

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



INTA

Conference
October
2026
Darwin

Program
23/24
France
Metamorphose

Registration
intainfo@inta-net.org

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 government, local authorities, businesses, and independent personalities. Founded in 1974, INTA is dedicated to strengthening urban development worldwide 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



INTA URBAN FUTURES LAB OCTOBER 23/24
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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

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

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

Camille Choplin, moderator, Practical intro

09:50– 10:10 | CITIES FOR LIFE

Shaping Future Urban Health Cultures through the Lenses: Cooling, Belonging, and Biophilic Cities.

Helle Juul, Ph.D, President of INTA

Cecile Nassiet, "The first bioclimatic master plan in France"

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

Antonio González // Urban planner and mobility expert, Bordeaux

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

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

Irina Irbitskaya // Architect & Urban Strategist, Paris

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

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

Ghita Skalli // Architect & Founder of Architectural Practice, Casablanca

Heat has no scale, Rethinking urban transformation from the human experience.

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

Rami Nasrallah // Urban Planner, Researcher & Policy Advisor, London

Palestinian Urbanism and the Making of Modern Jerusalem: From a Cosmopolitan City to a Fragmented Colonial City and the Struggle for Spatial Justice.

12:00–12:30 | Practice Perspective**Dan Ghising** // Chairman, Godawari Municipality, Lalitpur, Nepal

From Smart City to Belonging City – Building Trust, Inclusion and Connection through the Global Village, a contribution from Nepal.

Magali Della Sudda and Guillaume Letourneur

Lessons from the analysis of the Cahiers de Doléances and the Yellow Vests movement.

12:30–12:40 | Q&A from the audience**12:40–13:40 | Networking lunch****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**Sabina Mujkić** // Vice president of INTA, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

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

14:05–14:25 | Practice Perspective**Aura Luz Melis** // Partner, Leading Architect - Interior & Landscape, InsideOutside, Amsterdam

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

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 04 – FINAL REMARKS**15:05–15:25 | Final Synthesis Question****Helle Juul** // Ph.D, President of INTA

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.

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

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

Speaker Biography

Antonio González Álvarez // Urban Planner, Mobility Expert & Director of Multimodality
Based in Bordeaux, Antonio González Álvarez is an urban planner, engineer and specialist in mobility and urban development. As Director of Multimodality at Bordeaux Métropole, he works on integrating different modes of transport and their relationship to urban development. His work focuses on how mobility, public transport, walking and multimodal strategies can contribute to more sustainable, accessible and liveable cities.

Organisation: Bordeaux Métropole

Irina Irbitskaya // Architect, Urban Strategist & Urban Designer

Based in Paris, Irina Irbitskaya is an early adopter of digital and AI technologies, combining AI capabilities with her Uklad Method for diagnosing persistent grassroots patterns of city life and creating human-centered urban strategies and grassroots policy. The AI.UKLAD Program was created to cut these processes from months to days.

She leads a broad international network united under “Mediterranean Solutions,” developing practical systems to protect cities and settlements from cascading climate-related, technological and war-related threats by integrating GIS and AI.

Organisation: International UKLAD Institute in Paris, www.iui-paris.com

Ghita Skalli // Architect & Urbanist — Founder

Based in Casablanca, Ghita Skalli is a Moroccan architect and urbanist, founder of Atelier Ghita Skalli. Her practice sits at the intersection of urban strategy, architecture, public space and design, focusing on the social, cultural and territorial dynamics shaping Moroccan cities.

Her work explores how urban transformation can be approached through a deeper understanding of local contexts, everyday uses and the needs of communities. She brings together strategic thinking and spatial design to develop context-sensitive approaches to the transformation of cities and territories.

Practice: Atelier Ghita Skalli, www.atelierghitaskalli.com

Rami M. Nasrallah // Urban Planner, Researcher & Policy Advisor

Palestinian urban planner, researcher, educator, and peacebuilding specialist with over 30 years of experience in Jerusalem, Palestine/Israel, and the wider Middle East. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from TU Delft and is Associate Professor (Honorary) at UCL's Bartlett Development Planning Unit and Adjunct Lecturer at Bezalel Academy.

He has led major urban planning, housing, heritage, public-space, and reconstruction initiatives with UN-Habitat, UNDP, the European Union, ETH Zurich, and other international partners. As Founder and former Chairman of the International Peace and Cooperation Center and former Director General of the Jerusalem Affairs Department, he has advanced inclusive planning, spatial justice, cultural heritage, and peacebuilding.

Organisation: International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC), ipcc-jerusalem.org

Magali della Sudda

Senior Researcher in political sociology at the CNRS and Sciences Po Bordeaux, specializing in social movements, gender, and local democracy. Her recent work explores grass-roots dynamics, notably through extensive field research on the Yellow Vests (Gilets Jaunes) movement.

She also investigates urban governance and community participation to foster inclusive urban spaces, particularly through studies on the belonging city. Combining qualitative fieldwork and historical analysis, her research bridges academic inquiry with urban policy challenges.

Dan Ghising // Chairman, Eco Smart City Project, Nepal

Eco Smart City Project in Nepal as a practical and innovative model of a “Global Village” — a sustainable urban development concept rooted in local realities, yet designed to connect communities, cities, cultures, businesses, and people across the world.

The concept is aligned with the principles of the United Nations’ sustainable urban development and housing agenda, with particular emphasis on sustainable communities, inclusive development, smart infrastructure, green technologies, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and improved quality of life.

Organisation: Eco Smart City Nepal, ecosmartcitynepal.com

Aura Luz Melis // Partner & Project Architect — Inside Outside

Aura Luz Melis is a landscape designer and architect at Inside Outside. Educated at Delft University of Technology and the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism in São Paulo, she works across the boundaries of interior and exterior, from the ground up. Combining local insight with international experience, her work creates layered public spaces shaped by ecology, history and social life.

As the partner leading Inside Outside’s interior and textile department, her recent projects include the extensive five-year exhibition After Nature for Humboldt University in Berlin, art interventions in the New Generation trains of the Dutch Railways, the site specific installations at Villa Manin in Italy and an ongoing research and development of bioreceptive textiles in architecture.

Alongside her practice, she teaches landscape and textile design at the Academies of Architecture in Amsterdam and Rotterdam and at Design Academy Eindhoven.

Practice: Inside Outside, insideoutside.nl

Sabina Mujkić // Urban & Spatial Planner, Researcher & Vice-President of INTA

Based in Ljubljana, 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 (UIRS). She holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of Ljubljana and a Master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Spatial and Urban Planning.

Her interdisciplinary work covers strategic and applied urban planning across a wide range of topics, including sustainable urban development, urban regeneration, urban health, climate resilience, cultural heritage, accessibility, and human-centred urbanism.

She contributes to cross-disciplinary projects and serves as a guest lecturer, speaker, reviewer, and jury member. She conceived and developed the Cities of the Future conference series, advancing human-centred innovation for healthy and resilient cities.

Organisation: Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (UIRS), www.urs.si

Helle Juul // Architect, PhD, Founding Partner & President of INTA

Based in Copenhagen, Helle Juul is an architect, researcher and urban development specialist. She co-founded JUUL FROST Architects, where her work has focused on strategic urban development, urban spaces, campus development and mobility.

Her practice combines architecture, research and urban strategy, exploring how the built environment can support social, physical and mental well-being. As President of INTA – the International Urban Development Association – she works internationally with questions of sustainable and liveable urban development.

Practice: JUUL FROST Architects, juulfrost.dk

Organisation: INTA – International Urban Development Association, inta-aivn.org