



University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture  
Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia  
University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

Ljubljana, 08.09.2025

## **RCA REGIONAL CONTEXTUALISATION IN ARCHITECTURE** *The Spirit of Place – Cultivating Identity in the Built Environment*

### PROGRAMME

#### **Day 1 – IDENTITY, TRADITION and INOVATION –**

**WEDNESDAY 17 September 2025**

*all hours are in CEST – Central European Summer Time*

08:30AM **Conference Registration**, Lobby in front of Plečnikova lecture room

09:00AM **Conference Opening and Welcome**, Plečnikova lecture room

**prof. dr. Alenka Fikfak**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**dr. Nataša Bratina, General manager**, Directorate of Spatial Planning and Construction,

Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia

**prof. Mihael Dešman, Dean** University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**dr. Igor Bizjak, Director** Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

**prof. dr. Marina Pintar, Dean**, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

9:30AM **KEYNOTES 1 and 2**, Plečnikova lecture room

**prof. dr. Živa Deu: Cultural landscapes: then and now**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**assoc. prof. Aleksander S. Ostan: The meaning of space, architecture; and urbanism in the contemporary world: seeking balance between tradition and invention**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

*Keynotes Moderator: assoc. prof. dr. Matej Nikšič*

11:15AM Short Coffee & Stretching Break, Galerija FA

11:45AM **KEYNOTES 3**, Plečnikova lecture room

**assoc. prof. dr. Luka Skansi: Bordering Regionalities. National rhetorics in contested territories**; Politecnico di Milano – DASTU, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

*Keynotes Moderator: assist. prof. dr. Tomaž Pipan*

12:30PM Lunch break

02:00PM **SESSION 1 - (parallel) Tracks 1 and 2 and 3 and 4** (lecture room info list of Tracks)

04:45PM End of Day 1

05:00PM **Official RCA 2025 Evening Reception**, Galerija FA



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## Day 2 – PARTICIPATION, ECOLOGY and ECONOMY –

**THURSDAY 18 September 2025**

*all hours are in CEST – Central European Summer Time*

08:30AM **Conference Registration**, Lobby in front of Plečnikova lecture room

09:00AM **Welcome to Day 2**, Plečnikova lecture room

assoc. prof. dr. Matej Nikšič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

9:15AM **KEYNOTES 4 and 5**, Plečnikova lecture room

**assist. prof. dr. Branislav Folić: Integrating indigenous architectural principles into sustainable design: a case for regional resilience in Canada**, University of Kosovska Mitrovica;  
Sessional Lecturer at Toronto Metropolitan University

**dr. Ceren Sezer: Co-designing for Belonging: Identity, Justice, and Participation in Shaping Urban Futures**; Community Collaboration Laboratory for Just Transitions, Faculty of Architecture, RWTH Aachen University

*Keynotes Moderator: assoc. prof. dr. Matej Nikšič*

10:45AM Short Coffee & Stretching Break, Galerija FA

11:00AM **SESSION 2 - (parallel) Tracks 5 and 6 and 7 and 8** (*lecture room info list of Tracks*)

01:00PM Lunch break

02:30PM **SESSION 3 - (parallel) Tracks 9 and 10 and 11** (*lecture room info list of Tracks*)

05:00PM End of Day 2

## Day 3 – HERITAGE, ACCESABILITY and LOCALITY –

**FRIDAY 19 September 2025**

*all hours are in CEST – Central European Summer Time*

9:00AM **Welcome to Day 3**, Lobby in front of Plečnikova lecture room

assist. prof. dr. Tomaž Pipan, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

9:15AM **KEYNOTES 6**, Plečnikova lecture room

**prof. dr. Sonja Ifko: Architectural heritage – the foundation of identity and the sustainable capital of local communities**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

*Keynotes Moderator: assist. prof. dr. Tomaž Pipan*

9:45AM **ROUNDTABLE 1\_ ACHIEVING SPATIAL IDENTITY THROUGH ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM**,

*Plečnikova lecture room*

**Prof. dr. Živa Deu**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**prof. dr. Aleka Fikfak**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**assist. prof. Uroš Rustja**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**doc. Rok Žnidaršič**, vice-major, City Municipality of Ljubljana

*Roundtable Moderator: Ivan Stanič, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia*

11:45AM Short Coffee & Stretching Break, Lobby in front of Plečnikova lecture room

12:00AM **ROUNDTABLE 2\_ SAFE, INCLUSIVE, AND ACCESSIBLE OPEN PUBLIC SPACE**,

*Plečnikova lecture room*

**Marina Lovrič**, Geodetski inštitut Slovenije

**izr. prof. dr. Tomaž Novljan**, Univerza v Ljubljani, Fakulteta za arhitekturo

**Midhet Huskič**, predsednik Nacionalni svet invalidskih organizacij Slovenije

**Tilen Jurca**, Urbanistični inštitut Republike Slovenije

**asist. razisk. Aleš Švigelj**, Univerza v Ljubljani, Fakulteta za arhitekturo

*Moderator: doc. dr. Janez P. Grom, Univerza v Ljubljani, Fakulteta za arhitekturo*

02:00PM **Closing Conference**, Plečnikova lecture room



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## Day 4 – GORENJSKA –

**SATURDAY 20 September 2025**

*all hours are in CEST – Central European Summer Time*

08:00AM **CONFERENCE TOUR**, *The departure and arrival locations will be determined on September 17, 2025.*

Guided by:

**assoc. prof. Aleksander S. Ostan**, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

**assist. prof. Blaž Budja**, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

*Conference tour Moderator: assist. prof. dr. Janez P. Grom*

The RCA tour is organised as a field trip to Gorenjska region.

Conference participants will register for it the Day 1 of the conference.

08:00PM **Foreseen return to Ljubljana (subject to traffic situation)**



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**Day 1 – IDENTITY, TRADITION and INOVATION –  
WEDNESDAY 17 September 2025**

**02:00PM SESSION 1 - (parallel) Tracks 1 and 2 and 3 and 4**

**TRACK 1: TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE: PRESERVING  
LOCAL IDENTITY / English track, Plečnikova lecture room**

Track chair: **prof. dr. Alenka Fikfak**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

Track co-chair: **prof. mag. Tadej Glažar**, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**IDENTITY AND TRADITION IN GORIŠKA BRDA**, prof. dr. Alenka Fikfak

**CHALLENGES OF POST-WAR HOUSING IN ITALY: THE CASE OF SORGANE IN FLORENCE**, prof. dr. Jean-Pierre El Asmar, Leonardo Checcaglini, Patricia Barakat

**ANCHORING SPATIAL INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT: DRAWING AS A COMPREHENSIVE VISUAL  
REFERENCE PORTRAYING SPATIAL NARRATIVES**, Tim Gerdin

**A STUDY OF TWO CASES OF CONTEMPORARY RURAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE KOZJANSKO REGION**, prof. dr. Matej Blenkuš, Katja Cimperman, Alexander Cifer

**IDENTITY AND CONTINUITY: CASE STUDIES IN SLOVENIA**, assist. res. Aleš Švigelj, Marko Lazić

**TRACK 2: SETTLEMENT TYPOLOGIES IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT / Slovenian track,  
Lecture room 2**

Track chair: **assist. prof. dr. Tomaž Pipan**, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty

Track co-chair: **assist. dr. Kristijan Lavtižar**, Corwin Slovenia

**LEGIBILITY OF SETTLEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES OF STANDARDIZED PATTERNS**, doc. dr. Tomaž Pipan

**SUSTAINING SPATIAL IDENTITY: TRADITIONAL SETTLEMENTS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF CERKNICA, SLOVENIA**, dr. Damjana Gantar, Nina Goršič

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS USING THE CASE OF THE GORENJSKA STATISTICAL REGION**, Meta Cerkovnik, viš. pred. dr. Mojca Foški, izr. prof. dr. Alma Zavodnik Lamovšek

**PRESERVING THE IDENTITY OF SPACE**, doc. Blaž Budja



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### **TRACK 3: URBAN DENSITY AND THE IMAGE OF PLACE / Slovenian track**

*Track chair: assoc. prof. dr. Ilka Čerpes, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture*

*Track co-chair: assist. dr. Jernej Červek, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia*

**BUILDING DENSITY AND IDENTITY OF PLACE**, assoc. prof. dr. Ilka Čerpes, assist. Mia Crnič, Igor Rojnik  
**THE IMPACT OF CHANGING BUILDING TYPOLOGY OVER TIME ON URBAN DENSITY AND CITY IMAGE: THE CASE OF MURSKA SOBOTA**, assist. dr. Jernej Červek  
**THE IMPACT OF HOUSING PROVISION TYPES ON BUILDING DENSITY – A CASE STUDY OF THE PODUTIK QUARRY IN LJUBLJANA**, Erna Bukovica

### **TRACK 4: THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN SHAPING REGIONAL IDENTITY**

*Track chair: assist. prof. dr. Luka Mladenovič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia*

*Track co-chair: assoc. prof. dr. Lea Petrovič Krajnik, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Architecture*

**POSSIBILITIES OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF SAMOBOR IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ZAGREB METROPOLITAN REGION**, assoc. prof. dr. Lea Petrovič Krajnik, prof. dr. Damir Krajnik, prof. dr. Ivan Mlinar  
*(presentation will be part of Track 1)*

**LINKING PLACES, SHAPING IDENTITIES: HUBCITIES AND THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL IDENTITY THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE**, dr. techn. Arch. Sanela Pansinger, assist. prof. dr. Tomaž Berčič *(presentation will be part of Track 9)*

**RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOCAL IDENTITY**, assoc. prof. dr. Naja Marot, assist. razisk. Pina Klara Petrovič Jesenovec, assist. prof. dr. Dejan Cigale, znan. Svet. Dr. Barbara Lampič, assist. Jasna Sitar, assist. razisk. Lea Rebernik, prof. dr. Gregor Starc *(presentation will be part of Track 2)*



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**Day 2 – PARTICIPATION, ECOLOGY and ECONOMY –  
THURSDAY 18 September 2025**

**11:00AM SESSION 2 - (parallel) Tracks 5 and 6 and 7 and 8**

**TRACK 5: ECOLOGY, IDENTITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: INTEGRATING ECOLOGY  
AND ARCHITECTURAL FORM / English track, Plečnikova lecture room**

*Track chair: prof. dr. Saja Kosanović, University of Priština in Kosovska Mitrovica, Faculty of Technical Sciences,  
Department of Architecture*

*Track co-chair: prof. dr. Martina Zbašnik Senegačnik, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture*

**GREEN SPACE RECLAIMED: A CASE OF 16-YEAR URBAN ACTIVISM IN BELGRADE, SERBIA**, prof. dr. Saja  
Kosanović, assoc. prof. dr. Julija Aleksić

**REGIONAL ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS FOR URBAN SPACE OVERHEATING PREVENTION**, prof. dr. Martina  
Zbašnik Senegačnik, prof. dr. Alenka Fikfak

**DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIVE TYPOLOGIES TO TRANSFORM DEGRADED FAMILY HOUSES BASED ON REUSE  
OF BUILDING MATERIAL DIRECTLY FROM THE SITE**, Miha Čebulj

**BEYOND HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN: RETHINKING URBAN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURAL FORM  
THROUGH ECOLOGICAL INTEGRATION**, Maribel Salazar Rivera

**TRACK 6: COMMUNITY-BASED DESIGN AND ITS INFLUENCE ON IDENTITY OF PLACE /  
English track, Plečnikova lecture room**

*Track chair: assoc. prof. dr. Blaž Križnik, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Asian studie*

*Track co-chair: Manca Gjura Godec, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia*

**BEIRUT URBAN AGGREGATE: HIDDEN VALUE OF SPONTANEOUS MODERN ARCHITECTURE**, assoc. prof. dr.  
Charbel Maskineh

**INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO MAKE TOURIST DESTINATIONS MORE WELCOMING. THE SITE CASE  
STUDY**, Barbara Chiarelli, prof. dr. Ilaria Garofolo, Elisa Maria Vittoria Bertolini



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## **TRACK 7: ECONOMIC PARADIGMS AND PLACE IDENTITY: GROWTH, DEGROWTH AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS / English track, Vurnikova lecture room**

*Track chair: assist. prof. dr. Janez Peter Grom, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture*

*Track co-chair: assoc. prof. dr. Samo Drobne, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering*

**FROM CONTESTED SPACES TO CATALYSTS OF GROWTH: THE RUPNIK DEFENSE LINE'S ECONOMIC IMPACT AND SPATIAL IDENTITY FORMATION**, assist. prof. dr. Janez Peter Grom

**JOB CONCENTRATION IN SLOVENIA**, assoc. prof. dr. Samo Drobne, Tomaž Miklavčič, assoc. prof. dr. Alma Zavodnik Lamovšek

**DETERMINING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SLOVENIAN URBAN AREAS FOR KEY URBAN POLICIES**, prof. dr. Andreja Cirman, mag. Nataša Pichler Milanović, doc. dr. Melita Balas Rant

**PRESERVING LOCAL IDENTITY – ECONOMIC INSIGHT**, assoc. prof. dr. Ewelina Idziak

## **TRACK 8: IDENTITY BY DESIGN AND CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE / Slovenian track, Lecture room 2**

*Track chair: assist. prof. dr. Domen Kušar, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture*

*Track co-chair: Barbara Mušič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia*

**THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – THE LITTLE ICE AGE - ON ARCHITECTURAL IMAGE OF SLOVENIA**, assist. prof. dr. Domen Kušar

**BALANCING CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN WITH THE IDENTITY OF PLACE**, Barbara Mušič

**TRADITIONAL BUILDING STRUCTURES OF HISTORIC CENTRES TO MITIGATE THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND PHENOMENON – THE CASE OF OLD KRANJ**, Nina Beganović



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**Day 2 – PARTICIPATION, ECOLOGY and ECONOMY –  
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**02:30AM SESSION 3 - (parallel) Tracks 9 and 10 and 11**

**TRACK 9: PUBLIC SPACE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF COLLECTIVE IDENTITY / English track,  
*Plečnikova lecture room***

*Track chair: dr. Ckritine Mady, Aalto University, School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Department of Architecture*

*Track co-chair: Marina Lovrič, Geodetic Institute of Slovenia*

**COLLECTIVE IDENTITY OF A PLACE THROUGH UNIVERSAL DESIGN: HOW PUBLIC SPACE SHAPES AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY**, Marina Lovrič, Jani Demšar

**RECLAIMING PUBLIC SPACE: SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY THROUGH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING APPROACH IN LARGE-SCALE HOUSING ESTATES**, prof. dr. Uğis Bratuškis, prof. dr. Sandra Treija, assist. prof. dr. Alisa Koroļova

**CULTIVATING MEMORY: REVITALISATION AND ADAPTIVE RE-USE OF DICTATORSHIP SUFFERING INSTITUTIONS**, prof. dr. Florian Nepravishta

**THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC SPACE BY SKATEBOARDERS: IDENTITY AND THE IMPACT OF URBAN REVITALIZATION**, Victoria Furtado de Carvalho

**THE NEW BAZAAR OF TIRANA: PRESERVING HISTORICAL IDENTITY IN A MODERNIZED SPACE**, Vjola Ilia, Fiona Nepravishta

**PUBLIC SPACE REGENERATION IN WOOLWICH TOWN CENTRE CONSERVATION AREA**, Fiona Nepravishta, Vjola Ilia

**TRACK 10: LIGHT AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT: SHAPING THE IDENTITY OF PLACE / Slovenian track, *Vurnikova lecture room***

*Track chair: assoc. prof. dr. Tomaž Novljan, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture*

*Track co-chair: assoc. prof. dr. Matej Nikšič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia*

**SHADOW**, assoc. prof. dr. Tomaž Novljan

**STREET-LIGHTING DESIGN AND ITS INFLUENCE ON DAYTIME EXPERIENCE OF PUBLIC SPACES IN LJUBLJANA**, assoc. prof. dr. Matej Nikšič, Loan Berthelot

**THE CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES IN DARKNESS: NURTURING URBAN IDENTITY THROUGH LIGHT**, Janez Grošelj  
**LIGHTING POLLUTION IN SLOVENIA**, Marjeta Zupančič



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**TRACK 11: NARRATIVES BETWEEN PLACE AND SPACE / Slovenian track, Lecture room 2**

*Track chair: assist. prof. dr. Matevž Juvančič, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture*

*Track co-chair: assoc. prof. dr. Polona Filipič Gorenšek, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture*

**SPATIAL RECOGNITION AND IDENTITY: FINDINGS FROM A STUDY ON THE PERCEPTION AND IMAGE OF SLOVENIAN LANDSCAPES**, assist. prof. dr. Matevž Juvančič

**THE ROLE OF URBAN DESIGN IN ACHIEVING THE WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY**, assoc. prof. mag. Polona Filipič Gorenšek, Manja Kavčič

**DYNAMICS OF MATERIALITY: TRADITION AS A DRIVER OF ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATION**, Lucija Kokol

**RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD AS A KEY ELEMENT OF THE SPATIAL IDENTITY OF LJUBLJANA**, Nina Povše, doc. dr. Matevž Juvančič