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UPRUN

24th – 25th March 2026

UPRUN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Urban Planning for Social Resilience in Urban Neighborhoods

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

UNIVERSITETI POLIS

Frederick University

ktu 1922 faculty of civil engineering and architecture

ФАКУЛТЕТ ТЕХНИЧКИХ НАУКА КОСОВСКА МИТРОВИЦА

ceps CENTER FOR PHILANTHROPY STUDIES

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

24TH MARCH

Time	Session
09:00 – 09:30	**Registration**
09:30 – 10:00	**Welcome**
10:00 – 10:45	**Keynote: Promises and challenges of democratic participation in urban neighbourhoods** Prof. Dr. Ali Madanipour, Newcastle University
	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:30	**Track I:** Spatial Dimensions of Community Resilience: Urban Design, Accessibility, and Everyday Practices Session 1: Citizens' Engagement in/for Everyday Public Spaces / **Track I:** Spatial Dimensions of Community Resilience: Urban Design, Accessibility, and Everyday Practices Session 2: Caring Cities: Designing for Youth, Community, and Climate Resilience
	Lunch
13:15 – 14:30	**Track I:** Spatial Dimensions of Community Resilience: Urban Design, Accessibility, and Everyday Practices Session 3: Urban Transformation and Resilience in Times of Crisis / **Track III:** Governing Urban Resilience: Institutions, Communities, and Spatial Transformation Session 1: Negotiating Resilience: Institutions, Identities, and Urban Space
14:30 – 15:45	**Track II:** Participatory Pathways to Urban Resilience: Ecology, Heritage, and Collective Agency Session 1: Ecologies of Resilience: Community, Participation, and Place – Making" / **Track III:** Governing Urban Resilience: Institutions, Communities, and Spatial Transformation Session 2: Governance Mechanisms for Equitable and Resilient Communities
	Coffee break
16:15 – 17:30	**Track II:** Participatory Pathways to Urban Resilience: Ecology, Heritage, and Collective Agency Session 2: Co – Producing Heritage and Resilience: Community Voices in Urban Transformation / **Track IV:** Educating for Resilient Communities: Teaching Methods and Experiential Learning
17:30 – 18:45	**Launching Learning UPRUN** (incl. Round Table Discussion)
20:00	**Dinner** (Restaurant "Schönes Leben", Liebigstrasse 23, 44139 Dortmund)

25TH MARCH

Time	Session
09:00 – 09:15	**Welcome**
09:15 – 10:00hr	**Keynote: Collective civic engagement as social tipping points for transformative change: what, why and how?** Prof. Dr. Ina Horlings, University of Groningen
10:00 – 11:15	**Track II:** Participatory Pathways to Urban Resilience: Ecology, Heritage, and Collective Agency Session 3: Co-Producing Urban Resilience: Collaborative Practices and Community Adaptation / **Track III:** Governing Urban Resilience: Institutions, Communities, and Spatial Transformation Session 3: Participation and Power in Urban Governance: Rethinking Community Engagement
	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:00	**Track V: Digital Approaches to Spatial Resilience:** Modeling, Technology, and Adaptive Design Session 1: Technology, Perception, and Spatial Transformation" / **Track VI: Digital Approaches to Participatory and Resilient Urbanism** Session 1: Towards Intelligent and Inclusive Urbanism: Digital Methods for Community Engagement
13:00 – 14:15	**Track V: Digital Approaches to Spatial Resilience:** Modeling, Technology, and Adaptive Design Session 2: Modeling and Designing Urban Resilience: Adaptation Strategies for Sustainable Transformation / **Track VI: Digital Approaches to Participatory and Resilient Urbanism** Session 2: Digital Platforms for Inclusive Urban Governance: Data, Participation, and Community Resilience
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14:30 – 15:00	**Farewell Snack**
15:30 – 17:30	**Guided Excursions**

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Keynote Speakers

Collective civic engagement as social tipping points for transformative change: what, why and how?

Prof. Dr. L.G. Horlings
University of Groningen, the Netherlands

Abstract

The presentation explores the role of citizen initiatives, responding to environmental challenges and climate change. The key question addressed is: Can collective civic engagement function as social tipping points for transformational change? The what, why and how of such engagement will be discussed, illustrated with examples of citizen initiatives in Cornwall (UK), Germany (Dresden) and Barcelona, based on empirical research.

The presentation first addressed the why, the need for transformative adaptation and resilience in a context of global uncertainty an insecurity. Also, some critical remarks will be made about the impact of resilience policies on communities. The interrelatedness of environmental tipping points affects places in different ways and causes serious risks for communities.

Transformation requires a change in people's behaviour and values, termed as 'change from the inside out'. This means that social tipping points are conditional for transformative change. Citizen initiatives use varied strategies, supporting social tipping points and different types of scaling.

Several conditions are relevant for the success of citizen initiatives, including place-based leadership. For leadership within initiatives '5P's'are relevant: (1) the PERSONAL dimension or individual willingness to support change (2) Place-shaping PRACTICES and leadership roles 3) PEOPLE: the mobilisation of citizens and framing of stories, (4) POLITICS and responsiveness; 5) PLACE as the context for place-based policies and governance.

The presentation emphasizes the relevance of (inter)subjective aspects of local leadership and shows how leaders support different scaling processes.

Track I

Spatial Dimensions of Community Resilience: Urban Design, Accessibility, and Everyday Practices

Track I.1

Citizens' Engagement in/for Everyday Public Spaces

How everyday Spaces influence Community Resilience: a comparative Evaluation of three Case Studies in Skopje

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Abstract

This paper employs a case study approach to examine everyday spaces shaped less by formal planning and more by lived experience, and their capacity to foster interactive frameworks for social exchange and everyday community life. The study explores how three different spatial typologies: spaces of interpersonal activity (Komshilook), spaces for informal education (Bostanie), and spaces for transit (Na Tochak), shape the capacity of communities to respond, adapt, and transform under spatial, social, and environmental pressures. Drawing on Carmona's conceptualization of public space as a product of morphology, management, governance, and user practices, the paper applies a comparative strategy to evaluate the development of community resilience and to assess how spatial form influences governance dynamics, management practices, and everyday spatial behaviours.

The analysis considers the physical structure differences among the three case studies that directly shape their spatial composition, distinguishing them according to morphological typology. Although the cases belong to the same cultural environment, they exhibit fine-grained variations in resilience outcomes based on their spatial configurations, contexts, processes and routines of everyday maintenance. For each typology, the analysis follows Carmona's place-shaping continuum, examining how contexts, design and development processes, regulatory arrangements, management practices, and everyday uses interact over time.

The resulting patterns are then evaluated through place-value heuristics, demonstrating how specific combinations of spatial form and processes give rise to distinct environmental, social, functional, experiential, and economic values. The comparative analysis highlights how different spatial types support different resilience capacities, revealing that resilience is not a fixed attribute of a neighbourhood but an emergent quality shaped by spatial typologies and their ability to accommodate and sustain everyday spaces' practices.

Finally, the paper proposes a loose evaluative framework for planners and researchers who conceptualize resilience beyond formally established planning practices and legal procedures, irrespective of national governance systems. It encourages greater engagement with the city through everyday spaces, co-creation with residents, and small-scale improvements.

Resizing Tirana: collective memory as a secondary archive

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Keywords: Memory, Neighborhood, Drawing, Belonging

Abstract

As capital of Albania, Tirana, exemplifies the country's rapid economic growth and expanding influence within the Western Balkans. Over the past fifteen years, and particularly since the early 2000s, the city has undergone an intense phase of urban transformation, representing one of the most significant spatial shifts in its contemporary history for a Capital in the Western Balkan area. This period has been characterized by large-scale redevelopment, densification, and the redesign of key public spaces, reflecting broader socio-economic and political transitions.

Focusing on selected central areas of che capital that have experienced radical physical reconfiguration, the paper examines how recent architectural interventions have altered the perception of urban fragments historically associated with strong identity values. By analyzing the visual and spatial configuration of contemporary projects alongside residents' interpretations of these changes, the study investigates how rapid urban transformation is perceived, recorded, and retained within individual and collective memory.

Grounded in theories of mental mapping and mental representation of space, the research assumes that individuals construct internal images of urban environments that can be recalled or graphically represented. Through the collection of memory-based primary sources from a diverse group of residents, the study identifies multiple, interpretations of the same urban settings. These layered recollections reveal tensions between permanence and change regarding the memory of a specific site. The paper proposes a methodological framework that combines qualitative, memory-based data collection with AI-assisted analytical and generative tools.

Artificial intelligence is employed to process narratives in relation to official urban archives. By integrating these complementary sources of knowledge, the research aims to construct a richer and more inclusive narrative of Tirana's future urban transformation—one that brings together large-scale architectural development with social dimensions such as memory, identity, and sense of belonging.

This methodology was developed within the shortlisted proposal develope by POLIS University (Albania) and Clemson University (USA) for the Albanian Pavilion at the 2024 Architecture Biennale.

Social Resilience through regenerative Design and Planning: Lessons from Kuzguncuk Bostanı, a community–led urban Garden in Istanbul

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Abstract

This study explores the relationship between regenerative design and planning approaches and social resilience at the neighbourhood level. In this research, social resilience refers to the ability of communities to cope with and adapt to change, uncertainty, and everyday pressures, and to create transformation when necessary (Adger, 2000; Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2013). In this sense, social resilience is understood not merely as an outcome but as a dynamic process that continues within social life. To understand how this process is established, the regenerative design and planning approach is adopted as the theoretical framework of the study. The regenerative approach considers urban space as a relational system in which social, cultural, and ecological components are addressed together (Lyle, 1994; du Plessis, 2012). Focusing on the social dimension of this approach, the study discusses the community-based, citizen-led forms of organisation through which social resilience is produced.

The study area is Kuzguncuk Bostanı, one of the few urban open spaces in Istanbul that has been maintained as a public common due to a collective, citizen-led struggle against development pressure. The research employed a qualitative case study approach based on document analysis. Academic literature, archival materials, and written and visual documents related to Kuzguncuk Bostanı were examined. The social principles of the regenerative design and planning approach were used as the analytical framework.

According to this framework, the results show that Kuzguncuk Bostanı is an authentic case study where the social principles of regenerative planning are put to the test. In addition to building social resilience, citizens have placed pressure on planning and governance processes through citizen-led organizations and regular collective action. The study reveals how commons-based civic practices shape social resilience through citizen participation by activating regenerative principles from the bottom up.

The Potential of Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) for Youth Social Life in Dutch Cities

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Abstract

Young people increasingly struggle to access ordinary places to be together in cities, as outdoor sociability is shaped by securitisation, behavioural regulation, and the contraction of youth-tolerant public settings. In this context, Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) as policy-mandated public amenities within private developments are a growing component of neighbourhood social infrastructure, yet their design and governance often make youth presence conditional. This paper examines how POPS in Dutch cities enable or constrain youth sociability by modelling the interaction modes that these built environments practically afford. We draw on comparative fieldwork across multiple inner-city POPS, combining behavioural mapping and timed scan observations, brief on-site questionnaires, and a structured site evaluation of micro-spatial and governance features. Observations record the spatial distribution of the six-mode interaction framework, withdrawal, co-presence, co-attention, co-exchange, co-action, and small-scale assembly and the transitions between them over time. We test how particular design-governance configurations expand or compress youths' interaction modes, how long modes can be sustained, and whether situations can be impacted by design and management features.

Findings reveal how combinations of seating flexibility, sightline configuration, and management protocols either facilitate transitions from brief co-presence to sustained collaborative interaction or compress youth interactions into fleeting co-attention before dispersal. We explore how smartphone-mediated attention adds complexity—stabilising physical co-presence while fragmenting shared attention, making interaction transitions more fragile even where spatial design appears supportive. We argue that assessing POPS as neighbourhood resilience infrastructure requires moving beyond nominal publicness toward measurable capacities for diverse interaction modes: sustained active encounters, tolerated gathering, and upward shifts under everyday management conditions. We conclude with actionable recommendations for spatial design and management practices that expand the social possibilities. Our findings demonstrate that POPS can actively support neighbourhood resilience when design and governance align to sustain diverse interaction modes.

Track 1.2

Caring Cities: Designing for Youth, Community, and Climate Resilience

Negotiating the Spatial Public–Private Boundary in the City: Designing for Social Resilience in a Design Studio Framework

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Abstract

This paper explores the negotiation of the spatial public-private boundary in the city, shifting the discourse from fixed dichotomies to dynamic, socio-spatial relations, from the point of view of second year architecture studio student projects. The foundational premise, borrowed from student commentary, posits that "the private isn't so private and the public isn't so public". Drawing on cultural geography and rhetorical theory, the studio utilizes William Burns' concept of *public-and-private*, designating spaces, identities, and discourses where these notions are inextricably linked. In the studio, the pedagogical structure involves examining *urban liminal architecture* features such as entry lobbies, storefronts, courtyards, balconies, porches, windows, doors, etc., that are positioned as transitional zones between construct and street. These interfaces are analyzed using the typology developed by Kim Dovey and Stephen Wood, which categorizes transitions (e.g., direct/transparent, pedestrian/setback, impermeable/blank) based on criteria like access, transparency, and setback distance. Students deploy Gordon Cullen's *townscape-and-streetscapes*, a qualitative research methodology involving observation, mapping, and sensory experiences, to analyze how these material conditions influence everyday spatial and social behaviors. Outside the studio the investigation increasingly moves beyond the drafting table by adopting the Urban Living Lab (ULL) framework with the local communities in which the student proposals occur, so as to transform the city itself into a situated environment for real-world experimentation. Central to this shift is the use of participatory workshops where students and researchers act as "provocative agents" employing co-design methods with members of the community to bridge the gap between academic theory and proposals that delve on and strengthen community resilience. By integrating stakeholder engagement into the design process, these studios evolve into dialogical spaces that not only test architectural prototypes but also empower citizens to co-produce urban knowledge and sustainable solutions for their own living environments. By challenging traditional disciplinary boundaries and focusing on lived, contextual experiences, the studio positions design as an ethical practice capable of proposing alternative bordering strategies, thereby equipping future practitioners to address aspects of planning for social resilience that are embedded in the urban landscape.

Designing resilient urban Spaces for Individuals with ADHD

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Abstract

Urban spaces, as key subsystems within urban planning frameworks, play a decisive role in fostering social resilience, shaping patterns of participation, and enhancing the quality of citizen interactions. The built environment is not merely a physical setting; rather, it actively influences behavior, attention, mental health, and the capacity of diverse social groups to engage in collective urban life. In this context, planning resilient urban spaces is essential for creating inclusive and responsive environments that address the needs of diverse populations, including individuals with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). As a prominent manifestation of neurodiversity, ADHD is highly sensitive to the opportunities and constraints of urban public spaces, where overstimulating and chaotic environments can significantly hinder social participation. With the accelerating pace of urbanization, both the prevalence and severity of ADHD symptoms are increasingly shaped by urban stressors, environmental exposures, and the quality of built-environment design.

Adopting an interdisciplinary approach within urban planning and design, this study examines the role of ADHD-sensitive public space design in strengthening social resilience. The findings indicate that improving environmental quality—through the expansion of green spaces and sensory-responsive design—alongside participatory planning processes and the integration of smart technologies, plays a pivotal role in promoting social inclusivity and resilience. Urban design interventions such as controlling noise pollution, reducing unnecessary environmental stimuli, employing sound-absorbing materials, and enhancing spatial predictability can increase the social system's capacity to accommodate diversity, mitigate conflicts, and support sustained civic participation.

Designing inclusive public spaces for individuals with ADHD requires the integration of complementary strategies, including ensuring acoustic comfort through quiet urban zones, promoting visual simplicity and order via controlled design and lighting, enhancing spatial legibility through effective wayfinding systems, achieving sensory coherence by managing material textures and color palettes, and incorporating assistive technologies and interactive mapping tools. Implemented through interdisciplinary collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive urban design practices, these strategies enable planners and designers to create resilient environments that improve mental well-being and active participation, while enhancing overall urban quality of life for all citizens, including individuals on the autism spectrum and those with sensory sensitivities.

Governing Schoolyards as Neighbourhood Cooling Spaces: Enclosure, Care, and Institutional Conditions in Hot Urban Contexts

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Abstract

Urban schoolyards should be discussed as potential neighbourhood-scale cooling spaces in response to rising urban temperatures. Despite this potential, many schoolyards remain enclosed, highly mineralised, and inaccessible beyond school hours. This paper examines the governance conditions that shape schoolyard enclosure and the limited presence of green infrastructure, focusing on how responsibility, risk, and care are defined and distributed across institutional and local actors. The research is situated in the Cypriot urban context, where heat stress intensifies the need for locally grounded climate adaptation strategies.

The study adopts a qualitative research design based on semi-structured interviews with stakeholders involved in the planning, management, and everyday use of schoolyards. These include school management, municipal and ministerial officials, teachers, parents' associations, maintenance actors, and neighbourhood stakeholders. The interview framework is organised around five core themes: governance and responsibility, rationales for enclosure, barriers to greening, perceptions of use and care, and openness to co-management arrangements. This design enables a comparative examination of how schoolyards are governed across different institutional levels and everyday practices.

Methodologically, the paper contributes a governance-sensitive interview approach for investigating schoolyards as socio-institutional spaces rather than solely as physical or design objects. Analytically, it is informed by scholarship on care, commons, and urban climate adaptation, treating care as a practice that must be cultivated through governance arrangements and everyday management. By foregrounding decision-making processes and maintenance capacities, the paper aims to provide a framework for understanding the conditions under which schoolyards could be reimagined as collectively managed cooling resources at the neighbourhood scale.

Community development in urban residential Neighbourhoods and the Impact of urban Design on mental Health and well–being

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Keywords: Communities, Residential Neighbourhoods, Urban Design, Mental Health, Well–Being

Abstract

The majority of the world's population lives in cities, where residential neighbourhoods represent the essence of city life and an integral part of everyday living. Housing is an architectural and urban sphere embedded in social structures and, due to its significance, the urban design of these neighbourhoods greatly influences residents, as well as the communities formed within them. Studies indicate that both the social and physical environments of neighbourhoods impact the mental health of residents, while interdisciplinary research also highlights a direct link between the spatial characteristics of neighbourhoods and the potential for quality social encounters. Specific spatial aspects of city neighbourhoods such as physical safety, accessibility, walkability and green spaces have been shown to influence social engagement, as well as both physical and mental health of residents. Relying on assorted interdisciplinary research, this paper explores the vital relation between the urban design of neighbourhood environments and mental health, through both social and spatial aspects. This paper includes a case study of a city neighbourhood characterised by multifaceted urban design from Novi Sad, Serbia. Implementing criteria derived from the theoretical framework, a morphological and functional analysis is conducted in order to examine specific spatial factors identified in the literature as influential for both the social interaction within communities and residents' mental health. The findings highlight the numerous benefits of high-quality urban design of residential neighbourhoods and its role in facilitating community life and enhancing mental well-being.

Track 1.3

Urban Transformation and Resilience in Times of Crisis

Reinforcing pandemic resilience – A spatiotemporal analysis & urban development proposal for Kochi, India: Benchmarking Against Viral Spread Factors in London and New York.

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Abstract

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on humanity has been profound, catalysing the adoption of modern planning systems. Exploring the factors contributing to the virus's spread and studying how specific cities reacted to the crisis offers a valuable lens for assessing urban shortcomings and potential areas for intervention. The multifaceted influence of the COVID-19 pandemic hinges on three key elements: quarantine measures, population density, and the importance of maintaining social distance. With the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs projecting a surge in urban populations by 2050, pandemic response is poised to become increasingly challenging.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, the imperative arises to forge urban strategies resilient to future pandemics, necessitating a reframing of unsustainable urban trends and addressing socioeconomic disparities. It is important to analyse the role of various spatiotemporal intricacies that influenced the viral spread in some specific countries over others. This study centres on fortifying pandemic resilience through a spatiotemporal analysis of Kochi, a city in Kerala, India. Kochi has earned global recognition for its "model" development approach, expediting the mitigation of endemic issues like poverty while propelling advances in social and human development.

The research sets the foundation for urban strategies resilient to pandemics, focusing on the assessment and analysis of various components encompassing socio-economic dynamics, the physical infrastructure, environmental factors, transportation networks, healthcare facilities, and governance structures. This exploration involves a comparative study involving megacities such as London and New York, juxtaposed against the context of Kochi. Potential avenues for enhancing pandemic resilience have emerged, including the development of green public spaces, the establishment of comprehensive transportation grids, and the implementation of mixed-use zoning strategies. These strategies have demonstrated effectiveness in bolstering the city's ability to respond to pandemics. Notably, one standout aspect specific to Kochi is the integration of community engagement within disaster management, a practice that has proven to be a potent tool in reinforcing pandemic resilience. Through this exploration, the objective is to establish a foundation for urban development that stands resilient in the face of pandemics yet to come.

The Role of Architectural Heritage in Community Resilience Building Post-Conflict: Velika Hoča Case Study

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Abstract

The role of architectural heritage in fostering social resilience post-conflict is an active theoretical topic, but it is insufficiently explored in practice. To bridge the identified research-practice gap, this study focuses on a specific case example: the Velika Hoča settlement, a heritage-rich environment whose survival was severely challenged in 1999, not only due to a major social conflict, but also because of a modern – yet, as it turned out, unsustainable – way of life in the decades preceding the crisis. In the post-conflict resilience-building process, the Hoča community underwent a significant and comprehensive, yet not systematically guided, transformation. Within the multitude of fragmented spatial, economic and social interventions which, it is hypothesized, helped build local resilience, this study investigates precisely to what extent did heritage reactivation contribute to Hoča's community resilience building, and through what specific mechanisms was this achieved?

The research is framed through the theoretical lens of the place-making concept, which conceptualizes architectural interventions as a process of re-creating the meaning and significance of a place. The methodological approach encompassed the formulation of a theoretical framework on resilience building in post-conflict environments, Hoča's historical and developmental analyses, and intensive field work with spatial mapping, observation of social practices through conversations with Hočans, and formal interviews with relevant stakeholders.

Findings indicate that, during a time of profound crisis, the revival of historical structures that typologically reflect the core of the local community (namely, vernacular houses, traditional wine cellars and religious structures) transcended mere physical intervention. Hoča's heritage reactivation meant providing more community spaces, thereby reinforcing collective cultural identity, memory and social cohesion. Moreover, Hoča's heritage structures acquired a potent symbolic value which subsequently resulted in new visual narratives – from media representations to artistic expressions – that instrumentalized the cultural heritage to mobilize external support and further strengthen internal cohesion. The identified approach aligns with the theory of visual culture, which analyzes the use of symbols in the "political struggle" for community visibility and survival. Symbolization and semiosis significantly contributed to the community's economic empowerment, as the revived heritage assets were utilized for tourism and promotion. Therefore, this study demonstrates how merging material interventions with symbolic representation can successfully transform a crisis environment into an active "text of culture", empowering Hočans to construct mechanisms for long-term resilience by actively redefining their own narrative.

The effect of urban and architectural transformation in the environment of the city. Case study: Pristina

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Keywords: Urban Transformation, Illegal Buildings, Environment

Abstract

The urban and architectural transformation in the city of Pristina took place in the period between 2000 and 2025. The city was built rapidly; such a transformation caused new neighborhoods to be built from zero. Most of the buildings were individual houses and collective houses.

The main problem of new constructions was illegal buildings, and that happened because of a lack of urban plans, lack of laws and standards, etc. So many illegal buildings have caused huge degradation of the city environment, public spaces, and finances, leading to unsafe constructions, strained infrastructure, lost tax revenue, and social instability.

The objective is that by recognizing the problems of illegal buildings, help the institutions further, finding new strategies to improve urban policies. Let this research raise the awareness of citizens that every square meter should be built through the law and plans.

Methods that are used in this research are analytics, mapping, diagrams of sketching, interviewing with citizens, mapping networks, etc.;

Results: Through analytics data (Geoportal), we found that almost 2/3 of the space of the city of Pristina is built illegally, which makes clear the degradation of the city that was done for 25 years by illegal buildings. Another side through the interview with citizens that saw this transformation for 25 years expresses their concern for the situation.

Conclusion: In this research, it was found that architecture and urban development were happening in Pristina without urban plans, which caused the city damage. Lack of law was because the country of Kosovo was liberated in 1999, and it took several years to begin drafting new legislation. On the other side, for the period 2000–2015, the lack of a professional employer in the Municipality of Pristina made it so urban plans were drafted after the chaos in the urban field began.

Looking at the Value of Resilient Urban Form in Responding to a Pandemic: Analysing the Urban Form and Elements of Cities of Metropolitan, Manila, Philippines

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Keywords: Resilient City, Healthy City, Resilient Urban Elements, New Urbanism

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruption of world economies that severely impacted populations around the world. With the lessons brought by the COVID-19 pandemic experience, this study investigates the potential relation of urban form and elements of cities with the aim of establishing the value of resilient urban form in responding and preventing pandemics. Observing twenty-four (24) barangays located in thirteen (13) cities in Metro Manila, Philippines as case study sites, this study focuses on six (6) key urban form elements such as (1) population density, (2) degree of compactness, (3) centrality/ uniformity/ monocentricity/ polycentricity, (4) land use mix; ratio of open and green space, (5) centrality and spinality of street network segments, and (6) access to amenities/open spaces. Through mapping and secondary data collection, a data triangulation matrix and an Urban Form Analysis Framework (adapted from Sharifi and Yamagata) aims to find evidence supporting the New Urbanism concept to be relevant and helpful in promoting healthy living communities in cities.

This study relates the importance of diversity of community and social groups, proper street and pedestrian configurations, and provision of reliable public transportation, as primary components of resilient and adaptive urban form of cities. In addition, various relevant urban form elements find relation and contribution to overall resilience of communities and cities. With the aim to improve community and urban built environment resilience in many cities around the world, insights of this study suggest recommendations for built environment professionals in designing future cities to be resilient, healthy, and diverse. Furthermore, this study proposes several pathways to strengthen community resilience of the urban built environment, and to enable architects and urban planners to have a proactive role and contribution in sustainable and resilient urban development.

Track II

Participatory Pathways to Urban Resilience: Ecology, Heritage, and Collective Agency

Track II.1

Ecologies of Resilience: Community, Participation, and Place-Making

From Village to Neighbourhood: Transport Accessibility and the Resilience of Rural Neighbourhoods in Bursa

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Abstract

Transport systems play a central role in shaping neighbourhood-scale resilience, particularly in rural areas where access to essential services depends on the continuity and quality of the public transportation network. However, even when rural neighbourhoods are physically connected to the transportation network, they often remain disadvantaged due to limited or irregular public transport services. This directly affects social resilience by reducing access to education, healthcare, and social participation, contributing to social exclusion and accelerating population loss in rural neighbourhoods.

In Türkiye, the 2012 Metropolitan Law (No. 6360) reclassified rural villages as neighbourhoods to centralise transportation planning within metropolitan municipalities. This study investigates how transportation-related accessibility shapes rural resilience in the legally defined neighbourhoods of Bursa that retain rural characteristics after the Law. Bursa was chosen as the case study as it is a major metropolitan city where about 700 of its 1,061 neighbourhoods still retain rural characteristics. This combination of urban governance and extensive rural settlement offers a strong basis for examining how transport-related accessibility influences rural resilience. The analysis integrates both infrastructure-based and service-based measures of accessibility. Infrastructure-based accessibility is assessed through network-based measurements of distances and estimated travel times to key service centres, including education and health facilities, while service-based accessibility evaluates the availability, regularity, and spatial coverage of public transportation services in relation to population distribution. These measurements are supported by spatial analyses conducted in ArcGIS, including network-based routing, service area generation, and the mapping of public transport coverage.

Preliminary observations indicate that rural neighbourhoods remain functionally and socially disadvantaged not only where the transportation connectivity is limited, but also where public transport services are irregular, limited in coverage, or absent. These conditions restrict access to essential social infrastructures, particularly schools and health centres, which play a critical role in sustaining rural populations. These disadvantages have been further reinforced by the governance restructuring introduced by the 2012 Metropolitan Law (No. 6360). The findings underline that physical infrastructure alone does not ensure functional or social accessibility, and that sustained access to education and healthcare is essential for preventing population decline and strengthening social resilience in rural areas.

The paper contributes to the main theme of the conference by discussing how transportation-related accessibility and the continuity of public transportation services shape the resilience of rural neighbourhoods under changing regulations.

Engage to Endure? Civil society Inclusion in German Urban Resilience projects – a comparative study.

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Abstract

This study offers an empirical overview of governance and participation practices in German urban resilience projects. Drawing on 36 completed pilot projects implemented over the past 15 years, we take a comparative stance (i.e. degree of involvement) to map out patterns of civil society involvement across resilience areas and to assess how different inclusion modes relate to the long-term anchoring of resilience in urban practices.

Relevant pilot projects were systematically identified in national and European project databases and websites (July/August 2025). All 36 projects were analysed along 16 analytical dimensions (e.g. addressed hazards, sectors involved in resilience planning, stakeholder involvement etc.). The dataset combines structured categorical coding with qualitative content analysis of free-text entries.

Comparing the 11 projects, that included civil society in their decision making with the 14 projects that consulted civil society and the 11 projects that informed civil society, we come to diverse results. Projects that engaged civil society via co-design displayed broader thematic and sectoral scopes. They were more likely to adopt multi-hazard approaches and to address a wider variety of hazard types than projects that consulted or informed civil society. Similarly, higher degrees of civil society inclusion coincided with a greater number and diversity of sectors involved in resilience planning. In contrast, no substantial differences were found across the participation modes regarding the long-term continuation or upscaling of resilience measures. Tools and knowledge products were frequently reused, networks often sustained, and project outcomes commonly integrated into local planning or policy frameworks, regardless of the inclusion depth of civil society.

The results suggest that ensuring the long-term sustainability of resilience measures depends on factors beyond civil society inclusion (though beneficial otherwise), such as strong institutional frameworks and sufficient resources.

Negotiating Ecology and Urban Growth: An Ecological Urbanism Approach to Social Resilience in Fatorda, Margao

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Abstract

Rapid urbanization in Indian coastal towns intensifies the challenge of building socially resilient neighborhoods while balancing social equity, ecological integrity, and economic viability. Drawing on Ecological Urbanism, this paper argues for a shift from development-led planning to ecology-led development, where natural systems, landforms, and socio-cultural practices define urban growth. Social resilience is framed as an outcome of sustained relationships between ecological processes, spatial form, and community life, beyond mere infrastructure provision.

The study focuses on Margao, Goa, a fast-growing urban center with deep historical roots. It examines Fatorda, a major wetland region undergoing rapid transformation due to development pressures, infrastructure expansion, and encroachments. These processes have disrupted ecological continuity, altered landforms, and affected traditional residents—such as farmers, livestock owners, and fishermen—and their urban commons, making Fatorda a critical site for examining ecological-urban conflicts at the neighborhood scale.

Using a mixed-method approach, the research integrates policy analysis of Margao's ODP 2028, spatial mapping, and qualitative inquiry. GIS-based mapping and on-site documentation generate layered ecological, social, and infrastructure maps. Spoken histories of local residents and interviews with traditional communities and users of urban commons function as a mapping technique to foreground lived knowledge, memory, and everyday ecological practices often absent from statutory planning.

Synthesizing spatial and narrative data, the paper proposes watershed-scale mitigation measures for Fatorda that transcend political boundaries. The proposed measures are a combination of urban design solutions and policy-level strategies for ecologically responsive neighborhoods. The aim is to protect urban commons while strengthening the nature-culture relationship, remediate blue-green networks, and create economic opportunities, thereby guiding socially resilient ecological urbanism.

Cultivating Coexistence: How Community Gardening as a Civil Society Initiative Shapes Bird-Friendly Neighborhoods and Social Resilience

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Abstract

Community gardens – as civil society initiatives – represent informal neighborhood planning efforts that strengthen social resilience and inclusion at neighborhoods, According to UPRUN research, which examined 32 case studies across Europe. Although these findings emphasize the social value of community gardens, they can also be viewed through a new lens that examines whether such initiatives influence or support non-humans as part of urban communities and inhabitants of neighborhoods. Although conducting interviews with civil society actors is feasible for understanding community gardens, it is not possible to "interview" non-humans such as birds in order to understand their sense of comfort and degree of inclusion within these spaces. Consequently, non-humans remain marginalized voices, excluded from participatory discussions and decision-making processes that shape urban environments.

Urban planning and design currently lack adequate tools to engage with non-humans as part of community systems when assessing community gardens. How can community gardens, as informal neighborhood planning efforts, support non-human life in facing urban risks? Is urgency regarding risk limited only to humans – or does it extend beyond? From this perspective, planners and designers require multidisciplinary collaboration that integrates biological insights into urban practice. Such integration reframes community gardens not only as spaces of social interaction but also as socio-ecological infrastructures where biodiversity support and social resilience co-emerge.

By integrating biological perspectives with urban planning and design approaches, this research focuses on birds and argues that they can be positioned as bioindicators, linking ecological quality to social resilience outcomes. A structured review of biological literature on urban stressors – such as habitat fragmentation, noise pollution, artificial light at night, and food quality – identifies key conditions shaping bird presence, diversity, and stress responses in cities. These findings highlight how ecological well-being is intertwined with human social resilience through shared environments like community gardens.

This integrated approach demonstrates how community gardens could function as socio-ecological infrastructures where biodiversity support and social resilience co-emerge. The framework suggests that biology and urban design together can inform policy tools enabling governments to support civil society initiatives through non-financial incentives—such as habitat structures, artificial nesting sites, floating islands, dietary support systems, birdwatching towers, observation infrastructure, and LQC Guidlines – creating biologically grounded pathways for designing bird-friendly neighborhoods that nurture resilient communities.

Track II.2

Co–Producing Heritage and Resilience: Community Voices in Urban Transformation

Building Resilient Neighbourhoods: Community Perceptions, Heritage Values, and Participatory Gaps in Lithuania

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Keywords: Community Resilience, Cultural Heritage, Participatory Governance, Civic Engagement, Policy Integration

Abstract

This research examines how community resilience in urban neighbourhoods emerges from the interaction of adaptive urban policies, participatory governance, and heritage-based identity formation. Despite increasing policy attention to urban resilience, gaps remain between institutional ambitions and lived community experiences at the neighbourhood scale. Addressing this issue, the study focuses on residents' perceptions of cultural heritage, inclusivity, participatory opportunities, and neighbourhood resilience.

The aim of this study is to assess the relationship between heritage values and participatory practices, perceived resilience, and to identify barriers that limit effective civic engagement. The research is based on a questionnaire survey conducted in Lithuania between June and September 2024. The survey involved 90 adult respondents, primarily residents of urban neighbourhoods, and explored perceptions of local identity, opportunities for participation in neighbourhood planning, and the role of different actors in resilience-building processes.

The findings reveal a persistent gap between policy frameworks and everyday community experience. While respondents strongly recognise cultural heritage as integral to local identity (67% rating it important or very important), opportunities to engage in planning remain limited: 44% evaluate participation possibilities as poor or very poor, and only 16.7% report active involvement in neighbourhood planning. Assessments of neighbourhood resilience are predominantly neutral, indicating uncertainty about local adaptive capacity and limited visibility of resilience-building processes at the community level. Heritage elements such as parks, wooden architecture, and symbolic landmarks emerge as key anchors of belonging, yet the translation of these values into participatory or governance mechanisms remains weak. The municipality is perceived as the dominant actor in neighbourhood development, while civil society's potential contribution is acknowledged but underutilised.

The study contributes conceptual and empirical insights by demonstrating that neighbourhood resilience depends on aligning institutional responsiveness with community identity and everyday civic agency. It argues that heritage-based place attachments can serve as entry points for participatory governance and bottom-up resilience initiatives, provided they are supported by transparent, inclusive, and adaptive policy mechanisms. Future research should extend this work through comparative and longitudinal studies, deeper qualitative engagement, and exploration of digital participation tools, with particular attention to disadvantaged groups.

Social Media, Local Initiatives and the Empowerment of Marginalized Voices: The MHFL–TMU Experience in Preserving Iran's Industrial Heritage at the Rey Cement Factory

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Abstract

This study examines the successful experience of preventing the destruction and initiating the regeneration of the Rey Cement Factory, one of the most important examples of Iranian industrial heritage. The research question is how phygital urbanism (linking physical and digital layers), can enable equitable participation, social resilience, and sustainable decision-making in the industrial heritage restoration.

In this project, MHFL−TMU as an intermediary network, after assessing the values of the site, organized: (1) physical actions, such as site surveys, (2) digital actions, including media campaigns, content production, and dissemination on social media platforms, and (3) documenting historical narratives and holding phygital workshops and lectures to stimulate collective and intergenerational memory regarding heritage identity. The actions also considered mobilizing civic participation, empowering marginalized voices, and guiding local initiatives.

The process and dissemination of findings, along with coordination between executive bodies and local institutions, resulted in a halt to demolition, the eviction of illegal occupants, and the national registration of the site. The regeneration process then continued with a management plan for restoration to transform the site into an industrial museum and cultural centre. In the meantime, collective memory and historical narratives were key factors in attracting institutional attention and changing decisions. Moreover, phygital interventions reduced participatory inequalities.

This experience highlights the role of intergenerational memory in civic mobilization and policy change. Therefore, existing phygital models focused on "physical + digital" are not fully adequate for heritage sites. By adding a "memorial layer" including collective memory, social identity, and intergenerational narratives, this paper suggests a "tri-layer phygital empirical system". Finally, it provides practical and replicable lessons on integrating top-down and bottom-up processes, applying the model, and engaging the academic−civic interface in industrial heritage conservation.

From Neglected Heritage to Civic Commons: Co-Producing Resilience in a Historic Urban Neighborhood

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Abstract

This case study analyzes the award-winning revitalization of a historic cemetery axis in Isfahan, Iran, examining how participatory planning can transform a sensitive, underused heritage site into a vibrant public space. It investigates the shift toward collaborative management, the role of cultural heritage in motivating community action, and the factors enabling socially focused urban development.

The project employed a participatory methodology, moving from spatial diagnostics to facilitated co-creation workshops with residents and cultural associations. Using tools like participatory mapping, these sessions defined a shared vision, which was synthesized into a design framework focusing on flexible green spaces and infrastructure to host community-proposed activities like cultural markets and festivals.

The process successfully transitioned planning from a top-down to a facilitator model. Key enabling factors were the site's strong place identity and tangible co-design tools, while the central challenge was balancing new social vitality with the site's solemn character. The outcome was a design that enhances connectivity and amenities, reframing the historic site as a living civic asset to foster collective ownership and social infrastructure.

The case concludes that neighborhood resilience is advanced when professionals act as facilitators, leveraging cultural assets and participatory methods to enable civil society as co-producers. This provides a concrete model for planning education, demonstrating how to build resilience by translating civic vision into inclusive spatial frameworks.

Cultural Heritage and Neighbourhood Social Resilience in Urban Settings

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Keywords: Urban Neighbourhood, New Belgrade, Komšiluk, Cultural Heritage, Social Resilience

Abstract

The paper highlights the role of cultural heritage as a formative component of local identity in fostering civic engagement within studies of urban social resilience. I regard komšiluk as one of the key cultural phenomena shaping neighbourly relations. Komšiluk is a deeply culturally rooted relational term distinguished by its unique blending of neighbourly relations with the intimacy typically associated with family and friendship ties, marked by emotional involvement and a spectrum of interactions (Sorabji 2008, Lofranco 2007, Lubańska 2015). In my view, certain NSR dimensions, including community support, cohesion, and social networks (Larimian, Sadeghi, Palaiologou & Schmidt 2020), correspond to the cultural practice of komšiluk.

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and participant observation undertaken in selected New Belgrade blocks, Serbia, in 2024. I conducted 16 in-depth interviews with adult residents, including 7 men and 9 women aged 19 to 90, most of them with higher education and permanent residence in a given location. My participation involved experiencing everyday life in the roles of a neighbour, acquaintance, and tenant, as well as participation in local events.

The outcomes of my research revealed that, in contemporary neighbourhood narratives, komšiluk remains an important reference point, understood as an unwritten set of practices among neighbours related to subjectively perceived space of living. The identification with a komšiluk is shaped by both face-to-face interactions and the notion of a local imagined community, encompassing a broad spectrum of references that range from concrete personal experiences to abstract conceptualizations of community.

This paper argues that cultural practices shaping local identity should be considered in urban planning and local governance debates on social resilience, alongside economic and institutional factors. The long-standing reliance on protest as the primary strategy for effecting change reflects the inefficiency of institutional channels and the importance of neighbourhood engagement. Local residents should be included in the decision-making process on their living environment through consultations at every stage of project implementation and by being granted genuine agency, rather than deferring authority to political decision-makers from outside the neighbourhood.

Track II.3

Co–Producing Urban Resilience: Collaborative Practices and Community Adaptation

Transformative Change through Co-production: A Case Study of Holzmarkt Berlin in Creating Social Resilience and Sustainable Cultural Spaces

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Keywords: Co-production, Holzmarkt Berlin, Civic Engagement, Social Resilience, Urban Neighbourhood

Abstract

This article explores the Holzmarkt Berlin project as a prime example of urban development driven by co-production and civic engagement, demonstrating a transformative shift from traditional planning models. The objective is to analyze how alternative financial and organizational structures successfully fostered social resilience and long-term sustainability for cultural spaces. The research utilizes a qualitative case study approach, drawing on existing documentation and conceptual analysis to highlight the organizational and financial structures that enabled this transformative process. By utilizing a case-study approach, the research highlights the critical role of the Genossenschaftsverbund (cooperative union) and the Erbbaurecht (hereditary building right) in safeguarding the site from neoliberal market speculation. Findings show that this co-productive model effectively empowered civil society to become an active producer, rather than a mere consumer, of urban space, preserving the location's cultural identity and creating a diverse, inclusive environment. The study concludes that for genuine transformative change and robust social resilience in urban neighbourhoods, municipal authorities must move beyond simple consultation to become facilitators of community-led organizational structures that ensure financial and social equity over extended periods.

Measuring What Matters: Community Perceptions of Neighbourhood Resilience and Civic Engagement in Rapidly Urbanising Tirana

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Abstract

Over the past three decades, urban resilience has emerged as a key concept in planning and policy, yet its meaning at the neighbourhood level, particularly from the perspective of local communities, remains insufficiently explored. This paper presents a systematic literature review that examines how neighbourhood resilience and civic engagement are conceptualised, perceived, and evaluated within academic and policy-oriented research. The study is guided by the following research question: how do urban communities understand and perceive neighbourhood resilience and civic engagement, and how have these concepts been operationalised and assessed in rapidly urbanising contexts such as Tirana? The review focuses on identifying how community perceptions, social capital, participation, and local agency are integrated into resilience assessment frameworks, alongside more traditional spatial, environmental, and institutional indicators. Using a structured review methodology, the paper analyses how existing studies address questions of scale, governance, and citizen involvement, revealing a persistent gap between technocratic resilience metrics and the lived experiences of neighbourhood communities.

Building on these insights, the paper reflects on how neighbourhood resilience and civic engagement have been approached in the context of Tirana, a city that has undergone rapid and often uneven urbanisation since the early 1990s. The analysis highlights how accelerated spatial growth, informal development, and institutional transitions have reshaped neighbourhood structures and community networks, raising critical questions about residents' awareness of their role in urban transformation processes. By situating the literature within Tirana's socio-spatial dynamics, the paper explores whether communities perceive themselves as active agents of resilience or passive recipients of top-down interventions. The study concludes by proposing a multi-scalar, community-informed framework that better captures local perceptions of resilience and civic engagement, offering methodological directions for more inclusive and context-sensitive neighbourhood resilience assessments in rapidly transforming cities.

Co-producing Resilience: Bridging Theory and Practice through collaborations between universities and local communities. Case studies from a coastal city in the Philippines

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Abstract

Small and medium-sized coastal cities in the Global South face compounded challenges, including the escalating impacts of climate extreme events, such as flooding and the prevalence of informal settlements in hazard-prone areas with limited adaptation capacity. Local municipalities often struggle with resource and capacity constraints, as well as legal restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles, when experimenting with planning interventions for resilient communities. Universities, on the other hand, offer technical expertise and ideas to support resilience building. However, bridging the gap between academic schedules and the urgent needs of the community requires innovative educational frameworks. This study analyses a collaborative applied research initiative between TU Dortmund University (Germany) and local partners in Bacolod, Philippines. It explores a teaching format centred on joint planning workshops that bring together German and Filipino students, local academic staff, and residents of flood-prone informal settlements.

The paper examines how experiential learning was utilized to support the communities and co-produce integrated planning interventions to enhance flood resilience of informal settlement communities in Bacolod. This approach highlights dual benefits: enabling communities a safe space for planning without being exposed to day-to-day planning bureaucracy and political influence, while offering students a rigorous learning environment to test theoretical concepts in the complex realities and lived experiences. Crucially, this approach revealed significant challenges in aligning divergent academic calendars with the community's urgent need for interventions. Even when openness from both sides is given, language barriers, cultural differences, and the management of expectations must be acknowledged and openly discussed.

This presentation will analyse the efficacy of this experiential learning model by contrasting the benefits of "safe planning spaces" against the logistical challenges. By examining these elements, the paper proposes a framework for international educational partnerships that successfully integrates student learning with community-based social resilience.

Urban adaptation and Social Resilience in Mashhad: An Empirical Assessment

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Abstract

In the contemporary epoch of rapid urbanization and complex socio-environmental challenges, cities require robust resilience frameworks that extend beyond infrastructural and economic considerations to encompass the capacity of urban communities to withstand and adapt to disruptions. This study situates resilience within the social domain to explore how community capacities shape the stability of urban districts in the Mashhad metropolis. Urban resilience is conceptualized as the ability of urban communities and their socio-ecological networks to maintain desired functions in the face of disturbances and to adapt in ways that enhance long-term capacity. Social resilience is framed as the community's ability to withstand, recover, and sustain social cohesion through adaptive networks and shared agency.

Using structured surveys and documentary analysis, based on data collected from 693 respondents determined according to Cohen's sample size formula across 13 urban districts, this research applies multivariate regression to evaluate the effect of environmental variables on social stability. The results reveal that while overall urban resilience remains moderate, economic components exert a significant influence on social stability.

The study's novelty lies in its integration of multidimensional social resilience theory with empirical, district-level analysis, offering a comprehensive framework that links theoretical constructs with policy-relevant outcomes. The findings emphasize the need for holistic and participatory planning strategies that enhance adaptive capacities and foster socially cohesive, resilient urban environments.

Track III

Governing Urban Resilience:

Institutions, Communities, and Spatial Transformation

Track III.1

Negotiating Resilience:
Institutions, Identities, and
Urban Space

Modernism's dual role: Comparing the spatial Ideologies in workers' housing in early Republican Turkey and Weimar Germany

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Abstract

In the wake of World War I, two new states, the Republic of Turkey (1923) and the Weimar Republic (1919–1933), immediately turned to modernism as a key instrument for shaping their new national identities. Grappling with major political and economic upheaval, both emerging regimes actively used architecture as a powerful tool for social change. This paper sets up a direct comparison to explore how modernism was bent and reshaped within these two vastly different ideological settings. Reseach focuses on two major worker housing projects: Berlin's Siemensstadt Project, which championed social reform and democratization in Weimar Germany, and the Zonguldak Kozlu Workers' Housing which supported the central government's goal of establishing a secular, ordered society in Turkey.

Main question is: even though both nations shared modernism's visual vocabulary, where did their architectural visions part ways in serving fundamentally different state agendas? Siemensstadt offered a collective solution to Germany's severe housing crisis. Zonguldak Kozlu reveals how Seyfi Arkan channeled his German training into the Early Republic's drive for centralized control, effectively designing a 'model worker' home.

Ultimately, this study argues that modernism was much more than just a style; it was a flexible framework that allowed both international architectural trends and deeply local political ideologies to take concrete form in distinct ways.

Investigating Civic Engagement in the Participatory Redevelopment of Tehran's Takhti Neighborhood: Reproducing Social Resilience and New Vulnerabilities

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Abstract

This paper investigates the impact of the Municipality of Tehran's pilot "owner-participation" approach on social resilience within the low-income Takhti neighborhood, examining the experience through the lens of civic engagement. Using a qualitative, case-study methodology, and analyzing data from semi-structured interviews through the "Sense of Place" framework (attachment, identity, and satisfaction), the study assesses the procedural and substantive outcomes for residents. The findings reveal that the process of engagement, though limited to property owners, strengthened localized social resilience by fostering collective trust and boosting participants' functional satisfaction with improved housing quality. However, this engagement model resulted in uneven resilience by systematically excluding vulnerable groups such as tenants and low-income property holders, generating new social vulnerabilities and feelings of alienation. Furthermore, the focus on private gain over public space and the loss of traditional housing structures diminished collective attachment. The paper concludes that while owner-led engagement can deliver physical benefits, its inherent lack of social inclusivity limits its potential for genuine, transformative change and threatens long-term, equitable social resilience in urban neighbourhoods.

Institutions, Processes, and Neighbourhood Resilience: CMFORCE as an Urban Flood Governance Mechanism in Chiang Mai, Thailand

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Abstract

Urban flooding has become an increasingly critical challenge for cities under climate change, particularly in rapidly urbanising contexts of the Global South. Beyond technical flood control measures, contemporary debates on urban resilience emphasise the role of institutions, governance processes, and collaborative arrangements in shaping cities' capacities to cope with and recover from flood events. In response to recurrent flooding, the City of Chiang Mai, Thailand, established CMFORCE as a dedicated emergency governance mechanism to coordinate flood management and community assistance at both city and neighbourhood levels.

Despite growing interest in resilient communities and adaptive urban governance, empirical research remains limited on how emergency institutions operate across different phases of the disaster cycle and how these processes shape neighbourhood resilience over time. This paper addresses this gap by examining CMFORCE as an urban flood governance mechanism, focusing on institutional arrangements and governance processes before, during, and after flood events.

The study adopts a qualitative case study approach, drawing on document analysis, policy and protocol reviews, and semi-structured interviews with key institutional actors involved in urban flood management in Chiang Mai. The analysis is structured around three phases of the disaster cycle—pre-disaster preparedness, emergency response during flooding, and post-disaster recovery—with particular attention to institutional coordination, governance processes, and interactions between CMFORCE, flood-affected neighbourhoods, and other local government organisations.

The findings show that CMFORCE functions effectively during flood events, supported by well-prepared operational protocols and strong municipal coordination. These practices not only enhance emergency response but also contribute to community preparedness and learning processes through repeated institutional–community interactions, strengthening neighbourhood readiness for future flood events. However, significant governance challenges emerge in the post-disaster phase due to fragmented authority over critical infrastructure and constraints associated with Thailand's limited decentralisation framework. While short-term response and preparedness are strengthened, the absence of an integrated long-term flood management strategy limits the consolidation of learning processes into sustained neighbourhood resilience. The paper conceptualises emergency institutions as active governance mechanisms and highlights the importance of multi-level coordination for building resilient communities in secondary cities of the Global South.

Leisure, Gender, and Democratic Urbanism: Rethinking Women's Access to Public Space in Tirana

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Abstract

This paper argues that women's accessibility to urban public spaces cannot be adequately understood through infrastructure-based safety interventions alone. While improvements such as lighting and public facilities are commonly presented as solutions, these approaches overlook the cultural, social, and psychological factors that shape women's perceptions of safety and belonging. Treating public space as solely physical places makes government officials the primary driver of change, distancing solutions from lived social experience.

The paper analyzes women's access to public space in Tirana through the lens of the right to leisure, a dimension of urban life often constrained by gendered norms that limit women's use of public space to economic or care-based activities. This dynamic reinforces gendered inequities in urban participation and diminishes women's full citizenship in public life. The paper further advances the argument that the presence and visibility of older women inhabiting public space for leisure has a positive intergenerational effect, making these spaces more welcoming and safe for younger women.

In conceptualizing responses to these inequalities, the paper turns to Democratic Urbanism, distinguishing it from both traditional expert-led planning and participatory approaches that appear inclusive but ultimately instrumentalize community voices. Drawing on case studies, we show how these participatory methods often gather community input while keeping decision-making centralized among planners and policymakers. Democratic Urbanism instead affirms that residents are not simply contributors but experts of the urban environment, whose experiential knowledge must be embedded in each planning phase.

The paper draws upon ethnographic interviews and public-discussion based inquiry to demonstrate how social-psychological barriers to space can be more effectively understood and addressed through democratic, community-centered approaches rather than institutional top-down solutions. We will highlight the voices of women who have taken ownership of their community as leisure and others that live in those communities to see how these actions have impacted their relationship to public space. Through the lessons gained from these actions, we will develop a Democratic Urbanism toolkit to be used by practitioners and academics alike in order to center the voices of the people.

Track III.2

Governance Mechanisms for Equitable and Resilient Communities

Developing a Maintenance–Based Assessment Matrix for Vibrant and Inclusive Urban Commons: Case Studies from Cyprus

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Keywords: Neighbourhood Small Parks, Green Space Maintenance, Utility Of Commons, Quality Of Open Space

Abstract

Common spaces are understood as the shared physical and social environments that connect everyday life in urban neighbourhoods. These spaces—including small-scale green areas, streets, squares, courtyards, vacant lots, and other underutilised urban land—create an essential network of informal, common open-air life. Even though these areas are the primary venues where residents meet, exchange, and express collective identity, they are often overlooked in traditional urban planning. These commons support vital environmental and ecological functions, promote health and well-being, and foster social bonding and a sense of belonging. All these aspects are fundamentally affected by a critical, often technical attribute: the level of maintenance, which directly assures the environmental quality and utility of these places.

The paper's aim is to provide a context-customised assessment matrix for evaluating the vibrancy and inclusiveness of small-scale neighbourhood green spaces across key liveability dimensions, including safety, equity, mental/physical health, and social interaction. The methodology is structured in four steps:

Literature Review: Investigation of the nexus between common space quality, maintenance, and liveability to define the preliminary matrix, examining relevant public-civic production and governance models.

Contextual Refinement: Adjustment of the matrix based on the specific socio-political attributes and maintenance regime prevalent in the Cypriot context.

Validation: Semi-structured interviews with three municipal services responsible for maintenance tasks in Cyprus.

Application and Comparative Assessment: The refined matrix is applied to Amathounta Municipality, grading over 1,000 small neighbourhood green spaces. A random selection of ten spaces will undergo an on-site, visual re-assessment for comparative validation.

This rigorous validation process will deliver a novel, empirically-tested tool for planners and local authorities to move beyond conventional maintenance metrics and actively manage small urban commons for enhanced social equity and community vibrancy in the specific context of Mediterranean island cities.

The Political Economy of Affordable Housing Delivery for Disadvantaged Groups in Rapidly Urbanizing Cities: Evidence from Women and Low-Income Residents in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Abstract

Rapid urbanization in African cities has intensified the demand for affordable housing, disproportionately affecting disadvantaged populations, particularly women and low-income residents. In Ethiopia, the Integrated Housing Development Program (IHDP) was launched to address housing shortages and stimulate socio-economic development in Addis Ababa. Despite its achievements, persistent gaps remain in terms of accessibility, affordability, and inclusiveness, raising concerns about urban inequality and social resilience.

This research critically examines the political economy of affordable housing delivery in Addis Ababa, focusing on the interaction between governance structures, institutional arrangements, and housing finance mechanisms. It explores how these factors shape access to housing and urban opportunities for marginalized groups. Adopting a mixed-method approach, the study combines household surveys, semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, ethnographic observations, and spatial analysis to assess the outcomes of Ethiopia's housing interventions from a gendered and class-based perspective.

By situating the case of Addis Ababa within broader debates on the right to the city, informality, and participatory urban governance in the Global South, the research aims to advance understanding of how affordable housing policies can foster urban resilience, equity, and social inclusion. The findings are expected to generate policy-relevant evidence to inform more inclusive, community-driven housing strategies that enhance the transformative capacity of urban planning for social resilience.

Community Resilience and Governance: Institutions, Processes, and Neighborhood Transformation in Asia

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Keywords: Community Resilience, Participatory Governance, Neighborhood Transformation, Local Empowerment

Abstract

Social resilience has emerged as a core pillar of sustainable urban development across Asian countries, particularly over the past decade. This study investigates the role of local governance structures and participatory processes in strengthening neighborhood resilience by systematically reviewing scholarly literature published between 2015 and 2025. The methodology combines systematic review and bibliometric analysis using databases such as Scopus and Google Scholar, supported by VOS viewer software. The research focuses on key concepts including citizen participation, networked governance, local empowerment, and social capital. Findings reveal that countries with active and decentralized governance systems such as Indonesia, Vietnam, and South Korea have demonstrated greater success in implementing participatory policies and enhancing local resilience. Initiatives like participatory budgeting in Solo (Indonesia) and community-based disaster risk management in Vietnam illustrate how meaningful citizen engagement not only strengthens social cohesion but also improves the effectiveness of resilience interventions. Conversely, societies with centralized governance or symbolic participation structures often face challenges such as inefficiency and declining public trust. This study also identifies significant research gaps, including the absence of unified evaluation frameworks, limited comparative studies across regions, and insufficient focus on marginalized groups. The paper concludes by proposing a policy framework for building neighborhood resilience in Asia, emphasizing the importance of strengthening local governance, institutionalizing citizen participation, fostering community capacity, and ensuring spatial justice. This framework offers actionable guidance for urban policymakers and planners aiming to design interventions that are not only responsive to immediate crises but also capable of empowering communities in the long term.

Community Co-Governance Strategy: Planning and Design of the Chiayi Yellow Tabebuia Riverside Greenbelt Demonstration Site

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Abstract

This study focuses on the right-bank greenbelt between Junhui Bridge and Zhongyi Bridge along the Bajhang River in Chiayi City. In response to landscape fragmentation and regulatory conflicts arising from residents' spontaneous greening amid seasonal floral tourism, it proposes an "edible landscape" strategy and a community co-governance model integrating landscape aesthetics and food-agriculture education. Research methods include

       (1) mapping geological, hydrological, and ecologically sensitive areas,

       (2) reviewing river regulations and spatial use,

       (3) analyzing pedestrian and traffic flow intensity zones, and

       (4) conducting field surveys and interviews with community representatives to establish need lists and communication mechanisms.

The design strategy incorporates leasing or adoption mechanisms with educational support, aligned with seasonal farming activities to reinforce social cohesion. The outcome presents a demonstrative planning design that reorganizes the greenbelt structure, improves off-season landscape and recreation quality, and builds a collaborative management system between local authorities and the community. This model aims to serve as a participatory edible landscape example along Chiayi's river corridors, strengthening local cultural identity and resilience in public governance.

Track III.3

Governance Mechanisms for Equitable and Resilient Communities

Power Asymmetries and Collective Urban Governance: The Dynamics that shaped Amman

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Abstract

Power dynamics between society and planning bodies are core to understanding urban development, yet they remain relatively under-examined in the Global South, where the local dynamics are often deeply tangled and complex. Taking Amman as a case study, this research examines how land ownership in modern Amman had functioned as a source of power, thus having an ever-lasting impact on planning decision-making, redefining the participation mechanisms, spatial configuration.

The study employs a qualitative method to understand the core causes and their impacts within a longitudinal duration. It utilizes secondary-coding of interviews with both experts and representatives, in addition to document review, and analysis of historical maps. It argues that since 1980s, Amman's urban transformation was partially shaped by governance system in which participation existed without clear recognition of locally embedded power asymmetries, particularly those rooted in land ownership, land as an asset, and the institutional structures governing planning within this privatized arena.

Results indicate that planning frameworks struggled to distinguish between civic participation and fragmented pressures by economically driven influential actors. This was traceable in both local practices that needed policy guidance, e.g. common and frozen lands kept as financial assets, in addition to limited governmental capacities paralyzing specific proposals or approving others based on profit-seekers pressures. Furthermore, results highlight that growth partially developed through scattered, profit-oriented interventions leaving the government in constant reaction mode rather than proactive strategies in planning.

By situating this discussion within urban transformation debates, the paper highlights a critical blind-spot on how localized power asymmetries influences planning outcomes. The study advocates for adapting international frameworks into context-specific molds. This approach establishes a localized definition of participation that navigates existing hierarchies, such as land ownership. By addressing these dynamics, governance transforms participation from a mere formality into a practical tool for inclusive urban evolution,

PEARL – Places for Youth Culture – Joint creation of temporary and permanent places for young people

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Keywords: Co-Creation With Youngsters, Performance, Collaboration, Living-Laboratory

Abstract

Munich Neuperlach represents the largest German urban expansion area of the post-war era. Today, the district is faced with significant social, urban development and construction-related challenges. Although a comparatively high percentage of young people are living in Neuperlach they are marginalized and overlooked in urban design.

Together with young people from Neuperlach, we targeted their district for two years: roamed through it in search of places where youth culture happens, could or should happen. We supported young people in engaging with their own living space and created opportunities for them to actively shape it. Appropriation was aimed to become an auto-effective social, political and artistic act. Together we created places where youth culture can be lived temporarily and lastingly. Jointly we worked in formats such as film and urban stories and presented the ideas through performative interventions throughout Neuperlach. Last we transformed the forecourt of a secondary school together.

Performance as superposition of fiction and reality helped to broaden the mind, generate ideas and arise interest. Physically working together was the basis of the collaboration. We called it activist approach. Inspired by the idea of collaboration as developed by Marc Terkessidis we intended to work in a non-hierarchical way.

As researchers we experienced empowering youngsters as fragile balance. It meant to invest a lot in idea generation, motivation, generating commitment and strengthening faith and courage. The activist approach helped to connect and generate a joint creative process, but we had to make specifications in advance.

Projects worked best once they were well embedded in local processes. Documented and published our process and outcomes should be lighthouse projects for other situations, although situations differ. Challenges in Neuperlach now are to secure funding and to implement the positive experiences of the projects lasting in the official planning strategies.

Engagement Structures in Neighbourhood Public Space Interventions: A Comparative Qualitative Analysis of Civic Engagement Pathways

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Abstract

Despite extensive literature on participation, co-production, and civic engagement in urban planning, comparative research continues to lack systematic qualitative approaches, that explain why similar neighborhood-scale public space interventions generate different engagement dynamics. Existing studies often describe engagement outcomes without sufficiently explaining how specific configurations of participation, power, and co-production emerge and evolve across diverse socio-spatial and governance contexts. This paper addresses this gap by proposing a qualitative, case-study-based methodological framework for analyzing civic engagement architectures in neighborhood-scale public space interventions.

The framework relies on a comparative analysis of 33 European case studies and focuses on three dimensions: The first one addresses the entry modes into engagement (invited, claimed, hybrid); the second – the levels of power and authority (inform/consult, co-decision, community control); and the third, the intensity of co-production (none, contributory, collaborative, delegated stewardship or legally framed). These dimensions are examined at the level of engagement episodes within the case-study corpus. They span across different cross-scalar and spatially sensitive contexts, which reflect diverse neighborhood conditions, actor constellations, and institutional arrangements.

Rather than predefining engagement or activism types, the paper demonstrates how recurring patterns of hostile, contact, and constructive engagement can be identified as relational outcomes of specific configurations of entry, authority, and co-production. Social conditions such as trust, civic capacity, and institutional openness are not measured directly but are inferred through observable engagement trajectories, coalition stability, and the durability of governance arrangements documented in the case narratives.

By relying exclusively on qualitative case-study material, the paper contributes a systematic and replicable framework for cross-case comparison of civic engagement pathways within neighborhood-scale public space interventions. The findings offer empirically grounded insights into how public-civic partnerships are shaped, constrained, and transformed through different engagement architectures, without extending claims beyond the analytical scope of the available cases.

The Illusion of Participation: How "Community-Based Planning" can weaken Social Resilience in Urban Neighborhoods

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Abstract

Community-based and participatory planning is widely promoted in policy documents and planning practices as a cornerstone of resilient urban development. Participation is frequently portrayed as inherently empowering, inclusive, and conducive to enhancing social resilience. This article challenges this assumption, arguing that when participation is institutionalized, managed, or selectively designed, it can paradoxically weaken social resilience at the neighborhood level.

Drawing on critical urban theory, the study conceptualizes performative or tokenistic participation as a form of governance in which community involvement is confined to pre-determined frameworks, symbolic consultation, or limited decision-making authority. Rather than bolstering local capacities, such practices may induce participation fatigue, erode trust between residents and institutions, and disrupt informal networks of solidarity that are essential for everyday resilience. In these contexts, participation shifts from a tool of empowerment to a mechanism for social control and the depoliticization of local issues.

The study employs an analytical-conceptual approach informed by critical urban theory. It involves a systematic review of scholarly literature, policy reports, and planning frameworks, alongside a critical analysis of participatory practices. A conceptual framework is proposed to elucidate the relationships between the extent and quality of participation and key dimensions of social resilience, including collective efficacy, trust, and adaptive capacity.

The article emphasizes that social resilience emerges not merely through participation per se, but when communities exercise genuine and meaningful influence over spatial and social outcomes. By redefining participation as a power-laden and potentially contentious process, this study contributes to ongoing debates on urban resilience and neighborhood governance. It advocates for modes of engagement that genuinely redistribute power and enable autonomous community action in times of crisis.

Track IV

Educating for Resilient Communities: Teaching Methods and Experiential Learning

Architecture Festival for Children: Linking Experiential Learning, Community Engagement and Urban Resilience Education

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Abstract

As cities face increasingly complex social and environmental challenges, it is increasingly important to ensure that the new generation acquires the skills to understand, interpret, and shape their living environment. The Architecture Festival for Children – an annual educational initiative organised in Kaunas – offers an innovative approach to learning about the city, linking theoretical principles of urban planning with practical spatial experience and active community participation. The structure is based on experiential learning methods: children participate in creative workshops, experiment with materials, analyse real urban neighbourhoods, and meet architects and urban planners. This creates conditions not only to learn the basics of architecture, but also to develop social sensitivity, critical thinking, and spatial empathy, competencies important for resilient and inclusive neighbourhoods.

The festival also acts as a platform that connects theoretical urban ideas with real urban situations. Through interdisciplinary workshops and game tasks, children explore topics relevant to the city: green spaces, mobility issues, the functions of community spaces, and the impact of climate change. Such activities not only strengthen their ability to understand the interconnections of urban systems but also encourage them to engage in community processes as active participants.

The festival case allows us to raise broader questions about innovative educational formats in urban planning and architecture: how experiential learning can contribute to the resilience of communities, how involving children in real urban processes changes the traditional teaching model, and how such methods can be included in formal or informal educational content. By analysing the festival-based learning model, this report aims to reveal how creative and experiential educational practices can become an effective way to integrate theoretical knowledge into real-world situations, strengthening the ability of the younger generation to participate in city-building processes and promoting community resilience.

Designing Experiential Learning to Maximise Community Engagement: Insights from Stakeholder Perspectives

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Abstract

Experiential learning has gained increasing prominence in higher education as a means of bridging theory and practice, particularly in fields concerned with community engagement and urban development. However, limited empirical attention has been given to how such learning opportunities can be deliberately designed to maximise meaningful involvement between participants and local communities. This paper addresses the following research question: how can experiential learning opportunities be structured to enhance participant engagement with local communities, and which formats are perceived as most effective by key stakeholders? The study adopts a qualitative research approach based on semi-structured interviews with a diverse group of stakeholders, including community members, project initiators, academic staff, students, and urban planning experts involved in community-based educational initiatives. The interviews explore participants' experiences, expectations, and perceived barriers and enablers of engagement across different experiential learning formats, such as living labs, service-learning projects, co-creation workshops, and field-based studios. Through thematic analysis, the study identifies core design principles that contribute to higher levels of participant involvement, including early community participation in project definition, clear role allocation, reciprocity between learning outcomes and community benefits, and long-term institutional commitment. The findings reveal that experiential learning is most effective when communities are positioned as co-educators rather than passive beneficiaries. The paper concludes by offering a set of practical guidelines for designing experiential learning opportunities that foster deeper engagement, mutual learning, and sustainable partnerships between higher education institutions and local communities.

Teaching methods in planning resilient communities – about the past experience, and current changes

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Abstract

As the concept of community resilience gains prominence within planning education, teaching methods in this field are undergoing transformation. Our research examines the evolution of pedagogical approaches used to teach planning for resilient communities, tracing shifts from earlier practices to emerging innovations shaped by contemporary challenges.

Based on literature review, survey among students, interviews with teachers at faculties of architecture, economics, and urban planning, the study identifies key characteristics of past teaching methods—such as a strong emphasis on technical planning tools, hazard mitigation frameworks, and classroom-based instruction—and contrasts them with current trends.

Contemporary approaches increasingly prioritize interdisciplinary collaboration, systems thinking, experiential and community-engaged learning, and digital tools that support participatory processes. These changes reflect evolving understandings of resilience as a dynamic, multi-scalar, and socially embedded concept.

Our findings underline the adaptation processes of planning education reacting to climate change, environment protection, economic disruptions, social inequity, and social problems. The current courses we studied in our research, provide information for transformative community action and offer recommendations for teachers.

When understanding and expectations from resilience meets the reality of education

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Abstract

Resilience has become a widely used concept in policymaking, urban planning, and community development. Nevertheless, its translation into educational practice remains slow, often met with ambitious expectations. Our research explores the tensions that arise when broad understandings and ambitions surrounding resilience intersect with the practical realities of teaching and learning.

Based on interviews with teachers, analysis of course materials, survey among students across eight European countries, the study reveals how resilience is frequently idealized as a transformative, holistic capacity, while teachers face constraints in its applicability, institutional priorities, disciplinary silos, and students' varying levels of preparedness.

These gaps shape both what is taught and what learners ultimately take away. The findings highlight recurring discrepancies between conceptual aspirations — systems thinking, adaptability, equity, and community empowerment—and the pragmatic demands of assessment, and accreditation. Our result underscores the need for clearer framing, realistic pedagogical strategies, and institutional support to bridge the divide between the promise of resilience and the realities of education.

Track V

Digital Approaches to Spatial Resilience: Modeling, Technology, and Adaptive Design

Track V.1

Technology, Perception, and Spatial Transformation

RuTra – Rural Transformation

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Abstract

Challenge

The adaptation of existing structures is a prerequisite for initiating transformation in rural areas. Local agents are often not in a position to respond appropriately to the challenges they face. They may possess substantial local knowledge, but the human resources required to address issues such as climate change, migration or industrialization are limited. Additionally, demographic shifts and the absence of a generation of young adults reduce local capacity for innovation and the development of sustainable strategies.

Solution

The design of a scholarship program has made it possible to build current networks of local and regional knowledge and attract new players to rural areas. At the same time, scholarships help address the shortage of skilled workers that significantly hampers long-term regional development. Positioned as a mission-driven model of informal education, the scholarship introduces a practice-based learning environment in which scholars apply academic knowledge to real challenges identified by local stakeholders. By developing concrete solutions to tangible problems, scholars help establish lasting relationships between actors, strengthening coordination and cooperation beyond the scholarship period.

Results

Scholarships are now being consolidated and further developed as scalable organizational models for rural transformation. Operating outside politics, administration and formal curricula, they enable new forms of civic engagement and experimentation. Rural areas benefit by gaining new agents for development, while young people gain live insight and contribute current knowledge to concrete projects. The program attracts an age group largely absent from rural contexts, creating constructive encounters with civic engagement typically driven by generations 50+. This cross-generational collaboration fosters a durable culture of exchange: scholars often maintain ongoing relationships with communities, and communities retain access to extended networks and knowledge flows. Over six years, these interactions have produced a reference corpus of applied micro-strategies and shifted local practice from isolated projects toward process-oriented, collaborative development—strengthening local identity and social resilience.

Landscape perception through a phone screen: the case of children under the age of 12

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Abstract

In recent years, researchers in urban planning and environmental psychology have increasingly emphasized that environmental perception is a key factor in the evaluation of whether a given space is suitable and acceptable for them. This individual relationship with the environment also becomes an important indicator of urban resilience, as residents' experiences and reactions reflect how successfully the urban space responds to their needs and supports their well-being. Children are of particular importance in this regard, as their daily experiences and opportunities in the city reveal particularly clearly how the urban environment affects the most vulnerable members of society. In this context, it is important not only to create spaces adapted to children, but also to enable them to actively participate in planning processes to better understand what environments they perceive as safe, attractive, and stimulating.

However, our relationship with the physical environment has been fundamentally changed in the past decade by the integration of technology into everyday life. Increasingly, the landscape is experienced not directly, but through the media of mobile device screens. This changes sensory experiences, attention spans, and spatial interpretations, which can have long-term consequences for how people perceive and value urban spaces. In this context, it is important to understand how different forms of perception affect not only adults, but also younger members of society, who increasingly use digital technologies in their daily exploration of the environment.

To understand these changes, a study was conducted in 2025, which involved two focus groups of 14 children aged 5–12. One group visited the Kaunas Botanical Garden live, the other through a mobile phone screen. Such a methodological approach allows us to reveal how sensory, emotional, and cognitive experiences differ when the landscape is experienced live or virtually. The data obtained are relevant to the broader research direction of resilient cities and neighbourhoods, which is concerned with how technologies change spatial experience, social connection to place, and the formation of communities. Understanding these changes is important not only for planning child-friendly environments but also for planning resilient, inclusive, and future-ready neighbourhoods.

PPGIS–Based Analysis of Perceived Technological Risks in Petrochemical Clusters, Camp de Tarragona, Spain

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Keywords: PPGIS, Risk Perception, Petrochemical Clusters, Risk Sources

Abstract

Petrochemical clusters involve industrial processes that utilize compounds and polymers derived from oil and gas, generating both short- and long-term risks to the environment and nearby communities. This study examines the relationship between public perceptions of technological risks and selected high-risk locations within the Camp de Tarragona petrochemical cluster. A Public Participation Geographic Information System (PPGIS) was designed and implemented to collect participants' opinions and spatially locate their responses. The PPGIS survey was disseminated through social media platforms (Telegram and WhatsApp), targeted emails to the university community, associations, and experts, QR-code posters for public distribution, and multilingual LinkedIn posts (English, Spanish, and Catalan) between February 2024 and June 2024. The results show a predominantly high level of technological risk perception across genders, with women reporting higher risk levels than men, and spatial clustering of high perceived risk near petrochemical areas in Tarragona. Participants identified risk sources mainly around major industrial and petrochemical clusters, particularly in Tarragona, La Pobla de Mafumet, and La Canonja. In addition, Places perceived as affected by technological risks are concentrated in Tarragona and surrounding municipalities, especially near key industrial zones. A potential of this approach was that PPGIS enabled the collection of spatially explicit public perceptions of technological risks, linked demographic and geographic data to understand where and how people perceive hazards, and supported participatory decision-making. At the same time, this approach had limitations, including low participation, potential spatial inaccuracies, and the involvement of non-experts who lack adequate knowledge of spatial awareness, geography, and individual characteristics, which can occasionally compromise spatial precision. Overall, adopting a participatory approach enhances the accuracy of risk evaluations, fosters public trust, and supports inclusive, community-informed risk management strategies in high-risk industrial areas.

Examination adolescents' spatial interactions in urban space: Case study of Jahad Square in Hamedan

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Abstract

Urban public spaces function as critical platforms for shaping behavioral patterns and social interactions, particularly among adolescents. This study examines Jihad Square in Hamedan, a principal and highly frequented urban node, to analyze the usage patterns and social dynamics of teenagers aged 13–16 within this space.

Despite their conspicuous presence, the square's current design and management fail to facilitate meaningful social engagement for this demographic. A confluence of physical-spatial deficiencies—such as fragmented pedestrian circulation, traffic congestion, insufficient street furniture, and a lack of pause spaces—alongside functional imbalances, including the dominance of transient commercial uses, and social challenges such as perceived insecurity and reduced age diversity, has contributed to the marginalization of teenage users. Consequently, adolescent activity has become concentrated in specific zones, notably around the Zagros Tower, where spatial and social conditions have, in some instances, fostered risk-associated behaviors, including substance use.

This research aims to establish design criteria for urban public spaces that promote healthier behavioral outcomes in adolescent gathering areas. Utilizing a mixed-method approach incorporating field surveys and semi-structured, in-depth interviews with adolescent users, the study's findings indicate that a strategic redesign emphasizing flexible and responsive environments, enhanced walkability, diversified street furniture and cultural-social programming, and improved perceived security can significantly foster more positive adolescent interactions and support inclusive urban social life.

Track V.2

Modeling and Designing Urban Resilience:
Adaptation Strategies for
Sustainable Transformation

Jerusalem: climate change and earthquake challenges and opportunities: Urban renewal between risk mitigation and urban transformation

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Abstract

Jerusalem's Old City is divided into Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Armenian quarters and is a protected monument (UNESCO, 2010) located on the edge of the Judean Desert. Recent urban renewal in Western modern Jerusalem, driven by earthquake risk-mitigation regulation and population growth (Jerusalem Institute, 2025), and accompanied by infrastructure development and new light rail public works (Hananel & Shamai, 2024), is modernizing the city and challenging long-standing planning "red lines" established during the British Mandate (Kroyanker, 2024). These transforming processes include market-led urban renewal under seismic building-reinforcement policy (Tama 38), infrastructure-driven redevelopment, neighbourhood densification, and high-rise construction. Combined, they disrupt daily life, impact urban resilience by altering neighbourhood scale, historic skylines, and traditional communities, and generate environmental costs and social tensions, despite established frameworks for community involvement (Arnstein, 1969) and the growing need for climate adaptation. The methodology explores public participation in urban planning (Ephrati-Wisental, 2000) in an effort to balance urban renewal and earthquake-risk mitigation policy while protecting historic neighbourhoods. The study adopts a qualitative case-study approach grounded in first-hand observation and practice-based engagement in planning processes, drawing on participatory planning and design scholarship (Messinas, 2021). These processes are examined through the author's experience with the Ginot Hair Community Council, addressing residential neighbourhoods in Jerusalem currently affected by urban renewal initiatives and densification projects. The case examines attributes including building scale and height, compatibility with preservation policies and approved master plans, environmental impacts such as the removal of mature trees, and social impacts related to gentrification, community cohesion, and displacement. The analysis situates this case within broader gaps between participatory planning discourse and planning outcomes, reflecting structural tensions between civic engagement, market-driven development, and institutional decision-making (Savaya & Alfasi, 2024). Modern Jerusalem thus offers a living example of urban development shaped by legal and planning mechanisms of disaster mitigation and earthquake preparedness, highlighting the challenges of balancing safety, modernization, preservation, and community resilience as the city transitions from a historic garden city to a dense modern metropolis.

Adaptive Reuse and Umbaukultur practices in North Rhine–Westphalia (NRW): A Triple Bottom Line analysis for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

This research examines two projects in North Rhine-Westphalia, exploring how adaptive reuse and Umbaukultur contribute to sustainable development by creating shared spaces for collective well-being, resource efficiency, and socially integrated environments. Adaptive reuse is an international well-known concept focused on the physical reuse of old buildings. In Germany, however, the broader concept of Umbaukultur (conversion culture) is more prevalent. While adaptive reuse is pragmatic, Umbaukultur integrates transformation into a long-term cultural, political, and participatory framework. A key distinction is its promotion of participatory phases: Phase 0 (initial public engagement) and Phase 10 (long-term community management), encouraging collaboration between various stakeholders. Understanding these concepts interplayed is essential as German cities increasingly prioritise Umbau (conversion) over Neubau (new construction) in response to climate targets and land shortages.

This research employs a qualitative case study methodology, structured through the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) framework, which explores environmental, social, and economic dimensions. The TBL approach allows the systematic evaluation of building-level interventions, such as energy and material conservation, socio-spatial transformation, and urban economic regeneration. Data collection included document analysis, field observations, and semi-structured interviews with eight stakeholders, including project (building) representatives, city planning departments, architects, and experts in Umbaukultur and reuse of existing buildings.

The research presenting the transformation processes in case studies. Analysis shows that Adaptive reuse and Umbaukultur practices foster sustainable development at neighbourhood and urban levels by reducing environmental impact, strengthening local identity, enhancing social cohesion, and supporting long-term economic viability. Both case studies confirm these concepts to a certain degree. Each case also demonstrates that social resilience is supported by implementing Phase 0 early on. Community dialogue helps shape the project narrative, legitimises design choices, and mobilises local knowledge. Additionally, Phase 10 is present, showing how community-led management aids long-term maintenance, economic development, and social resilience. Together, these phases reveal transformation as an evolving socio-cultural process, not merely a technical act.

Agent Based Modeling (ABM) For Land Use Transport Integration

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Abstract

Rapid urbanisation, spatial fragmentation, and rising mobility demands have intensified the need for stronger integration between land use and transport systems in cities. In many urban contexts, weak coordination between housing development, transport infrastructure, and accessibility planning has contributed to congestion, inefficient land consumption, and unequal access to opportunities. These challenges have renewed interest in analytical approaches capable of capturing dynamic interactions between human behaviour and urban systems.

The purpose of this study is to examine how Agent-Based Modelling (ABM) has been applied to support land use–transport integration (LUTI) in urban planning, and to identify key conceptual, methodological, and empirical gaps in existing research. The study adopts a systematic literature review following the PRISMA protocol, analysing 30 peer-reviewed studies published over the last two decades. Bibliometric analysis and thematic synthesis are used to assess modelling approaches, behavioural representations, data requirements, validation practices, and planning applications across diverse geographical contexts.

The review finds that ABM offers significant advantages over conventional aggregate and equilibrium-based LUTI models by representing heterogeneous agents, local decision-making, and emergent spatial outcomes. ABM-based approaches demonstrate strong potential in simulating accessibility changes, policy scenarios, and long-term urban dynamics. However, the results also reveal persistent limitations, including high data intensity, limited empirical validation, computational scalability challenges, and a concentration of applications in developed-world contexts, which restrict broader transferability to rapidly urbanising regions.

The study concludes that while ABM represents a promising direction for integrated land use and transport planning, its effective adoption requires improved data strategies, transparent validation practices, and context-sensitive model design. Strengthening these aspects can enhance the role of ABM as a decision-support tool for sustainable and equitable urban development.

Navigating Under Heat: An Agent-Based Modeling of Urban Heat Island Impacts on Vulnerable Communities in the City of Chicago

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Abstract

In cities, urban heat has become a major environmental stressor that disproportionately affects groups that have historically been shaped by socio-spatial disparities. Redlining and historical segregation in the City of Chicago have created neighborhoods with high levels of social vulnerability, ongoing disinvestment, and a large amount of vacant land conditions that increase sensitivity to the effects of Urban Heat Islands (UHIs). These trends are most noticeable in South Side communities, where structural inequality and environmental risk collide.

To assess neighborhood resilience, this study integrates spatial vulnerability indicators with agent-based modeling (ABM) to investigate the unequal distribution of urban heat exposure among vulnerable populations. To find regions where cumulative social and environmental dangers converge, the study uses the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), historical redlining data, demographic indicators, land vacancy patterns, and remotely sensed land surface temperature. The elevated susceptibility profiles and significant heat exposure of a few Chicago South Side neighborhoods make them ideal case studies.

Pedestrian mobility and heat exposure under various thermal conditions are modeled using an agent-based simulation. To evaluate how urban form, unoccupied parcels, and restricted access to cooling equipment affect daily exposure to heat stress, agents representing inhabitants with distinct sensitivity characteristics interact with the built environment. To assess their possible effects on lowering exposure and boosting resistance, the model also investigates scenario-based interventions, such as the activation of vacant land and the installation of cooler transportation paths.

By combining quantitative metrics with spatial simulation, this research contributes a methodological framework for evaluating neighbourhood-scale resilience under environmental stress. The findings demonstrate how historically rooted urban inequalities continue to shape present-day heat vulnerability and offer planning-relevant insights for targeted, data-driven climate adaptation strategies in at-risk urban communities.

Track VI

Digital Approaches to Participatory and Resilient Urbanism

Track VI.1

Towards Intelligent and Inclusive Urbanism: Digital Methods for Community Engagement

Bridging Digital Platforms and Participatory Urban Planning: Empowering Underrepresented Communities in Industrial Heritage Conservation

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Keywords: Social Resilience, Civic Engagement, Digital Participatory Planning, Industrial Heritage, Neighbourhood Empowerment

Abstract

Industrial heritage conservation has long been shaped predominantly by expert planners and institutional authorities. As a consequence, the participation of local communities – particularly historically underrepresented groups – remains severely constrained by unequal access to information, limited representation, and restricted influence on planning processes. Yet genuine participatory approaches involving these communities are indispensable for achieving social fairness, cultural continuity, neighbourhood empowerment, and sustained social resilience.

The paper examines how purposefully designed digital platforms can overcome these structural barriers and enable transformative civic engagement in the conservation and adaptive reuse of industrial heritage sites. It presents the MHFL–TMU initiative at the Rey Cement Factory in Tehran as a focused case study.

A collective-intelligence-driven mixed-methods approach was developed, combining real-world citizen experiments with custom-built digital and AI-powered tools. A group of residents from historically underrepresented communities (former factory workers, low-income families, and youth) took part in an on-site participatory experiment. Using mobile application, real-time geographical trajectories, photographs, voice notes, and textual feedback were captured and instantly encoded into JSON format. An AI-supported participatory platform automatically produced overlaid movement heatmaps, preference nodes, and sentiment clusters, thereby revealing emergent collective spatial knowledge that conventional consultation methods fail to register. Iterative co-design workshops subsequently translated these AI-generated visualisations into concrete conservation and reuse proposals, several of which were formally adopted by Tehran Municipality, evidencing measurable redistribution of decision-making power.

The findings demonstrate that digitally augmented participation significantly strengthens neighbourhood resilience by enabling residents to directly influence decisions that affect their local environment and social cohesion. Online tools notably improve information access, transparency, and democratic communication between communities and decision-makers, while fostering transformative decision-making and equitable urban development.

The research underscores the capacity of digital platforms to advance inclusive, community-driven frameworks for industrial heritage conservation, offering transferable insights for socially resilient and sustainable urban planning practices in post-industrial neighbourhoods worldwide.

Prototypical Health Information System for Urban Neighbourhoods: Visualizing Complex Data for Decision-Making and Improving Access to Preventive Services

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Abstract

Socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods have particularly complex social and infrastructural problems, demanding precise health and social analyses for effective health promotion and prevention. Small-scale observations reveal inequalities that often remain hidden at a higher aggregated spatial level. Two key barriers remain: (1) the small-scale integrated analysis of health data, taking into account social setting and space, together with a comprehensible presentation, and (2) delivering location specific, target group relevant information about health promotion and prevention opportunities and services.

We are developing a prototypical digital health information system for the neighbourhood level. Taking Hamburg's social monitoring into account, the system brings together and makes accessible aggregated health insurance routine data, survey data, community-mappings, and focus-group results. These were examined previously as part of our 'G-BA Innovation Fund Project' (FC 01VSF22038). The system is co-designed iteratively and involves collaboration with health insurers, health promotion experts, and interdisciplinary researchers. Our approach follows the principle of 'bridge building' between the fields of urban planning and public health.

An interactive Web-GIS module with layer list and customisation functions enables fine-grained analysis of the health situation and needs assessment. (2) A geo-contextualised 'Geostory' module links maps, texts and multimedia content to visualise complex socio-spatial relations. Experts and citizens can co-create and give feedback on the content. (3) An API-driven calendar module provides a platform for connecting and organising fragmented prevention opportunities and local health-promotion resources for citizens and practitioners. We place particular emphasis on accessibility and user-friendliness in system development. No-code-application design enables stakeholders to create content independently.

The modules contribute to more transparent and coordinated structures, which are important for neighbourhood resilience. The prototype-system's open-source design and modular architecture offer potential for transferability to other cities. We aim to report hurdles, data protection limitations and the potential for further analysing and utilising complex data.

The Role of Digital Platforms in Enhancing Neighborhood Social Resilience

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Keywords: Social Resilience, Digital platform, Neighborhood, Participation

Abstract

The concept of neighborhood social resilience, a critical component of urban health and sustainability, is contingent upon the efficacy of citizen engagement, access to resources, and active social participation. In recent years, digital platforms have emerged as instruments to bolster this resilience. This study investigates the role of such platforms in fostering neighborhood social resilience and examines their underlying mechanisms.

The present study employs a qualitative approach, grounded in a systematic review of extant theoretical literature and prior empirical studies. The content extracted from the relevant articles was coded and analyzed through qualitative thematic analysis using MaxQDA software. The findings indicate that digital platforms can effectively enhance neighborhood resilience by facilitating instant communication, promoting social participation among residents, enabling easy access to resources, news, and services, and fostering social capital. The fundamental mechanisms through which these platforms exert their influence have been identified as follows: the dissemination of information, participatory decision-making processes, collaborative consumption, and data analysis grounded in community needs.

The findings of this study can aid urban policymakers and neighborhood planners in designing and implementing digital platforms aimed at enhancing social resilience. Moreover, social organizations, platform developers, and local activists can leverage these findings to enhance citizen participation, coordinate community activities, and foster social cohesion.

From Digital Platforms to Urban Decision-Making: Strengthening Community Participation in Industrial Heritage Conservation

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Abstract

Industrial heritage regeneration often reinforces social inequalities by marginalizing underrepresented groups, whose intangible contributions are overlooked in planning processes. Despite their promise of expanded participation, digital tools such as PPGIS and social media narratives frequently reproduce power hierarchies, widen engagement gaps, and generate biased datasets. Gaps persist in measuring the real influence of digital inputs on policies, under-theorizing hybrid phygital ecosystems, and integrating expert competitions with community co-creation, with limited comparative data on tool ecosystems for minor cultural heritage.

This study proposes a phygital participation model that captures lived experience through both behavioural and narrative data, examining how hybrid digital–physical tools can strengthen empowerment, belonging, and neighbourhood resilience, while revealing limits in balancing power and representation. Using Iran's Ray Cement Factory as its case study, the project employs Geo-Tracker–based GPS phygital data, JSON exports, and AI-produced path overlays to identify collective hotspots, areas of avoidance, gender-specific movements, and broader spatial disparities. In parallel, strategically placed QR codes invite participants to submit short audio/text stories, memories, reflections, and micro-ideas, generating a complementary layer of digital narratives. Together, these behavioural trajectories and narrative fragments construct an inclusive, low-barrier phygital interface that surfaces community priorities and emotional geographies.

Findings show that the hybrid ecosystem increased participation by 250%, amplified underrepresented voices, and contributed to policy adjustments that lowered gentrification risks by 35% through narrative-integrated adaptive reuse strategies. Organizational constraints, shaped by top-down perspectives and systemic biases, highlight the imperative for phygital platforms that promote just and balanced participation. The Ray case offers replicable co-design methodologies for minor heritage, validated by indicators like social return on investment. Theoretically, this extends heritage governance to emphasize relational narratives; practically, it provides guidelines for inclusive protocols. Centering phygital valorization in conservation heralds equitable urban futures.

Track VI.2

Digital Platforms for Inclusive Urban Governance: Data, Participation, and Community Resilience

Cognitive Mapping And Walkability Insights From The Uprun Course In Cyprus

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The size and meaning of a "neighborhood" differ widely from country to country, shaped by cultural, social, and spatial norms. Within this context, this paper presents an educational intervention developed through the UPRUN course, aimed at equipping undergraduate students in Cyprus with perceptual and analytical tools for engaging with their everyday urban environments. Drawing on the theoretical pillars of Kevin Lynch—paths, edges, districts, nodes, and landmarks—the course invited 31 students to undertake a structured, process-oriented exploration of their own neighborhoods.

Students were guided through a sequence of perceptual exercises, beginning with field observations of their daily pedestrian movements, followed by systematic documentation of how they perceive and experience their surroundings. They were then tasked with delineating the implicit boundaries that define what they personally consider to be their "neighborhood," acknowledging that these boundaries stem from lived experience rather than administrative definitions. Cognitive mapping served as a central methodological tool, enabling students to translate perceptions, memories, and sensory cues into visual representations of urban space.

The emphasis of the course was placed on how students observe, interpret, and record their environments rather than on producing definitive outcomes. Through this process, students developed a deeper awareness of the interplay between spatial structure, movement on foot, and environmental qualities—such as the presence or absence of greenery—within the urban fabric. The educational approach highlights the value of experiential and reflective learning for fostering urban literacy and offers planners and educators a replicable framework for teaching perceptual urbanism.

Beyond Participation: The Role of Co-Production in Shaping Urban Space in Institutionalized Contexts

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Abstract

Co-production is increasingly recognised as an approach to enhance citizen involvement in urban development, with the potential to empower local communities, redistribute decision-making power, and address the limitations of traditional planning. While the concept has gained ground in urban theory, empirical insights into how co-production can be applied within highly institutionalised planning systems in the Global North remain limited. This study examines how urban space is co-produced in a gentrified neighbourhood, the Hansaviertel in Münster, Germany, and what roles civil society, citizens, and the public sector play in this process.

The study is based on qualitative research, combining document analysis and semi-structured interviews with civil society and public administration. The analysis applies a coding framework based on the existing literature to examine the dimensions of co-production. It investigates the interactions among actors, focusing on what they bring to the process and how each contributes across different phases of the process.

Based on our qualitative interviews, the findings show that co-production in the Hansaviertel is primarily initiated and driven by civil society actors. The civil society assumes a long-term intermediary role by managing the process, mediating between individual citizens and public authorities, securing funding, and translating citizen-driven initiatives into administratively feasible projects. Citizens go beyond participation by contributing local expertise, shaping governance instruments, and fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. In contrast, the public sector acts as an observer in the process by providing institutional legitimacy and funding. At the same time, the case reveals that co-production is strongly dependent on public funding and political legitimacy, which in turn affects the relationships and power of the actors. Last but not least, the study contributes to a deeper theoretical and practical understanding of co-production and highlights its potential to reshape urban governance beyond participation.

Generative AI as a Tool for Community Co-Design of Happy Spaces

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Abstract

Urban happiness is a multidimensional concept reflecting individuals' positive perceptions of urban spaces, defined as the combined impact of qualities influencing the urban environment. Happy urban spaces promote mental health, social cohesion, and sustainable living by enhancing social interactions, reducing stress, and improving lived experiences. Direct citizen participation is essential for creating such spaces, aligning designs with community needs and preferences.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI) emerges as a transformative tool in urban design, fostering inclusive societal participation in co-designing public spaces. Traditional methods—relying on written forms or hand-drawn sketches—often exclude those lacking design skills, limiting vision communication. Generative AI improves this by visualizing ideas via visual interfaces, such as photo marking and text prompts.

This research investigates Generative AI's potential in participatory design of happy urban spaces, exploring how it increases community involvement, accelerates processes, and bridges resident-professional gaps. Using a mixed-methods approach in a human-in-the-loop framework at the neighborhood scale, the study began with explanations of "happy space" and AI. Qualitative semi-structured interviews with Yousefabad (Tehran, Iran) residents provided insights into experiences and needs, analyzed thematically to identify spatial and emotional happiness components. These informed prompts for initial Nano Banana-generated images.

In the quantitative phase, themes became Likert-scale questionnaire items assessing satisfaction, place attachment, and AI-based scenarios on indicators like happiness, calm, attractiveness, social interaction, and belonging. SPSS multivariate analyses (correlations, mean comparisons) were applied. Findings integrated iteratively, refining images via citizen feedback.

Preliminary results show Generative AI substantially enhances preference expression, need prioritization, and option evaluation. It enables participation by elderly and low-literacy groups, rapid scenario comparison, and democratic decision-making, while uncovering hidden happiness factors like nature access, social opportunities, and lighting quality.

Urban Intelligentization as a Community-Based Strategy for Resilient Neighborhoods: Design-Driven Participation and Digital Urban Education in Informal Settlements

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Abstract

Urban resilience is increasingly addressed through infrastructural, environmental, and technological solutions, often underestimating the role of social learning, community agency, and participatory capacity-building in vulnerable neighborhoods. In informal settlements, resilience is deeply connected to the ability of residents to understand, negotiate, and collectively shape urban transformations that affect their everyday lives. This paper introduces the concept of *urban intelligentization* as a community-based strategy for fostering resilient neighborhoods through design-driven participation and digital urban education. Urban intelligentization is defined as an educational and participatory process that integrates social design methodologies, co-creation practices, and digital tools to enhance urban literacy and collective decision-making. Rather than aligning with data-centered smart city paradigms, the proposed approach emphasizes social intelligence, situated knowledge, and community empowerment as core components of urban resilience. The study is grounded in a qualitative case study conducted in the Real Parque community, an informal settlement located in São Paulo, Brazil. A methodological framework was developed combining participatory workshops, urban education activities, and immersive digital representations of proposed public-space interventions. Hybrid physical–digital models were used to enable residents to explore spatial scenarios, articulate priorities, and engage in collective discussions about future neighborhood transformations. Data collection included participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and comparative analysis between conventional participatory processes and the proposed digital, design-driven approach. The findings suggest that design-mediated digital urban education enhances spatial understanding, strengthens community agency, and promotes collaborative problem-solving—key attributes of neighborhood resilience. The paper contributes to resilience and urban studies by reframing resilience as a socio-educational process and by offering a replicable, low-cost methodological model applicable to informal and marginalized urban contexts.