



17 – 20 September 2025
Ljubljana, Slovenia
webpage: rca.uirs.si

REGIONAL CONTEXTUALISATION IN ARCHITECTURE

The Spirit of Place – Cultivating Identity in the Built Environment

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE.
URBAN PLANNING INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, and
UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, BIOTECHNICAL FACULTY



photo: Blaž Pogačnik



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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee consists of different international scientists, experts and professionals. The names of the scientific committee are published upon the launch of the conference web page.



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CONFERENCE THEME



The principle of adaptive regionalism incorporates the concepts of critical regionalism, with an emphasis on innovation, flexibility, sustainability and adaptation to contemporary needs, while maintaining respect for local architectural traditions. It is characterised by flexible and dynamic approaches that respond to the diverse needs of the modern world, while being committed to preserving the rich heritage of the past. It encourages the creative combination of traditional architectural elements and techniques with new ideas and technologies. It advocates a balanced harmony between the local and the global, not only adapting to the changing demands of modern society, but also safeguarding the authenticity and significance of local architectural typologies. This pursues a sustainable vision that combines historical elements with an innovative orientation, thus creating a bridge between the values that have evolved throughout the history of architecture and the constant changes of the modern world.

The main question is how to preserve cultural identity and collective memory, as highlighted in the “Recommendations for the Protection and Renovation of Rural Architectural Heritage” (Granada Charter). This raises the need for comprehensive analysis and valorisation of spatial and architectural characteristics that contribute to the identity of landscapes and settlements. Should we also review contemporary building typologies and spatial arrangements, analyzing current trends and examples of good and bad practices in architecture and spatial planning and conduct extensive field surveys?

This conference provides an international and interdisciplinary platform for exploring adaptive approaches to contemporary housing typologies, settlement planning and spatial development. It will bring together expertise in architecture, urban design, urban planning and related disciplines to address challenges related to climate change, environmental degradation, social integration and exclusion, public health and quality of life in the built environments.



CONFERENCE TRACKS

- T1:** Tradition and Innovation in Contemporary Architecture: Preserving Local Identity
- T2:** Settlement Typologies in Contemporary Context
- T3:** Urban Density and the Image of Place
- T4:** The Role of Infrastructure in Shaping Regional Identity
- T5:** Ecology, Identity and the Built Environment: Integrating Ecology and Architectural Form
- T6:** Community-Based Design and its Influence on Identity of Place
- T7:** Economic Paradigms and Place Identity: Growth, Degrowth and Built Environments
- T8:** Identity by Design and Challenges of Climate Change
- T9:** Public Space and the Construction of Collective Identity
- T10:** Light and Built Environment: Shaping the Identity of Place
- T11:** Narratives Between Place and Space



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This conference welcomes students, researchers, professionals and anyone with an interest in the built environment and urban life. We encourage submissions from a variety of disciplines, including architecture, urban planning, design, sociology, history, geography and related fields, on the topic of spatial identity by design.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Conference Welcome Reception

Date: 17 September 2025

Time: 18:00 – 20.00

Location: UL FA Galerija, Zoisova 12, Ljubljana

Admission: admission is free for all conference participants and accompanying persons but requires confirmation during the registration process due to limited places.



photo: Blaž Pogacnik

CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLES



RT1: Architectural Regions and Landscapes of Slovenija

This roundtable explores the architectural regions and landscapes of Slovenia, focusing on how design shapes spatial identity. Building on research conducted by the University of Ljubljana and the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, the discussion will examine the current state of Slovenian architectural design and consider strategies for strengthening its contribution to spatial identity in the future. We invite participants to share their perspectives on regional variations by design, contemporary trends, the role of heritage in constructing place identity etc.

RT2: Sustainable Accessible Future Architecture

How does awareness of safety, accessibility, diversity and inclusion shape the design of spatial identity in future architecture? This roundtable explores the intersection of these critical considerations, examining how they influence the design and experience of built environments and contribute to a sense of place. We will discuss how to create spaces that are not only functional and sustainable but also foster a sense of belonging and well-being for all users, regardless of background or ability, thereby shaping a more inclusive spatial identity.

CONFERENCE TOUR



The RCA tour will be organised on 20 September 2025, as a field trip to Gorenjska region (depends on no. of participants).

CONFERENCE EXHIBITION



The UL Faculty of Architecture building will be hosting the RCA exhibitions, as part of the RCA Conference. The multidisciplinary exhibitions will start on Monday 15 September 2025, providing students, academics and professionals with yet another learning experience within the collaborating institutions.



IMPORTANT DATES

February 2025: call for abstracts

March 2025: abstracts notification

May 2026: paper cutoff date

June 2025 paper notification

July 2025: last update on papers

17 September – 19 September 2025: conference venue

20 September: conference guided tour

** See updates after the launching of the conference webpage.*



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday 17 September: late registration, opening ceremony, keynote speech, track sessions, banquet

Tuesday 18 September: keynote speech, track sessions

Friday 19 September: round tables, conference closing

Saturday 20: organised tour

** See updates after the launching of the conference webpage.*

No online presentations will be organised.



PROCEEDINGS, ABSTRACTS

AND PAPERS

The conference proceedings will be published and available in digital format to all conference participants.

Only original papers, which are not published elsewhere, are accepted for oral/poster presentation. Accepted papers should be presented during the sessions of the conference tracks running in parallel throughout the conference. The accepted conference papers will be published in the form of the Conference book of contributions. The authors of the selected papers will be invited to prepare papers for the issue of:

Urbani izziv / Urban challenge Journal: <https://urbaniizziv.uirs.si/>,
or

Igra ustvarjalnosti / Creativity game: <https://www.iu-cg.org/>

** More informations about the registration, abstracts and papers will be available on the webpage.*



REGISTRATION FEES

The conference is part of research project of ARIS (Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency) and MNVP (Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning) and is free of charge.



LANGUAGE OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference language is English.



Venue:

*Univeristy of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture
Zoisova 12, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
<https://www.fa.uni-lj.si/>*

Conference page: rca.uirs.si

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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SPATIAL PLANNING



RCA

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