



# Designing in Context

Taking inspiration from  
a cultural, social and  
natural setting

International  
Architecture Conference  
at the Goetheanum

October 13–16 2022



Visual Arts Section  
International Forum Man  
and Architecture IFMA

# Designing in Context

## Taking inspiration from a cultural, social and natural setting

Living organisms form and evolve in the field of tension between their specific nature and their environment. This creates adapted organisms and stable ecosystems. In traditional architecture, there is often a similar harmony between buildings and their surroundings. By relying on local building materials, being familiar with the local climate, and building for their own community, buildings were created that fit into their context quite naturally.

Since industrialization, the possibilities to escape these circumstances have increased rapidly. Building materials from all over the world are available, architects travel the globe, and the Internet provides a variety of design examples without context. This has caused a great deal of design freedom, but also a loss of site-specific and cultural diversity. In addition, industrialization has led to the destruction of the natural environment worldwide and the erosion of social and cultural context.

Against this background, the question arises as to how we can learn again to design site-specific buildings that can enrich, or even heal, their spatial and social context. To do this, we must develop the ability to live into an existing context. We must learn to ask which qualities are present, which are missing, and wherein lies the hidden future potential of that place.

We will explore these questions by means of five different design tasks in interdisciplinary working groups. The exercises will be enriched by work reports from internationally experienced architects. Participants are cordially invited to contribute their own questions and experiences on the topic in the plenary and in the workshops!

The contributions and discussions in the plenum are in German (DE) or English (ENG) with simultaneous translation. The workshops are in German or English without translation.



We are looking forward to the conference and the opportunities it will bring to meet and engage in active exchange with you all!

*Pieter van der Ree* on behalf of the Visual Arts Section team

*Luigi Fiumara* on behalf of the International Forum Man and Architecture IFMA

# Programme

## Thursday, October 13

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**17.30 Reception**  
**19.30 Context in Change**  
Pieter van der Ree  
**Sharing and questions**

## Friday, October 14

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**9.00 Artistic opening**  
**9.30 Designing in different cultural contexts**  
Luigi Fiumara  
**10.45 Coffee break**  
**11.15 Workshops**  
**12.45 Lunch break**  
**14.30 Workshops**  
**16.00 Break**  
**16.30 Exchange**  
**17.30 Supper break**  
**19.30 Rudolf Steiner's 'Landart' Design as Metamorphosis of the Building Motif**  
Marianne Schubert

## Saturday, October 15

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**9.00 Artistic opening**  
**9.30 A 12-Fold Context for Architecture**  
Richard Coleman  
**10.45 Coffee break**  
**11.15 Workshops**  
**12.45 Lunch break**  
**14.30 Workshops**  
**16.00 Break**  
**16.30 Exchange**  
**17.30 Supper break**  
**19.30 Architecture's own biography as context**  
Nicolas Pople

## Sunday, October 16

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**9.00 Artistic opening**  
**9.30 An architecture of resonance: connecting with the world**  
Gregory Burgess  
(Video Livestream)  
**10.45 Coffee break**  
**11.15 Plenum**  
**12.45 Conference ends**



# Workshops

Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Center, Australien, Gregory Burgess, Peter Ryan und Steve Duddy 1995  
Picture: John Gollings

## 1 RUDOLF STEINER'S ARCHITECTURE IN CONTEXT (DE)

**Rudolf Kaesbach and Markus Fischer**

With the Goetheanum architecture Rudolf Steiner shows us much of his understanding of design. Here, the motif of the Goetheanum building is to be centrally considered, as well as its manifestation in each of the adjoining buildings. A special feature of his design organism consists in the creation of very different buildings, which realize the motif as well as artistically incorporating the ever-changing landscape context, whereby a harmony between idea, human being and environment is created. We approach this design idea together contemplating and artistically practicing.

## 2 HOW DO WE BUILD AN ARCHITECTURAL ENTITY IN ITS CONTEXT? (DE)

**Imme Denker, Luigi Fiumara and Martin Riker**

Through perceptions of projects in the surrounding area and supported by our own experiences, we want to enter into an exchange about the different approaches. The goal is to develop criteria for how something essential can be condensed from the surroundings, the social context and the building

task. We want to bring this process to consciousness up to a design sketch during the workshop.

## 3 FINDING A DESIGN MOTIF IN CONTEXT (DE+ENG)

**Yaïke Dunselman and Pieter van der Ree**

In context, a design task meets its fate. The context is a multi-layered set of spatial, natural, social, cultural and spiritual aspects. How can we sensitize ourselves to this diversity of formative factors, bring them into the picture and let them become a source of inspiration? We want to practise this with a small but appealing design task on the Goetheanum campus.

## 4 HOW TO DEAL WITH HIGHLY SENSITIVE HERITAGE? (ENG)

**Nic Pople and Richard Coleman**

The workshop will study and explore a new future for the Schreinerei, the former carpentry workshop of the Goetheanum. On the first day a fourfold study of the building and its setting, as a whole, in part and in detail are made. The aim is to analyse significance of the whole and its parts. A half way sharing will lead to either individual or group studies. The aim will be to collate all discoveries and reach the fullest possible understanding. The

session will end with the birth of ideas. During the second day there will be a maturing of ideas about aspiration, function, limitation and transformation. Outline conceptual propositions for the whole, in part or at a detail level. A midway sharing will be followed by further development leading to a final presentation.

## 5 "SEE WHAT HAPPENS" DESIGN APPROACHES IN STEINER'S LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (DE)

**Marianne Schubert & Hansjörg Palm**

In the workshop we will first of all phenomenologically explore the design of the outdoor spaces in the Goetheanum Park, which Rudolf Steiner had laid out. What is special here is how this landscape architecture relates the gesture of the wider landscape to the architecture. In small spontaneous exercises we then want to develop new ideas for the design of the north and east of the Goetheanum forecourt. Here, on the one hand, the design from the beginning of the 1990s has not yet been completed and, on the other hand, a group of cedars was felled just this year. All designs require a knowledge of the overall building concept and are to be further developed as a metamorphosis from it.



# Biographies

## **Gregory Burgess**

practises architecture as a social, healing and ecological art for a wide range of clients on cultural, educational, religious, commercial and Indigenous projects. He has been honoured with the Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal, an honorary Doctorate of Architecture and a Member of the Order of Australia for his environmentally sensitive and community-focused building design.

## **Richard Coleman**

is an architect, design analyst and collaborator on heritage sensitive projects. He is principal of the London-based office Citydesigner and was administrator at the national design review panel, the Royal Fine Art Commission through the 90's where he gained skills in design analysis and heritage sensitivity; benefitting also from the study of Goethean methodology. Together with Sarri Tapales he initiated Architecture Steiner as part of the Arts Section of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain.

## **Imme Denker**

freelance architect, partner in denker zimmer architekten, Berlin since 2000, focuses on Waldorf school design, kindergartens and housing. Editor and publisher of the journal Mensch+Architektur (1997-2016), board member of IFMA International.

## **Yaike Dunselman**

studied architecture at the Alanus University near Bonn. Since 2003, together with Lars Frerichs, head of the Dutch-German architectural bureau "neun grad architektur" in Amersfoort (NL) and Oldenburg (DE). The office includes 25 professionals and works on projects in the spectrum ranging from supermarkets to the Goetheanum.

## **Markus Fischer**

Architect, studied at the U/GH Siegen and at the Visual Arts Section at the Goetheanum, managing director of the socio-therapeutic community Altenschlirf, Herbstein near Fulda, active there and beyond in renovation and new building planning for individuals of socio-therapeutic communities.

## **Luigi Fiumara**

studied architecture at the University La Sapienza in Rome. 2000-2010 responsible for the architecture department of the Fine Arts Section at the Goetheanum. Since 2003 on the board of IFMA, from 2012 as chairman. Since 2007 honorary professor of the National University of Building and Architecture in Kiev (UA). Lecturing, consulting and teaching activities in several countries in Europe, in India and in the USA. Planning activity in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Romania, Ukraine, Russia and India.

## **Rudolf Kaesbach**

Born in 1950 in Rio de Janeiro. Studied architecture and sculpture in Zurich and Dornach. Head of sculpture education at Emerson College (GB) from 1980-2019. Long-term research on the relationship of given landscapes as a real experience of form, to related empathetic form-finding in architecture and sculpture. For example, in Megalith culture, in Greece, in Rudolf Steiner's buildings, with Richard Long and Tadao Ando.

## **Hansjörg Palm**

Sculpture studies at the Alanus Hochschule near Bonn and Emerson College (GB). Cooperation with Marianne Schubert at the Goetheanum. Freelance artist and landscape designer with focus on planning and realization of sensory parks, e.g. in the field of experience of the senses "Eins & Alles" near Stuttgart, also in the context of new buildings.

**Nicolas Pople**

is an architect, writer and teacher. For 35 years he taught in London architecture schools as well as giving visiting lectures and acting as an external examiner. In the last 12 years he has designed and overseen the construction of three chapels for The Christian Community GB and has recently completed a major refurbishment of Rudolf Steiner House in London which is a listed building. His small office specializes in conservation and sustainable architecture.

**Pieter van der Ree**

studied architecture at the Technical University in Delft (NL) Since 1990 independent architect in the field of Ecological Building and Organic Design. Author of several books in the field of Organic Architecture and from 2005-2020 Professor of Organic Architecture at the Alanus Hochschule (DE). Coordinator of the Visual Arts Section in the Netherlands and member of the international section team at the Goetheanum in Dornach.

**Martin Riker**

Independent architect and interior designer, building biologist, building energy consultant, color designer, member of the board of IFMA International, of the Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Mainz e.V., member of the working group Color and Viewing of Art, seminars and lectures on "Architecture and Senses" and "Participation". Since 1993 independent with office archikult. Focuses on creating building culture for families, children and young people. Participation is the basis for archikult to develop a building design that is appropriate to the task.

**Marianne Schubert**

Architect and landscape architect with her own planning office. She has been professionally involved with the Goetheanum buildings and the surrounding gardens since the 1980s. During her many years working for the Goetheanum construction office, she developed the space design around the Goetheanum together with the sculptor Hansjörg Palm. From 2014 to 2019 she ran the Visual Arts Section at the Goetheanum.



## Conference fees

(Including reception buffet, 2 lunches  
on October 14 /15 and coffee breaks)

With sponsorship	CHF 500
Regular price	CHF 385
Concessions	CHF 320
Students	CHF 100

The supper on October 14 /15 can be booked  
in addition to the conference ticket: CHF 50.

## Booking via

<https://www.goetheanum.org/en/architecture-okt-2022>

Frontside:

Trollstigen View point, Norway,  
Reiulf Ramstad Architects 2012  
Picture: Pieter van der Ree

Left:

30 St Mary Axe, London,  
Foster and Partners, 2004  
Picture: Nigel Young

The Gardens by the Bay,  
Singapore, WilkinsonEyre  
Architects and Grant  
Associates, 2012  
Picture: Pieter van der Ree

### Goetheanum

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<https://www.goetheanum.org/en/architecture-okt-2022>