

# The Great Transformation

## Typology and Morphology in the Anthropocene

*"The Anthropocene is the epoch in which the dialectical tension between man's well-meant »architecture of good intentions" and its disruptive consequences for the Earth system comes to the fore." (Jörg H. Gleiter)*

The changing environmental conditions – climate, mega cities, overpopulation and shrinking population, rising sea levels, digitalization, and AI – are forcing people to rethink the relationship between humans and System Earth, and with it the concept of architecture and the city as manmade environments.

The conference/workshop *The Great Transformation. Typology and Morphology in the Anthropocene* takes a critical look at the changing conditions of typology and urban morphology as central architectural concepts for the creation of a meaningful human environment. It examines how and whether the changing concept of *environment* will lead to a typological transformation of existing urban morphology. Changing demographics, new concepts of living and housing, public transportation, biodiversity and human and animal conviviality are all factors that have an immediate effect on typology and urban morphology.

Already in 1944 Karl Polanyi addressed the destabilization of the political order by the industrial revolution. For this he coined the term the *Great Transformation*. Today we notice that it is the aftereffect of the third industrial revolution, i. e. AI, digitalization and smart technologies that lead to a great transformation of the eco system, the cohabitation of species, migration, over- and depopulation eventually effecting the everyday culture, architecture, cities and the territory at large. Under the current challenges the *Great Transformation* can be understood as an integral endeavor to cope with the consequences of irreversible natural phenomena and their effects on architecture and city.

As the new epoch shakes the hitherto firm foundation of our understanding of the relationship between man and earth, the question arises of what this means for the question of urban identity. How do the narratives of the city adapt to it. Unlike previous epochs, the *becoming* of architecture, i. e. the morphological transformation of types and models will receive important impulses from these new environmental conditions.

What are the implications of current *environmental forces* on the spatial, morphological and typological constitution of architecture? What are the changing and what are the stable components of the vocabulary for architectural typology and urban morphology? *The Great Transformation. Typology and Morphology in the Anthropocene* conference/workshop explores alternative narratives, concepts and practices for the changing environment in the Anthropocene. With the themes of atmosphere, urban form, kinship, and commonality the conference encourages a critical look at both the history and current practice of morphological and typological studies, their interconnectedness and cross-fertilization, their historical legacy and their potential to reshape architecture and the built environment. It critically examines design strategies for an analytical and speculative journey into a forward-looking new spatial, urban, and territorial vocabulary for the morphological and typological transformation of architecture in the era of the Anthropocene.

The *Chair of Architecture and Transformation* and the *Chair of Architectural Theory* will invite experts from the field of urban morphology, typology and anthropocene studies to discuss the above issues.

## Program

- January 25** *Halle 7*  
18:30-19:30 **Urban Climate** book presentation and discussion  
Sascha Roesler, Università della Svizzera Italiana Mendrisio  
**Moderation:** Lidia Gasperoni
- January 26** *Forum*  
11:00 – 11:30 **Introduction to the conference**  
Rainer Hehl and Jörg H. Gleiter
- 11:30 – 12:15 *Key Note lecture*  
**The End of the Territory as Architecture and Other Disasters**  
Giuseppe Strappa, Università degli Studi La Sapienza Rome
- lunch break*
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Terra(re)forming. Urbanistic Perspectives**  
Sascha Roesler, Università della Svizzera Italiana Mendrisio  
**The Urban Form and the Town's Storytelling**  
Paolo Carlotti, Università degli studi La Sapienza Rome  
**Between Absence and Loss: Rewriting as a Paradigm of Transformation**  
Domenico Chizzoniti, Politecnico di Milano
- 16:00 – 16:30 Discussion
- Coffee break*
- 17:00 – 18:00 **Form and Meaning in the Foundation of Cities**  
Daria Belova, Phd candidate at Università degli studi La Sapienza Rome  
**Subtropical Vienna - Deriving Rulesets of Architectural Climate Adaptation from the Study of Future Climate City Analogues**  
Julian Raffetseder, PhD candidate at Università della Svizzera Italiana Mendrisio
- 18:00 – 18:30 **Introduction to the workshop**  
Form Making in the Anthropocene  
Rainer Hehl
- January 27** *Forum*
- 10:00 – 11:00 **Is Technique our Environment? Why and how Anthropocene Challenges Urban Morphology**  
Nicola Marzot, TU Delft and Università degli Studi Ferrara  
**Criticism of Subjective Individualism Between Anthropocene and Ecocene**  
Matteo Ieva, Politecnico di Bari
- 11:00 – 11:30 Discussion
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Workshop part**
- lunch break*
- 14:00 – 16:00 **Presentations/Discussion**

## Biographies

**Sascha Roesler** is an architect and architectural theorist, working at the intersection of architecture, ethnography, and science and technology studies. He is Associate Professor for Theory of Urbanization and Urban Environments at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio, Switzerland (Università della Svizzera Italiana). Between 2013 and 2015, Roesler was a senior researcher at the *Future Cities Laboratory* (Singapore-ETH Centre for Global Environmental Sustainability), and between 2015 and 2021, held the position of Swiss National Science Foundation Professor for Architecture and Theory (at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio and at ETH Zurich), leading a research project on "Architecture and Urban Climates." Roesler has published widely on issues of global architecture, sustainability, and environmental technologies. More recently Roesler co-edited the anthology "The Urban Microclimate as Artifact" (Birkhäuser, 2018). As designed artifacts, microclimates are part of local material cultures with various ecological, social, and political implications for contemporary cities.

**Giuseppe Strappa** is an architect and Senior Professor at Rome University "Sapienza", Faculty of Architecture where he taught Urban Morphology and Design. From the second semester of this year he will teach Urban Morphology at the University of Roma Tre. As Full Professor he has held Architectural and Urban Design courses at the Faculties of Architecture in Rome, at the Politecnico di Bari, and at Laval University in Quebec. He was director of the Scienze dell'Architettura Phd school in La Sapienza. He has published numerous books and articles and is director of the "Lettura e Progetto" series for the Franco Angeli publisher of Milan. As an architect he has won many architectural design competitions. He has built works in Rome and Terni and participated in numerous national and international competitions. He is Director of U+D (Urbanform and Design magazine) and President of Isufitaly, the scientific society devoted to the study of urban form.

**Domenico Chizzoniti** is an architect who holds a PhD from the Università IUAV di Venezia. Since 2022 he is full professor at Politecnico di Milano. He has taught in different universities across Italy, including the Faculty of Architecture of Parma, and Politecnico di Milano. He is editor in charge of TECA Books Collections "Teorie della Composizione Architettonica". He has published more than 150 scientific papers in the field of Architectural Design and Theory. He took part as an author in several books and his work has been published in international journals and magazines. He has published a number of books related to architecture theory and scientific research, such as: «Andrea Palladio. Ideologia e figurazione», «Architectural Criticism: Theory and Praxis. An Italian Approach», «Ideologia e iconologia. Architettura e rivoluzione», «L'altra idea di Parigi», «Josef Gocar. Memoria della tradizione e poetica d'avanguardia», «Carlo Aymonino. Teoria dell'Architettura», «Fidenza. Progetti per la città», «Guido Canella. Sulla composizione architettonica e sui progetti».

**Paolo Carlotti**, PhD, researcher and adjunct professor of Architectural Design. 2017 Habilitation and Associate Professor. He is director of the LPA (Reading and Design of Architecture) Research Laboratory of DiAP. Member of the faculty board of the PhD program "DRACo - Architecture and Construction and member of the teaching board of the MASTER PARES Level II Master's program. He conducts research on analytical tools for architectural and urban design by participating in national PRIN and international research on the same topics. Co-editor of the journal U+D urbanform and design and founding member of ISUFITALY (International Seminary on Urban Form Italia). He has been a collaborator of Gianfranco Caniggia. He has taught at Mondlane University in Maputo (1999-2000), at the Polytechnic University of Bari from 2000 to 2008 and since 2009 at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Rome La Sapienza. He has been Visiting scientist at FAO in Rome, visiting scholar at Harvard-MIT Boston and University of Miami, visiting professor at Ecolé d'architecture Laval.

**Nicola Marzot** is an architect graduated with honors from the Faculty of Architecture of Firenze. Currently he is an Associate Professor in Architectural and Urban Composition at the Department of Architecture of the University of Ferrara and Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft. He holds a PhD in Building and Territorial Engineering at the DAPT, Faculty of Engineering of Bologna and PhD in Architectural Composition at the Department of Architecture, TU Delft. Among his publications are: Nicola Marzot

(curated by), Caniggia Gianfranco, Maffei Gian Luigi, *Interpreting Basic Buildings* (Florence, 2017); Tommaso Bonetti, Nicola Marzot, Micol Roversi Monaco, *Frammenti per un codice del riciclo urbano* (Rome, 2016); Franco Purini, Nicola Marzot and Livio Sacchi (edited by), *La città nuova*.

**Matteo Ieva**, Professor at Politecnico di Bari, in 1989 he received his Degree in Architecture cum laude from the Faculty of Architecture of La Sapienza, University of Rome. He is currently secretary of the ISUFItaly Italian network. Teaching activities: From 2000 to 2018 he has been teaching courses in *Typological and Morphological Characters of Architecture*, Laboratory II, III, and IV of Architectural and Urban Design, in the Bachelor of Architecture Program of the Faculty of Architecture, Bari Polytechnic University. Ieva participated in several PRIN and Departmental research projects and participated in numerous conferences as a speaker and member of the Scientific Committee. This includes participation in the Camerino International Seminar from 2012 to 2017, ISUF conferences (Birmingham, Florence, Trani, Rome) and the conference *Gianfranco Caniggia Roman Architect*. Faculty of Architecture Valle Giulia and Academy of S. Luca, 2008. He was conference chair of the 4th ISUFItaly International Conference, Bari September 26-28, 2018.

**Daria Belova**, currently PhD candidate at the Faculty of Architecture of La Sapienza, University of Rome. Daria has been a researcher and lecturer (docent) at the Siberian Federal University in the Institute of Architecture and Design. She has been practicing architecture since 2007 (mixed-use, public and residential buildings, spaces and master planning primarily in Russia). Daria has experience in voluntary urban projects including curating the Krasnoyarsk Community of Architects and holds a MA in Architectural Design (UK) and a Diploma in Management (Russia).

**Julian Raffetseder** is an architect interested in the design of urban climates. In his PhD research at the chair of Prof. Dr. Sascha Roesler he investigates the potential of collective architectural form in the climate adaptation of a "Subtropical Vienna". The design research project builds upon his Master's thesis developed at Studio Kazuyo Sejima at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Before joining the Accademia di Architettura in Mendrisio, Julian was university assistant at the Institute of Architecture and Landscape at TU Graz, Austria and worked for architectural practices in Vienna, Hamburg, and London. Besides his PhD research, Julian is involved in architectural and urban design competitions in Zürich and Bern as a consultant for urban climate simulation.

**Lidia Gasperoni** holds a PhD in philosophy. She is a Post-Doc at the Department of Architectural Theory at the Institute of Architecture of TU Berlin.

**Rainer Hehl** is Professor and director of the Master of Typology Program of the Institute for Architecture of TU Berlin.

**Jörg H. Gleiter** is Professor and head of the Department of Architectural Theory of the Institute for Architecture of TU Berlin.