



# STREETS FOR PEOPLE

Individuals in outdoor environments: projects, practices and research for the psychophysical well-being

## Brief description of the event

The Environmental Accessibility Cluster of the Italian Society of Architectural Technology (SITdA) conceived the *Streets for People* International Conference to build upon the previous events addressing the psychophysical well-being and autonomous living of individuals, and to promote inclusion in the architectural world.

Starting from Bernard Rudofsky's *Streets for People. A primer for Americans*, this conference edition focuses on outdoor environments. More specifically, it draws from the Author's observations on the habit of Mediterranean communities to use outdoor spaces and enjoy squares, streets, porticoes, stairs and dwelled bridges: "environments" shaped over centuries by builders able to merge architecture with the geographical context, but also with the local social and cultural fabrics.

Places can be welcoming and protective, as well as rejecting and repulsive. While failures in designing and managing outdoor environments relapse on everybody, individuals with specific needs are the most vulnerable. Their requirements and demands often become even more clear outside private homes or protected spaces, where limits to autonomy and inclusion emerge.

The 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities integrates the concept of the autonomy in several articles, underlying the need to allow all individuals "to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life", by adopting all the measures to "ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas".

Ensuring that everyone, regardless of their social identity (gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, social group), can live their daily life in public spaces embodies the concept theorized by Henri Lefebvre in 1968 of the "right to the city", understood as the right for everyone to experience space in a non-segregating way that supports their life. Nevertheless, this objective still faces many obstacles and some failures to comply.

In Italy, the Plans for the Elimination of Architectural Barriers (PEBA) have been slowly developing, and sometimes their realisation includes not only barriers but also dangers and little usability of outdoor public spaces. Besides physical obstacles, further barriers hinder the right to the city - violence, poverty, and isolation, which impact on the capacity of citizens to fully and freely participate in the social life of the city.

Urban environments, even during their exceptional uses as scenographies for outdoor events, together with natural environments such as parks and gardens, or seaside, rural and mountain areas, must guarantee a full and equal enjoyment for all, an objective still unattained. Moreover, emergency scenarios worsen ordinary conditions. Often, climate change consequences or natural disasters increase the vulnerability of individuals, their fragilities and their possibility to make use of urban spaces. The current climate crisis is leading cities to invest in quality of life. Spaces in-between buildings, neighbourhoods, suburbs, or internal areas are carefully designed. Street furniture, sidewalks, green spaces, and seatings are considered as means to promote new and old ways of dwelling and living as a community. Tangible



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actions increasing the usability of public spaces are undertaken - renaturalization, mitigation strategies, measures aimed to contain the effects of droughts and floods.

Acknowledging how barriers and limits take different shapes (environmental, gender, ethnical, disability, and sexual ones) and are co-present within the city's "physical body" itself - outdoor environments included, introduces the intersectional and gender angles in the accessibility and inclusion dimensions. On the one hand, this requires investigating the different forms of discrimination the city gives birth to, and explaining their possible interlinks and interdependencies. On the other hand, it suggests taking an intersectional perspective to enhance what Patricia Hill Collins defines as the awareness of communities of the role they own in defining their identity and building a higher social justice, valorising the complexity of individuals' everyday life.

## Thematic sessions

Drawing from the conference theme, and in relation to the 2030 Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goals no. 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), no. 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) e no. 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), contributions are expected to illustrate design, practice and research experiences, with National or International relevance, and belonging to different disciplinary fields. Three thematic sessions have been identified:

### urban spaces

The space of the *urbs* represents the perimeter of the investigation, within its unitary dimension as a city, but also as neighbourhoods, spaces in-between buildings, or specific physical spaces having usually their own function, such as streets or squares. For illustrative, yet incomplete, purposes, contributions can address PEBA's, PAU's, studies on urban accessibility, design projects and research based on community engagement and citizen science giving voice to the often "invisible" people and needs through co-production and co-creation processes, contributing to make public spaces more inclusive, sustainable and resilient to social changes..

### natural outdoor areas

This thematic session addresses the green (gardens, parks, therapeutic gardens) and blue (riversides, fountains, seaside) areas, together with all the natural elements the contact with which favours the psychophysical well-being of individuals. For illustrative, yet incomplete, purposes, contributions can illustrate projects or research efficiently addressing climate change phenomena, understanding its consequences on the spatial and social domains, with a particular focus on vulnerable individuals, as well as experiences in which natural elements are investigated to bring benefits and increase inclusion in people's life.



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## Devices, objects, elements and technologies for outdoor living

Designing at the small scale is necessary to guarantee a more inclusive, better and safer usability of urban spaces as well as outdoor natural areas. This includes both devices (facilities and elements for the movement and sports) and specific elements (pavement elements, urban furniture, digital and interactive devices). For illustrative, yet incomplete, purposes, contributions can illustrate projects, research or other experiences about the realisation of facilities, objects and elements; enabling technologies and digital instruments aiming to increase and promote a more autonomous living of individuals

## Official languages

Italian and English are the Conference's official languages.

Oral presentations will be in Italian or in English. The Proceedings will include full papers in Italian or English, while the abstracts will be only in English.

## Abstract submission

To participate in the Conference, authors are invited to submit an abstract in Italian or English, choosing a thematic session. Abstracts should illustrate the topic investigated by detailing the objectives, methods and results.

Abstracts must be submitted by filling in the Google form at the **page abstract** of the official website. Contributions must include: title; name of the author(s); affiliation of each author; email of the corresponding author; three to five keywords; text of the abstract (up to 3.000 characters incl. spaces); up to five references. Abstracts will undergo a double-blind peer review.

Each author can submit up to two abstracts, whether as a single author or with others.

## Paper submission

Authors of the accepted abstracts will be notified by email and invited to submit the full paper, based on the template that will be provided by the Organizing Committee. Contributions should be delivered in both .docx and identical .pdf format by uploading them at the website **page paper**. Full papers (18.000 characters incl. spaces) will be in Italian or English, while the final abstract (3.000 characters incl. spaces) will be in English.

Contributions that don't conform to the provided template, editorial norms and deadlines will not be included in the Conference Proceedings.

Full papers will undergo a double-blind peer review.

## Proceedings

The full papers positively evaluated will be included in the Conference Proceedings, an open-access book given an ISBN code that will be distributed during the Conference itself.



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## Participation

To participate in the International Conference and/or to publish the full paper in the Conference Proceedings, corresponding authors must fill in the form at the website **page registration** and upload the receipt of the registration fee.

## Registration

The registration fee is **200 euros** (single fee for each selected paper, regardless of the number of authors). It includes: the author(s)' participation in the Conference, the presentation of the selected contribution, the publication of the full paper in the Conference Proceedings, and a copy of the Proceedings themselves.

Payment details will be provided to the corresponding authors by email once their contribution will be accepted.

## Timeline

**28.02.2025 | Abstract submission deadline**

28.03.2025 | Notification of abstract acceptance

**30.05.2025 | Full paper submission deadline**

25.08.2025 | Notification of full paper acceptance

**08.09.2025 | Full paper final submission**

**06.10.2025 | Deadline for the conference registration and fee payment**

**07.11.2025 | International Conference**

## Info and venue

The International Conference will be hosted by Università Iuav di Venezia at **Badoer Palace**, Tafuri room.

Further information on the **website** or by email to [stradepergente@iuav.it](mailto:stradepergente@iuav.it).



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