



Call for papers

Architecture and inequity: New practices of Care

London Festival of Architecture 2021 Symposium
in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts

The London Festival of Architecture is now welcoming submissions for the fourth annual LFA Symposium, hosted in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts. The symposium brings together two institutions to celebrate the culture of our built environment and has established itself as one of the key events in the London architectural calendar.

The symposium represents an opportunity for both emerging and established practitioners, academics and researchers with bold new ideas to reflect on this year's theme of 'care' and to share their work with a broad multi-disciplinary community.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's symposium will take place online.

About the theme

2020 was marked by global emergencies on an unprecedented scale that forced us to face many uncomfortable truths about contemporary society, from systemic racism to the inescapable effects of climate change. In an attempt to learn from these challenges, the 2021 LFA symposium invites architects, researchers, artists and spatial practitioners to consider the systematic inequalities in our cities and propose positive solutions and approaches that explore our built environment from a critical perspective.

What are the new practices of care that would allow us to create spaces that accept difference and grow from diverse perspectives? How can designers and architects engage traditionally excluded groups to ensure that our environments are inclusive and work for all of us? How do we build socially and environmentally sustainable future cities?

We are seeking submissions of original research that go beyond mapping existing problems and instead recognise how we can learn from these issues and propose alternative solutions. The symposium will seek to group papers looking at complementary topics in pairs or panels, with a focus on discussion.



Topics explored include:

- Strategies for highlighting and learning from the intersection of racial, gender- and class-based inequalities within our cities
- Use of hostile design strategies to support systematic exclusion, with a focus on approaches that co-opt and change the products of such design to positive effect
- How placing the experiences of differently abled and neurodivergent individuals at the centre of design approaches can result in better environments for everyone
- The privatisation and commodification of public space and access to it; exploring strategies for creating truly public space in contemporary society
- The architectural and urban implementation of feminist principles of care
- Lack of care and accountability within the built environment sector
- The selective implementation of environmentally friendly strategies in our cities and opportunities for circumnavigating the effects of such policies

How to submit

Please submit an abstract of up to 300 words plus a one-page CV, outlining any institutional affiliations, by midday on Monday 29th March 2021.

Your CV and abstract should be saved together in one file (as pdf or word document) and submitted via:

www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/symposium2021

Successful applicants will be notified by w/c 5 April.

For symposium enquiries please contact: eliza.grosvenor@nla.london .

The successful applicants will be invited to present their selected work at the fourth London Festival of Architecture symposium in June 2021.

Background to the London Festival of Architecture Symposium at the Royal Academy



In 2018, London Festival of Architecture in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts, established the LFA Symposium as a focal event of the festival that offers a rich exploration of the annual theme. Bringing together prominent architects, academics and commentators, the inaugural symposium entitled '*Does Identity Matter?*' challenged how people connect and identify with their homes, workplaces, neighbourhoods, and the city as a whole. In 2019, the second symposium 'Thresholds or barriers? Perspectives on boundaries and architecture' offered a rich exploration of the role and application of boundaries in architecture and placemaking. In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the symposium exploring 'Architecture and power: conversations around people and place' was held for the first time online.



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Previous keynote speakers include Farshid Moussavi OBE RA (Director of Farshid Moussavi Architecture), Eyal Weizman (Director of Forensic Architecture and Professor of Spatial and Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London) and Mary Duggan (Founding Director, Mary Duggan Architects).

London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture celebrates London as the global hub for architecture. The festival returns to the capital from 1-30 June 2021 with a lively and diverse programme of public events across London exploring the theme of 'care'. For 2021 we're planning a festival with many Covid-secure events across the city, along with other digital events. The London Festival of Architecture began in 2004, and has since grown to become the world's largest annual architecture festival. The festival attracts a vast public audience – well over 800,000 people in 2019 – and a global media audience of millions. The vast majority of events are free, and are staged by a core festival programming team working alongside architecture and design practices and practitioners, leading cultural and academic institutions, artists and many others.