

13th Conference of Pacific Rim Community Design Network: Design with Precarity.

Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand

Conference Program

Roundtable#1

Roundtable #01-A	Plenary (LT.1)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.15 - 12.15 PM	The Urban Grassroots and Sites of Futuring	1. Nick R Smith, Architecture, Barnard College, USA 2. Seng Boon Lim, Built Environment, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia 3. Priza Marendraputra, Asian Urbanisms, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore 4. Daniel PS Goh and How Zhan Jie, Asian Urbanisms, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
Roundtable #01-B	Room 1 (203)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.15 - 12.15 PM	Dancing with Precarity: Choreographing Community Design 1. "Re-defining the boundaries of Precarity: Responses to urban violence through unique spatial partnerships" by Diana Benjumea, Singapore University of Social Sciences 2. "Co-Creation: Grounded" by Trecia Lim, WeCreate Studio 3. "Stepping Through Spatial and Social Precarity: Placekeeping of Singapore's Rail Corridor" by Cristina Nearing, Yohei Kato, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design 4. "Moving Earth, Holding Space: Love, Land, and Letting Go" by Bingyu Cai, Ground-Up Initiative 5. "Finding Their Footing: Co-Designing Youth Care in Uncertain Times" by Keng Hua Chong, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore, Natasha Yeo, COLOURS	Bingyu Cai, Cristina Nearing, Diana Benjumea, Keng Hua Chong, Natasha Yeo, Trecia Lim, Yohei Kato
Roundtable #01-C	Room 2 (311)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.15 - 12.15 PM	Community Enhancement in the Population Shrinking Community	Keiro Hattori
Roundtable #01-E	Room 4 (313)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.15 - 12.15 PM	Telling the Story of Water: Narrative-based Collaboration as Climate Resilience Tool	N. Claire Napawan, Beth Ferguson (UC Davis), Danai Thaitakoo (Chulalongkorn University), and Ellen Oettinger White (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry)

Nick R Smith
Architecture, Barnard College, USA

Seng Boon Lim
Built Environment, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia

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Roundtable session1-A
Title: The Urban Grassroots and Sites of Futuring

Abstract:
This roundtable extends from the international workshop on “Cities as Sites and Techniques of Futuring” held in August 2025 at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (<https://ari.nus.edu.sg/events/cities-as-sites/>). At the workshop, urban studies and design scholars discussed the techniques of presentation, exhibition, immersion, designing, piloting and inter-referencing deployed to create imaginations, possibilities and actualizations of urban futures. The workshop was inspired by the work of Pierre Nora (1989) on sites of memory and history and aimed to understand their temporal counterpart, “sites of futuring”. We were interested in how these sites of futuring are rendered and render each other as truth spots (Gieryn 2018) in the contradictory age of thoroughgoing urbanization in Asia (Jones 1997) and adaptation to the climate crisis, especially when it takes on the desire for urban regeneration.

At the workshop, we observed that urban design and its associated perspectives, concepts and methods have been central to the reimagining of new ways of living, working and playing together by urban authorities, planners and architects. We see urban design in the spatial institutionalization of innovation and deployment of futuristic technologies in the techniques of futuring implemented in digital districts and smart cities. We also see urban design in the place-bound conservation of cultural and historical legacies in the production of heritage precincts, as many cities push ahead in inter-urban competition in globalizing Asia to create distinctive identities.

For this roundtable, we discuss how the urban grassroots—citizen groups, migrant collectives and place communities—engage with the authorities and experts to articulate urban design in their own terms and to advance their own interests, worldviews and lifeworlds. This is in reference to the different “futuring” urban situations that the urban grassroots find themselves confronting: resettlement, re-urbanization, urban renewal, gentrification, and so on. We draw from our “Capitals of the Future” research, where we are studying greenfield urban sites of futuring that are rising as new capital cities (Nusantara), administrative centers (Putrajaya) and business and cultural hubs (Marina Bay, Jurong Industrial Estate, and Jurong Lake District in Singapore), and intersect this with our own research work in other cities (Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Shenzhen) for comparative analysis.

Trecia Lim
WeCreate Studio

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Roundtable session1-B

Title: Dancing with Precarity: Choreographing Community Design

Abstract:

Cities are facing mounting precarity—marked by rapid urbanisation, global pandemics, increasing social isolation, demographic shifts, and escalating climate risks (Holt-Lunstad, 2024; Lubben, 2015; United Nations, 2023). These intersecting social, environmental, economic, and spatial vulnerabilities profoundly shape everyday life and pose unprecedented challenges for creating and sustaining liveable, inclusive environments. Community design offers critical insights into navigating such complexities. Historically, community designers have operated under uncertainty, adapting to shifting stakeholder dynamics, economic transitions, and ecological transformations through iterative, context-sensitive, and improvisational approaches (Hirsch, 2011; Hou, 2011; Sanoff, 1999).

Lawrence Halprin's Take Part Workshop method exemplifies this ethos, mobilising collective creativity by engaging diverse participants through structured yet imaginative design processes (Hirsch, 2011). Inspired by this and the metaphor of improvisational dance, this roundtable introduces the concept of Dancing with Precarity, highlighting how community design can benefit from fluid, adaptive, and experimental strategies—particularly during the exploratory “fuzzy front end” of design processes (Sanders & Stappers, 2008).

While improvisational dance fosters adaptability and creativity, community design must also engage with structured processes and policy frameworks (Sanoff, 2022). Striking a balance requires that the continuous “dance” unfolds within defined boundaries—allowing of fluid, free-form practice while ensuring alignment with systemic constraints and long-term outcomes.

Through diverse and illustrative case studies, this roundtable presents various “dance forms” (i.e. community design processes) that address multiple dimensions of precarity. Presenters will describe methodologies used to engage the multiplicity of stakeholders, responding to varying contexts and different dimensions of precarity with focus on strategies for balancing creative improvisation with necessary structural rigour.

The primary objectives of this roundtable are to:

1. Examine diverse dimensions and meanings of precarity in community design;
2. Identify principles that span various “dance forms” of community design in addressing precarity;
3. Uncover opportunities within uncertainty to stimulate innovative participatory approaches and interdisciplinary collaboration;
4. Articulate actionable insights for community designers and stakeholders facing uncertain conditions.

Key discussion points include:

- Can community design embrace improvisational dance as a metaphor to enhance creativity, flexibility, and inclusivity in addressing precarity?
- How does the concept of precarity vary across different contexts, and what lessons can be drawn?
- In what ways can various creative forms of activators act as catalysts for community engagement and collective creativity?

This roundtable aims to inspire dialogue, exchange practical strategies, and collectively explore how “dancing with precarity” can enrich community design practices in uncertain times.

Keiro Hattori
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Roundtable session1-C

Title: Community Enhancement in the Population Shrinking Community

Abstract:

Population shrinkage has become prevalent in many Asian countries including South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and even in Thailand. Population shrinkage does not occur ubiquitously. There is a strong tendency that less populated areas tend to have a higher and accelerating rate of population loss, which implies that bigger cities will be bigger, and small villages will become smaller. Population shrinkage causes several ramifications to smaller villages, but the important consequence in terms of community design is that it has forced some essential social hubs to close down or traditional festivals to be called off for good. These incidents diminish the social cohesion that the community possess and accelerate population shrinkage.

In order to combat this negative effect, some villages in Japan and other countries have come with innovative approaches. These approaches are almost totally bottom-up and the solutions came from the shrinking communities. For example, Yakushima Island in the southern part of Japan has combated the crisis of the elementary school being shut down due to the decrease of number of pupils, by inviting pupils and his or her family from outside of the island to stay for more than a year. This program has not been beneficial only to Yakushima communities but also for the pupils who came and stay in Yakushima. Another case is that of Uozu City in Toyama Prefecture. The city had faced difficulties continuing the traditional festival called Tatemon because of the decrease of young adults. The city decided to ask for volunteers to the wider region beyond the city limits, which was taboo not so long time ago.

The objective of this roundtable is to share the issues behind the population shrinkage of small villages and also to share the knowledge (or wisdom) of how to combat these issues from a standpoint of community enhancement through bottom-up based case studies. Since the population shrinkage in small villages is a common issue to many countries, sharing the knowledge of the case studies that will be presented in this roundtable is expected to be beneficial to many participants.

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Danai Thaitakoo
Chulalongkorn University

Ellen Oettinger White
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Roundtable session1-E

Title: Telling the Story of Water: Narrative-based Collaboration as Climate Resilience Tool

Abstract:

Building resilience to climate impacts will require engaging vulnerable communities in a greater understanding of climate risks and building capacity within these communities; this effort requires communicating risks and resources to communities in a manner that encourages dialogue and action. As such, new tools are needed for facilitating engagement; tools such as storytelling. This roundtable explores the role that storytelling, narratives, and science fiction can play in engaging diverse communities with creating resilient futures. There is extensive literature demonstrating the significance of storytelling within climate resilience planning in its ability to contribute knowledge, make meaning, and most importantly, build capacity to respond to climate uncertainty. These narrative-based approaches can better communicate the complex, hyper-local, nuanced, and place-based range of impacts associated with the

climate crisis – and have been employed by non-Western societies as science communication for a millenia. Specifically within Bangkok, the story of water is an ancient one, tied deeply to its urban development and cultural history.

The city is situated in the Chaophraya delta, formerly agriculturally-rich floodplains, that employed stilted housing, exposed water canals, and other flexible methods of development. The country's most significant holidays, such as Songkran and Loy Kratong have connections to the region's monsoon seasons, and demonstrate a culture which once celebrated routine flooding. However, the adoption of Western attitudes towards water and its management in the last 100 years, coupled with the projected impacts of climate change, threaten to upend the city's tenuous relationship with water. Bangkok's future resilience – and that of many other cities and communities – will require telling a new story of water.

Parallel session#1 (Room 1)

Parallel session#1	Room 1 (203)	Co-design initiatives #01
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	Coexistence of Different Ideas About Nature	Namiko Minai
1.15 - 1.30 PM	Cultivating Island Futures, Mapping Siargao Island in Seas of Change	Cara Flores (Chair)
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Introducing the Sacredness of Nature into the Sacredness of community design: Through Dialogue with 7 Japanese Landscape Designers	Nao Kusumoto
1.45 - 2.00 PM	The Past is a Foreign Countryside: Singapore's Rural Histories	Chee Kien Lai

Namiko Minai

Japan Women's University

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Coexistence of Different Ideas About Nature

Abstract:

Ikuta Ryokuchi, also known as Ikuta Forest, is one of the largest green spaces in the suburban area of Tokyo. Covering approximately 150 hectares, much of the land is owned by Kawasaki City and includes several museums. Some areas within the forest are actively maintained by volunteer groups, each with their own philosophy on how nature should be managed. While none of these approaches are necessarily wrong, the diversity of perspectives makes it difficult to find common ground. How should we facilitate discussions to manage the entire area collectively?

One example of differing viewpoints involves the fireflies in the forest. One group strongly believes that only native fireflies should be preserved in order to protect the local DNA for future generations. Another group argues that bringing in fireflies from outside could help attract visitors to the forest and promote appreciation of nature in suburban residential areas. Both perspectives are valid—so how can we navigate this disagreement? How can we encourage broader participation in discussions about the future of nature management?

This is a real challenge: how to create a master plan for a large public facility that is both supported by local volunteers and effectively maintained by public sector workers for everyone's benefit. It is difficult to make all information about the forest publicly available—for example, rare plant species could be stolen—so we must carefully consider how to share knowledge with potential partners in these discussions.

This case presents a valuable opportunity to bring together people with diverse perspectives and collaboratively plan for the future of natural spaces.

Cara Flores
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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives
Title: Cultivating Island Futures, Mapping Siargao Island in Seas of Change

Abstract:

Cultivating Island Futures is a project that explores the potential of mapping in small-island contexts through creative and participatory mapping workshops hosted in Siargao, Philippines. Maps, particularly in the context of small-islands and sustainability, have aided in showing the threat of rising sea-levels, and effects of calamities. However, the goal of this project was to design a cartographic process that could better include local communities' knowledge on climate challenges, modes of adaptation, and hopes for the future. This project was a collaboration between researchers from Utrecht University and Erasmus Institute of Urban Housing Studies (IHS) in the Netherlands, and Lokal Lab, a Siargao-based NGO piloting bottom-up sustainability initiatives. Siargao is an island grappling with rapid tourism development due to its popularity as a surfing spot, and as a digital nomad hub. However, the island is also climate vulnerable, and was hit hard by Super Typhoon Rai in 2021. It is within this context that we collaborated with Lokal Lab to host an intergenerational workshop with their partner communities of local farmers, weavers, and youth. Together, we mapped out and visualized local lived experiences and conceptualizations of sustainable development in the small island context. The maps generated through the workshop were then compiled into an atlas with the purpose of sharing vital local input with relevant stakeholders.

This presentation will first reflect on working as designers and researchers transnationally. As this workshop was a collaboration between a local NGO, Netherlands-based Filipina researchers, and Philippines-based artists, how do these different positionalities shape the possibilities and processes of the workshop? What implications does researching and designing transnationally have for the project?

Then we reflect on the practice of creative and participatory mapping as an act of translation, and curation. While there is the literal translation of academic concepts into the local language, how does the design of the mapping process shape how the experiences of the local community are translated visually onto the map? This is particularly regarding using creative methodology, which utilized writing, storytelling, drawing, and poetry as modes of inputting spatial data onto the map. Therefore, how then, is the map being curated into a boundary object that can have relevance for other stakeholders? These questions are key reflection points that shape not only the design of the mapping process, but the impact it can have on the local community, the narrative of the island, and its sustainable development.

Nao Kusumoto
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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives
Title: Introducing the Sacredness of Nature into the Sacredness of community design: Through Dialogue with 7 Japanese Landscape Designers.

Abstract:

Community designers have worked for environmental justice and practiced citizen participation and community empowerment. The "sacredness" created by people giving meaning to their everyday lives is found in their struggles. People give meaning to nature and accept them as "sacred." Randy Hester argues in "Ecological Democracy" (2006) that these two kinds of sacredness are interrelated. We note that sacred places important to communities are often also formed by nature.

The purpose of this paper is to examine how landscape designers, as a profession, contribute to the formation of sacred places.

As a first step in this study, we focus on landscape designers in Japan, although each region of the Pacific Rim has a different nature and culture, and the ways in which landscape designers contribute will vary.

Seven Japanese landscape designers were interviewed. Based on preliminary research, I interviewed them about their attitudes toward society and nature, the sacredness of both nature and society, their techniques to create them, and the relationship between two kind of sacredness.

The following will become clear. All landscape designers work to identify and resolve social issues in the areas. However, these issues are not always the same as the community's requests, and in many cases, experts are needed to gather community opinions. As for nature, opinions are divided. Some designers are fine with super-hard designs that do not incorporate natural elements, while others always take nature into consideration even if it is not identified as an issue. Regardless of their stance, however, nature is often related to social issues, or nature is used to solve social issues. Especially in cases where nature is related to social issues, we can see a connection between the sacredness of community and the sacredness of nature.

This paper brings sacredness of nature into community design and provides an opportunity to make community design more effective for climate change and ecological destruction.

Chee Kien Lai

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: The Past is a Foreign Countryside: Singapore's Rural Histories

Abstract:

Between 1908 and 1959, Singapore's urban and rural areas were administered separately by two different agencies. The jurisdiction of the city fell under the colonial municipality, subsequently as the post-war City Council. Prior to 1959, the Rural Board oversaw the development and maintenance of spaces such as industries, roads, agriculture and facilities of the designated rural areas, which was almost three times in size as the city in land area and which included islands around the main one. Both sustained but contested an invisible line between the city and countryside areas, which increasingly expanded in favour of the city.

In the 1970s, three-quarters of the population in the rural areas were Chinese farmers. As Singapore developed into a modern-day metropolis under the newly-elected local government, the inception of the first State and Country Plan in 1971 (now known as the Concept Plan) fundamentally reorganised this rural-urban "divide." The modified ring concept dictated a ring of development around the main island's central nature catchment, and this "ring" was punctuated by satellite housing estates served by different scales of transport infrastructure. The former rural residents were progressively resettled or moved into the housing estates and their prior activities and practices transformed.

This paper discusses the rural areas of Singapore in terms of its ecological, agricultural, and spatial histories. It focuses on the research of village houses and spaces such as temples, schools, provision shops and mutual aid associations, which collectively created affect and defined communities. I argue the importance of reexamining these communities, spaces and practices as Singapore navigates its relationships with nature and history. At present, it tolerates the return of selected animals such as otters and chickens into its urban landscapes (but not other species), and contemplate impending food security concerns amidst global supply chain lapses and ensuing wars. The alteration of its prior slogan "City in a Garden" to "City in Nature" in 2020 has also required insight into what was/is meant by the new aspirant label for the island-city-state, theoretically and actually.

Parallel session#1 (Room 2)

Parallel session#1	Room 2 (311)	Co-design initiatives #02
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	Co-Designing Cooling Spaces in the Tropics: A Community-Centered and Business-Informed Approach in Indonesia	MIHARU UCHIYAMA
1.15 - 1.30 PM	Colonial Legacy and Urban Futures: Applying the Urban Trilemma Framework to North Surabaya	Ni Putu Aryani
1.30 - 1.45 PM	G Lab: Prototyping Satellite Creative Labs for Social Good in Singapore	Keng Hua Chong (Chair)
1.45 - 2.00 PM	From Informality to Strategy: Rethinking Everyday Resilience through Seasonal Spatial Tactics in Urban Kampung	Zuhrotul Mawaddatil Ula

Miharu Uchiyama

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Theme: Co-design initiatives

Title: Co-Designing Cooling Spaces in the Tropics: A Community-Centered and Business-Informed Approach in Indonesia

Abstract:

We would like to introduce an initiative that integrates community design methods into corporate activities, aiming to support better communities while exploring new business opportunities.

Cities in tropical regions such as Indonesia are increasingly affected by extreme heat due to global warming and the urban heat island effect. Ensuring thermal comfort is essential for improving residents' quality of life, health, and productivity. However, while air conditioners are becoming more common in the Global South, their widespread use raises concerns about energy consumption, environmental impact, and household costs.

As part of a joint project between Daikin Industries and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University, we are renovating a *balai* (community hall) in a *kampung* (urban village) in central Surabaya. Air conditioners will be installed to create a thermally comfortable public space. The facility is intended to serve multiple purposes: a heatwave shelter, a study or work space, and a venue for community events etc.

From May to July 2025, we will conduct co-design workshops with residents to explore questions such as: "How should a cool environment be used?", "Who needs it, and when?", and "Who should bear the electricity costs?". The goal is to create a space and usage model that reflects residents' real needs and values.

Rather than relying solely on air conditioning, the project also integrates natural ventilation, insulation, and interior design to reduce energy use while maintaining comfort.

The initiative is being carried out in collaboration with local NGOs, universities, and the City of Surabaya. While the renovation will be completed around December 2025, and quantitative data will not be available at the time of the conference, we will present our co-design process, stakeholder engagement, and key challenges and design decisions.

This project may serve as a model for sustainable cooling strategies in tropical urban settings and offers valuable insights into new patterns of air conditioner use.

Ni Putu Aryani
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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Colonial Legacy and Urban Futures: Applying the Urban Trilemma Framework to North Surabaya

Abstract:

North Surabaya, a legacy of the Dutch colonial era, remains a significant cultural landmark, contributing to the identity of the city. Its development in cultural, social, and economic terms is historically tied to the Kalimas River, which once functioned as a vital trade route. As a result, the area has evolved with a distinct urban character, marked by colonial architecture, urban landmarks, and ongoing gentrification that together shape its unique place identity.

Recognized by the Surabaya City Culture and Tourism Office as a tourism zone, North Surabaya has been the focus of various revitalization programs aimed at preserving its architectural heritage and renewing public interest. However, the effectiveness and impact of these initiatives remain inconsistent. This study applies the Urban Trilemma framework—balancing Urban Development, Heritage Preservation, and People Movements—to evaluate the potential and challenges of North Surabaya in becoming a sustainable heritage tourism destination.

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach, incorporating field observations, documentation, interviews, and literature studies. The “People” component of the trilemma is represented by the area's demographic diversity, community awareness, tourist engagement, and the roles of local authorities and property owners. Public participation in cultural heritage conservation is essential to maintaining the identity and continuity of North Surabaya's historical character.

Urban development plays a crucial role in shaping the area through elements such as landmark creation, transportation accessibility, and gentrification. Despite its rich architectural heritage, North Surabaya's development is still lagging behind areas like Tunjungan, which has become more commercially vibrant and appealing to both investors and tourists.

Nevertheless, the “Heritage” factor continues to attract visitors who are drawn to the colonial-era buildings and their historical significance. These buildings serve not only as symbols of place identity but also as assets that can support the local tourism economy. While heritage tourism has shown promise, a more coordinated and community-centered urban development strategy is needed to fully realize this potential.

In conclusion, North Surabaya holds significant potential as a heritage tourism hub. The Surabaya City Government must strengthen the role of local organizations and integrate community-driven efforts to effectively implement the Urban Trilemma framework. This approach would promote sustainable development while preserving cultural and historical values.

Keng Hua Chong
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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Colonial Legacy and Urban Futures: Applying the Urban Trilemma Framework to North Surabaya

Abstract:

As part of an evolving landscape of socially engaged arts and design education, G Lab—an initiative by the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), University of the Arts Singapore (UAS)—seeks to activate student-led, community-based creative practices that contribute to care and wellbeing. Guided by the values of Goodness, Gratitude, and the spirit of the Giraffe—a metaphor from the Central Singapore Community Development Council's campaign encouraging citizens to “stick their necks out” for others—G Lab aims to cultivate a culture of civic empathy and socially responsive creativity among young artists and designers.

The project involves establishing a network of satellite community design labs embedded across six neighbourhoods and social service organisations within Singapore's Central District. Each lab is envisioned as a long-term collaboration between students and community partners, grounded in participatory action research and shaped by the specific needs, voices, and aspirations of local residents. Students will co-create with these communities using diverse art and design practices, exploring how creativity can foster inclusion, intergenerational connection, and everyday wellbeing.

Early ideas emerging from G Lab reflect a range of community engagements. For example, The Listening Post brings together elders and youth in reflective dialogue through letter-writing and storytelling, encouraging deep listening across generations. Music students are partnering with eldercare homes to introduce instruments and facilitate participatory performances. A new community choir initiative promotes well-being and connection through collective singing, while dance students engage persons living with dementia through movement and dance. In parallel, placemaking projects aim to redesign public spaces with children—particularly those with special needs—in inclusive and playful ways. Additional intergenerational Art Camp offer shared creative experiences across age groups.

By embedding these practices in lived, local settings, G Lab proposes an alternative model for arts and design education—one where the boundaries between the classroom and community dissolve, and creative learning is inherently relational, ethical, and responsive. This paper explores the institutional setup, community collaborations, and design methodologies at the core of G Lab, and reflects on the practical and pedagogical insights drawn from its early implementation. It invites further discussion on how arts institutions can serve as infrastructures of care within rapidly shifting urban and social landscapes.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: From Informality to Strategy: Rethinking Everyday Resilience through Seasonal Spatial Tactics in Urban Kampung

Abstract:

Resilience has traditionally been framed around the physical durability of built structures and reactive measures to “build back better” after disasters—an approach aligned with engineering resilience. Such frameworks, dominant in the Global North, prioritize institutional structures, permanent infrastructures, and hazard-specific interventions. While effective for managing acute risks and shocks, they often overlook the opportunity to establish a foundational ground to resilience that centers in the everyday realities lived by communities, particularly in the Global South. This paper argues that resilience must be understood not just as a technical solution, but as an embedded socio-spatial process responsive to change. It is grounded in a shift from reactive measures to proactive, holistic approaches to resilience.

In the context of the Global South, where informality and community-driven planning are integral to urban life, an alternative framework that focuses on the community-led adaptive strategies emerged, as articulated in everyday resilience. Unlike top-down, large-scale interventions, everyday resilience emphasizes communities’ capacity to adapt to day-to-day issues such as inadequate infrastructure, economic vulnerability, social exclusion, and other persistent urban stressors. Rather than “bouncing back” from crises, it fosters long-term adaptability and social cohesion through everyday acts.

Using the case of the annual Ramadhan bazaar in Kampung Gebang, Surabaya, Indonesia, this study examines how the community-organized temporary market transforms the kampung’s streets into sites of income generation, social gathering, and cultural expression. This paper explores how a kampung adjacent to a university, where student-driven activities permeate everyday life, leverages this proximity to reinterpret and complicate everyday resilience narratives. Rather than treating space as a fixed object of analysis, this paper approaches placemaking as a set of spatial practices and as a socially-produced process. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with residents, organizers, community leaders, and

vendors, alongside direct observation of spatial practices during the Ramadhan bazaar, this research traces how temporary spatial alterations reinforce collective capacity to navigate precarity and enhance everyday resilience

The findings reveal that community-led spatial adaptations foster resilience not by resisting informality, but by embracing it as a strategy. Rather than seeking permanence and or a return to normalcy, these temporary, grassroots practices embody a form of design with precarity—a bottom-up initiation that continually reconfigures resilience to uncertain conditions. This paper ultimately challenges dominant resilience narratives and offers insights into how such interventions, though may not resolve systemic vulnerability, rework it through everyday spatial tactics that contribute to a more adaptive urban future.

Parallel session#1 (Room 3)

Parallel session#1	Room 3 (312)	Inclusive Design #01
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	Perforating the City? Social Permeability and Community Engagement Practices	Jeff Hou (Chair)
1.15 - 1.30 PM	Inclusive Design: Human-centered planning for new residential communities	YEBO SONG
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Between Invasive and Symbiosis : The Techno-politics and Moral Imaginaries of Taiwan's Stray Dog Sheltering Network	Chihihao Lin
1.45 - 2.00 PM	Designing justice within Constraints: The Gender-inclusive Reform Project of Restrooms at National Taiwan University	Yung-Chu Chuang / Bing-Cheng Wang
2.00 - 2.15 PM	Connecting Memory and Landscape: The Potential of Community Design in the Redevelopment of the Meiji Jingu Gaien	Masako Yamamoto

Jeff Hou

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Perforating the City? Social Permeability and Community Engagement Practices

Abstract:

With growing polarization and stratification in society, how can specific forms of spatial and social practices create opportunities for interactions and understanding between individuals and communities in disparate corners of the city? How do these practices overcome differences and prejudice and facilitate an urbanism of social permeability? To answer these questions, we developed a workshop series titled “Perforating the City” to examine three specific types of spatial/social practices in terms of their capacity for facilitating relationships and understanding, or “permeability,” as well as the distinct challenges they face. The three workshops will each focus on the practices of engaging, commoning, and gardening.

For the first workshop in March 2025, we invited a group of leading community practitioners and scholars from Asia to share their insights and discuss how different forms of engagement practices facilitate social permeability, or not. Through nine cases of community engagement initiatives, including participatory community planning, the participatory design of neighbouring spaces, micro spatial interventions, public art programs, and community-based art festivals, we unfold our discussion around the following three questions: (1) Can Engagement Include Everyone? (2) Can Engagement Bridge Divides? (3) Can “Perforation” be Designed?

The preliminary results of the workshop discussion form the focus of this presentation. They encompass the identification of diverse participants and stakeholders, followed by different approaches to engagement tailored to varying levels of power and interest; the formulation of actions serving as a form of “perforation”

that begins to peel away layers of distrust, cultural differences, and institutional barriers to create social permeability; and the proposal of an ecosystemic approach to engagement with actors possessing different degrees of neutrality and positionality.

Yebo Song

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Inclusive Design: Human-centered planning for new residential communities

Abstract:

Traditional urban planning employs a top-down methodology: initially, large-scale urban design is conducted, subsequently followed by the allocation of functional buildings, and ultimately, interior designs that cater to daily needs are incorporated. This approach presumes that planners are capable of anticipating user requirements and fulfilling the basic living needs of residents through an efficient arrangement of community functions. However, as societal evolution progresses and social dynamics shift, community planning must transcend mere functional centralism inherent in the city-state model. Urban planning should prioritize residents' diverse utilization requirements, accounting for demographic and cultural variability. Residential developments must foster resilience and provide infrastructural support to mitigate socioeconomic challenges, including accelerated urbanization, social stratification, and economic restructuring. Additionally, these communities should possess a stable structure capable of managing the disruptions caused by large-scale public safety incidents, such as the ongoing global impact of COVID-19. Urban planning typically progresses from macro-level layouts to micro-scale spaces. Nevertheless, this article proposes establishing a more user-oriented residential community relationship through an inverse perspective—starting with people's daily lives and expanding outward to the utilization of public spaces. This article examines existing residential communities, such as Minsheng Community in Taipei City, as case studies. By analyzing the prevalent issues currently observed in residential areas, it explores strategies from the perspective of new residential planning to address and mitigate these challenges. The core objective of space design should be meeting people's functional needs while providing high-quality experiential value. Rather than expecting users to conform to pre-established planning schemes, this approach advocates for planning that adapts to human-centered principles.

To create more inclusive residential communities, the new residential community planning will, while complying with current regulations, strive to foster a more humanized, sustainable, and vibrant living environment. In housing type demand-oriented design, the needs of various family structures (single-person households, nuclear families, extended families, elderly households) are considered, leading to the development of flexible and adaptable housing types that accommodate housing needs across different life cycle stages. Correspondingly, the planning and allocation of public spaces evolve into the creation of a multi-level shared space system. Public space planning no longer merely involves the placement of elements like green spaces and parks as in traditional urban planning but emphasizes the flexibility of space utilization based on the diverse needs of users. This approach can also facilitate communication and understanding among different family structures, thereby enhancing community cohesion.

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Between Invasive and Symbiosis: The Techno-politics and Moral Imaginaries of Taiwan's Stray Dog Sheltering Network

Abstract:

Animal protection in Taiwan is embedded in a distinct and contentious sociopolitical context—where the drive for urban governance and selective entitlement together produce tensions between framings of stray

dogs as ecological invaders and ethical aspirations for multispecies symbiosis. Tensions arise between the classification of stray dogs as invasive species, the fragility of diverse ecological environments, the pursuit of sanitized urban-rural landscapes, and the emotional and moral imaginaries of various actors—rendering the question of “how to properly shelter stray dogs” a critical issue in Taiwanese society.

Since the implementation of the zero-euthanasia policy in 2017, Taiwan has witnessed a continued rise in its stray dog population, leading to severe overcrowding in both public and private shelters. This surge has significantly disrupted native ecosystems and sparked ongoing controversies between animal protection advocates and wildlife conservationists. Notably, private individuals known as large-scale care-bearers (In this study, the term care-bearer refers to individuals who personally keep and care for more than 20 animals. In Taiwan, they are often called—or self-identify as—“ai-ba ai-ma”, means lovely parents)—have become flashpoints of controversy. Unlike well-established nonprofit organizations, these care-bearer lack institutional resources and public influence, yet bear the brunt of the burden. Despite their tireless emotional, financial, and physical efforts, they are often stigmatized as irrational or “mad” placing them in a vulnerable and marginalized position. As urban development has progressed, many care-bearers have been repeatedly displaced to suburban or even more remote areas. Only a few, by chance, manage to “settle” with limited support from nearby communities, while the majority remain in precarious living conditions.

My research centers on the greater Kaohsiung area—a region that, in recent years, has simultaneously developed a flourishing tourism industry, occupies a unique landscape between mountains and sea, and shelters one of the highest stray dog populations in Taiwan. It focuses on public animal shelters, non-profit organizations, and large-scale individual care-bearers as primary actors. This study examines how moral imaginaries and emotional investments shape and sustain policy planning, material infrastructures, and operational routines within Taiwan’s stray dog sheltering network. It also explores how the “prosthetic actions” and caring practices of large-scale care-bearers compensate for structural gaps in the formal sheltering system—acting as moral and material extensions that sustain the network’s viability, while simultaneously reshaping the care-bearers’ own social and ethical positions within it.

As a researcher and actor within this field, I have engaged in resource coordination across non-profit organizations and large-scale care-bearers. Yet, conflicts rooted in divergent moral imaginaries and value systems reveal that standard interventions—such as enhancing bureaucratic efficiency or injecting financial support—fail to address deeper structural tensions. Despite ostensibly shared visions, collaboration among actors often gives way to competition, fragmentation, or even antagonism. I will compile various more inclusive proposals and initiatives developed by key actors within the sheltering network, while also demonstrating how such “inclusive designs” are often undermined by the very moral imaginaries that motivate them—revealing the paradoxes of care and conflict at the heart of animal governance in Taiwan.”

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Designing justice within Constraints: The Gender-inclusive Reform Project of Restrooms at National Taiwan University

Abstract:

How to address issues of gender, race, class, ethnicity ,and sustainability within existing social frameworks has become one of the most pressing challenges and shared concerns of contemporary society. In Taiwan, most all gender restrooms are located in newly constructed buildings, while clear guidelines for adapting restrooms in existing buildings remain lacking. We argue that engaging with gender and justice issues within the constraints of the existing built environment is also necessary and urgent.

How can existing restrooms become more gender-inclusive? As quotidian and familiar spaces, restrooms often embed social norms and imaginaries about gender. Designing all gender restrooms requires more

than changing signage or creating ungendered space—it involves acknowledging the complex gender dynamics at play, and addressing the diverse user groups, needs, and material constraints. Truly inclusive restrooms must support safe, comfortable use for all.

This renovation project originated from the authors' campus experiences and began in 2023, focusing on an aging academic building—the Gongguan Building—at the Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, National Taiwan University. We began by conducting user surveys to understand the specific needs of the primary users—mainly students from the Institute—as well as those of diverse user groups such as non-binary individuals, people with mobility challenges, and caregivers requiring accompaniment. Through this process, we identified key challenges and barriers in the existing facilities. Subsequently, through participatory planning, users, planners, and administrators collaboratively discussed feasible renovation strategies and carried out low-cost spatial interventions. A Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) was conducted after the renovation to guide further improvements.

Although this case is an experimental, site-specific intervention, we aim to develop planning and retrofitting approaches for enhancing gender inclusivity in existing restrooms that can be adapted to other communities, campuses, or public buildings in the future. We argue that the creation of gender-inclusive restrooms is not as difficult or costly as it is often imagined. With user research and attention to spatial details, restrooms in existing buildings can become significantly more inclusive, all within a modest budget. This approach advocates for small-scale, low-budget, and creative projects to carry out spatial interventions. It not only responds to concerns of sustainability but also preserves planning flexibility. At the same time, it invites further reflection: how should gender-inclusive design guidelines be adjusted when applied across different user groups, communities, and spatial contexts?"

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Connecting Memory and Landscape: The Potential of Community Design in the Redevelopment of the Meiji Jingu Gaien

Abstract:

In recent years, the redevelopment plan of the Meiji Jingu Gaien in Tokyo has sparked public controversy, revealing tensions between the preservation of historical landscapes and the modernization of urban functions. The Meiji Jingu Gaien is an urban park where rich greenery—such as the iconic ginkgo tree-lined avenue and expansive lawns—offers a sense of seasonal nature, forming a valuable public space where historical scenery and the natural environment coexist in harmony.

Completed in 1926 as the outer precinct of Meiji Jingu Shrine, the Gaien was developed through public donations and voluntary labor to commemorate Emperor Meiji. It represents a rare example of urban landscape planning that integrates modern city design with scenic preservation philosophy. The central axis leading to the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery, the 300-meter-long row of ginkgo trees, expansive lawns, and surrounding sports facilities together create a symbolic and lived urban environment that has long been embedded in the seasonal rhythms and collective memory of Tokyo's citizens.

However, the ongoing redevelopment plan includes large-scale tree felling and high-rise constructions that threaten the continuity of its landscape, ecosystems, and cultural memory, raising critical questions about its public value. This study examines the transformation of this urban space from the perspective of community design, with the aim of co-creating a sustainable urban vision through civic engagement.

As part of the research, several workshops were conducted with local residents and civic groups to visualize individual and collective memories, meaningful places, and perceptions of the redevelopment. By utilizing tools such as place-based mapping and photographic dialogue, these workshops explore the intersection of historical significance and everyday use.

Through this collaborative process, the study seeks to reframe redevelopment not merely as infrastructural renewal but as a shared practice of city-making. Ultimately, this research aims to clarify the spatial and historical characteristics of Meiji Jingu Gaien and to explore the institutional and practical possibilities of community participation in the preservation of cultural landscapes and the design of inclusive urban futures.

Parallel session#1 (Room 4)

Parallel session#1	Room 4 (313)	Placemaking for Resilient Communities #01
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	Rewilding as Placemaking: A Design Inquiry on a Reclaimed Island in Masan Bay	Yunju Park
1.15 - 1.30 PM	From Hollowing to Belonging: Local Engagement in Architectural Prototyping in a Dong Ethnic Village	Man Yan Lam
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Creative Aging and Community Resilience: Community-Driven Placemaking through Chara Chatri in Rural Thailand	Boonanan Natakun (Chair)/Khemmiga Teerapong
1.45 - 2.00 PM	Mixed-Life on the Sidewalk: Everyday Street Life and Perceived Urban Design Quality in Southeast Asian Cities	Setyo Nugroho
2.00 - 2.15 PM	Smart Village Practices in Japan: Digital Transformation and the Challenge of Rural Society	Minghui Wang

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Rewilding as Placemaking: A Design Inquiry on a Reclaimed Island in Masan Bay

Abstract:

Masan Bay, located on the southern coast of Korea, has undergone over a century of land reclamation since 1908, with more than half of the original inner bay now filled. Among the reclaimed areas is the Masan Marine New Town, a massive artificial island completed in 2019. The island, created in part to accommodate dredged sediment, remains undeveloped, with no finalized internal planning to date.

Since the 1970s, concerns about environmental degradation and tidal vulnerability caused by land reclamation have been steadily raised. From the late 1990s, both local governments and civic organizations responded through sustained efforts to prevent further ecological disruption and improve the environmental conditions of the bay. Nevertheless, development of the Masan Marine New Town—planned in the early 2000s—proceeded. This outcome may be partially attributed to the long-standing physical and psychological disconnection between residents and the waterfront. From the 1960s to the 1990s, rapid industrialization and urban expansion transformed much of the reclaimed land into factories and trade complexes, cutting off everyday access to the sea.

Today, as industrial facilities are being phased out and former waterfronts are repurposed as parks, the Masan Marine New Town is also expected to follow suit, with official planning guidelines calling for its transformation into an “eco-friendly future-leading city.” This shift raises a key question: what kind of approach should be taken when calling back the non-human beings once displaced by reclamation, in order to help rebuild a community shared by both human and non-human life?

This study investigates how relationships between humans and non-human beings have changed throughout the process of land reclamation in Masan Bay, based on semi-structured interviews with nearby residents and open coding of their narratives in relation to changes in the coastal environment. Based on these findings, it proposes site-specific rewilding strategies for the Masan Marine New Town that address both ecological regeneration and socio-cultural reconnection. These insights inform a design

approach that understands rewilding not as a purely ecological task, but as an act of placemaking that reweaves human and non-human life into a shared future.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: From Hollowing to Belonging: Local Engagement in Architectural Prototyping in a Dong Ethnic Village

Abstract:

The Dong communities, in a similar manner to many other Chinese rural settlements, are presently significantly impacted by the phenomenon known as "Village Hollowing," which arises from the migration of the working population in pursuit of employment prospects. Consequently, children and elderly individuals are left residing in the villages.

As one of China's 56 ethnic groups, Dong ethnic minority inhabits regions steeped in a rich history tracing back to the Tang Dynasty. The intricate interplay between daily routines, rituals and architecture forms an essential component of the community's dwelling with their environment. Dong culture is essentially a material culture, characterized by the absence of written language, with self-identification primarily rooted in the inherent connections between the inhabitants and their artifacts, rituals, and architectural heritage. The allure and vitality of "Dong Life" evolve outside the houses. Communal structures, like Wind-and-Rain Bridges and Drum Towers serving as dynamic stages for collective gatherings and activities, are emblematic of the distinct identity of Dong communities.

A 2013 UNESCO Report granting a series of Dong villages along the Pingtan river tentative recognition of World Heritage status, pending final approval, states: "Dong Villages are a perfect integration of humanity and nature, and they reflect the Dong peoples' principle of adapting themselves to nature for survival and development. The Dong Villages are not only an organically evolving landscape but also a continuing landscape.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Creative Aging and Community Resilience: Community-Driven Placemaking through Chara Chatri in Rural Thailand

Abstract:

This research explores a community-driven initiative in Baan Thachang, a rural village in central Thailand, where elderly performers and local residents have reimagined traditional cultural practices to strengthen community resilience. The study focuses on Chara Chatri, a contemporary adaptation of the traditional Thai folk performance Lakhon Chatri, developed in response to precarious socio-economic conditions that disrupted local livelihoods and cultural life.

Initiated by a group of retired performers with the support of families, neighbors, and younger generations, Chara Chatri represents Baan Thachang's innovative approach to creative aging, demonstrating how elder-led artistic expression can serve as a catalyst for collective place-making and well-being. Established in 2020 in response to a period of severe economic disruption that halted most public performances, the troupe made its debut via Facebook Live and quickly garnered widespread attention. Since then, it has grown into a sustainable cultural enterprise, delivering between 30 and 35 performances annually.

This research draws on participant observation, in-depth interviews, and digital ethnography to examine how Chara Chatri emerged and is sustained as a grassroots response to crisis. It emphasizes the active

role of elderly citizens in initiating and leading the project, challenging traditional narratives that position older adults as dependent or passive. Through creative expression and community engagement, Chara Chatri revitalizes intergenerational relationships, mobilizes local knowledge, and activates shared cultural resources.

The findings underscore the significance of community-led cultural practices in fostering resilience. Chara Chatri not only offers elderly participants a renewed sense of purpose and social inclusion but also contributes to economic sustainability and cultural continuity in the village. The initiative draws upon local human, social, and cultural capital, demonstrating how embedded cultural knowledge can be adapted to meet contemporary challenges.

This case contributes to broader discourses on creative aging and participatory cultural development. It suggests that integrating arts-based, elder-led initiatives into community development frameworks can enhance resilience at both individual and collective levels. Chara Chatri stands as a compelling example of how creative aging, when supported through community participation and local agency, can reframe elderhood as a source of vitality and leadership in times of uncertainty.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Mixed-Life on the Sidewalk: Everyday Street Life and Perceived Urban Design Quality in Southeast Asian Cities

Abstract:

This initial study explores the presence of mixed-life on central street segments in Southeast Asian cities and examines how it relates to perceived urban design quality. Mixed-life refers to the diversity of everyday activities—such as walking, street vending, waiting, interacting, or informal work—that take place simultaneously along public streets. In rapidly growing and socially diverse Southeast Asian cities, where streets often serve multiple functions beyond transportation, understanding how spatial design supports or constrains these activities is essential. The study focuses on selected street segments in six cities: Surabaya and Medan (Indonesia), Da Nang (Vietnam), Vientiane (Laos), Khon Kaen (Thailand), Davao (the Philippines) and Ipoh (Malaysia). All selected sites are located in central urban areas characterized by commercial and office uses, where people frequently move and linger along the street. Using Google Street View as the primary method, this research conducts visual observations and assesses five key dimensions of urban design quality: transparency, complexity, human scale, enclosure, and imageability.

Preliminary findings suggest that mixed-life tends to emerge in areas where the urban form supports walkability and visual engagement. Segments with higher levels of transparency (e.g., frequent openings, visible activities at the ground floor) and human scale (e.g., building height relative to street width, presence of street furniture) tend to show a richer variety of street life. In contrast, overly enclosed or monotonous segments may reduce pedestrian comfort and limit informal use. The study also finds variation in imageability—the visual identity or memorability of a street—among cities, often influenced by architectural detail, signage, and vegetation.

By comparing cities of different sizes and planning histories, the study aims to identify whether certain design patterns consistently support urban vitality in the Southeast Asian context. Although not conclusive, the results point toward shared spatial conditions that foster mixed-life, particularly in compact, pedestrian-oriented corridors. This has implications for developing more context-sensitive urban design frameworks that move beyond Western-centric standards, and instead reflect the lived realities of public space in Southeast Asia. Overall, this research contributes to the growing discourse on urban walkability, place quality, and everyday urbanism in the Global South, offering insights for both scholars and practitioners interested in designing streets that support social life, informality, and inclusivity.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Smart Village Practices in Japan: Digital Transformation and the Challenge of Rural Society

Abstract:

The concept of the 'smart city' gained widespread academic and policy attention around 2010, primarily focusing on the optimization of urban infrastructure and information systems to enhance regional governance and public service delivery. In contrast, the digital transformation of rural areas has progressed at a slower pace, with the concept of the 'smart village' being formally introduced in Europe only since 2017. Japan, the focal context of this study, introduced its 'Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation' (Dejitaru Denken Toshi Kokka Kōsō) in 2021, aiming to promote rural digitalization as a response to structural challenges such as population aging and labor shortages.

However, most existing research has focused predominantly on the technical aspects of smart agriculture, with relatively limited attention paid to the broader social implications of smart village development, and the implementation outcomes of smart village policies has yet to be systematically evaluated. To examine how smart rural strategies influence rural life and modes of production, this study conducts a case study in a rural area of Nagano Prefecture. Through interviews with local stakeholders, the research identifies key impacts of digital transformation on rural communities.

The findings reveal that smart agriculture's rapid diffusion has led to an adaptive reliance on outsourced services, driven by high equipment costs and operational complexity. While this outsourcing model has demonstrably improved productivity, it has also blurred the boundaries of the traditional farmer role. In the long term, this behavioral shift has profound implications for rural communities: not only does it possibly undermine the tradition of communal labor that has been a cornerstone of rural life for generations, but it may also pose a challenge of maintaining traditional rural culture. This study argues that smart village development should not be evaluated solely on the basis of productivity gains. Greater attention must be paid to how technological integration reshapes rural social structures and affects the continuity of local cultural practices, with policy suggestions focusing on ensuring a balance between technological advancement and the preservation of rural traditions and community cohesion.

Parallel session#2 (Room 1)

Parallel session#2	Room 1 (203)	Co-design initiatives #03
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
2.45 - 3.00 PM	Every Voice Matters: Co-Design as a Catalyst for Urban Transformation	Sarah Mui
3.00 - 3.15 PM	Reclaiming Urban Margins: Community-Led Buffer Zones in Industrial Periphery of Gresik, Indonesia	Utari Sulistyandari
3.15 - 3.30 PM	Participatory Adaptation Strategies in Vulnerable Communities of Southeast Asia	Kenya Endo
3.30 - 3.45 PM	Disaster Recovery through Co-design Initiatives: the Case of Hickory Nut Gorge in North Carolina	Ming-Chun Lee (Chair)

Sarah Mui

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Every Voice Matters: Co-Design as a Catalyst for Urban Transformation

Abstract:

As a B-Corp certified architecture firm based in Hong Kong, Onebite has integrally woven the ethos of community engagement into its operational fabric, deeming it essential for civic development and the transformation of urban environments. Our paper aims to scrutinise the methodologies and impacts of our community engagement initiatives in Hong Kong, assessing their potential adaptability to other Asian urban contexts. Central to our discussion will be the KNOTIE methodology, a pioneering co-creation approach that facilitates consensus among diverse stakeholders, thereby strengthening community ties and crafting spaces that resonate universally. Our analysis is structured into three distinct sections, each addressing pivotal aspects of co-design: empirical case studies from Hong Kong, the ethical dimensions of co-design practices, and the requisite shifts in mindset to prevent the superficial application of co-design principles.

Empirical Insights from Co-Design Practices in Hong Kong: Two illustrative projects - an age-friendly playground and a public open space design guide - not only highlight how co-design processes can unite community stakeholders in the creation of public amenities but also demonstrate their role in empowering citizens to embark on a knowledge-enhancing journey towards active participation in future public space planning. Additionally, these projects exemplify the progressive climb up the ladder of civic participation facilitated by co-design.

Ethical Considerations in the Co-Design Process: Despite the growing prevalence of co-design, there remains a paucity of discourse on the ethical frameworks necessary to protect community stakeholders involved. The absence of robust ethical practices can erode the safe spaces essential for sustaining co-design initiatives, consequently diminishing trust. Our discussion will introduce a community safeguarding protocol that encompasses respect, responsibility, and honesty, offering a foundation for further dialogue and refinement.

Revising Mindsets for Enhanced Co-Design: Acknowledging and addressing power imbalances inherent in public domain co-design initiatives is crucial. We will discuss necessary changes in the mindsets of key stakeholders to ensure that the co-design process remains both trustworthy and efficacious. These changes include fostering trust, prioritising outcomes over outputs, allocating sufficient time for community comprehension of projects, and enhancing information accessibility and transparency.

This paper aims to illustrate the effectiveness of engaging broad audiences over varying durations and the scalability potential in differing urban settings. We advocate that by listening to every voice, communities can become more liveable, lovable, and enduring. This paper contributes to the academic discourse on co-design but also inspires practical applications that enhance community engagement and urban development across Asia.

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Reclaiming Urban Margins: Community-Led Buffer Zones in Industrial Periphery of Gresik, Indonesia

Abstract:

Gresik, one of the satellite cities in Surabaya, East Java, has long held historical importance as a port city and cultural crossroads since the 11th century. Over the past few decades, however, Gresik has undergone rapid industrialization, especially following the establishment of the Java Integrated Industrial and Ports Estate (JIIP), which is a national strategic project integrating industrial, port, and residential functions. While aiming at economic development, this industrial expansion has reshaped the urban fabric, placing residential areas in increasingly precarious proximity to large scale industrial zones.

This transformation has led to blurred boundaries between industrial and residential zones, resulting in environmental degradation, diminished quality of life, and heightened exposure to industrial risks for nearby communities. As industrial infrastructure continues to expand, many communities find themselves living at the urban margins, where planning regulations are weak and public participation is minimal. Despite being the most affected, local communities are often excluded from decision-making processes that shape their environment. This disconnect reveals a pressing need to rethink how transitional spaces, such as buffer zones, are conceptualized and designed, not only as technical solutions, but as socially negotiated spaces.

Building on previous research that applied Kevin Lynch's Good City Form, this study responds to the limited spatial control exercised by both communities and institutions in managing Gresik's rapid urban-industrial expansion. That earlier work identified buffer zones as critical tools for restoring spatial balance and provided a conceptual mapping of areas where such zones could mediate the interface between settlements and industrial areas. Advancing this agenda, the current study shifts focus toward participatory approaches, examining how buffer zones can emerge as socially negotiated spaces grounded in everyday community practices.

Framed by Henri Lefebvre's concept of the Right to the City, this research positions residents as active co-producers of urban space. Data collected through field observations, policy analysis, and semi-structured interviews in three settlement areas adjacent to industrial zones has informed the identification of potential buffer zone locations. These spatial findings have been further explored through focus group discussions (FGDs) involving residents, planners, and community facilitators, enabling a critical reflection and co-development of community-driven strategies for the design and governance of these transitional spaces.

The study highlights how local spatial practices—rooted in everyday negotiation and environmental adaptation—can inform the design of buffer zones as both protective and participatory urban tools. These insights contribute to more inclusive planning approaches in rapidly industrializing contexts.

Kenya Endo

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Participatory Adaptation Strategies in Vulnerable Communities of Southeast Asia

Abstract:

The Mekong River is a transnational river that embodies the dynamic flows of water, sediments, and goods. Its abundant water resources have contributed to the fertile basin becoming one of the largest food producing landscapes in southeast Asia. Yet, climate change and geopolitical tensions due to infrastructural interventions along the river course bring the Mekong basin a compound challenge against sustainable living. Even a minor change in the hydraulic system, for example, is (and has become) immediately impactful for rural community members whose livelihood heavily depends on the fluctuation of the river.

As a response, research focused on unpacking locally produced knowledge for adaptation to changing environments. This oral sharing presents the findings from the empirical engagement process with the vulnerable community members to clarify how ideas for adaptation are created, shared, and interpreted into actions. In addition, research also looked at the limits of locally produced knowledge; what other types of information are needed to supplement villagers' reactions. Unlike taking the approach of finding ways to best equip the vulnerable population with scientific data and warning alerts, this research takes an opposite approach—understanding what bottom-up information is created and why is it genuinely useful for them, and co-exploring what methods can better facilitate the self-update of the information that they collect for future resilience.

The research team proposed an inquiry-based workshop at Damrae village in Kratié province, Cambodia as a case study. The site is an island surrounded by the Mekong River (approx. 15 square kilometer),

disconnected with the power grid, water supply, and paved road network, representing a typical rural community with least infrastructural development. The preparation materials of the workshop entailed 3D topographical modelling overlaid on drone aerial images. Onsite elevation surveys supplemented the limited data available at the village.

Workshop was designed to naturally withdraw participant's tacit practices by mapping and sketching harvest patterns, water resource, distribution, and potential risks. The iterative drawing allowed information to be organized in a hierarchical manner as well as priorities of necessity. Finally, we highlight the knowledge gaps among villagers, as well as the pressing need for a platform of information sharing, not only the threats but also opportunities. In the end, we provide recommended future research avenues for multiscale actions and transferrable schemes for resilient community building in Asia.

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Disaster Recovery through Co-design Initiatives: the Case of Hickory Nut Gorge in North Carolina

Abstract:

The Hickory Nut Gorge stretches fourteen miles along the Broad River in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Historic rainfall from Hurricane Helene devastated this area and its surrounding towns in September 2024. A wall of water surged down the river, washing away roads, bridges and buildings. Mudslides along the sides of the gorge worsened the damage. Within this context of devastation, local communities are coming together and organizing their recovery under the slogan of "raise the rock." State and federal agencies have made progress clearing debris, rebuilding roads, and restoring essential services. But recreating these places as communities and destinations has barely begun. A team of faculty and students from University of North Carolina at Charlotte is partnering with these communities in the Hickory Nut Gorge to bring design, planning, and preservation expertise to aid in this unprecedented recovery process.

The primary challenges facing this rebuilding process include foregrounding public involvement in co-producing designs, re-establishing a sense of place, revitalizing amenities for residents and tourists, managing growth while respecting the historic character of each place, and creating more resilient communities centered around the Broad River while incorporating future flood mitigation.

The recovery team plans to conduct historical, mapping, and site research as well as engage with the community to propose resilient rebuilding strategies for the Hickory Nut Gorge. The team will serve as facilitators, planners and designers to develop proposals for public spaces that these communities can use or build upon as funding for projects becomes available. The recovery team has met with community leaders who are eager for providing input and establishing partnership.

A key strategy is to tackle this rebuilding effort at a variety of scales: from viewing the Hickory Nut Gorge as an interconnected ecological and economic region to piloting placemaking interventions at key sites within each community that speak to their unique history, character, and goals. Some interventions will take on a commemorative approach, such as converting historic bridges into memorial and interpretive spaces. Other designs will focus on enriching community and tourism amenities, such as converting the temporary emergency roadway in the riverbed into a greenway connecting the communities.

This paper will document this unprecedented recovery process from both theoretical and practical perspectives and discuss the steps taken by the team to work with local communities to bring ecological and settlement patterns to bear on co-designed proposals commemorating Helene's losses and community strength.

Parallel session#2 (Room 2)

Parallel session#2	Room 2 (311)	Co-design initiatives #04
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
2.45 - 3.00 PM	Community Based Learning: A Case Study of the Minburi Old Market, Minburi District, Bangkok	Attayanan Jitrojanaruk
3.00 - 3.15 PM	Co-Designing Communal Spaces in Senior Public Housing in Singapore: Empowering Older Adults Through Participatory Design	Beng Kiang Tan (Chair)
3.15 - 3.30 PM	LIVABILITY IN AN URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD (PANDACAN): A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN 1969 AND 2017/2018	Nathalie Audrey Santos
3.30 - 3.45 PM	Community enhancement using a mobile Café booth	Keiro Hattori

Attayanan Jitrojanaruk

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Community Based Learning: A Case Study of the Minburi Old Market, Minburi District, Bangkok

Abstract:

This research aims to serve as a foundational database and provide development alternatives for communities to address future urban slum-area issues, particularly for responsible government agencies. It utilizes a design process through a community-based learning approach, emphasizing participation from the Minburi Uppatham Community in the Minburi Old Market district of Bangkok. The study invites community members to actively engage in the architectural design and development process to create suitable options for the community and related organizations, such as the Bangkok Housing Development Office and the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI). The goal is to develop housing that responds to local needs and serves as a guideline for future area development.

This research is a place-based development study conducted within a real community facing impending land development pressures. It applies architectural design principles to problem-solving through three main stages: (1) understanding the community, (2) designing solutions, and (3) presenting and gathering feedback from relevant stakeholders.

Findings reveal that the community-based learning process effectively integrates architectural design principles to generate housing and community development alternatives. Three primary housing models were proposed: row houses, low-rise residential buildings (not exceeding five stories), and mid-rise residential buildings (not exceeding eight stories). These models were developed with the participation of the community, government agencies, and other stakeholders to create viable housing designs and address urban slum-area issues. The process responds to community needs and aims to improve living conditions, while also providing a negotiation framework with landowners for inclusive land development. The project promotes coexistence with original residents and seeks to reduce social inequality through collaboration between the public sector, private entities, and local communities.

Beng Kiang Tan

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Co-Designing Communal Spaces in Senior Public Housing in Singapore: Empowering Older Adults Through Participatory Design

Abstract:

Singapore is projected to become a ""super-aged"" society by 2026, with over 21% of its population aged 65 and above. By 2030, approximately one in four Singaporeans (24.1%) will be 65 or older (Department of Statistics, 2019). This demographic shift presents urgent challenges in housing, care provision, and community integration. In response, the Housing and Development Board is constructing a new model of public senior housing, offering apartments integrated with on-site care services and social programming. The 15-storey residential block consists of 169 studio apartments, each floor featuring a communal space intended for shared use by residents. As the first of its kind, this typology sets the precedent for future developments. This paper investigates how co-design methods can inform the development of these shared spaces to enhance their relevance, inclusivity, and capacity to foster social connection.

The primary objective was to co-design communal spaces that respond to the lived experiences, interests, and aspirations of the seniors who will inhabit them. Rather than relying on a top-down fit-out by the assisted living service provider, this initiative sought to empower future residents to shape their shared environments. The design process was guided by two core questions: What constitutes an inclusive and meaningful communal space for seniors? And how can participatory design processes contribute to a sense of agency and community ownership in senior housing?

The project was a collaboration between the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore and the assisted living service provider. The co-design process was facilitated by architecture and planning students, working with senior residents and their caregivers. The outcomes of the workshops were presented to the service provider and the housing authority.

The process unfolded in three key phases: (1) a survey to map residents' interests, preferences, and capacities to contribute; (2) an ideation workshop to explore preferred activities and spatial functions; and (3) a design workshop to co-develop layouts and features through sketching and 3D modelling.

Findings reveal that co-design fostered connections among residents who were previously unacquainted, encouraged a stronger sense of ownership, and surfaced spatial ideas that would likely have been overlooked through conventional design processes. This initiative offers a replicable framework for upcoming senior housing projects in Singapore.

By centering the voices of older adults, the project challenges traditional power structures in design and advocates for a more inclusive and collaborative future in community design.

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: LIVABILITY IN AN URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD (PANDACAN): A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN 1969 AND 2017/2018

Abstract:

The research attempts to record and present significant changes to the standards of livability in terms of the kind of physical neighborhood the locality prefers; in this case Pandacan, Manila, Philippines. This study broadens the understanding of the concept of livability in terms of providing insights as to how an urban neighborhood has and should progress and develop in accordance to the resident's preference.

The study employed a non-traditional cross-sectional approach through a comparative study between two livability measure of one neighborhood- Pandacan, differentiated by time of conduction – 1969 and 2018. It duplicated and slightly modified the quantitative method employed by Ferrer in 1969 by adding time appropriate factors of livability found in an urban neighborhood as implicated by the new concepts of sustainability, climate change and disaster risk.

Additionally, to strengthen the results of this first method, qualitative data was also collected through in-depth interviews of residents living in Pandacan for a minimum of 50 years and non-participatory observations of the neighborhood. Results of this study are analyzed in comparison with its 1969 predecessor. Analysis is divided into the 4 most important aspects of livability – (1) characteristics of the respondent; (2) satisfaction and dissatisfaction; (3) general character of the neighborhood and (4) neighborhood facilities and services.

The study covered two mutually related aspect of the livability concept -socio-economic and physical factors. In essence, this research, like its predecessor, sought to provide a better understanding of what kind of physical neighborhood the locality prefers aimed at replacing the intuitive and biased approach of professionals in defining living qualities utilized in the design phase and policy making of planning.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities
Title: Community enhancement using a mobile Café booth

Abstract:

A Café booth has been used in several neighborhoods to enhance community. Doctor Son, a physician who worked in Tokyo University had begun to provide coffee with a mobile café in Yanaka neighborhood from 2016. His disciple and also a doctor, Youichi Morimoto, has begun to do a similar activity in Toyooka City as well. Their intention was to create some connections with the neighborhood elder residents, who often lived alone, who might have some potential health issues. Yuhei Konno has opened a mobile café in Kamogawa, Chiba prefecture, to create “a community hub” in 2020. There is a trend of opening a mobile café to enhance a community’s network.

In order to further understand the potential of the mobile café in terms of enhancing a community, a team consists of the author and his students in his seminar class has built a mobile café and began to operate in several neighborhoods that are within the proximity to the university since 2022. The team had obtained the official license to operate café publicly from Kyoto Prefecture. An architect was hired to construct a mobile cart with the students. The mobile café only sold coffee that was purchased from the former nearby café that was closed in 2022. One of the objectives to operate the mobile café was to keep the legend of this closed café which stick to the principle of providing an excellent brewed coffee. The café was closed but the owner supported the mobile café activity by establishing the network between the team and a wholesale dealer of coffee beans.

Our activities were advertised through Social Network Service mostly via Instagram. The team has conducted a questionnaire survey to the customers who bought the coffee. The questions of the questionnaire include 1) How did you find out the mobile café, 2) Do you care about the quality and/or origin of coffee beans and if so, how? 3) What do you like to eat with drinking coffee, 4) Where do you usually drink coffee, and so on. The team has also obtained information regarding the sales. The data was dissected according to the neighborhoods, time, gender, either hot or ice, and climate (temperature).

The mobile café by the author and his students is still a continuing activity. Our presentation will be that of an interim report of our findings so far.

Parallel session#2 (Room 3)

Parallel session#2	Room 3 (312)	Designing with Marginalized + Inclusive Design #01
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
2.45 - 3.00 PM	The Co-creation method with diverse stakeholders toward the catchment-based flood management	Akane Tokorodani, Miki Yamamichi
3.00 - 3.15 PM	Older People Participation in Climate Adaptation: Insights from the 2025 Bekasi Floods (Indonesia) through Sentiment Analysis of Housing Environment Perceptions	Nadia Oktiarsy
3.15 - 3.30 PM	Can Local Community Resources be Used to Support the Homeless in Residential Areas? The Challenge of "Street Counts in My Town" in Tokyo	Izumi Ohta, Ryo Ito, Sanae Sugita, Masato Dohi
3.30 - 3.45 PM	Reweaving Social Ties in a Post-Pandemic City: Inclusive Design Strategies in Taipei's Social Housing	Hsu, CHIH-JUNG.
3.45 - 4.00 PM	Reclaiming Cultural Identity: Designing With and For the Dong Communities	Ziwei, LIU

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: The Co-creation method with diverse stakeholders toward the catchment-based flood management

Abstract:

Increases in both the amount and duration of rainfall, addressing global warming, as well as decreases in pervious surfaces due to urbanization, have led to an increased risk of flooding. In response to these challenges, novel flood control measures have been implemented in urban areas, such as the Natural Flood Management program in the United Kingdom and the "River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All" initiative in Japan. Historically, flood control has been primarily executed through the construction of dams and river improvement, with the responsibility typically falling upon national and local governments. Whereas, catchment-based flood management measures have expanded to include individuals and private businesses, such as the addition of storage and infiltration capabilities to the gardens of stores and private homes, as well as community discussions on how to live and evacuate in order to minimize damage. In the context of climate change, collaboration with various stakeholders has become imperative, even in flood control, a domain that has been led by the government traditionally. Therefore, the issue is how to involve diverse stakeholders in the basin in the extremely public issue of "flood control" and how to cultivate participation and collaboration, and the development of effective methods is required.

In Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan, a catchment-based flood management project is being undertaken through co-creation with various stakeholders. This initiative is a decade-long project being undertaken by the Organization for Regional Co-creation of Sustainable Communities and Watershed Disaster Resilience, a partnership of research institutes, government, and businesses, under the title "Catchment-based Flood Management for Sustainable Societies of the Kuma River Catchment Area in 10 Years.". The catchment-based flood management project being undertaken here is a collaborative effort with the local people by utilizing the capacity of nature. This study visualizes the content and methods of community outreach and the spreading of activities in this project to clarify effective methodologies for engaging a diverse range of stakeholders in catchment-based flood management.

Nadia Oktiarsy

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Theme: Designing with Marginalized Communities

Title: Older People Participation in Climate Adaptation: Insights from the 2025 Bekasi Floods (Indonesia) through Sentiment Analysis of Housing Environment Perceptions.

Abstract:

Indonesia's aging population is growing rapidly, with estimates projecting 74 million elderly people—around 25% of the population—by 2050, based on United Nation report in 2017 about World Population Aging. This demographic shift presents significant social and economic challenges, as older people are often seen as vulnerable and dependent. Climate change further intensifies these challenges, increasing exposure to extreme weather and displacement.

The severe flooding in Bekasi, Indonesia, in March 2025 highlighted the urgent need for climate-resilient housing environment—not only for younger generations but also for older adults. While commonly viewed as passive, older people can actively contribute to community resilience (World Bank Group, 2015). Kart (2001) emphasized older people's role as valuable resources during crises, especially through intergenerational participation and mutual support. However, limited research in Indonesia explores how older adults engage in shaping climate-adaptive living environments.

This study investigates how older adults in Bekasi responded to the 2025 floods, focusing on their role in adapting housing environments and contributing to local resilience. It challenges the narrative of older people as passive recipients and instead highlights their agency in community-led adaptation.

Using a qualitative approach, this research applies Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques—specifically Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis (ABSA)—to examine older adults' reflections on their experiences. Data will be collected through WhatsApp interviews, a widely used communication platform among older adults in the area. Around 200 participants, all aged 60 and above—based on the classification from Central Agency of Statistics in Indonesia, evenly split between flood-affected and unaffected neighborhoods, will share their perspectives.

The analysis focuses on two core dimensions:

1. Personal Reflections – capturing participants' self-assessed capacities, challenges, and aspirations during climate events, including their physical, emotional and social preparedness.
2. Environmental Perceptions – exploring participants' evaluations of their housing and surroundings, and what improvements they believe could enhance safety accessibility, and resilience.

By examining these dimensions, the study aims to understand how physiological, psychological, and social aspects of aging influence older adults' ability to respond to climate challenges. The findings will inform more inclusive and age-sensitive approaches to urban planning, disaster preparedness, and housing design in the face of changing climate.

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Theme: Designing with Marginalized Communities

Title: Can Local Community Resources be Used to Support the Homeless in Residential Areas? The Challenge of "Street Counts in My Town" in Tokyo.

Abstract:

Background

In 2016, the total number of people experiencing homelessness at Tokyo was not even known. ARCH, a civic organization, conducted a citizen-participatory midnight street count that revealed 2.5-3 times the number of people the Tokyo Metropolitan Government had announced officially were rough sleeping in central Tokyo. We have reported on Tokyo street count at the Pacific Rim Conference (2016, 2018). Since

2020, the pandemic has prevented citizens from gathering together for Street Counts. In response to the inability to congregate in the city center, ARCH is conducting a “Street Count in My Town” in which citizens walk their own neighborhoods late at night to survey the people in homeless situations and other socially vulnerable people.

Purpose

This paper reports on the operation and findings of the “Street Count in My Town” conducted in 2022-2024. And we examine the relationship between homelessness in residential neighborhoods, which was revealed for the first time in this study, and community.

Methods

We conducted a survey of homeless persons by having each citizen walk through their own town at the same time on the same night. We also conducted a survey of the participating citizens' thought toward the community and vulnerable people who have no place to stay.

Contents

While “Street Count in My Town” survey is not comprehensive of Tokyo, it is the first to show that more than 200 people sleep quietly, often alone, in parks and streets in residential neighborhoods. This report describes the sleeping conditions of homeless and displaced persons in Tokyo's residential areas late at night. Citizens who walk through their own neighborhoods are usually shocked to find homeless people in their own towns. We collected opinions about forming a community that looks out for the vulnerable by walking through different neighborhoods at the same time, surveying them in the same way, and sharing the results.

Consideration

Midnight in the city center has an extremely small number of residents and the community is virtually nonexistent. This may be one of the reasons why homeless people congregate there. Residential areas have communities which may exclude homeless people as aliens. Thus, until now, little was known about the homeless people in residential areas. Most homeless people in residential areas are alone and do not congregate. They seem to fear exclusion from the community. On the other hand, we community designers know that communities have the power to support the elderly, children, and other vulnerable, and to achieve environmental justice. This paper will examine ways to encourage neighborhoods to harness the power of community to support homeless people.

Chih-jung Hsu

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Reweaving Social Ties in a Post-Pandemic City: Inclusive Design Strategies in Taipei's Social Housing

Abstract:

In Taipei, social housing is a scarce and transitional residential resource. Take for example Minglun Social Housing, one of the most sought-after projects in the city—in 2022, there were 3,603 applicants, with an overall acceptance rate of only 8.2% (Taipei City Department of Urban Development, 2022). Social housing is available to eligible local residents for a limited six-year term, after which tenants are required to move out. Under such temporal constraints, cultivating socially sustainable communities becomes a significant challenge. In response, the Taipei City Government launched the Taipei Social Housing For Youth Innovation, which gathers young adults who both require housing and a passion for social contribution. By leveraging their professional skills, these residents participate in community services to promote mutual support, interaction among neighbors, and revitalize the community's overall vitality.

In 2020, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the densely networked patterns of social life that many in Taiwan were accustomed to. Community interaction shifted away from interest-based groups toward localized support mechanisms rooted in neighborhoods. Residents of Taipei's social housing are often composed of migrants from other cities, foreign nationals, or young people without property

ownership. These groups frequently lack the embedded social networks characteristic of long-term local residents and face difficulties accessing traditional systems of social support.

Amid this context, the author—participating both as a social housing resident and a member of the Youth Innovation Contribution Program—took on a dual role as both a community member and a social connector. Representing the voices of diverse social groups, this role involved initiating small-scale actions such as art-based engagements, and nudging strategies (drawing from Nudge Theory) to foster emotional bonds among residents and spark community-level dialogue. These efforts gradually helped shape a more inclusive and cohesive living environment.

Against the backdrop of a large-scale public health crisis, models of community participation and service within social housing have emerged as a critical form of community practice. Through the design of spatial intervention projects and youth-led innovation mechanisms, this approach explores how residents from diverse backgrounds can meaningfully engage in community activities, participate in discussions on public issues, access social support, and collaboratively shape inclusive living environments that accommodate a plurality of social groups.

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Theme: Designing with Marginalized Communities

Title: Reclaiming Cultural Identity: Designing With and For the Dong Communities

Abstract:

For centuries, the Dong communities in China have been almost entirely self-sufficient, with their living environment serving as a reflection of their quality of life. The “Ganlan” style wooden house, known as a “hanging building”, exemplifies the deep-seated connection to core cultural values of family and land, representing an archetype of sustainable housing. Despite serving as the cornerstone of community life, the traditional Dong architecture is facing decline and diminishing significance due to the departure of young adults from Dong villages. The unfortunate ramifications resulting in the traditional house rapidly being replaced by self-build concrete framed structures.

The community has been experiencing marginalization as the cultural heritage identity undergoes dilution amidst the industrialization process. There is no denying that Dong culture is changing. Villages and houses are rapidly adapting to a higher standard of living. However, what we are witnessing today is nothing short of a catastrophic demise, with the advent of concrete frame structures literally eradicating an entire architectural heritage.

Traditional Dong timber houses will soon no longer be built, replaced by concrete structures that are completely foreign to the territory. Instead of accepting this transition, this study seeks to propose an alternative approach by introducing a pilot prototype house that leverages material technology and self-building initiatives. This prototype serves as a model for revitalizing the traditional house typology and engaging the community through collaborative design processes with local carpenters and villagers. With the notion of prefabrication, self-build and community participation all engraved into Dong’s architectural DNA, this study proposes an alternative modernization strategy that reconnects the house to its original cultural identity and in parallel prevents Dong’s traditional architectural heritage from becoming a mere aesthetic maquillage instead of something profoundly rooted in its material being.

This study utilizes the expansion of Gaobu Village, currently undergoing construction of new houses, as a platform for prototype implementation. The prototype serves as a model showcasing an alternative housing typology, demonstrating to the community that alternatives to the status quo do exist. There are options beyond the prevalent concrete structures, which can be refined to meet modern standards. Through innovative design approaches, timber can be utilized to create adaptable solutions that leverage local craftsmanship.

Parallel session#2 (Room 4)

Parallel session#2	Room 4 (313)	Inclusive Design + Placemaking for resilient communities #02
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
2.45 - 3.00 PM	The Reflection of Inclusive Design in Deaf Education in the Context of Thailand: A Case Study of Ratchasuda Institute, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand	Yanisa Niennattrakul
3.00 - 3.15 PM	Community parks Design for the visually impaired: a KANO model research	Dong YAO
3.15 - 3.30 PM	Digging in the Nuclear Zone: Rooted Placemaking in Fukushima	Liz Maly (Chair)
3.30 - 3.45 PM	Critical Placemaking: Reflection from Tambak Bayan, Surabaya	Khusnul Hanifati
3.45 - 4.00 PM	Engaged in the fluid: local irrigation practice in Taiwan's rural area	Wei Zhe ZHANG

Yanisa Niennattrakul

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: The Reflection of Inclusive Design in Deaf Education in the Context of Thailand: A Case Study of Ratchasuda Institute, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand

Abstract:

Inclusive design emphasises the development of mainstream products, services, and environments that are accessible and meaningful to a broad spectrum of users—without resorting to specialised solutions that may reinforce stigma. Within the context of Deaf education, communication barriers often result in limited social participation and systemic exclusion.

This paper critically explores how inclusive design can offer an alternative framework to address these challenges, particularly within the educational landscape of Thailand. Despite the rising global incidence of hearing loss, educational systems in Thailand continue to fall short in meeting the nuanced needs of Deaf and hard of hearing learners. Prevailing approaches frequently conceptualise deafness through a medical lens, casting Deaf individuals as passive recipients of intervention rather than recognising them as part of a rich linguistic and cultural minority.

These perspectives are embedded within educational design, perpetuating ableist assumptions and marginalising Deaf identity and modes of communication. Given that design as a discipline is inherently visual and multisensory, it holds unique potential to foster more inclusive and responsive pedagogies. However, mainstream design education often fails to reflect or support the communicative and cultural diversity of Deaf learners.

This paper presents an autoethnographic case study of Ratchasuda Institute, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand, examining the intersection of inclusive design, Deaf education, and higher education in the Thai context. The study highlights how the integration of digital tools, sign language interpretation, accessible communication strategies, and culturally responsive teaching can contribute to more equitable and empowering educational experiences.

Furthermore, it argues that inclusive design, when rooted in participatory and critical approaches, not only enhances accessibility but also deepens the intellectual, creative, and cultural dimensions of design education. Ultimately, this paper advocates for a paradigm shift in design pedagogy through adaptive modes of communication, activity-based programmes, and flexible learning environments. By reframing inclusion through the lens of Deaf culture and participatory design, higher education institutions can move beyond mere accommodation toward genuine integration, agency, and empowerment.

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Community parks Design for the visually impaired: a KANO model research

Abstract:

For visually impaired people, community parks are usually the main access to natural environment, hence the inclusiveness of community parks is important for them. A demand survey for the visual impaired people based on the Kano model was conducted to analyze the community travel environment, especially the inclusive design points of community parks for the visually impaired.

The research focuses on the L community, which is one of the 32 national showcases for the complete communities selected by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China. L community is a aged community, as well as a place with very high ratio of disability. The total number of disabled people in the L community is nearly 470, far beyond the average of Shanghai as a whole. In order to find out the demand and challenges, the team first combined field research and in-depth interview methods to sort out the accessibility and inclusiveness needs of community parks for people with disabilities. From June to July 2023, a questionnaire survey was conducted on 12 visually impaired people, and the KANO model was used to establish a positive-negative questionnaire and conducted an analysis, classifying the 9 types of park accessibility and inclusiveness needs of people with disabilities into four attributes: essential, expected, attractive, and indifferent. According to the essential, expected, and attractive needs, a study on the inclusive design of visually impaired-friendly community parks was proposed. The study found that planting fragrant plants in community parks is a necessary need; voice prompts for crossing the road, extending the green light time, and adding artificial voice prompts in the park are expected needs; there is no attractive need; the remaining needs such as natural soundscape prompts and adding handrails are indifferent needs.

Based on the park's usage behavior and demand hierarchy characteristics, a visually impaired-friendly design strategy for community parks is proposed. Firstly, New design must ensure the accessibility for people with disabilities, via improvement the traffic auditory prompt function, and extend the green light time. Second, improvement for the park's landscape and facility configuration is essential, via an artificial voice prompt system, and select healing plants with different fragrances according to the season. By tailoring the needs of visually impaired people for the use of community parks, a demand-oriented theoretical basis and practical path are provided for the design of community parks in inclusive urban design.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Digging in the Nuclear Zone: Rooted Placemaking in Fukushima

Abstract:

On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami caused in a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Radioactive materials were released in the air, contaminating people's hometowns, forests, rivers, and the soil. Evacuation orders with different zones based on the

level of contamination were issued and revised multiple times. Even with the government's policy of decontamination to support the return of nuclear evacuees, more than 14 years after the disaster there are still areas under official evacuation orders, and displaced residents and communities face uncertain futures and multiple precarities. Even if/after evacuation orders are lifted, many people don't feel safe to return. At the same time, small towns in the affected area struggle to find sustainable ways to continue to function into the future, while trying to support former and current residents. Facing changing conditions over the last 14 years, displacement of community members scattered neighbors and weakened connections.

Yet various efforts of planting, growing, and caring for plants have emerged against this backdrop of uncertainty. Our research considers these activities to be green or rooted placemaking, defined as including: 1) various actions of planting, growing, and ecological and food stewardship; 2) with community participation. This research asks: how do these green or rooted placemaking activities support the individuals, communities, and areas affected by the nuclear disaster in Fukushima?

Along with being in nature or green spaces, the benefits of community gardens, urban farms, and farmers' markets on the health and wellbeing of individuals, as well as for the recovery of disaster-affected communities, is well known, as is the contributions of rooted placemaking to growing community resilience. Considering the benefits for both individuals and communities, this research first identified a variety of post-disaster green placemaking projects in Fukushima, and developed a typological case study framework. A deeper understanding of the rooted placemaking projects was developed based on field surveys and interviews with key stakeholders involved with the projects, to better understand their motivations, project timelines, processes, and future directions. Findings aim to clarify effective networks and mechanisms that facilitate sustainable rooted placemaking activities in community recovery, and explore the outcomes, to see what kind of impacts have been made by these projects.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Critical Placemaking: Reflection from Tambak Bayan, Surabaya

Abstract:

Placemaking has emerged as a promising approach to cultivating resilient communities amid growing urban precarity. However, its application often reveals unequal dynamics in participation and agency. This paper critically reflects on the case of Tambak Bayan, a historically Chinese-Indonesian kampung in Surabaya, often celebrated as a successful example of community-based placemaking. Here, placemaking functions not only as a tool of cultural preservation, but also a strategy to strengthen tenure security in the face of ongoing eviction threats. By exploring its intersection with legal recognition, this study interrogates the deeper stance of placemaking in contested urban spaces.

At first glance, Tambak Bayan demonstrates grassroots vibrancy byproduct, particularly through initiatives led by Institut Seni Tambak Bayan and external collectives. One key outcome is Rumah Induk—a multifunctional community space. Its emergence signals an attempt to establish civic space: not just a physical domain, but a symbolic and relational construct enabling cultural expression, everyday participation, and the negotiation of meaning and shared futures. Despite this, Tambak Bayan continues to face long-standing land ownership conflicts rooted in colonial and post-colonial political histories, when Chinese-Indonesian residents were pressured to relinquished land rights. Today, the threat of eviction by the current landowner casts uncertainty over the community's future and limits the long-term impact of placemaking. Although Rumah Induk offers a visible outcome of placemaking, it falls short of empowering the community. With limited local participation and no secure land tenure, residents remain vulnerable and fearful of eviction. As a result, the initiative risks preserving culture without truly supporting the community's long-term stability or agency.

This research examines community-led spatial transformation, grounded by critical placemaking that problematizes authorship and power in the production of space, community resilience that underscores distributed agency and collective efficacy, and postcolonial urbanism that repositions Tambak Bayan as a contested site shaped by historical marginalization and informal resistance. Using a qualitative approach, this study builds on literature, secondary data, and collaborative community workshops held by Arkom Jatim since 2022 that serve as both participatory experimentation and platforms for observing civic engagement, embracing community driven initiative. Insights emerge from our embedded position as collaborators, while maintaining reflective observational stance. We argue that achieving resilience in precarious urban communities requires more than vibrant spaces; it demands participatory infrastructures that enable residents to shape, adapt, and govern their built environments.

Wei Zhe ZHANG

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Theme: Inclusive Design

Title: Engaged in the fluid: local irrigation practice in Taiwan's rural area

Abstract:

Irrigation canals are a common infrastructural landscape in many rural areas of Taiwan. Beyond their rigid & physical aspect, they serve as lifelines for farmlands and farmers, with water flow intricately "embedded with" the agricultural landscape. This study argues that irrigation infrastructure acts as a key "boundary object" that mobilizes interspecies actors about these irrigation & infrastructure networks, which are essential for sustaining water can flow smoothly and continuously.

I select Yunlin County as the primary research site for this study. It's Taiwan's most important landmark for agriculture. With Jhuoshuei River, the longest river in Taiwan, flows through this region, Yunlin is located on a huge alluvial fan for farming. They use not only river water for farming but also drill electric wells to access ground water, which further integrates it into the water flow network. Additionally, the canals pass through livestock farms and settlements, bringing various kinds of water into this turbid relationship. Amidst the complex use of the canals, ensuring the smooth flow of water becomes a challenge that requires local techniques from different actors to coordinate their diverse logics of agricultural production and daily life about water.

In practice, this study begins with the fieldwork practice called "''' sún-tshân-tsui'''", in Taiwanese, which means farmers have to observe the conditions of their land. Similarly, workers in Irrigation Association also have this daily routine to manage the functions of irrigation systems. Beyond the state's management, multiple agents that spill over from the canals and ditches further complicate the water flow. They came up with multiple actions to engage with the flowing water, bringing them into the local design about water infrastructure. For example, they changed the land height (to ensure water could flow off), pumped groundwater (for fear that the canal water would be too many impurities), and used homemade gates to block water flow (to compete with other farmers for water resources). This research will attempt to capture the material-spatial network that surrounds infrastructure about water and their process of co-constructing the agricultural landscape. Anchored by the materiality of the infrastructure, I will use the concept of "'''fluid''' from John Law's fluid technologies to describe the actors using material objects to adjust the infrastructure and maintain its functions. This will further help us understand how the daily technical practices and local knowledge that permeate through these networks are indispensable parts of the agricultural landscape.

Poster Presentation session

Poster presentation	Room (202)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
4.30 PM - 5.30 PM	Community Design by Grassroots Against Gentrification	Risa Minowa & Hideaki Shimura
	Pingtan Children's Library	Ziwei Liu
	Gaobu Book House	Man Yan Lam
	The Power of 'Designing With people': Reimagining Participatory Design in Singapore's Built Environment	Larry Yeung
	The castle as a symbol of the city- How do citizens perceive the castle?	Mizuki Yoshida
	Participatory Planning Process with Landscape approach for Post-disaster Resettlement in South Hua Mae La Ka Village, Mae Hong Son, Thailand	Onkamon Nilanon
	Shortcut Canals in Western Bangkok: Exploring Conditions and Connectivity at Entrance Node points	Asadaporn Kiatthanawat
	Continuity and Change in Resident Interactions Following the Relocation from Floating Villages to Land in Cambodia	Miku Okuba

Risa Minowa / Hideaki Shimura

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Poster sessions

Title: Community Design by Grassroots Against Gentrification

Abstract:

Overview

This project consists of below 3 topics and aims to strengthen the legacy of the town's history and living culture by:

- 1) Publication of local magazine
- 2) Preservation and use of a historical house (registered as a national tangible cultural property)
- 3) Organisation of town walking tours

This method can be used as a guide for other cities and regions in the Pacific Rim.

1) Publication of local magazine

Published twice a year, until issue 9 in 2025, and a total of more than 20,000 copies have been sold. The main content includes information on historic buildings, lifestyle and culture, businesses, interviews with local residents and walking maps. Learning about local history and new information is a great way to develop a love of the area. New residents and visitors can easily learn about the town and connect with the landscape that preserves and renews the town's culture. The publication of the magazine also provides an opportunity to organise activities for the preservation of historic buildings and walking tours.

2) Preservation and use of a historical house (registered as national tangible cultural property)

In Tsukuda, the town that prospered from the fishing industry, there is the Former Iida Family Residence. This is over 100 years old and is the culmination of a fish wholesaler's residence. In recent years, the house was threatened with demolition, but it was saved and put to use through crowd-funding, renovation and use plans developed by local residents, students, and academics. It is currently used as an office and rented space for members of the local historical festival organisation. Conservation awareness activities have been carried out through local magazines, town walks and tours. As a result, the building was listed

in the National Register of Tangible Cultural Property last year. It is expected that further use and preserving activities will be encouraged.

3) Organisation of town walking tours

Local volunteers organise walking tours. Walking maps for sightseeing and tours are available at information centres in the town and on the Internet. Volunteers introduce symbols of the town's history, lifestyle and culture that have not been swallowed up by the wave of redevelopment. New residents, visitors, students and researchers from abroad also take part in the walking tours. The history and culture of the region is widely shared, and local people are becoming more aware of the value of their town.

Ziwei Liu

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Poster sessions

Title: Pingtan Children's Library

Abstract:

The Pingtan Children's library is located in the Dong Minority village of Pingtan, Tongdao Province, Hunan, China. This small timber structure, three stories high and approximately 80 sqm in area is entirely built in timber. The building is located within a primary school courtyard serving more than 400 local children. Rather than a building with floors and rooms, this is a building consisting of two interwoven spiral staircases, a double helix that in turn becomes both the vertical circulation and the seating for the children.

As a building typology, it follows the traditional Dong House, with a tiled pitch roof and mortise and tenon timber construction system of interlocking columns and beams. Of the four elevations, two are dedicated to views, of the courtyard and adjacent rice fields, while the other two are reserved for books. This is no ordinary children's library, it is a place where kids read and play at the same time, a new paradigm for rural village libraries in China.

Through a process of participation, we gained the trust of the villagers and the school principal, enabling us to create a social narrative that helped us find donors who would eventually sponsor the project. The building was built with a single donation from Chan Cheung Mun Chung Charitable Fund of 600,000 HKD which covered the cost of the entire construction.

The value of this project lies in two fundamental lessons. The first relates directly to the children of Pingtan who beyond enjoying playing in the library have realized their culture is alive and remains relevant in this fastly changing world. The second relates to the discipline, at a moment when architecture especially in an urban metropolis like Hong Kong seems to have lost its soul to ever-demanding developers, making one aware of the social importance of architecture. Social impact does not require large amounts of financial investment, design is not limited to high-end projects, and architecture must have a purpose.

Man Yan Lam

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Poster sessions

Title: Gaobu Book House

Abstract:

The Gaobu Book House serves the 2,500 people of Gaobu Village, one of the Dong minority villages in China. Like many other Chinese villages, Gaobu Village is challenged by "village-hollowing" in which the working-age population migrate. The Dong Minority community of China possess a unique cultural heritage rooted in land and customs. After surviving hundreds of years, modernization today poses a serious threat to Dong's identity.

Every Dong building follows a set of unwritten rules which are interpreted by the carpenter and adapted according to the site. This process establishes a sort of architectural genetic code where no two buildings are the same, yet belong to a common language. Our design takes the traditional Dong house "Ganlan" as the creative starting point, where local timber is used for the framing which is adapted and reconfigured as to accommodate different programmatic and spatial configurations. This spatial subversion generates a building that at first glance appears traditional, however on closer inspection, new unconventional relationships emerge. By working within the system, materiality and craftsmanship inject new life back into the village.

Having witnessed how stairs become a key architectural element in Dong daily life, a place where people usually congregate around and where children love to play, stairs became the generating idea of the building. The library becomes a dynamic circulation and programmatic vessel for villages to interact. While children are playing they can also stop and read books, rather than a chore, reading becomes fun.

The 200m² timber 2-story structure revolves around a central stair that acts both as a means of circulation and identity of the building. The ground floor is conceived as a covered open space for public gatherings and local exhibitions, while each wall of the above house is dedicated to a specific educational theme. The internal spaces become rooms where people can engage in classes and public events while the stairs acts as reading area. By activating the façade through the design of the stairs, the building becomes a dynamic vessel for villagers to interact with rather than static object building devoid of life. At a time when the digital world seems to have embraced all facets of contemporary society, books offer the children of Gaobu a means to dis-connect and dream about their future.

Larry Yeung

Participate in Design (P!D) / National University of Singapore (adjunct professor)

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Poster sessions

Title: The Power of 'Designing With people': Reimagining Participatory Design in Singapore's Built Environment

Abstract:

With growing polarization and social stratification, participatory design and planning face critical challenges in fostering meaningful interactions and understanding among diverse individuals and communities across Singapore. However, engagement practices hold significant potential to transcend differences and overcome prejudice. How can participatory design create accessible opportunities for meaningful interaction and understanding between individuals and communities from different walks of life?

This commute showcase draws on case studies from Participate in Design (P!D), a Singapore-based non-profit advocating for community-centered spatial design, to explore how participatory design fosters dialogue and collaboration to co-create meaningful outcomes.

Let's discuss how intermediary actors can renegotiate their roles within Singapore's participation ecosystem, addressing tensions between diverse stakeholders to foster an inclusive, socially permeable urban built environment.

Mizuki Yoshida

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Poster sessions

Title: The castle as a symbol of the city- How do citizens perceive the castle?

Abstract:

In Japan, castles are known as early modern castles. Early modern castles built by samurai lost their original role as bases for governance and military operations and were abandoned due to the downfall of the samurai with the advent of modernization. As a result, early modern castles were destroyed and their intrinsic value as cultural assets was damaged. Since the 1900s, however, they have gradually been revalued as cultural assets, leisure facilities, and urban symbols. For example, Goryokaku was designated as a historic site in 1922, and Nagoya Castle was designated a national treasure in 1924.

In 1903, a pavilion modeled after a castle was built at the National Industrial Exposition in Tokyo, followed by Koufu Castle as a hypothetical observatory and Osaka Castle as a permanent architect. Even today, the castle is being reconstructed and redeveloped as part of this trend. Toyama Castle and Nagoya Castle, for example, were built in conjunction with the reconstruction of the cities after World War II and became symbols of the restored cities. In "Urban Space in Japan," the authors point out that the movement to restore the castle tower ""could be the most typical symbol of a city, and it shows that citizens have a strong yearning for symbols.

In this context, this study aims to clarify how residents perceive castles. I conducted a questionnaire survey on how residents perceive castles, focusing on two castles, Akashi Castle and Iga-Ueno Castle, which have different historical backgrounds, different current maintenance status, and different urban conditions in which they are located. This is intended to capture the image of the relationship between the two castles and the two cities, which have two different characteristics. Among the self-images that shape urban communities, castles have great significance as symbols due to their historical background and morphological characteristics. There have been few studies on how castles, that is symbolic facilities with multiple functions, are perceived through questionnaires, and we believe that this will contribute to the study of the image of the city. In addition, by clarifying how castles, once abandoned, are now accepted by urban communities through a process of revalorization, I will provide insight into how physical elements are involved in the formation of the identity of urban communities.

Onkamon Nilanon / Nakrob Saithep / Attana Vasuwattana

Refield Lab

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Poster sessions

Title: Participatory Planning Process with Landscape approach for Post-disaster Resettlement in South Hua Mae La Ka Village, Mae Hong Son, Thailand.

Abstract:

Last rainy season in Thailand, more frequent and severe extreme weather, driven by ongoing climate change, led to landslides in the deep mountainous areas of Mae Hong Son Province. Five houses have been damaged, and one person has died in Hua Mae La Ka, a Karen village. The villagers propose relocating their homes to the nearby agricultural highlands. Our landscape study aims to identify risks associated with the landscape context of the new location, such as slope percentage and water drainage. The study involved a participatory workshop with locals to gather insights and foster collaboration on risk reduction strategies. Participants used a large map to pinpoint land plots and house locations, along with a site survey. During the process, we discovered sensitive water resources and existing corn fields that need to be protected and transformed for future well-being. Based on the findings, we suggest zoning and design strategies to address steep slopes and convert agricultural land into living areas. Furthermore, we identified a gap in the disaster management system in remote Thai villages. It emphasizes the need to empower locals to understand hazards, develop emergency plans, and establish disaster relief funding at the village level.

Asadaporn Kiatthanawat / Patiphol Yodsurang

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Poster sessions

Title: Shortcut Canals in Western Bangkok: Exploring Conditions and Connectivity at Entrance Node points

Abstract:

Western Bangkok is characterized by an extensive network of interconnected canals with a long history dating back to the Ayutthaya period. In the past, these canals served as resilient infrastructure for communities, supporting transportation, cultural routes, agricultural irrigation, and drainage systems. Thus, canals are not merely infrastructural pathways but vital connectors for society, the economy, and the ecosystem. Shortcut canals demonstrate how the traditional canal network adapted to community needs by providing faster connections, improving agricultural access, and maintaining transport routes despite environmental changes. These adaptations highlight the resilience of the canal system in sustaining essential community functions over time. This resilience of the past canal system motivated this research to explore conditions and connectivity of shortcut canal entrance node points. A survey of 27 canals across Taling Chan, Thawi Watthana, Phasi Charoen, and Bang Khae districts identified a total of 921 shortcut canal entrance node points, of which 608 are currently usable. These shortcut canals are primarily oriented vertically, intersecting with horizontal canals along Khlong Bang Phrom, Khlong Bang Noi, Khlong Bang Chueak Nang, and Khlong Bang Waek, and connecting to the old Chao Phraya River system via Khlong Chak Phra, Khlong Bang Khun Si, and Khlong Bang Yai.

The physical characteristics of shortcut canals can be classified into three types. The first type consists of canals dug for boat docking, often featuring roofed structures to shade boats but without enclosed walls, allowing easy access. These are typically 1.5 to 3 meters wide, depending on the size of the rowboat or motorboat. The second type comprises garden ditches, dug to bring water into agricultural areas, with widths of approximately 2 to 4 meters; some of these canals are equipped with water gates for seasonal water retention. The third type represents continuous extensions of garden ditches, connecting to main canals to form functional shortcut routes that facilitate reduced travel distance and time, with widths ranging from 2 to 9 meters. Among the surveyed canals, 313 shortcut canal entrance points were found to be unusable, primarily due to being filled with soil or blocked by semi-permanent structures, particularly around Khlong Bang Chak and Khlong Ratchamontri. The results of the study provide fundamental understanding and provide database for further investigation into the resilience network of canals and contribute to a broader understanding of canal infrastructure at the urban scale.

Miku Okuba

Tohoku University

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Poster sessions

Title: Continuity and Change in Resident Interactions Following the Relocation from Floating Villages to Land in Cambodia

Abstract:

In Kampong Chhnang Province, Cambodia, a relocation and resettlement project targeting floating villages has been implemented to promote urban development and improve public health. However, for residents who had lived on the water for decades, the move to land has brought significant changes to their living environments and profoundly impacted their lives.

In Southeast Asia, it is generally observed that people have a weak sense of group belonging. In Cambodia in particular, interpersonal relationships in rural society are centered around family ties, while connections beyond the household tend to be arbitrary. Moreover, social capital that accumulated over time has deteriorated due to the prolonged effects of civil conflict.

This study examines the relocation and resettlement of floating villages in Cambodia, focusing on how interpersonal relationships among residents are maintained or reshaped in resettlement areas, and what factors influence these dynamics. To this end, interviews were conducted with government officials and residents to understand the relocation process. In addition, interviews and a face-to-face questionnaire survey were conducted with residents in both the original and resettled areas to analyze changes in interpersonal relationships before and after relocation.

The findings revealed two main relocation patterns: group relocation, in which households consulted with family or friends and moved together; and individual relocation, in which households moved independently. A comparison of the number of households with whom residents had ongoing interaction showed that those in the group relocation category maintained more active social relationships.

However, two factors helped preserve pre-existing ties regardless of relocation type: (1) if residents' preferences were considered during land allocation, and (2) if spatial arrangements allowed familiar households to live near each other, thanks to relatively spacious plots.

These results suggest that while family ties remain central in Cambodian rural society, relocation with friend households was also common. The continuation of interpersonal relationships was supported by (1) strong pre-existing ties formed in the floating village environment and (2) intentional spatial planning in the resettlement areas to sustain those relationships.

Keiro Hattori

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Poster sessions

Title: Social experiment of a mobile Café booth. Enhancing community network.

Abstract:

A Café booth has been used in several neighborhoods to enhance community. Doctor Son, a physician who worked in Tokyo University had begun to provide coffee with a mobile café in Yanaka neighborhood from 2016. His disciple and also a doctor, Youichi Morimoto, has begun to do a similar activity in Toyooka City as well. Their intention was to create some connections with the neighborhood elder residents, who often lived alone, who might have some potential health issues. Yuhei Konno has opened a mobile café in Kamogawa, Chiba prefecture, to create "a community hub" in 2020. There is a trend of opening a mobile café to enhance a community's network. In order to further understand the potential of the mobile café in terms of enhancing a community, a team consists of the author and his students in his seminar class has built a mobile café and began to operate in several neighborhoods that are within the proximity to the university since 2022. The team had obtained the official license to operate café publicly from Kyoto Prefecture. An architect was hired to construct a mobile cart with the students. The mobile café only sold coffee that was purchased from the former nearby café that was closed in 2022.

One of the objectives to operate the mobile café was to keep the legend of this closed café which stick to the principle of providing an excellent brewed coffee. The café was closed but the owner supported the mobile café activity by establishing the network between the team and a wholesale dealer of coffee beans. Our activities were advertised through Social Network Service mostly via Instagram. The team has conducted a questionnaire survey to the customers who bought the coffee. The questions of the questionnaire include 1) How did you find out the mobile café, 2) Do you care about the quality and/or origin of coffee beans and if so, how? 3) What do you like to eat with drinking coffee, 4) Where do you usually drink coffee, and so on. The team has also obtained information regarding the sales. The data was dissected according to the neighborhoods, time, gender, either hot or ice, and climate (temperature). The mobile café by the author and his students is still a continuing activity. Our presentation will be that of an interim report of our findings so far.

Roundtable#2

Roundtable #02-A	Room 1 (203)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.00 AM - 12.00 PM	Engaging Communities in the Digital Age of Design 1. CHEN Ying-Fen, Department of Architecture, National Taipei University of Technology, Taiwan Title of presentation - Introducing Innovative Techniques to Community Engagement and Design Communication (such as 3D spatial scanning) 2. Shin AIBA, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan Title of presentation - The Potential of MR Technology in Participatory Design 3. Etty Padmodipoetro, Founder, Urban Idea Lab, USA Title of presentation - Delight through People-Centric Design 4. Laretna Trisnantari Adishakti, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia Title of presentation - Engaging with Virtual Visualization	CHEN Ying-Fen, Shin AIBA, Etty Padmodipoetro, Laretna Trisnantari Adishakti. Discussants: Kathleen Dorgan and Tan Beng Kiang
Roundtable #02-B	Room 2 (311)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.00 AM - 12.00 PM	Scaling Up for Resilient Engagement: The Expanding Role of Spatial Professionals in the Rise of University Social Responsibility	Hsiu-Tzu Betty Chang; Chi-Pang Lu
Roundtable #02-C	Room 3 (312)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.00 AM - 12.00 PM	Vulnerabilities and Precarity: Rethinking Rural Development and Tourism Possibilities	1. Shu-Mei Huang (National Taiwan University) 2. Kitamura Miwako (Tohoku University) 3. Elizabeth Maly (Tohoku University) 4. Nicole Hsu (National Taiwan University) 5. Elke Krasny (the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)
Roundtable #02-D	Room 4 (313)	
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
11.00 AM - 12.00 PM	Object Translations: Reflections on Creative Workshops with Historically Marginalized Community Groups	Mari Fujita + 5 other members of research collective

CHEN Ying-Fen

Department of Architecture, National Taipei University of Technology, Taiwan

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Title: Introducing Innovative Techniques to Community Engagement and Design Communication (such as 3D spatial scanning)

Shin AIBA

Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan

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Title: The Potential of MR Technology in Participatory Design

Etty Padmodipoetro

Founder, Urban Idea Lab, USA

Email: epadmodipoetro@urbanidealab.com

Title: Delight through People-Centric Design

Laretna Trisnantari Adishakti

Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

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Roundtable#2-A: Engaging Communities in the Digital Age of Design

Title: Engaging with Virtual Visualization

Abstract:

Cutting edge practitioners from across the globe will each narrate a story about a successful community process and then demonstrate a digital or an analog method used in their work. This palette of techniques will in turn be used to gather information and insights from the audience and presenters. Interactive techniques will be used to disseminate and process the material gathered. At the end of the session we will have collected material necessary to shape an ongoing conversation about community design praxis at the conference and beyond.

Practitioners will share from different contexts and different countries including a mix of academics and practitioners.

Key questions:

- a) What are the benefits and pitfalls of analog VS digital tools for engagement?
- b) What tools are appropriate for what context?
- c) How might certain tools allow or limit more inclusive engagement or wider-scale engagement?
- d) How might engagement participants' background influence adaptation of digital tools?
- e) Where should we look for the next breakthroughs in engagement policy and praxis?

Moderators/Discussants:

Kathleen Dorgan, Principal, Dorgan Architecture & Planning, USA

TAN Beng Kiang, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore

Hsiu-Tzu Betty Chang / Chi-Pang Lu

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Roundtable#2-B

Title: Scaling Up for Resilient Engagement: The Expanding Role of Spatial Professionals in the Rise of University Social Responsibility

Abstract:

University social responsibility (USR) has emerged as a significant trend in transforming the governance paradigm of higher education, urging universities to embed public engagement into their core missions. This round table explores this scale-up opportunity of USR in how spatial professionals are transitioning from individual project leaders to strategic facilitators of institution-wide engagement in incorporating community engagement as an integrated, everyday practice of institutional life.

At the heart of this shift is place-based engagement, a new framework for building university-community partnerships. The partnerships are built through sustained, long-term engagement in specific geographic areas, aiming to maximize the relevance and impact of university resources within local communities. Spatial professionals have long pioneered this approach through participatory mapping, co-design, action planning, community design activities, and live projects, among other practices. Their grounded interventions foster relationship building, shared problem-solving, and collective visioning that go beyond service delivery or project-based engagement.

As universities move toward systemic engagement, spatial professionals are increasingly essential to cultivating institutional resilience. Their unique ability to work across physical, organizational, and disciplinary boundaries allows them to connect siloed departments and administrative units, channel insights from fieldworks into planning process and university governance. Their value lies not only in technical skills, but also in creating platforms for ongoing dialogue, visualizing complex systems, and fostering a shared spatial language across stakeholders.

The scale-up from community engagement to USR resonates with the concept of resilience, not simply as the ability of universities or communities to withstand disruption, but as their shared capacity to learn, adapt, and evolve through ongoing engagement. When spatial professionals facilitate the institutionalization of engagement, community-based practices expand into the mainstream culture of higher education. They become embedded within university governance, expanding faculty and student participation and supporting a more socially responsive and adaptive institution.

This session adopts a workshop-style round table format using a focused question method to guide reflection and dialogue. Participants will explore: How do spatial practices act as levers for scaling up institutional engagement? How can we overcome barriers to institutionalizing community participation? What new competencies are needed to build resilient engagement infrastructures? And can we co-create a cross-disciplinary community of practice to support future transformation? Through this exchange, we aim to generate insights and exchange strategies and initiate new international collaborations that build stronger institutional foundations for resilient, place-based university engagement."

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Roundtable#2-C

Title: Vulnerabilities and Precarity: Rethinking Rural Development and Tourism Possibilities

Abstract:

In light of the recent unprecedented 7.6 magnitude earthquake that struck the Noto Peninsula on New Year's Day 2024, this roundtable seeks to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities surrounding community recovery. In the same year, on April 3, 2024, Hualien, Taiwan, experienced a significant earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale. The tremor caused widespread damage to buildings, infrastructure, and prompted landslides in surrounding areas. It hit the National Park of Taroko, which had been the most populated destination for international tourists in Taiwan. Its temporary closure therefore had a significant impact on the development of local tourism. In both Noto and Hualien, the earthquake highlighted the region's long existing vulnerability to not only seismic activity but also overly relying on tourism as its development strategy as the regions saw continuous out-migration and unequal infrastructural planning. However we also see it as opportunities to vision alternatives. It sparked discussions on improving disaster preparedness and response measures in the community. It also requires a rethinking of tourism in rural development. We aim to engage local communities and scholarly communities in a dialogue about sustainable recovery strategies that emphasize social innovation, community cohesion, and cross-border cooperation.

Mari Fujita
University of British Columbia SALA
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Roundtable#2-D

Title: Object Translations: Reflections on Creative Workshops with Historically Marginalized Community Groups

Abstract:

In 2024, members of the research collective Towards an Immigrant Architecture hosted an exhibition and accompanying creative workshop in Vancouver, Canada. The workshop brought together seniors from the Japanese Canadian and Chinese Canadian communities. Each participant was invited to bring a personal object that represented their cultural identity and immigrant experience. These objects and the stories behind them were shared in an intimate setting, then documented and transformed through a collaborative process involving the creation of cyanotype prints. These prints were produced using custom-designed armatures, specifically built for the exhibition. The resulting works were displayed in the gallery alongside the research collective's contributions.

This proposed roundtable offers an opportunity for the research collective—whose members are dispersed across North America—to reconnect and reflect on the project's process, goals, and impact. The session will begin with a short presentation of the Vancouver exhibition and workshop, followed by a discussion of the collective's methodology, the importance of co-creation in community-engaged design, and the challenges and insights that emerged through the collaboration.

We are also exploring the possibility of partnering with the Principals of thingsmatter, a Bangkok-based design practice that conducts creative workshops with minority and community-based groups in Thailand and Southeast Asia. If their participation is confirmed, the Principals would join the roundtable to offer a comparative perspective, and potentially facilitate the Q&A session. Their presence would help broaden the discussion and situate our work within a wider international context of design and community engagement.

The roundtable will conclude with an open discussion, inviting attendees who are engaged in similar practices to share their experiences, reflect on points of connection, and consider how design can support cultural resilience, storytelling, and intergenerational exchange. By foregrounding immigrant narratives and community-led creativity, this roundtable aims to explore how the immigrant experience can serve as a key reference point within established design pedagogies and practices.

Parallel session#3 (Room 1)

Parallel session#3	Room 1 (203)	Co-design initiatives #05
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	The Children's Gaze as Methodology: From Children's Sketches to Spatial Systems - A Participatory Design and Design Science Research Framework for Co-Designing Malong Book House	Pak Wai LING
1.15 - 1.30 PM	Tactical Practices and Community Transformation: Teaching Practice in Taipei's Quanyuan Community	Hui Fang Liu (Chair)
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Reimagining Aging in Place through Micro-Communities: Intergenerational Engagement and Community-Based Practices in Taiwan	Chi Pang Lu
1.45 - 2.00 PM	Can Manteo's Everyday Sacred Withstand Rising Tides and Demographic Cross-currents?	Masato Dohi, Kanon Koba, Nao Kusumoto, Randolph Hester, Amber Nelson
2.00 - 2.15 PM	Long-Term Change of Sacred Places and Sacred Structure: A Comparison of the Okayama town Tokyo, Japan, and the City of Manteo, North Carolina, USA	Kanon Koba

Parallel session#3

Pak Wai LING

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: The Children's Gaze as Methodology: From Children's Sketches to Spatial Systems - A Participatory Design and Design Science Research Framework for Co-Designing Malong Book House

Abstract:

In rural China's ethnic enclaves - Dong communities, rapid urbanization and state-led development schemes threaten both vernacular architectures and intergenerational knowledge systems. For Dong children, being stuck between uniform school buildings and disappearing cultural landscapes makes their learning environments creates a spatial precarity. Their learning environments neither reflect their heritage nor empower their agency as co-creators.

The Malong Book House Project addresses this crisis by centering what we term ""the child's gaze"" - their creative, culturally rooted spatial imaginaries - as both methodology and design imperative. Bridging Participatory Action Research (PAR) and Design Science Research (DSR), the project answers a critical question: How can children's participatory frameworks simultaneously reclaim marginalized epistemologies and produce equitable, buildable solutions? The hybrid PAR-DSR approach unfolded through two integrated phases. First, PAR activities (drawing workshops with a class of children, community forums with teachers/craftsmen) decoded children's spatial imaginaries (e.g., "flying blackboard", "climbable bookshelves"). Second, DSR cycles transformed these sketches into iterative prototypes for testing. Crucially, the process treated children's non-linear ideas as valid design intelligence rather than inspiration.

The co-designed book house that emerged represents more than architectural innovation - it constitutes a living dialogue between generations. This space became a living testament to intergenerational collaboration. Teachers observed profound shifts in how children engaged with both books and their cultural heritage, while elders celebrated the project's ability to "hold the future without dropping the past." Beyond its physical form, the book house demonstrated how child-led design can challenge institutional norms, revealing that Dong children inherently prioritize communal learning, tactile exploration, and connections to nature—values rarely reflected in standardized school designs.

The Malong Book House project demonstrates how participatory co-design can foster cultural preservation and intergenerational dialogue. By centering Dong children's spatial visions, the process has already strengthened community agency, revealing that temporary outcomes (workshop sketches, models, and oral histories) hold equal value to build structures in precarious contexts. The project challenges top-down development models, proving that child-led design can simultaneously honor tradition and inspire modernization—its greatest legacy may be its methodological innovation: redefining design as an ongoing conversation between people, their heritage, and their aspirations - with children as equal participants in shaping their spatial futures.

Hui Fang Liu

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Ephemeral Practices and Community Transformation: A Case Study of Quanyuan Village in Taipei

Abstract:

Located within the boundaries of Yangmingshan National Park in Beitou District, Taipei, Quanyuan Village is a mountainous settlement characterized by geographic isolation and a rapidly aging population. The community faces multiple challenges, including population decline, demographic aging, and energy

vulnerability. Since 2022, an interdisciplinary team composed of university faculty and students has engaged with the village through site-specific investigations, temporary spatial constructions, and participatory workshops. By employing ""ephemeral installations"" as both communicative media and experimental platforms, the team collaborated with the local village chief and returning youth to initiate a series of spatial renovation and energy advocacy projects.

Throughout the process, students engaged in hands-on, place-based learning, involving activities such as the construction of temporary structures, adaptive reuse of abandoned spaces, curation of a local arts festival, and the initiation of a community solar panel crowdfunding campaign. These experimental and participatory practices not only enhanced the functional use of space and raised awareness about sustainable energy but also fostered new forms of collaboration between students and residents, contributing to the regeneration of local identity and communal cohesion.

This case study suggests that design-led temporary interventions and socially engaged practices can serve as vital platforms for university education and sustainable community development. The experience of Quanyuan Village offers some insights for the regeneration of aging and resource-vulnerable communities in similar contexts.

Chi Pang Lu

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Reimagining Aging in Place through Micro-Communities: Intergenerational Engagement and Community-Based Practices in Taiwan

Abstract:

Aging in place is a key goal in Taiwan's long-term care policy, often supported by community organizations such as neighborhood care stations. However, these models tend to be task-oriented and focus primarily on older adults, with limited intergenerational engagement.

This study draws from a USR project, "Go Together 2026," which explores alternative approaches to aging in place through micro-communities—informal, interest-based networks formed by emotional and voluntary connections. These networks promote autonomous motivation and mutual support, offering a contrast to top-down, project-driven models.

Our research identifies two types of intergenerational micro-communities: place-based relationships rooted in local neighborhood interactions, and issue-based collaborations built on shared goals. Youth-led micro-enterprises often trigger both types, fostering trust and interaction with elders. Older adults, in turn, rediscover value in their life experiences through intergenerational learning.

These practices show how young and old can co-create meaningful connections, blending crystallized and fluid intelligence to support each other's growth and aspirations, ultimately enriching the community aging-in-place process.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Can Manteo's Everyday Sacred Withstand Rising Tides and Demographic Cross-currents?

Abstract:

In 1980, Manteo, North Carolina, developed a participatory plan to redesign its town center, reversing disinvestment, reducing unemployment from 22% to 3.7%, and preserving cherished local spaces. A city commissioner called this network of highly ritualistic spaces “The Sacred Structure of Manteo,” and the participatory process of mapping citizens’ most valued places was incorporated into city codes and zoning. This Sacred Structure has guided Manteo’s development for over 40 years, earning recognition for its grassroots placemaking and its focus on place attachment rather than high style design. The plan has been praised as an international model for community-driven design (Manzo & Devine-Wright, 2021). This paper examines the successes and challenges of the Manteo plan, as evaluated by both locals and outside experts, and questions whether the Sacred Structure can remain sustainable in the face of issues like coastal flooding and demographic shifts. Since 1980, flooding has worsened, reaching levels a foot higher than before, and the Latino population has increased from 2% in 1990 to 16.46% today. The study suggests that Manteo’s experience offers valuable lessons for creating sustainable cities by considering the public’s deep attachment to place.

As “academic outsiders,” the researchers questioned whether the Sacred Structure’s significance remains intact and what, if anything, threatens it today. The study involved interviews with local leaders, the designer of the 1980 plan Randy Hester, and experts familiar with Hester’s work. The research culminated in a 2024 symposium comparing Manteo’s design to sacred-place research in Japan (Dohi et al., Koba, 2023) and Hester & Nelson’s “Inhabiting the Sacred in Everyday Life.”

While all acknowledge the specialness of the Sacred Structure, opinions differ on whether newcomers help or harm its vitality. Locals emphasized the long political struggles to establish the plan and its role in fostering local pride. Outsiders noted ongoing racial segregation and the broader international impact of the plan. The Sacred Structure remains largely intact (88% preserved, expanded, or relocated) and continues to grow. The paper concludes by raising concerns about the challenges of sustaining citizen stewardship and community resilience, particularly in light of population trends and rising tides.”

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Long-Term Change of Sacred Places and Sacred Structure: A Comparison of the Okayama town Tokyo, Japan, and the City of Manteo, North Carolina, USA

Abstract:

Back ground: Many researchers, including Kevin Lynch, Christopher Alexander, Edward Relph and Randolph T. Hester, have referred to the importance of “sacred places” in community design and urban planning. For research on “sacred places” in specific locations, there is a series of studies by Hester on the city of Manteo in North Carolina. Influenced by Hester's research we have done similar research in the Ookayama town of Tokyo, Japan in 2020. Approximately 250 sacred places have been revealed, as well as sacred structures consisting of four layers of topography, creek and pond, history, and everyday life. In November 2024, a symposium “Inhabiting the sacred in everyday life” was held at Manteo. We discussed about sacred places and the sacred structures in Manteo and Ookayama and about their changes that occur over 4 decades. Some of the results of this symposium, especially the changes of the sacred structure in Manteo, will be presented at the EDRA International Conference in May.

Purpose: This paper investigate and analyze the changes in “sacred places” and “sacred structure” in Ookayama over 40-year period from 1980 to 2020, and compare and verify them with the case of Manteo.

The sacred places created in a town are places where the value that the residents give and receive through their everyday lives is engraved. Naturally, the inhabitants of a town are constantly changing, and those who lived there for several decades also become old and change their behavior patterns and values. Technological innovation and changes in value norms are bound to occur over decades. Under these circumstances, how do the sacred places and the structures they comprise, which are established by the value they are given on a daily basis and which also transmit that value to people, change and remain unchanged? In this paper, we will trace the current sacred places and structures in Ookayama back 40 years, checking them with maps and photographs and collecting people's recollections. These results were compared to the changes in Manteo. Sacred places created by landforms and water systems tend to remain, compared to sacred places created by people's lifestyles. However, these are also being affected by sea level rise and heavy rainfall. On the other hand, the creation of sacredness through changeable lifestyles continues to be strong in both cities.

We will consider sacred structures again through the changes that have occurred over time. Our results clarify the value of place in community design, and are extremely important for the future development of community design.

Parallel session#3 (Room 2)

Parallel session#3	Room 2 (311)	Co-design initiatives #06
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	Introducing board games into participatory design	Shin AIBA
1.15 - 1.30 PM	Collaborative Rewilding in Singapore: Integrating Community and Ecology	Yun Hye Hwang (Chair)
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Co-Design Research and Advocacy for Climate Justice and Community Resilience	Chingwen Cheng
1.45 - 2.00 PM	Artistic Protest Actions for the Preservation of Taipei's Heping-Xinsheng Pedestrian Bridge: A Study of Urban Memory, Cultural Value, and Artistic Action in Public Space	Yu-wen Chen

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Introducing board games into participatory design

Abstract:

How can we communicate the current situation and issues of cities and communities to residents who do not have any special skills, and encourage them to engage in lively and creative discussions?

Since the 1980s, the participatory urban design scene in Japan has introduced techniques known as "Workshops" to encourage creative discussions with residents, and in recent years, board games have also been introduced into this field. Board games are a method of creating an equal relationship between participants and having fun while discussing issues and the current situation of cities and communities in a comprehensive way. In addition to commercially available board games, original board games are also used, and in some cases, original board games are created through citizen participation.

In this report, after discussing the potential of board games in participatory design, the author will report on the methods and results of the board game production studio that the author has been running at the university since 2012 in order to educate graduate students.

In this studio, graduate students majoring in urban planning, architecture, tourism, and geography form groups and create their own board games through seven sessions (21 hours), and they use them at workshops for the general public. Over the past 13 years, over 30 board games have been created. In this report, the author will discuss the following three points: 1) the types and characteristics of board games (for example, the difference between competitive and cooperative games), 2) the characteristics and significance of the production process (for example, object-oriented production process), and 3) the significance of this method of education for urban and community designers.

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Collaborative Rewilding in Singapore: Integrating Community and Ecology

Abstract:

Singapore's rewilding practices, part of the City in Nature greening initiative, focus on community engagement and education to foster local conservation participation. Supported by government efforts, these projects represent a collaboration between public and expert groups in urban greening. This presentation examines four rewilding case studies, evaluating stakeholder involvement and partnerships.

Nature Ways, initiated in 2001 by NParks' Streetscape division, aims to reconnect urban green spaces via naturalistic streetscapes. The SGBioAtlas app supports public biodiversity monitoring, recording around 14,100 species sightings. NParks' Youth Stewards for Nature (YSN) program engages youth in creating and monitoring Nature Ways, emphasizing tree planting and project documentation. Mapping Nature Ways involves youth in proposing strategies to enhance ecological connectivity.

The Nature Society of Singapore's Project targets rewilding a 3.8-km stretch of the former railway corridor in northern Singapore, transforming degraded land into a resilient habitat that connects rivers, woodlands, and mudflats. Involving NParks, sponsors, and volunteers, the project offers nine hands-on sessions from 2023 to 2024, attracting over a hundred volunteers annually. Participants engage in physically demanding tasks, fostering camaraderie and a connection to nature.

Toddycat's Ridge Reforestation involves students, alumni, and the public in planting native trees for tropical forests, guided by an NUS researcher. Recruiting 70–100 volunteers per session, mainly NUS students, via Telegram and social media, the project is linked to Ridge View Residential College for service learning. NUS's University Campus Infrastructure manages operations and long-term care of the project.

The NUS Naturalized Gardens initiative, led by the Urban Wild Lab, emphasizes resilient garden design. UCI oversees management, while researchers evaluate biophysical functions. Community workshops promote sustainable practices, and gardens are integrated into NUS courses for skill development. Students in the Landscape Architecture program organize planting events and manage documentation, passing logbooks to new volunteers annually.

These projects explore the integration of natural processes with human involvement, assessing the extent of collective participation and considering the cultural, educational, and social values attached to rewilding. Challenges and lessons are identified, highlighting the roles of individuals from diverse disciplines in fostering ecological appreciation and environmental stewardship, crucial for the long-term success of co-design initiatives."

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Co-Design Research and Advocacy for Climate Justice and Community Resilience

Abstract:

Co-Design is a participatory approach that actively involves diverse stakeholders, including end-users, experts, and marginalized communities, to ensure equity, inclusiveness, and justice to collaboratively create research inquiries and solutions. A Co-Design Research Framework is proposed emphasizing the importance of a co-design approach that meaningfully involves community members and a transdisciplinary team to co-produce knowledge and applied solutions. This framework aims to scale and adapt co-design methodologies to ensure that research inquiries align with community needs, foster local knowledge, and produce actionable nature-based solutions. The co-design process is structured to embed community voices in shaping research questions, methodologies, and outcomes, thereby addressing equity and ensuring that strategies do not exacerbate existing disparities by integrating community health goals with resilience strategies.

Climate justice examines the inequitable distribution of climate change impacts on the ecosystems and communities and the resources needed to cope, especially among vulnerable communities facing systemic injustice. Climate Justice Co-Design Research offers a model to integrate justice theory and engage communities in co-designing climate actions that meet community needs and enhance capacity to cope. It employs intersectionality, considering vulnerability, resilience, and sustainability, to understand community resilience. Educators and practitioners play a crucial role in advocating for justice design to strengthen community stewardship, fostering resilience, climate justice, and sustainable development.

To implement the framework, a workshop is conducted in Harrisburg, PA, historically-redlined communities and are identified as highly socially vulnerable and under-resourced, that aims to bring together community representatives, policymakers, researchers, and organizations to co-design sustainable actions that leverage local assets and partnerships for lasting impact. The primary goal of this workshop is to understand Harrisburg community needs in order to co-develop action items to establish a Community Resilience Alliance, a network dedicated to sustaining climate action in communities. By strengthening partnerships between Penn State, local communities, government agencies, and nonprofits, we aim to develop long-term strategies that harness community power through a coalition that leverages the network of communities to support one another and address climate challenges and social inequities.

This research advocates for climate justice and reciprocal outcomes to generate positive impacts. The Co-Design Research Framework critically examines how community-based research can be conducted to co-create knowledge and solutions amongst communities, stakeholders, scientists, engineers, and designers, to foster resilient, just, and healthy communities in the face of climate change."

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Theme: Co-Design Initiatives

Title: Artistic Protest Actions for the Preservation of Taipei's Heping-Xinsheng Pedestrian Bridge: A Study of Urban Memory, Cultural Value, and Artistic Action in Public Space

Abstract:

Pedestrian bridges, as crucial elements in urban development, represent not only functional transportation infrastructure but also embody rich cultural and social values through their integration with the city. This research focuses on the demolition controversy of the Heping-Xinsheng Bridge in Taipei, Taiwan, examining how this bridge transformed from a mere traffic facility into a space carrying urban memories and cultural significance, and analyzing the social actions and value debates triggered by its impending demolition.

Located in the heart of Taipei's educational district, the Heping-Xinsheng Bridge has served as a vital connection between Daan Forest Park and surrounding schools since its construction. Beyond its practical function, the bridge has developed diverse spatial meanings. Since the 1980s, it has become a significant filming location for Taiwan's popular culture industry, featuring in numerous renowned movies, music videos, and advertisements, thus shaping its unique cultural landscape value. Additionally, the bridge serves as an important viewing platform in citizens' daily lives, offering vistas of Taipei's cityscape and surrounding mountains.

However, in October 2024, the Taipei City Government's hasty announcement of the demolition plan sparked strong opposition from local residents and cultural groups. This research emphasizes how civic groups initiated preservation movements through artistic actions and analyzes the value cognition and social implications reflected in these actions. The research methodology adopts a qualitative approach, combining participatory observation, in-depth interviews, and literature analysis to explore various artistic action strategies in the preservation movement, including creative protests coordinated with local cultural festivals, social media dissemination, and spontaneous artistic creations by citizens.

The study particularly focuses on ""Artists on the Bridge,"" an initiative launched during the Nuit Blanche Taipei art festival, analyzing how it transformed public emotional connections to the bridge through artistic forms and examining how low-threshold participation methods like chalk art, combined with the far-reaching power of modern social media, effectively broadened social dialogue and created substantial pressure on the city government. Furthermore, this research examines the conflicts between official discourse and civic values during the demolition controversy, especially the dialectic between traffic safety arguments and cultural preservation values.

This research aims to provide new perspectives on cultural value preservation issues in contemporary urban spatial transitions and offer references for civic participation models in future similar controversies. Additionally, it explores the effectiveness of artistic action as a social movement strategy and its role in shaping public discourse.

Parallel session#3 (Room 3)

Parallel session#3	Room 3 (312)	Placemaking for Resilient Communities #03
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	From vacant land to a people-centric community hub - a practice in Luxelakes Park Community, Chengdu	HUIYAN DU
1.15 - 1.30 PM	Cultivating connection in a shrinking city: The social role of community gardens in an aging society	Naomi Shimpo
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Revitalizing the Heart of Karachi: Heritage-Led Urban Regeneration Potential in Saddar Bazar	Shaharyar Brohi
1.45 - 2.00 PM	From Idle to Care: Governance, Maintenance, and Social Support in Taipei's Secondhand Charity Shops	Chi-Fang Chen

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: From vacant land to a people-centric community hub - a practice in Luxelakes Park Community, Chengdu

Abstract:

Urban sociologist Ray Oldenburg developed the concept of the ""third place"" in the 1980s: informal public spaces for free social interaction, deemed vital to democratic engagement. For a new community primarily composed of migrants, creating third spaces for spontaneous gatherings and community participation remains a critical challenge.

Dating back to 2018, PRC President Xi Jinping proposed the vision of building a ""park city"" during his Chengdu inspection. Exemplifying this vision, Luxelakes Park Community emerged as Chengdu's first officially designated ""Park Community"", leveraging its ecological richness and livable environment. Spanning 9.34 square kilometers with a planned population of 150,000, it integrates industrial zones, residential areas, and scenic landscapes into an open, interconnected ecosystem.

Behind its success lie systemic challenges: limited fiscal resources, underutilized assets, and insufficient infrastructure to meet residents' core needs. As developers complete projects and government support phases out, resilience and sustainability become paramount. One innovative solution is to revitalize idle resources through social capital innovation.

Manting Community Hub (Manting) epitomizes this adaptive approach. Once vacant land, it has transformed into a resilient, human-centered space through multi-partner collaboration. Partners include the Huayang District Government, Luxelakes Park Community, Luxelakes Lantu Company, Look Social Innovation Center, property managers, residents, merchants, and grassroots organizations.

Three pillars define its mission: 1. Community Bonding: Fostering connections through parent-child support networks and cultivating resident influencers as governance stakeholders. 2. Place-Based Needs: Addressing essentials like F&B healthcare and childcare for both grassroot workers and residents while nurturing latent demands for cultural engagement. 3. Public-Commercial Synergy: Balancing public welfare and commercial viability via crosssector resource integration.

Beyond basic services, Manting weaves a community safety net—from mutual aid systems to skill-sharing platforms—and empowers residents as active co-creators of communal life.

The practice of Manting is yet to end. It is a long-term commitment where every space holds potential, every basic need fuels progress, and every small action contributes to building a self-sustaining, people-first community. As Oldenburg envisioned, such spaces are not luxuries but necessities—the very fabric of democratic, vibrant urban life. "

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Cultivating connection in a shrinking city: The social role of community gardens in an aging society

Abstract:

Japan's rapid aging and population decline are creating growing challenges for maintaining traditional systems of local self-government. At the same time, increasing natural disasters and widening social disparities underscore the critical need for mutual aid and community resilience. In this context, community gardens—shared urban spaces where residents collectively cultivate vacant lots—are gaining attention as inclusive, accessible hubs for fostering social connections among diverse populations. This study examines how such gardens facilitate community connections among people of different social backgrounds and generations.

This research focuses on two community gardens in Kobe, a major city experiencing population decline. The Suzuran Community Garden was established in 2003 on the former site of temporary housing built after the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, in a new town development. The Hirano Co-op Noen, on the other hand, was established in 2021 in a little-used park on the outskirts of the city. Through semi-structured interviews and a comprehensive questionnaire survey of garden participants, the study analyzed residents' demographics, motivations for participation, and the nature of the social relationships cultivated through gardening.

Findings show that the Suzuran Community Garden primarily fosters connections among elderly residents (aged 60 and older) in a neighborhood that was developed in the 1970s and has since experienced significant aging. In contrast, the Hirano Co-op Noen has become a gathering place for women in their 40s and 50s, with social ties extending beyond the garden into broader community involvement and self-realization. These different outcomes appear to reflect each garden's stage of development and demographic composition. In both cases, limited participant turnover and the gradual aging of core members suggest the need for continuous establishment of new gardens to maintain generational diversity and long-term community engagement.

Shrinking cities are expected to become increasingly fragmented, with scattered vacant lots forming in a sponge-like pattern across cities. These underutilized spaces hold significant potential as future sites for community gardens that foster social connection and resilience.

While this study highlights the promise of community gardens in addressing social fragmentation in aging urban areas, its findings are based on two case studies. Broader, comparative research is needed to further validate and extend these findings.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: Revitalizing the Heart of Karachi: Heritage-Led Urban Regeneration Potential in Saddar Bazar

Abstract:

This paper examines the potential for heritage-led urban regeneration in Saddar Bazar, Karachi, a megacity with a rich history and significant, yet underutilised, heritage assets. This approach involves using historical and cultural assets to revitalise urban areas. The strategic valorisation of its heritage assets presents an opportunity to revitalise the declining urban fabric of Saddar Bazar, a historically vital commercial district in Karachi. The study synthesises successful heritage-led regeneration frameworks observed in global precedents, highlighting key drivers such as multi-stakeholder engagement, comprehensive heritage assessments, adaptive re-use strategies for historic buildings, infrastructure modernisation, and resultant economic revitalisation. By incorporating insights from international case studies, the paper suggests a transferable strategy designed explicitly for Karachi's distinctive context, such as identifying cultural zones, comprehensive planning, and establishing public-private partnerships.

Additionally, it addresses potential obstacles to implementation, such as the critical necessity of reducing socio-economic disparities to ensure inclusive and sustainable development, regulatory complexities, financial constraints, and conflicting stakeholder interests. The paper contends that a comprehensive and integrated approach to heritage-led urban regeneration can transform Saddar Bazar into a vibrant and resilient urban centre, preserving its unique cultural legacy and promoting economic development and community benefits within Karachi.

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Theme: Placemaking for Resilient Communities

Title: From Idle to Care: Governance, Maintenance, and Social Support in Taipei's Secondhand Charity Shops

Abstract:

This study focuses on five secondhand charity shops located in the Taipei metropolitan area, examining how nonprofit organizations transform used goods into social resources and co-construct community support systems. These shops represent a model of public interest that can only operate in an era of material surplus. Through routine practices such as collection, sorting, and sale, they take on the often burdensome goodwill of donors. Staff and volunteers apply logics of care and governance to reframe the idle status of objects, enabling the circulation of both materials and intentions while responding to local needs. Despite variations in scale and form, these shops commonly exhibit characteristics of "accommodating disorder," "sustaining relationships," and "micro-governance."

Through a combination of tacit knowledge and institutional design, they manage the uncertainties of both people and things, gradually building a community infrastructure centered on maintenance and trial-and-error. Decisions regarding whether an item is usable, how it is priced, displayed, or retired depend heavily on experience and interpersonal communication, with shop managers playing a particularly crucial role. Charity shops not only accept clothing and household items but also offer transitional spaces for individuals excluded from mainstream labor systems, such as sheltered workers, older adults, and single mothers. They serve as intermediary stations for both people and goods, facilitating moments of transition and renewal.

Moreover, the shop space allows individuals to temporarily shed social labels and inhabit roles such as consumers, volunteers, donors, or simply community members. In recent years, the growing emphasis on the circular economy in Taiwan has drawn policy attention to secondhand shops, leading to increased interactions with formal governance. Yet goodwill cannot be fully realized through material transfer alone; it requires mediating mechanisms and ongoing care practices to be sustained and meaningful. Within a society marked by overconsumption, these charity shops foster interdependence between idle objects and marginalized individuals, offering possibilities for resilience and relational reconstruction in urban communities.

Parallel session#3 (Room 4)

Parallel session#3	Room 4 (313)	Climate resilience
Time	Title	Presenter(s)
1.00 - 1.15 PM	Blueprints for Blue Zones: Building Climate-Resilient Cities Through Health-Oriented, Nature-Based Design in Laguna	Gabrelle Noreen Estrellanes
1.15 - 1.30 PM	State-led innovation in participatory climate governance at the neighbourhood level: The case of Cambridge Road	Jan Lim
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Living Environment Assessment of a Long-term Resettlement Area: Case Study in Thai Duong Ha, Hue City, Vietnam	Narina Culos and Tomoyuki MASHIKO
1.45 - 2.00 PM	Connecting Nature and Society through the Migratory Black-faced Spoonbill: Program Design for Scaling Up	Akane Tokorodani and Aoi Tamaki
2.00 - 2.15 PM	Flood and Livelihood Resilience Strategies in a Lagoon Village: The Role of Market and Xóm in An Truyền, Hué	Shu Kawamata

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Theme: Climate-Resilient Planning and Design Practices

Title: Blueprints for Blue Zones: Building Climate-Resilient Cities Through Health-Oriented, Nature-Based Design in Laguna

Abstract:

The Philippines faces critical challenges due to climate change, including urban heat islands, flooding, and rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In Biñan City, Laguna, rapid urbanization has led to high population density, limited green spaces, and increased vulnerability to environmental stressors, making it a prime location for testing Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) inspired by Blue Zones which are communities worldwide recognized for their exceptional longevity and wellness, primarily attributed to environments that encourage daily natural movement, foster active community engagement, and ensure proximity to restorative and accessible green spaces. The city's health issues, exacerbated by sedentary lifestyles and environmental risks, position it as an ideal site to implement Resilient Nature Nodes. These nodes are multifunctional urban open spaces that integrate Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) as guided by the Arup BGI and NbS Framework. Following the structured three-phase NbS lifecycle comprising Needs Identification, Project Planning, and Implementation, this study conducted a comprehensive assessment of environmental vulnerabilities, socio-demographic profiles, and health behavior data across Biñan's most at-risk barangays: Barangay Canlalay, Barangay Platero, and Barangay Sto. Domingo.

The selected barangays were prioritized using criteria that accounted for their high population density, significant exposure to flood and heat risks, and the lack of accessible green and open spaces. The proposed design interventions include bio-swales, rain gardens, native tree-lined shaded pathways, pollinator-friendly habitats, and edible gardens. These interventions are intentionally aligned with local goals for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and the enhancement of community well-being. Based on established NbS impact indicators, the projected outcomes include a 30–50% reduction in stormwater runoff, localized temperature reductions of 2 to 3 degrees Celsius, a 20% increase in urban biodiversity, and a 30% rise in recreational activity participation within the intervention areas. This study highlights how integrating NbS with health-oriented urban landscape strategies can provide scalable, evidence-based, and community-responsive solutions to the complex environmental and public health challenges confronting rapidly urbanizing Philippine cities.

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Theme: Climate-Resilient Planning and Design Practices

Title: State-led innovation in participatory climate governance at the neighbourhood level: The case of Cambridge Road

Abstract:

The complex nature of the climate crisis requires systemic solutions. However, many climate change solutions continue to focus on technological innovation without paying as much attention to the need for social innovation. Social innovation refers to innovation in social and power relations, through the fulfilment of local communities' needs and the collective empowerment and mobilisation of community members. Such innovation often involves changes to existing governance arrangements and mechanisms, allowing communities to exert more control and influence over efforts to address climate change. To better understand the conditions for developing socially innovative responses to climate change, this paper examines a government-led community resilience building initiative in Singapore as a case study of participatory climate governance at the neighbourhood level. In this initiative, the Centre for Liveable Cities, a knowledge centre under the Ministry of National Development, implemented a pilot project at Cambridge Road to build residents' capacity for addressing local climate change impacts. Residents were involved in planning, implementing and sustaining climate-related interventions for their neighbourhood — including urban greening, art murals, and webinars — and developing a community climate action plan. While the pilot took place from 2019 to 2021, resident participation has continued in various forms through the grassroots-based "Our Green MoCa" initiative.

This case study thus presents an opportunity to examine the extent to which and how a government experiment in participatory climate governance has led to socially innovative outcomes for the Cambridge Road neighbourhood. The case is analysed through the lenses of social innovation theory, critical approaches to urban climate governance, and critical institutionalist perspectives of participation. Data is

collected through interviews with key actors in the initiative and documents including project publications. Actor configurations and institutional conditions and constraints are evaluated to understand how they lead to the specific types of community capacity building observed in this case (e.g., data, tools, financial resources, access to governmental stakeholders, institutional support, decision-making powers). The paper also considers the potential for similar participatory governance mechanisms to be embedded in formal planning and design processes for climate-resilient neighbourhoods in Singapore.

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Theme: Climate-Resilient Planning and Design Practices

Title: Living Environment Assessment of a Long-term Resettlement Area: Case Study in Thai Duong Ha, Hue City, Vietnam

Abstract:

Hue City in Central Vietnam experiences frequent water-borne disasters, the 1999 flood being the most devastating in the last four decades. In response to these climate disasters, the Vietnamese government administered several relocation initiatives. The selected area must consider both the safety from future disasters and the residents' ability to continue their lifestyle. Therefore, long-term assessments become necessary to evaluate the appropriateness of the selected area. This research aims to assess the living environment of a resettlement area (hereinafter RA), based on disaster-affected relocators' satisfaction level and disaster risk awareness. The study area is Thai Duong Ha, a traditional fishing village along the Tam Giang Lagoon, which was heavily impacted by the 1999 flood, resulting in the construction of an inland RA. Existing research focuses on relocation of houseboat dwellers with minimal discussion on ground residents. This study will evaluate the 1999 RA, 25 years post-construction.

First, physical characteristics of the village and spatial conditions of the RA are made clear by field observations. Second, we conduct semi-structured interviews with all 64 residents to make clear their disaster risk awareness and satisfaction with living conditions.

Three main findings were obtained. Field observations revealed that the RA is accessible by the main and highest street, and a community house was constructed within the area to serve as an evacuation shelter. Additionally, around 1/3 of the buildings were reconstructed to have second floors.

Most interviewees were satisfied with their living conditions: this area is safer than their previous residence, and social relationships are maintained. Continuity of occupation immediately post-relocation was also a factor. Those who engaged in fishery-related occupations were able to continue post-relocation, which attributes to high satisfaction today. However, merchant-related businesses faced difficulties in continuing, which contributes to low satisfaction.

On disaster risk awareness, most interviewees did not perceive floods as negative, and especially those who reconstructed into two-story houses claimed no issues. Evacuation tendencies were contained within the RA: either in their homes or their neighbors' second floor. Comparatively, those who answered floods to have negative impacts had no reconstruction history and cited the need to evacuate as an impact.

In conclusion, the living environment in this RA can be evaluated positively overall. However, factors like merchant occupation and lack of capacity to reconstruct had a negative effect. Additionally, although the physical location of the RA seems favorable, the area does not provide adequate protection from routine floods.

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Theme: Climate-Resilient Planning and Design Practices

Title: Connecting Nature and Society through the Migratory Black-faced Spoonbill: Program Design for Scaling Up

Abstract:

From an early age, today's children acquire knowledge of familiar natural and global environmental issues and related social problems through school education and media exposure. However, given the inherent complexity and indirect nature of global-scale environmental issues, which are often beyond the grasp of empirical understanding, their comprehension can be challenging. In some cases, these issues are perceived as overwhelming, potentially inducing a sense of helplessness. As the various issues related to sustainability become more apparent, it is imperative to provide the next generation with the support necessary to comprehend these events and problems on a large scale with a genuine sense of reality, thereby preparing them to live autonomously.

Migratory birds are familiar and tangible, yet they travel on large scales. Therefore, they are beings that make us realize the connection between nature on a large scale and teach us about the cultural and social connections between the various flyway regions. Since 2015, Team SPOON has been focusing on the endangered migratory black-faced spoonbill, and through the black-faced spoonbill, we have been working to connect people with nature and people with each other. Since 2019, Team SPOON has conducted programs for children in the black-faced spoonbills' flyway areas of Ganghwa, Fukuoka, Kashima, Tainan, and Hong Kong, mainly to enable children to experience the connection between nature and people. In 2024, the children in the flyway regions of Ganghwa, Fukuoka, Yatsushiro, and Naha are actually implementing a program of cross-country exchanges.

In this report, we delineate the specifics of the program. After this, an analysis of the children's impressions and questionnaires, and interviews with the adults involved in the activities will be conducted. The objective of this analytical process is to determine whether the children and adults involved in the activities were able to scale up their awareness and interest in the natural environment and society, and if they were, what kind of program was effective in doing this.

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Theme: Climate-Resilient Planning and Design Practices

Title: Flood and Livelihood Resilience Strategies in a Lagoon Village: The Role of Market and Xóm in An Truyền, Hué

Abstract:

An Truyền is a traditional village near the Tam Giang Lagoon in central Vietnam with over 500 years of history. Despite its location in a low-lying, flood-prone area, the village continues to thrive through locally embedded flood adaptation strategies and developed a livelihood structure with the local market serving as the focus of everyday activities. However, development pressures associated with the planned high-speed railway may pose risks to both its flood resilience and livelihood systems.

This study investigates how the village's spatial unit, Xóm, and the market contribute to flood resilience and the maintenance of livelihoods. Fieldwork included interviews with market vendors and residents,

mapping of market use by time of day, and the creation of diagrams reflecting landform, building types, and building scale within each Xóm.

Findings show that the Xóm are arranged as narrow strips running north–south, with a slightly elevated center. This topography facilitates natural drainage along the Xóm, directing rainwater toward surrounding paddy fields and waterways. Buildings also adapt to this topography: in the low-lying northern areas, small-scale two-story homes are common. Meanwhile, the central elevated zone retains older, larger lots with minimal reconstruction due to lower flood risk and the southern zone, near a cemetery, features large ancestral shrines used only on special occasions. Meanwhile, the market includes a second floor built by the government after the 1999 flood as an evacuation space. Although currently used for storage or stalls, market users recognize its intended emergency function. These features demonstrate that the village combines ordinary drainage strategies with emergency flood response capacities.

In terms of livelihoods, the market operates dynamically: fresh food dominates in the morning, while prepared food stalls selling dishes such as Bánh Xèo emerge by midday. Goods are sourced both locally and externally, and the market attracts not only residents but also tourists. The southern edge of the market, more visible from the main road, hosts most food vendors, while the northern side accommodates fresh produce sellers. This multifunctional market sustains the village's economic activity beyond agriculture and fishery, which are highly susceptible to flooding.

In conclusion, An Truyèn's resilience is supported by both physical flood adaptations and flexible livelihoods. Future development should prioritize the preservation and integration of these vernacular systems to maintain the village's flood adaptive capacity and socio-economic sustainability.