

World Congress
of Architects.
Barcelona. UIA 2026.

Becoming.
Architectures for
a planet in transition.

Call for Participants

Terms and Conditions

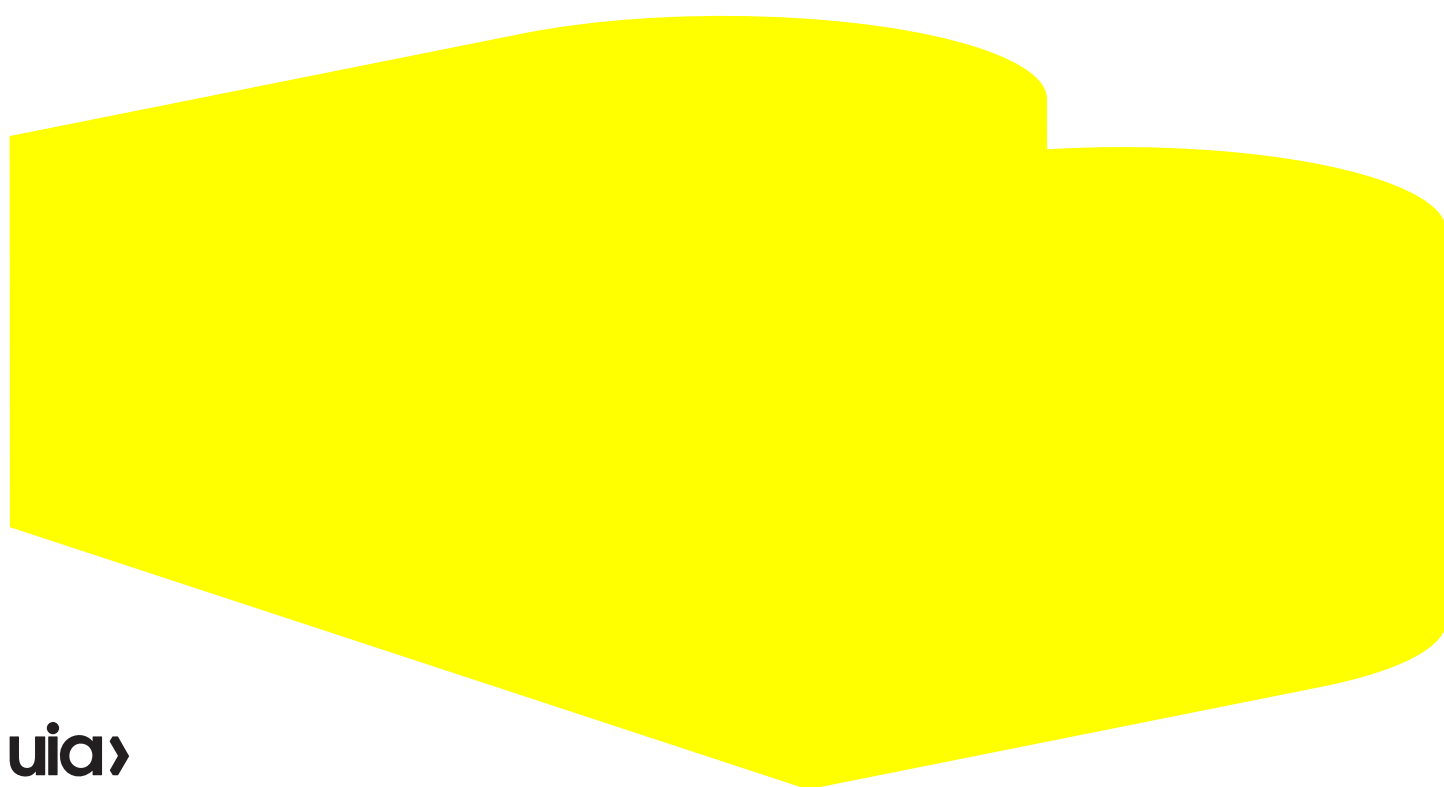




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*Participation in the Call for Participants implies
full acceptance of its rules.*



Terms and Conditions

1. UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona Purpose of the Call

The purpose of this Call for Participants is to invite contributions to the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona, titled “*Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition*”. The congress seeks to explore innovative perspectives, interdisciplinary approaches, and transformative ideas that address contemporary challenges. Together, we aim to identify the most pertinent questions, practices, methods, and modes of research and development; informing the urgently needed transformations of our habitats to enable sustainable, equitable and inclusive futures.

The Topic of Becoming

Becoming explores spatial practices that foster the appropriation and transformation of our inhabited environments —both human and more-than-human, individual and collective— by investigating the potential of time as a design tool. Rejecting the notion of *tabula rasa*, it is rooted in a deep awareness of pre-existing physical and cultural landscapes, curating transitions through material, political, ecological, and poetic interrelations. In an effort to move beyond the depletion of capitalist-driven paradigms, *Becoming* poses challenges that suggest alternative prospects: six thematic research lines frame these explorations, inviting open-ended, intersecting investigations into what it means to design for a world in transition.

With this call for participants, the Congress aims to bring together knowledge across research, practice and education to provoke new perspectives and new alliances, reshaping architectural thinking and action.

Collage of digitally
manipulated images by
Judith Musachs and Pol Pérez
selected by the curatorial team.





2. Research lines
covered by the Call

Becoming explores the transformation of the existing reality, addressing the relationship between the urgency of contemporary challenges and a long-term perspective that unfolds through six thematic research lines: *Becoming More-than-human*, *Becoming Attuned*, *Becoming Embodied*, *Becoming Interdependent*, *Becoming Hyper-conscious*, *Becoming Circular*.

The call invites relevant research and knowledge, that critically explores the diverse ways in which architecture connects to the six thematic research lines. Submissions must, therefore, address at least one of them:

Becoming More-than-human

How can architecture embrace ecological coexistence?

Becoming Attuned

What forms of meaning and poetics can we engage with our everyday practice?

Becoming Embodied

How can technologies and values be embedded in the transitions from matter to construction?

Becoming Interdependent

How can we design politics of space that activate interpersonal relationships?

Becoming Hyper-conscious

What actions can emerge from a deeper awareness of global and local interplays?

Becoming Circular

Within post-extractivist proximity policies, which cycles can be spatially produced?

This Conceptual Framework has been further developed in a separate document that can be downloaded from the website www.uia2026bcn.org and from this link: https://uia2026bcn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/uia2026bcn_abstract.pdf

3. Organisers
of the Call

This call for participants is organized by CSCAE (Higher Council of Professional Associations of Architects of Spain) and COAC (The Architects' Association of Catalonia).

4. Who can participate?

This call is aimed at architects, landscape architects, urbanists, designers, engineers, researchers, photographers, filmmakers, artists and researchers in social sciences and humanities –transdisciplinary approaches related to spatial practice.

5. Contributions:
Three submission
formats

Diverse experiences and knowledge are essential to articulate the particular agency of architecture in relation to "*Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition*". To expand the possibility of transdisciplinary knowledge exchange and include voices that are not commonly part of academic and professional discourse, we invite submissions in three different formats: Critical design, Critical essay and Critical image.



5.1. Critical design

Submissions in this format include design projects, industrial design concepts, design prototypes or explorations of design methodologies. These could range from conceptual designs to practical solutions, as well as innovative approaches within the design field, built or unbuilt.

Material to submit:

- Title (max. 10 words)
- Headline (max. 40-50 words): A summary phrase that captures the main qualities.
- Abstract (max. 200 words): An outline of the project and its main achievements, methodology, and relevant findings or conclusions.
- Adscription to a *Becoming* (max. 200 words): A statement explaining how the proposal aligns with the *Becoming* vision in relation to one of the six research lines of the congress.
- 2 horizontal digital A3 (in one singular PDF): each design must be presented on two horizontal digital A3 panels. These panels must include all the necessary documentation to ensure a proper understanding of the work: floor plans, elevations, sections, construction details, images, diagrams, etc.
- Links to related online information (max. 3 links).
- 10 selected images minimum resolution of 300 dpi and maximum size per image 2MB, JPG or PNG format.

The panels must include, all at the top, the full name of the project, the location (city, country). The font to be used for all text should be exclusively Arial 11. The maximum size of the PDF file is 10 MB.

5.2. Critical essay

Submissions in this format include original written works such as essays, academic articles, or research papers. Proposals should focus on critical analyses, theoretical discussions, written interviews, or research findings related to the field of design and spatial practice, maintaining a connection to the themes of the congress.

The critical essay submission is organized into two phases: the first phase involves submitting a proposal outlining the topic, argument, and methodology; the second phase requires submission of the complete, fully developed essay, including bibliography.

First phase: Essay proposal.

Material to submit:

- Title (max. 10 words)
- Headline (max. 40-50 words): A summary phrase that captures the main argument.
- Adscription to a *Becoming* (max. 200 words): A statement explaining how the proposal aligns with the *Becoming* vision in relation to one of the six research lines of the congress.
- Summary of the essay (max. 800 words): A detailed overview outlining the argument, methodology, and key findings or conclusions. The summary should be a maximum of 4 A4 pages (vertical orientation) in PDF format, including images if relevant.

Second phase: Complete essay.

Material to submit:

- Title (max. 10 words) Must be the same as in First Phase.
- Abstract (max. 150 words): A single paragraph summarising the aims, methods, find-



ings, and conclusions of the essay.

- 4-6 keywords: A list of key terms in lower-case, separated by commas.
- Adscription to a *Becoming* (max. 200 words): A statement explaining how the proposal aligns with the *Becoming* vision in relation to one of the six research lines of the congress.
- Essay (max. 3,000 words): An original text contributing to the existing body of knowledge. The essay should develop a clear argument in accordance to its approach to spatial practice. It must be structured within a maximum of 15 A4 pages (vertical orientation), including images, credits, citations, and bibliography. The word count of 3,000-word limit applies to the main body of the text, excluding citations and bibliography. References and citations should be formatted according to APA Style. Link to APA Style Format examples: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples>.

5.3. Critical image

Submissions in this category include visual works such as films, photography, multimedia pieces, or visual conversations. This format also includes creative and experimental work.

Material to submit:

- Title (max. 10 words)
- Headline (max. 40-50 words): A summary phrase that captures the main argument.
- Written statement (max. 400 words): A brief text explaining the concept behind the visual work, its relevance to the theme, narrative, cultural or theoretical frameworks informing the work, and the way the it engages with the themes of design or the critical discourse at hand.
- Adscription to a *Becoming* (max. 200 words): A statement explaining how the proposal aligns with the *Becoming* vision in relation to one of the six research lines of the congress.
- Visual work (film, photography or multimedia): A digital file or link to the work itself (e.g., a short film, photography portfolio, or multimedia piece). This should be submitted in high resolution.
 - For images: maximum 10 digital photographs in JPG format, with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, and a maximum file size per image of 2 MB.
 - For video: maximum duration 30 min, including teaser or trailer, max. 3 min. Preferred file types: .mp4, .mov, .wmv, avi.
- Contextual materials: If applicable, include links to any supporting documents or references to exhibitions, screenings, or previous showcases of the work, as well as any collaboration details (e.g., co-creators or curatorial partners).

6. Presentation of proposals

Proposals must be submitted electronically via the website www.uia2026bcn.org and must adhere to these Terms and Conditions. All form fields, text content of the submission, and supplementary information must be written entirely in English. Proposals in any other language will not be accepted, except in the case of videos. In such cases, subtitles (or descriptions, if necessary, to provide context) should be in English.

Participants must complete the online form to register for the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona *Call for Participants* before submitting their proposal(s).

The web form includes, among other details:

- General information
- Proposal information



• Attached images/documents

No additional documents beyond those included in the web form will be accepted, unless explicitly requested by the organization. The congress reserves the right to request clarifications or additional information regarding submitted entries during the evaluation process. The number of selected proposals per category and topic will be subject to consideration by the Jury of Experts, the Evaluation Committee and the Scientific Committee of the congress.

Each individual or team may submit a maximum of two proposals per format.

The works selected in this *Call for Participants* may be required to submit additional documentation according to the format of participation (7.1, 7.2). Only the main author of the submitted proposal will be eligible to present the work at the congress, as outlined in 7.1. The organization reserves the right to approve or reject any substitution of the designated speaker.

7. Congress
participation formats

7.1. Speaker Formats

Selected works may be presented through different formats that foster dialogue and exchange within the congress. These may include individual lectures, discussions between two speakers, or panel conversations with multiple participants. Presentations will be accompanied by visual materials such as images, slides, or videos, and will generally take place in person. However, online participation will also be possible, depending on the congress's formats.

The precise structure of discussions and presentations will be refined as the programme develops. Formats will range from solo talks to debates, interviews, or thematic panels featuring multiple voices. The allocation of time and speakers per session will be adapted to ensure dynamic engagement with the audience.

7.2. Additional Formats

Exhibition

Selected works may be included in the Congress Exhibition, the opening of which will take place prior to the dates of the Congress. Works presented in this format must meet the specific conditions set by the exhibition team, including space and installation requirements. The showcase of the entries may be either physical or digital, and additional materials may be requested by the curatorial team to ensure their correct display and presentation. The curatorial team will be responsible for orchestrating the exhibition, meticulously featuring all the research content generated previously.

Digital Proceedings

All selected designs, essays and images from this open call will be included in the Digital Proceedings of the Congress with ISBN, Legal Deposit, and DOI. These proceedings will be published as Open Access by UPC Commons with a Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 license, link <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.



Official Catalogue

The Jury of experts will also determine which selected proposals may be included in the official catalogue, which will be launched during the Congress. This catalogue aims to provide an overarching perspective on the congress theme and will feature curatorial statements, as well as a selection of projects and essays contributed by keynote guests, critics and researchers.

Note

The Jury will have the authority to determine the presentation format for the selected works during the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 “Barcelona. Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition”.

8. Evaluation criteria

The quality of each proposal will be evaluated according to the criteria described below. Each submission will be evaluated based on 3 categories:

1. Adscription and relevance for the topic of *Becoming* (according to the Conceptual Framework Abstract of the Congress)
2. Adscription and relevance for each specific research line (*Becoming More-than-human, Becoming Attuned, Becoming Embodied, Becoming Interdependent, Becoming Hyper-conscious, Becoming Circular*)
3. Quality, originality and innovation of the work, considering its research field and impact in its wider cultural context.

In the categories of Critical Design and Critical Image, the Jury will prioritize submitted proposals that have not previously been published or presented in public. In the category of Critical Essay proposals must be original.

9. Evaluation process

The curators of the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona “*Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition,*” together with the Scientific Committee and the Jury of Experts, will evaluate the broad, cross-sectional perspectives.

9.1 Critical design and Critical image

The evaluation process for Critical design and Critical image will work in a similar manner:

Preliminary examination

The entries submitted will be examined by the open call organisation to assess their compliance with the submission rules before being formally delivered to the Evaluation Committee at the beginning of the evaluation procedure. The entries will be checked to ensure the following:

- Submission of the entry within the deadline.
- Compliance with the formal requirements.
- Completeness of the requested deliverables and the project presentation.

Evaluation process

The evaluation process will be conducted in successive rounds. In the initial stage, all



eligible submissions will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee. Entries assessed as meeting the evaluation criteria to a lesser extent will not proceed to the next stage. The Jury of Experts, a panel of distinguished international professionals and academics, will then conduct a comparative assessment of the remaining proposals, evaluating them holistically based on the defined criteria. The Jury of Experts will have access to all submitted proposals and may reconsider any entry from the initial stage for further evaluation.

Given the geographical diversity of their locations or places of residence or work, the Jury members will convene via interactive video conferences. By means of structured discussions, the Jury will progressively refine the selection, ensuring that the winning entries demonstrate a strong conceptual foundation, relevance and innovative design strategies. The final decision will be documented in the Report of the Jury Decision.

9.2 Critical essay

The evaluation process for Critical essay will have two phases.

The evaluation process for the Critical essay format includes double-blind reviews by an international peer-review board, and submissions must be fully anonymized. The peer-review board reflects the six *Becoming* research lines and the breadth of the invited formats. COPE Research publishing ethics guidelines, link: <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/principles-transparency-and-best-practice-scholarly-publishing>.

First phase

An international peer-review board will conduct an initial double-blind review of all entries. This phase will be supervised by the Congress's Scientific Committee. All accepted essay proposals will proceed to the second phase, submitting an essay that will have a DOI and will be published as Open Access in the proceedings by UPC Commons with a Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 license, link: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

Second phase

An international peer-review board will conduct a double-blind review of all entries and narrow down the selection of essays, which will then be passed on to the Jury of Experts. This Jury, composed of world-renowned professionals and academics from each of the six *Becoming* research lines, will review the entries and make the final selection. Chosen entries in this phase will be invited to participate in the Congress as Speakers and will be considered for inclusion in the central exhibition of the congress and/or the official catalogue.

10. Committees and Expert Panels

Scientific Committee Members

Joan Busquets, Honorary President of the Congress.

Fuensanta Nieto, President of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Curators of the Congress: Pau Bajet, Mariona Benedito, Maria Giramé, Tomeu Ramis, Pau Sarquella and Carmen Torres.

Delegates UIA Regions: 5 representative members .

COAC/CSCAE advisors: Josep Lluís Mateo, Mar Santamaria, Meritxell Inaraja, Oscar Miguel Ares, Elisa Valero.



Academic support

This open call counts with the institutional support from the ETSAB-UPC (Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) and the academic advice of Areti Markopoulou.

Jury of Experts

Critical design. Critical essay. Critical image.

Each format will have an associated Jury of Experts, a panel of distinguished professionals and academics, each linked to one or more of the research lines of the congress. The complete list of the jury members will be disclosed in further announcements.

Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee will consist of academics and professionals from diverse nationalities, with established academic ties in the case of the critical essay. The total number of evaluators will be determined according to the number of submissions received through the Call for Participants. The complete list of evaluators will be made public prior to the start of the selection process.

11. Indexation and dissemination

Selected works from this open call will be included in the Digital Proceedings of the Congress with ISBN, Legal Deposit, and DOI. These proceedings will be published as Open Access by UPC Commons with a Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 license, link <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>). The proceedings will be submitted for evaluation and indexing in the Conference Proceedings Citation Index (Web of Science/Clarivate Analytics).

There will be further dissemination that aims to broaden the scope of influence of the contributions. Among the communications presented orally, those best valued by the Scientific Committee will be eligible for this subsequent publication, based on their content and at the discretion of the conference management. In addition to the printed Official Catalogue, further digital publications are expected, aiming to include new contents, debates and discussions arising during the congress days.



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From 28 June
to 2 July.

12. Calendar

31 March 2025.
Launch of Open Call.

23 May 2025. **modified**

Deadline for submissions - Critical design, Critical image and first phase of Critical essay.
The Open Call will be open until 23 May 2025, 23:59:59 CET.

In the case of the Critical essay, this only includes the essay proposal (1st phase).

02 June
New deadline. The
deadline will be
extended until June
2 2025. 23:59:59
CET.
In the case of the
Critical essay, this
only includes the
essay proposal (1st
phase)

20 June 2025

Announcement of selected proposals of the essay proposal (1st phase).

10 September 2025

Deadline for submissions of the complete essays (2nd phase).

The Open Call for the second phase of the complete essay closes on 10
September 2025, 23:59:59 CET.

30 September 2025

Announcement of selected Critical design and Critical image.

20 October 2025

Announcement of selected complete essays (2nd phase).

15 December 2025

Deadline for materials to be included in Catalogue.

January - April 2026

Revision and correction of texts to be included in Catalogue.

May 2026

Reception of materials to be included in the exhibition.

13. Intellectual
and Industrial
Property Rights

Copyrights and third party materials

Authors accepted to present will be required to complete a copyright transfer form and agree to present the Critical paper, project or image at the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona "*Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition*".

Authors must be able to present documentation of permission to use any third party materials included in their contribution upon request.

The Science Committee reserves the right to withhold a paper from the programme if the author fails to comply with policies and guidelines, including deadlines and requests for submission of materials.

All documentation submitted will be exempt from payment of reproduction rights (whether for photographs or any other material) for dissemination by the UIA in any format, and explicit reference to this exemption must be made in an attached commitment document.



Images

Authors submitting essays that contain images must be able to provide the images in high-resolution quality upon request for publishing purposes. It is the submitting author's responsibility to secure permission of use and publication of included images. Authors must be able to provide the documentation of permission from the rights holders.

Free copyright commitment document.

Intellectual & industrial property rights

The participant responsible for the authorship of the submitted proposal is the owner of the intellectual and, where applicable, industrial property rights thereof.

The participant is accountable for ensuring that the proposal submitted does not violate intellectual property rights, industrial property rights, copyright and/or image rights, and assumes complete responsibility with regard to third parties.

The UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona organization is free of all liability. Once the proposal has been selected and approved, the organizers may publicize any details considered public (company organization, title, brief, abstract, website and topic).

14. Data protection

<https://uia2026bcn.org/legal-notice/>

UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona undertakes to maintain the confidentiality of the proposals received. The personal data provided in the application form will be used exclusively for registration purposes and will not be accessible to the jury members. If additional information is required the technical secretariat might contact the participants.

Once the proposal has been selected, UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona may consider publishing any details such as author, company/organization, title, brief, abstract, website, and/or topic, in those channels and means that UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona uses for its promotion (social networks, visitor guide, etc.).

For the purposes of the provisions in current legislation on data protection (Regulation EU 2016 679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 GDPR), we inform you that UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona will process all your data in accordance with the provisions of its Privacy Policy, and that you may exercise the rights stipulated in this ruling.

15. Information and Queries

Queries should be sent by email to the Permanent Technical Secretariat at callfor@uia2026bcn.org



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Credits

Curators “Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition.”

Pau Bajet
Mariona Benedito
Maria Giramé
Tomeu Ramis
Pau Sarquella
Carmen Torres

Scientific Committee

Regina Gonthier – President of the UIA
Marta Vall-llossera – President of the UIA 2026 Congress
Teresa Táboas – Vice President of the UIA 2026 Congress
Guim Costa – Director of the UIA 2026 Congress
Joan Busquets – Honorary President of the UIA 2026 Congress
Fuensanta Nieto – President of the UIA 2026 Scientific Committee
Iñaquí Carnicero – Secretary General for Urban Agenda, Housing, and Architecture
Agustí Serra – Director General for Territorial Planning, Urbanism, and Architecture of the Government of Catalonia
Maria Buhigas – Chief Architect of the Barcelona City Council

UIA Regional Delegates

Alessandro Bonizzoni – UIA Delegate, Region I
Yannis Zaboleas – UIA Delegate, Region II
Alejandro Echeverri – UIA Delegate, Region III
George Kunihiro – UIA Delegate, Region IV
Chrisna Duplessis – UIA Delegate, Region V

CSCAE/COAC Advisors

Meritxell Inaraja
Josep Lluís Mateo
Mar Santamaria
Elisa Valero
Oscar Ares

Convened

Organised by

Funded by public administrations



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