Speakers' biographies



Dubravko Bačić, Master of Ceremony, ACE Executive Board Member

Dubravko Bačić is a registered architect and Assistant Professor at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Architecture. His professional practice entails mostly small-scale housing, conservation and preservation projects of listed buildings, adaptive re-use projects and heritage consultancy. He has participated in many design workshops, seminars, research projects, exhibitions and conferences, and has served on evaluation committees and architectural competition juries in Croatia. In addition to his academic and professional experience, he has been active in various professional associations in Croatia (Croatian Chamber of Architects, Croatian Architects' Association and ICOMOS Croatia). An active contributor to the work of ACE for almost a decade, he was elected to the ACE Executive Board for 2022/2023 and is currently Coordinator of the "Access of the profession" thematic area. He graduated from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Architecture (Dipl.-Ing.), holds a postgraduate MDes degree in history and theory of architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and a PhD degree from the University of Zagreb. His research interests are closely interrelated with his teaching and professional activities.



Marcelle Rabinowicz, Dean, ULB Faculty of Architecture La Cambre Horta

Marcelle Rabinowicz is Dean of the Faculty of Architecture since October 2022. She is a graduate architect of the Victor Horta Institute which joined the ULB within the Faculty of Architecture in 2010. She has been a professor of Means of Expression since 1990 and is President of the Faculty's Culture Commission. She began her career at the Hergé Foundation as head of the coordination of exhibitions and their scenographic adaptations. From 1998 to 2015 she oversaw programming and exhibitions at the CIVA (International Centre for the City, Architecture and Landscape in Brussels) where she supported and developed multiple activities around architecture, art and landscape. Her atypical profile as a generalist architect allows her to represent the practical dimensions of the profession as well as those related to research. Within the Faculty and with the ULB, she is fully involved in the cultural policy of the Faculty and the University.



Ruth Schagemann, President, Architects' Council of Europe

She is an architect who studied architecture at the University of Braunschweig and at the University of Stuttgart in Germany. In 2006, she founded the architect's office VICEVERSA Architektur + Medien together with her husband. She was elected member of the Executive Board of the Architects` Council of Europe (ACE) from 2016 until 2021, Coordinator of the European Network of Architects` Competent Authorities (ENACA), member of the Coordination Group Europe of the Federal Chamber of German Architects and was the Head of department of national and international professional policy at the Chamber of Baden-Württemberg (Germany). In 2021, Ruth Schagemann was elected President of the Architects' Council of Europe for a two-year term (22/23). Since January 2023, she is also serving as the Managing Director of the Brussels Office of the Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK). She represents ACE in the 2023 Davos Baukultur Alliance Steering Committee.



Oya Atalay Franck, President, European Association for Architectural Education

Prof. Dr. Oya Atalay Franck is an architect, architectural historian, and educator. She is the president of EAAE/AEEA since 2017 and a professor of architecture, the Dean and managing director of the School of Architecture, Design and Civil Engineering at ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Winterthur in Switzerland. Her teaching covers the theory and history of architecture, urbanism as well as design studio (a.o. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy NY, ETH Zurich). Her current research focuses on design research methods/research by design, interface education/research/practice, as well as higher education politics. Her recent publications address research methodologies and design doctorate programmes. She acts as an expert in various scientific organizations, a.o. the Swiss National Foundation of Research (SNF), the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) as well as in peer review committees, quality audits, professional project competitions.



Themis Christophidou, Director General for Education, Youth and Sports, European Commission

Themis Christophidou is a European public servant who became Director-General for education, youth, sport and culture of the European Commission, in March 2018. She is a civil engineer with 32 years of experience in private and public sector management. She joined the European Commission in 2001. Having held various positions in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban policy, she worked as Deputy Head of Cabinet of Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for education, culture, multilingualism, youth and sport in 2010-2011. From 2011 to 2014, Themis Christophidou worked as Head of Cabinet of Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for maritime affairs and fisheries, and from 2014 to 2018, she was Head of Cabinet of Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management.



Ruth Reichstein, I.D.E.A., Advisory Board of the President of the Commission

Ruth Reichstein works in I.D.E.A., the Advisory Board of the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. She works with Green Deal related issues and coordinates the New European Bauhaus initiative. Ruth is a trained journalist and occupied several positions before joining the Commission beginning of 2019; both as communicator in the European Parliament and as journalist for several German news outlets such as "die tageszeitung", "ARD" and "Deutschlandfunk".



Ashraf M. Salama, Professor of Architecture and Urbanism, Head of Architecture and the Built Environment, University of Northumbria, United Kingdom

Professor Ashraf M. Salama is academic, scholar, and Chair in Architecture. He is Professor of Architecture and Urbanism and Head of the Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, University of Northumbria at Newcastle. He is co-Director of the UNESCO/UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education. Professor Salama has chaired and led three schools of architecture over the past 25 years in Misr International University, Cairo, Egypt (1996-2001), Qatar University, Doha, Qatar (2009-2014), and the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom (2014-2020). He is an honorary professor of architecture at the University Putra Malaysia and has held tenured and visiting positions in Egypt, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. He holds B.Sc. MSc. and PhD in architecture and has received his education at Al Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt and North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA. Securing more than £2.0 million funded research over his research career, Professor Salama has published over 200 research outputs in the international refereed press including authoring and editing 17 books. His recent books include: The Routledge Companion to Architectural Pedagogies of the Global South (2023), Influence and Resistance in Post-Independence Egyptian Architecture (2022), Transformative Pedagogy in Architecture and Urbanism (2021/09), Architectural Excellence in Islamic Societies (2020), Spatial Design Education (2015/16), Demystifying Doha: On Architecture and Urbanism in an Emerging City (2013/16), Architecture Beyond Criticism: Expert Judgment and Performance Evaluation (2014).



Dag Boutsen, Council Member European Association for Architectural Education, Council Member

Dag Boutsen is the former dean of the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture with campuses in Brussels and Ghent. Dag is a Belgian architect and has a lot of experience in cocreative design with projects in the Netherlands, France and Germany. His teamwork-experience has grown through 20 years of working with Lucien Kroll on numerous housing and school complexes developed through participatory workshops. The search for the right "spot" for the discipline of architecture, as one among the numerous other university disciplines is what keeps Dag going since 2009: the societal position, the research setting as well as the educational point. As a former dean of a Faculty of Architecture belonging to one of the oldest, most research-based and internationally very high ranked universities in Europe and beyond, he considers the construction of this suited spot as his main duty. Together with numerous colleagues of his faculty, he has been involved in actions related to the EAAE or EAAE-topics, both directly and indirectly.

PhD-by design, CA²Re-conferences, ADAPT-r, ARENA, non-written research output, eCAADe, experimental curricula, multi-campus education, nomadic schools, European exchange, overseas collaborations, international workshops, none of these are unfamiliar to Dag and his partners.



Olga Mihalikova, Chairperson, European Network of Architects' Competent Authorities

More info coming soon.

Elena Spatz & Eduarda Poubel, Architecture students, SOFT - School of Transformation (TUM), Germany

SOFT is a self-organized initiative of students and people working in the architecture field in Munich. SOFT discusses space through discrimination-sensitive, intersectional-feminist, anti-classist, decolonial, and anti-racist lenses. SOFT's goal is to evoke and foreground power-critical alternatives in teaching, workplaces, and self-organization. SOFT was created by merging the Chair of Unlearning with the Chair of Gossip, both initiatives at TUM. Chair of Unlearning is a student-led chair at TUM, proposed by Elena Spatz, Marie Gnesda and Lisa André in their bachelor thesis. They held their first student-led seminar "Empowering student positions. What could teach for all look like?" in the winter semester 22/23 and will present the results in their final exhibition "Architecture discriminates" at TUM. Chair of Gossip is a parallel initiative, responsible for the publication of a regular newsletter on intersectional feminism, art and architecture, as well as workshops and the 'Code of Studio'. This document is an open dialogue paper to communicate the needs of students and demand an improvement of (working) conditions on all hierarchical levels in academia. Since its publication, the 'Code of Studio' has been discussed at departmental level and among students].



Ivan Blasi, Director of programs, Mies van der Rohe Foundation, EU Mies Awards Young Talent curator

Ivan Blasi was born in Barcelona in 1976 and studied Architecture at the Escola Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona (ETSAB) where he graduated in 2002. He co-founded the architecture studio 100to Arquitectura in 2003 and has been a teacher at the Barcelona Architecture Centre since 2005, concentrating on 20th Century Architecture and Contemporary Architecture in Europe. He collaborated in several programmes of Docomomo Ibérico (2007-2010) and was Secretary General of Docomomo International between 2010 and 2015. He is the curator of programs and prizes at the Mies van der Rohe Foundation in Barcelona where he oversees the EU Mies van der Rohe Award and the interventions in the Barcelona Pavilion.



Anamarija Dujmović architectural student, SUPEUS, Croatia

Anamarija Dujmović is a third-year undergraduate student at the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Zagreb, majoring in Architecture and Urbanism. She is an active member of the Student Union and a regular member of SUPEUS (Student association for promoting energy efficiency and consulting) since 2020. As head of the Department of Education, Finance and later as a Member of the Board for a year, she worked on numerous projects, among which should be mentioned the interdisciplinary student competition SUPEUS Case Study (SCS 2022. as a Project Manager) and the free professional conference for students 'BUS'. For the previous two conferences in 2021 and 2022, they won the Rector's Award an award for socially useful work in the academic and wider community. In addition to activities related to the Faculty and the Association, she is currently doing student practice in an architectural office.



Ivona Mravunac architectural student, SUPEUS, Croatia

Ivona Mravunac is first year of a master's degree at the Faculty of Civil Engineering in Zagreb. As a regular member and current member of the Board of SUPEUS (Student association for promoting energy efficiency and consulting) she worked on many projects that put focus on interdisciplinarity. One of those projects is SUPEUS Case Study, an interdisciplinary student competition, in which she was a leader of the workshop in the discipline of architecture and civil engineering. Another project is a professional conference for students, "The Future of Sustainable Housing - BUS", the project that won the Rector's Award two years in a row (2021, 2022). In addition to faculty obligations and activities in the association, she has worked as a student intern at the Ministry of spatial planning, construction, and state property.



Johanna Meyer-Grohbrügge, Professor, TU Darmstadt, Architecture Department

After graduating from ETH Zurich, Johanna lived in Tokyo from 2005 to 2010. As explained by the architect, her time working at SANAA shaped her architectural approach "much more than her studies", revealing "other ways of doing architecture" by questioning everything and the absence of preset rules; "You start as if you know nothing with every new project". Appropriating this methodology of constant openness leads to the proliferation of options and eventually, conclusions. Seeing this as an intuitive way to approach a project, the architect understood the dichotomy between emotional decision-making – "what you feel is right"- and the pragmatic intellectual way of doing things as complementary. In her perception, there isn't one right way, but she found herself more inclined to the specific sensitive SANAA method, which eventually convinced her to stay in Tokyo for 5 years to learn more about what the discipline has to offer. Basing her architectural approach on "reduction"; reduction of form, material, and resources, and on understanding the core of things, Johanna's architecture creates relationships between the different components in action: people, building, context, etc. a leading principle in her projects which eventually serves as a complex tool.

Camilla Hedegaard Møller, Professor at the Royal Danish Academy – Architecture, Design, Conservation and Head of Strategic Design & Entrepreneurship Programme

More info coming soon.

Wacław Szarejko, Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Wroclaw University of Science & Technology

More info coming soon.



Massimo Santanicchia, Architect, Professor and Director of the Master's Program in Architecture at the Iceland University of the Arts, EAAE Council Member

Massimo Santanicchia is an architect, professor, and program director in the master's program in architecture at the Iceland University of the Arts. Massimo's work focuses on the politics of architectural education by posing the questions: What are the politics of your design, and what is the design of your politics? In his research, Massimo draws upon literature on justice, citizenship, feminism, post-humanism, and cosmopolitanism to rethink architectural education and its practice in the Icelandic context and beyond. Massimo has been developing the concept of Cosmopolitan Citizenship Architecture Education (CCAE), a model that will generate renewed understanding of designers' roles and responsibilities towards our shared social and ecological environment. CCAE aims to use the design process as an instrument for care and the betterment of the world. Massimo holds an MArch from Universitario di Architettura di Venezia; an MA in Housing and Urbanism from the Architectural Association, School of Architecture in London; an MSc in Regional Urban Planning Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science; and a PhD in Cultural Studies and Education and Diversity from the University of Iceland.



Rachel Armstrong, Professor of Design-Driven Construction for Regenerative Architecture in the Department and Faculty of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas, Ghent/Brussels, at KU Leuven.

Rachel Armstrong holds a First-Class Honors degree with 2 academic prizes from the University of Cambridge (Girton College), a medical degree from the University of Oxford The Queen's College), was admitted as a Member to the Royal College of New Zealand General Practitioners (2005-15), and holds a PhD in architecture from the University of London (Bartlett School of Architecture). She is a member of the Interim Constituting Supervisory Board for the EIT Culture & Creativity, which is the Institute's newest Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC). She is coordinator of the EIC Pathfinder Challenges Microbial Hydroponics (Mi-Hy) project (2023-2027) that brings together the fields of microbiology, 'green' electrochemistry, and computing systems within a hydroponics infrastructure comprising a bio-digital platform, which brings together the "green" elements of the organic world with the human-made "grey" structures associated with smart machines & ICT. She has also successfully coordinated the highly acclaimed H2020 FET Open Living Architecture project (2016-2019), which demonstrated that functional building infrastructures can share some of the properties of living systems. She was also coordinator for the Innovation Fund award "Active Living Infrastructure: Controlled Environment" (ALICE) (2019-2021), which established an experimental bio-digital communications platform between microbes and people.



Leslie Petitjean, Circular Economy senior officer, ICLEI Europe, BUS-GoCircular

Leslie Petitjean joined ICLEI in November 2022 as a circular economy officer. She is working on projects on circular economy in the construction sector, such as CityLoop, BUS Go Circular and NZEB Ready. Leslie has worked for different public organizations in France in the environmental transition field. She has worked for 3 years in the French Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME) on mainstream public information on climate change and sustainable development. After this, she has specialized in public local policies for ecological transition and has around 10 years of experience in this field. Prior to ICLEI, she worked for 4 years in a local authority close to Paris, Est Ensemble Grand Paris, where she was a Circular Economy Project Manager, responsible for developing a Circular Economy Action plan and running projects in the field of circular construction, amongst other work. She also teaches circular urban planning in the Master of Sciences Po Paris "Territorial and urban strategies".



Roberto Cavallo, EAAE Council Member, digiNEB

Roberto Cavallo is an associate professor at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment of the Delft University of Technology. Since 1996 he teaches and researches at the Delft University of Technology where he has been vice dean of education between 2014-2019. He is chairing the section of Theory & Territory as well as the group Architectural Design Crossovers and is a member of the Department of Architecture Research Steering Team. He is an architect, educated at the schools of architecture of Naples and Delft, where he successfully rounded up his PhD in 2008.



Paul McCormack, Innovation Manager, Belfast Metropolitan College, ARISE

Paul McCormack has a robust record of achievement in all levels of management roles including founder/CEO of multi-award-winning start-up SMEs, securing several international awards for innovation and leading highly successful international collaborative projects. Project successes include forming, submitting and winning several EU R&D bids including the €12.36M GenComm renewable energies bid and the H2020 BIMcert project – the first H2020 project secured by any college in the FE sector. Other project work includes leading winning project bids on renewable energy, energy storage, green technology, clean technology, cyber security, IOT adaptations and Smart Cities. Paul is the

ARISE Programme Manager. He also manages the GenComm project. The Interreg Northwest Europe funded GenComm project led by Belfast Met is seeking to address the barriers preventing the greater integration of renewables into our energy matrix and to navigate a new energy pathway to energy security. GenComm (GENerating energy secure COMMunities); is a Smart Hydrogen, integrated renewable energy, generation and storage project designed to develop a new model for exploiting generated electricity from renewable sources to provide energy security for remote communities. Paul has also led the H2020 BIMcert project which can help transform the building industry. A qualified building workforce is vital if the EU is to reach its energy and climate targets. Belfast Metropolitan College led the way with the BIMcert project which seeks to improve the skills of middle and senior level professionals and blue-collar workers in the area of sustainable energy efficient construction.



Raul Pantaleo, Architect, co-founder, TAMassociatti, Italy

Raul Pantaleo is an Italian architect, born in Milano, graduated from IUAV the Faculty of Architecture in Venice. Since 2019 adjunct professor of Architectonic Design at the University of Trieste. He is one of the co-founders of "TAMassociati", a practice specializes in IMPACT DESIGN. TAMassociati is a team of architects, engineers and researchers, whose building solutions worldwide improve lives, strengthen communities, and provide creative responses to climate change: combining high quality with affordability. Internationally, TAMassociati works on sustainable and socially equitable architecture. With TAMassociati in 2013 winner of the "Aga Khan Award for Architecture" and the "Curry Stone Design Prize 2013", in 2014 winner of the "Zumtobel Group Award". in 2014 with TAMassociati- BEST ITALIAN ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR; in 2016- CURATORIAL TEAM OF THE ITALIAN PAVILION at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. In 2023 Italian Ambassador of Design. Since 2009 to present: member of the Emergency ngo Board of Directors, since 2020 member of the Michelucci Foundation Scientific Committee.



Ehab Sayed, Founder & CEO, BIOHM, United Kingdom

Ehab Sayed, Founder and Director of Innovation at BIOHM and PhD Researcher at Northumbria University, is a sustainable designer, engineer, circular economy strategist and built environment innovator with a passion for creating a biomimetic (nature-inspired) circular future that meets our environmental, economic, and human needs. Through extensive research on the global construction industry, he founded Biohm to develop nature inspired construction systems and materials that champion a transformation towards the integration of biological processes in manufacturing. Leading a solid team of passionate and talented designers, engineers, architects, biologists, and business innovators from around the globe he is working towards revolutionising the construction industry. Ehab is a Climate-Kic Certified Professional and with Biohm has amassed a portfolio of awards and recognition from highly regarded international bodies. Member of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Circular Economy Club and UKGBC.

Lara Molino, Program Coordinator Exhibitions & Lectures A+ Architecture in Belgium, Brussels Architecture Prize, Belgium

More info coming soon.



Rolf Hughes, Director of Artistic Research for the Experimental Architecture Group & Professor in the Epistemology of Design-led Research at the Department of Architecture, KU Leuven

A writer across creative/critical genres, Rolf Hughes is Professor of Epistemic Practices in the Department of Architecture at KU Leuven, Member of Emergence of Bio-age Working Group, Chatham House, London, and Director of Artistic Research for the Experimental Architecture Group which develops pioneering transdisciplinary research, design prototypes and immersive experiences for the emerging ecological era, with outputs exhibited at biennales and exhibitions internationally, and published by Bloomsbury, Routledge, Springer, and Punctum Books. Experimentation and crossing of (disciplinary/methodological) boundaries are integral to his research. Former Vice President of the international Society for Artistic Research (2011–2015), Rolf has held leadership positions in several European national research councils and universities in the strategic development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative artistic, interdisciplinary and design-led research.



Philippe Meilleur, CNOA President, President of the French and German speaking Council of the Order of Architects of Belgium

Philippe Meilleur graduated as an architect in 1992 and has been working as an independent architect in the in the Liège region. Founded in 1994, MJ architecture srl works in the sector of housing (private or social), school buildings or for various municipal administrations. for various local authorities. At the same time, he has always been active in the associative world, as a simple member of the Royal Association of Architects of Liège (ARALg) since 1995, then President of Infor-architecture asbl in the early 2000s and finally President of the ARALg from 2015. Finally, he was elected representative of the Order at the end of 2017. He is President of the CfgOA (French-speaking wing of the Order) from 2018 to the present day, as well as President of the Conseil National Council of the Order of Architects. These mandates will end in December 2023.