

GUDNews.3 JANUARY 2026

Edited by Vassiliki Petridou and Marichela Sepe

GUD NEXT ACTIVITIES

February 2026

Flood and urban design- Seminar

Matthew Bradbury

February 2026

On Complexity, Architecture and the City- Seminar

Emanuela Margjone

CALL FOR GUDBLOG POSTS:

The GUDBlog is now online: <https://blog.gudesign.org>

Deadline for post submission (1500 or 5000 characters + 1-2 images + 3-5 tags) is: 15 February 2026 to marichela.sepe@gmail.com

CALL FOR PAPERS

CHANGING CITIES VII: *Spatial, Design, Landscape, Heritage and Socio-Economic dimensions*

Spetses Island, Greece, 15-19 June 2026.

Main Theme: 'Artificial intelligence enhancing Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development in smart cities'

Conference Venue: The Anargyron and Korgialenion Foundation (AKSS), Spetses Island, Greece, supervised by The Greek Ministry of Education.

The conference is organised by University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece <https://www.uth.gr/en/>. The Lab of Urban Morphology and Design, directed by Dr. Aspa Gospodini, Professor of Urban Planning & Design, Email: umlab@uth.gr Department of Planning & Regional Development [<http://www.prd.uth.gr/en/>], Faculty of Engineering, University of Thessaly, Pedion Areos, 38 334 Volos, Greece in co-organisation with Department of Architecture, University of Patras. <https://www.arch.upatras.gr/en>

READ MORE: <https://changingcities.prd.uth.gr/cc/index.php>

GUD Special CCVII session edited by Marichela Sepe: *Smart, adaptive and flexible public spaces for cultural and urban regeneration*

READ MORE: <https://changingcities.prd.uth.gr/cc/index.php/info/pre-organised-special-sessions/94-prof-7>

6th WORLD PLANNING SCHOOLS CONGRESS 2026: Call for abstracts, roundtable proposals and PhD workshop applications

June 29th - July 3rd, 2026, in Espoo & Helsinki, Finland.

The WPSC PhD workshop will be organized in Tampere prior to the congress (June 26-29, 2026).

The call for abstracts, roundtable proposals and PhD workshop applications is now open until November 11th, 23:59 EET (Eastern European Time).

READ MORE: <https://aesop-planning.eu/resources/news-archive/aesop/wpsc2026-call-for-abstracts-roundtable-proposals-and-phd-workshop-applications-is-open>

Site Responsiveness: Translocal Interdependencies and Heterogeneous Temporalities in Art and Architecture, University of Vienna, Jun 11–13, 2026

It is a widely shared diagnosis that translocal connectivity and interdependence of events and processes are defining characteristics of the present. Beyond the development of increasingly powerful infrastructures for the transport of goods and data – which have led to the globally synchronized information sphere – it is the destabilization of the planetary, and of countless local ecosystems that shapes this condition. Against this backdrop, the concept of the site requires a fundamental revision. Sites can no longer be defined as fixed anchor points or stable stages for events. They are nodes and overlapping zones of diverse interdependent processes, and thus themselves dynamically determined. What happens locally is linked to conditions and events in countless other places by processes of the most diverse kinds – from the movement of digital data through fiber-optic cables to the drifting of plastic waste in the ocean. Even inert geological foundations are affected by planetary transformations ranging from melting permafrost and rising sea levels to globalized extraction and supply chains. The conference aims to explore how art and architecture over the last decades have responded to this dynamism and translocal interdependence. The conference also seeks to foster comparison and exchange between architectural and urban practices—often deeply shaped and constrained by economic and social conditions – and the exploratory, experimental character of semi-autonomous artistic interventions. We welcome contributions from the areas of art, architecture, urbanism, and landscape architecture that combine theoretical reflection with concrete case studies.

Please submit an abstract (300 words) and a bio (100 words) to Christoph Chwatal (christoph.chwatal@univie.ac.at) and Ludovica Tomarchio (l.tomarchio@udk-berlin.de) by February 2, 2026. Selected speakers will be notified by March 2, 2026. We can provide funding towards travel and accommodation expenses. The conference is organized by Sebastian Egenhofer, Susanne Hauser, Stefan Neuner, Christoph Chwatal, and Ludovica Tomarchio. It serves as a foundation for a future publication within the framework of the NOMIS Foundation-funded research project “Site Complexes: Responsive Practices for the 21st Century” (University of Vienna/Berlin University of the Arts).

Deadline: Feb 2, 2026

READ MORE: <https://arthist.net/archive/51338>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 21ST AESOP YOUNG ACADEMICS CONFERENCE IN MARCH 2027

Host the 21st AESOP Young Academics Conference in March 2027!

The Association of European Schools of Planning Young Academics (AESOP YA) Network is thrilled to announce the Call for Proposals to host the 21st AESOP YA Conference, set to take place in March 2027. This is your chance to bring an exciting

and impactful event to your institution and join a tradition of fostering international collaboration, knowledge exchange, and academic growth.

READ MORE: <https://aesop-planning.eu/resources/news-archive/ya/call-for-proposals-for-the-21st-aesop-young-academics-conference-in-march-2027>

AISU Conference 2026 - *The city and games. Architecture, recreational spaces, and urban imagery*, November 5-7, 2026

Games have always shaped urban life: collective rituals, social and entertainment practices, forms of spectacle, educational devices, and instruments of power. With popular festivals and sporting competitions, with the contests of antiquity and medieval tournaments, with contemporary games and digital spaces, cities have been and still are places where games take shape, transform, and produce cultural meanings. In modern and contemporary cities, sports facilities are becoming increasingly high-performance. Urban history shows how games, in their many forms, have been a powerful engine of transformation of urban space: from squares conceived as civic theaters to arenas and stadiums that embody the collective imagination of modernity, from recreational practices that structure community rituals to sports infrastructures that redesign the urban and symbolic landscape of cities. The analysis of these phenomena allows us to understand how forms of play have constantly interacted with the processes of construction, representation, and memory of the city. In the year of the Milan-Cortina Olympic Games and the Mediterranean Games in Taranto, this conference aims to investigate, from a diachronic and interdisciplinary perspective, the relationship between cities and games, drawing on historical studies, theoretical reflections, comparative readings, and innovative research cases. Scholars are invited to submit proposals for contributions that fall within one of the 11 thematic areas listed below, conceived as fields of comparison and in-depth analysis of the multiple relationships between recreational practices, urban spaces, and the construction of the city over time.

Submissions should be submitted by June 1, 2026, along with the title, abstract, and a brief biographical note about the author(s).

READ MORE: <https://aisuinternational.org/en/bari-2026/>

City+2026@Mytilene: The 9th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Urban Studies: Improving Liveability for Urban and Rural Settings

July 2nd – 5th 2026, School of Geography, University of the Aegean, Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece

This theme considers how the everyday quality of life can be strengthened across both urban and rural contexts. Current pressures, including climate risks, economic volatility, changing mobility patterns and rapid land-use change, affect multiple settlement types and therefore require integrative responses that operate across scales and territories. Urban data analytics provides a means to measure conditions, compare trends and support evidence-based decision-making. By combining quantitative data with local knowledge, more resilient, healthy and inclusive living environments can be shaped from dense urban neighbourhoods to coastal towns and remote rural communities.

City+2026@Mytilene aims to support researchers in working closely at the forefront of interdisciplinary urban studies, enabling them to present their research, receive

feedback, expand networks, and strengthen opportunities for future collaboration. Building upon the success of previous years, City+2026 aims to expand conversations beyond cities, strengthening dialogue between urban and rural contexts, and examining how data, governance, design, innovation, technology, and community-centric approaches can foster everyday liveability.

Deadline for abstract submission: 25 January 2026

READ MORE: <https://www.city-plus.org/city2026mytilene-improving-liveability-for-urban-and-rural-settings-call-for-abstracts/>

0th International Conference on Urban Studies & Smart Materials

27th, 28th Jun 2026, Prague, Czech Republic

As a Scientific Research Conference Organizer, The Global Academic Research Institute proudly organized the International Conference on Urban Studies & Smart Materials (ICUSSM 2026). We welcome proposals for papers and invitations for abstract submissions, which are now open for both oral and poster presentations covering current research and new processes. All contributions should be of high quality. During the review period, Papers will be reviewed by eminent scholars in the respective areas.

Two types of submissions are invited:

01. Full papers reporting on original and unpublished research.

02. Work-in-progress papers or Abstract or Case Studies or Projects

The conference aims to provide a platform for academics, researchers, professionals, administrators, educational leaders, policymakers, industry representatives, advanced students, and anyone in the domain of interest worldwide to discuss Urban Studies & Smart Materials. Please note that speakers are encouraged to submit a full paper before the conference. In addition, all the submitted full papers will be reviewed by the journal editorial board and a few high-end papers will be published in the GARI e-Journal having ISSN & DOI, and All Selected papers will be published in conference printed proceedings having ISBN as well as a conference library page.

Paper/Abstract submission deadline: **26th March 2026**

READ MORE: <https://www.globalacademicresearchinstitute.com/urban-studies-smart-materials/call-for-papers>

CONFERENCES

EAHN CONFERENCE

The 9th Biennial Conference | EAHN 2026 Aarhus

The European Architectural History Network is delighted to announce that its next biannual meeting will take place at the Aarhus University Campus, 17-21 June 2026. The main objective of the meeting is to assess the current state of research in disciplines related to architecture and the built environment, stimulate discussions on contemporary themes and issues, and encourage new research directions in the field. We invite contributions on a wide array of topics related to the built environment, including landscape and urban history, encompassing various historical periods, and we particularly encourage scholarship focusing on pre-19th century material.

READ MORE: <https://konferencer.au.dk/eahn26>

URBAN DESIGN EVENT

DesignTO Festival - Toronto - 23 January - 01 February 2026

DesignTO Festival is Canada's largest annual design festival celebrating design as a multidisciplinary form of thinking and making, with over 100 exhibitions and events forming Toronto's design week each January.

GUD STUDY TOURS

Doxiadis and His Environment. A study tour exploring the theories, works, and legacy of Constantinos A. Doxiadis

Taking place on 13–14 June 2026 in Athens and the wider region of Attica, this two-day study tour traces the environments that shaped Constantinos Doxiadis's thinking and those that, in turn, were shaped by him. Participants will visit from historic landscapes and ancient sites that inspired his vision for the modern city and urban space — such as the Acropolis, the subject of his doctoral thesis reflecting Dimitris Pikionis's ideas — to the spaces Doxiadis designed, inhabited and worked, including his home, his office building and Apolloneio, his seaside development and personal retreat.

Situating Doxiadis's work within a broader genealogy of ecological intelligence — both as a precursor to and a critique of today's prevailing urban models — the tour will complement the session "Doxiadis and the Environment" on 16 June 2026, during the 7th Changing Cities Conference on Spetses Island.

Booking deadline: 30 April 2026

More info: aprodi@upatras.gr

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS AND JOURNALS

Call for contributions for a forthcoming volume titled **Managed Retreat and Adaptive Transition: Designing for Climate Resilience**, to be published by Routledge.

This book explores how communities can respond to the escalating threats of flooding and other climate-related hazards through innovative, design-led approaches. While managed retreat is often framed as a policy or engineering solution, this volume reimagines it as a spatial and cultural project—one that engages the disciplines of urbanism, landscape architecture, and architecture to shape more resilient futures. Building on the success of the 2023 seminar held at Politecnico di Milano, the book aims to showcase global thinking on how communities can transition in response to environmental crises.

Contributions from both academics and practitioners are welcome. Submissions need not be new or unpublished—the goal is to gather diverse perspectives and projects that treat managed retreat as a design-led process, with a focus on policy, community engagement, and spatial transformation.

MORE INFO: If you are interested in contributing to the book, please send an abstract of your chapter by the end of December to mbradbury@unitec.ac.nz. If you would like to learn more, please contact:

Matthew Bradbury

Email: mbradbury@unitec.ac.nz

Sophia Journal, Vol. 11, No. 1: Landscapes of Repair- The Invisible City: Manplan and Contemporary Forms of Repair.

University of Porto, Portugal (FAUP)

Sophia Journal is an academic, open access, peer-reviewed journal, published by the Centre for Studies in Architecture and Urbanism (CEAU) - Research group Architecture, Art, and Image (AAI) at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Porto, Portugal (FAUP), in collaboration with the association Cityscopio and their publishing imprint scopio Editions. Guest Editors: Cristina Gastón (ETSAB-UPC), Hugh Campbell (UCD) Editors: Ana Miriam Rebelo (FAUP), Maria Neto (FAUP), Raquel Paulino (FAUP) Fourth thematic cycle "Landscapes of Repair":

Sophia Journal is currently accepting submissions for its fourth thematic cycle, "Landscapes of Repair", encouraging a humanist approach to urban transformation that transcends purely economic considerations. By exploring the impactful realms of photography, film, and various visual practices, we aim to highlight their significant contributions to the discourse surrounding architectural and spatial production. Our goal is to draw urgent attention to the necessity of repairing our fractured planet. In doing so, we seek to address and connect the multitude of challenges that contemporary cities and territories across the world are facing. These visual mediums not only document but also critically engage with the diverse and complex issues of our time, offering unique perspectives on urban and environmental crises.

Deadline: Jan 31, 2026

READ MORE: <https://www.up.pt/revistas/index.php/sophia/user/register>

PUBLICATIONS

Urban Design. The Basics, by Tim Heath, Florian Wiedmann, Routledge-London New York

The book provides a compelling overview to the theory and practice of the multi-disciplinary field of urban design.

Effetto Città, by Antonio Bocca, LetteraVentidue, Siracusa

The book, through the reading and critical analysis of several exemplary projects, identifies the main lines of action for the implementation of an effective, integrated urban regeneration program.

URBAN DESIGN EVENTS

The Better-Cities Event, March 24-27, 2026

Ljubljana, Slovenia

MORE INFO: <https://urban-future.org/event/uf26-ljubljana/ljubljana/>

WORKING GROUPS

EURA WORKING GROUP "Flexible, Healthy and Liveable Public Spaces"

Coordinator: Prof. Marichela Sepe (DICEA, Sapienza University of Rome)

Focus areas: liveable & healthy public spaces; healthy streets; campus public realms; proximity spaces; waterfronts; places for ageing and fragile people; foodscapes; flexible/multirisk public spaces; parklets & pocket parks

Aim: identify international best practices and produce transferable guidance for urban and spatial planning

Partner: GUDesign network — www.gudesign.org

MORE INFO: <https://eura.org/news-newwg-publicspaces/>

Email for expression of interest: marichela.sepe@gmail.com

APPLICATIONS, FELLOWSHIPS AND POSITIONS

Research funding in Urban Urgencies

New research funding initiative to seed-fund collaborative primary research proposals that engage with the theme Urban Urgencies

Deadline for applications to this grant: 23rd March 2026 at 23:59 UTC +0

MORE INFO: <https://www.urbanstudiesfoundation.org/funding/urban-urgencies/>

Doctoral Fellowships

Doctoral Fellowships in History and Theory of Architecture, ETH Zurich

The doctoral program at the Institute of History and Theory of Architecture (gta), ETH Zurich, Switzerland offers two fellowship positions to start on 1 October 2026. This program focuses on the history and theory of architecture and urbanism in a wider context of cultural history, including the history and theory of art, science and technology. The two fully-funded fellowship positions are open for research in any area of history and theory of architecture and urbanism, and we welcome innovative proposals across geographies, methodologies, and time periods. GTA Fellows will have freedom to determine the content of their doctoral research and are not required to conform to the research interests of any particular research group.

Submission deadline: 15 February 2026, 23:59 CET

READ MORE: <https://gta.arch.ethz.ch/en/programmes/gta-doctoral-programme/apply.html>

IDEAS URBAN DESIGN COMPETITIONS

UIA International Student Competition

It invites students to design spatial interventions that enable resistance and adaptation to predictable threats related to political shifts, social transformations, and climate change. The competition calls for design proposals that foster this capacity for resilience using time as a design tool. January 2026 Announcement of results

MORE INFO:

https://uia2026bcn.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/07/uia2026bcn_StudentsCompetition.pdf

European Prize for Urban Public Space 2026

URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

Registration now open 10 December 2025 — 26 February 2026

The CCCB is announcing the call for the 13th edition of the European Prize for Urban Public Space, which recognises the best creation and transformation interventions in the public spaces of European cities.

In times like the present, when cities around the world are facing new challenges—climate-related, technological and social—the value of public space is perhaps more significant than ever before. Accordingly, the European Prize for Urban Public Space aims to recognise and make known a wide array of works creating, recovering, and improving public space in European cities. The Prize involves the cooperation of various European institutions that make up its Advisory Committee, as well as a Board

of Experts consisting of specialists from around Europe who guarantee wide-ranging geographic cover and the quality of the works presented for the Prize. This year the jury will be chaired by the architect Eva Prats and will be made up of six members and a secretary. The spirit of the Prize is to recognise, highlight and make known the most significant projects of creating or redesigning public space in Europe, which have been completed between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2025 and located in the geographical area of the Council of Europe, and which have not been submitted to previous editions of the Prize.

This is an honorary Prize and is awarded jointly to the institution that has initiated the project and the author/s of the work. The winning projects, the finalists and a selection of the best projects that have presented for the Prize will subsequently form part of the section "Works" at the website, a collection of the most outstanding interventions that have been presented for the Prize since it was first awarded.

READ MORE:

<https://aesop-planning.eu/resources/news-archive/members/european-prize-for-urban-public-space-2026>

URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

APR Awards 8th edition Urban Design & Architecture Design Awards 2026, organized by APR

Registration Ends. 30th September 2026

Submission Deadline. 15th October 2026

MORE INFO: <https://www.architecturepressrelease.com/udad-awards-brief/>

Roberta Morelli Prize

The call for applications for the 2025 edition of the Roberta Morelli Prize is now open, an award dedicated to the memory of the scholar who made a fundamental contribution to the creation and development of AISU.

This award aims to recognize doctoral or specialist theses that address urban history topics in an original way: cities, urban landscapes, transformations of urban form, social life in urban spaces, and everything related to the evolution and meaning of the "city" over time. The thesis must be submitted in digital format along with a freely formulated application form, a curriculum vitae, and a copy of an identification document. In the case of multiple authors, the application must be signed by all authors, and their respective identification documents must be attached. The text and documents must be sent together to the following email address: segretario@aisuinternational.net **before January 31, 2026.**

READ MORE:

<https://aisuinternational.org/premio-roberta-morelli-2025/>

NEW URBAN DESIGN PROJECTS

KALVEBOD BRYGGE TRANSFORMATION, Copenhagen

JAJA architects

MORE INFO: <https://jaja.archi/project/kalvebod-brygge-transformation/>

WORKSHOPS

ARL International Summer School 2026 on Urban Infrastructures in Amsterdam

In cooperation with the Regional Studies Association (RSA) the ARL - Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association invites applications for the ARL International Summer School 2026, on “New perspectives on Urban Infrastructures.” The Summer School will take place from 8 to 10 July 2026 at the University of Amsterdam. Urban and regional studies have experienced an infrastructural turn, broadening the understanding of infrastructure beyond technical artefacts such as pipes, cables or roads. Increasingly, infrastructures are conceptualised as socio-political, ecological and relational arrangements, encompassing nature, digital systems, labour and care practices. These developments raise new conceptual and methodological challenges for research. The Summer School provides an international platform to explore and critically discuss these emerging perspectives on urban infrastructures. It is aimed at PhD candidates working in human geography, urban and regional planning, or related social science disciplines. Applications are welcome from researchers conducting empirical work in both the Global North and the Global South. Contributions may address, among others, the following themes: multiple temporalities and rhythms of infrastructure configurations, the politics and governance of infrastructuring, and co-creating alternative infrastructural systems and futures.

READ MORE:

<https://aesop-planning.eu/resources/news-archive/members/arl-international-summer-school-2026-on-urban-infrastructures-in-amsterdam>

For the GUDNews.4 February 2026 submit no later than 15 January 2025 contributions to both:

v.petridou@upatras.gr, marichela.sepe@gmail.com