

**INTA INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE
URBAN HEALTH CULTURE LAB 2025**



INTA

Conference Program
Date: September 12+13
2025
Venue: Copenhagen
BLOXHUB

Online Stream available:
Register via email & note "Online Participation"

Admission
Free

Registration: Deadline 5.9.2025
Contact@inta-aivn.org



INTA

URBAN HEALTH CULTURE LAB 2025

JOIN US AT BLOXHUB

**FREDERIKSHOLMS
KANAL 28E 1473
COPENHAGEN DK**

**FÆSTNINGENS
MATERIALGAARD**

Partner

Akademisk Arkitektforening
Danish Association of Architects



The background of the entire page is a high-angle, slightly tilted photograph of a modern waterfront promenade. The path is paved with light-colored bricks and features a central strip of blue-tinted glass or metal panels. Several people are walking along the path, including a woman with a stroller and a child. A young boy in a yellow shirt is standing on a small wooden platform. In the foreground, a man is sitting on a wooden bench. The water is visible on the right side of the frame.

A One-day International Conference on Health & Urban Planning
**HOW TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES AND PLACES
IN A NEW URBAN HEALTH CULTURE**

Moderated by Mark Isitt

Hosted by INTA—International Urban Development Association

In an era of accelerating urbanization, climate stress, demographic change, and rising health inequality, we need new coalitions to create healthier cities. This international gathering brings together professionals from planning, architecture, health, and governance to explore how cities can act as engines of well-being and care.



DAY 1 September 12, 2025

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

10:00–10:30 | Arrival & Coffee

10:30–10:40 | Welcome to the Lab

Helle Juul, PhD, President of INTA & Founding Partner, JUULFROST Architects

SESSION 1: CITIES FOR HEALTH

10:40–12:30 | Urban health as a rising spatial and political priority / 1 t. 50 min

PRESENTATIONS / ca. 75 min

- 10:40–10:55 | **Torben Klitgaard**, CEO BloxHub, DK
- 10:55–11:10 | **Kira Fortune**, WHO, Regional Advisor, DK
- 11:10–11:25 | **Dr. Sabina Mujkic**, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
- 11:25–11:40 | **Livia Shamir**, Research Department Director, Stefano Boeri Architetti, Milan

PANEL DISCUSSION

11:40–12:25 | How can cities operationalize urban health across sectors?

Moderator: Mark Isitt

Panelists: All speakers + Hanna Dunning, Special Consultant, Danish Healthy City Networks.

12:25–12:30 | Audience Q&A

12:30–13:30 | Networking Lunch

SESSION 2: PEOPLE FOR HEALTH

13:30–15:00 | Trust, mental well-being and inclusive design / 1 t. 30 min

PRESENTATIONS / ca. 75 min

- 13:30–13:45 | **Prof. Gert Tinggaard Svendsen**, Political Science, Aarhus University
- 13:45–14:00 | **Prof. Husam AlWaer**, Chair of Urban Design, University of Dundee
- 14:00–14:15 | **Etienne Lhomet**, Director Des Villes et Des Hommes
- 14:15–14:30 | **Laura Kairiene**, Chief Architect of Vilnius

PANEL DISCUSSION

14:30–14:55 | Can cities create mental well-being – and if so, how?"

Moderator: Mark Isitt

Panelists: All speakers + John Pløger, Professor in Urban Sociology, Oslo.

14:55–15:00 | Audience Q&A / transition

15:00–15:30 | Coffee Break

SESSION 3: NATURE FOR HEALTH

15:30–16:50 | Designing healing and sensory environments that nurture the brain / 1 t. 20 min

PRESENTATIONS / ca. 60 min

- 15:30–15:45 | **Prof. Ulrika Stigsdotter**, PhD, Landscape Architecture at Cph. University
- 15:45–16:00 | **Zakaria Djabbara**, PhD, Associate Professor Aalborg University
- 16:00–16:15 | **Tamara lungman**, PhD, ISGlobal, Health Impact Assessment Specialist
- 16:15–16:30 | **Jakob Norman-Hansen**, Director BLOXHUB-Global Urban Innovation

PANEL DISCUSSION & INPUT

16:30–16:50 | What does a health-promoting urban environment look like?"

Moderator: Mark Isitt

Panelists: All speakers + open mic + Fernando José Silva e Nunes, Professor in Urbanism, Lisbon.

17:10–18:00 | Closing & Reception

Closing Remarks: "From Talk to Action"



DAY 2 September 13, 2025

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

09:30–11:00 / INTA GOVERNING BOARD ASSEMBLY

Location: [To be confirmed – suggested: meeting space at Refshaleøen or nearby] A strategic session for INTA's Governing Board.

Agenda:

- Reflections on Day 1
- Financial and organisational status
- Strategic priorities towards 2026
- Future activities and partnerships

11:30–14:00 / GUIDED BOAT TOUR OF COPENHAGEN HARBOUR

Meeting point & return: Ofelia Plads & Refshaleøen

Embark on a harbour journey to experience the evolution of urban planning and healthy city strategies from the water. The tour includes expert commentary that ties the harbour sites to key themes from the Day 1 conference.

Key points of interest along the route:

• Nordhavn

A flagship development focused on sustainability, mixed use, and active waterfronts

• The Opera House

An icon of cultural investment and architectural vision

• Christianshavn & Holmen

Historic areas transformed into creative and residential hubs

• The Royal Danish Playhouse & Ofelia Plads

Public spaces designed for cultural life and social interaction

• The Inner Harbour Bath

A case of urban design for health, clean water, and recreation

• The Royal Library & nearby housing areas

Connecting learning, community, and place

Themes of urban health, blue and green infrastructure, and public space regeneration will be central throughout the tour.

14:00–15:30 / LIGHT LUNCH (SELF-PAID) AT REFFEN STREET FOOD MARKET

Back at Refshaleøen, enjoy a variety of global street food options in a vibrant, informal setting that reflects urban reuse, cultural diversity, and spontaneous meeting places.

You are welcome to network, explore, or simply relax by the waterfront.

Practical Notes

The tour is weather dependent; light rain is fine, but please dress accordingly.

- Seating on the boat is limited to confirmed participants.
- Kindly inform the organisers in advance about any accessibility requirements.

SPEAKERS INFORMATION

Torben Klitgaard, CEO BloxHub, DK

// BLOXHUB bridges architecture, engineering, design, construction and digitization to develop and scale sustainable urbanization initiatives. Torben Klitgaard is a driving force behind the BLOXHUB activities, facilitations and programmes.

Kira Fortune, WHO, Regional Advisor, DK

// Regional Advisor Healthy Cities, Health Promotion and Well-being within the World Health Organization (WHO) with extensive experience elevating results of global partnerships committed to equity and leaving no one behind, multi-sectoral collaboration, policies, programs, and resources.

Dr. Sabina Mujkic, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

// Dr. Sabina Mujkić is an urban and spatial planner, researcher, and Vice-President of INTA. She works at the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia. Holding a PhD in Architecture and a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Spatial and Urban Planning, she contributes to a wide range of innovative, cross-disciplinary projects and serves as a guest lecturer, speaker, reviewer, and jury member.

Livia Shamir, Research Department Director, Stefano Boeri Architetti, IT

The Research Department of SBA is dedicated to studying and promoting urban forestry and development practices in Italy and Europe. Livia Shamir is dedicated to the study, analysis of innovative and resilient urban solutions and strategies for climate change, dealing with Nature Based Solutions, Urban Forestry, and the integration of architecture and nature

Prof. Gert Tinggaard Svendsen, Prof. Political Science, Aarhus University, DK

// Main research areas are trust, social capital, climate policy, the welfare state, lobbying, and collective action problems. I also collaborate with, among others, Professor Robert D. Putnam from Harvard University on a project about the historical roots of trust in Denmark.

Prof. Husam AlWaer, Chair of Urban Design, University of Dundee, UK

// Husam is an award-winning author with published work on a wide range of subjects from architecture, urbanism, sustainability and healthy neighbourhoods to the specifics of place-making facilitation and performance evaluation.

Etienne Lhomet Director Des Villes et Des Hommes, FR

// Etienne Lhomet is a French engineer highly experienced in the development and management of major public transport networks project. He has acquired a twenty-five years' experience in transport planning and in public transport projects management in Europe and abroad

Laura Kairiene, Chief Architect of Vilnius, LT

// Laura is a city-shaper with a blueprint for balance. As Chief Architect, she leads with a vision that weaves together data, design, and community to build cities that truly work—for people and the planet. From championing polycentric development to guiding citizen engagement and reinvestment strategies.

Prof. Ulrika Stigsdotter, Landscape Architecture at Cph University, DK

// As a landscape architect she received her PhD degree from the Department of Landscape Planning Alnarp, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), where she also completed her graduate studies. Her background is in Landscape Planning and Art History for which she holds two undergraduate degrees from SLU and Lund University.

Zakaria Djabbara, PhD, Associate Professor Aalborg University, DK

// Researcher in the crossing of architecture and cognitive neuroscience. Particular interest in Active Inference and Enactivism as a coupling to environment. Architecture should be seen not just as static buildings but as dynamic environments we physically and mentally engage with. Our bodies, brains, and spaces all have natural rhythms and patterns that influence one another.

Tamara lungman, PhD, ISGlobal, Health Impact Assessment Specialist, ES

// Tamara is a scientist with a PhD in Biomedicine and advanced training in Public and Environmental Health, researching how our cities shape human health through urban planning, transport systems, and green infrastructure. Focusing on Health Impact Assessment as a tool to bridge data, policy, and practice.

Jakob Norman-Hansen, Director BLOXHUB-Global Urban Innovation, DK

// Jakob is a connector of worlds - linking cities, companies, and changemakers to the innovators reshaping urban life. Through global dialogues and Nordic-inspired best practices, he helps spark new thinking about what cities can be: not just livable, but regenerative, resilient, and deeply human.



INTA BACKGROUND

INTA is an independent association that mobilizes the wide range of skills brought by its international membership government, local authorities, businesses, and independent personalities. Founded in 1974, INTA is dedicated to strengthening urban development world-wide by leveraging the unique experiences. With members in an international network of 60 countries, INTA supports local and national leaders and institutions in improving the living conditions for all inhabitants. INTA provides peer-to-peer counsel, strategic support, and technical advice to leaders and institutions working towards balanced urban development.

For more information visit: www.Inta-aivn.org