

Shaping the City: A Forum for Sustainable Cities and Communities is a forum organized by the European Cultural Centre in the context of its Venice Architecture Biennial Exhibition titled *Time Space Existence*.

Following the success of the first edition of Shaping the City in 2018, the second edition of the conference will take place on 15 and 16 October 2021 in the iconic Palazzo Michiel in Venice, and online on the ECC Italy YouTube channel. Shaping the City tackles contemporary urbanization and key issues in the city, presented and debated through the diverse perspectives of a group of academics, urban planners and designers, architects, policy makers, and scholars.

Through a series of presentations and panel discussions, the forum confronts the fundamental topics shaping the cities of our world. The conversations are structured in a way to portray an array of international perspectives upon urbanism and architecture. The dialogues and exchanges are tailored around four main sub-themes:

- Architecture for the People
- Building through Technology
- Climate Change and Resilient Cities
- Re-imagining the City

The evolving discussions over two days recognize the significant role urban planning and design play in molding the interaction of people with their cities and their wellbeing. The forum sets forward new thoughts around the rights to the city, through a spatial, pragmatic, yet inclusive and sustainable approach. Shaping the City 2021 looks to tackle these themes in dialogue with Venice: where the historic city with its lagoon presents an emblematic lieu to experience the rising global issues of climate change, resiliency, urban space and people's movements.

International experts will include Golden Lion Winner and Curator of the National Pavilion of United Arab Emirates Wael Al Awar, Editorial Director of Domus Walter Mariotti, Research Associate at the Graduate School of Design of Harvard University and Head of INVIVIA Europe Stefano Andreani, Co-Director of the SUTD-JTC I³ Centre and the Director of Advanced Architecture Laboratory at Singapore University of Technology and Design Thomas Schroepfer, Professor and Head of Planning and Climate Change Lab at Luav University in Venezia Francesco Musco, and ETH Zurich Digital Building Technologies.

The final agenda and list of speakers will be released soon on our platform www.shapingthecity.org and social media [@shapingthecityforum](https://twitter.com/shapingthecityforum).

Guests are invited to book their spot at the [following link](#).



Session 1 Architecture for the People

This theme of Shaping the City is explored through the social lens of architects and urban planners within our contemporary world. It focuses on social issues in the city, urban inequity, emerging issues of the displacement of communities, new architectural values and spatial identity.

It explores how regeneration projects, social housing, and urban policies are reactivating the neglected parts of the urban fabric of the city and promoting dynamic and social transformations.

Throughout this theme, alternative approaches to housing that stress on urgent matters such as population displacement due to geopolitical issues, the global refugee crisis, citizenship, as well as due to global warming, and environmental issues are studied.

It addresses how architecture and urban design influences the wellbeing of people and their livelihood. The Covid-19 pandemic left its mark on our cities and communities. Shaping the Post-COVID City is also explored within this theme, where architecture and urban planning is seen as a catalyst for an inclusive city and to improve urban health.

Venice

15th - 16th Oct. 2021
Palazzo Michiel
Venice, Italy

9.30am - 6.00pm
In-person / Online
[Book Here](#)

For more information contact our Press Office
Tel. +39 349 8446514, press@ecc-italy.eu,
shapingthecity@ecc-italy.eu

Session 2 Building Through Technology

The built environment and its construction material have proven to be one of the most significant contributors to global warming and CO2 emissions. Having a healthy planet, building sustainable houses, achieving equity and environmental justice are the pillars that architects and designers are working to achieve.

This theme explores the possibilities of new sustainable and vernacular materials as a construction solution. It demonstrates the latest trends and improvements in architecture technology and innovative materials. Best practices and examples from different settings are explored with the aim to use eco-friendly construction materials and alternatives to help combat climate change.

Employing architecture technologies, such as virtual reality, automation and 3D printing in designing our built environment, is another focus discussed in this theme. The new advancements and developments will highlight the conscious choices about materials and techniques that reduce the impact on our environment. Finally, many lessons learnt from these projects will be presented as well as how these projects are shaping new architecture and the future city.

Session 3 Climate Change and Resilient Cities

The momentum around creating thriving, healthy, vibrant, environmentally friendly and resilient cities is mounting. Architects and urban planners play a crucial role in replying to the most threatening crisis our planet is facing: climate change.

This theme explores how to engage with the surrounding urban systems and discusses concepts related to urban resilience and climate change adaptation in designing and building cities. Cities are the engines of change, and present the opportunity to shape the future of millions of inhabitants.

Planning for a resilient future entails tackling current challenges and proposing solutions in an integrative, inclusive, and risk-aware manner. Leveraging spatial planning and design are key elements explored by the group of researchers, architects, urban planners and environmental activities through diverse projects that confront the topic of *Climate Change and Resilient Cities* and its impact in our daily lives.

Session 4 Re-Imagining the City

The transformation of our cities is a dynamic process, where the physical form and citizen's interaction are constantly changed and reassembled according to the planning, policies, urban design, and architecture at the given moment of regeneration. Accumulating the heritage, physically and spiritually inside the city, plays a vital role in shaping the image of the city and the collective identity of the metropolis.

This theme explores how the morphological dimension, engulfing both the architectural character and the urban environment, creates an image and an identity for the city. The panel discussion will also investigate the sensory and experiential qualities in architecture and the distinctive qualities of the urban space, where daily life unfolds.

Attention will be drawn to both the need to keep an identity (materials, shapes, technology, etc..) and the urgency to create safer cities after natural and social disasters. A dialogue between architects, academics, and decision makers will discuss our projected urban future and how the respective relationship of the people and their physical space is shaped.

Follow us :

Shaping the City:
[Instagram](#)
[#ShapingtheCityForum](#)

ECC Italy:
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)
[#eccitaly](#) [#TimeSpaceExistence](#)
[#TimeSpaceExistence2021](#)

Venice

15th - 16th Oct. 2021
Palazzo Michiel
Venice, Italy

9.30am - 6.00pm
In-person / Online
[Book Here](#)

For more information contact our Press Office
Tel. +39 349 8446514, press@ecc-italy.eu,
shapingthecity@ecc-italy.eu