ARCHITECTURE OF CHALLENGES
THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS - BUILDING COMMUNITY

III INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

WARSAW
29 June 2025 - opening of the Pavilion in the Royal Łazienki gardens in Warsaw
30 June - 1 July 2025 - conference proceedings

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS:
Faculty of Architecture - Warsaw University of Technology
The Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw
The Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw
The National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning

CONFERENCE VENUE:
The Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw
The Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw

CONFERENCE THESIS:

'Architecture can't force people to connect; it can only plan the crossing points, remove barriers and make the meeting places useful and attractive'.
Denise Scott Brown

Since the time of Aristotle, it has been emphasised that humans are social beings. The formation of bonds and the building of relationships influence various aspects of the human experience. It undeniably involves human interactions with the environment, manifested by participation in various architectural activities. As Scott notes, the foundation of this collaboration in shaping architecture is human relationships, which are born in a particular 'space and place', constituting the essence of social life. Depending on the cultural context, place can help support or undermine these relationships.

Launched in 2020 by the European Union, the New European Bauhaus initiative promotes the idea of community building by creating aesthetically pleasing spaces with sustainable development processes that are inclusive of diverse user groups. They, therefore, support the values relevant to community building, such as equality, ecology, well-being, solidarity, cooperation, diversity, social justice, and responsibility for the functioning of humanity - its present and future generations.

We invite you to consider Community Building focused in four thematic blocks:

1. COMMUNITY OF CULTURE - DIVERSITY OF CULTURES
2 . CITY AND ITS PUBLIC SPACE
3. ARCHITECTURE OF COMMUNITY
4. SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

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1. COMMUNITY OF CULTURE - DIVERSITY OF CULTURES

IIn a community of culture and diversity of cultures, cultural patterning plays a vital role as an element that simultaneously unites and differentiates communities. A community of culture refers to a collective space in which people share specific cultural patterns - norms, values, and traditions. They are the foundation underpinning the social identity of the community. Diversity of cultures should be characterised by the harmonious coexistence of multiple cultural patterns within an entire society. Each group brings unique values, traditions and norms that may differ but, at the same time, enrich the others. The respectful coexistence of diverse communities fosters an exchange of role models, allowing for inspiration and learning from each other. In a diverse society, group cultural patterns can intermingle and evolve, leading to a new quality that enriches the community. In this way, multicultural spaces are created in which different patterns coexist and complement each other. Shaped by these, architecture and its surroundings can provide a place for understanding the representation and promotion of distinct cultural values.

2 . CITY AND ITS PUBLIC SPACE

The city, and first its public space, is a place for building communities in past and present modern societies. It creates an environment for daily interaction, shared experiences, building bonds and strengthening a sense of belonging and security. A safe, publicly accessible urban space is fundamental to creating strong, healthy and sustainable urban communities, enabling the free exchange of ideas, values and traditions. A welcoming surroundings and accessibility guaranteed to all users encourage cultural and social events that integrate the local community. The shaping of the location of these events and, above all, the broadly defined high quality of public space influences many aspects, such as the sense of identity and belonging, the cultivation of the memory of history and tradition, and ultimately, the joint creation of new local cultural patterns. City planning that considers accessible public spaces and respects cultural distinctiveness while including people excluded from social life promotes natural encounters between inhabitants, establishing and deepening social bonds. Building communities based on diverse cultural patterns that draw on different cultures' experiences is more accessible in such an environment.

3. ARCHITECTURE OF COMMUNITY

The essence of "Community Architecture" is its accessibility, which enables the existence and intensification of social contacts and building ties between residents, enhancing the quality of life. The design of public buildings focuses on creating inclusive and engaging places for the local community. Such buildings are formed with diverse needs, offering spaces suited to social and individual activity. Shared spaces aim to foster the integration of their users. They become meeting places for residents, encouraging them to act together, play, discuss, learn and build relationships, translating into a sense of community and identity. 'Community Architecture' responds to contemporary social and demographic challenges (an ageing population, rising cost of living in cities, diverse and changing user needs) in the design of buildings. Architectural buildings and urban spaces created this way allow residents to enjoy them fully, foster a sense of belonging and enable real inclusion in community life. On the other hand, using ecological and communal solutions and providing contact with nature and other users allows residents to co-create and feel responsible for the shared space.

4. SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Space is an asset that belongs to everyone but is limited and non-renewable. Its appropriate management requires supervision and public participation. The active involvement of members of the territorial community in the space creation through workshops, public consultations and design meetings is often underestimated. However, such activities adapt the space to actual needs and foster a sense of belonging and co-responsibility. Community-engaged architecture contributes to the formation of local identity and the building of mutual trust between community members. Joint decision-making on issues such as the function and form of space, the use of ecological solutions, the development of green areas or the design of meeting places, etc., not only develops bonds between different social groups. Above all, it allows the position of various, sometimes overlooked, social groups to be considered in shaping the space, thus limiting the number of mistakes made. Therefore, an important aspect is to listen to the voices of the next generations, e.g., by continuously involving children and young people in architectural education, shaping spatial and aesthetic sensitivity in the young generations, and promoting cultural values. Social inclusion should create equal development opportunities regardless of gender, age, wealth or background. It is crucial to provide access to culture and education and create equal opportunities for women in the construction sector to help break down common stereotypes.