

FALL SYMPOSIUM Building Beyond Borders
Reflecting on the dynamisms of intercultural collaboration in build projects

9 - 10 November 2020, Hasselt, Belgium

CALL FOR PAPERS

Several universities have developed **educational programs** (master and postgraduate programs) in which students learn to design for and even build in a context that is beyond their own cultural and social context. Examples are European universities that set up design studios and design & build projects in African or Asian countries, or Schools of Architecture that realize projects in remote rural areas or in informal settlements in their own country. Also many **architectural practices** have been designing for and building in contexts that are far beyond the socio-cultural background of their designers.

Most of these universities and architectural practices see this as an opportunity to exchange expertise among different cultures and try to realize these projects in a strongly participatory way with local stakeholders. Students get to know different visions on reality, learn to build with local materials and building techniques, ... and try to integrate it in their projects. Architects expand or change their role from designer for a specific client to manager of a building community, coordinator of participatory workshops, developer or producer of new building materials, ...

Schools of Architecture and architectural practices consider this '**building beyond borders**', **not just beyond geographical borders, but more importantly beyond cultural, social, intellectual, professional, ... borders.**

Yet what building beyond borders means for those at the other side of the border remains quite often implicit. What is building beyond borders for them? How do they experience a project in their community on which students or architects from another socio-cultural context work? **What are the keys to reassure equivalence in the collaboration in such intercultural building projects?** Are all stakeholders aware of all the borders that are crossed? What is the impact of such projects and of crossing these borders on both sides of the borders?

With this first Fall Symposium Building Beyond Borders we would like **to set up a broad conversation** on this topic, by reflecting on the dynamisms of cross-border collaboration in build projects, especially in contexts with a risk of imbalance between the different stakeholders.

We invite academics, practitioners, students, NGO's, community members, ... to contribute to this conversation, through an **active contribution** by means of a presentation or lecture or by attending the symposium and **participating in the discussions** that will be organized.

During the Fall Symposium, 2 keynote speakers (one academic and one practitioner) who have an extensive expertise in this domain will highlight different perspectives on the topic of dynamisms in building beyond borders.

For those who want to attend the conference, but want to avoid excessive environmental impact by taking a plane or have limited financial means, we offer the option to participate in the Fall Symposium in a remote way, both for active contributions and for attendees of the Symposium. And if the COVID-19 situation in November leaves us no other option, the whole Fall Symposium will be held remotely, but hopefully this will not be the case.

Contributions

Different types of contribution are possible:

- Full (academic) paper on finished research or design/build work/projects (6-8 pages)
- Extended abstract on ongoing research or design/build work/projects (3-4 pages)
- Presentation of a built project (3-4 pages)
- Topic for a discussion session

For each type of contribution, an **abstract of max. 300 words should be submitted at latest by 15 June 2020**, with an indication of the preferred type of contribution and with an indication of the preferred way of participation (on site or remotely).

All abstracts will be reviewed on content and type of contribution by the scientific committee, consisting of academics and practitioners.

Digital proceedings will be published containing the full papers, extended abstracts and presentations, after the Symposium.

Certificates of Participation will be issued to the presenters.

Themes

For each type of contribution, we would like participants to provide submissions that concern the following topics, specifically in the context of built projects. We highly recommend contributions that not just present what has been built, but that also contain an analysis or in depth reflection on the impact of the project on the different stakeholders:

- drivers and pitfalls of cross-border (cultural, social, intellectual, geographical, ...) collaboration in built projects: perspectives from stakeholders from different sides of the borders
- approaches for cross-border collaboration in built projects, including lessons learnt
- reflections on the roles of participants in such projects: architects, NGO's, community leaders and community members, building workers, students, academics, ...
- learning opportunities for participants in such projects: students, academics, practitioners, communities, workers, NGO's, ...
- impact of cross-border projects on communities: studies, testimonials, ...
- use of local materials and building techniques in cross-border projects: learning process, acceptance, involvement of different stakeholders in design and execution process, performance,...
- type of building projects that fits in this focus: projects for individual clients vs for community, community empowering projects, scale of projects, feasibility, ...
- the impact of the underlying structures that enable cross-border academic projects on the nature and process of projects
- ...

Abstract Submission

Abstracts should be no more than **300 words**. Please submit your abstract by filling in the online submission form (<https://forms.gle/C9ftfrG93dyYemq17>) at latest on **15 June 2020**.

For further inquiries, please contact buildingbeyondborders@uhasselt.be or have a look at www.buildingbeyondborders.be.

Timeline

Launch of the Call for Papers	1 May 2020
Deadline for submission of abstracts	15 June 2020
Abstract notification	1 July 2020
Submission paper contributions/extended abstracts	1 September 2020
Peer review feedback	1 October 2020
Final paper submission	1 December 2020
Registration	
Early bird for regular participation (1day 100€; 2 days 150€)	15 September 2020
Regular participation (250€)	15 October 2020
Student (1day 35€; 2 days 50€)	15 October 2020
Virtual active participation (50€)	15 October 2020
Virtual passive participation (free)	15 October 2020

More information?

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