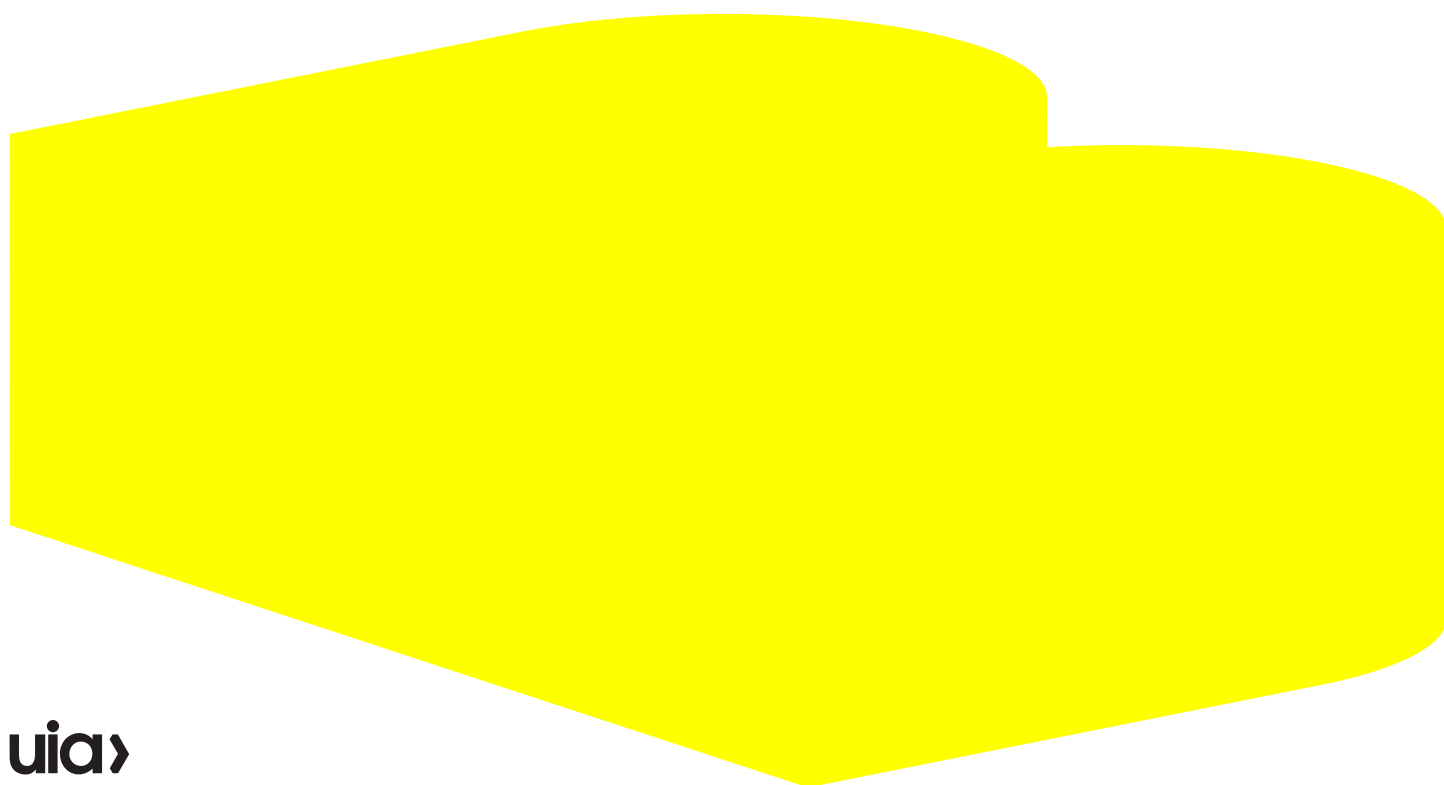World Congress
of Architects.
Barcelona. UIA 2026.

Becoming.
Architectures for
a planet in transition.

Call for
Participants

Jury Report
Critical Image

uia›

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1.Call for participants

1.1 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
Judit Musachs and Pol Pérez
selected by the curatorial team.

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| 1.2. 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

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1.3. 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).

1.4. 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 invited 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.

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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.

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.

This Jury Report covers exclusively the Critical Image format. The Critical Essay and Critical Design category, will be presented in a distinct Jury Report.

1.5. Registration and submissions	The UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 – Call for Participants remained open from 30 March to 2 June 2025, receiving a total of 1,547 submissions:

· 552 Critical Design
· 198 Critical Image
· 797 Critical Essay

Participants represented 88 countries.

All entries were submitted electronically through the official UIA 2026 platform using the standard online form. Only materials meeting the established guidelines were accepted for evaluation.

1.6. Evaluation criteria

Each submission was 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.

1.7. Evaluation process

To evaluate the submissions, the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 – Call for Participants established a two-stage international process, ensuring coherence, transparency, and alignment with the Congress's evaluation criteria.

1st Stage - Evaluation Commitee

In the first stage, the Evaluation Committee reviewed all eligible submissions to verify compliance with the established criteria and formal requirements. Based on a comparative analysis, a selection of the most consistent and relevant proposals was shortlisted for assessment by the Jury of Experts. The committee included international profes-

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sionals and academics linked to the Congress research lines.

<u>2nd Stage · Jury of Experts</u>
In the second stage, the Jury of Experts, a panel of distinguished international professionals and academics, conducted a holistic comparative assessment of the preselected proposals. The Jury had access to all submitted entries and retained the right to bring back any project from the initial stage for further evaluation.

Given the geographical diversity of the members, the Jury convened via interactive online sessions. Through a series of structured discussions, the Jury progressively refined the selection, ensuring that the chosen works demonstrated conceptual strength, thematic relevance, and innovative design strategies.

1.8. Congress participation formats	

Speakers
Selected works may be presented in formats that foster dialogue, individual lectures, two-speaker conversations, or multi-participant panels, and will be accompanied by images, slides, or video. Sessions will generally be in person, with online participation possible depending on the final programme formats. As the programme develops, the precise structure (format, duration, and number of speakers per session) will be refined to ensure dynamic engagement.

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.

Official Catalogue
Selected works 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.

Digital Proceedings
All selected designs 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/).

Note
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 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".

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2. Critical Image.
Jury Report.

2.1. Evaluation
Commitee

The Secretariat confirmed that 195 proposals, complete and compliant with the formal requirements, were received and made available in full to all members of the Evaluation Commitee in advance of deliberations.

The Evaluation Commitee was composed of:

· Sonia Levy — Associate lecturer in media studies, Royal College of Art
· Romea Muryn — Co-founder and researcher at LOCUMENT
· Zaicks Moz — Visual artist and photographer, founder and creative director at MOS(s)
· Maria Giramé and Pau Sarquella — Architects, UIA2026BCN Curators (one vote shared)

The first evaluation phase took place from 25 June to 15 July 2025. During this period, each evaluator reviewed and shortlisted up to 40 proposals.

Following this process, a coordination meeting was held on 15 July 2025, resulting in a preselection of 65 proposals.

Ref. Code	Title
683d1321489b0	The Mineral Landscape Has a Light Blue Sky
6835dca421fe7	The Great Together
68397c3ee2440	City Unfinished – Voices of El Ermitaño
685296b10d591	All Come From Dust	
683d6b553b62e	Fins ací (it ends here). Paiporta, Valencia, October 29, 2024
6838bd100198d	'Alternative urbanism: self-organising markets of Lagos'
683db42eca61b	The Storm: Architectures of Vernacular Geoengineering
6830acf74b5ca	Images de Tunisie
6830acf74b5ca	Datapolis+:The Materiality of Data
682f633e9db9b	Quito Fragmented
683b4b7922c09	Antropia
6827621fae931	PALIMPSEST: Overwriting architecture
6830ec8fcb9ba	Food Architectures of Marine Cultivation for Ecological Production and Regeneration
6835d043a6553	Converging Alphabets
681a23ff16589	Humanitarian Imaginary
683dc5c136550	The Twilight Zone
683de691a8177	The Inmortal, a reflexion on the Sexto Panteon legacy
683be61136ab5	HOUSE-04: Reviving through Careful Inhabitation
682f0d8ae7b2c	Scrap Oriented Urbanism - Speculative cartography for socio-material urbanism
683dffc36a4eb	The Invisible Hands

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683c896eb35bf	One-Floor / One-Woman : Spatial Implications of Women's Labour
683de06c2eb63	Turning the Ecological Gears
683e019f1b562	Under the Ice
6835e305dc20e	THE ECOLOGY WILL COME AND WELCOME YOU IN IT'S BOSOM.
683c62f8162a1	Decentering Dependence: Tools for Resistance, Belonging and Design
683dc9636cc3f	Tuned Territories: Water, Resistance and Decolonial Architecture
6838348ae2d42	Katahua
67feafe2e5579	Kutch's Living Birdhouses: Community Sanctuaries for Coexistence
6841858698aeb	Cities Undercover: On Architecture in Suspension
6838048e964a8	Documenting Difference
683e1b5e8a192	supra-grounds
683abfacd8dc2	Reviving local games, Reclaiming Public Spaces: Let's Play Initiative Nepal
683e0bbfd1e07	The Scaffolding of Winged Cranes – Bhutanese Highlands
683e0c246ee29	A Pier Re-Appear
681a8628513c0	BOUWAANVRAAG
683ca3937e896	timescapes of material becoming
683ddc52e55e6	islands, chicken coops, a leaf: a story of hippie shelters
683ca33e077c6	TWO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FOOD AND THE CITY (2)
683d2b9f4c825	Insiders: Othered Histories
683e1deacd2e1	The Story of Waste: Cartographies of the Displaced
68258a73920a6	Filters Applied
683d6b0746f62	TIME AND MATTER
6813951e5c5f3	Towards a queer architecture
683deafd886ad	in/phenoma
683dd0398b063	Ecologies of Surveillance: Hacking the Buffer Zone
683dc09ab5d9d	Toward Counterborder Architecture
683e1bc350caa	Shoreline Anatomies
68229fe3b5aa8	Emergent Ecologies of Situated Simultaneity
683cad8c01c46	Blue Uneven. A geography of the ocean
68416562b7c46	Jugaad Gym – an exploration of Jugaad as Spatial Strategy
683dda80be86e	Duet for Posthumans in an Endangered Redwood Forest (Safe Space)
67f65fbdc4736	Subjective Tectonics: Ground
683e1aaf4c8c6	Doggerland Rising: Toward a North Sea Continuum
683e0c2967769	SPEAK TO THE EARTH
683dcc3792cf3	MEDEA: Civic Infrastructures for Reciprocal Passage
683dee87752ee	The Operative Image: Collage as Architectural Thought Beyond Form
6824edbd33b1b	The Incomplete Landscapes on Pedra Branca
681ba7eb6cc05	Speculative Chrono-ruins of Igualada's Cemetery
683d709d76774	"100% Circular", An ambiguous Narrative on Construction Waste
683db32192fbc	Over The Line
683d9a34a47f2	ACT! Citizen
6836c43dc2098	Tapera: Rural Memory and the Architecture of Absence
680928237247e	Fragments of Becoming
683caac4f26a8	Becoming Visible: Collective practice of Black Creative Builders (BCB)
683e09e685e02	Printed Suburban Boards (PSBs)

The preselection aimed to reflect the richness and diversity of the submissions received. The shortlisted works reveal a wide range of perspectives. Together, they provided the foundation for the deliberations of the Jury of Experts in the second evaluation phase.

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2.2 Jury of Experts

The second evaluation phase was conducted by the Jury of Experts between 22 July and 16 September 2025. Each Jury member reviewed and shortlisted up to 30 proposals from the preselected pool.

The Jury of Experts was composed of:

· Giovanna Borasi - Architect, editor and curator. Director of the CCA.
· Louise Lemoine - Filmmaker. Co-founder of Bëka & Lemoine.
· Maxime Delvaux - Architecture photographer.
· Urtzi Grau - Architect and curator. Co-founder of Fake Industries Architectural Agonism
· Maria Giramé and Pau Sarquella — Architects, UIA2026BCN Curators (one vote shared)

A first Jury meeting was held on 9 September 2025 to discuss the shortlisted entries, followed by a final meeting on 16 September 2025, during which the Jury confirmed the selection of 28 finalists.

The Jury Secretariat, represented by Rita Rahme Makrai (Barter Partnership), responsible for the Technical Secretariat appointed by the Congress, acted as Secretary of the Jury.

All documentation and shortlisted proposals were made available to the Jury members in advance, ensuring a transparent and informed review process. After in-depth discussion and the exchange of perspectives and evaluation criteria, the Jury reached a shared consensus and agreed upon a final selection of 28 proposals that best represent the diversity, creativity, and critical spirit of Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition.

2.3. Final Results

After completing the two-stage evaluation process, the Jury of Experts for the Critical Image category reached a shared decision on the final selection of 28 visual works.

The selected entries highlight the image as a space of critical practice, not only a tool for representation, but a medium for observation, speculation, resistance, and storytelling. Submissions spanned a wide range of visual formats, including photography, film, digital collage, archival research, data visualisation, and hybrid media.

Many of the proposals went beyond a single image, emerging from broader research or spatial investigations, where the visual outcome served as part of a longer process. The jury recognised this openness as a distinctive strength of the category, welcoming varied approaches from the poetic to the political. In several cases, the depth of the project behind the image was as significant as the final output.

While some works stood out for their visual impact, others were valued for the critical lens embedded in the project itself. This diversity was seen as an asset by both jury and evaluators, reinforcing the idea of the image as evidence, speculation, or provocation.

The submissions offered situated and often underrepresented perspectives, from material processes and housing struggles to post-colonial geographies and non-human ecologies. Together, they expanded the visual field of architecture and its relation to

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broader planetary conditions.

The jury identified six key qualities in the final selection:

- Narrative strength and critical depth – Many submissions stood out not only for their visual impact but for their ability to articulate urgent architectural, ecological, and social questions through powerful storytelling, often grounded in lived experience, historical memory, or community perspectives.

- Relevance of the research project behind the image – In several cases, the jury valued the broader investigation or process driving the work, even when the final image was modest in form. This openness to different levels of resolution was seen as a strength of the category.

- Diversity of media and experimental approaches – Submissions ranged from documentary photography and film to collage, animation, soundscapes, and speculative visual fiction. The jury welcomed proposals that tested the limits of visual formats and representation.

- Engagement with context and place – Selected works often engaged closely with specific geographies, landscapes, and communities, offering situated perspectives that challenged dominant or extractive narratives.

- Material and atmospheric sensibility – The jury also appreciated works that conveyed a strong tactile or sensorial dimension, from raw matter and construction processes to subtle atmospheres and material transitions.

– Alignment with the theme of Becoming – The selected works resonate with the Congress's conceptual framework, engaging critically with the notion of transformation and transition within one of the six research lines of *Becoming. Architectures for a Planet in Transition.*

Together, the selected works express a renewed understanding of the architectural image, as a space of inquiry, resistance, and imagination. The following 28 projects will be featured in the programme of the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona.

Ref. Code	Title
683d1321489b0	The Mineral Landscape Has a Light Blue Sky
6835dca421fe7	The Great Together
68397c3ee2440	City Unfinished – Voices of El Ermitaño
685296b10d591	All Come From Dust
683d6b553b62e	Fins ací (it ends here). Paiporta, Valencia, October 29, 2024
6838bd100198d	'Alternative urbanism: self-organising markets of Lagos'
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6830acf74b5ca	Datapolis+:The Materiality of Data
682f633e9db9b	Quito Fragmented
683b4b7922c09	Antropia
6827621fae931	PALIMPSEST: Overwriting architecture
6830ec8fcb9ba	Food Architectures of Marine Cultivation for Ecological Production and Regeneration
6835d043a6553	Converging Alphabets

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681a23ff16589	*Humanitarian Imaginary*
683dc5c136550	*The Twilight Zone*
683de691a8177	*The Inmortal, a reflexion on the Sexto Panteon legacy*
683be61136ab5	*HOUSE-04: Reviving through Careful Inhabitation*
682f0d8ae7b2c	*Scrap Oriented Urbanism - Speculative cartography for socio-material urbanism*
683dffc36a4eb	*The Invisible Hands*
683c896eb35bf	*One-Floor / One-Woman : Spatial Implications of Women's Labour*
683de06c2eb63	*Turning the Ecological Gears*
683e019f1b562	*Under the Ice*
6835e305dc20e	*THE ECOLOGY WILL COME AND WELCOME YOU IN IT'S BOSOM.*
683dc9636cc3f	*Tuned Territories: Water, Resistance and Decolonial Architecture*
67feafe2e5579	*Kutch's Living Birdhouses: Community Sanctuaries for Coexistence*
6838048e964a8	*Documenting Difference*
683e1b5e8a192	*supra-grounds*
683abfacd8dc2	*Reviving local games, Reclaiming Public Spaces: Let's Play Initiative Nepal*

In Barcelona, 14 October 2025

Maria Giramé - On behalf of the UIA2026BCN Curatorial Team
Pau Sarquella - On behalf of the UIA2026BCN Curatorial Team
Barter Partnership - Technical Secretariat

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Annex

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The Mineral Landscape Has a Ligth Blue Sky
Marcos Zegers

Quito Fragmented
Materia Estudio

Under the Ice
Michel Kessler and David Oesch

Fins ací (its end here). Paiporta, Valencia, October 29, 2024
Milena Villalba

Tuned Territories: Water, Resistance and Decolonial Architecture
Natalia Figueredo and Victoria Mackenzie

Kutch's Living Birdhouse: Community Sanctuaries for Coexistence
Nipun Prabhakar

Alternative urbanism: self-organising markets of Lagos
Oshinowo Tosin

The Great Togheter
Rocio Calzado and Jasper Meurer. Docar Films

Reviving local games, Reclaiming Public Spaces: Let's Play Initiative
Nepal
Rojita Sharma and Sadichchha Shrestha

Food Architectures of Marine Cultivation for Ecological Production and
Regeneration
Sebastian Carvajal

Watching the Grass Grow: Field Notes
Simone Marcolin

The Twilight Zone
Solam Mkhabela

Turning the Ecological Gears
Sophie Falkeis

All Come From Dust | من طين
Younes Ben Slimane