

INTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE URBAN FUTURES LAB 2026
CITIES FOR LIFE • COOLING • BELONGING • BIOPHILIC



INTA

Conference
October
2026
Darwin

Program
23/24
France
Metamorphose

Registration
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Darwin Metamorphose
87 Quai des Queyries, Chantiers de la Garonne second floor, 33100 Bordeaux, France



INTA Background

INTA is an independent association that mobilizes the wide range of skills brought by its international membership including government, local authorities, businesses, and independent personalities. Founded in 1974, INTA is dedicated to strengthening urban development worldwide by leveraging the unique experiences of its members.

With members in an international network spanning 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



**WELCOME TO INTA URBAN FUTURES LAB • 23-24 OCTOBER 2026
CITIES FOR LIFE • COOLING • BELONGING • BIOPHILIC**

Cities are under increasing pressure from climate stress, social fragmentation, and biodiversity loss. At the same time, they remain our most powerful arena for shaping healthier, more connected, and more resilient ways of living.

Cities for Life is a curated urban futures lab exploring how we move beyond sustainability toward regenerative, life-supporting cities. The programme brings together three interconnected perspectives on the future of urbanism: Cooling Cities, focused on climate adaptation and urban comfort; Belonging Cities, focused on trust, inclusion and social connection; and Biophilic Cities, focused on restoring the relationship between people and nature in the urban realm.

Through short keynote talks, dialogue-based panels, and a final synthesis workshop, the lab creates a space where climate, health, design, governance and social life intersect. Rather than presenting ready-made solutions, the aim is to generate new urban narratives and shared principles that can travel across cities globally.

Day 1

23.10.26

09:00 – 09:30 | Arrival & Coffee

09:30 – 09:50 | WELCOME TO THE LAB: CITIES FOR LIFE

Helle Juul, Ph.D, President of INTA & Founding partner JUULFROST Architects

Philippe Barre, owner and manager of Darwin Ecosystem/ Place intro

Camille Choplin, moderator, Practical intro

09:50– 10:10 | CITIES FOR LIFE

Framing Future Urban Health Cultures

Purpose, Ambition, and Thematic Lenses: Cooling, Belonging, and Biophilic Cities

Helle Juul, Ph.D, President of INTA

SESSION 1 – COOLING CITIES

Guiding Question: How can cities create urban environments that protect people from climate stress while improving everyday quality of life?

10:10–10:30 | Research Perspective: Urban Heat & Climate Stress

Framing urban heat, climate risk, and spatial vulnerability through the concrete case of Bordeaux.

Antonio González, Architect & Practising Architect, Bordeaux

10:30–10:50 | Systems Perspective: Adaptive Urban Transformation

Cities as adaptive systems: governance structures, spatial restructuring, and climate resilience.

Irina Irbitskaya, Architect & Urbanist, Paris

10:50–11:10 | Practice Perspective: Cooling in Action

Design strategies and operational approaches to urban cooling in practice.

Ghita Skalli, Architect & Founder of Architectural Practice

11:10–11:30 | Moderated Panel Discussion

From Heat Resilience to Urban Comfort: Designing Cities for a Hotter Future

The discussion explores how cities can move from climate mitigation to adaptation, and how design, governance, landscape and infrastructure can work together to create healthier, cooler and more resilient urban environments.

SESSION 2 – BELONGING CITIES

Guiding Question: How can urban development strengthen trust, inclusion, and a shared sense of belonging across diverse communities?

11:40–12:00 | Research Perspective

How urban systems and governance structures shape the conditions for belonging, participation, and social cohesion.

Rami Nasrallah, Urban Planner, Researcher & Policy Advisor

12:00–12:20 | Practice Perspective

The relational city: how mobility, public space and everyday interactions contribute to stronger communities.

Second speaker to be confirmed, contribution currently under discussion.

12:20–12:40 | Moderated Panel Discussion

The Relational City: Designing for Trust, Participation, and Social Cohesion

The panel explores how planning, governance, mobility and public space can strengthen belonging and create cities where people feel connected, represented and empowered.

SESSION 3 – BIOPHILIC CITIES

Guiding Question: How can cities restore the relationship between people and nature while creating healthier and more regenerative urban futures?

13:45–14:05 | Research Perspective

How regenerative neighbourhoods can simultaneously deliver cooling, belonging and biophilic urban futures.

Sabina Mujkić, Vice president of INTA

14:05–14:25 | Practice Perspective

How vertical greening and architectural systems integrate nature into dense urban environments.

Aura Luz Melis, Partner, Leading Architect - Interior & Landscape, Outside/Inside

14:25–15:00 | Moderated Panel Discussion

Nature as Urban Infrastructure: Regenerative Cities Beyond Sustainability

The discussion examines how nature can become an integral part of urban systems, contributing to biodiversity, climate adaptation, public health and social wellbeing while supporting the transition from sustainable to regenerative cities.

SESSION 4 – CLOSING REMARKS

Guiding Question: What principles should guide the next generation of life-supporting cities?

15:05–15:25 | Final Synthesis

The Lab brings together the key insights from Cooling Cities, Belonging Cities and Biophilic Cities, identifying shared principles that can inspire more regenerative, resilient and people-centred urban futures across different cities and contexts.

Helle Juul, President of INTA

15:30 – 16:30 | Participatory workshop open to a selection of Bordeaux citizens, including all speakers to be moderated by Camille Choplin

16:30 – 17:00 | Final buffet (juices, soft drinks and wine + pastries) for 50 persons.

Day 2
24.10.26

Program in progress