



UDL Thesis Publication

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally !



**12th & 13th
September**

2026

**BOOK OF
ABSTRACTS**

Seminar



CONTRIBUTIONS

The UDL Thesis Publication - 2026 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. Italy
2. Lebanon
3. India
4. United States
5. Sweden
6. Belgium
7. Peru
8. Turkey
9. Spain
10. United Kingdom
11. Netherlands
12. Bangladesh
13. Germany
14. Portugal
15. South Africa

INSTITUTES (Jury Associations)

1. Effat College of Architecture & Design
2. New York Institute of Technology
3. Seoul National University of Science and Technology
4. Politecnico di Milano
5. Indonesian Education University
6. Queensland University of Technology
7. Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
8. Boston Architectural College
9. School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal
10. Studio CoDe
11. College of Engineering Trivandrum
12. Institute of Urban Designers India (IUDI)

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1. Mohammed Fekry
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For inquiries, mail to contact@urbandesignlab.in



URBAN DESIGN LAB

UDL Thesis Publication | 2026

Curating the Best Graduate Thesis Projects Globally !

The UDL Thesis Publication 2026 brings together 40 outstanding thesis abstracts from undergraduate and postgraduate submissions across 15 countries, presenting diverse perspectives in urban design, landscape architecture, architecture, and planning. Selected for originality, relevance, research quality, and innovation, these works address critical urban challenges and emerging approaches shaping the future of cities. This volume serves as a preview of the complete ISBN-attributed publication, scheduled for release in December 2026.

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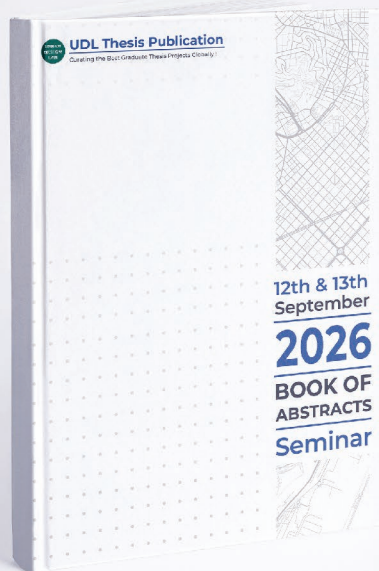
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2026 UDL THESIS PUBLICATION



THESIS SEMINAR

12th-13th
September 2026

Register Now!

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Curating the best Graduate thesis Project Globally !



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OUR NARRATIVE



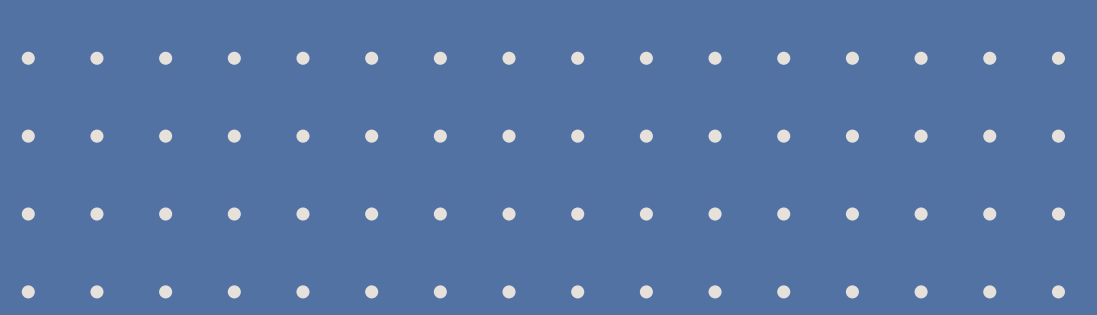
About Us

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.

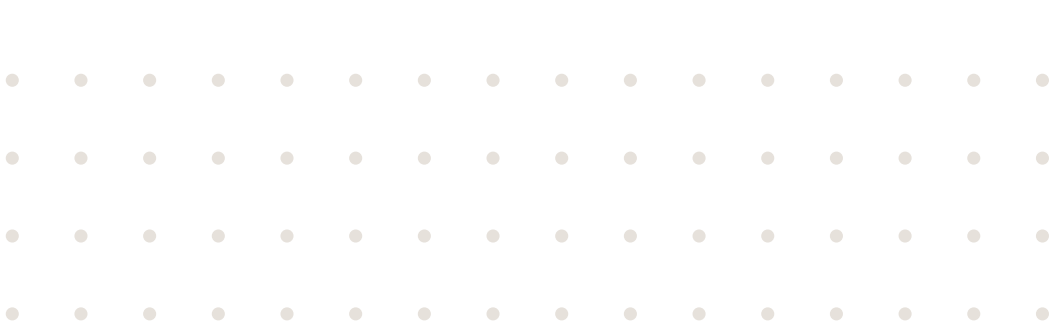
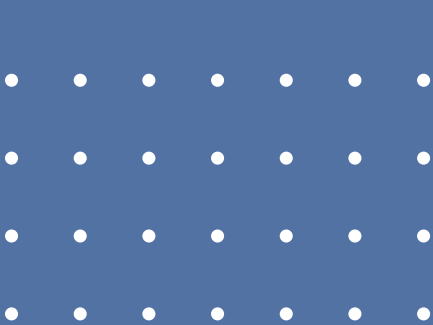
At Urban Design Lab, we understand that the urban landscape is ever-changing. Our initiatives are designed to resonate with the evolving needs of cities globally, shaped by the diverse voices and experiences of urban professionals. We aim to foster a space for creative exchange, innovation, and meaningful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



“

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 12–13 September 2026. 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.



PROGRAM GUIDE

12
September

13
September

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, Fatouma Sarah El Phil & Giulia Setti

Convenor: Harkaran Ahluwalia

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: Mohammed Fekry, Jeannette Sordi & Vikas Kanojia

Moderator: Sahana Deepak

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, Alessio Russo & Gayatri Nanda

Convenor: Harkaran Ahluwalia

Moderator: Ravjyot Kaur

Session 2

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

Jury Composition: César Tarazona, Karen L. Nelson & Bejene Kothari

Moderator: Vipendra Singh Thakur

Note: The UDL Thesis Publication book is scheduled for release, in the month of December 2026, that will feature the abstracts published here along with the Thesis Projects.

Seminar Schedule

Day 1 12th September, 2026, Saturday
Themes : Urban Landscape & Urban Management

03:00 PM - 03:05 PM (IST)	Inaugural Note - Urban Design Lab
09:30 AM - 09:35 AM (UTC)	
03:05 PM - 03:10 PM (IST)	Seminar Foreword - Harkaran Ahluwalia
09:35 AM - 09:40 AM (UTC)	

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, Fatouma Sarah El Phil & Giulia Setti

03:10 PM - 03:20 PM (IST)	Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Kristi Verma
09:40 AM - 09:50 (UTC)	
03:20 PM - 03:35 PM (IST)	Beyond the Threshold - Shaping a Park System in Baggio's Peri-Urban Landscape Milan, Italy Abhinand Krishnakumar Menon, Arya Arun (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
09:50 AM - 10:05 (UTC)	
03:35 PM - 03:50 PM (IST)	The Hujair Valley Natural Reserve: The Reclamation, Recovery, and Resurfacing of Threatened Natural Heritage Lebanon Fatima Hassan Suleiman, Maya Haidar & Clara Saliba (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
10:05 AM - 10:20 AM (UTC)	
03:50 PM - 04:05 PM (IST)	Vanishing Urban Waters: Reintegrating Lakes into Urban Fabric as Shared Public Systems in Bengaluru Bengaluru, India Aswathi A (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
10:20 AM - 10:35 AM (UTC)	
04:05 PM - 04:20 PM (IST)	Living in a Floodable Park: Leveraging Climate Change to Redesign Middelkerke's Tourist Infrastructure Middelkerke, Belgium Gautami Kasat (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
10:35 AM - 10:50 AM (UTC)	
04:20 PM - 04:35 PM (IST)	Heat Stress in Informal Settlements: Strategies for Urban Climate Adaptation Kigali, Rwanda Jan Arzt (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
10:50 AM - 11:05 AM (UTC)	
04:35 PM - 04:50 PM (IST)	The Edges of Architectural Control Jenda Simonsen (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
11:05 AM -11:20 AM UTC	
04:50 PM - 05:05 PM (IST)	Itinerant: A Network of Mobile Architectures for the Preservation of Agricultural Heritage in the Lower Mala River Valley Peru Reynaldo Siccha (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape (Post Graduate)
11:20 AM -11:35 AM UTC	

Seminar Schedule

05:05 PM - 05:20 PM (IST) 11:35 PM - 11:50 PM (UTC)	Ecologically Resilient Destination Development: A Case of Velankanni Velankanni, India Merin J G (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
05:20 PM - 05:35 PM (IST) 11:50 AM - 12:05 PM (UTC)	Reimagining Industrial Heritage: Adaptive Reuse and Green Urbanism for Sustainable City Models in the Chinese Context China Paola Lacuzzi & Wei Qiang Massimo Hu (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
05:35 PM - 05:50 PM (IST) 12:05 PM - 12:20 PM (UTC)	Memory Builds the Landscape: Rural Imaginary of Ayacucchean Memory and Resistance Peru Perla Thais Elias (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
05:50 PM - 06:00 PM (IST) 12:20 PM - 12:30 PM (UTC)	Panel Discussion
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: Mohammed Fekry Jeannette Sordi & Vikas Kanojia

07:00 PM- 07:05 PM (IST) 01:30 PM - 01:35 PM (UTC)	Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Sahana Deepak
07:05 PM- 07:20 PM (IST) 01:35 PM - 01:50 PM (UTC)	Beyond Concrete Horizons - Nurturing Bengaluru's Green Identity through the Green Wedge Strategy Bengaluru, India Sunaina Prasad (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
07:20 PM- 07:35 PM (IST) 01:50 PM - 02:05 PM (UTC)	Circular Urbanism Peiying Han & Weiqiao Lin (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
07:35 PM- 07:50 PM (IST) 02:05 PM - 02:20 PM (UTC)	Ripples of the Past: Tracing the Cultural Footprints of Saraswati Shraddha Suresh Rathi (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape
07:50 PM- 08:05 PM (IST) 02:20 PM - 02:35 PM (UTC)	Development Strategies along Anasagar Lake Precinct at Ajmer Ajmer, India Ashima Mathur (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Landscape

Seminar Schedule

08:05 PM- 08:20 PM (IST) 02:35 PM - 02:50 PM (UTC)	The Center for Unhoused People with Treatable Mental Health Disorders Berfin Sozer (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Management
08:20 PM- 08:35 PM (IST) 02:50 PM - 03:05 PM (UTC)	Urban Isotopes: Re-imagining a Fragmented Future for Public Space in Mumbai Mumbai, India Shruti Keshav Tendulkar (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Management
08:35 PM- 08:50 PM (IST) 03:05 PM - 03:20 PM (UTC)	Energy Infrastructure as Public Space: Architecture for Waste, Labor, and the Conscious City Brianna Ramey (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Management
08:50 PM- 09:05 PM (IST) 03:20 PM - 03:35 PM (UTC)	Whose Livability? Understanding How Different People Imagine the Livable City. Manas Ketan Musale (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Management
09:05 PM- 09:20 PM (IST) 03:35 PM - 03:50 PM (UTC)	Everyday Urbanism for Ageing in Place Tanika Sunil Kerkar (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Management
09:20 PM- 09:35 PM (IST) 03:50 PM - 04:05 PM (UTC)	Sonapur: City of Gold or City of the Dead? A Study of Spatial Injustice in the Migrant Labor Colony of Dubai Dubai, UAE Urva Gaurang Parmar (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Management
09:35 PM- 10:00 PM (IST) 04:05 PM - 04:30 PM (UTC)	Panel Discussion

Seminar Schedule

Day 2 13th September, 2026, 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 - Harkaran Ahluwalia

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, Alessio Russo & Gayatri Nanda

03:10 PM - 03:20 PM (IST)

09:40 AM - 09:50 AM(UTC)

Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Ravjyot Kaur

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

09:50 AM - 10:05 AM (UTC)

The Cross Bronx Transit-Way: Integrating Ecology, Transport Networks & New Civic Futures | Bronx, New York, USA

Melisa Ramlogan, Lillian Ayodele & Maggie Viti (Under-Graduate Thesis)
Urban Networks

03:35 PM - 03:50 PM (IST)

10:05 AM - 10:20 AM (UTC)

Sacred Movement: Reimagining Pilgrimage Transit in Velankanni, Tamil Nadu | Velankanni, India

Angelina Dominic (Under-Graduate Thesis)
Urban Networks

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

10:20 AM - 10:35 AM (UTC)

Vertical Commons: Reclaiming Civic Life Above Mumbai's Transit Corridors | Mumbai, India

Charudatta Jayant Patil (Under-Graduate Thesis)
Urban Networks

04:05 PM - 04:20 PM (IST)

10:35 AM - 10:50 AM (UTC)

Transfer: An Inquiry into Regional Systems

Ishaniben Shah (Post-Graduate Thesis)
Urban Networks

04:20 PM - 04:35 PM (IST)

10:50 AM - 11:05 AM (UTC)

Leveraging Transit Nodes for Commercial Viability in Bangalore, India | Bengaluru, India

Khushi Mahesh Shirur (Under-Graduate Thesis)
Urban Networks

04:35 PM - 04:50 PM (IST)

11:05 AM - 11:20 AM (UTC)

Tonal Walks

Chaitali Santosh Bedmutha
Urban Networks

04:50 PM - 05:05 PM (IST)

11:20 AM - 11:35 AM UTC

Seattle Waterfront: Port of Resilience, Pier 48 | Seattle, USA

Yulia Zarechkina (Post-Graduate Thesis)
Urban Renewal

Seminar Schedule

05:05 PM - 05:20 PM (IST) 11:35 AM - 11:50 AM UTC	Genua Liquens Genoa, Italy Giovanni Antonio Cappa (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
05:20 PM - 05:35 PM (IST) 11:50 AM - 12:05 PM (UTC)	Live-Work-Connect: A Socially Sustainable Mixed-Use Model Preserving Community Networks and Economic Identity in Dharavi's Redevelopment Mumbai, India Dev Suryakant Joshi (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
05:35 PM - 05:50 PM (IST) 12:05 PM - 12:20 PM (UTC)	Re-Interpreting Cultural Quarters of Kannur City Through Everyday Urbanism Kannur, Kerala, India Fathimathul Rizma (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
05:50 PM - 06:00 PM (IST) 12:20 PM - 12:30 PM UTC	Panel Discussion

Session Break

Session 2

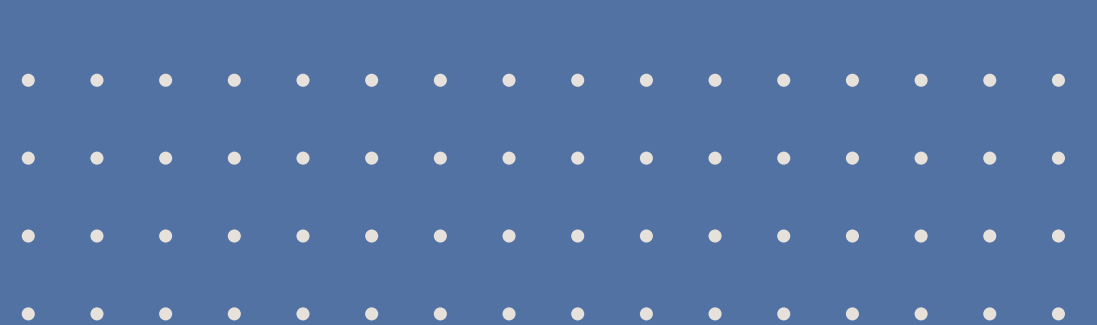
07:00 PM - 10:00 PM IST (India Standard Time) / 01:30 PM - 04:30 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

Panel Members: César Tarazona, Karen L. Nelson & Bejene Kothari

07:00 PM- 07:05 PM (IST) 01:30 PM - 01:35 PM (UTC)	Session Introduction and Welcome Note - Vipendra Singh Thakur
07:05 PM- 07:20 PM (IST) 01:35 PM - 01:50 PM (UTC)	Beyond Rediscovery: Reclaiming Alijan Jute Mill as a Living Productive Landscape Bangladesh Fatiha Tanjim Oni (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
07:20 PM- 07:35 PM (IST) 01:50 PM - 02:05 PM (UTC)	Itinerant Public Infrastructure: Urban Regeneration and Revitalization of the Ferrocarril Central Corridor in Huancayo Huancayo, Peru Fiorella Noelia Fierro Chipana (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
07:35 PM- 07:50 PM (IST) 02:05 PM - 02:20 PM (UTC)	Reimagining Temple Precincts as Public Realms: Case of Pandharpur Pandharpur, India Kalyani Malla Todkar (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
07:50 PM- 08:05 PM (IST) 02:20 PM - 02:35 PM(UTC)	Astronomy and Cultural Experience Center, Sambhar Sambhar, India Kritika Sharma (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
08:05 PM- 08:20 PM (IST) 02:35 PM - 02:50 PM (UTC)	A Cross-Border Urban Landscape: From Roman Heritage to a Concept for the Future Germany–Netherlands Border Region Labdhi Shah (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal

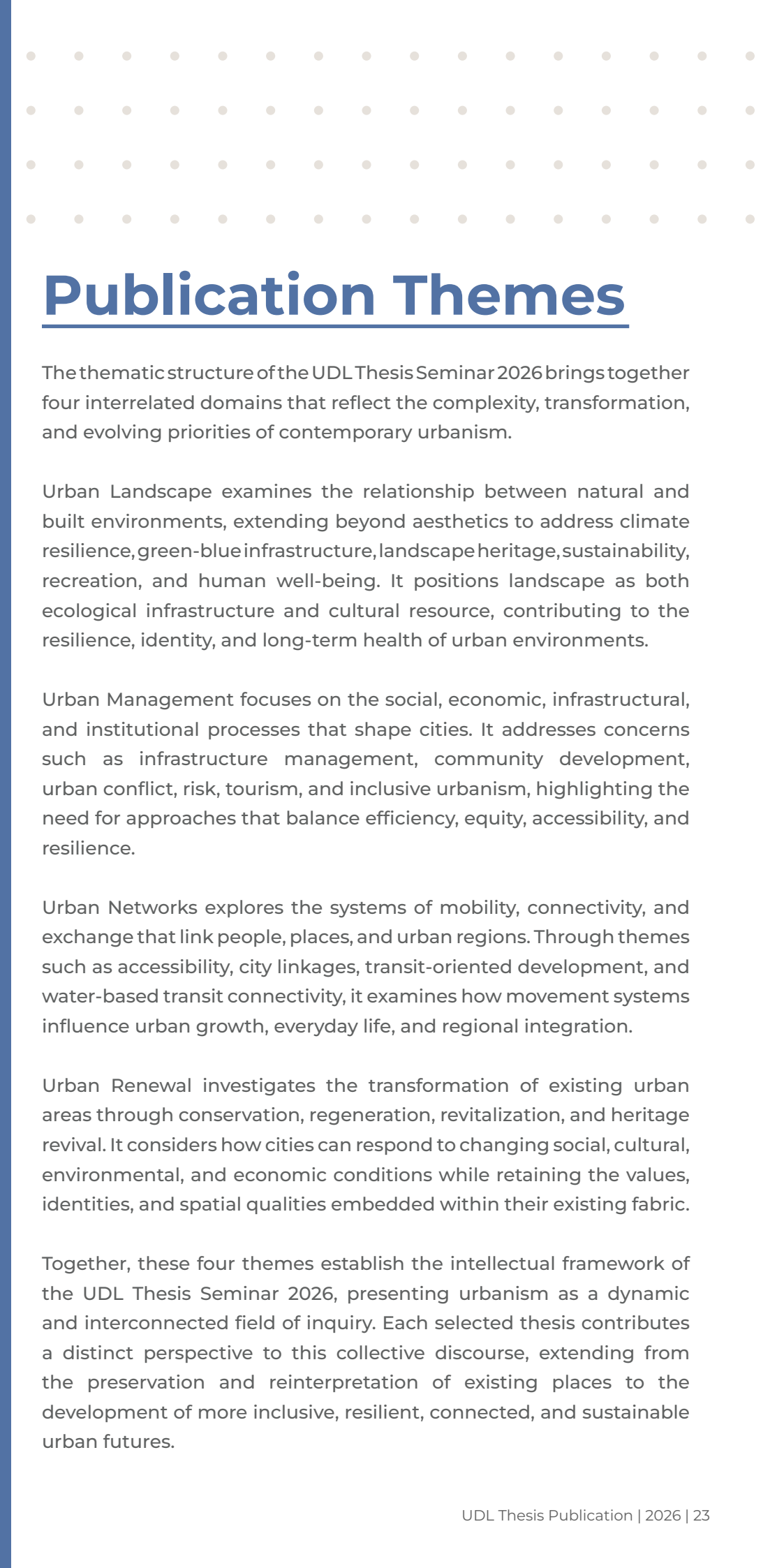
Seminar Schedule

08:20 PM - 08:35 PM (IST) 02:50 PM - 03:05 PM (UTC)	The Last REFUGIA: Wild Seeds Takeover the Riparian Buffer in North Central Wisconsin Wisconsin, United States Liuyun Wang (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
08:35 PM - 08:50 PM (IST) 03:05 PM - 03:20 PM (UTC)	Re-incorporate the House: Typological Regeneration of the Terzo Palazzo in San Donato Milanese San Donato Milanese, Italy Ricardo Daniel Ferreira Ribeiro (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
08:50 PM - 09:05 PM (IST) 03:20 PM - 03:35 PM (UTC)	Reclaiming the Vertical: Catalysts for a Time-Starved City Soumil Sanjay Bobade (Under-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
09:05 PM - 09:20 PM (IST) 03:35 PM - 03:50 PM (UTC)	The Intensity Struan Bentley Morrison (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
09:20 PM - 09:35 PM (IST) 03:50 PM - 04:05 PM (UTC)	(re)Made in Bangladesh Bangladesh Sean Meyer & Shimanto Goswami (Post-Graduate Thesis) Urban Renewal
09:35 PM - 09:45 PM (IST) 04:05 PM - 04:15 PM (UTC)	Panel Discussion
09:45 PM - 09:50 PM (IST) 04:15 PM - 04:20 PM (UTC)	Concluding remark - Harkaran Ahluwalia
09:50 PM - 10:00 PM (IST) 04:20 PM - 04:30 PM (UTC)	Valedictory Session - Urban Design Lab



“

THEMATIC DIVISIONS



Publication Themes

The thematic structure of the UDL Thesis Seminar 2026 brings together four interrelated domains that reflect the complexity, transformation, and evolving priorities of contemporary urbanism.

Urban Landscape examines the relationship between natural and built environments, extending beyond aesthetics to address climate resilience, green-blue infrastructure, landscape heritage, sustainability, recreation, and human well-being. It positions landscape as both ecological infrastructure and cultural resource, contributing to the resilience, identity, and long-term health of urban environments.

Urban Management focuses on the social, economic, infrastructural, and institutional processes that shape cities. It addresses concerns such as infrastructure management, community development, urban conflict, risk, tourism, and inclusive urbanism, highlighting the need for approaches that balance efficiency, equity, accessibility, and resilience.

Urban Networks explores the systems of mobility, connectivity, and exchange that link people, places, and urban regions. Through themes such as accessibility, city linkages, transit-oriented development, and water-based transit connectivity, it examines how movement systems influence urban growth, everyday life, and regional integration.

Urban Renewal investigates the transformation of existing urban areas through conservation, regeneration, revitalization, and heritage revival. It considers how cities can respond to changing social, cultural, environmental, and economic conditions while retaining the values, identities, and spatial qualities embedded within their existing fabric.

Together, these four themes establish the intellectual framework of the UDL Thesis Seminar 2026, presenting urbanism as a dynamic and interconnected field of inquiry. Each selected thesis contributes a distinct perspective to this collective discourse, extending from the preservation and reinterpretation of existing places to the development of more inclusive, resilient, connected, and sustainable urban 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 focuses on connectivity, mobility, accessibility, and exchange within and between urban areas. The areas of focus are:

- **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 positions landscape as an operative framework through which ecological systems, cultural memory, infrastructure, and patterns of inhabitation are negotiated. Across the selected theses, landscape is treated not as residual open space, but as a socio-ecological armature capable of mediating urbanisation, environmental risk, productive economies, and collective identity. From Milan's Fontanile systems and Lebanon's Hujair Valley to Bengaluru's lakes and green networks, these projects reconnect fragmented territories and restore ecological continuity.

Climate adaptation forms a central line of inquiry. Living in a Floodable Park reframes inundation in Middelkerke as a generative condition for adaptive tourism, while the Kigali project advances incremental upgrading through hybrid green-blue infrastructure. In Velankanni, ecological resilience mediates pilgrimage urbanism and coastal vulnerability. Projects in Bengaluru, Ajmer, and along the Saraswati River similarly reposition water systems as civic and ecological infrastructure.

A parallel trajectory examines landscape as a repository of memory, heritage, labour, and territorial identity. Projects in Ayacucho and the Mala Valley show how ritual, agriculture, mobility, and collective practices sustain cultural landscapes. Industrial territories in Beijing are reinterpreted through adaptive reuse and green urbanism. Across these works, preservation shifts from conserving isolated objects to sustaining living landscape systems.

Together, the 2026 Urban Landscape projects advance a relational conception of urbanism in which ecological restoration, spatial justice, cultural continuity, material circularity, and public life are inseparable. Landscape emerges as both medium and method, capable of coordinating environmental systems, infrastructures, communities, and temporal change. It is positioned not at the margins of the city, but as a primary instrument for shaping adaptive, regenerative, and culturally grounded urban futures.

1.1



Author Profile: **Abhinand Krishnakumar Menon, Arya Arun**

Master of Science in Landscape Architecture | 2025

Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title: **“Beyond the Threshold: Shaping a Park System in Baggio’s Peri-Urban Landscape, Milan, Italy**

Thesis Guide: Andrea Oldani

Abstract: This thesis investigates how Baggio’s fragmented peri-urban landscape on the western edge of Milan can be transformed into a connected park system through the recovery of its ecological, agricultural, and cultural structures. It asks how historic fontanili—spring-fed water channels characteristic of the Lombardy plain—can support landscape regeneration, improve ecological connectivity, and reconnect peripheral neighbourhoods with the surrounding countryside.

The research combines historical cartographic analysis, field observation, landscape mapping, and a multi-scalar study of green, blue, built, and infrastructural systems. A transect from Baggio to Cusago examines three contrasting fontanile conditions: an intact agricultural system, a partially integrated watercourse near residential and industrial areas, and a degraded peri-urban condition with a dry spring head.

The thesis proposes a continuous park network linking existing open spaces, agricultural land, woodland, cycling routes, and restored water systems. Key interventions include ecological corridors, reforestation, improved pedestrian and cycling connections, and adaptive restoration strategies for the fontanili. The study demonstrates that these overlooked water landscapes can become the structural framework for a resilient peri-urban park system, strengthening biodiversity, heritage, accessibility, and the relationship between Milan and its rural fringe.

Keywords: *Peri-urban landscape; Urban renewal; Landscape heritage; Green-blue infrastructure; Ecological connectivity; Park system; Climate resilience*

1.2



Author Profile: Fatima Hassan Suleiman, Maya Haidar, Clara Saliba

Master's in Urban Design | 2025

American University of Beirut | South Lebanon - Lebanon

Thesis Title: Al Hujair Valley Natural Reserve: The reclamation, recovery, and resurfacing of threatened natural heritage | Al Hujair Valley, Lebanon

Thesis Guide: Mona Khechen & Paola Pilligrini

Abstract: The Hujair Valley (Wadi Al-Hujair) is one of the last remaining significant patches of natural and cultural heritage in South Lebanon. Situated along the Litani River, it is a national biodiversity hotspot and a regional green lung supporting diverse flora and fauna. Despite its ecological, social, and cultural value, Lebanon's National Physical Masterplan has failed to identify the valley as a significant landscape requiring protection. For decades, the valley has faced quarrying, water extraction, and uncontrolled urban sprawl. Even with its designation as a natural reserve in 2010, ineffective management and weak law enforcement continue to threaten it. Israeli attacks on South Lebanon since 2023 have further fragmented and scarred the landscape, compounding ecological degradation and underscoring the urgent need for protection. This thesis explores environmental rehabilitation and management strategies to inform an integrated recovery and resilience vision. Through spatial mapping, data-driven analysis, and local knowledge, the Hujair Valley is envisioned as an ecological hotspot connected by green and blue eco-corridors to national and regional reserves. Our vision supports sustainable agricultural and cultural experiences while allowing the valley to heal with time. To realize this vision, the thesis proposes four main strategies: adaption, restoration and healing, expansion and reclamation, and sustainable management via community stewardship.

Keywords: Hujair Valley, Landscape Recovery, Ecological Resilience, Landscape Restoration, Ecological Corridors, Biodiversity Conservation, Community Stewardship, Sustainable Landscape Management

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1.3



Author Profile: Aswathi A

Master of Urban Design | 2026

School of Planning and Architecture | Vijayawada, India

Thesis Title: Vanishing Urban Waters: Re-integrating Lakes into Urban Fabric as Shared Public Systems in Bengaluru | Bengaluru, India

Thesis Guide: Ar. Ch Dheeraj Venkata Manikanta

Abstract: Urban lakes in Bengaluru are increasingly disconnected from everyday urban life, becoming fragmented edges with restricted access, inactive frontages and limited public engagement. This thesis examines the lake-people interface, asking how the lake-city edge can be reconfigured as an inclusive, integrated and shared public realm. The study focuses on the Hulimavu Lake series and uses secondary data review, spatial mapping, on-site observation, behavioural mapping and stakeholder interactions. Analysis examines accessibility, connectivity, edge conditions, public realm quality, built form and everyday use. The study finds that fragmented edges, limited access points, vehicle-dominated streets and poorly integrated public spaces weaken the relationship between neighbourhoods and the lake. Informal activities and variations in permeability, openness and programme also influence how people occupy the lake edge. The research develops an Integrated Parameter Framework that translates observed conditions into site-specific design parameters across spatial, programmatic, environmental, social/commons and temporal dimensions. These were tested through precedent, diagrammatic and observational methods. Based on these findings, the thesis develops an urban design framework and site-specific proposal with accessible public spaces, strengthened pedestrian links, activated nodes and differentiated lake-edge conditions, positioning the lake edge as a continuous, adaptable public realm.

Keywords: *Urban Commons, Lake-People Interface, Urban Lakes, Blue Green Infrastructure, Public Realm, Community Resilience*

1.4

**Author Profile:** Gautami Kasat

Masters in Urbanism, Landscape and Planning | 2025

KU Leuven | Belgium

Thesis Title: Living in a Floodable Park: Leveraging Climate Change to Redesign Middelkerke's Tourist Infrastructure

Thesis Guide: Proffesor Kelly Shannon & Proffesor Joris Moonen

Abstract: Middelkerke's polder landscape has long been shaped by a logic of control—dikes, drainage, and land reclamation stabilizing land for tourism and agriculture. Yet rising sea levels, storm surges, and shifting hydrology are exposing the fragility of this engineered system, while the town's tourism economy remains locked into a static, seasonal model concentrated in just two summer months. Projects like SILT and Recht naar Zee continue to reinforce a "hold the line" strategy, prioritizing fixed infrastructure over ecological adaptability. This thesis asks: how can designing for wetness and seasonality, intensified by climate change, lead to a resilient, experience-driven tourism typology in Middelkerke's polder? Through spatial analysis of flooding, salinization, and tourism infrastructure, alongside precedent studies of Marker Wadden and Tidal Park Keilehaven, the research proposes a "Floodable Park"—a mosaic of floodable farmlands, wetlands, grazing meadows, and aquaculture zones layered onto existing caravan park infrastructure. Roughly half of the site's static camping units are removed and replaced with mobile caravans and portable tents that shift with the seasons: active in summer, dissolving into wetland in winter. The design reframes seasonal wetness as an asset rather than a liability, offering an alternative to the commodified, defensive coastal tourism model and proposing a slower, ecologically attuned way of inhabiting the polder.

Keywords: Floodable landscapes, landscape urbanism, coastal resilience, seasonal tourism, polder adaptation, climate change, wetness

1.5

**Author Profile:** Jan Arzt

MSc Sustainable Urban Planning and Design | 2026

Kunaliiaa Techniska Höskolan (KTH) | Sweden

Thesis Title: Heat Stress in Informal Settlements: Strategies for Urban Climate Adaptation | Kigali, Rwanda

Thesis Guide: Alejandra Navarrete Llopis

Abstract: Rapid urbanization and climate change are two effects occurring simultaneously on the African continent. Rapid urbanization, with frequent rural-urban migration, leads to the formation of Informal settlements in African cities. Climate change, as well as increasing risk of natural disasters, have vast effects on living conditions, the environment, and human health in unplanned settlements. Sustainable and socially just upgrading, aiming for climate adaptation of informal settlements, needs to tackle economic, social, and environmental aspects. Upgrading aims to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable in a city, while avoiding their displacement. This project explores the concept of Incremental upgrading, the upgrading in phases, and integration of autonomous adaptation efforts in the process. Therefore, this MSc Thesis in Sustainable Urban Planning and Design aims to develop design strategies for a sustainable adaptation process, building on autonomous adaptation that has already been done by residents themselves. The proposal, grounded in a public participation process and situated knowledge, does not superpose a master plan but rather develops guidelines and a strategic implementation plan for a socially coherent upgrading process in the informal settlement Rwezamenyo in Kigali. The project is specific to this site, but the learnings and developed strategies can be transferred.

Keywords: *Informal Settlements, Climate adaptation, Health-Heat relation, Strategic urban design, Community Participation*

1.6

**Author Profile:** Jenda Simonsen

Master of architecture | 2026

University of Nebraska–Lincoln | Lincoln, Nebraska

Thesis Title: The Edges of Architectural Control | U.S.– Mexico Border

Thesis Guide: David Newton

Abstract: The Edges of Architectural Control investigates how border infrastructure uses architecture to regulate movement, visibility, interaction, and access, and asks how these same spatial mechanisms might be reprogrammed to create connection rather than reinforce separation. Situated along the U.S.–Mexico border between San Diego and Tijuana, the thesis examines the border as both a physical edge and a system that choreographs human behavior.

The research combines critical theory, precedent analysis, spatial investigation, and speculative design, drawing on ideas of discipline, control, ritual, and event from Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze, Byung-Chul Han, and Bernard Tschumi. The resulting intervention transforms the border into a sequence of spaces organized around rituals of walking, resting, observing, playing, gathering, eating, cultivating, and recreation. Rather than removing the wall, the project alters how users experience and engage with it through moments of parallel movement, visibility, interaction, and collective activity. Landscape operates as a secondary system of intervention through seasonal planting, permeable pavers, planted voids, and tidal processes that continually reshape spatial boundaries. The thesis demonstrates how architecture can expose systems of control while proposing counter-choreographies that transform the border into an evolving public landscape of awareness, encounter, and shared experience.

Keywords: *Border Urbanism, Architecture of Control, Spatial Choreography, Ritual Space, Urban Regeneration, Embodied Experience, Ecological Urbanism*

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1.7



Author Profile: Reynaldo Siccha

Bachelor of Architecture | 2023

Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru | Lima, Peru

Thesis Title: Itinerant: A Network of Mobile Architectures for the Preservation of Agricultural Heritage in the Lower Mala River Valley | Lima, Perú

Thesis Guide: Luis Elias Rodriguez Rivero

Abstract: This thesis critiques the socio-ecological impacts of urban expansion in Peru's lower Mala River Valley, where fertile farmland is rapidly consumed by seasonal recreational housing. By reducing ancestral soils to real estate, this trend threatens food security, overexploits aquifers, and dismantles Andean territorial networks like *crianza mutua* (mutual raising). The research asks: How can architecture operate across multiple timeframes to sustain agriculture, contain urbanization, and safeguard heritage without relying on static occupation?

Using speculative architecture, the project proposes "ITINERANTE," a network of mobile seasonal structures acting as "living territorial borders." Mechanically driven by a solar-powered linkage system inspired by Theo Jansen, this itinerant infrastructure cyclically traverses the valley in sync with local crop calendars and environmental flows.

The key finding is a tripartite model (cultural, commercial, and scientific) where architecture shifts from an inert object into an active "land-caretaker." By providing post-harvest support, hosting temporary agro-festivals, remediating degraded soils, and monitoring aquifers, this mobile infrastructure physically halts real estate advancement. Ultimately, the thesis demonstrates that revitalizing the agricultural landscape's economic viability and cultural memory requires adaptable exchange networks rather than static centralities.

Keywords: *Speculative Architecture, Mobile Infrastructure, Agricultural Heritage, Mercantilist Urbanization, Crianza Mutua*

1.8

**Author Profile:** Merin J G

Master of Urban Design | 2024

College of Engineering, Trivandrum | Velankanni, Tamilnadu, India

Thesis Title: Ecologically Resilient Destination Development | Velankanni, India

Thesis Guide: Ar. Sharat Sunder

Abstract: Velankanni is one of the major pilgrimage destinations in India, with a great number of crowds roaming around, especially on weekends and festive days. At the same time, it's a part of the coastal river delta, which makes it ecologically potential and vulnerable to hazards that prevail on the Coromandel Coast. But, as a destination, somehow it prioritizes human demands over ecological needs, like in case of most of the other destinations. Here, the author envisages a place that equalizes these priorities of human needs and ecological needs. Hence, this thesis tries to develop a comprehensive development plan for the destination, Velankanni, under the framework of ecological resilience by equally considering the ecological aspects and anthropogenic interventions. The concept of "ecological resilience" has been extracted from the ecological resilience concept of the renowned Canadian ecologist C. S. Holling, which emphasizes persistence, change, and unpredictability. Further, it developed towards an ecologically resilient destination with the aid of many other theories, most importantly Design with Nature by Lan McHarg, the life cycle theory of John Butler, and Kevin Lynch's image of the city.

Keywords: Ecological resilience, Natural Settings, Destination Development

1.9



Author Profile: Paola Lacuzzi, Wei Qiang Massimo Hu

Master of Urban Design | 2025

Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title: Reimagining Industrial Heritage. Adaptive Reuse and Green Urbanism for Sustainable City Models | Beijing, China

Thesis Guide: Luca Maria Francesco Fabris

Abstract: In Beijing, urban regeneration has often been characterized by radical transformations in which existing layers are replaced by new development. This research proposes an alternative approach, where industrial memory becomes the foundation for an environmentally resilient and socially inclusive future. The former Shougang steel plant is used as a testing ground to explore how adaptive reuse can operate as an integrated strategy for sustainable urban regeneration. Given the scale of the site, the project interprets landscape as the primary infrastructure of transformation rather than as a decorative layer. Soil, water, vegetation, mobility and public space become active agents of change. Phytoremediation, retention basins, reforestation and ecological corridors address contaminated land, hydrological risks and fragmented habitats, transforming the waterfront into a resilient ecological system. This environmental framework supports a new network of pedestrian and cycling connections, public transport gateways and mixed functions combining research, culture, sports, leisure and community activities. Existing industrial structures are selectively preserved and reactivated as landmarks, while new interventions remain subordinate to their spatial and material presence. The result is an operational model in which ecological healing, industrial memory and public life evolve together, transforming Shougang into a living post-industrial landscape capable of adapting over time.

Keywords: Adaptive Reuse, Sustainable Infrastructure, Environmental Remediation, Ecological Recovery, Green Urbanism

1.10

**Author Profile:** Perla Elias

Bachelor of Architecture | 2025

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) | Lima, Perú

Thesis Title: Memory builds the landscape: Rural imaginary of Ayacuchean memory and resistance | Ayacucho, Perú

Thesis Guide: Luis Elías Rodríguez Rivero

Abstract: This thesis explores the fragmentation of memory, territory, and community in the rural landscape of Ayacucho, particularly in Chuschi and the Pampas River, territories marked by historical injustice and the violence of the 1980s. It proposes architecture as a medium for reconnecting these dimensions through a living and participatory system of memory. The project is structured around three strategies: Highlight, Act, and Link. It identifies places of memory and their symbolic elements, activates cultural and performative practices such as rituals, songs, protests, and pilgrimages, and establishes connections between rural communities and urban spaces. The architectural proposal consists of three memory artifacts associated with the river, bridge, and cave, together with a mobile vehicle that collects, transports, and exhibits these memories across the territory. Inspired by Andean forms of memorialization, such as the retablo and the Sarhua board, as well as the concept of the counter-monument, the project proposes a mutable and collectively curated architecture of memory. Rather than treating memory as a static representation of the past, the thesis understands it as an active territorial practice capable of fostering collective identity, remembrance, and new forms of social expression and resistance.

Keywords: Memorial performances, Territory wounds, Moving architecture

1.11

**Author Profile:****Sunaina Prasad**

Msc Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design | 2024

Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title:**Beyond concrete horizons: nurturing Bengaluru's green identity through green wedge strategy | Bengaluru, India**

Thesis Guide: Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira, Dr. Anna Giulia Castaldo

Abstract:

Bengaluru has long been celebrated for its greenery and balanced integration of green and grey infrastructure, qualities that gave the city a favourable climate, timely rainfall benefiting the agricultural lands on its periphery, and some of the best liveability and accessibility standards among Indian cities. This reputation shaped how the city was perceived, both by residents and the country at large.

In recent years, rapid urbanisation has eroded this identity. Bengaluru's emergence as India's Silicon Valley has driven a sharp rise in population, bringing an urgent demand for housing infrastructure. To accommodate this growth, the city has repeatedly compromised on its green spaces, a trade-off now visibly affecting its microclimate, environmental resilience, and overall liveability.

In response, BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), the civic body responsible for the city's development and maintenance, has proposed a Green Ring as its vision for Bengaluru's future growth. This project proposes an alternate development strategy grounded in Green Wedge theory, aiming to restore the city's lost ecological character while working alongside the municipality's own proposal. The narrative is structured as a side-by-side comparison between BBMP's Green Ring proposal and the proposed Green Wedge development plan, drawing out the relative advantages and disadvantages of each approach to green infrastructure planning.

Keywords:

Urban landscape, Ecological development, City redevelopment, Green infrastructure, Climate resilience

1.12

**Author Profile:** Peiying Han, Weiqiao Lin

Master of Architecture II | 2024

Yale University | New Haven, USA

Thesis Title: Circular Urbanism | Multiple Cities, USA & Canada

Thesis Guide: Keller Easterling

Abstract: Circular Urbanism investigates how architecture can strengthen urban systems that keep building materials in circulation. Rather than treating reuse as an isolated technique, the thesis examines deconstruction, transport, storage, processing, markets, and reuse as parts of a larger material network.

The research asks how interventions can support infrastructures already operating within daily material circulation, and how their scale and type can respond to each city's spatial, policy, logistical, and economic conditions. Through comparative mapping of New York City, Austin, and Vancouver- selected to form a nested progression of urban material-reuse conditions—the thesis documents flows, facilities, organizations, regulations, and reuse practices, then identifies a strategic gap within each ecosystem

The proposals form a nested S-M-L framework. In New York, temporary showrooms create public interfaces that make reclaimed materials visible and accessible. In Austin, a material marketplace consolidates inventory, processing, access, and exchange for larger components. In Vancouver, a community land-trust model expands circularity into land and material stewardship through phased redevelopment, deconstruction, reuse, and housing. Together, the thesis argues that circular urban design should operate as a diagnostic framework for understanding reuse infrastructure. Each intervention's scale and typology emerge from the material-reuse condition it seeks to activate and extend.

Keywords: Circular Urbanism, Urban Material Networks, Construction Material Reuse, Design for Disassembly, Circular Economy, Material Stewardship, Community Land Trust

1.13

**Author Profile:** Shraddha Rathi

Msc Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design | 2024

Politecnico di Milano | Milan, Italy

Thesis Title: Ripples of the Past: Tracing the Cultural Footprints of Saraswati | Haryana, India

Thesis Guide: Paola Nella Branduini

Abstract: The Saraswati River, steeped in ancient mythology and revered as one of India's sacred rivers. Thesis embarks on a noble quest: to revive the lost Saraswati, not just merely as a hydrological endeavor but also as a cultural resurgence.

The thesis methodology included a literature review of river revival and cultural landscape case studies, followed by a field study of the Saraswati River to assess its existing ecological, cultural, and landscape conditions. Relevant data was collected and analyzed to identify key challenges and opportunities. Based on these findings, an integrated revival strategy was developed, combining ecological restoration, cultural conservation, and landscape enhancement, along with a practical implementation plan.

The project addresses river regeneration across three scales: territorial, regional, and local. Given the distinct landscape variations along the river, diverse strategies have been proposed for its revival in different areas. This comprehensive approach provides a broader understanding of how to rejuvenate the river, allowing subsequent focus on the local scale. Focus area of the project centers around Adi Badri in Haryana, where this concept is meticulously demonstrated. This project aimed to spread awareness about the intangible heritage associated with the Saraswati river. As the ripples of our efforts extend, they touch not only the riverbed but also the hearts and souls of those who cherish India's rich cultural legacy.

Keywords: *Intangible heritage, River revival, sustainability, Saraswati River, Adi Badri, Cultural legacy.*

1.14

**Author Profile:** Ashima Mathur

Masters in Urban Design | 2022

Aayojan School of Architectue and Design | Jaipur, India

Thesis Title: Development Strategies for Anasagar Lake Precinct | Ajmer, India

Thesis Guide: Ar. Sonia Maheshwari

Abstract: The thesis emphasizes a comprehensive approach towards the protection of lakes and their associated systems as vital ecological assets of urban regions. Lakes provide environmental benefits, support biodiversity, regulate microclimate and influence the quality of life of surrounding communities. Ana Sagar Lake in Ajmer, Rajasthan, holds significant ecological, historical and urban value, having served the city since the Chauhan period. Over time, untreated wastewater, detergents, residual pesticides, soil erosion, waste disposal and encroachment have contributed to the degradation of the lake ecosystem. The study therefore focuses on sustaining, managing and protecting the lake and its precinct. Preliminary surveys, activity mapping and photographic documentation were undertaken to assess existing site conditions. The study also examined built footprint, land use, green and open spaces, and relevant literature on lake systems.

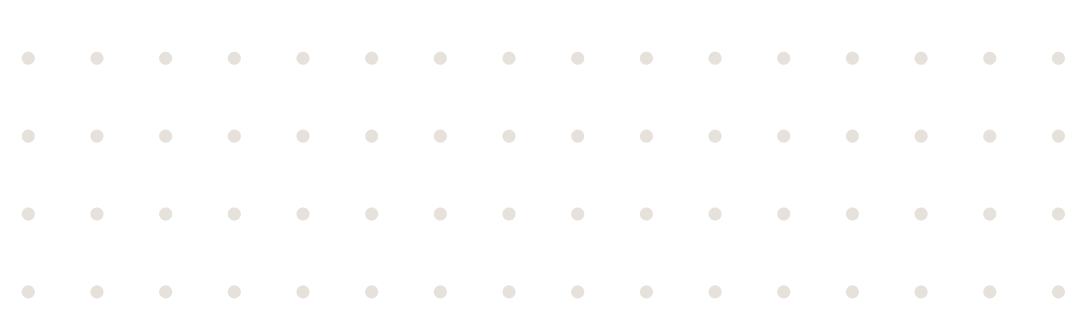
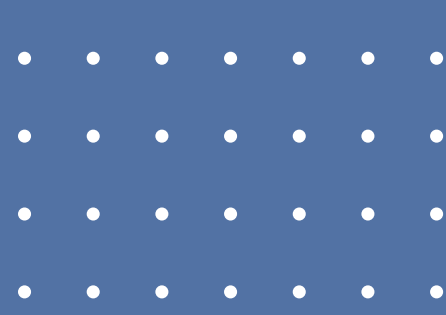
Based on the assessment, feasible development zones and critical ecological areas, including vegetation, minerals and microorganisms, were identified. The thesis proposes environmentally responsive development strategies that balance conservation, controlled urban development and public use while ensuring the long-term sustainability of Ana Sagar Lake.

Keywords: Lake Edge Management, Ecologically Sensitive Development, Lake Precinct Development



2.

**URBAN
MANAGEMENT**



Introduction

Urban Management

The Urban Management theme examines the city as a field of spatial governance, institutional negotiation, and uneven access to resources, care, and opportunity. Across the selected theses, management extends beyond administrative efficiency to address the systems through which urban life is sustained and made equitable. Housing, health, ageing, livability, labour, public space, and essential services emerge as critical dimensions of contemporary urban governance.

Several projects foreground care as urban infrastructure. The Center for Unhoused People with Treatable Mental Health Disorders integrates housing, healthcare, education, and community services within a continuum of care. Everyday Urbanism for Ageing in Place shifts attention from housing alone to neighbourhood systems that shape independence, accessibility, and social participation. Whose Livability similarly challenges universal metrics by positioning livability as a situated condition shaped by demographic difference and everyday experience.

A parallel discourse addresses infrastructure and the production of the public realm. Urban Isotopes examines transitional land in Mumbai as a framework for hybrid, incremental, and adaptive occupation. Energy Infrastructure as Public Space makes waste systems and metropolitan labour publicly legible, recasting infrastructure from an opaque technical apparatus into a civic institution. Both projects position urban management as a spatial practice capable of making complex systems more accessible and socially accountable.

The question of spatial justice is most explicit in Sonapur: City of Gold or City of the Dead?, where migrant labour housing is examined as an expression of segregation and institutionalised precarity. Together, the 2026 Urban Management projects advance a model of governance rooted in redistribution, recognition, and spatial agency. They demonstrate that resilient cities depend not only on efficient systems, but on their capacity to support dignity, inclusion, and collective urban life.

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2.1



Author Profile: **Berfin Sozer**

Master of Architecture (M.Arch.) | 2025

Boston Architectural College | Boston, USA

Thesis Title: **The Center for Unhoused People with Treatable Mental Health Disorders | Boston, USA**

Thesis Guide: Emeline Gaujac, Ian F. Taberner

Abstract: This thesis examines how architecture can bring together healthcare environments and a spectrum of residential settings to address the layered needs of unhoused people with treatable mental illnesses. Located at Goose Park along the Charles River, where the Grand Junction Railroad corridor crosses between Cambridge and Boston, the project reimagines an area once occupied by displaced residents as a coordinated environment of care rather than a site of erasure.

The research draws on case studies, spatial and programmatic analysis, and principles of spatial justice and trauma-responsive design to explore how housing, healthcare, and community services can operate as an interconnected system of support. The proposal brings together medical and therapeutic spaces, wellness areas, community and educational programs, vocational training, and transitional and permanent housing. These programs are organized around stages of recovery, responding to immediate crisis and stabilization while supporting personal development, community integration, and eventual independent living.

The thesis proposes supportive housing as a form of social infrastructure rather than simply a place to live. By integrating care, housing, and community resources within a shared spatial framework, the project demonstrates how architecture can support dignity, recovery, social connection, and more sustainable pathways toward independence.

Keywords: *Supportive Housing, Mental Healthcare, Urban Regeneration, Homelessness, Social Infrastructure*

2.2

**Author Profile:** Shruti Tendulkar

Bachelor of Architecture | 2025

Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies | Mumbai, India

Thesis Title: Urban Isotopes : Reimagining a fragmented future for Public Space | Mumbai, India

Thesis Guide: Ar. Jai Bhadgaokar

Abstract:

Urban Isotopes is a design experiment that examines the changing nature of public space within Mumbai's rapidly transforming urban landscape, where increasing privatization has reduced the spaces available for informal social interaction. The thesis focuses on a casting yard, a temporary infrastructure site positioned between formal institutional development and an ever evolving informal settlement. Its transitional condition presents the opportunity as a testing ground for regenerating the urban commons through themes of hybridity, modularity, and adaptability.

The research draws from Ray Oldenburg's concept of Third Places along with observations of everyday urban practices to investigate the forms of occupation, interaction, and coexistence within the city's informal public life. These inform a hybrid spatial framework in which formal programs and spontaneous activities can overlap rather than remain spatially segregated.

Experimentation forms the core methodology. A modular system derived from 3D Voronoi geometries is supported by a polytetrahedral space frame and service cores, enabling flexibility, scalability, and incremental growth. Layered activities are supported alongside bioswales and greywater recycling. Rather than a finished architectural object, Urban Isotopes proposes a replicable toolkit for activating underutilized urban lands, positioning adaptability and incremental occupation as strategies for an evolving public realm.

Keywords:

Public Realm, Urban Hybridity, Adaptive Infrastructure, Computational Design, Incrementality

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2.3



Author Profile: **Brianna Ramey**

Master of Architecture | 2025

Wentworth Institute of Technology | Boston, Massachusetts

Thesis Title: **Energy Infrastructure and Public Space: Architecture for Waste, Labor, and the Conscious City | Boston, USA**

Thesis Guide: Anthony Piermarini

Abstract: Architecture can transform urban industrial infrastructure into a civic asset by making it both visible and experientially engaging. As cities face an escalating waste management crisis, this project proposes a hybrid public library and waste-to-energy (WtE) facility on Boston's industrial waterfront that reveals the hidden processes and labor sustaining urban life. By embedding civic and didactic programming within the infrastructural core, the design challenges the traditional divide between industry and public space, demonstrating how architecture can integrate essential systems directly into the urban fabric rather than relegating them to the periphery.

Despite their essential role, infrastructural systems are routinely concealed visually, spatially, and culturally. This invisibility creates a disconnect between the systems that sustain cities and the people they serve, limiting understanding while reinforcing patterns of environmental neglect and spatial exclusion. Waste, in particular, has long been treated as a problem to be hidden rather than confronted. In response, the project positions visibility as a design strategy, using spatial and programmatic integration to foster awareness of waste cycles, promote environmental responsibility, and highlight the often-overlooked labor of city maintenance. Rather than separating technical function from public experience, the project proposes their coexistence, allowing infrastructure to operate as both utility and institution.

Keywords: *Infrastructure, Waste-to-energy, Conscious City, Labor, Visibility*

2.4

**Author Profile:** Manas Musale

Bachelor of Architecture | 2026

L.S. Raheja School of Architecture | Mumbai, India

Thesis Title: “Whose Livability?” Understanding How Different People Imagine the Livable City

Thesis Guide: Meghana Patil

Abstract: “Whose Livability? Understanding How Different People Imagine the Livable City” investigates whether urban livability can be defined through a single, universal framework. The thesis questions conventional livability indices that largely depend on standardized, top-down indicators and examines whether these adequately represent the lived experiences and priorities of diverse urban populations.

The research adopts a mixed, human-centred approach, combining literature review and comparative analysis of existing livability frameworks with primary data collected through a demographic survey. The analysis compares how these priorities change across age, gender, and occupation groups.

The findings establish that livability is contextual and demographic-dependent. Safety and security emerge as consistently high priorities across age groups, while healthcare, community belongingness, green spaces, housing, education and mobility show varying levels of importance according to life stage and user profile. Gender analysis reveals largely shared priorities, with differences particularly in housing, safety, education and community. The thesis concludes by translating these findings into context-responsive urban design strategies, demonstrating how understanding people’s perceptions can guide more inclusive and responsive urban environments.

Keywords: Accessibility, Porosity & Connectivity, Daily Needs, Environment, Safety & Perceived Security, Social Interaction, Identity & Sense of Place

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2.5



Author Profile: **Tanika Kerkar**

MSc Sustainable Urban Design | 2026

Lund University | Lund, Sweden

Thesis Title: **Everyday Urbanism for Ageing in Place | Gothenburg, Sweden**

Thesis Guide: Teresa Arana Aristi

Abstract: As global populations age, cities are increasingly becoming the primary environments where later life unfolds. This thesis explores how urban design can better support ageing in place: the ability to live independently, safely, and meaningfully within one's home and neighborhood. Using Stora Högsbo in Gothenburg, Sweden, as a case study, it examines how neighborhood-scale design influences the mobility, independence, and wellbeing of older adults.

The research critically explores frameworks such as the 15-minute city and age-friendly planning, revealing that proximity to services alone does not ensure accessibility or inclusion. The quality of streets, public spaces, and social environments plays a crucial role in enabling everyday mobility and reducing social isolation.

Rooted in everyday urbanism, the thesis proposes an integrated approach combining improved walkability, distributed neighborhood nodes, stronger social infrastructure, and inclusive public spaces that encourage intergenerational interaction. By connecting spatial, social, and infrastructural strategies, the project aims to create more inclusive, age-friendly neighborhoods that support independence and enrich everyday life.

Keywords: *Ageing in Place, Age-friendly Neighborhood, 15-minute City, Sustainable Urban Design*

2.6

**Author Profile:** Urva Parmar

Master's degree in Advanced Studies in Architecture | 2026

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya | Barcelona, Spain

Thesis Title: Sonapur: City of Gold or City of the Dead? | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Thesis Guide: Alejandro Giménez Imirizaldu

Abstract: Migrant labor settlements have been suspected to be a consequence of economic expansion. Originating with the intention of being temporary solutions to workforce demands, they often translate into permanent spaces of marginalization and exclusion. Muhaisnah 2, unofficially known as Sonapur, is the largest labor colony on the outskirts of Dubai. The name Sonapur (translating in the native tongue to both 'City of Gold' and 'City of the Dead') summarizes the contrast between the promise of prosperity that draws the workers to uncharted territories, versus the grim reality of the overcrowded, substandard living conditions.

Sonapur stands as a symbol of spatial injustice, where the workers who construct the city's wealth resides segregated from the urban fabric they sustain. This research links the origins of labor camps to temporal settlements, focusing on a detailed case study of Sonapur. Through morphological analysis, spatial mapping, fieldwork, and surveys, this research dissects the anatomy of a permanent 'temporary city,' that is Sonapur. The research suggests that labor settlements could transition from isolated, temporary dormitories to integrated urban neighborhoods, offering dignity, agency, and quality of life to their inhabitants.

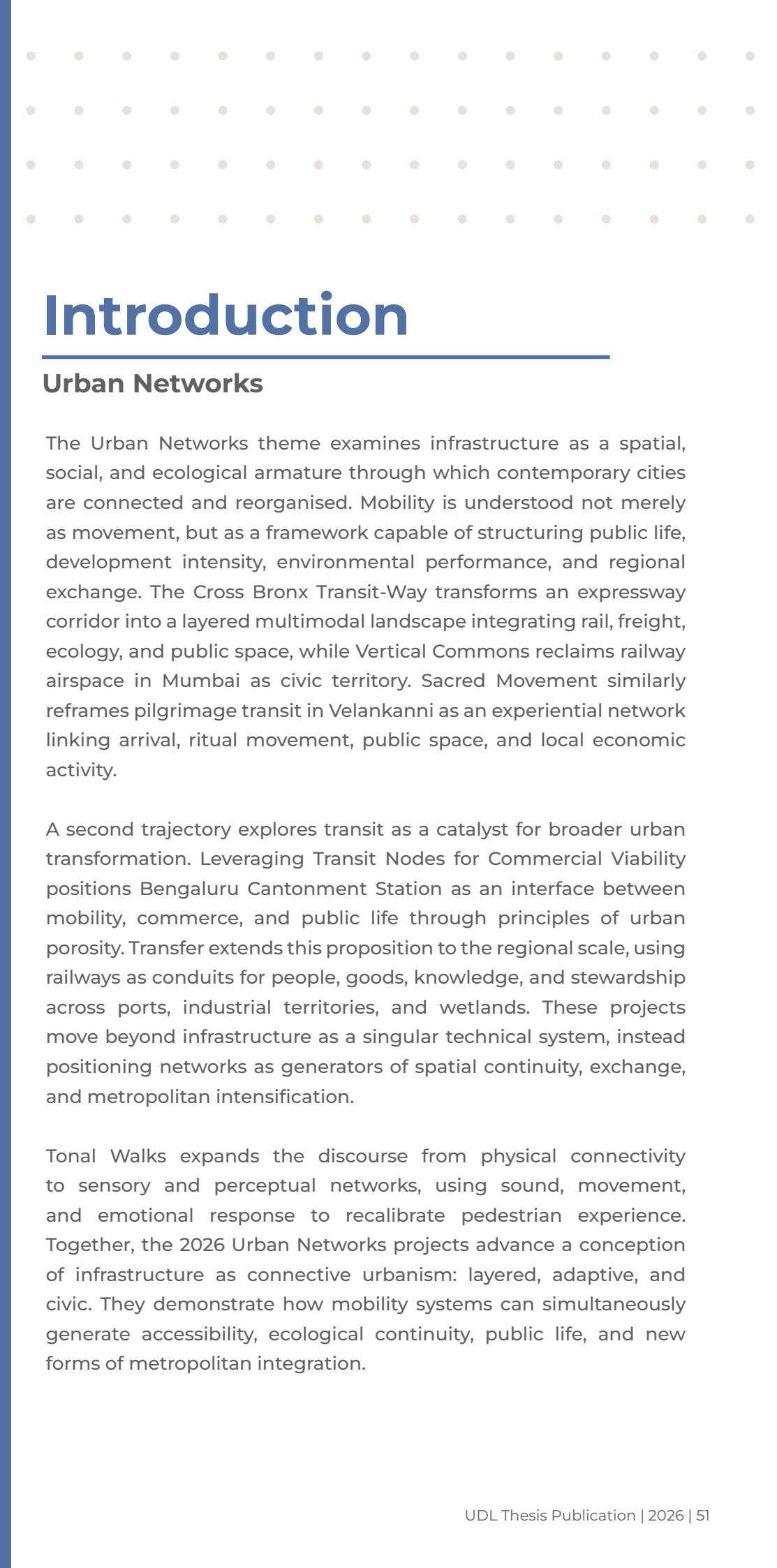
The work aims to contribute to debates on urban equity, labor rights, and ethical city-making, ultimately offering strategies to reduce spatial injustice and envision Sonapur not as a 'City of the Dead,' but as a true 'City of Gold.'

Keywords: Sonapur, labor camps, urban segregation, migrant worker housing, temporary settlements, spatial injustice, urban inclusion, worker rights, urban policy, ethical city, urban equity



3.

**URBAN
NETWORKS**



Introduction

Urban Networks

The Urban Networks theme examines infrastructure as a spatial, social, and ecological armature through which contemporary cities are connected and reorganised. Mobility is understood not merely as movement, but as a framework capable of structuring public life, development intensity, environmental performance, and regional exchange. The Cross Bronx Transit-Way transforms an expressway corridor into a layered multimodal landscape integrating rail, freight, ecology, and public space, while Vertical Commons reclaims railway airspace in Mumbai as civic territory. Sacred Movement similarly reframes pilgrimage transit in Velankanni as an experiential network linking arrival, ritual movement, public space, and local economic activity.

A second trajectory explores transit as a catalyst for broader urban transformation. Leveraging Transit Nodes for Commercial Viability positions Bengaluru Cantonment Station as an interface between mobility, commerce, and public life through principles of urban porosity. Transfer extends this proposition to the regional scale, using railways as conduits for people, goods, knowledge, and stewardship across ports, industrial territories, and wetlands. These projects move beyond infrastructure as a singular technical system, instead positioning networks as generators of spatial continuity, exchange, and metropolitan intensification.

Tonal Walks expands the discourse from physical connectivity to sensory and perceptual networks, using sound, movement, and emotional response to recalibrate pedestrian experience. Together, the 2026 Urban Networks projects advance a conception of infrastructure as connective urbanism: layered, adaptive, and civic. They demonstrate how mobility systems can simultaneously generate accessibility, ecological continuity, public life, and new forms of metropolitan integration.

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3.1



Author Profile: **Melisa Ramlogan, Lillian Ayodele, Maggie Viti**

Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) | 2026

New York Institute of Technology | Old Westbury, USA

Thesis Title: **The Cross Bronx Transit-Way: Integrating Ecology, Transport Networks and New Civic Futures | New York City, USA.**

Thesis Guide: Evan Shieh

Abstract: This thesis examines how rethinking the relationship between freight, public transit, and urban infrastructure can address mobility inequities and reconnect communities divided by the Cross Bronx Expressway (CBE). It asks how transportation infrastructure can move beyond a singular function to support more equitable access, ecological repair, and community life at both local and regional scales.

Through mapping and analysis of existing transportation networks, mobility patterns, urban conditions, and infrastructure precedents, the research identifies inefficiencies between east-west freight and mobility systems and the communities they serve. In response, the design proposes the removal of the CBE and reimagines the corridor as a green, multi-modal, layered infrastructure. A sunken express system moves people and goods regionally, while local light rail, bus shuttle networks, pedestrian pathways, and a linear series of open green spaces support neighborhood-scale connectivity. An intermodal biodome serves as a year-round ecological and exchange hub.

The project demonstrates how transportation infrastructure can simultaneously reconnect communities, reduce carbon-intensive conditions, improve mobility, and create opportunities for new density and transit-oriented development. Distributed micro-nodes further connect transit systems and expand equitable access across the corridor.

Keywords: *Multimodal Transportation, Urban Infrastructure, Equitable Mobility*

3.2

**Author Profile:** Angelina Dominic

Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) | 2026

Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science | Chennai, India

Thesis Title: Sacred Movement: Reimagining Pilgrimage Transit in Velankanni | Tamil Nadu, India

Thesis Guide: Ar. Darryl Christopher

Abstract: Velankanni, a coastal pilgrimage destination experiences large seasonal pilgrims and tourists throughout the year, pressurizing the circulation movement, infrastructure and public spaces. This thesis explores how a small town manages huge pilgrim inflows while maintaining a spatial comfort between the locals and pilgrims. It also studies on upgrading facilities like transport, accommodations, public spaces and recreational activities around the sacred precinct.

The methodology of this design-oriented research combines literature study, planning frameworks, case studies, site documentation, land use, movement analysis, infrastructure and issue mapping and survey insights. This research identifies fragmented circulation, pedestrian-vehicular conflicts, congestion, disorganized transit, commercial spill-over and inadequate public space infrastructure as its key challenges.

These challenges led to a Sacred Movement Zoning framework, positioning movement as the primary element for the precinct. The proposal introduces a Regional Arrival Gateway to intercept vehicular traffic outside the sacred core, supported by a bus terminus, shuttle based last-mile connectivity, pedestrian priority routes, reorganized processional movement, mixed-use and community nodes and waterfront interventions. This thesis demonstrates how a movement-led spatial planning can create a more connected, accessible and resilient pilgrimage precinct while preserving Velankanni's heritage and its character.

Keywords: Pilgrimage tourism, Transit Systems, Sacred Movement, Urban Mobility, Public Realm, Community Development, Velankanni

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3.3



Author Profile: **Charudatta Patil**

Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) | 2026

IES's College of Architecture | Mumbai, India

Thesis Title: **Vertical Commons | Mumbai, India**

Thesis Guide: Ar. Shripad Bhalerao

Abstract: Indian Railways forms one of the country's extensive public mobility networks, while Mumbai's suburban railway system structures metropolitan life. Beyond movement, its stations accommodate waiting, informal commerce, social interaction, learning, and exchange, yet remain organized around operational efficiency. This tension is evident at Dombivli, where intense occupation, limited public space, and the railway corridor's role in east-west fragmentation make it a pertinent site for investigation. The thesis asks how infrastructure designed for movement can also support civic occupation.

The research combines site observation, behavioral mapping, pedestrian movement analysis, and sectional studies to examine occupation beyond the railway's intended function. These investigations identify patterns of use and explore unused airspace above the railway corridor as potential civic territory. The findings inform Vertical Commons, a civic framework developed through spatial, sectional, structural, and environmental studies. The design tests how movement, duration, intensity, and occupation can be organized vertically while maintaining railway operations below. The thesis proposes railway airspace as civic territory, reframing infrastructure from a technical boundary into a shared resource.

Keywords: *Civic Infrastructure, Railway Airspace, Vertical Commons, Collective Occupation, Infrastructural Retrofitting*

3.4

**Author Profile:** Ishaniben Shah

Master of Architecture in Housing and Urbanism | 2026

Architectural Association School of Architecture | London, United Kingdom

Thesis Title: Transfer: An Inquiry into UK's Regional System | United Kingdom

Thesis Guide: Lawrence Barth, Dominic Papa

Abstract: This thesis begins with Cedric Price's proposition that the city can be made through learning. Drawing from the Potteries Thinkbelt, it explores learning not as a fixed institution, but as a dynamic system capable of occupying and transforming the existing city.

Harwich becomes the 'thinking ground' through which this proposition is tested. Historically shaped by the transfer of goods from the Midlands to international waters, the town is defined by a complex layering of ports, railways, industry and infrastructure. This condition of movement and transfer provides the basis for rethinking how learning can operate across an existing urban landscape, using infrastructure as a network that connects people, knowledge and place.

The second condition is the wetland, which sits in contrast to the hard infrastructure of the port and railway. The systems of water, ecology and seasonal change introduce a different form of connectivity and occupation. The project explores how architecture can mediate between these two landscapes, allowing learning to extend beyond the conventional institution and into the wider territory.

Through these two conditions, the thesis asks how architecture and urban networks can create an adaptable civic framework for transfer of knowledge, goods and people.

Keywords: *Transfer, Learning, Stewardship, Logistics, Thinking Grounds*

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3.5



Author Profile: **Khushi Mahesh Shirur**

Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) | 2026

School of Planning and Architecture | Bhopal, India

Thesis Title: **Leveraging transit hub for commercial development | Bangalore, India**

Thesis Guide: Nayana R Singh

Abstract: This project explores how high-density Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in Bengaluru can be reimagined as an economic anchor through the lens of urban porosity. Moving beyond conventional TOD models focused primarily on density and mobility, the study examines how physical, visual, and social porosity can enhance accessibility, spatial permeability, and public engagement.

The project proposes a plot-level commercial development comprising office and retail programs, adjacent to the ongoing redevelopment of Bengaluru Cantonment Railway Station. It investigates porous edges, transitional thresholds, layered circulation, and activated ground planes to dissolve rigid boundaries between public and private domains.

By integrating mixed-use programs and adaptable public spaces, the proposal encourages continuous urban flow, informal economic activity, and varied patterns of occupation throughout the day. Transit infrastructure is therefore treated not as an isolated node, but as a catalyst for distributed urban intensification and social exchange.

Ultimately, the project positions urban porosity as a critical design strategy for transforming dense commercial developments into connected, resilient, and people-centric urban environments.

Keywords: *Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), urban porosity, high-density development, spatial permeability, mixed-use development, commercial hub, public realm activation, layered circulation, adaptive spaces, informal economy, Bengaluru CBD*

3.6

**Author Profile:** Chaitali Bedmutha

M.Arch in Urban design | 2022

UCL, London | London, UK

Thesis Title: Tonal Walks, London

Thesis Guide: Roberto Bottazzi, Tasos Varoudis, Eirini Tsouknida, Vasileios Papalexopoulos, Margarita Chaskopoulou

Abstract:

London's pedestrian experience is shaped not only by movement but also by changing visual and sonic environments that influence perception, mood, and well-being. Increasing congestion, noise pollution, and visual clutter have made acoustic quality an important yet often overlooked aspect of public space design.

This thesis investigates how sound propagates through urban environments and affects human emotion. Using machine learning and big data analytics, it identifies areas in London with high noise levels, dense pedestrian activity, and reported discomfort. Elephant and Castle emerges as a key site due to its intense traffic, fragmented pedestrian conditions, and overwhelming acoustic environment.

The project proposes redesigning the area through sound-absorbing materials, landscape elements, interactive features, and light-responsive architecture to improve sonic quality, visual coherence, and emotional comfort.

The redesigned environment is also developed as an immersive virtual reality experience in which users can navigate the site and influence colour, light, and spatial atmosphere according to selected moods. The research ultimately positions sound, emotion, and visual experience as essential design parameters for creating healthier and more human-centred public spaces.

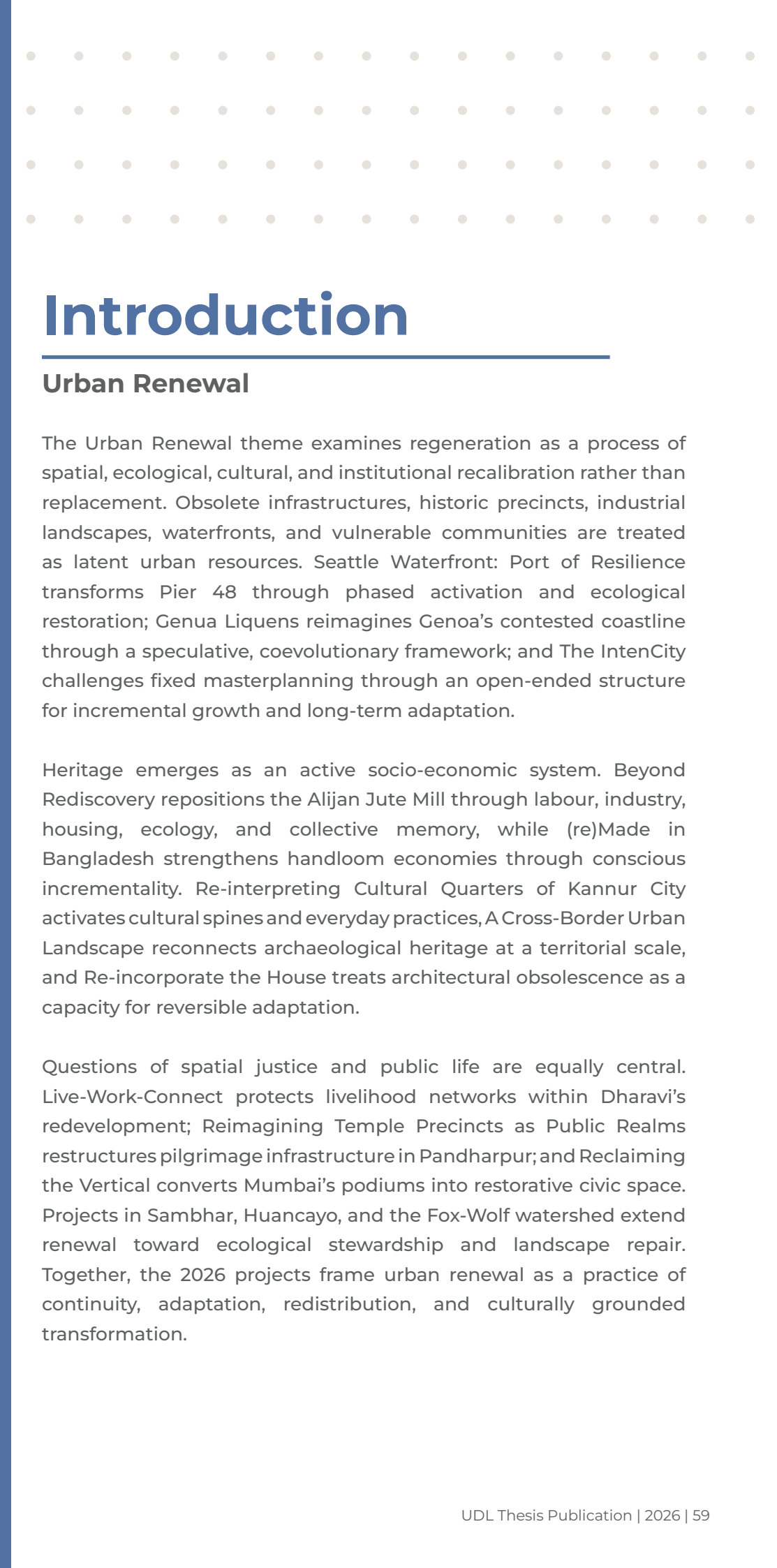
Keywords:

Soundscape, Urban perception, Data-driven design



4.

**URBAN
RENEWAL**



Introduction

Urban Renewal

The Urban Renewal theme examines regeneration as a process of spatial, ecological, cultural, and institutional recalibration rather than replacement. Obsolete infrastructures, historic precincts, industrial landscapes, waterfronts, and vulnerable communities are treated as latent urban resources. Seattle Waterfront: Port of Resilience transforms Pier 48 through phased activation and ecological restoration; Genua Liguens reimagines Genoa's contested coastline through a speculative, coevolutionary framework; and The IntenCity challenges fixed masterplanning through an open-ended structure for incremental growth and long-term adaptation.

Heritage emerges as an active socio-economic system. Beyond Rediscovery repositions the Alijan Jute Mill through labour, industry, housing, ecology, and collective memory, while (re)Made in Bangladesh strengthens handloom economies through conscious incrementality. Re-interpreting Cultural Quarters of Kannur City activates cultural spines and everyday practices, A Cross-Border Urban Landscape reconnects archaeological heritage at a territorial scale, and Re-incorporate the House treats architectural obsolescence as a capacity for reversible adaptation.

Questions of spatial justice and public life are equally central. Live-Work-Connect protects livelihood networks within Dharavi's redevelopment; Reimagining Temple Precincts as Public Realms restructures pilgrimage infrastructure in Pandharpur; and Reclaiming the Vertical converts Mumbai's podiums into restorative civic space. Projects in Sambhar, Huancayo, and the Fox-Wolf watershed extend renewal toward ecological stewardship and landscape repair. Together, the 2026 projects frame urban renewal as a practice of continuity, adaptation, redistribution, and culturally grounded transformation.

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4.1



Author Profile: **Yulia Zarechkina**

Master of Urban Planning | 2023

University of Washington | Seattle, USA

Thesis Title: **Port of Resilience, Pier 48 | Seattle, USA**

Thesis Guide: Rachel Berney

Abstract: Seattle has 147 miles of freshwater shoreline and 53 miles of saltwater. Only a portion of it is accessible to its citizens today. Pier 48 remains one of the last underutilized waterfront sites with the potential to transition legacy maritime infrastructure into an adaptive, socio-ecological public asset.

The initial stage of this project uses the FIFA World Cup 2026 as a starting point to transform a vacant pier into a temporary area for fans, complete with markets, spaces for the community to gather, and a special ferry inspired by Seattle's historic Mosquito Fleet. The next part of the plan involves trying out new ways to use the space with temporary installations, recreational activities, and programs led by the community. This allows for different uses of the site to be tested before any permanent changes are made. The final phase establishes a resilient waterfront park centered around a modular Resilience Hub that functions as both a daily community facility and emergency infrastructure during disasters. Ecological interventions include the expansion of Pioneer Square Habitat Beach, habitat islands that reduce wave energy, native shoreline restoration, tidal viewing wells, and light-transmitting glass pavers that improve habitat conditions for juvenile salmon beneath the pier.

The project shows how temporary activation can become a catalyst for long-term waterfront transformation.

Keywords: *Waterfront regeneration, Tactical urbanism, Climate resilience, Ecological restoration, Public space, Blue-Green Infrastructure*

4.2

**Author Profile:** Giovanni Antonio Cappa

Master of Science (Urbanism) | 2026

TU Delft | Delft, Netherlands

Thesis Title: Genua Liquens | Genoa, Italy

Thesis Guide: Francesca Rizzetto

Abstract:

This thesis addresses Genoa's coastal interface as a manifestation of socio-economic tensions between turbulent economic growth and the needs of its communities. The coastline is a territorial palimpsest, marked by conflict between contrasting logics of growth and development, where infrastructures and economies compete within an orographically constrained space. Historically dominated by operational, logistical and speculative logics, the interface has developed to the detriment of public, civic, social and ecological dimensions. This condition is sustained by a governance split between the Municipality and the Port Authority, producing a dual territory regulated by sectorial planning. To counter this trend, the project rejects modern planning, zoning and functional separation, moving away from the masterplan. Design and planning are conceived as political acts: a speculative framework advancing a coevolutionary approach in which material reconfigurations are inseparable from civic and institutional recomposition, rebuilding neighbourhood identities and local agency. The main objective is to return portions of the coastline to common use and new vital functions for the future metropolis, creating opportunities, collective interfaces and socio-economic ecologies. Scenario-building and speculative design construct plausible, situated spatial imaginaries, positioning Genoa as an advanced Mediterranean metropolis by 2100.

Keywords:

Coastal Interface, Liminality, Speculative Framework, Coevolutionary Approach, Socio-economic Ecologies

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4.3



Author Profile: **Dev Suryakant Joshi**

Bachelor of Architecture | 2026

School of Planning and Architecture | Bhopal, India

Thesis Title: **Live-Work-Connect: An Industrial-Residential and Commercial-Residential Redevelopment Preserving the Pottery Networks of Dharavi | Mumbai, India**

Thesis Guide: Ar. Paritosh Kumar

Abstract: This thesis explores the redevelopment of Dharavi's high-density informal settlements, focusing on how artisan communities—anchored by a USD 45 million pottery economy—can be rehabilitated without severing their existing socio-economic fabric. The research methodology draws on a ten-parameter site analysis (covering factors such as soil conditions, SSW-NNE wind corridors, and CCZM aviation height restrictions of 35–70m), Autodesk Forma-based simulations testing eight massing alternatives for daylight access, solar PV yield, and wind comfort, and a review of seven precedent projects (local and international) that shaped a 1.9 million sq. ft. area program.

The resulting Live-Work-Connect framework centers on Alteration 8 (FSI 3.5), a scheme allocating 35% of area to rehabilitation housing (roughly 2,223 units, each 300+ sq. ft.), 30% to office space, 12% to retail, and 8% to pottery workshops. Its core design move is the vertical stacking of industrial workshops paired with vertical streets and shared terraces that reproduce the social vibrancy of ground-level lanes, while a rooftop-PV-powered Solar-Pottery Co-Op replaces the traditional smoke-emitting bhattis. The framework is shown to be both financially and environmentally sustainable, with rehabilitation housing cross-subsidized through commercial space sales, TDR monetization, and a society-owned retail corpus fund.

Keywords: *Slum redevelopment, live-work housing, Kumbharwada, Dharavi, mixed-use, pottery community, SRA scheme, DCPR 2034, TDR, incremental housing, cultural preservation.*

4.4

**Author Profile:** Fathimathul Rizma

Master of Architecture in Urban Design | 2025

College of Engineering Trivandrum | Thiruvanthapuram, India

Thesis Title: Re-interpreting Cultural Quarters of Kannur City Through Everyday Urbanism | Kannur, India

Thesis Guide: Dr. Karthik Mohan

Abstract: Kannur, a heritage coastal town in Kerala, India, holds a layered urban identity shaped by intersecting histories and cultures. Its urban texture features symbolic nodes, including mosques, temples, colonial remnants, weaver clusters, and bazaars, forming vibrant yet disjointed cultural quarters that are often overlooked in mainstream urban development discourse. This study reinterprets Kannur's cultural quarters through everyday urbanism, focusing on spontaneous, informal, and lived city practices. Examining rituals, informal economies, pedestrian flows, spatial appropriation, and public gatherings, it uncovers socio-cultural rhythms that resist dominant planning models and formal structures. The methodology combines ethnographic fieldwork, spatial analysis, participatory mapping, and design thinking, revealing spatial negotiations and territorial complexities. Key issues include heritage degradation, vehicular dominance, infrastructural gaps, and the erosion of communal public life.

Proposed interventions are incremental and multi-scalar: reclaiming forgotten spaces, activating thresholds through temporary installations, supporting local craftsmanship, and forming micro-cultural nodes, thereby enhancing inclusivity, public life, and cultural identity. Situated within debates on Global South urbanism, Kannur serves as both a case study and a provocation, exploring how cities can embrace new urban possibilities while preserving local identity and culturally grounded futures.

Keywords: Cultural Quarters, Everyday Spaces, Activity, Experience, Spatial Pattern

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4.5



Author Profile: Fatiha Tanjim Oni

Bachelor of Architecture | 2026

BRAC University | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Thesis Title: Beyond rediscovery: reclaiming Alijan Jute Mill as a living productive landscape | Narsingdi, Bangladesh

Thesis Guide: Mohammad Faruk, Iftekhar Ahmed, Mohammad Zillur

Abstract: Once a major industrial and economic anchor of Narsingdi, Alijan Jute Mill now stands abandoned along the Meghna River, retaining the physical remains and collective memory of Bangladesh's jute economy. This thesis asks how an industrial heritage site can be regenerated without reducing heritage to static preservation, and how memory, livelihood, productive activity, community needs, river ecology can be integrated within one urban framework. Using New Contextualism, the thesis reads the site through ten overlapping contexts: social, cultural, historical, political, economic, ecological, geographical, scientific, urban, and architectural. Drawing from historical research, site observation, socio-economic conditions, urban morphology, environmental factors, programme studies, and design exploration, the thesis brings these layers together to inform urban and architectural decisions. The proposal adaptively reuses significant mill structures for public, cultural, commercial, and community functions, while introducing contemporary jute production, worker facilities, artisan spaces, public landscapes, and river-sensitive infrastructure. The Meghna riverfront is redefined as ecological infrastructure and public space. The thesis proposes productive heritage as an alternative to static preservation, showing how New Contextualism can translate layered contextual understanding into regenerative urban and architectural interventions for post-industrial river landscapes in Bangladesh.

Keywords: *New Contextualism, Productive Heritage, Industrial Heritage, Adaptive Reuse, Post-Industrial Regeneration, River Urbanism, Jute Industry*

4.6

**Author Profile:** **Fiorella Noelia Fierro Chipana**

Bachelor of Architecture | 2022

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú | Lima, Perú

Thesis Title: **Itinerant public infrastructure: urban regeneration and revitalization of the Ferrocarril Central corridor | Huancayo, Perú**

Thesis Guide: Mg. Augusto Román Moncagatta

Abstract: Huancayo, a principal city in Peru's central Andes, was consolidated through the arrival of the Ferrocarril Central in 1908, linking Lima with the mining territories of the highlands; beyond its transport function, the corridor constituted the city's economic and spatial backbone. In the past decades, however, the decline of rail activity has fragmented the neighborhoods along its edges, leaving vacant lots and deteriorated structures, in contrast to a city expanding with unequal access to public services and public space.

This thesis explores whether the railway corridor can be reactivated as a regeneration model, harnessing its industrial heritage and mobility potential to address the problems of the contemporary city. Through urban analysis and service-gap mapping, the research identifies the ten-kilometer railway axis as the structuring spine of a multiscale, phased regeneration strategy, proposing a system of itinerant public infrastructure that extends essential services to underserved communities. Beginning with a seed project reusing disused railway wagons, phased interventions progressively integrate the axis into a metropolitan network of public spaces, services and public transport. The findings demonstrate a replicable model of heritage-led regeneration, showing how dormant railway infrastructure can become an inclusive urban commons in which mobility, public services, and everyday life converge.

Keywords: *Urban regeneration, railway heritage, itinerant spaces, adaptive reuse, linear park, seed project,*

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4.7



Author Profile: **Kalyani Malla Todkar**

Master of Urban Design | 2026

School of Planning and Architecture | Vijayawada, India.

Thesis Title: **Reimagining temple precincts as public realms | Pandharpur, India**

Thesis Guide: Ar. Deepak Kumar

Abstract: Pandharpur, a pilgrimage town in Maharashtra, India, has evolved over nearly eight centuries around the Vitthal Rukmini Temple and Chandrabhaga River. Its urban character is shaped by the Wari tradition, an annual walking pilgrimage that draws large numbers of devotees during Ashadhi and Kartiki Ekadashi. A town of about 1.5 lakh residents receives an influx of nearly 27 lakh people during Ashadhi Ekadashi, placing immense pressure on its historic precinct and riverfront.

This thesis asks how the Vitthal Temple precinct and Chandrabhaga ghats can be reimagined as an integrated sacred public realm through improved circulation, ritual continuity and spatial reorganisation. The study combines literature review with on-ground surveys, stakeholder conversations, government proposals, and mapping of built form, movement and activities.

The findings show that pilgrimage pressure is intensified by fragmented movement networks, unstructured queues, inadequate holding spaces and weak integration between the temple and riverfront. The proposal introduces a loop-based pilgrimage system, courtyard-based holding spaces, a pedestrian-prioritised Mahadwar corridor and an activated dual-edge riverfront, creating a more connected and meaningful public realm.

Keywords: *Pilgrimage urbanism, Crowd management, Public Realm*

4.8

**Author Profile:** Kritika Sharma

Bachelor of Architecture | 2026

Aayojan School of Architecture and Design | Jaipur, India

Thesis Title: Astronomy and Cultural Experience Centre, Sambhar, India

Thesis Guide: Mahima Sharma

Abstract: The thesis, "Astronomy and Cultural Experience Center, Sambhar," explores the integration of astronomy, cultural heritage, tourism, and ecological conservation within the sensitive landscape of Sambhar, Rajasthan. It investigates how architecture can create meaningful visitor experiences while responding to the region's harsh climate, fragile wetland ecosystem, cultural identity, and naturally dark night sky. The research questions focus on how an astronomy-based cultural center can enhance tourism, promote ecological and cultural awareness, and employ climate-responsive, low-impact design strategies.

The methodology combines literature review, site visit, environmental analysis, mapping, case studies, contextual studies, and user-program analysis. Sambhar's ecology, climate, heritage, tourism patterns, and urban conditions were studied to develop context-responsive design strategies.

The findings establish an approach based on eco-sensitivity, dark-sky preservation, climate responsiveness, cultural integration, and experiential sequencing. The proposed center integrates astronomy galleries, a planetarium, experiential zones, cultural spaces, workshops, and public landscapes. The thesis aims to create a model for responsible tourism that strengthens Sambhar's identity while minimizing environmental impact and fostering a deeper connection between people, place, culture, and the cosmos.

Keywords: Astronomy, Cultural Heritage, Eco-sensitive Architecture, Dark-Sky Preservation, Responsible Tourism, Climate-Responsive Design, Sambhar Lake

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4.9



Author Profile: Labdhi Shah

M.Sc Transforming City Regions | 2026

RWTH Aachen University | Aachen, Germany

Thesis Title: A cross-border urban landscape – From Roman heritage to a concept for the future | Aachen, Germany

Thesis Guide: .Dipl.-Ing. Christa Reicher, Prof. em. Dr. -Ing. Andrea Haase

Abstract: Focusing on Aachen, Vetschau and Orsbach in Germany and Bocholtz and Heerlen in the Netherlands, this thesis investigates how the Roman Via Belgica and its archaeological heritage can be reimagined as a cross-border cultural landscape. While Roman infrastructure once connected territories across vast distances, its remains are now fragmented by national borders, modern infrastructure, private ownership and differing planning regulations. As a result, the region's archaeological heritage is often perceived as isolated sites rather than as part of a continuous landscape system.

Grounded in Cultural Landscape Theory, the project combines spatial analysis, archaeological mapping and landscape-based interpretation to examine how historical layers continue to shape the present landscape. Particular attention is given to buried heritage, productive rural landscapes and slow mobility as a means of creating an experiential connection with history.

The thesis proposes a strategic framework for an Archaeological Landscape Park between Heerlen and Aachen. Instead of defining a fixed park boundary, it envisions a connected cross-border system in which heritage routes, ecological habitats and social spaces intersect, transforming archaeological remains from static, site-based objects into an active part of everyday spatial, ecological and cultural processes.

Keywords: *Living Heritage, Archaeological Landscape, Cross-Border Corridor, Connectivity, Fragmentation, Spatial Continuity*

4.10

**Author Profile:** Liuyun Wang

Master in Landscape Architecture (MLA II) | 2023

Harvard University Graduate School of Design | Massachusetts, USA

Thesis Title: The Last Refugia: Wild seeds takeover the riparian buffer in North Central Wisconsin | Wisconsin, United States

Thesis Guide: Montserrat Bonvehi Rosich

Abstract: Beginning with a discussion of Survivalism in a more unpredictable future biosphere, this thesis explores a new framework for collaborative land stewardship of the riparian zones of the Fox-Wolf watershed. In this region, riparian zones are recognized as the last “refugia” for wild seeds and wildlife. However, due to ambiguous regulation, the riparian zones have become fragmented by the extreme expansion of pasture-crop-based agricultural production. By retracing the Menominee tribe’s foraging practices as a form of land stewardship in North Central Wisconsin, the project reimagines how landscape architecture can serve as a medium for public decision-making and co-knowledge.

Six typologies of collaborative stewardship emerge based on the existing conditions and ownership of riparian areas, advocating for a community-driven policy-making process for riparian stewardship while proposing a watershed-scale management framework for more reciprocal relationships among agricultural production, ecological regeneration, and local communities.

Keywords: *Riparian Corridors, Watershed Management, Agricultural Land and Soil Stewardship, Wild Seeds, Biodiversity, Multispecies Resiliency*

4.11

**Author Profile:** Ricardo D. Ribeiro

Master's Degree | 2025

University of Porto | Porto, Portugal

Thesis Title: Re-incorporate the house: Typological regeneration of the Terzo Palazzo | San Donato Milanese, Italy

Thesis Guide: Joana Restivo

Abstract: “Re-incorporate the House” investigates the contemporary condition of dwelling through the transformation of the Terzo Palazzo (1973), designed by Franco Albini, Franca Helg and Antonio Piva in San Donato Milanese. The project understands housing obsolescence as a condition produced by the distance between bodies, habits and the spaces designed to contain them.

Drawing on Georges Teyssot's concept of incorporation, dwelling is understood as a continuous process in which bodily actions become embedded in objects, spaces and infrastructures. Four elementary actions - relating, eating, breathing and sleeping - structure the investigation, framing the domestic environment as a network of relationships rather than a collection of spaces assigned to fixed functions.

The Terzo Palazzo is approached as an obsolete architectural body with latent capacity for regeneration. Its structure becomes an infrastructural support for lightweight, reversible and self-built dwelling units. Clusters of domestic cells combine with shared spaces, patios and technical systems, allowing different forms of inhabitation to evolve over time.

At the urban scale, the proposal reinforces existing mobility, ecological and public-space networks. The project proposes a “silent mutation”: a gradual transformation that acts upon the relationships sustaining inhabitation rather than replacing the architectural body.

Keywords: *Housing, Body, Action, Network, Adaptive Reuse*

4.12

**Author Profile:** Soumil Bobade

Bachelor of Architecture | 2026

Rachana Sansad's Academy of Architecture | Mumbai, India

Thesis Title: Reclaiming the vertical: Catalysts for a time-starved city | Mumbai, India

Thesis Guide: Esha Tipnis, Mitali Hindlekar

Abstract: Reclaiming the Vertical: Catalysts for a Time-Starved City investigates the relationship between time-poverty, commuting and the lack of meaningful public space in Mumbai. The thesis asks three questions: How do increasing commute times affect the lives of Mumbai's professionals? How can underutilized commercial podiums be transformed into active and accessible vertical extensions of the city? And what design, economic and policy approaches are required to make such transformations viable?

The research uses a mixed-method approach combining observation, literature review, analysis of Mumbai's transport system, a survey of 100 users, precedent studies, site investigations and a critical review of DCPR 2034. The research explores Third Space Theory, liminality and sectional urbanism before testing these ideas through a pilot intervention at One International Centre, Parel.

The research finds that time-poverty is both a temporal and spatial problem. Long commutes reduce opportunities for rest and recreation, while 82% of surveyed respondents expressed a need for psychological retreat. It identifies podiums as an underutilized urban resource that can become vertical public grounds, integrating work, pause, recreation and social interaction. The thesis ultimately proposes architectural, regulatory and operational strategies for transforming podiums from parking infrastructure into public infrastructure.

Keywords: Open-space, Podium, Time-poverty, Vertical commons, Public infrastructure, Third spaces, Urban mobility

UDL Thesis Publication | 2026

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4.13



Author Profile: **Struan Bentley Morrison**

MArch Advanced Architectural Design | 2025

University of Strathclyde | Port of Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland

Thesis Title: **The IntenCity | Edinburgh, Scotland**

Thesis Guide: Ulrike Enslein

Abstract: The IntenCity is a critical investigation into the design, financing and political models shaping large-scale urban development, explored through the regeneration of a post-industrial site in Leith, Scotland. The thesis asks how contemporary development structures influence the physical character of cities, and whether alternative approaches can produce urban environments capable of evolving over time.

The research combines historical and contemporary case studies, academic literature and analysis of urban financing and development models. These findings inform a three-tiered framework, which is tested through the design of a new mixed-use urban quarter in Leith.

The project proposes an alternative to the increasingly standardised and fixed nature of large-scale masterplanning. Through a combination of development principles, urban design strategies and hybrid block typologies, The IntenCity demonstrates how greater choice, complexity and adaptability can be embedded within the structure of new urban areas. Rather than defining a finished city, it proposes a framework for continued growth, change and participation.

Keywords: *Masterplanning, Urban Finance, Urban Morphology, Granularity, Adaptability, Urban Diversity, Large-scale Development*

4.14

**Author Profile:** Shimanto Goswami, Sean Meyer

MSc Sustainable Urban Planning and Design | 2024

KTH Royal Institute of Technology | Stockholm, Sweden

Thesis Title: (re)Made in Bangladesh: Incremental development of Shaoil Bazar towards conscious making | Shaoil Bazar, Bangladesh

Thesis Guide: Alejandra Navarrete Llopis

Abstract: (re)Made in Bangladesh investigates the decline of Bangladesh's handloom industry through Shaoil Bazar, a small handloom village in Bogura District where textile waste from clothing factories is recycled into textile products using indigenous weaving techniques. Two months of fieldwork revealed how local craft and livelihoods depend on textile waste from Bangladesh's ready-made garment industry. The project asks how traditional textile handcraft can be supported while reducing dependence on detrimental waste streams of the fast fashion industry. Using situated knowledge from the fieldwork and the lens of "conscious incrementality", the design proposition develops through four phases: "Reinforcing the Existing", which strengthens logistics, waste collection, worker facilities and a makers' community workshop; "Transitional", which builds on dyeing, construction and tailoring to connect craft, built fabric, ecologies and vocational training; "Conscious Making", which integrates second-hand clothing and modular spaces for sorting, tailoring and workshops. Lastly, "Beyond Shaoil Bazar" explores how alternative production modes and local weaving knowledge can influence wider actors through textile products, digital media and socio-material narratives. The thesis demonstrates how small-scale, incremental interventions can strengthen local skills, social networks and textile production while encouraging more conscious and sustainable practices across local and global systems.

Keywords: *Conscious Textile-Making, Incremental Urbanism, Circular Economy, Craft-Based Livelihoods, Socio-Material Narratives, Handloom Industry, Sustainable Textile Production*



EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Acknowledgment

We extend our profound gratitude to the distinguished jury members of the UDL Thesis Publication 2026 for their time, scholarly engagement, and thoughtful evaluation of this year's selected undergraduate and postgraduate thesis works. Their expertise and critical perspectives have been instrumental in curating a collection that reflects the diversity, complexity, and evolving priorities of contemporary urbanism. The 2026 publication brings together work across the four themes of Urban Renewal, Urban Landscape, Urban Management, and Urban Networks.

For the Urban Landscape and Urban Management themes, we express our sincere appreciation to Sunggi Park, Giulia Setti, Mohammed Fekry and Jeannette Sordi and Fatouma Sarah El Phil. Their evaluations brought together diverse perspectives on urban form, landscape systems, ecological responsibility, regeneration, governance, public space, and the relationship between design and the lived realities of cities. Their critical observations have strengthened the intellectual foundation of the selected works and encouraged a more integrated understanding of contemporary urban challenges.

For the Urban Networks and Urban Renewal themes, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Alessio Russo, César Tarazona, Karen L. Nelson and Beta Paramita. Their engagement with the submissions contributed valuable perspectives on connectivity, mobility, environmental resilience, community, heritage, regeneration, and the transformation of urban environments. Through their careful assessment, the selected projects were considered not only for their design quality, but also for their capacity to address wider social, ecological, and spatial questions shaping cities today.

We are equally grateful to the seminar panelists, moderators, academic contributors, and invited professionals whose participation in the UDL Thesis Seminar extends the dialogue beyond the pages of this volume. Their interaction with the selected authors creates an important space for discussion, reflection, and exchange between emerging researchers and established practitioners, reinforcing the seminar as an integral component of the publication process.

The thoughtful evaluations and scholarly commitment of our jurors and contributors uphold the standards of inquiry and excellence that the UDL Thesis Publication 2026 seeks to advance. Their participation demonstrates the continuing importance of critique, dialogue, and mentorship in strengthening emerging scholarship and design research. In acknowledging their contribution, we recognize not only their role in shaping this edition, but also their broader contribution to an international discourse committed to more resilient, inclusive, connected, and context-responsive urban futures.

Publication Jury



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.



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

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.



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.

Publication Jury



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 Uman 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* (IaDB, 2021, 2022).

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.



Gayatri Nanda Bhopal, India

Master of Architecture (Urban Design), SPA New Delhi, India
Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, SPA Bhopal, India

Gayatri Nanda is an architect, urban designer, and academic currently serving as Assistant Professor at the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. She holds a Master of Architecture in Urban Design from SPA New Delhi and a Bachelor of Architecture from MNIT Jaipur. Her Ph.D. research examines temporal urbanism during festive celebrations and the everyday use of city spaces, exploring relationships between urban form, cultural events, and public life. Her academic work also addresses climate-responsive settlements, cultural urbanism, street traders, and changing patterns of urban activity.



Vikas Kanojia Delhi, India

M.Arch. Urban Design, School of Architecture and Planning, New Delhi, India
Principal Urban Designer & Architect, Studio CoDe, Delhi, India

Vikas Kanojia is an architect and urban designer with over 25 years of professional experience in urban design, master planning, and architecture. As Principal and Co-Founder of Studio CoDe, his work spans urban regeneration, industrial townships, SEZs, institutional campuses, and large-scale master plans. He has also contributed to the urban design strategy for the Delhi Metro corridor and has extensive experience in research, healthcare, and pharmaceutical facilities. He currently serves as Chairman of the Institute of Urban Designers India, Delhi NCR Chapter, and is associated with SPA and SSAA as visiting faculty.



Bejene S Kothari Thiruvananthapuram, India

M.Arch. Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, India
Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, College of Engineering Trivandrum,

Prof. Bejene S. Kothari is an architect, urban designer, and academic with 19 years of teaching experience in architecture, urban design, and urban planning. She holds an M.Arch. in Urban Design from SPA New Delhi and is pursuing a Ph.D. from JNAFAU, Hyderabad. Her academic and professional interests include urban growth, socio-spatial dynamics, sustainable urbanism, GIS and spatial modelling, and design pedagogy. She has also served as Head of the Department at the School of Architecture, GEC Thrissur, and contributes to several institutional building committees in Kerala.

Seminar Moderators



Harkaran Ahluwalia Ahmedabad, India

B.Arch, MNIT Jaipur, India
Senior Manager- Airport Design & Planning Architect

Harkaran Ahluwalia is an architect and aviation planning professional with over nine years of experience in airport design and infrastructure. As Senior Manager, Airport Design & Planning at Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, he contributes to terminal development, design standardisation, landside urban design, and passenger experience. His experience includes Noida International Airport, Delhi International Airport Terminal 1, and Ahmedabad Airport.



Vipendra Singh Thakur Bhopal, India

M.Arch. Architectural Conservation, SPA New Delhi, India
Assistant Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal

Ar. Vipendra Singh Thakur is a heritage conservation professional and Assistant Professor at SPA Bhopal, currently pursuing a Ph.D. at SPA New Delhi on community participation in urban conservation. His work includes research on Rashtrapati Bhavan and publications such as Interpreting Geometries, Making of Chandigarh, and A Journey through Bihar to Vihara. He is also involved in the conservation of Amar Singh College, Kashmir, recipient of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Merit in 2020.



Sahana Deepak Bangalore, India

Master of Landscape Architecture, SPA Bhopal, India
Consultant - Landscape Architect, WSP in India

Sahana Deepak is a landscape architect, researcher, and design educator with a degree in Landscape Architecture from SPA Bhopal. She is pursuing doctoral studies at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, focusing on urban food systems in Bengaluru. Currently associated with WSP in India, her work spans ecological restoration, urban regeneration, and community-centered landscape design.



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.



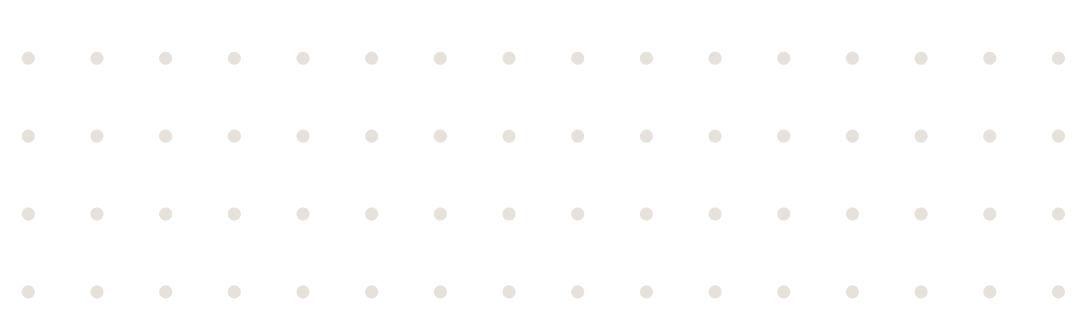
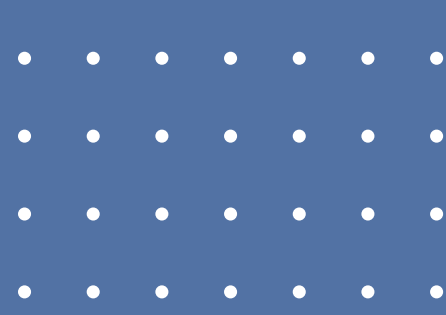
Ravjyot Kaur Gurugram, India

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.



FINAL REFLECTIONS



Concluding Remark

The UDL Thesis Publication 2026 – Book of Abstracts represents an important stage in a continuing effort to bring together emerging ideas, critical perspectives, and design inquiries addressing the rapidly changing urban condition. Through contributions from undergraduate and postgraduate scholars, this edition reflects the diversity of contemporary urban thinking and the growing intersections between design, research, landscape, planning, infrastructure, ecology, mobility, and community.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all contributors whose work has shaped this collection. Across the themes of Urban Renewal, Urban Landscape, Urban Management, and Urban Networks, the selected studies engage with questions of regeneration, resilience, environmental stewardship, social inclusion, infrastructure, mobility, heritage, and connectivity. Together, they demonstrate how research and design can move beyond the identification of urban challenges to propose thoughtful, context-sensitive, and forward-looking responses.

Each abstract presented in this volume captures a distinct line of inquiry, yet collectively they reveal a shared commitment to understanding cities as complex, evolving systems. The ideas documented here contribute to an expanding discourse on how urban environments can be interpreted, transformed, and managed in more equitable, resilient, and sustainable ways. They also reinforce the importance of academic exploration as a space for questioning established approaches and imagining alternative futures for cities and communities.

This Book of Abstracts is not an end in itself, but a foundation for the next stage of the publication. The selected thesis projects will be further developed into the comprehensive UDL Thesis Publication 2026, scheduled for publication in December 2026 as an ISBN-attributed book. Bringing together the depth of research, design processes, and outcomes represented by the selected works, the final volume is envisioned as a lasting scholarly resource that encourages exchange across institutions, disciplines, and geographies while contributing meaningfully to the wider discourse on contemporary urbanism.

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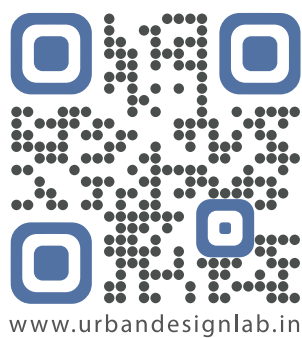


Participants:

Participants in the UDL Thesis Publication Seminar 2026 have come from a diverse array of prestigious institutions around the world, showcasing their expertise in architecture, urban design, and related

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