

Shaping the City **New Orleans**

5 October

AIA New Orleans
Center for Design
4.00pm – 9.00pm

6 October

Patrick F. Taylor Library
at the Ogden Museum
08.00am – 5.30pm

Free Admission
with prior registration.
Register here to attend
in-person or online.

Organisers

NANO



Shaping the City will be held in New Orleans after successful editions in Venice and Chicago

Following the success of previous editions in Venice and Chicago, the next edition of *Shaping the City* is scheduled to take place on the 5th and 6th of October, 2023, in New Orleans at the AIA, Center for Design and at the F. Taylor Library, Ogden Museum. The overarching mission of the forum is the sharing of knowledge and best practices, as well as stimulating new international collaborations and actions for our threatened cities and communities.

Shaping the City is a forum created by the European Cultural Centre as part of the public programming of the Venice Architecture Biennial Exhibition titled *Time Space Existence*. *Shaping the City New Orleans* is organised in collaboration with NANO Architects and with the support of New Orleans & Company and AIA New Orleans. Thanks to the partnership with AIA New Orleans there will be the possibility to acquire CE credits. Based on the topics that will be discussed, for Thursday 5 October the estimated CE credit is 1.75 and for Friday 6 October is 4.

The two days event will be an opportunity to discuss new research and diverse architectural and planning solutions proposed by local and international planners, academics, architects and politicians who will share how they are

designing effective solutions to preserve the future of our cities. *Shaping the City New Orleans* will look specifically into “Designing for Climate Emergency”. The conversations will be tailored around two main subthemes:

- Catalysing Urban Climate Resilience
- Environmental Justice and Climate Change

Building systemic and equitable resistance to growing climate threats will require innovative solutions and international collaboration. *Shaping the City New Orleans* will be an unprecedented opportunity for leaders to share their work and to introduce new approaches to sustainable design and planning.

Why New Orleans?

Climate change is among the most significant challenges facing major cities worldwide. From floods and hurricanes to wildfires and desertification, extreme weather circumstances are only growing in number and impact. These threats are magnified in coastal cities such as Venice and New Orleans, both of whose low-lying geography make them particularly vulnerable to the threat of rising sea levels and extreme weather events. As a city with a unique history, geography, and urban fabric, New Orleans provides a rich and complex framework for examining the relationship between cultural legacy and sustainable urban development through the lens of environmental justice.

For project information,
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Shaping the City **New Orleans**

Designing for Climate Emergency

We are in a climate emergency. The effects of urbanisation and climate change are converging in dangerous ways. According to the UN Habitat, global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052, and approximately 3°C in 2100 based on current national government commitments (UN-Habitat, 2023). This will have disastrous impacts on cities. IPCC authors predict that “by midcentury, more than a billion people living in low-lying coastal cities and settlements globally are projected to be at risk from coastal-specific climate hazards” (IPCC, 2023).

90% of urban areas are coastal; where infrastructure, built environment, and the human assets are all vulnerable to climate change impacts. In the coming decades, hundreds of millions of people in urban areas are likely to be affected by rising sea levels, increased precipitation, inland floods, more frequent and stronger cyclones and storms, and periods of more extreme heat and cold. Climate change may also negatively impact infrastructure and worsen access to basic urban services and quality of life in cities.

Different cities face different climate risks and have varying levels of vulnerability. During *Shaping the City New Orleans*, an array of climate adaptation architectural and planning

solutions are to be addressed, many of which are physical ones that build systemic resilience to cities. The second focus of the forum lies on the topic of spatial justice. There’s an important equity element to climate-risk adaptation, where vulnerable populations may be at higher risk for climate-related damage. With these two focal points, *Shaping the City New Orleans* will bring new perspectives and ideas for designing for the climate emergency.

5 October
AIA New Orleans Center for Design

Kick-Off Session:
Venice x New Orleans
4.00pm – 9.00pm

This kick-off session will showcase an in-depth presentation focusing on the similarities between Venice and New Orleans, how they are bolstering their cities towards climate change from a planning, design, and policy perspective. Similarities, differences, and common approaches for designing for climate emergency for the two cities will be discussed. This conversation between New Orleans and Venice representatives will be moderated by ECC Italy.

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6 October
Patrick F. Taylor Library
at the Ogden Museum

Session 1:
Catalysing Urban
Climate Resilience
8.00am – 12.00pm

Climate change is not distant. It is real, and it is already happening. Moreover, climate patterns are worsening. Architects and urban planners are co-creators and custodians of the built environment, therefore they hold a joint accountability for the ongoing climate and ecological challenges alongside policy and decision makers. As professionals, they possess the potential and obligation to be the agents of profound transformation, fully comprehending how local decisions reverberate on the global scale. Despite this awareness, the majority of architectural and urban endeavours persist in contributing to the current climate crisis and environmental deterioration worldwide. Hence, it is imperative that our architectural and urban design solutions are well integrated within our public realms fostering a positive and restorative impact. Embracing such a climate emergency design approach becomes essential.

Systemic resilience includes increasing awareness of physical climate risks, incorporating risk awareness and preparedness into city processes, optimising emergency responses, and enhancing disaster read-iness. Nature-based solutions, including initiatives like riverfront regeneration, river-catchment management, and sustainable urban-drainage systems, and restorative eco-systems stand

out as highly appealing measures due to their effectiveness in mitigating risks and their practicality. These solutions not only contribute to climate risk reduction but also offer additional advantages in areas such as decarbonization, fostering economic growth, and promoting better public health.

This session of *Shaping the City New Orleans* acknowledges the necessity to prepare for impending sea level rise, and to assist flood-prone shoreline areas and communities to become more resilient, by showcasing studies, architectural, urban design examples and proposals from different cities across the world on how to co-exist with water.

Session 2:
Environmental Justice
and Climate Change
1.30pm – 5.30pm

Climate change poses a danger to the wellbeing of all individuals, affecting their physical and mental health, as well as the availability of clean air, water, food, and shelter. However, certain groups, particularly those who are socially and economically disadvantaged, encounter more significant vulnerabilities. Environmental justice aims to promote the creation of thriving, sustainable communities where resources are allocated based on the needs of the underprivileged rather than those in power. In 2004, Hurricane Katrina brought climate justice issues to the forefront of public policy discussions, when it decimated the US Gulf Coast, killing hundreds of people and causing billions of dollars in property damage.

Shaping the City **New Orleans**

Climate change is fueling migration. The World Bank estimated that climate change would displace more than 140 million people within their home countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America by 2050. The urban poor, residing in slums and informal settlements in developing countries, bear the greatest impact of climate change. They commonly inhabit areas close to river banks, hillsides susceptible to landslides, polluted grounds, decertified land, unstable structures vulnerable to earthquakes, and coastal waterfronts. The vulnerability of the urban poor is on the rise, as over 1 billion people live in such conditions, making them highly susceptible to the effects of climate change.

There's an important equity element to climate-risk adaptation. Vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, low-income communities, some minority groups, people with disabilities, may be at higher risk for climate-related damage. This session of *Shaping the City New Orleans* will look into climate related migration and displacement of people and communities due to climate change. Through different lenses and case studies, the session will focus on strategies that encompass and highlight issues related to social inclusion, spatial justice, development, and equal opportunities for an equitable healthy future for all.

Organisers

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About Shaping the City

Shaping the City is a forum organised by the European Cultural Centre as part of the public programming of the ECC Venice Architecture Biennial Exhibition titled *Time Space Existence*. The event, now at its fourth edition, boasts two editions in Venice held in 2018 and 2021, and one in Chicago organised in 2021 in the context of the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

Shaping the City tackles contemporary urbanisation and key issues in the city, presented and debated through the perspectives of a group of academics, urban planners and designers, architects, policy makers, and scholars. Through diverse presentations and panel discussions, the forum confronts the fundamental topics of shaping the cities in the world.

The forum is conceived to exchange ideas about the urban future of cities. The evolving discussions recognize the significant role urban planning and design play in moulding the interaction of people with their cities and their wellbeing. The forum sets forward new thoughts around the rights to the city, through a spatial, pragmatic, yet inclusive and sustainable approach. For more information you can visit the website shapingthecity.org and Instagram [@ShapingtheCityForum](https://www.instagram.com/ShapingtheCityForum).

About European Cultural Centre

The European Cultural Centre (ECC) is a non profit organisation headquartered in the Netherlands. We are cultural entrepreneurs committed to promoting culture through international exchanges. We work with associations and partners from around the

world, ranging from educational, cultural and governmental institutions to non-governmental organisations as well as museums, foundations and several private initiatives.

Based in Venice, ECC Italy is the main branch of its larger parent organisation the European Cultural Centre. Focusing on diverse topics within art, architecture and design, we aim to create dynamic exhibition spaces and insightful events that show the interchanging of ideas from different cultures and industry leaders. Our architecture exhibition *Time Space Existence*, alternates each year with the art exhibition *Personal Structures*. For more information you can check out our website ecc-italy.eu and Instagram [@ecc_italy](https://www.instagram.com/ecc_italy).

About NANO

Established in 2001 in New Orleans, NANO is an internationally recognised, award-winning firm offering architectural services, master planning, interior design, and customised design experiences. Utilising a variety of delivery methods, their portfolio includes new construction, renovations, and historic preservation within the commercial, residential, educational, industrial, and municipal sectors. NANO has grown from a small, two-person husband and wife team focused on process driven scaled architecture, construction and hand-made custom furniture to a 22-person firm performing internationally recognised, resilient solutions to the built environment while honing their craft for the future solutions to our communities and global challenges today. For more information and to see NANO's projects you can check out their website nanollc.net and Instagram [@nano_llc](https://www.instagram.com/nano_llc).

Shaping the City **New Orleans**

About New Orleans & Company

New Orleans & Company is the tourism and hospitality industry's official destination sales, marketing and trade organisation, responsible for driving over \$10 billion of diverse annual business to the regional cultural economy. We attract leisure and cultural travel, business meetings, conventions, weddings, festivals, sporting and special events to New Orleans, considered the cultural capital of the south, in a highly competitive global environment. Founded in 1960, New Orleans & Company is committed to celebrating the richness of our culture while creating jobs, building careers, and enhancing the quality of life for every New Orleanian. For more, please call 504-566-5011, visit Neworleans.com, Facebook at [New Orleans & Company](https://www.facebook.com/NewOrleans&Company), or X (Twitter) and Instagram [@Visit New Orleans](https://www.instagram.com/VisitNewOrleans).

About AIA New Orleans

The American Institute of Architects, New Orleans (AIANO) seeks to promote excellence in the practice of architecture, with a particular focus on sustainability and equity, and to ensure that all in the community value architecture as essential to the quality of life in New Orleans. For more information you can check out the website aianeworleans.org or their Instagram [@aia_nola](https://www.instagram.com/aia_nola).

Organisers

The logo for NANO, consisting of the letters 'NANO' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

Media Partners

The logo for domus, with the word 'domus' in a bold, black, lowercase sans-serif font.The logo for world-architects.com, with the text 'world-architects.com' in a bold, black, lowercase sans-serif font, and 'Profiles of Selected Architects' in a smaller, black, lowercase sans-serif font below it.

Event Partners

The logo for AIA New Orleans, featuring a red circle with 'AIA' in white, followed by the text 'New Orleans' in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for NEW ORLEANS & COMPANY, with 'NEW ORLEANS' in a bold, black, uppercase sans-serif font, and '& COMPANY' in a bold, black, uppercase sans-serif font below it, with a yellow ampersand.

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