



**EURA - UAA CONFERENCE**  
**CITY FUTURES IV**  
JUNE 20 - 22, 2019 | UCD - DUBLIN - IRELAND

# CONFERENCE ABSTRACT BOOK





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## EPA Research

McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14

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## **City Futures IV**

**Creating Just and Sustainable Cities**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

**<http://cityfutures2019.com>**

### **Host**

**University College Dublin  
School of Architecture, Planning and  
Environmental Policy**



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## **1. The City Futures Series of International Conferences**

In 2004 the European Urban Research Association (EURA) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) joined forces to organise an international conference on City Futures. Held in Chicago the conference explored future scenarios for cities and, as the conference was viewed as a success, the two associations decided to establish a five-year cycle of City Futures International Conferences. Productive City Futures Conferences were held in Madrid in 2009 and in Paris in 2014. This is the fourth City Futures Conference and now more than ever it is opportune for both EURA and the UAA to cooperate on the City Futures conference given the challenges for cities across the globe and the need for academics, in conjunction with policy makers, practitioners and communities, to shape positive outcomes for cities and more importantly their inhabitants. The City Futures conference can provide a platform for scholars to compare and contrast experiences in their cities, to draw out lessons of interest from different countries and to engage in cross national dialogue.

## **2. About EURA and UAA**

### **EURA**

Launched at an international conference held in Brussels, Belgium in September 1997, the European Urban Research Association (EURA) aims to encourage international exchange and co-operation in relation to urban research, to stimulate and encourage interdisciplinary and cross national urban research, and to contribute to urban policy debates.

In the 21 years since EURA was founded the international focus on urban issues has strengthened, particularly in the last decade. The UN Habitat III Summit held in Quito in 2016 agreed to back a 'New Urban Agenda' while in the EU urban issues and concerns have also come to the fore in policy making. Recent important EU policy statements include the Riga Declaration 2015 and the Pact of Amsterdam, 2016. Given these developments, high quality, academic interdisciplinary urban and regional research and analysis are needed more than ever. So too, is effective cross national research and policy exchange. Since its establishment EURA has strongly advocated the need to develop sound European urban policies. Now that there is growing awareness and engagement at both international and EU level with this perspective, it is crucial that academics engage in the debate, producing innovative and challenging ideas and research.

As a well-established international network of urban scholars EURA promotes innovative research design, exchange of knowledge and policy-transfer and, in particular constantly reiterates the importance of building strong bridges between research and policy. Members of EURA, while recognising the difficulties, want to help policy makers support social integration and collaboration in the area of urban policy. It is hoped that policy makers will come to appreciate that researchers have an important contribution

to make. Our aim in the period ahead is that our shared agenda in relation to urban challenges can be developed, explored, extended and indeed challenged.

Among other initiatives, the EURA Journal, 'Urban Research and Practice', plays a key role not just in advancing knowledge and understanding, but also in bringing forward policy suggestions. Our Working Groups are another tool in that direction. Our annual conferences including the City Futures conferences jointly organized with the US based Urban Affairs Association provide a space for urban academics and practitioners to meet face to face and engage in international exchange and debate. For colleagues at an early stage of their careers our Best Paper Prize and the Summer School, are key supports.

For more information: <https://eura.org/>

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## UAA

The Urban Affairs Association (UAA) is the international professional organization for urban scholars, researchers, and public service professionals. The Urban Affairs Association is dedicated to creating interdisciplinary spaces for engaging in intellectual and practical discussions about urban life. Through theoretical, empirical, and action-oriented research, the UAA fosters diverse activities to understand and shape a more just and equitable urban world.

UAA is the successor organization to the Council of University Institutes for Urban Affairs, formed in Boston in 1969 by a group of directors of university urban programs. As urban affairs developed as a professional and academic field, the need for an organization that welcomed urban faculty, professionals, and students as well as urban program directors and deans became increasingly apparent. In recognition of this need, in 1981 the organization's name was changed to the Urban Affairs Association. Today, UAA includes over 700 institutional, individual, and student members from colleges and universities throughout North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia. Among its other activities, UAA sponsors the Journal of Urban Affairs, a refereed annual journal, publishing manuscripts related to urban research and policy analysis of interest to both scholars and practitioners.

The Urban Affairs Association holds a conference each spring in an urban center. Recent conferences have taken place in Montréal, Seattle, Baltimore, Chicago, Honolulu, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, San Antonio, Miami, and San Diego. Future conferences will occur in Los Angeles (2019) and Washington, D.C. (2020). These yearly conferences are an integral part of UAA's efforts to increase knowledge about urban places and promote the development of research activities. They provide an excellent opportunity for members to exchange ideas, information, and experiences.

For more information: <https://urbanaffairsassociation.org/>



### 3. Description of the Conference Host:

The School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy (APEP) is an interdisciplinary school whose disciplines encompass most aspects of the built, designed and planned environment, across all scales, and across a range of methodological approaches. It is the leading Planning and Architecture School in the Republic of Ireland and brings together a number of leading built and environmental disciplines namely Planning, Environmental Policy, Architecture and Landscape Architecture. All four subject areas offer professionally accredited undergraduate and graduate programmes within a research-intensive learning environment.

At University level UCD has a significant and long established track record of research related to urban development, practice and policy. This was consolidated significantly through the establishment of the Urban Institute Ireland in 2000, an enterprise which continues under the auspices of The Earth Institute which is a cross-school and cross-college research institute. The planning school has been at forefront in developing and leading one of its research themes, that of the *Built Environment*.

While our academic staff have a wide variety of research interests, over the past two decades four broad clusters of research interests have developed which can be broadly described under the research themes of **(i) urban and rural settlements, (ii) culture, heritage and design, (iii) environmental policy and processes and (iv) resource efficiency in the built environment**. Our research spans theoretical, methodological, technological and policy and practice tools and issues. Ongoing issues in defining and ensuring sustainable and resilient environments at all scales from the neighbourhood to the global, underlie and motivate the projects undertaken by our planning and policy scholars.

The EURA Conference will be hosted by the UCD Planning School, the longest established planning school in Ireland and the leading centre of planning related research in Ireland.

### 4. Conference Theme

The theme of the City Futures IV conference jointly organized by EURA and UAA is Creating Just and Sustainable Cities. Taking inspiration from the UN's Sustainable Development Goals the conference topic focuses on the challenges that we are currently facing to create cities and communities that are just, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, while reducing poverty and inequality. Following a decade of crisis and austerity, inequalities are becoming ever more apparent at local, regional and global scales, with our current economic models increasingly being questioned and trust in formal politics declining. Violence and extremism lead to enforced migration and the post war geopolitical map is being shaken. Urban areas are often the sites where the contrasts between wealth and poverty are most stark, where inequalities become expressed spatially, where environmental degradation is most pronounced, and where

the disenfranchised and disillusioned look for solutions in entrenchment and fear of 'otherness'.

Despite such challenges urban areas, as they have been for millennia, are often the fulcrum of hope and innovation. Urban areas can be the engines of the broader economy, the places where new forms of political mobilization manifest themselves, where citizen creativity is expressed in challenges to the political and economic status quo, where new technological solutions are being pioneered, where innovative local and city based solutions are proposed. The Conference theme asks scholars to reflect on how we can move towards more socially just, diverse, democratic, environmentally rich cities and city regions. What are the challenges and solutions from the perspective of governance and politics, from a policy perspective in various sectors (planning, housing, design, regeneration etc.) and from the perspective of citizens?

There are interfaces and connections between each of the conference tracks which will provide opportunities for fruitful conversations, to address the theme of the conference.

Dublin and Ireland are appropriate contexts within which to explore some of these questions. Following a period of austerity the Irish economy is again experiencing significant growth, yet the consequences of our current economic model is manifest in entrenched urban problems not least a burgeoning housing and homelessness crisis, underdeveloped infrastructure and environmental challenges. Within the context of both local government reform and the publication of a new National Planning Framework, *Ireland 2040 Our Plan*, the role of Ireland's premier city of Dublin and its growth and governance has been the subject of ongoing debate.

## 5. Keynote Speakers

**Professor Donatella Della Porta** is Professor of Political Science, Dean of the Institute for Humanities and the Social Sciences and Director of the PD program in Political Science and Sociology at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, where she also leads the Centre on Social Movement Studies (Cosmos). Among the main topics of her research: social movements, political violence, terrorism, corruption, the police and protest policing. She has directed a major ERC project Mobilizing for Democracy, on civil society participation in democratization processes in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

**Professor Julian Agyeman Ph.D. FRSA FRGS** is a Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University. He is the originator of the increasingly influential concept of just sustainabilities, the intentional integration of social justice and sustainability defined as: the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now, and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems.

**John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform,**

John Paul Phelan was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government with special responsibility for Local Government and Electoral Reform on 20 June 2017.

He is a TD in the 32nd Dáil and was a member of many Oireachtas Committees, including: Budgetary Oversight (Chair); Petitions; and Budgetary Scrutiny (Chair).

Minister Phelan entered local politics in 1999 and served two terms in the Seanad before being elected a TD in 2011. He is a business graduate and a barrister, he served as a member of the banking enquiry and has been instrumental in championing the plebiscites for Directly Elected Mayors in the cities of Cork, Limerick City and County and Waterford City and County.

**Councillor Asher Craig the Deputy Mayor of Bristol**

Cllr Craig has over 30 years experience as a community activist, leader, management consultant and politician. She has championed the needs of the voiceless, with a particular emphasis on the social-economic development of BME and under-represented communities. She has led and chaired a number of major partnerships and organisations at local, regional and national level in the UK and has worked in the field of employment & training, education & skills, recruitment, advocacy, equality & diversity within local government and third sector. Ms. Craig was elected as a Labour councillor in May 2016 and was appointed to the cabinet with the wide reaching portfolio of neighbourhoods in August 2016. In March 2017 she was asked to step into the new role of deputy mayor of Bristol – with the portfolio of communities, equalities and public health

**Associate Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry, School of Geography, UCD**

Niamh Moore-Cherry is an Associate Professor of Urban Governance and Development in the School of Geography, University College Dublin and is Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning in the UCD College of Social Sciences and Law.. Her research is focused on understanding how cities are governed; how policy is developed; and with what impacts. Her current work focuses on the spaces and practices of governance, particularly in the Dublin city-region, and the issue of metropolitanisation in a comparative context.

## 6. Conference Tracks

### **Track 1 Cities and Spatial and Social Justice -Creating More Inclusive Cities**

Track Chairs: Assoc. Professor Declan Redmond, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

Assoc. Professor Maureen Donaghy, Department of Political Science Rutgers University

Dr. Susanne Søholt, NIBR, Oslo Metropolitan University

In the aftermath of the global economic crisis both income inequality and social polarization are increasing in cities. The gap between rich and poor is growing and in some global cities, increasingly only the very wealthy can afford to live within the city. The financialization of housing has created a divide between housing as home and housing as investment with significant negative consequences. The decline in social housing provision in certain economies has exacerbated the housing crisis many cities now face.

Cities are the location of opportunity for many as a source of job opportunities, and vibrant vital places of cultural and social life. But they are also places of social and territorial differentiation, with certain cohorts finding no place in cities. This can be the elderly, young people, women and immigrants, and these and other groups often find that subtle and not so subtle barriers are in place constraining them from fully enjoying all that cities can offer. Recent research on place equality regimes, new peripheries and suburbanization of poverty demonstrates the regional dimension of this issue. This conference track asks:

- How can our cities and regions become more egalitarian, and offer places for diversity to continue to thrive as they have for millennia?
- How do we plan for wellbeing not just growth?
- How do cities play a role in fostering spatial and social justice?
- How do we ensure more equal access to urban housing and amenity in cities?
- How do we go about tackling the housing crises being experienced in many cities?
- What are the challenges for creating more inclusive cities and regions?

### **Track 2: More or Less Competitive Cities - Smart Specialization and Diversification Strategies**

Track Chairs: Assoc. Professor Dieter Kogler, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

Professor Lin Ye, School of Government, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou China

Professor Karsten Zimmermann, Faculty of Spatial Planning TU Dortmund University

Growth and competitiveness are key goals for many cities and metropolitan city regions. This track will explore the types of policies and projects being undertaken by cities in order to rekindle, retain or increase their competitiveness. City Governments are increasingly focused on taking an active role in economic development. What are the challenges in balancing economic competitiveness with differing agendas, notably environmental and social? To what extent do current socio-economic conditions and evolutionary trajectories determine opportunities and limitations to envisioned smart specialization and diversification strategies? With many cities experiencing the impact of urban austerity emanating from the Global financial crisis, cutting back on staffing and service levels, and increased outsourcing and privatization, how can we ensure that competitive cities are also just and liveable cities; in particular those cities at the periphery?

A number of key questions are relevant in this context:

- Where do large-scale renewal and flagship projects fit in at cities that experience urban austerity policies?
- What policies and practices are being pursued by cities in the competition to attract major corporate investment (in the US in particular the competition to attract Amazon's new headquarters springs to mind)?
- What are the implications for city budgets and for the most marginalized in the competitive city?
- Can competitive cities be socially just, and is there a positive relationship between innovation and inequality?
- How can cities respond to external shocks, e.g. Dublin's response to Brexit?
- To what extent do evolutionary development trajectories determine opportunities while also setting limits to smart specialization and diversification strategies, and how can cities actively shape their future socio-economic prosperity?
- To what extent will smart specialization and diversification strategies shape the future socio-economic prosperity of sustainable and resilient cities?

### **Track 3: Urban Environmental Challenges**

Track Chairs: Dr. Michael Lennon School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

Dr. Priyam Das, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Dr. Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado, Department of Urban and Spatial Planning, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid

The United Nations projects that global population will reach 9.8 billion in 2050, with 66% of the world's population living in urban areas by this date. Hence, the urban environment is positioned at the coalface of delivering a more sustainable future. Nevertheless, history demonstrates that urban areas have often been generators of environmental problems and costs. Realising sustainability thereby necessitates placing urban environmental issues front and centre of planning and policy-making and finding new ways to manage our interactions with the natural systems of our towns and cities. It is against this challenging backdrop that this track invites papers from contributors exploring ways to respond to the broad array of environmental questions facing urban areas and understanding how cities are integrating environmental issues in their policy agendas to contribute to a more sustainable future. These include, but are not limited to how we can: enhance resilience in the era of climate change; govern urban ecologies more effectively; deliver green infrastructure and foster ecosystem services through urban planning; utilise green assets to better promote the health, integration, and wellbeing of urban residents and to strengthen the urban economy.

#### **Track 4. Governing Cities - Cities and Democracy**

Track Chairs: Dr. Paula Russell, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

Professor Jill Simone Gross, Hunter College, City University of New York

Dr. Cristina Stănuș, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Crises (economic, environmental, political and social) are generating complex multi-scalar challenges for cities, resulting in the emergence of different approaches to urban governance. Supranational, regional, national and local networks of power are redefining the field of urban politics and policy. Entrenchment and centralization, a post political environment, the rise and fall of grassroots democracy movements, populism, the emergence of co-decision making systems, sharing economies, sanctuary movements, transnationalism and participative planning can all be mentioned in this respect. This track calls for papers exploring the democratic challenges of governing and governance in the 21st century city.

Are we witnessing new efforts to enhance urban autonomy? Or are nation states clamping down on “renegade” cities? Do cities provide spaces for democracy in hostile geopolitical environments or are they complicit in efforts to shut out divergent voices? Are cities jumping scale, forging new types of partnership at the supra-national level? What is the state of play for cities regionally? At what level should cities be governed? Can we expect smart tools currently being deployed in cities around the world to support or subvert democratic processes, to enhance or undermine our ability to govern? More broadly, what is the current shape of urban democracy? And, how can we develop local, national and regional policies that support cities amidst this complexity?

## **Track 5: Smart Cities**

Track Chairs: Dr. Francesco Pila, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

Dr. Arturo Flores, National Autonomous University of Mexico and Anahuac University

Assoc. Professor Marco Santangelo, Politecnico di Torino

Smart city narratives have often been useful to deflect attention from broader changes brought by ICTs in our societies and cities by focusing on the practical impact that they have on daily activities (of citizens, institutions, economic actors,...). Certainly, cities are now embedded with multiple layers of sensors, which provide real time information to practitioners, industry, academia and citizens. At least for this reason, the smart city is a key theme in urban research over the past ten years; harnessing information and communications technology in the city offers opportunities to use technology in the struggle with various problems (e.g. pollution, transportation, vacant spaces, resilience to extreme weather events, etc.). Increasingly researchers are identifying limitations and challenges in the use of technology and technological solutions. But the relation between the city and technology constantly evolves over time, producing different urban forms, influencing lifestyles, promoting alternative ways of thinking on societal development and old and new inequalities. What is often analysed, in the smart city debate, as a software (ICT-related) problem is very much related to how hardware (the built environment) is challenged, to how humanware (citizens) reacts, to how orgware (governance-related) is structured, and – ultimately – to “cityware”.

This track wishes to promote further debate on alternative understandings of the smart city as well as alternative processes and imaginaries of relationship between cities, citizens and ICTs. Debates will profit from contributions that may include (but are not limited to) reflections on: winners and losers in the Smart City; features that may characterize the digital divide in different contexts; the issues of privacy and possession of data that are of concern in relation to ethics and social justice; benefits and flaws of big data and information; advantages and limitations of data driven urbanism guided by machine learning algorithms compared to traditional planning approaches; the global circulation of smart city imaginaries; the role of multinational enterprises in shaping technological imaginaries as well as city policies; theoretical and methodological perspectives on the exploration of the relation between technologies and the urban.

## **Track 6. Cultural Cities**

Track Chairs: Dr. Arthur Parkinson School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

Dr. Zhumin Xu, Department of Geography, University of Hong Kong

Dr. Andrew Tallon, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of the West of England.

How do cities use culture today? While cultural gentrification might make our cities both more secure and civilised places to live, it has also another side in terms of social justice and symbolic economy. This track deals with culture in a number of ways, firstly dealing with the tendency for change and development to challenge and threaten different elements of cultural heritage, in terms of both physical (built) and intangible aspects of the cultural heritage of cities. The second element relates to the cultural expression of diverse and multicultural cities, how space and place are represented and negotiated, and how identity and culture are embedded in urban spaces. How do we create more inclusive urban spaces, respecting and embracing diversity and culture in all its guises? Thirdly, how is culture broadly conceived, and how is it utilised in cities as an element in development and regeneration?

## 7. Field Trips

Field trips to a range of urban areas will take place on Saturday Afternoon 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Social Housing Development and Renewal**  
**An Overview of Dublin Bay Biosphere Coastal Tour**  
**The Liberties of Dublin Decline and Renewal**  
**Dublin Docklands**  
**Henrietta Street**

## 8. Committees

### International Scientific Committee

**Prof. Valeria Fedeli**, Politecnico di Milano  
**Prof. Arturo Flores**, National Autonomous University of Mexico and Anahuac University  
**Prof. Sonia Gregoria Hurtado**, Polytechnic University of Madrid  
**Prof. Karsten Zimmerman**, Technical University of Dortmund  
**Prof Ignazio Vinci**, University of Palermo.

### Track Chairs

**Assoc. Professor Declan Redmond**, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin  
**Assoc. Professor Maureen Donaghy**, Department of Political Science Rutgers University  
**Dr. Susanne Søholt**, NIBR, Oslo Metropolitan University  
**Assoc. Professor Dieter Kogler**, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin  
**Professor Lin Ye**, School of Government, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou China  
**Professor Karsten Zimmermann**, Faculty of Spatial Planning TU Dortmund University



**Dr. Michael Lennon** School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

**Dr. Priyam Das**, University of Hawaii at Manoa

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**Dr. Arthur Parkinson** School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin

**Dr. Zhumin Xu**, Department of Geography, University of Hong Kong

**Dr. Andrew Tallon**, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of the West of England.

### **Local Organising Committee**

**Dr. Louise Dunne** Research Manager, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy University College Dublin

**Dr. Paula Russell**, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy University College Dublin.

**Associate Professor Declan Redmond**, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy University College Dublin

**Professor Mark Scott**, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy University College Dublin

**Associate Professor Brendan Williams**, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin.

## **9. Venue and Location**

The Conference is taking place in the O' Brien Centre for Science at University College Dublin, Ireland's largest and most global university. As a large university campus on a leafy site in south Dublin, 4 Km from Dublin City Centre, delegates can enjoy a relatively peaceful campus environment, surrounded by 8Km of woodland walks. UCD is well connected to Dublin City Centre along a quality bus corridor, so that Dublin's sights and world-famous cultural attractions are within easy reach.

## **10. Sustainability**

In line with the conference theme and to encourage sustainability we are aiming for a paperless and waste free conference. Therefore we have cut down on paper and all

unnecessary packaging. We will be providing delegates with an opportunity to recycle their badges and pocket programmes. Please ask at the registration desk for more information.

In line with this effort we will not be providing printed abstract books or conference bags, and will provide reusable water bottles, sponsored by Irish Water.

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# **Potentials of Nature-Based Solutions for Improvement of Resilience and Landscape Valorization in Urban Environments**

**Vladan Djokic, Jelena Ristic Trajkovic, Verica Krstic**

**University of Belgrade Faculty of Architecture, [vdjokic@arh.bg.ac.rs](mailto:vdjokic@arh.bg.ac.rs),  
[jelena.ristic@arh.bg.ac.rs](mailto:jelena.ristic@arh.bg.ac.rs), [verica.krstic@arh.bg.ac.rs](mailto:verica.krstic@arh.bg.ac.rs)**

## **ABSTRACT**

The relevance of this research topic is a reflection of a need to redefine the concept of nature in architecture and urbanism so as to acknowledge the current environmental and climate issues and the changing position of nature in contemporary culture. Today, the built environment puts very strong pressure on the natural environment, causing climate change and degradation of ecosystems to evolve as a consequence of such tendencies. Keeping in mind that architecture and urbanism produce the environment for humans and at the same time study the relationship between people and their environment, both built and natural, we will argue that architectural and urban design are at the very core of the problem between humans, the natural and built environment, and the changes that occur in these relations. Furthermore, recent decades have seen a constant emphasis on the importance of nature, especially natural elements and principles, within design in order to achieve environmental and cultural sustainability, i.e., harmony between architecture, nature and users. However, the practice of application of these methods and knowledge in architecture still hasn't been developed. The focus of this paper is the implementation of nature-based solutions in the built environment, particularly from the aspects of improving resilience, well-being and landscape valorization. This paper deals with the identification of the key potentials and a range of benefits of ecosystem services, but also of the crucial barriers and limitations impeding the implementation of this concept in contemporary cities.

## **KEYWORDS**

nature-based solutions, architectural and urban design, resilience, health, well-being