



UDL Thesis Publication | 2026

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally!



2026

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1.

About Us

Urban Design Lab is a unique platform for Urbanists, Architects, Designers and Planners to share their working methods, acquire additional skills, and explore new avenues of Urban environment.

The programs at UDL are specifically designed to provide a forum for interaction among urban professionals and make resources accessible globally. The platform is shaped to reflect and respond to the concerns and voices of urban areas from around the world.

At Urban Design Lab, we recognize that the urban environment is constantly evolving, and we aim to create programs that reflect the needs and concerns of urban areas from around the world. Our platform is shaped by the voices and experiences of urban professionals and designed to offer a space for creative exchange and innovation.

In addition to serving as a forum for urban professionals, Urban Design Lab is also one of the most popular and influential urban design publications. With a website that reaches over a million people annually and a social media following of more than three lakh, we strive to provide a carefully curated selection of the most inspirational design projects and a research-based approach that inspires our community and various other design fraternities from across the globe.

Our online community is home to thousands of people from more than 95 countries who share a passion for learning and creative growth. Whether you are an urban professional or a design enthusiast, Urban Design Lab offers a distinctive platform that provides opportunities to learn and develop new skills in the field of urban domain.

2.

UDL Thesis Publication

The UDL Thesis Publication is an exclusive platform that allows undergraduate and postgraduate students to showcase their creative and research-based thesis projects in the areas of urban design, landscape architecture, and planning. Through this publication, students can showcase their innovative approaches and ideas, thereby receiving recognition and appreciation from their peers, industry experts, and the academic community globally.

The primary objective of the publication is to promote global design and research trends and to provide valuable insights into the latest developments and innovations in the field of urbanism. It will serve as a significant resource for academic and professional communities, including students, researchers, scholars, and practitioners associated with the field.

The publication is a culmination of efforts put forth by the Urban Design Lab and its collaborators, which has a history of supporting and nurturing research and design-based projects related to urban planning and design. It continues to foster innovation, creativity, and critical thinking among students while providing them with an opportunity to collaborate with industry professionals and experts.

By showcasing the selected works of graduate students, the UDL thesis publication plays a pivotal role in shaping the discourse of urbanism and creating a dialogue among professionals, researchers, and students. The publication is not only an archive of selected works, but it is also an inspiration for future generations of students, designers, and researchers to create innovative and sustainable solutions to urban challenges.

3.



Scope

The scope of the publication encompasses a selection of outstanding undergraduate and postgraduate student theses completed in the last five years, in conjunction with the urban domain. The book will be a comprehensive compilation of exceptional graduate student thesis. It will feature selected 40 outstanding thesis entries that provide valuable insights into their intricate design processes involved. These entries will undergo a rigorous evaluation by the panel of expert jurors, making the book a reliable and valuable reference resource.

To make referencing and recognition easier, the publication will be assigned an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), which is a unique identifier assigned to a publication by the International ISBN Centre. This will help readers to easily locate and access the publication, as well as ensure that it is widely recognized within the academic and professional communities.

4.

Benefits



1. Certificates of Participation



2. Publish in book with ISBN



3. Honorable Mentions



4. Global Outreach



5. Online Thesis Seminar



6. Recognition of achievement



5.

Themes

The UDL Thesis Publication is based on specific themes namely, Urban Renewal, Urban Landscape, Urban Management, and Urban Networks. If your thesis falls under any theme based on the diverse areas of focus and research mentioned below, you may submit your thesis entry for the particular theme.



A. 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 and districts.
- **Regeneration:** Renewal and Redevelopment of underutilized or abandoned areas.
- **Revitalization:** Improvement and enhancement of existing urban areas.
- **Heritage Revival:** Revitalization of historic buildings and neighbourhoods.



B. Urban Landscape

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



C. Urban Management

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

- **Infrastructure management:** Addressing infrastructure, services and housing shortages through design-based solutions.
- **Social and Community Management:** Promoting social cohesion and community development.
- **Urban Conflict Management:** Managing conflicts that arise
- **Urban Risk Management:** Managing risks and hazards.
- **Tourism Management:** Managing tourism and its impact.
- **Inclusive Urbanism:** Creating inclusive urban areas that are accessible to all.



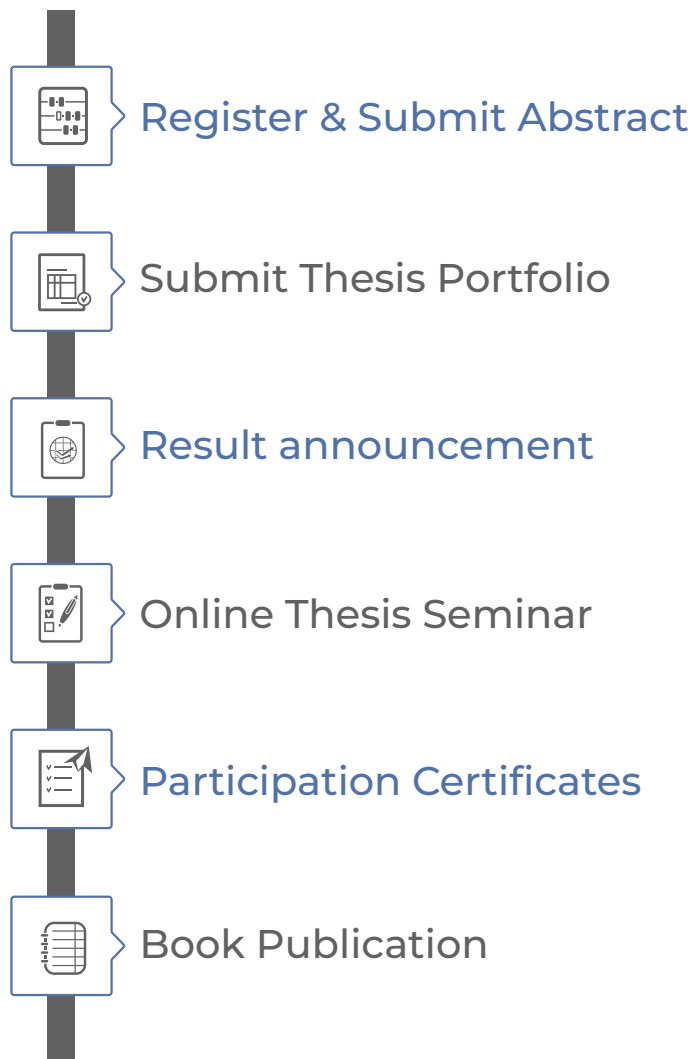
D. Urban Networks

This theme focuses on the connectivity and mobility within and between urban areas. The area of focus and research include:

- **Mobility and Accessibility:** Promoting easy and efficient movement within and between urban areas.
- **City Linkages:** Creating linkages between different urban areas and promoting regional connectivity.
- **Transit Oriented Development:** Developing urban areas around transit hubs.
- **Water Based Transit Connectivity:** Creating water-based transportation systems to promote connectivity and reduce congestion.

6.

Participation Process





6.1

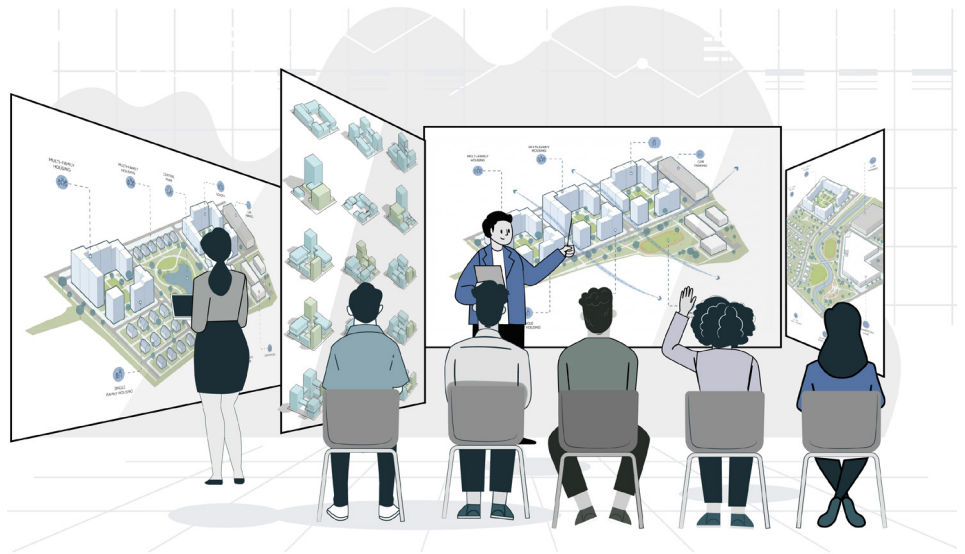
Eligibility Criteria

Graduate students who wish to participate in the UDL Thesis Publication must meet specific eligibility criteria. Their undergraduate or postgraduate thesis should have been completed within the past five years, and it should be related to the urban domain in the field of urban design, landscape, architecture, and planning. The thesis must have received a passing grade from an accredited institution. Meeting these eligibility requirements is essential since only the works that fulfill these criteria will be considered for inclusion in the publication.

6.2

Certification & Publication

All participants will be provided with certificates of participation, while a book with an ISBN number will feature the best works of the 40 selected thesis entries. Additionally, the top 40 participants will have the opportunity to present their work to esteemed panel of urban experts and professionals from across the world, through an online seminar. In addition to the top 40 participants, 10 Honourable Mentions will also be recognized and published on our website and social media.



6.3

Evaluation Criteria

The UDL Thesis Publication's evaluation process is critical to ensure that only exceptional works are selected for inclusion. The evaluation process will be conducted by a team of expert jurors with extensive experience in the field of urbanism. They will conduct a rigorous review of each submission to ensure it meets the criteria for inclusion. The jurors will evaluate each submission based on originality, relevance to the theme, and quality of research and analysis. They will be looking for submissions that demonstrate innovative thinking and creative solutions to urban challenges, as well as evaluating each submission's overall presentation.

6.4

Online Seminar

The final publication seminar will take place online for two days and include panel discussions and presentation from the selected participants only. Selected 40 participants will be informed of the schedule in advance and will be given presentation and formatting guidelines. Presentations should relate to the seminar theme, be original, and adhere to the specified time limit.

7.



Submission Requirements

- a) The submitted Thesis Portfolio must be in English and follow the provided publication's formatting guidelines.
- b) The registration form should include a brief abstract (maximum 500 words) that summarizes the main ideas and scope of the thesis.
- c) A single Thesis Portfolio in PDF format must be uploaded via web-link that you will be directed to after registration, it will also be shared via registered email id, and the thesis portfolio must be uploaded by 20th July, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- d) Participants of the selected works will be notified of their acceptance for publication and will be required to sign a publication agreement.

8.

Formatting Guidelines

- 1. Abstract:** The initial stage of the submission will include an abstract that summarizes your design in 500 words or less. The abstract should provide a clear and concise overview of your design and should highlight its key features.
- 2. Submission of Thesis Portfolio:** The submissions of the thesis project to be submitted before 20th July, 2026 should be combined in a single PDF format file and should include all the panels or sheets necessary to represent your design.
- 3. Submission anonymity:** To maintain submission anonymity, please make sure that your name, institute's name, country's name, and identification are not included on any of the panels or sheets.
- 4. Sheet size & maximum number of pages:** Your submission should include a maximum number of sheets based on the sheet size. For A3 size sheets, you are allowed to submit a maximum of 15 sheets, for A1 size sheets, you can submit a maximum of 10 sheets, and for A0 size sheets, you can submit a maximum of 7 sheets.
- 5. Use impactful graphics and minimal text:** We encourage you to represent your design with impactful graphics that effectively communicate the key aspects of your design. Use minimal text where necessary to provide context and detail.
- 6. Text and graphics size:** It is important to size all text and graphics according to the sheet size to ensure that they are legible and easy to understand. Make sure that your text and graphics are appropriately sized to ensure that they can be viewed and understood by the jurors.
- 7. Submission File Size:** The maximum pdf file size for the thesis portfolio is 50 MB. Please ensure that your files are compressed or optimized in a single file as necessary to meet this requirement. Files exceeding the maximum size will not be accepted for submission.

9.



Tentative Schedule

The duration for the publication would be between March to December 2026. The tentative schedule of the publication will include:

18 MARCH, 2026

Registrations Begins

Registration Closing Date

20 JULY, 2026

31 AUGUST, 2026

Announcement of results

Online Thesis Seminar

12-13 SEPT, 2026

DECEMBER, 2026

Publication of the book

10.



Registration Charges

40\$

Early bird Registration - 18th Mar - 24th Apr, 2026

60\$

Regular Registration- 25th Apr - 21st May, 2026

70\$

Late registration - 22nd May - 20th July 2026

11.

Juror Panel



Alessio Russo Queensland, Australia

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Università di Bologna
Associate Professor, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Dr Alessio Russo is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia, within the School of Architecture and Built Environment. He is a recognised expert in urban ecosystem services and green infrastructure, with research exploring their critical intersection with human health and climate change. His work focuses on improving health and wellbeing in cities through the effective planning and design of green spaces. Key areas include enhancing access to high-quality, biodiverse environments, strengthening human-nature relationships, and promoting mental wellbeing to support more resilient, liveable, and equitable urban landscapes.



César Tarazona Lima, Peru

Master in Collective Housing, ETSAM-UPM
Associate Professor at Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

Architect from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and holds a Master's degree in Collective Housing from the Polytechnic University of Madrid. He is a part-time professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism at PUCP, where his teaching focuses on applied research, critical reflection on the city, and the transformation of inhabitable spaces at territorial, urban, and neighbourhood scales. His work has received recognitions including the BIAU XIII Pedagogies Prize, and the Hexágono de Oro at the Peruvian Architecture Biennial. Author of the book *Obra habitada* (Inhabited Work).



Mohammed Fekry Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Cairo University, Egypt
Professor at Effat University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Mohamed is a professor of architecture and design at Effat University. He has taught Architecture at several Departments in Egypt and KSA. His main concern now is to pass on his practical experience of design to younger generations of architects as well as to develop educational courses that reflect these concepts to the architectural students. His research interests include Architecture Theories, Design Process, GIS, and Urban Conservation. He is a member of the International Society for Development & Sustainability, the Board of Directors of the Saudi Umran Society, and Vice-chair of the Saudi Planners Association (SPA). Additionally, Dr. Mohamed actively collaborates with international researchers and institutions to bring global perspectives into his teachings and research, aiming to foster a more interconnected and informed architectural community.



Jeannette Sordi New York, USA

Doctor of Design Special Student, Harvard University Graduate School of Design
Assistant Professor, New York Institute of Technology

Jeannette Sordi is a New York-based designer and academic working across landscape architecture, planning, and urbanism. She is a Visiting Associate Professor at New York Institute of Technology and a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank. Previously, she taught at Adolfo Ibañez University in Chile and at Syracuse University. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Genoa and was a visiting student at Harvard GSD. Her published books include *Landscape as Urbanism in the Americas* (Ness, 2020) and *Ecological Design. Strategies for the Vulnerable City* (laDB, 2021, 2022).

11.

Juror Panel



Karen L Nelson Boston, Massachusetts

Master of Architecture, Columbia University | Bachelor of Science in Art and Design, MIT
Dean, The Boston Architectural College

Karen Nelson, Dean and Faculty of Architecture at the Boston Architectural College began teaching in 1994, served as Director 1998 – 2013 and curated exhibits since 2012. Karen created the Just Space Lecture Series in 2018. Before joining BAC, Karen practiced architecture: housing in NYC, schools, and commercial projects. Karen taught at RISD in landscape arch. from 1995 until 2012. In 2025, she published writings in Landscape Design - Exploring Sustainable Landscapes. Dean Nelson earned her Master of Architecture from Columbia University and Bachelor of Science in Art and Design from MIT.



Sunggi Park Seoul, South Korea

Urban Designer, Harvard Graduate School of Design
Assistant Professor at Seoul National University of Science & Technology

Sunggi Park is a registered architect in New York, the United States and currently a public architect for Seoul Metropolitan Government, and an assistant professor at Seoul National University of Science and Technology in Korea. In 2014, he graduated from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design where he was nominated as a finalist for James Templeton Kelley Prize for Best Final Design Project and for the Araldo A. Cossutta Annual Prize for Design Excellence. He was a finalist for the KPF Traveling Fellowship in 2013 and has received around 40 awards for a number of competitions for designs along a broad range of scales.



Giulia Setti Milan, Italy

Laurea in Progettazione Architettónica 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

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), The University of Kitakyushu, Japan
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.

12.

UDL Collaborations



13.



Intellectual Rights

1. All materials submitted by the participant for the publication will remain as an intellectual property of their own. However, once submitted, Urban design Lab holds the rights to publish the work with due credits.
2. Participants are responsible for using copyright- free images. Urban design Lab will not be held responsible for the use of protected images
3. Urban design Lab reserves the right to modify the proposals and text in order to better adapt them to any publication format, without changing the essence of the proposal itself.
4. Published materials will be attributed to the appropriate author.
5. Urban Design Lab encourages the submission of original and innovative proposals. By participating, authors agree that their submissions may be showcased in various media formats, including, but not limited to, online platforms, exhibitions, and printed publications related to Urban Design Lab's activities.

14.

Publication Policy

1. Urban Design Lab reserves the right to make changes to the publication rules, including dates and requirements. Participants are responsible for regularly checking the Urban Design Lab website for updates to the terms and conditions and publication requirements.
2. Violation of the rules outlined in this brief or on the Urban Design Lab website will result in immediate disqualification from the publication, without refund of any payments made.
3. Urban Design Lab reserves the right to cancel the publication if the minimum number of participants is not reached. In this case, registration fees will be fully refunded to enrolled participants.
4. Any changes or updates to submission, including registration details are not allowed once the entry is submitted.
5. The thesis will be disqualified from the publication if any of the submission requirements and the formatting guidelines are not considered.
6. Contacting the jury after the release of their names is strictly prohibited, and any such action will result in legal consequences.
7. The official language of the Urban Design lab Thesis Publication is English.
8. The registration fee is non-refundable even if you withdraw your thesis entry.
9. The deadline for submissions is 11:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) 20th July 2026. Submissions after this deadline will not be considered.
10. Calculate the registration fee based on the currency exchange rate for United States Dollars (USD). In case, partial amount is paid, no registration will be considered, and no refunds will be issued.

15.

FAQs

1. How to select the theme for submission?

To select the theme for submission, you should carefully read the segment about “Themes for Thesis Publication” provided above and if your thesis falls under any theme based on the diverse areas of focus and research mentioned within, you may submit your thesis entry for the particular theme.

2. What is the Contact information for participants needing additional support?

The contact information for participants needing additional support is editor@urbandesignlab.in. You may contact the provided email address for any queries.

3. Do I need to format my sheets/panel before submitting?

Yes, it is recommended to format your sheets/panel before submitting according to the guidelines provided in the section “Formatting Guidelines”.

4. How my entry will be evaluated?

Your entry will be evaluated based on the segment specified as the “Evaluation Criteria”, which includes originality, relevance to the theme and sub-theme, methodology, design approach and overall presentation quality.

5. Is it possible to receive the judges rating and/or comments for my entry?

Regrettably, due to the large number of submissions, we are unable to provide personal feedback or comments to all participants.

6. Is there a chance to modify my submission?

Modifying a submission after it has been made may not be possible, as per the publication policy.

7. If I withdraw my entry? Will I get a refund?

Registration fee is non-refundable, even if you withdraw your entry.

8. How can I be sure you have received my entry?

You must have received a confirmation email after submitting your entry. If you haven't received any confirmation, you should contact to editor@urbandesignlab.in confirm your submission status.

9. Can I submit my thesis for more than two themes?

No. You can only submit your thesis for one theme, based on the diverse areas of focus and research of your thesis.

15.

FAQs

10. What can I do if the payment gateway is not available in my country?

If the payment gateway is not available in your country, you can contact editor@urbandesignlab.in to discuss alternative payment methods.

11. How to make the payment for the registration fee?

Payments are handled by Google Pay and PayPal Payment Gateways. You can pay by scanning the provided QR code or accessing the payment link.

12. In what currency should I pay the registration fee?

The currency for paying the registration fee is United States dollar (USD) and Indian Rupee (INR).

13. How to calculate the currency exchange rate to pay for the registration fee?

You can use online currency exchange calculators or contact your bank to calculate the currency exchange rate to pay for the registration fee.

14. When will I receive the participation certificate?

The exact date for receiving the participation certificate may vary depending on the publication policy, but typically, it will be provided after the online two-days publication seminar is over.

15. Can I attend the publication seminar even if my thesis is not short-listed

Yes, you can attend the publication seminar even if your thesis is not short-listed. The link to join will be shared with the registered email id.

16. Will I be getting the digital/hard copy of the Publication Book?

You can purchase the digital/hard copy of the Publication Book from our website.

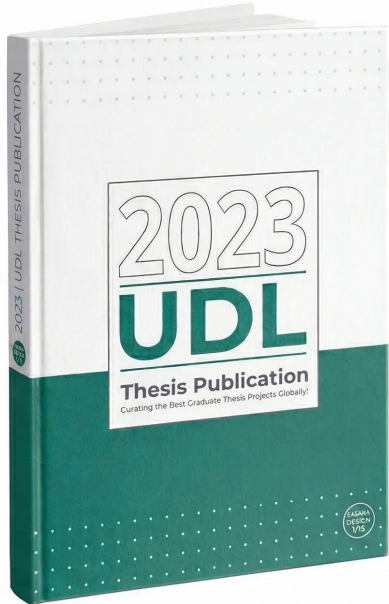
17. What language should I use while submitting my thesis?

The language you should use while submitting your thesis is English as is the most widely accepted language in academic events

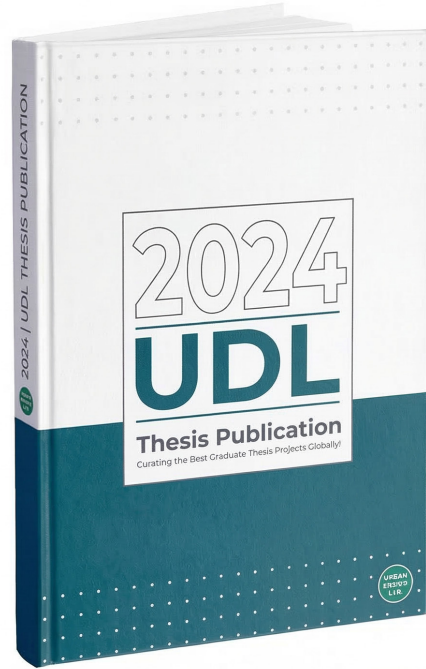
18. How to submit my Thesis Portfolio after registration?

The thesis Portfolio will be submitted after registration, you must upload it via the web-link that you will be directed to. This link will also be shared via registered email ID. Please ensure that you upload your Thesis Portfolio by 20th July, 2026, as late submissions will not be accepted.

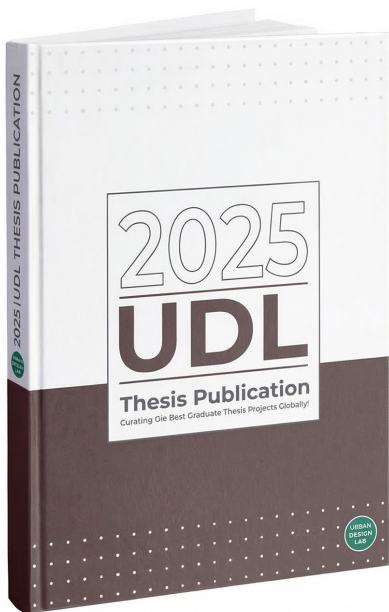
Previous Year Publications



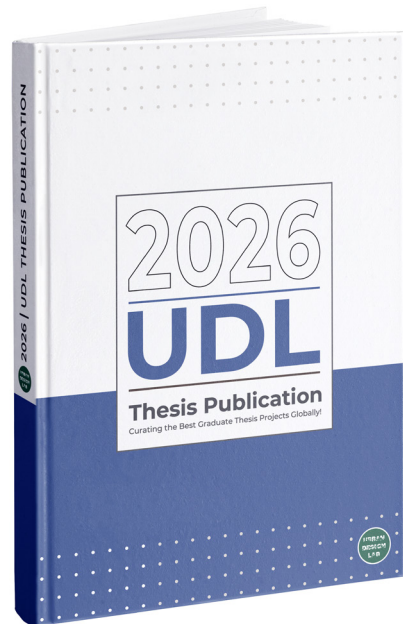
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LinkedIn

[@urbandesignlab](#)



Email

editor@urbandesignlab.in



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[@urbandesignlab.in](#)