Call for Contributions

16 May 2021    | Deadline for Abstract Submission
15 September 2021 | Deadline for Submission of Contributions

Submit your contribution HERE or on doha2021.isocarp.org!
Piotr Lorens is an architect and urban planner, professor and Head of the Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning at the Faculty of Architecture, Gdansk University of Technology. His professional interests include urban design and development issues with a special focus on regeneration and transformation of distressed sites. He was involved in design and development of numerous urban development and regeneration schemes, including planning for transformation of Gdansk waterfront. Piotr is also serving as consultant and expert in numerous planning and development projects. His research and professional issues include also dealing with local identity and heritage within the urban transformation processes, shaping urban public spaces systems as well as dealing with social, economic and legal aspects of urban transformation. Besides academic and professional appointments, Piotr is also active member of ISOCARP (Vice President YPP Program within years 2011-2017) and Society of Polish Town Planners (currently – Chairman of the Society Board, within years 2015-2018 was serving as the President of the Society). In addition, Piotr is member of ICOMOS and TICCIH. He also plays the role of the Chairman of the Urban and Metropolitan Areas Group, Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Hangwelani Hope Magidimisha is an NRF-rated researcher employed by the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a Senior Lecturer. She made history as the first black-female South Africa born to graduate with a PhD in Town and Regional Planning at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2015. She also holds a Masters in Town and Regional Planning and a degree in Geography and Environment - both from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. In addition, she has a Diploma in Project Management from Roseburg College in Cape Town. As an academic, Hope has authored and co-authored a number of book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles. This is a career which she developed from her tenure as an intern in HSRC to her current academic position in the University which saw her having over 30 publications. Outside the University, Hope is a practitioner. Her passion for town and regional planning has earned her a nomination to serve on the City Planning Commissioner for EThekwini Municipality with a strategic responsibility of advising the Executive Committee and Councilors in the Municipality. She is also in the advisory committee of COGTA where they advise the Office of the Premier in KZN on spatial equity and a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Tribunal.
Planning Unlocked

How to unlock and build back better our cities and communities? Urban and territorial planning is the vaccine. It can only be effective when applied worldwide and accessible to all people. The new planning vaccine needs to enable innovative ideas and strategies to achieve more sustainable territories and implement urban green deals. We live in exceptional times, of which the “Covid shock of 2020” is only the most recent symptom. Cities and nations worldwide have been grappling with appalling socio-economic inequalities, failing infrastructure, and the prospect of climate catastrophe for a long while. Against a future of more pandemics, ecosystem meltdown, and social unrest, there is only one remedy – planning better, safer, fairer cities. But is spatial planning up to the task? The traditional concepts, methods, tools, and agents of urban and territorial planning seem woefully inadequate. We need new solutions, out-of-the-box thinking, and innovative ideas and strategies.

The main idea associated with the 57th World Planning Congress theme is to unlock our minds and provide planning advocates and practitioners a fresh, new start. The same relates to the congress format – we have to go out of the “beaten track” of the in-person, members-of-the-profession-only event and explore new conferencing and knowledge-sharing opportunities, go out with our message outside the walled congress rooms as well as partner with other disciplines and address the governments, the civic society, and the general public.

Doha: an ever-changing place

The Congress takes place in Doha – a unique place for such a discussion. This place is constantly changing and adapting to the new times and realities, which results in the deep physical, social and economic transformations of the city, not to forget about the environmental and infrastructural aspects of this unique location. Also, Doha sports not only the local but also regional and global importance, which again makes it a unique setting for reinventing planning.

Embracing local culture

At the same time, Congress delegates will get the chance to experience Qatari culture, hospitality, and history-based yet modern urban atmosphere. Our aim is also to include the particular concepts and aspects of local culture in the congress programme and phrasing of the congress-related events. This shall become a good bridge between the delegates representing various cultures and lifestyles as well as local social and cultural environments.

New Congress format

The congress will include not only traditional paper sessions. We want to promote the presentation of case studies and projects as the basis for knowledge sharing and exchange and for learning from each other. Special sessions, forums, debates, and roundtables shall take a prominent role in the congress programme as these events may gain the attention of the larger audience. We encourage going beyond design – un-locking planning shall mean also reinventing what planning is actually about.

As we all want to meet in person, let us meet in Msheireb within an innovative, inclusive, and welcoming public space in the historic heart of Doha. It offers splendid interaction opportunities while allowing and ensuring safe distancing and outdoor sessions. For those who still cannot travel the hybrid model of participation will be organised, using modern technologies to provide the global audience with a chance to experience the ISOCARP congress ambiance in this unique place.
New Challenges

New Times

Unprecedented events make us question the development paradigms and call for unlocking planning theories and practices for meeting the future needs and incoming challenges. Our practice was very much development-oriented: now we look for healthy and inclusive places and harmony with nature. The mantra of economic growth is still there, but in post-COVID times the new social and economic patterns emerge. Calls for ‘de-growing’ the economy are getting louder, including measuring progress with indicators of human wellbeing and conservation of the natural capital. At the same time, the planet-wide climate emergency is ever more evident. Whether officially declared or not, these changes have global, regional, and local dimensions and consequences. Also, these will influence not only the physical form of cities but entire urban environments, including social, economic, environmental, and infrastructural transformations.

Better Places

Meeting these challenges will require planning for better urban places: resilient, biodiverse, inclusive, socially-responsive, and ecologically benign. Some solutions will refer to the traditional urban forms, others will accept the relentless dispersion of population into the peri-urban and rural areas – recently accelerated by the pandemic. In both cases, they will be combined with fresh planning ideas and new technologies transport, telecommunications, energy generation and storage, and waste disposal. Self-sufficiency and community resilience will be the paramount criteria for responding to unexpected emergencies that the future will bring. Nature-employing and mimicking solutions will provide a healthy balance with high technologies. Enhancing biodiversity, while harnessing ecological services, will be a core objective of urban plans, not something that belongs to the protected nature reserves outside the city.

Stronger Communities

Our communities should be much more healthy, resilient, and inclusive. This means empowering vulnerable and deprived groups and minorities, and building social cohesion and harmony while also acknowledging cultural diversity and individual freedom. These communities will be assisted in self-planning, which itself will focus on the localisation of production, consumption, and services. Self-sufficiency, sharing, and collaboration, along with decentralised, autonomous infrastructure, will be the pillars of resilience. The new place-making will be much more people-oriented and people-responsive than before, focusing at the same time on climate adaptation and biodiversity protection.
Our responses

New planning concepts

These changes will also result in new forms of cooperation (and competition) between institutions, stakeholders, government entities, regions, and other types of partners and interested individuals. The congress – organised at this unique moment – should become a venue for the creation of new planning concepts and the start of the process of reshaping the planning profession. We are not only interested in researching the past or analysing the present but, foremost, in charting the future. In this case, the future of our cities and regions and the future of the planning profession. This comes along with shifting from “designing” towards “focusing on action and impact”.

New planning agenda

We aim to set the new planning agenda, provide a venue for the forward-thinking on the future of the profession and redefine the mission and tools of city and regional spatial planning. The goal is an overhaul of our current paradigms of the subject and process of planning. This shall include reconsideration of the scope of planning and the inclusion of numerous non-obvious aspects of it. Also, the “planning perspective” should be reconsidered and short-term as well as very much long-lasting solutions should be included in the planning debate.

Knowledge exchange and education improvement

We focus not only on “better places”, but we strongly believe in the need to support the development of “stronger communities” within these “new times”. This requires developing and sharing the best planning practices, exchanging thoughts on current advancements in planning, and pointing out the outstanding cases of successful urban and regional development and transformation efforts. We also understand the need for “improved education” and advancement of the “knowledge sharing and exchange” as the basic driver for this paradigm shift. This shall come along with an understanding that planning is becoming much more diverse in every sense of this word. All these shall contribute to un-locking our thinking on what planning is and should be and provide us with a fresh start to the future. This may also include the concept of un-planning of some areas and sites, which may become a relief to the communities.
People are empowered through various avenues. Inclusive planning tries to include the various dimensions of user-oriented urbanism into the process of planning formulation and its implementation. These dimensions have great impacts on the livelihoods of people, especially disadvantaged groups, such as the urban poor or the socially marginalised. Various dimensions of urban disadvancement can be classified as income and social poverty, education poverty, environmental poverty, or health poverty, to name the few. Issues such as employment insecurity, unskilled labour, lack of access to and opportunities in the job market, lack of access to governance and decision-making, macro/micro-economics crisis, unaffordable cost of living, lack of safety nets and labour protection, lack of assets, personal insecurity, constrained access to education, inability to afford the school expenses, lack of access to quality education to all, exposure to crime and violence as well as lack of reliable, affordable and good public transportation and urban mobility constrain the quality of life of too many citizens across the globe. These issues must be incorporated in the mainstream urban planning agenda to overcome the growing socio-economic gaps of contemporary societies.

Track-1 attempts to discuss the issues of policymaking, process-management, practical implications as well as research insights in the field of inclusiveness and empowerment.

Following the current pandemic, what will be the new urban concepts concerning health and well-being? What will we have learned from this pandemic? Will we face a new urban paradigm shift, comparable to the one that transformed our cities over a century ago, known as The Hygienist Movement?
### Smartness and development

**Al-Souq: innovating for performance and management**

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<th>TOPICS</th>
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<td>Lorraine Gonzales (USA)</td>
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<td>“Deformalisation” in planning routine, changes in planning documents and rules</td>
<td>Alex Antonov (Russia)</td>
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<td>Economic programs and spatial planning for cities and communities</td>
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<td>Technical and market strategies for innovative planning</td>
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<td>Collaboration in planning</td>
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<td>Planning education for citizens, investors, and officials</td>
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This track’s priority is focused on case studies as opposed to theoretical submittals. The intent is to provide our professional colleagues with tools that have been tested and outcomes are known, and what are proven effective measuring tools will determine probable outcomes. Let’s discuss smart planning that meets technologies issues, multiple purposes, fast changes and sudden challenges. Smart planning requires new governance, financing and implementation technologies involving joint efforts by communities, stakeholders and officials.

### Resilience and adaptability

**Al-Waha: promoting glocal solutions**

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<td>Pedro Garcia (Portugal/Canada)</td>
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<td>Data driven policies for resilient urban design / Digitalisation &amp; big data-based models for resilient cities</td>
<td>Hanna Obracht-Prondzynska (Poland)</td>
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<td>Assessment of urban vulnerability / Strengthening urban adaptability</td>
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<td>Social engagement for shaping resilient cities</td>
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<td>Implementation of circularity, urban metabolism, sponge and ecosystemic approaches</td>
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To re-establish a healthy urban environment, we seek to develop policies for adaptable cities to make the built environment more resilient to extreme weather conditions and to diminish challenges such as urban heat islands, pollution, etc. Diminishing biodiversity, unprecedented climate swings and rising maintenance costs are symptoms of a planet struggling with illness. Cities today call for the implementation of circularity, urban metabolism, sponge and ecosystemic approaches. The concepts require a shift in the way cities have been designed when dealing with green infrastructure; planning with nature; regionalization of infrastructure; transportation; sustainable urban development and circular economy. However, without active residents the process of shaping resilient cities will fail. There is an urgent need to enhance social engagement. Resilience and adaptability emerge from interdisciplinary and comparative cases to preserve the setting/world/locality. Recent research that proposes innovative resilience methodologies is also increasingly relevant. Hence the question arises: how to approach urban design and how to shape strategies to mitigate climate changes while enhancing the resilience of cities? What tools for (1) monitoring and assessing urban vulnerability and measuring social attitude towards climate changes (2) enhancing decision making processes and data driven policies for climate changes and resilient urban design (3) strengthening urban adaptability (4) empowering social engagement for shaping resilient cities, are available or are needed by the cities today?
Practice: The role of designers and planners goes beyond large scale concepts and architectural morphologies
Unlocking a multi-scalar approach to spatial design: Unlocking potential for urban resilience
Connecting holistic knowledge amongst city builders for unique placemaking: A transdisciplinary approach to placemaking for climate change awareness
Tools: How can new tools as well as planning and design methodology (parametric design, digital twins, etc.) help to ensure that complex urban systems will achieve sustainable and safer design and placemaking?

Standardised one-size-fits-all urban planning and design approaches have largely failed cities. The COVID-19 crisis only highlighted an existing lack of inclusive open and public spaces, and displayed inequalities in how urban dwellers experienced exposure and restrictions related to the pandemic. The climate change crisis had earlier demonstrated how strongly a lack of a unique, local context tailored urban fabric can deepen a city’s vulnerability to more and more frequent and intense extreme weather events. Finally, most of the newly built urban fabric blends into faceless concrete jungle cityscapes, which makes cities lose on socio-economic opportunities associated to a resilient, liveable, vibrant and unique built environment. More to that, a rapidly growing remote working style is likely to disrupt our assumption of continuously growing cities and, on the contrary, make many climate vulnerable and unliveable cities uncompetitive and gradually deserted by a qualified workforce.

It is time to bring the notion of uniqueness at the core of urban development. Here, bringing together local knowledge and cutting-edge technologies, design thinking processes, cohesive and participatory approaches will help respond to the need of making our urban habitats inclusive and affordable while also making them sustainable and liveable. We, as urban practitioners and urban thought leaders, are at the threshold of a new urban development era, and our practices, collectively, as city builders will make a deep impact on the way future communities will grow, learn, live and dream. Our timely action is as critical as ever. Over 75% of the infrastructure the world will see in 2050 doesn’t exist today. This means that our today’s decisions will lock the world into a living pattern for decades to come.

57th ISOCARP WORLD PLANNING CONGRESS

The Congress will also include a series of Special Sessions and Forums, including:

- **Forums** will be conceptualised and organised by ISOCARP in partnership with its institutional members and partners. In principle, these events last at least 90 minutes and include both presentations, discussions, and debates. Local leaders and professionals will be invited to participate in each of these forums. These are excellent ‘networking’ opportunities for both ISOCARP and institutional members and ISOCARP/Ministry of Municipality and Environment of Qatar (MME) partners, with the World Planning Congress Committee (WPCC) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) as matchmakers. At least three events of such will be organised, but in case of interest in other topics, organisation of 5-6 of these may be proposed. The initial set of proposals include:

  - Urban Health Forum
  - Planning Education Forum: Bridging theory and practice
  - Culture and Heritage Forum: Embracing locality in the face of modernisation
  - Urban Policy Forum
  - Urban Regeneration Forum
  - Regional Forum: Bringing together regional leaders
  - Territorial Climate Action Planning Forum

- Similarly, **roundtable and panel discussions** on selected topics may be organised. In principle, these events should last approximately 45 minutes each, and within the programme of these the roundtable-like discussions with invited individuals, specialists, and professionals, should play the key role. Roundtables are targeting high-level representatives of various delegations and groups of stakeholders. At least three events of such will be organised, but in case of interest in other topics, organisation of 5-6 of these may be proposed. The initial set of proposals include:

  - Place-leaders Roundtable
  - Place-makers Roundtable
ABOUT ISOCARP

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global association of experienced professional planners. It was founded in 1965 in a bid to bring together recognised and highly qualified planners in an international network. The ISOCARP network consists of both individual and institutional members from over 85 countries. ISOCARP is a non-governmental organisation recognised by the UN, UNCHS and the Council of Europe and has a formal representative status with UNESCO. The objectives of ISOCARP include the improvement of planning practice through the creation of a global and active network of planners. ISOCARP encourages the exchange between planners, promotes the profession in all aspects, stimulates research, improves education and training, increases information and awareness on major planning issues.

SUBMISSION TYPES

Research Paper:
• Research or academic contribution consisting of a paper and a presentation.
• The paper will be included in the Congress Proceedings with an ISBN number (only for registered authors attending the conference).

Presentation:
• Professional contribution consisting of a presentation on a specific case study or topic of wider interest, such as a project, strategy, plan, or design.
• The emphasis will strictly be on lessons learned and knowledge sharing.
• Submitting a paper is optional, but highly recommended
• Abstract (and paper if submitted) will be included in the Congress Proceedings.

Session:
• A stand-alone or 'side event' linked to one of the Tracks and entirely focused on a specific topic or objective, such as a training session, a hackathon, a workshop, etc.
• An abstract of the session proposal is mandatory and will be included in the Congress Proceedings.
• Formats other than the traditional presentations are encouraged, including: point/counterpoint, single speaker, moderated debate, interactive workshops, round tables etc.
• Discussion or interaction with the audience is highly encouraged.
• Session proposers have to identify and coordinate all the session speakers – a list of confirmed participants has to be included in the proposal.
• All speakers need to register for the congress.
• Sessions will be 90 minutes long.

All authors, presenters and session participants need to register and pay the fee before submission of the full contribution in order to be included in the programme.

To submit, you first have to create an account on doha2021.isocarp.org before you can submit your contribution. You can change your details and abstract afterwards, however, please avoid submitting the abstract in the minutes before the deadline (see website) in case of technical difficulties. If you have any problems creating an account or submitting your abstract, please send a mail to congress@isocarp.org.

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