorge Eduardo Luis & Camila Cambronero (Under Graduate) Urban Landscape
04:05 PM - 04:20 PM (IST)	Is it possible to coexist with wetlands? Urban-ecological articulator for the Ventanilla Wetlands Lima, Peru Alexandra Liset Llaxa Quispe(Under Graduate) Urban Landscape
04:20 PM - 04:35 PM (IST)	Pravah — Harmonizing Water, Culture, and Environment Poladpur, India Anish Shinde (Post Graduate) Urban Landscape
04:35 PM - 04:50 PM (IST) 11:05 AM - 11:20 AM (UTC)	Rethinking rural habitats – A Community-Based Agro-Rural Occupation Model for the Mantaro Valley Huancayo, Peru Erika Gabriela Ramos Romo (Under Graduate)

Urban Landscape

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Seminar Schedule

Session Break

04:50 PM - 05:05 PM (IST)	Coastal Nexus: Coastal City Urbanism at Tangerang Central Business District,
11:35AM - 11:50 AM (UTC)	Indonesia Tangerang, Indonesia
	Kelvin Narada Gunawan
	Urban Landscape (Post Graduate)
05:05 PM - 05:20 PM (IST)	Productive Landscapes: A new realm of upcycled Post-Industrial District Podelta, Italy
	Kritika Nema
	Urban Landscape (Post Graduate)
05:20 PM - 05:35 PM (IST)	Landscape of Remediation, Remembrance & Retreat New Jersey, United States
11:50 AM - 12:05 PM (UTC)	of America
	Shivani Vinayak Atre (Post Graduate)
	Urban Landscape
05:35 PM - 05:50 PM (IST)	Living with Water - Adaptive Strategies for Coastal Resilience in Darukhana
12:05 PM - 12:20 PM (UTC)	Mumbai, India
	Shubham Majumder (Post Graduate)
	Urban Landscape
05:50 PM - 06:00 PM (IST)	Panel Discussion
12:20 PM - 12:30 PM (UTC)	

Session 2 ____

07:00 PM - 10:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 01:30 PM - 04:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

Panel Members: Federico Fauli, Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira & Brinda Sastry

07:00 PM- 07:05 PM (IST) 01:30 PM - 01:35 PM (UTC)	Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Ravjyot Kaur
07:05 PM- 07:20 PM (IST) 01:35 PM - 01:50 PM (UTC)	Educational Ties: A Refuge-Education Typology in Response to Pluvial Flooding in Bajo Piura Piura, Peru Diana Camila Ascencios Rondon (Under Graduate) Urban Landscape
07:20 PM- 07:35 PM (IST) 01:50 PM - 02:05 PM (UTC)	Reconnecting the Interconnected: Restoring Chennai's Green Blue Heritage for a Climate Resilient Future Aafreen Aaleem, Prarthana Ulaganathan (Post Graduate) Urban Management
07:35 PM- 07:50 PM (IST) 02:05 PM - 02:20 PM (UTC)	Neighborhood-Scale Green Network for Urban Flood Management and Social Cohesion London, United Kingdom Anika Tasnim Ananna (Post Graduate) Urban Management
07:50 PM- 08:05 PM (IST) 02:20 PM - 02:35 PM (UTC)	Amunas. Multipurpose hydric retention infrastructures against scarcity Huarochirí, Perú Diego Antonio Vivas Huaccho (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Management

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Seminar Schedule

O8:05 PM- O8:20 PM (IST)
O2:35 PM - O2:50 PM (UTC)
From Soil to Table: An architecture Exploration of Food, Culture and Community
| Gelendzhik, Russia

Irina Kozlova (Under Graduate)

Urban Management

08:20 PM- 08:35 PM (IST) The Devil's Oasis: Mitigation Hydric Park at the Devil's Ravine | Tacna, Perú

02:50 PM - 03:05 PM (UTC) Max Sebastián Vidal Rios(Under Graduate)

Urban Management

08:35 PM- 08:50 PM (IST) The Architecture of Waste in Domlur: Reinterpreting Infrastructure, Public

Space, and Value | Bengaluru, India

Nashida Surendran (Under Graduate)

Urban Management

08:50 PM- 09:05 PM (IST) THE EXPIATION - "Adaptive Reuse of The Former Gresik Cement Factory as a

MICE Building in Gresik" | Gresik, Indonesia

Naufal Ariq Pangarsa (Post Graduate)

Urban Management

09:05 PM- 09:20 PM (IST) Reimagining BDA Complex as Third Space at Indiranagar | Bengaluru, India

03:35 PM - 03:50 PM (UTC) NEHAL B S (Under Graduate)

Urban Management

09:20 PM- 09:35 PM (IST) Sustainable Urban Renewal of Mumbai's Eastern Waterfront: A Case of Reay

Road | Mumbai, India

Sakshi R Bachewar (Under Graduate)

Urban Management

09:35 PM-10:00 PM (IST)

03:50 PM - 04:05 PM (UTC)

04:05 PM - 04:30 PM (UTC)

03:05 PM - 03:20 PM (UTC)

03:20 PM - 03:35 PM (UTC)

Panel Discussion

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Seminar Schedule

Day 2 15th September, 2024, Sunday Themes: Urban Networks & Urban Renewal

03:00 PM - 03:05 PM (IST)

09:30 AM - 09:35 AM (UTC)

Session Summary - Urban Design Lab

03:05 PM - 03:10 PM (IST)

09:35 AM - 09:40 AM (UTC)

Opening Remark - Tanya Kaur Bedi

Session 1 ____

03:00 PM - 06:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 09:30 AM - 12:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) Panel Members: Beta Paramita, Fatouma Sarah & George Jacob

03:10 PM - 03:20 PM (IST)	Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Vishrut Goswami
03:20 PM - 03:35 PM (IST) 09:50 AM - 10:05 (UTC)	Iron[y] of iron Ballari, India Siddharth Sridhar Narayan, Niclas Maierhofer (Post Graduate) Urban Management
03:35 PM - 03:50 PM (IST) 10:05 AM - 10:20 AM (UTC)	Urban Restorative Corridors: Enabling Health Resilience through Green Infrastructure in Global South Greater Cairo Region, Egypt Yasmina Mohamed Ragab Abdelrazek (Post Graduate) Urban Management
03:50 PM - 04:05 PM (IST) 10:20 AM - 10:35 AM (UTC)	Ras Al Khaimah Airport: Framing Transit through Culture Ras Al Khaimah, UAE Diyaa Naimatullah Khan (Post Graduate) Urban Networks
04:05 PM - 04:20 PM (IST) 10:35 AM - 10:50 AM (UTC)	Urban Space Design Intervention Strategy with Perception Analysis Using Machine Learning Based on Street Level Imagery Bandung, Indonesia Elis Anggun Geminastiti (Post Graduate) Urban Networks
04:20 PM - 04:35 PM (IST) 10:50 AM - 11:05 AM (UTC)	ELEVATE: Rethinking Urban Mobility Infrastructure New York, United States Luke Stefanchik (Under Graduate) Urban Networks
04:35 PM - 04:50 PM (IST) 11:05 AM - 11:20 AM (UTC)	Mega to Mini - Transforming the desert metropolis of Riyadh into a 10-min city Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Mohanad Youssef, Priya Jalan (Post Graduate) Urban Networks
04:50 PM - 05:05 PM (IST)	Architectural Solution for Adaptive Settlement in Coastal Areas "HYDROPOLIS" Blagoveshchensk, Russia Pavel Panshin (Under Graduate)

Urban Networks

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Seminar Schedule

05:05 PM - 05:20 PM (IST)	Airport urban districts for a new age: Node + Flow oriented design solution Zhengzhou, China
	Yizhou Zhao, Yingzhi He (Post Graduate) Urban Networks
05:20 PM - 05:35 PM (IST)	[TRANSVERSAL CARE] Networking of community spaces for active and healthy Adriana Lorena Guerrero Del Pino (Under Graduate) Urban Networks
05:35 PM - 05:50 PM (IST)	From forgotten to found : A case of Pathu thoon lane , Madurai Madurai , India
12:05 PM - 12:20 PM (UTC)	Ankita Agrahario (Under Graduate) Urban Networks
05:50 PM - 06:00 PM (IST)	Panel Discussion

12:20 PM - 12:30 PM (UTC)

Session Break

Session 2 ____

07:00 PM - 10:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 01:30 PM - 04:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) Panel Members: Giulia Setti, Evan Shieh & Amita Sinha

07:00 PM- 07:05 PM (IST)	Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Shubham Taparia
07:05 PM- 07:20 PM (IST) 01:35 PM - 01:50 PM (UTC)	Urban Regeneration as a Quality Standard Castellammare di Stabia, Italy Carmela Zizzania (Post Graduate) Urban Renewal
07:20 PM- 07:35 PM (IST) 01:50 PM - 02:05 PM (UTC)	Mending Mylapore: Tapestry of a Temple Town in South India Chennai, India Madumitha Rengarajan (Post Graduate) Urban Renewal
07:35 PM- 07:50 PM (IST) 02:05 PM - 02:20 PM (UTC)	Revitalization of Pols of Ahmedabad: A Holistic Development Paradigm in Heritage Tourism. Ahmedabad, India. Meshva Patel (Under Graduate) Urban Renewal
07:50 PM- 08:05 PM (IST) 02:20 PM - 02:35 PM(UTC)	Vadhavan Fishing Harbour: Integrating Marine Infrastructure with Coastal Tourism Palghar, India Neelakshi Singh (Under Graduate) Urban Renewal
08:05 PM- 08:20 PM (IST) 02:35 PM - 02:50 PM (UTC)	Castel Grumello - Preservation and Reuse Sondrio, Italy Pavithra Swaminathan (Post Graduate) Urban Renewal

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08:20 PM- 08:35 PM (IST) Grow with Flow: Coastal Resilience in Scheveningen (Using Nature-Based

02:50 PM - 03:05 PM (UTC) Solutions) | The Hague, Netherlands

Shrinithe Ramesh (Post Graduate)

Urban Renewal

08:35 PM- 08:50 PM (IST) Dhopeshwarnath Temple Bareilly- A precinct beyond worship

03:05 PM - 03:20 PM (UTC) Stuti Agarwal (Post Graduate)

03:20 PM - 03:35 PM (UTC)

03:50 PM - 04:05 PM (UTC)

09:50 PM-10:00 PM (IST)

Urban Renewal

08:50 PM- 09:05 PM (IST) Embarcadero Center Effect: Stitching downtown San Francisco through the

transformation of Embarcadero Center's lower levels | San Francisco, US

Styliani Kalomoira Kontogianni (Under Graduate)

Urban Renewal

09:05 PM- 09:20 PM (IST) The Habitable Wall | Glasgow, UK

O3:35 PM - O3:50 PM (UTC) Sushrut Shankar (Post Graduate)

Urban Renewal

09:20 PM- 09:35 PM (IST) Ehyaa: The Cultural Reclamation Trail – Reviving Memory and Heritage Through

Place | Meherpur, Bangladesh

Urbana Tabassum (Under Graduate)

Urban Renewal

09:35 PM- 09:45 PM (IST)
Panel Discussion

04:05 PM - 04:15 PM (UTC)

O9:45 PM- 09:50 PM (IST) Concluding remark - Tanya Kaur Bedi

04:15 PM - 04:20 PM (UTC)

O4:20 PM - 04:30 PM (UTC)

Validectory Session - Urban Design Lab

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THEMATIC DIVISIONS

Publication Themes

The thematic structure of the UDL Thesis Publication 2025 charts a critical journey through contemporary urbanism, organized into four interrelated domains. Each frames a distinct dimension of inquiry, yet together they form a coherent tapestry that underscores the complexity of cities today.

Urban Landscape approaches design beyond aesthetics, addressing climate resilience, cultural continuity, and resident well-being. It positions the landscape as ecological infrastructure and cultural memory, vital to the sustainability and identity of cities.

Urban Management foregrounds the economic, institutional, and social mechanisms that sustain thriving urban environments. It highlights governance systems that balance inclusivity with efficiency, ensuring growth that is both equitable and functional.

Urban Networks examines the infrastructures of mobility, communication, and exchange that bind the city. It emphasizes how flows of people, goods, and information form the lifeblood of urban systems and shape the pulse of contemporary life.

Urban Renewal explores the strategies through which cities regenerate. It situates heritage preservation and adaptive reuse alongside innovation and transformation, reflecting the ongoing negotiation between continuity and change.

Together, these themes articulate a framework for understanding urbanism as a dynamic field. Each thesis contributes a vital fragment to this mosaic, extending conversations from the deep histories of place to the urgent imperatives of sustainable futures.

1.

Urban Landscape

This theme focuses on the design & management of the natural and built environment in urban areas. The area of focus & research include:

- Climate Resilience: Designing urban areas to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact.
- **Green-Blue Infrastructure:** Integrating natural and built elements to create sustainable urban environments.
- Landscape Heritage: Preserving and promoting the cultural and natural heritage of urban areas.
- Landscape Health and Well-being: Designing urban areas that promote physical and mental well-being of its residents.
- Sustainable Urbanism: Creating environmentally sustainable urban areas.
- **Recreation and Leisure:** Designing urban areas for recreational and leisure activities.

2.

Urban Management

This theme emphasizes the social and economic management of urban areas. The area of focus and research include:

- Infrastructure Management: Addressing needs for infrastructure, services, and housing through strategic planning.
- Social and Community Development: Fostering social cohesion and community engagement in urban environments.
- Conflict and Risk Management: Mitigating urban conflicts, risks, and hazards to ensure safety and stability.
- Tourism and Economic Management: Balancing tourism with economic growth while preserving local culture.
- Inclusive Urbanism: Creating accessible, inclusive urban spaces that meet the needs of all residents.

3.

Urban Networks

This theme emphasizes the social and economic management of urban areas. The area of focus and research include:

- Infrastructure & Resources: Addressing infrastructure, service, and housing challenges with sustainable design solutions.
- **Social Cohesion:** Promoting inclusive, community-oriented development to foster strong social ties.
- Mobility & Connectivity: Transit-oriented and water-based solutions, for efficient urban movement.
- **Risk & Conflict Management:** Mitigating urban risks, hazards, and conflicts through strategic planning.
- **Regional Linkages:** Strengthening connections between cities to boost economic and social interactions.
- **Sustainable & Smart Networks:** Sustainable practices and smart technologies to create efficient, resilient urban environments.

4.

Urban Renewal

This theme encompasses the conservation, regeneration, revitalization, and heritage revival of urban areas. The area of focus and research include:

- **Conservation:** Preservation and protection of heritage buildings, districts, and cultural landmarks to maintain historical integrity.
- **Regeneration:** Redevelopment & renewal of underutilized or abandoned urban areas,
- **Revitalization:** Enhancement and improvement of existing urban areas to boost livability, economic activity, & social vitality.
- **Heritage Revival:** Restoration and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and neighborhoods.
- Sustainable Urban Development: Balancing conservation with modern needs.

1.

URBAN LANDSCAPE

Introduction

Urban Landscape

The Urban Landscape theme examines how ecology, culture, and community shape sustainable urban futures. It emphasizes resilience, ecological integration, and the preservation of heritage—natural and cultural—as active forces in city-making.

The projects span Peru, Argentina, Bahrain, India, Indonesia, Italy, and the United States, each addressing the relationship between environment, identity, and development. In Lima's Metropolitan Agricultural-Cultural Park and Pravah in Poladpur, water and agriculture are framed as both productive and sacred, while Huancayo's Rethinking Rural Habitats advances an agro-rural model rooted in community resilience.

Heritage and cultural identity are central to the regeneration of Bahrain's Northern Governorate and Purmamarca in Argentina, while the Po Delta in Italy and Tangerang in Indonesia reimagine post-industrial and coastal territories as productive and adaptive landscapes.

Wetlands, rivers, and coasts emerge as living infrastructures in projects such as Lima's Ventanilla Wetlands, Mumbai's Living with Water, and Piura's Educational Ties, where nature-based strategies mitigate flooding and create inclusive public realms. The Landscape of Remediation, Remembrance & Retreat in New Jersey extends this discourse, transforming post-industrial ground into spaces of healing and memory.

Together, these works position the urban landscape as a site of negotiation—between production and preservation, continuity and transformation—demonstrating its central role in shaping resilient and meaningful cities.

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally!

1.1



Author Profile: Kelly Jazmin Quispecondori Gomez

Bachelor of Architecture | 2021 Pontifical Catholic University | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title: Metropolitan Agricultural - Cultural Park:

Cultivating the productive and the sacred in the lower lurin river valley through the gobernance of

its water resources | Lima, Peru

Thesis Guide: Susana Lopez, Augusto Roman & Cesar Tarazona

Abstract:

The lower valley of the Lurín River, the last green valley of Lima—a desert metropolis—embodies a singular agricultural cultural landscape that integrates productive and ecological value with tangible and intangible traces of huacas and pre-hispanic water systems that once articulated Andean–coastal exchanges through the Qhapaq Ñan. In the past 25 years, however, over two-thirds of its farmland have been lost to urban expansion, fragmenting its territorial fabric, threatening water security, and eroding cultural identity. This thesis explores whether a territorial model can be generated to protect and valorize the valley based on the profitability of its territorial identity. Through landscape analysis, water governance, and heritage management, the research identifies the historic canal system as the structuring axis of a sustainable planning model. It proposes four strategies: restoring hydrological balance, defining ecological transition zones, valorizing heritage linked to water, and strengthening the agri-food cycle through agroecology.

Keywords:

Territorial model, Agricultural cultural landscape, Territorial Identity

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally!

1.2







Author Profile: Sergio Zgheib, Marita Chamoun, Maria Rajha

Master's in Urban Design | 2025

American University of Beirut (AUB) | Beirut, Lebanon

Thesis Title: Heritage-Led Regeneration Of The Northern Governorate | Bahrain

Thesis Guide: Sandra Frem

Abstract:

The thesis emerges from the Spring 2025 Landscape and Urban Design Studio at the American University of Beirut. It examines Bahrain & its evolving landscapes, where urbanization, land reclamation, and oildriven development have had far-reaching consequences across built, social, and ecological systems. The main research questions ask (1) how urban design can bridge the gap between Bahrain & its climate adaptation goals and the realities of ecological degradation, spatial inequality, fragmented heritage, and post-oil dependency, and (2) how heritage can lead to urban regeneration and resilience. The project focuses on the Northern Governorate in Bahrain, analyzing socioenvironmental systems and climate stresses, including existing built, natural, and lived heritage, water scarcity and salinity, heat islands, and biodiversity loss. Methodologically, it employs a multi-scalar approach that combines territorial diagnostics, spatial mapping, and data-driven research that investigates urban fragmentation patterns, cultural and heritage legacies, and socio-political dynamics. At the macro scale, power maps and governance strategies inform a climate-adaptive, heritage-led vision that re-imagines spatial networks and co-production frameworks. At the micro scale, typologies integrate shading, bioswales, biodiversity corridors, cultural landscapes, and adaptive reuse in a heritage trail network. Findings show that rather than conventional master plans, phased, adaptive frameworks rooted in community-driven agency guide regeneration. The thesis concludes with an alternative vision for the 2050 government plan re-imagining post-oil urbanism in Bahrain while fostering equity, resilience, and renewal.

Keywords:

Bahrain, urban regeneration, heritage, climate adaptation, spatial inequality, ecological degradation, land reclamation.

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally!

1.3







Author Profile:

Agustina Wierna, Jorge Luis, Camila Cambronero

Masters of Architecture (Urban Design) | 2023 Cordoba´s National University | Cordoba, Argentina

Thesis Title:

Integration Portal between the Puna and the Quebrada of Jujuy - Regional tourist Interpretation center in Purmamarca

Thesis Guide: Gabriela del Pilar Casasnovas

Abstract:

This work addresses mass tourism in Purmamarca, an emblematic town in the Quebrada de Humahuaca (Jujuy, Argentina), through a proposal for sustainable and territorial architectural design. Unregulated tourism has strained the region's social, cultural, and environmental fabricoverloading infrastructure, displacing indigenous communities, and devaluing heritage. In response, an "Open Museum" and Regional Interpretation Center are proposed as a dynamic network of cultural spaces, interpretive trails, and public facilities that go beyond the limits of a conventional museum, promoting cultural and sustainable tourism as a tool for learning, exchange, and mutual respect between visitors and local communities. The project operates across four scales: territorial, urban, urban-architectural, and local. At the territorial level, environmental corridors and inter-modal tourist circuits connect natural and cultural attractions, enhancing accessibility and regional integration. At the urban scale, new public spaces channel tourist flows and encourage social interaction, preventing disorderly expansion into productive lands and landscapes. Architecturally, the Regional Tourist Center is conceived as a sequence of open and built spaces, drawing on the Andean landscape and indigenous materials such as adobe and stone to achieve a harmonious transition between built and natural environments. The "Open Museum" reinterprets the relationship between culture, landscape, and architecture, foregrounding ancestral knowledge and environmental heritage while fostering integration of the Chalala and Coquena communities with Purmamarca's urban center to reinforce cultural identity and participation in tourism development.

Keywords:

Intangible heritage, Cultural Landscape, Masiv Tourism, Local Communities, Sustainable Tourism

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1.4



Author Profile: Alexandra Liset Llaxa Quispe

Bachelor of Architecture | 2023

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title:

Is it possible to coexist with wetlands? Urban-ecological articulator for the Ventanilla Wetlands | Lima, Peru

Thesis Guide: Augusto Juan Francisco Román Moncagatta; Susana López Valera; César Omar Tarazona Huamán

Abstract:

The Ventanilla Wetlands in Callao, Lima, Peru, face growing threats from human activity. Informal settlements, like Valle Verde, have expanded through housing, degrading wetlands by burning vegetation, filling land, and altering ecosystems. These practices frame wetlands as a threat rather than a resource.

This study addresses the issue from an urban perspective, integrating architectural and landscape approaches in Valle Verde, within the Regional Conservation Area (RCA), home to diverse flora and fauna. It seeks to answer: How can people live in wetlands while restoring ecosystems? Can degraded areas recover without relocating residents? How can architecture reconcile this conflict? Combining spatial analysis, ecological assessment, and urban design strategies, the project promotes vegetation growth, green area expansion, and bird habitat, while enhancing community livability. It proposes strategies for harmonious urban expansion and preserving social relationships.

Findings show the intervention recovers wetlands and public spaces. Coexistence between residents, flora, and fauna can transform wetlands into drivers of urban resilience and ecological restoration.

Keywords:

Wetlands, coexistence, local community

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally!

1.5



Author Profile: Anish Shinde

Bachelor's in Architecture | 2025 Aditya College of Architecture | Mumbai, India

Thesis Title: Pravah — Harmonizing Water, Culture, and Environment | Poladpur, India

Thesis Guide: Rita Nayak

Abstract:

The thesis explores the intricate interdependence between water, human settlements, and ecology, focusing on Poladpur, Maharashtra a region of high rainfall yet persistent water scarcity due to rapid surface runoff. It investigates how water has historically shaped community life, cultural practices, and spatial planning, while modern neglect of water infrastructure has caused ecological imbalance and migration. Through site surveys, community interviews, and spatial mapping, the research identifies the gaps in integrating water-sensitive strategies within rural infrastructure. The proposed design intervention envisions a multifunctional community hub combining water infrastructure, social spaces, and agricultural support, inspired by traditional harvesting systems and ecological principles. By reconnecting people with water and fostering sustainable practices, the project demonstrates how architecture can mediate between human needs and environmental systems, creating resilient settlements. The findings highlight that solving water scarcity requires a holistic approach where built form, ecology, and culture coexist symbiotically.

Keywords:

Water Infrastructure, Community Development, Sustainable Architecture

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1.6



Author Profile: Erika Gabriela Ramos Romo

Bachelor of architecture | 2023 Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title:

Rethinking rural habitats – A Community-Based Agro-Rural Occupation Model for the Mantaro Valley | Huancayo, Peru

Thesis Guide: Susana López, Augusto Román and César Tarazona

Abstract:

In Mantaro Valley at the center of The Andes, farmers have a strong bond with their land and they nurture water, soil, flora, fauna and climate following ancestral knowledge. However, the contemporary suburban model is displacing indigenous communities. In light of this situation, the community of Sicaya has declared the status of "Food Reserve" for its territory but this institutional measure hasn't helped to protect their land. And in order to spatialize a solution, a model for agrorural occupation is proposed based on local forms of agroecological production and collective housing construction.

This model is organized in 3 scales and 3 strategies. First, the domestic scale proposes a vital unit consisting of housing and productive family-owned land with the construction and legalization under collective management. The second is the community scale that proposes a matrix of aggregation of vital units that generate farming associations to ensure commercial success. Third, the territorial scale searches to reconnect anthropic and ecological networks.

All scales of the proposal use green corridors, water microsystems and regenerative strategies. And all these actions bring an alternative livelihood and a transition protective space from the growing urban sprawl, in that way a hybrid habitat a can be reached reaffirming a dignified livelihood based on agriculture.

Keywords:

rural habitat, agricultural landscape, community based planning

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1.7



Author Profile: Kelvin Narada Gunawan

Master's in Urban Design | 2024 Institut Teknologi Bandung | Bandung, Indonesia

Thesis Title: Coastal City Urbanism at Central Business District of Tangerang | Tangerang, Indonesia

Thesis Guide: Mochamad Donny Koerniawan

Abstract:

Coastal Climate Cities are urban areas influenced by maritime climates and land-sea breezes. Many of Coastal Climate Cities in the world face both opportunities and challenges arising from climate change, high humidity, and strong wind speeds. This study explores urban planning and design strategies by applying Climate Sensitive Urban Design (CSUD) principles to Coastal Climate Cities, and develops a prototype concept called COASTAL NEXUS in the Central Business District (CBD) of Tangerang. The design interventions include the provision of ascending building heights, horizontal breezeways, evaporative cooling systems, interconnected green corridors, traffic calming strategies, high-albedo materials, and dynamic active building façades. Simulation results show that the application of CSUD principles in COASTAL NEXUS successfully reduces air temperature by 1.60°C during the dry season and 1.77°C during the rainy season, decreases the Predicted Mean Vote (PMV) by +0.81 in the dry season and +0.93 in the rainy season, while maintaining average wind speeds of 1.84 m/s in the dry season and 1.64 m/s in the rainy season. These findings demonstrate that the Coastal Climate City concept, through CSUD implementation, can optimize microclimatic potential while mitigating its challenges. This study also contributes new insights into microclimate modeling to improve outdoor thermal comfort in tropical coastal cities.

Keywords:

Coastal-Climate Cities, Climate Sensitive Urban Design (CSUD), Urban Heat Island (UHI)

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1.8





Author Profile: Kritika Nema, Berfin bukan

Master's in Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design | 2023 Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title:

Productive Landscapes: A new realm of upcycled Post-Industrial District

Thesis Guide: Prof. Matteo umberto poli

Abstract:

This thesis reimagines post-industrial landscapes as catalysts for ecological, cultural, and social regeneration, asking how decommissioned sites can evolve into resilient environments without erasing their identity. It focuses on the Enel Power Plant in Veneto, Italy, where monumental structures stand within the fragile Po Delta. Once a symbol of mechanistic progress, its towering chimney and vast halls now face abandonment, yet hold potential for renewal.

The approach rests on three principles: preservation, restoration, and generation. Preservation safeguards existing ecosystems through ecological corridors and resilience strategies. Restoration revives habitats, retrofits salt marshes, and restructures embankments to enhance biodiversity and water quality. Generation introduces adaptive systems such as aquaculture, bioswales, and polyculture farming, while reinterpreting industrial structures as living landmarks.

At a territorial scale, the site is integrated into the VENTo cycling corridor, activating it as a cultural and ecological waypoint within the wider Po River landscape. Through this multi-scalar vision, the thesis shows that post-industrial terrains are not voids but underutilized resources. By transforming obsolete infrastructures into ecological assets and symbolic places, it offers a replicable model for sustainable redevelopment—arguing their legacy lies not in decline but in their capacity to evolve into meaningful landscapes for the future.

Keywords:

Post-industrial landscapes, Ecological restoration, Adaptive reuse, Landscape transformation, Urban regeneration design

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1.9



Author Profile: Shivani Vinayak Atre

Master of Urban Design | 2025

College of Environmental Design, UCB | Berkeley, California

Thesis Title: Landscape of Remediation, Remembrance & Retreat | New Jersey, United States of America

Thesis Guide: Pol Fite Matamoros

Abstract:

This study investigates the Meadowlands region of New Jersey, where decades of extensive industrialization have led to environmental degradation and social inequities, that continue to affect both the community and the ecosystem. These impacts are further exacerbated by the site's vulnerability to flooding, water- level rise and contaminated soil and groundwater, and the presence of superfund sites throughout the Meadowlands.

It focuses on the Town of Kearny, examining a legacy of environmental harm and neglect, where residents have long fought to close the Keegan Landfill due to its detrimental effects on public health and quality of life. Through extensive fieldwork, interviews, and design research, It tries to understand kearny's complex landscape of socio-economic, ecological, and political entanglements.

The thesis addresses these overlapping vulnerabilities and existing actors and systems through a landscape-based urban design framework grounded in retreat, remediation, and remembrance. It challenges the universalized strategies often used in climate resilience. It argues for a bottom-up lived-experience design approach, where design frameworks emerge from within the place and people, and people have ownership over the place.

Keywords:

Environmental Justice, Sea-level rise, Brownfield Remediation, Contaminated land and groundwater cleanup, Communitydriven planning, Landscape-based urban-design frameworks, Lived-Experience design

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Author Profile: Shubham Majumder

Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design | 2024 Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title:

Living with Water - Adaptive Strategies for Coastal Resilience in Darukhana

Thesis Guide: Leonardo Zuccaro Marchi

Abstract:

As climate change accelerates, rising sea levels pose an escalating threat to coastal cities, disrupting ecosystems, infrastructure, and livelihoods. This crisis is particularly acute in dense urban regions where spatial constraints and socio-economic inequalities magnify vulnerability. Mumbai, one of the world's most populous coastal metropolises, exemplifies this condition. Once an archipelago of seven islands consolidated through centuries of reclamation, the city now faces the prospect of partial submersion within the next fifty years, potentially fragmenting once again into a new archipelago. This cyclical transformation highlights the urgent need to reimagine urbanism that adapts to water rather than resists it. While Mumbai's western coastline has seen major investment in protective infrastructure, the eastern waterfront—especially Darukhana—remains neglected. Defined by its shipbreaking past, environmental degradation, and rapid informal settlement growth, Darukhana faces increasing risk from flooding and infrastructural collapse. This thesis argues that adaptive reuse of postindustrial waterfront typologies, supported by community-driven and ecologically responsive design strategies, can reframe Darukhana as a replicable model for coastal resilience in dense urban contexts. By linking industrial heritage with informal urbanism and environmental precarity, the research challenges conventional flood-defense paradigms and instead advocates for "living with water" as a regenerative framework that strengthens socio-ecological resilience, preserves cultural identity, and enables more inclusive urban futures.

Keywords:

Coastal Resilience, Adaptive Urbanism, Sea-Level Rise

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1.11



Author Profile: Diana Camila Ascencios Rondon

Bachelor's in Architecture | 2022

Pontifical Catholic University | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title: Educational Ties: A Refuge-Education Typology in Response to Pluvial Flooding in Bajo Piura | Piura,

Peru

Thesis Guide: César Tarazona, Augusto Román, Susana López

Abstract:

El Niño phenomenon is a cyclical event that specifically impacts the northern region of the country. In 2017 alone, over 1.9 million people were affected, of whom more than a third were children and adolescents (United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], 2017, p. 1). The most affected areas are poorly consolidated rural communities; many of which remain isolated for weeks, lacking access to basic services. Educational facilities are among the most severely damaged infrastructure in these communities, with schools being partially or totally destroyed. In addition, these facilities already suffer from existing structural deficiencies, overcrowded classrooms, and are located in areas with limited accessibility for the entire community. Moreover, these schools show no recognition of their rural surroundings, behaving as concrete boxes amidst the agricultural landscape. Therefore, the research question is: How can educational infrastructure confront the risk of pluvial flooding and integrate social dynamics into the agricultural landscape? To answer this question, a new refuge-educational typology is proposed. This typology functions as a resilient element against the risk of pluvial flooding and as a means of connection for engagement with the agricultural landscape. Thus, the project aims to establish a link between communities and the agricultural landscape through educational spaces dedicated to revaluing local knowledge such as agriculture and crafts. Additionally, it seeks to serve as a bridge and refuge for the most affected families during flood events.

Keywords:

El Niño phenomenon, refuge-educational typology, agricultural landscape, bridge, local knowledge.

2.

URBAN MANAGEMENT

Introduction

Urban Management

The Urban Management theme addresses the governance of social, economic, and ecological systems within cities, focusing on how urban form, infrastructure, and community life can be organized to achieve resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability. It highlights strategies that reconcile growth with equity, and innovation with cultural and environmental stewardship.

The projects span diverse contexts — from India, Indonesia, and Egypt to the United Kingdom, Peru, and Russia — each confronting pressing questions of adaptation, regeneration, and equitable access. Reconnecting the Interconnected in Chennai and the Neighborhood-Scale Green Network in London foreground water resilience and ecological integration, while Amunas in Huarochirí and The Devil's Oasis in Tacna deploy hydric infrastructures to mitigate scarcity and manage risk.

Adaptive reuse and post-industrial regeneration surface in projects such as The Expiation in Gresik, Indonesia, and IRON[Y] of Iron in Bellary, India, alongside explorations of waste as infrastructure in The Architecture of Waste in Domlur and the creation of hybrid cultural and civic spaces in Reimagining the BDA Complex at Indiranagar, Bengaluru. Similarly, Revitalizing Urban Voids at Mumbai's Eastern Waterfront illustrates strategies for transforming underutilized spaces into socially inclusive public realms.

Food systems and cultural practices appear in From Soil to Table in Gelendzhik, Russia, linking production, community, and identity. Meanwhile, the pilot study in Greater Cairo interrogates planning and governance frameworks within complex urban districts. Collectively, these projects articulate urban management as a practice of negotiation — balancing ecological resilience, adaptive reuse, infrastructural innovation, and socio-spatial equity to cultivate thriving urban environments.

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2.1





Author Profile:

Aafreen Saleem, Prarthana Ulaganathan

MSc Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design | 2024 Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title:

Reconnecting the Interconnected - Revitalizing Ecological and Economic Systems Through Cultural Heritage Restoration

Thesis Guide: Antonella Contin

Abstract:

This thesis investigates the interconnection between climate, cultural heritage, and landscape systems in Chennai, a rapidly urbanizing coastal metropolis in southern India. The research addresses the ecological and social consequences of disappearing water bodies, declining wetlands, and fragmented cultural practices, with a focus on the Pallikaranai Marshland and the traditional eri tank system. Historically, these networks functioned as cultural-ecological infrastructures that sustained livelihoods, biodiversity, and resilience, yet urban expansion and colonial-era centralization disrupted their functioning. Through protocol mapping, ecological analysis, and socio-spatial research, the study uncovers gaps in cultural memory and contemporary water management. Comparative case studies such as the East Kolkata Wetlands and Boston's Emerald Necklace provide benchmarks for integrating ecological processes with social value. The project proposes design strategies that combine green, grey, and blue infrastructures, restore degraded landscapes, and reimagine water as both ecological asset and cultural commons. By reframing cultural heritage as a foundation for climate adaptation, the thesis advances a model for resilient metropolitan planning that restores ecological balance, strengthens community stewardship, and supports a sustainable urban future.

Keywords:

Cultural-Ecological Resilience, Water Urbanism, Urban Climate Adaptation, Wetland Restoration, Socio-Spatial Analysis, Community Stewardship, Sustainable Metropolitan Planning

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2.2



Author Profile: Anika Tasnim Ananna

MSc in Urban Design & City Planning | 2023 University College London (UCL) | London, United Kingdom

Thesis Title:

Neighborhood-Scale Green Network for Urban Flood Management and Social Cohesion | London, United Kingdom

Thesis Guide: Judith Loesing

Abstract:

Urbanization and climate change have transformed urban landscapes, increasing impermeable surfaces and intensifying rainfall events, which elevate urban flooding risks and create complex challenges for planners and designers. This study examines how integrating green and social infrastructure into urban design can mitigate flooding while enhancing social cohesion in an East London neighborhood. Current UK policies for sustainable stormwater management primarily focus on new developments, offering limited guidance for retrofitting existing neighborhoods or integrating social infrastructure with Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). To address this gap, the study analyses SuDS designs from UK and international precedents, highlighting the need for context-sensitive strategies. A site analysis including flood risk assessment, green space mapping, and activity analysis guides the development of design principles. The study proposes a neighborhoodscale green network framework, treating green spaces as nodes and streets as corridors, integrating social infrastructure to manage flooding and strengthen community cohesion. A parameter-based strategy guides SuDS and amenity interventions, ensuring adaptability and scalability, and is encoded into a checklist table for application across diverse contexts. The research offers strategies to improve stormwater management while fostering ecology and community, providing practical guidance for sustainable urban design.

Keywords:

Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), Social Cohesion, Neighbourhood-Scale Green Network, Urban Flooding, Sustainable Urban Design Principle.

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2.3



Author Profile:

Diego Antonio Vivas Huaccho

Bachelor's of Architecture | 2021

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title:

Amunas. Multipurpose hydric retention infrastructures against scarcity | Huarochirí, Perú

Thesis Guide: Luis Rodríguez Rivero, Elizabeth Añaños, Gustavo Díaz, Silvana Corro, Eduardo Peláez, Daniel Ramírez CorzoSilvana Corro, Eduardo Peláez, Daniel Ramírez-Corzo

Abstract:

Climate variability and the resulting water scarcity on a global scale pose unimaginable challenges to humanity. In Peru, the situation is critical, and will affect the most vulnerable populations, paradoxically, those who have been nurturing water for generations. The amunas, pre-Inca systems conserved by communities in the high basins of Peru and revealed by exciting recent research, are based on the principle of water retention of sowing and harvesting of water, from which they promote the infiltration, percolation and subsequent emanation of water in times of drought, configured as an opportunity through which to face the great regional problem of water scarcity today. The project proposes, based on the theorization of the spatial system of the amunas - the placement of a massive or mural retaining element -, to convert the system into a network of multipurpose green infrastructures capable of multi-scale articulation, generating the framework for the restoration and expansion of their road, hydrography and vegetation subsystems, turning their impact on the landscape into local and regional infrastructural urban and rural opportunities to close multidimensional public gaps.

Keywords:

water security, amunas, natural infrastructure, landscape, planning, architecture, urban, rural, Huarochiri, Peru, Andes

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2.4



Author Profile:

Irina Kozlova

Bachelor's of Architecture | 2025

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia | Moscow, Russia

Thesis Title:

From Soil to Table: An architecture Exploration of Food, Culture & Community | Gelendzhik, Russia

Thesis Guide: Egor Orlov

Abstract:

This thesis explores the intersection of architecture, food, and culture through the design of a Cultural and Gastronomic Center. It addresses the modern disconnection between people and food, where gastronomy often becomes spectacle or commodity, detached from its seasonal and communal roots. The key question is how architecture can restore this bond and turn food into a cultural process rather than a mere product.

The methodology includes spatial analysis of the site, study of food cycles from cultivation to consumption, and reinterpretation of typologies of markets, kitchens, and public squares. The design draws inspiration from a bento box: distinct modules with specific roles form an interconnected whole.

The spatial concept is arranged in four layers: a central square for markets and festivals; a ring of food courts and cultural spaces; a belt of functional modules - kitchens, drying areas, composting hubs, workshops, and a greenhouse-supermarket; and an agricultural edge of fields and gardens. The second level hosts educational and cultural programs - a library, lecture hall, and event-restaurant - while pavilions provide rest and informal dialogue.

The findings show that architecture can act as a mediator between food and society, restoring cultural depth and promoting sustainable practices.

Keywords:

Food Architecture, Community Design, Urban Sustainability, Gastronomic Space, Cultural Landscape

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2.5



Author Profile: Max Sebastián Vidal Rios

Bachelor of Architecture | 2024

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title: The Devil's Oasis: Mitigation Hydric Park at the Devil's Ravine | Tacna, Perú

Thesis Guide: Augusto Juan Francisco Román Moncagatta / César Omar Tarazona Huamán / Susana López Varela

Abstract:

Tacna is located in southern Peru, in a desert area bordering the Atacama Desert. Therefore, year-round rainfall is minimal, generating an extremely high water stress scenario. However, there have been unusually short periods of intense rainfall, resulting in the activation of ravines and mudslides within the region, a situation for which the city is unprepared.

In this context, the main research question is How can we implement a regulation system that faces the hydrological extremes in the Devil's Ravine that allows the generation of a network of public spaces on its alluvial fan and benefits Tacna's population in several ways?

The most recent activation of Devil's Ravine was on February 21, 2020. The greatest damage was identified in its "critical longitudinal section": the upper and middle areas are characterized by increasing the volume of the mudslide; the disaster occurs in the lower area, which encompasses the alluvial fan located within the city, where important public facilities and vulnerable human settlements are located, so the mudslide affects the city's economic activity and the people who live there.

In this way, the need for mitigation infrastructure is leveraged to create an opportunity to implement new public spaces and water urban infrastructures that currently do not exist, which can be replicated in different sectors along the ravine, and even in other ravines.

Keywords:

Park, landscape, infrastructure, risk mitigation, mudslides, fog-catchers, desert

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2.6



Author Profile: Nashida Surendran

Bachelor of Architecture | 2025 BMS College of Architecture, Design and Planning | Bengaluru, India

Thesis Title:

The Architecture of Waste in Domlur: Reinterpreting Infrastructure, Public Space, and Value | Bengaluru, India

Thesis Guide: Dr. Mamatha P Raj, Ar. CS Hima, Ar. Satej Alur

Abstract:

This thesis addresses the challenges of urban voids in Bengaluru, especially under flyovers and Rajakaluve (Storm water drain) edges, which have deteriorated into informal dump sites and zones of neglect & disconnect in communities from waste management processes. The central research question explores how such neglected spaces can be reimagined as inclusive waste management and awareness centers that also function as public spaces encouraging transparency, education, surveillance, and shared responsibility.

The study explores Bengaluru's waste management system through site visits to DWCCs, related facilities, and surveys that capture public perception of waste-related stigma. Global case studies of waste-to-resource projects and circular economy models strategies for integrating sustainability, upcycling, and materiality into design

The site chosen, a prime location currently functioning as an urban void, was analyzed for its issues and by-law constraints. The program evolved to integrate waste management functions with education and public engagement, while ensuring hygiene, segregation of service and public paths, and a balance between transparency and worker privacy. The key findings establish how architecture, through spatial planning, materiality, and program, can reposition waste and urban voids into catalysts of awareness, sustainability, and community interaction.

Keywords:

Urban Void, Waste Management, Circular Economy, Sustainable Urbanism

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2.7



Author Profile: Naufal Ariq Pangarsa

Masters of Architecture | 2024

Institut Teknologi Bandung | Bandung, Indonesia

Thesis Title: THE EXPIATION - "Adaptive Reuse of The Former Gresik Cement Factory as a MICE Building in

Gresik" | Gresik, Indonesia

Thesis Guide: Widjaja Martokusumo & Mochamad Donny Koerniawan

Abstract:

The Gresik Cement Factory, established in 1957, transformed Gresik from a coastal trade hub into an industrial city, serving for decades as both economic driver and cultural landmark. Since the relocation of production to Tuban in 2014, the site has been largely abandoned, causing spatial decay, loss of socio-cultural value, and environmental issues such as reduced green space, urban heat islands, and carbon emissions. This thesis proposes "The Expiation", an adaptive reuse strategy that redeems the site's industrial past through sustainable transformation. The project envisions the former factory as a multifunctional MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Conference, Exhibition) complex, supporting urban renewal while addressing ecological and socio-economic challenges. Based on theories of industrial heritage, adaptive reuse, and sustainability, and informed by 15 global precedents, the design emphasizes three criteria: Architectural Authenticity, Socio-Cultural Engagement, and Environmental Sustainability. Retained structures—including the Kiln, Workshops, Chimney, and Water Plant—are reinterpreted to maintain historic integrity. Environmental testing using the EDGE App showed strong results: 52.23% energy savings, 56.48% water savings, and 74.00% material efficiency. The Expiation illustrates how industrial relics can be revived as inclusive, future-oriented urban assets.

Keywords:

Adaptive Reuse, Environmental Sustainability, Gresik Cement Factory

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2.8



Author Profile:

Nehal B S

Bachelor's in Architecture | 2025

BMS College of Architecture, Design and Planning | Bangalore, India

Thesis Title:

Reimagining BDA complex as third space at Indiranagar | Bengaluru, India

Thesis Guide: Dr. Mamatha P Raj, Ar. CS Hima, Ar. Satej Alur

Abstract:

Bengaluru, one of India's fastest-growing metropolitan city, has relied on the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) since 1976 for housing layouts, public infrastructure and commercial hubs. Among its interventions, BDA Complexes were conceived as local commercial and administrative nodes, integrating government offices and retail spaces to serve community needs. The Indiranagar BDA Complex has over time become static. A 2018 BDA proposal for redevelopment emphasizes larger built-up areas and dense retail-office functions but risks intensifying congestion and neglecting public life.

This thesis critiques the proposed plan and reimagines the Indiranagar BDA Complex as a Third Space—a multifunctional civic realm that blends commerce, culture and public activity. By examining existing Floor Area Ratio (FAR) regulations, land use patterns, and stakeholder expectations, the project formulates a comprehensive design strategy to balance public and private functions. The design fosters interaction through green spaces, flexible amenities, and accessibility.

Through urban analysis, stakeholder engagement and architectural intervention, the thesis envisions a revitalized complex that strengthens neighborhood identity, supports economic growth and fosters inclusivity. The project redefines Indiranagar BDA Complex as a pilot Third Space model for inclusive urban regeneration that address the social, economic, and cultural needs of rapidly transforming cities.

Keywords:

Third Space, Civic Complex, Public Realm, Community Engagement, Mixed-Use Redevelopment

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2.9



Author Profile: Sakshi R Bachewar

Bachelors in Urban Design | 2023 IES College of Architecture | Mumbai, India

Thesis Title:

Sustainable Urban Renewal of Mumbai's Eastern Waterfront: A Case of Reay Road | Mumbai, India

Thesis Guide: Namrata Sharma

Abstract:

This study investigates the causes and impacts of urban voids, focusing on the Eastern Waterfront of Mumbai. Urban gaps, often overlooked, influence the city's social, environmental, and visual fabric. Using Kevin Lynch's Image of the City as a theoretical framework, the research explores how urban elements shape legibility and traveller experience, suggesting that revitalized voids can become integral parts of the urban fabric. In Mumbai's G-South ward, voids identified through the Development Plan were analysed based on safety, accessibility, surrounding context, and existing versus proposed uses. Historical decline in port-related industrial activity led to disuse of these lands, with warehouses and parcels repurposed for informal commercial activities. This has resulted in social, environmental, urban problems, including public safety risks, waste accumulation, visual blight, and informal settlements. The design proposal responds to these challenges through a mixed-use intervention in Sewri, integrating a cultural gallery overlooking the fort and mangroves, community and NGO spaces, and facilities for education, labour, and festivals. By aligning ecological conservation with cultural identity and social inclusivity, the thesis demonstrates how redundant port lands can be transformed into vibrant, resilient, and functional public spaces that enhance urban quality of life, while offering a replicable framework for similar postindustrial waterfronts in global South cities.

Keywords:

Urban Voids Waterfront Revitalization Urban Fabric Adaptive Reuse Public Space Planning Social and Environmental Impact

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2.10





Author Profile:

Siddharth Sridhar Narayan, Niclas Maierhofer

MSc Sustainable Urban Planning and Design | 2025 KTH Royal Institute of Technology | Stockholm, Sweden

Thesis Title: Iro

Iron[y] of Iron | Ballari, India

Thesis Guide: Alejandra Navarrete Llopis

Abstract:

Urban systems are deeply dependent on resources and materials, a dependency that creates unequal consequences elsewhere. Sustainable urban development relies on natural resources that are unevenly distributed and must be extracted, linking it to major challenges in resource-rich regions. The development of one place is enabled at the expense of another, placing a disproportionate burden on certain geographies. Overexploitation to sustain urban growth transforms livable land into industrial zones, causing environmental degradation, displacement, and hazardous living conditions. Meanwhile, urban centres built from these extracted resources expand further, reinforcing a cycle of intensified extraction that deepens inequality and segregation.

This project examines the spatial impacts of resource extraction on local communities. The focus was guided by selecting a material essential to civilisation's infrastructure and projected to remain indispensable across contexts: iron. The geographical area chosen reflects both visible consequences of extraction and personal familiarity. The central question asks: How can the problems of a resource exploitation system be addressed while it is still operational, to engage with social inequality and environmental issues? The proposal argues for a parallel system that addresses social and environmental challenges while preparing for a post-extraction future in this resource-abundant region.

Keywords:

System Change, Mining, Ecological Construction, Community Engagement, Landscape Restoration

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2.11



Author Profile: Yasmina Mohamed Ragab Abdelrazek

M.Sc. in Architectural Engineering | 2023

Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University | Cairo, Egypt

Thesis Title: Urban Restorative Corridors: Enabling Health Re-

silience through Green Infrastructure in Global

South | Greater Cairo Region, Egypt

Thesis Guide: Heba Allah Essam E. Khalil

Abstract:

With the global momentum shifting towards health, it is evident how urban areas are suffering from infrastructure vulnerabilities. With the proliferation of physical & mental health issues, cities are bound to enable transformational action to foster health & create a symbiotic relationship with nature. With such a pressing need to act, the Global South is falling behind to follow Northern Policies. This research investigates how Southern Cities can enable health resilience, by creating green urban environments that stimulate individual & collective restoration. This thesis adopts an action research strategy with Literature review on health resilience & nature restorative capacities in addition to comparing international cases exploring urban linear corridors & Miyawaki pockets. The research develops a matrix with design qualities & elements to enable urban restorative corridors. A multi-scale empirical study is designed to collect & analyze data from GCR, an emblematic example of the Global South. The pilot area's micro scale data collection & analysis uses a mixed approach covering qualitative & quantitative methods including questionnaires, ground surveys, aerial mapping as well as interviews & experts' workshop to contextualize & validate the previously developed matrix. Lastly, the research taps into the pilot area restorative capacity through simulating urban future scenario compounding green & active linear vs green-only acupuncture approaches to dense urban settings.

Keywords:

Green and salutogenic Health Resilience, Mental Wellbeing, Restorative Urbanism, Miyawaki Forests, Global South Greening Interventions

3.

URBAN NETWORKS

Introduction

Urban Networks

The Urban Networks theme explores the infrastructures, mobilities, and spatial linkages that underpin the vitality of cities. It highlights how connectivity — physical, social, and ecological — generates dynamic, resilient, and inclusive urban environments. By examining scales from the street to the region, the projects within this theme frame networks as both conduits of movement and catalysts of urban transformation.

The projects reflect diverse geographies and challenges, from Riyadh to New York, Ras Al Khaimah to Bandung. Mega to Mini envisions Riyadh as a ten-minute city, reconfiguring a desert metropolis into a pedestrian-oriented network, while ELEVATE in New York proposes new paradigms for mobility infrastructure in dense urban fabrics. At the scale of airports, Airport Urban Districts in Zhengzhou and Ras Al Khaimah Airport in the UAE reconceptualize nodes of transit as cultural and spatial anchors, bridging global flows with local identity.

Methodological innovation is evident in Urban Space Design Intervention Strategy in Bandung, which employs machine learning and street-level imagery to assess perception and spatial experience. Ecological dimensions of connectivity are foregrounded in Hydropolis at Blagoveshchensk, Russia, where adaptive settlement strategies integrate mobility with water-based systems in fragile coastal contexts.

Taken together, these works underscore the centrality of networks in shaping the contemporary city. They reveal how infrastructures of movement are inseparable from questions of equity, perception, and identity, and how rethinking connectivity can produce cities that are more adaptive, cohesive, and humane.

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3.1



Author Profile: Diyaa Naimatullah Khan

Bachelor's in Architecture | 2025 Manipal Academy of Higher Education | Dubai, UAE

Thesis Title: Ras Al Khaimah Airport: Framing transit through culture | RAK, UAE

Thesis Guide: Ameeta Kale

Abstract:

How can airports evolve from isolated infrastructures into cultural anchors embedded within their urban context? Focusing on Ras Al Khaimah, it examines how airport development can align with the emirate's goals of economic diversification and tourism while serving as a platform for cultural expression and community life. The methodology combines literature review, precedent analysis, and spatial case studies as well as qualitative research into users requirements, by laws and regulations and projected passengers per annum for the emirate. Together, these informed a design framework that integrates aviation functions with cultural and civic programs.

Findings reveal that airports can act as civic spaces when three principles are addressed: regional alignment with growth strategies, multifunctionality through retail, cultural, and community spaces beyond aviation, and placemaking that emphasizes cultural resonance over sterile transit. Applied to Ras Al Khaimah, this approach reimagines the airport as a cultural landmark, an economic engine, and a spatial catalyst for urban growth.

The study concludes that airports, when conceived as place-based infrastructures, can strengthen identity, foster continuous activity, and redefine the relationship between global connectivity and local belonging.

Keywords: Airport, Culture, Multifunctionality

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3.2



Author Profile: Elis Anggun Geminastiti

Master of Urban Design | 2025

Institut Teknologi Bandung | Bandung, Indonesia

Thesis Title:

A Data-to-Design Framework for Urban
Perception: Perception-Based Interventions
Using Machine Learning And Street-Level
Imagery In Bandung's Historic Core | Bandung,
Indonesia

Thesis Guide: Heru Wibowo Poerbo & Mochamad Donny Koerniawan

Abstract:

The thesis seeks to answer how visual perception of urban spaces can be analyzed objectively and how this data can be used to inform effective design interventions. It explores the specific visual factors that contribute to public perceptions in a city. This study adopts a machine learning (ML) approach using the PlacePulse 2.0 model to analyze urban visual perception from Google Street View images. It classifies urban spaces into six perception categories: Depressing, Boring, Safety, Lively, Beautiful, and Wealthy. To understand the underlying factors, the research employs Explainable Machine Learning with the DeepLabv2 model to identify the role of specific design elements like vegetation, buildings, and sidewalks in shaping these perceptions. Based on this analysis, the study formulates and tests design intervention strategies in selected areas. The research found a strong correlation between certain visual elements and positive or negative perceptions. The presence of greenery, high-quality buildings, and open sky significantly enhanced positive perceptions, particularly in the Beautiful, Lively, and Safety categories. Conversely, areas with limited vegetation and massive, monotonous building walls were often perceived as Depressing or Boring. The study successfully developed 24 general design strategies based on these findings. The implementation of these interventions in specific areas demonstrated that they effectively improved visual attractiveness and functionality.

Keywords:

Visual Perception, Machine Learning, PlacePulse 2.0, DeepLabv2, Street Level Imagery, Urban Design

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3.3



Author Profile: Luke Stefanchik

Bachelor of Architecture | 2025

New York Institute of Technology | New York, USA

Thesis Title: ELEVATE: Rethinking Urban Mobility
Infrastructure | New York, United States

Thesis Guide: Farzana Gandhi

Abstract:

Cities around the world are removing or decking over their highways in favor of linear parks and boulevards. Is this enough to repair decades of damage caused by highways and car-centric infrastructure? We need to develop a new typology that weaves public transit with community services and adaptive reuse, and bridges the divide created by highways. New public transit projects in New York City and innovations in architecture and infrastructure provide an opportunity to rethink the city's existing transit corridors. ELEVATE is an ambitious proposal to redevelop the intersection of the sunken Brooklyn-Queens Expressway with the elevated Hell Gate rail bridge along Astoria Boulevard in Queens as an intermodal transit hub containing a train station, bus rapid transit, a park with exhibition and performance spaces for local artists, and studios for local artisans to create and sell their work. A section of the deteriorating bridge will be torn down and rebuilt with modern, lightweight materials. The space under the bridge will house the prefabricated, modular studios. Sustainable aspects incorporated into the project include piezoelectric technology, rain gardens, biodiversity zones, solar canopies, and retrofitted shipping containers. This hub will bridge the divide created by the expressway and serve as a catalyst for future transit design.

Keywords:

Adaptive Reuse, Public Transit, Urban Planning, Transit Design, Prefabrication, Modular Design, Retrofitting

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3.4





Author Profile:

Mohanad Youssef, Priya Jalan

MSc in Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design | 2023 Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title:

Mega to Mini - Transforming the desert metropolis of Riyadh into a 10-min city | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Thesis Guide: Paola Pucci

Abstract:

This thesis examines the potential impacts of the construction of six metro lines in the metropolis of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the implications for a shift in transportation modalities within the city. The study investigates the effects of this infrastructural development on urban mobility, accessibility to services, and the overall quality of life for the city's residents. It further explores how this development can be leveraged to reimagine the city's districts and spatial composition, challenging the existing car-oriented city layout. Furthermore, this thesis discusses the principles of an X-minute city and explores strategies for implementing these principles in a city like Riyadh, which is characterized by a harsh climate and a car-oriented design. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data analysis with qualitative insights from public surveys.

The findings highlight the significant role of an integrated public transportation system in transforming the city's structure into a more sustainable and inclusive urban environment. This study proposes a prototype for the initial phase of transforming Riyadh into an X-minute city, starting from Al Rabi' District and KAFD, which represents the boundary between the existing built environment and the new development zone of the city.

Keywords:

TOD, Climate Oriented Development, Urban Regeneration, Walkability, Connectivity, 15-Min City

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3.5



Author Profile: Pavel Panshin

Bachelor of Architecture | 2025

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia | Moscow, Russia

Thesis Title:

Architectural Solution for Adaptive Settlement in Coastal Areas "HYDROPOLIS" | Blagoveshchensk, Russia

Thesis Guide: Egor Orlov

Abstract:

HYDROPOLIS proposes a linear hydrotectural city on the Zeya River's right bank in Blagoveshchensk, Russia, designed for 50,000 residents, scalable to 100,000, to address Anthropocene flood challenges. Integrating Hydrotecture, it uses water as a generative urban element, with Anthropoza guiding sustainable planetary management. The research questions how hydrotectural frameworks can transform floodprone areas into resilient urban systems, reinterpreting urban models for ecological stewardship and social equity. The methodology combines scenario-based design, modular urban planning, and quantitative analysis of resource loops, drawing from historical (Japanese Metabolists) and contemporary (BIG's U-BIG) adaptive urbanism. A three-level wooden magistral, elevated above flood levels, supports a car-free city with monorail, pedestrian, and bike paths. Modular 200×400 meter cells integrate housing, flood-tolerant agriculture, and renewable energy for zero-emission self-sufficiency. Key findings include validated calculations for 100% cost coverage through closed-loop systems and a scalable model for coastal resilience. HYDROPOLIS fosters social cohesion via a domed forum and agora, offering a replicable blueprint for flood-prone cities globally, merging local identity with planetary sustainability.

Keywords:

Hydrotecture, Anthropoza, Anthropocene, flood resilience, sustainable urbanism, modular design, self-sufficiency, coastal

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3.6





Author Profile: Yizhou Zhao, Yingzhi He

Master of Architecture in Urban Design | 2022 Harvard University Graduate School Of Design | New York, USA

Thesis Title:

Airport urban districts for a new age: Node + Flow oriented design solution | Zhengzhou, China

Thesis Guide: Joan Busquets

Abstract:

The project focuses on how the dynamic capacity and high accessibility of airports can serve as catalysts for innovation-driven economic development. It explores the potential of integrating airports, high-speed rail, and other efficient transportation systems into multi-modal transit hubs, positioning them as a leading direction for future urban development.

Starting with research on 36 airports around the world, we analyzed airport layouts based on three main aspects: runway orientation, terminal design, and landside development. Using Amsterdam Schiphol Airport as a key example, we explore how airports can work with other urban transportation to develop a successful airport city.

The design proposal focuses on Zhengzhou, a central Chinese city and a national railway hub. By connecting the airport, HSR station, and local monorail system, the project envisions a unified, high-accessibility transit network that transforms the site from a transit point into a vibrant urban destination. The strategy leverages high-intensity passenger flows to support economic activity and urban vitality at local, national, and international levels.

A system of functional nodes, including convention centers, innovation parks, and housing, are connected via walkable streets and public transit, creating a livable and flexible urban district. The project reframes transit infrastructure as an engine of urban life, fostering both connectivity and place-making in the era of networked cities.

Keywords:

Airports; Urban development; Airport-rail integration; TOD; Mobility hubs; Mixed-use development;

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3.7



Author Profile: Adriana Lorena Guerrero Del Pino

Bachelor of Architecture | 2022

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title:

[TRANSVERSAL CARE] Networking of community spaces for active and healthy aging in San Juan de Lurigancho | Perú, Lima

Thesis Guide: Luis Rodríguez Rivero

Abstract:

Urban design in Lima reveals a false neutrality shaped by weak policies and limited community involvement, eroding residents' agency and undermining quality of life, especially for older adults. In San Juan de Lurigancho—the city's most populated district—these issues intensify: older adults face diverse physical, social, and economic conditions, yet remain invisible in planning agendas. Despite their resilience through neighborhood care and informal economic practices, their contributions lack systemic support.

TRANSVERSAL CARE proposes a model that redefines neighborhoods through community spaces restoring older adults' agency and integrating care as a core principle of inclusive urbanism. It works across three dimensions: physical, by rehabilitating slopes and improving accessibility; mental, by creating restorative settings for recreation; and social, through adaptable modules for intergenerational activities. These modules act as seed nodes for broader integration.

Methodologically, the research combines spatial analysis, demographic profiling, and participatory workshops, ensuring cultural relevance. By fostering co-responsibility among municipalities, networks, and communities, the model promotes shared management. Designing for the elderly becomes a catalyst for healthier, more inclusive, and resilient neighborhoods.

Keywords:

Inclusive Urbanism, Community Care, Active Aging, Participatory Design, Social Infrastructure.

4.

URBAN RENEWAL

Introduction

Urban Renewal

The Urban Renewal theme addresses strategies of revitalization that reimagine neglected, historic, and transitional urban spaces. It frames renewal as both preservation and transformation — safeguarding heritage while adapting cities to contemporary needs of resilience and inclusivity.

The projects span Europe, South Asia, and the Americas, advancing renewal through diverse approaches. In Italy, Urban Regeneration as a Quality Standard in Castellammare di Stabia and Castel Grumello in Sondrio emphasize preservation and adaptive reuse. In India, Mending Mylapore in Chennai, From Forgotten to Found in Madurai, and the Revitalization of Pols of Ahmedabad renew heritage precincts as socially vibrant fabrics, while Dhopeshwarnath Temple Precinct in Bareilly explores the sacred as a catalyst of collective identity.

Other projects extend renewal into coastal and infrastructural contexts: Grow with Flow in The Hague applies nature-based strategies for resilience, Vadhavan Fishing Harbour integrates marine infrastructure with tourism, and San Francisco's Embarcadero Center Effect reimagines commercial space to reconnect the downtown core. In Peru, Transversal Care builds networks of community spaces for active aging, while Ehyaa in Meherpur, Bangladesh, reclaims cultural memory. The Habitable Wall in Glasgow embodies architectural experimentation, blending adaptive form with social function.

Together, these works reveal renewal as a layered negotiation of memory, infrastructure, and innovation. They demonstrate how adaptive reuse, cultural continuity, and ecological resilience converge to create cities that are historically grounded yet forward-looking.

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Author Profile: A

Ankita Agrahari

Bachelor's of Architecture | 2025

Apeejay School Of Architecture and Planning | Noida, India

Thesis Title:

From forgotten to found : A case of Pathuthoon lane | Madurai, India

Thesis Guide: Varish Vijay Panchal

Abstract:

Pathu Thoon Lane in Madurai, located near the Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, holds ten monumental granite pillars believed to be remnants of the 17th-century Ranga Vilasam Palace. Once part of a thriving Saurashtrian silk-weaving settlement, the lane today suffers from encroachments, retail congestion, and loss of cultural memory, rendering the pillars almost invisible despite their status as protected monuments. This thesis asks: How can conservation, contextual design, and community engagement reimagine Pathu Thoon Lane as a cultural spine while preserving its historic identity? The methodology combines archival research, spatial documentation, community consultations, and comparative analysis of heritage revitalization projects. Findings reveal that heritage must be made visible through interpretation, that community participation ensures sustainability, and that linking crafts and commerce with conservation strengthens both identity and economy. The proposal envisions sensitive restoration of the pillars, redesigned shopfronts, adaptive reuse of underutilized structures, improved pedestrian access, and cultural programming. By transforming the lane into a living heritage corridor, the project aspires to revive civic pride, strengthen Madurai's cultural economy, and reconnect the city's past with its evolving present.

Keywords:

historical integrity, preservation, cultural significance

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4.2



Author Profile: Carmela Zizzania

Master's Degree in Building Engineering - Architecture | 2025 University of Naples Federico II | Naples, Italy.

Thesis Title: Urban Regeneration as a Quality Standard | Castellammare di Stabia, Italy

Thesis Guide: Rosa Anna La Rocca, Carmen Guida

Abstract:

This thesis investigates urban regeneration in Italy by redefining the concept of "urban standards," traditionally based on the quantitative parameters introduced by Ministerial Decree 1444/68. The research argues that numbers alone — such as minimum square meters per inhabitant — are insufficient to capture the complexity of urban life. Instead, it adopts a qualitative, indicator-based approach to evaluate the efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability of spaces. The methodology is grounded in a holistic-systemic framework that considers five interconnected subsystems (socio-anthropic, physical, functional, environmental, and mobility), each measured through multidimensional indicators. The case study of Castellammare di Stabia, a city in Southern Italy constrained by environmental risks and severe deficits in public spaces, provides the testing ground for this approach. By applying geospatial analysis (QGIS) and census data, the study maps urban quality, identifies weaknesses, and proposes a regeneration masterplan for a disused industrial area. The plan integrates new green infrastructures, sustainable mobility, and renewable energy solutions, thereby addressing social and ecological needs simultaneously. The findings demonstrate how an indicator-driven evaluation can guide evidence-based decisions, align local planning with the UN 2030 Agenda (Goal 11), and serve as a replicable model for creating more inclusive, resilient, and high-quality urban environments.

Keywords:

Urban regeneration, Urban standards (Italy), Quality of life indicators, Sustainable urban planning, Castellammare di Stabia

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4.3



Author Profile:

Madumitha Rengarajan

MSc. Architecture and Urban design | 2024 Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title:

MENDING MYLAPORE: Tapestry of a Temple Town in South India | Chennai, India

Thesis Guide: Prof. Alisia Tognon

Abstract:

This thesis investigates the role of urban memory in preserving the identity of historic temple towns in rapidly urbanizing Indian cities. Taking the sacred neighbourhood of Mylapore in Chennai as a case study, the research examines how both tangible heritage (temples and traditional houses) and intangible heritage (rituals, festivals, and crafts) can influence contemporary urban design. The study responds to the challenges posed by uncontrolled growth and commercialization that threaten not only architecture but also indigenous traditions and art forms that give meaning to community life. The methodology integrates Archival research, historical mapping, photographic site documentation, and consultations with planning authorities to trace the evolution of Mylapore's urban fabric and cultural practices. The analysis reveals that it's spatial form and vibrant street culture derive from the Kapaleeshwarar Temple, water Tank, and its associated rituals, which are all under pressure from congestion and incoherent development. The thesis proposes a design framework that establishes a new urban vernacular that respects religious and cultural traditions, while accommodating modern demands. The outcome emphasizes that heritage conservation must address both physical and cultural dimensions to sustain a collective Urban memory. With a sensitive, layered approach, it positions architecture and planning as tools to revive local identity and encourage a strong sense of community.

Keywords:

urban memory; temple town; indigenous culture; intangibility;

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Author Profile: Meshva Patel

Bachelors of Architecture | 2025 School of Planning and Architecture | Bhopal, India

Thesis Title:

Revitalization of Pols of Ahmedabad: A Holistic Development Paradigm in Heritage Tourism | Ahmedabad, India.

Thesis Guide: Poonam Khan

Abstract:

The Pols of Ahmedabad reflect a way of life deeply rooted in community, craftsmanship, and cultural resilience. Over centuries, these pols flourished, however, rapid urbanization along the fringe areas has led to their gradual neglect.

This thesis responds to the urgent need for revival. Focusing on Shahpur ward, the proposal curates a Heritage Walk that weaves together the precinct's key chowks, community spaces, and historic landmarks into a cohesive public space network. This path gradually unfolds into newly imagined green spaces and culminates at the Sabarmati Riverfront, bridging traditions with modern cores. The interventions along this network are conceived with sensitivity to the cultural fabric and everyday life of the precinct. Designed to serve both the local community and tourists, they utilize local materials and vernacular techniques to maintain visual and spatial continuity. These minimal yet meaningful additions aim to preserve existing activities, allowing the urban fabric to remain largely intact while enhancing accessibility, usability, and engagement. Beyond preservation, the proposal aims to rejuvenate the precinct by designing a Cultural Centre as an urban insert that provides artisans with a dedicated space to practice, showcase and sustain their crafts. This approach not only safeguards architectural memory but also ensures that the spirit of pols continues to evolve, thrive, and inspire generations to come.

Keywords:

Pols, Heritage Precinct, Urban Insert, Urban Renewal, Community Engagement, Heritage Tourism.

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Author Profile:

Neelakshi Singh

Bachelors of Architecture | 2025

Apeejay School Of Architecture and Planning | Noida, India

Thesis Title:

Vadhavan fishing harbour: Integrating marine infrastructure with coastal tourism | Maharastra, India

Thesis Guide: Deepashree Choudhary

Abstract:

Traditional fishing communities near ports often face declining livelihoods due to the global expansion of shipping and port infrastructure, which disrupts marine ecosystems and limits access to fishing grounds. The Koli community of Vadhavan, Maharashtra—settled along this coast for over 500 years—exemplifies this struggle. Renowned for their sustainable fishing practices, they form a vital part of the Konkan's cultural and economic fabric, significantly contributing to India's fish exports. Yet, the proposed Vadhavan transshipment port threatens their livelihood by encroaching on traditional fishing zones, risking the erosion of their culture and identity.

The aim of the thesis is to introduce a new fishing harbour that addresses both the challenges posed by port expansion and the need to preserve traditional practices. By integrating coastal tourism and providing a dedicated space for sustainable fishing, the project envisions a model where development coexists with heritage. This harbour will not only safeguard the Koli community's cultural legacy but also the convergence of the fishing harbour and tourism with the port's opportunities will catalyzed large-scale urban and economic development.

Keywords:

Peri-urban urbanization, urban & landscape revitalization, landscape heritage

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4.6



Author Profile: Pay

Pavithra Swaminathan

M.Sc Architecture and Urban Design | 2024 Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title:

Castel Grumello - Preservation and Reuse | Sondrio, Italy

Thesis Guide: Oteri Annunziata Maria

Abstract:

Castel Grumello, a 13th-century masonry fortification atop a vineyard-covered hill in Montagna In Valtellina (Sondrio, Italy), is a rare twin castle with residential quarters in the west and military quarters in the east. Largely ruined after destruction by the Swiss Grisons in the 16th century, it remains in a dilapidated state, like many fortifications across Valtellina. Currently owned by the FAI (Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano), it underwent a restoration by Ar. Stefano Tirinzoni in 1997.

This thesis aims to establish preservation guidelines and propose adaptive re-use of Castel Grumello. One of the key challenges involved equipping the castle with a new and convenient accessibility route which includes a barrier-free pathway. Documentation and analysis were undertaken with drones, photogrammetry, and point cloud mapping, followed by detailed material and damage assessment to define suitable conservation solutions.

Though originally a defensive structure, the castle has recently gained a symbolic association with wine, even lending its name to one. Embracing this dual identity, the proposal reimagines this castle as an open-air wine museum featuring pavilions, wine tasting area, a shop, multipurpose hall, arena, and picnic areas. Since this castle is a pivotal point of multiple trekking and cycling routes, it also houses rest areas. This proposal for Castel Grumello is envisioned to rejuvenate the castle with a new function while at the same time retaining its character.

Keywords:

Adaptive reuse, Urban renewal, Preservation and Castel Grumello

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4.7



Author Profile: S

Shrinithe Ramesh

M.A Masters in landscape architecture | 2025

Hochschule Anhalt University of Applied sciences | Bernburg, Germany

Thesis Title:

Grow with Flow - Coastal resilience in Scheveningen | The Netherlands

Thesis Guide: Nicole Uhrig, Bart Dijk

Abstract:

As sea levels rise and climate change accelerates, coasts face growing risks of flooding, erosion, and ecological loss. Traditional hard defenses such as sea walls and surge barriers, while effective short term, are costly, rigid, and ecologically disruptive. In contrast, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and the Building with Nature (BwN) approach harness natural forces for adaptive, sustainable coastal resilience.

This thesis focuses on Scheveningen, The Hague, a site which is highly prominent city in the RANSTAD region is projected to be highly vulnerable by 2050. The aim is to strengthen resilience while preserving cultural and touristic identity. Wind-driven sand erosion, a key challenge, was studied through experiments on wind and sediment dynamics, informing targeted interventions. Design scenarios tested dune nourishment, wind fences, native vegetation, and ecological buffers. The final proposal envisions a self-growing coastal system that evolves naturally, enhances biodiversity, reduces maintenance with comparatively less human intervention and improves urban–nature integration.

By aligning ecological, recreational, and spatial values, this research demonstrates how NbS can redefine coast of Scheveningen to be resilient in the face of climate change.

Keywords:

Urban Regeneration, Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Development, Community Engagement, Tourism Impact, blue green infrastructure, Mitigation, coastal resilience, soft solutions.

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Author Profile: Stuti Agarwal

Bachelors of Architecture | 2025 Apeejay School Of Architecture and Planning | Noida, India

Thesis Title:

Dhopeshwarnath Temple Bareilly- A precinct beyond worship | Bareilly, India

Thesis Guide: Varish Panchal

Abstract:

Temples in India have historically functioned as cultural, social, and ecological anchors of community life, extending far beyond their role as sacred sites. The Dhopeshwarnath Temple in Bareilly, revered as one of the seven Nath shrines and mythologically linked as the birthplace of Draupadi, embodies this layered legacy. Despite its importance and role as the starting point of the proposed Nath Corridor Yatra, the precinct today is fragmented and underutilized. Redundant structures, vacant open spaces, poor circulation, and the neglected temple pond diminish its relevance. The precinct activates only during festivals, while remaining dormant for most of the year.

This thesis reimagines Dhopeshwarnath as a temple beyond worship, balancing sanctity with civic vibrancy. Using spatial analysis, stakeholder engagement, and case studies, the project identifies key challenges and potentials. The design vision focuses on placemaking, reactivation of dormant spaces, ecological revival, and improved organization. Proposals include reorganized circulation, vendor zones, revival of the pond as a cultural–ecological node, adaptive reuse of structures, and a Yatra Interpretation Centre. Community courtyards and cultural programming ensure year-round activity.

The outcome demonstrates a replicable model of heritage-led regeneration, showing how sacred precincts can transform into inclusive urban commons where devotion, culture, ecology, and everyday life converge.

Keywords:

Place Identity, Garden, people-place association, social engagement

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4.9



Author Profile: Styliani Kalomoira Kontogianni

Master of Urban Design | 2025 University of California Berkeley | Berkeley, California

Thesis Title:

Embarcadero Center Effect: Stitching downtown San Francisco through the transformation of Embarcadero Center's lower levels | San Francisco. USA

Thesis Guide: Stefan Pellegrini & Edward McFarlan

Abstract:

This thesis explores how downtown revitalization can be catalyzed through the reimagination of San Francisco's Embarcadero Center (EC). The central research question asks how can a single urban complex serve as both proof of concept and catalyst for a more connected city? Focusing on EC's lower levels—underutilized and disconnected from street life—the project proposes their transformation into a porous, mixed-use neighborhood integrated into the broader urban fabric. It challenges the legacy of inward-facing circulation systems and reorients the built form toward the street to animate public life across multiple levels. The methodology combines systems-scale analysis with sitespecific design. Urban "flows"—social, ecological, and infrastructural were studied across district, neighborhood, and block scales to identify disconnections and opportunities for repair. This layered approach led to a spatial and programmatic strategy anchored by a central alley activated with diverse programming: live/work spaces, a university cluster, markets, art and performance venues, play areas, and gardens. Key findings highlight the importance of integrated design: treating site interventions as parts of a larger system. Rather than isolated upgrades, the project demonstrates how targeted interventions on built form, public realm and landscape can catalyze broader downtown revitalization.

Keywords:

Downtown Revitalization, Urban Flows, Integrated design, Systems-Based Methodology

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4.10



Author Profile: Sushrut Shankar

Masters in Architecture | 2023

The Glasgow School of Art | Glasgow, Scotland

Thesis Title: The Habitable Wall | Glasgow, UK

Thesis Guide: Neil Simpson

Abstract:

This thesis investigates the evolving role of urban riverfronts as both vulnerable thresholds to climate-induced flooding and critical spaces of public identity. Focusing on Glasgow's Clyde Riverfront, the research asks: How can river edges be retrofitted to achieve flood resilience while simultaneously fostering place-making? The methodology integrates theoretical review, precedent analysis, and design-based research. Case studies such as HafenCity, Hamburg; Chicago Riverwalk; Cheonggyecheon Stream, Seoul; and King's Cross, London are critically examined against frameworks of flood resilience (Barsley, Hill) and urban place-making (Montgomery, PPS, Gehl). Analytical parameters included connectivity to water, integration with city fabric, and spatial arrangement. The design proposal culminates in the concept of a Habitable Wall—a layered edge condition with upper civic courts and lower floodable "rooms" programmed with public amenities. This dual strategy demonstrates how urban form can accommodate fluctuating water levels while animating community life. Findings suggest that integrating ecological adaptation with socially vibrant waterfronts can transform post-industrial riverfronts into resilient civic assets, offering transferable lessons for global cities confronting climate change.

Keywords:

Urban Riverfronts; Flood Resilience; Place-Making; Adaptive Urbanism; Habitable Wall; Climate Change Adaptation; Clyde

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4.11



Author Profile:

Urbana Tabassum

Bachelor's of Architecture | 2025 BRAC University | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Thesis Title:

Ehyaa: The Cultural Reclamation Trail – Reviving Memory and Heritage Through Place | Meherpur, Bangladesh

Thesis Guide: Mohammad Habib Reza

Abstract:

Ehyaa: The Cultural Reclamation Trail is envisioned through the lens of Mohammad Habib Reza's Neo-contextualism, where architecture acts as an instrument of place-based identity and a mediator between memory and modernity. In rapidly urbanizing Meherpur, Bangladesh, unplanned growth threatens socio-spatial continuity and erodes cultural memory. Ehyaa responds by reclaiming heritage and re-inscribing it into the urban fabric as a trail of revival. At its core, a precolonial torture cell is reimagined as the Escape Museum, embodying living heritage by transforming painful memory into narratives of survival and resilience. Extending from this anchor, the Village Bazaar revives traditional exchange, the Ghaat restores seasonal rituals, and the Pottery Hub sustains artisanship, reinforcing socio-spatial belonging. The stateproposed Cultural Complex is reframed within a community-centered narrative to align with glocalism, balancing national ambition with local identity. Design strategies emphasize contextual sensitivity, vernacular materials, climate-responsive forms, and sustainable systems like rainwater harvesting. In doing so, Ehyaa reweaves Meherpur's cultural spine as a continuum of memory and place, resisting placeless modernization and positioning design as a tool of urban healing and resilience.

Keywords:

Adaptive reuse, Neo-contextualism, Cultural reclamation, Heritage revival, Collective memory, Spatial narrative, Community engagement, Climate-responsive design, Meherpur, Bangladesh 44

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Acknowledgment

We extend our profound gratitude to the distinguished jury members of the UDL Thesis Publication 2025 for their steadfast dedication and intellectual generosity. Their pivotal role in curating this year's collection of graduate thesis abstracts on urban design and development is both invaluable and deeply respected.

For the Urban Landscape & Management theme, we are especially indebted to Nabil Mohareb and Ibrahim Hegazy, whose discerning evaluations foreground ecological frameworks, cultural identity, and adaptive strategies that redefine the role of landscapes in resilient urbanism. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira and Federico Fauli, whose critical insights illuminate architectural innovation and systemic approaches, significantly enriching the discourse on landscape and governance within contemporary cities.

Under the Urban Networks & Renewal theme, our heartfelt thanks go to Beta Paramita and Fatouma El Phil. Their reflections underscore the centrality of governance structures, civic infrastructures, and cultural identity in shaping renewed and equitable urban environments. We likewise acknowledge with gratitude Giulia Setti and Evan Shieh, whose incisive evaluations highlight the interdependencies of connectivity, heritage, and global systems, advancing the conversation on how urban renewal responds simultaneously to local realities and transnational dynamics.

We are equally grateful to our distinguished seminar panelists — Prof. Ujan Ghosh, Urban Designer at Upalghosh Associates, Delhi; Prof. Amita Sinha, Visiting Professor at IIT BHU, Banaras; Ar. Brinda Sastry, Acting Vice President of the Institute of Urban Designers India (IUDI), Bangalore; and Prof. George Jacob, Associate Professor at KRIVIA, Mumbai. Their presence and contributions in the seminar extend the intellectual rigor of this publication, offering invaluable mentorship and fostering a critical exchange between research and practice.

The careful evaluations and scholarly commitments of our jurors and panelists uphold the standards of excellence that this publication advances. Their engagement affirms the essential role of dialogue, critique, and mentorship in nurturing emerging scholarship. In acknowledging their contributions, we recognize not only their role in shaping this volume but also their lasting impact on the academic and professional landscapes of urban design and development.

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Publication Jury



Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira Milan, Italy

PhD, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya- UPC, Barcelona Associate Professor in Urbanism at Politecnico di Milano

Professor Fabiano is an Associate Professor in Urbanism at Politecnico di Milano, based in the DAStU - Department of Architecture and Urban Studies. His research focuses on planning models that integrate urbanization with nature, emphasizing green and blue infrastructure, and sustainable planning. He authored "Green Wedge Urbanism: History, Theory and Contemporary Practice" and edited "Planning Cities with Nature." In addition to his research, he teaches in the Masters of Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design and the Masters of Architecture and Urbanism programs, and coordinates the PhD program in Urban Planning, Design, and Policy. Before joining Politecnico di Milano, he was a Reader in Urbanism and Architecture at the University of Portsmouth. UK, where he held several leadership roles in research and education.



Evan Shieh New York, United States

Urban Designer, Harvard University Graduate School of Design Assistant Professor, New York Institute of Technology, United States

Evan Shieh is an architect, urbanist, researcher, and educator. He is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) where he teaches as a full-time faculty member, and is also the director of Emergent Studio, a design and research office operating at architecture's intersection with urbanism, landscape, and infrastructure. His interdisciplinary research investigates the urban and environmental crises that our mono-functional infrastructures and technologies are implicated in, with a particular focus on the spatial impact of mobility infrastructure and new mobility technologies on design, planning, and other key aspects of the built environment. He is the author of Autonomous Urbanism: Towards a New Transitopia (AR+D Publishers, forthcoming Fall 2024), and his work has been curated & exhibited at venues around the world including at the Venice, Seoul, and Shenzhen Biennales of Architecture & Urbanism. Shieh is a graduate of Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, from which he holds a Master of Architecture in Urban Design.



Nabil Mohareb Cairo, Egypt

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), University of Liverpool Associate Professor at The American University in Cairo | Architect and Urban Designer

Dr. Nabil Mohareb is an Associate Professor at the American University in Cairo's Department of Architecture, with extensive experience in academia and architectural research. Previously serving as the Director of the Faculty of Architecture at Beirut Arab University, his research explores the impact of architecture and urbanization on social behavior, spatial dynamics, and economic variables. Holding PhDs from the University of Liverpool and Alexandria University, he specializes in sustainable urban development and the application of spatial analysis and simulation techniques in urban planning. As the founder of the Spatial Analysis and Simulation Lab (SASL), he fosters interdisciplinary collaboration among architects, urban planners, and engineers to drive innovation in sustainable city design. He is also actively involved in the International Union of Architects (UIA), contributing to global efforts toward achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals through research, education, and professional initiatives.



Fatouma Sarah El Phil Paris, France

Architect & Urban Designer, KCAP Graduate, École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville

Fatouma Sarah El Phil is a skilled architect and urban designer currently working at KCAP, with a strong academic background from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville and the National School of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tunis. With expertise in architecture, urban planning, and heritage revitalization, she has contributed to significant projects as a project architect and urbanist at Reichen et Robert & Associés before joining KCAP. Passionate about the intersection of contemporary architecture and heritage preservation, her work explores the evolutionary and contextual aspects of urban design, shaping dynamic and resilient spaces. She thrives in multidisciplinary environments, integrating innovative design solutions with a deep understanding of cultural and spatial dynamics. Dedicated to research and practice, she continuously seeks to bridge the gap between architectural theory and urban transformation.

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Publication Jury



Ibrahim Bahreldin Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Ph.D, Urban & Environmental Design, Waseda University \cdot M.Arch, Human Settlements, KU Leuven Associate Professor of Urban & Environmental Design, King AbdulAziz University

Ibrahim Bahreldin is an Associate Professor of Urban and Environmental Design at King AbdulAziz University, with a Ph.D. in Architecture, Urban and Environmental Design from Waseda University and an M.Arch in Human Settlements from KU Leuven. His research and teaching focus on urbanism, public space governance, placemaking, and post-conflict urbanism, with projects spanning Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and the wider African region. Widely published in international journals, his work engages debates on spatial justice, Global South urbanism, and adaptive governance. Beyond academia, he contributes to policy dialogue, international collaborations, and capacity-building, while his current research explores how temporary and contested public spaces shape urban experience and civic identity in contexts of conflict and recovery.



Ibrahim Hegazy Jiddah, Saudi Arabia

PhD from University of Liverpool, Board Member Saudi Urban Planners Association Professor of Environmental Planning and Design - King AbdulAziz University

Prof. Ibrahim Hegazy is a distinguished academic and practitioner in environmental planning and urban design, currently serving as a Professor at King AbdulAziz University and a Board Member of the Saudi Urban Planners Association. With extensive experience in planning, development, and environmental management, he has conducted numerous research projects in the UK and provided strategic guidance on urban, regional, and national environmental initiatives. His expertise spans sustainable architecture, urban renewal, green urban assessment, and community participation, integrating design philosophy with cutting-edge environmental assessment techniques. A passionate educator, he specializes in architectural theory, sustainable building systems, and participatory planning, contributing to the advancement of architectural education and sustainable urban development.



Giulia Setti Milan, Italy

Laurea in Progettazione Architettonica e Urbana, Politecnico di Milano Assistant Professor at Politecnico di Milano

Giulia Setti is an architect, researcher, and Assistant Professor at Politecnico di Milano, where she has been teaching since 2015 in both Bachelor's and Master's programs. Holding a PhD in Architectural and Urban Design, her work focuses on housing design, urban transformation, and the regeneration of industrial buildings. Her research explores the relationship between urban form and context, with a particular interest in informal settlements and public spaces in global settings such as India and China. As a thesis supervisor, she guides students on topics including urban regeneration, industrial reuse, and the evolution of public spaces, contributing to a deeper understanding of contemporary urban challenges. Passionate about architectural education, she integrates theoretical and practical approaches to enhance design methodologies. Her commitment to interdisciplinary research fosters innovative solutions for sustainable urban development and adaptive reuse strategies.



Beta Paramita Bandung, Indonesia

The University of Kitakyushu Associate Professor at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

Beta Paramita is an Associate Professor in Architecture at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, specializing in sustainable cities, green buildings, and building performance with a focus on outdoor thermal comfort. She is a board member of IBPSA-ID (Indonesia chapter) and actively contributes to RDI (Research Resilience Initiative) on community, environmental change, and sustainable development. She founded Pendidikan Hijau, a movement promoting building performance-based design education, and won the 2022 Million Cool Roofs Challenge, leading to the establishment of the start-up BeCool Indonesia. Recognized as an outstanding lecturer in 2023, she developed RAFLESIA, a solar-reflective house using metal panels with 90% solar emissivity and 72.9% solar reflectance, showcasing her commitment to innovative and sustainable architectural solutions.

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Seminar Panel



Ujan Ghosh Delhi, India

Master of Architecture & Master of City Planning, University of Pennsylvania, USA Urban Designer, Upalghosh Associates, Delhi, India

Prof. Ujan Ghosh completed his architecture degree at School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi in 1975. After working in Delhi for two years, he pursued Master's degrees in Architecture and City Planning with a focus on Urban Design at the University of Pennsylvania. He later became a partner at Upalghosh Associates in India, practicing architecture and urban design. He's been a visiting professor at SPA, New Delhi for 34 years and played roles in SPA, Bhopal's Senate and various departmental Boards of Studies. He co-founded the Institute of Urban Designers-India and served as its former President.



Amita Sinha Pune, India

M.Arch, Virginia Tech (1984); Ph.D. Architecture, University of California, Berkeley Visiting Professor at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Gandhinagar, and IIT BHU

Amita Sinha is a scholar of cultural landscapes with over three decades of experience in landscape architecture, heritage conservation, and ethnographic research. Her work explores how landscapes preserve cultural memory while negotiating tensions between past and present. She has taught at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she is Professor Emerita, and has held visiting professorships at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Gandhinagar, and IIT BHU. Through her teaching, writing, and planning of heritage sites across India, she has shaped academic and professional discourses on sustainable and culturally rooted design. Her contributions bridge research and practice, advancing the role of landscapes as living archives and agents of resilient futures.



Brinda Sastry Bangalore, India

Masters in Architecture (Urban Design), University of Oregon, Eugene Acting Vice President, Institute of Urban Designers India (IUDI), 2024–2027

Brinda Sastry is an independent Urban Designer and Planner, researcher, and educator with extensive experience working across private, public, & non-profit sectors in India and abroad. An alumna of the University of Oregon, she has contributed to regional, city, & neighborhood-level plans, as well as public space designs that prioritize inclusivity, equity, livability, & sustainability. Her work lies at the intersection of spatial planning, governance, and design policy, where she develops methods to embed place-based approaches within planning frameworks. She also supports citizen groups and non-profits on urban policy and advocacy, leads participatory capacity-building programs, and currently serves as Acting Vice President of the Institute of Urban Designers India (IUDI) for 2024–2027.



George Jacob Mumbai, India

M.Arch, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture (2010) Associate Professor, KRVIA, Mumbai

George J. Jacob is an Associate Professor at KRVIA, Mumbai, specializing in urban design, architecture, and the study of indigenous communities, migration, and everyday urbanism. His pedagogy emphasizes community engagement and collective action, linking design studios with lived realities. A UNESCO–Sahapedia Fellow (2018), he has participated in international workshops with Tongji University, TU Delft, and UBC, and contributed to projects such as Dharavi Redevelopment, Cinemacity, and Mapping Privacy in Public Space. He also practices as Founder and Partner at ADRG, delivering institutional, industrial, and residential projects across India.

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Seminar Moderators



Tanya Kaur Bedi Bhopal, India

Ph.D. Architecture, IIT Kharagpur; B.Arch, MNIT Bhopal Assistant Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal

Dr. Tanya Kaur Bedi, Assistant Professor at SPA Bhopal, specializes in architecture and environmental planning. A PhD from IIT Kharagpur and Gold Medalist from NIT Bhopal, her research on built environments and indoor air quality has gained international recognition. She has published widely, co-authored a government guidebook on sustainable building strategies, and integrates design with environmental planning to address urban challenges.



Vishrut Goswami Victoria, Australia

B.Arch, NIT Calicut; Deakin Vice Chancellor's Academic Excellence Scholar
Aspiring Construction Professional with a focus on advocacy, mentoring, and community

Vishrut is an aspiring construction professional and Deakin Vice Chancellor's Scholar with a B.Arch from NIT Calicut. Passionate about sustainable and inclusive design, he combines academic excellence with leadership in student advocacy, mentoring, and community initiatives. He has founded platforms connecting students with industry professionals, fostering collaboration, practical learning, and community resilience.



Shubham Taparia Jaipur, India

M.Tech in Infrastructure Design and Management, IIT Kharagpur; B.Arch, ASA Jaipur Assistant Professor, Aayojan School of Architecture, Jaipur

Shubham Taparia is an architect and infrastructure professional with expertise in policy, planning, and project management within the infrastructure and urban development sectors. A graduate of IIT Kharagpur with an M.Tech in Infrastructure Design and Management, he integrates design thinking with technological applications to address complex urban challenges. Currently an Assistant Professor at Aayojan School of Architecture, Jaipur,



Kristi Verma Jaipur, India

B.Arch, MNIT Jaipur; M.Plan (Urban Planning), CEPT University Assistant Professor, Amity School of Architecture and Planning (ASAP), Jaipur

Kristi Verma is an architect and urban planner with over four years of academic and professional experience. An Assistant Professor at Amity School of Architecture and Planning, Jaipur, she specializes in urban planning, master plans, and town planning schemes. A member of ITPI and registered with the Council of Architecture, she has presented research on urban green spaces and completed training with WHO, UNITAR, and UNCC.



Ravjyot Kaur Gurugram, India

B.Arch, MNIT Jaipur; M.Arch (Urban Design), SPA Bhopal Design Manager, RSP India

Ravjyot Kaur is an Urban Designer, Architect, and Design Manager at RSP India with expertise spanning architectural practice, urban design, and content strategy. A graduate of MNIT Jaipur and SPA Bhopal, she combines design management with a passion for writing on architecture, everyday urbanism, and cultural narratives. She has also worked as a content strategist and writer, bridging creative practice with communication.

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FINAL REFLECTIONS

Concluding Remark

The UDL Thesis Publication 2025 – Book of Abstracts brings to a close a carefully curated body of ideas that together reveal the breadth and complexity of contemporary urban thought. The collection stands as evidence of the intellectual vitality that animates the field of urban design and development, where curiosity and critical inquiry continue to generate new ways of understanding and shaping the built environment.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the contributors whose work illuminates themes ranging from urban revitalization and landscape design to governance frameworks, management strategies, and interconnected urban networks. Their scholarship not only expands the boundaries of disciplinary knowledge but also affirms the role of research as a catalyst for more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable futures

Each abstract included in this volume is more than a documentation of inquiry; it is a marker of the evolving discourse that defines our urban condition. Collectively, they serve as both testimony and provocation—testimony to the persistence of urban questions that demand engagement, and provocation to future scholars and practitioners to interrogate, refine, and reimagine the possibilities of city-making.

As a continuation of this effort, the selected theses will be developed into a comprehensive volume to be published later this year. Bearing an ISBN, this definitive publication will consolidate the insights represented here into a lasting scholarly resource. It is intended not simply as an archive but as a platform for exchange, ensuring that the ideas and investigations nurtured within this initiative circulate widely and contribute meaningfully to the global discourse on urbanism.

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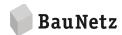


















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Participants:

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