



Intergenerational Cities

Navigating Urban Lifeworlds between Past and Future

The intergenerational city of the future needs to be accessible, understandable and safe for everybody - including children, youth, the elderly or people with impaired bodily or cognitive abilities. By connecting what we know about the structure and history of cities to insights on how humans of all age groups and skill sets experience and navigate their everyday lifeworld, this symposium contributes to the urgent shift towards walkable and easily navigable, intergenerational environments.

<https://pheno-morphology.com/intergenerational-cities/>

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 Please note that this provisional program might be subject to change!



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Congressi
Stefano Franscini

The intergenerational city emerges as a topical challenge as cities need to shift paradigms towards accessible, walkable and easily navigable neighborhoods. The urbanization of the past century has left us with increasingly complex and technology-laden environments and was relying on an unsustainable growth in mobility. Geared towards able and technologically skillful adults, the city of transportation impaired and even excluded many others. In contrast, the intergenerational city of the future will need to be accessible, understandable and safe for everybody - including children, youth, the elderly or people with impaired bodily or cognitive abilities. So far, much of the research on sustainability, smart growth or walkable neighborhoods has centered on the needs of a selected demographic segment such as the elderly. In contrast, the Intergenerational City considers the needs of all age groups and ability profiles. Furthermore, current approaches tend to focus either on global indicators of sustainability and inclusiveness, or on the micro-scale of projects for intergenerational buildings, leaving aside crucial questions at the meso-scale of neighborhood urban design.

This transdisciplinary symposium addresses the challenge of connecting our knowledge of the spatial structure and history of urban environments to insights on how humans of all age groups and skill sets experience and navigate their everyday lifeworld. While planning disciplines such as urban design and architecture have accumulated operational knowledge on the historical formation, present structure and future potentials of urban environments, fields such as phenomenology, embodied cognition or ecological psychology have investigated the structure and properties of lived human experience. These two strands of research have established similar and overlapping concepts, centering around notions such as “place”, “situation” or “type” and taking a processual view on the historical evolution of interrelations between habituality and spatial structure. Until recently, this important potential of common ground regarding our understanding of intergenerational environments has remained largely unexplored. The symposium addresses the resulting gap between research and practice by bringing together theorists and practitioners from the fields of urban morphology, heritage studies, applied phenomenology, embodied cognition, ecological psychology and affordance theory with protagonists of neighborhood and community projects as well as urban planners and architects involved in the conception of inclusive and sustainable intergenerational environments.

The three-day symposium forms part of the renowned international Congressi Stefano Franscini series and takes place at Monte Verita, a wonderful venue with a rich history of scientific and cultural exchange, situated high above Ascona and the Lago Maggiore.



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Congressi
Stefano Franscini

Wednesday, February 25th, 2026

16:00 *Arrivals and Welcome Drink*

Introduction

- 16:45 CSF Welcome Address
17:00 Prof. Dr. Stefan Kurath, Prof. Dr. Luca Lanini, Dr. Daria Belova, Dr. Erik Norman Dzwiza-Ohlsen, Sylvain Malfroy, Urs Primas: Intergenerational Cities: A conversation
18:00 Keynote by Prof. Dr. Julian Kiverstein (University of Amsterdam)
19:30 *Dinner*

Thursday, February 26th, 2026

Designing for Whom questions assumptions about human needs and human nature underlying architectural and urban design interventions in the light of recent insights from phenomenology, embodied cognition and affordance theory

- 09:00 Prof. Dr. Gernot Weckherlin (Hochschule Anhalt, Dessau)
Man as the measure of all things: A misunderstanding?
High modernist images of man in Ernst Neufert's Bauentwurfslehre and Bauordnungslehre
09:45 Prof. Dr. Rasmus Dyring (Aarhus University)
Ethics of Dwelling and Positive Situation Work in Dementia Care
10:30 *Coffee*
11:00 Dr. Niels Hendriks (LUCA School of Arts, Leuven)
Designing for and with people with dementia: on materiality, the body and the relational
11:45 Francesca Molle (Università di Pisa)
Dwelling Between Transience and Permanence; Spaces Between Private and Public
12:00 Dr. Cristina Roiz de la Parra Solano (Accademia di Architettura, Mendrisio)
Flexible Homes for Intergenerational Cities: Contemporary Lessons from Milan and Barcelona
12:15 Zhihang Lin (Politecnico di Milano)
Transitional Spaces as Intergenerational Encounters



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12:30 *Lunch*

The Scale of the Neighborhood addresses lifeworld interactions at the crucial scale level of the urban fabric: neighborhood streets, public spaces and building patterns.

- 14:30 Prof. Dr. Lesley Palmer (University of Stirling)
Interdisciplinary Justices and how they relate to intergenerational cities
- 15:15 Dr. Daria Belova, Dr. Erik N. Dzwiza-Ohlßen (Husserl Archiv Köln)
Neighbourhoods of Memory
- 16:00 *Coffee*
- 16:30 Dr. Ilaria Geddes (University of Cyprus, Nicosia)
Space syntax and user experience:
Co-presence, social interaction and the need for some loneliness
- 17:15 Prof. Dr. Andréa Holz Pfützenreuter (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis)
Perception of place identity through sensations
- 17:30 Elisa Barsanti (Università di Pisa)
Micro Productive Devices for a Shared City
- 17:45 Andrea Raos (Politecnico di Milano)
La Esperanza: an intergenerational corridor for ecological and social reconnection
- 19:30 *Dinner*



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Friday, February 27th, 2026

Urban Space Across Generations investigates ways in which memory is embodied within urban space and explores the readability of urban configurations across generations.

- 09:00 Prof. Dr. John Schofield (University of York)
Surveying the city's 'ripped backsides': Explorations in contemporary archaeology
- 09:45 David Habets (University of Amsterdam)
Mourning Places
- 10:30 *Coffee*
- 11:00 Prof. Dr. Gabriella Cianciolo Cosentino (Universität zu Köln)
Urban Space, Cultural Memory, and Street Art: WASTA as an Intergenerational Project
- 11:45 Alessandra Basti, Daniel Gallano (Universität zu Köln)
Atmospheric Legacies: A New-Phenomenological Study of Intergenerational Memory in Cologne's Aachener Berg and Kalkberg
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 14:00 Dr. Joe Higgins (University of Northumbria)
Gardens, Parks and Recreation: intergenerational wellbeing through an enactive lens
- 14:15 Stan Pilischenko and Dr. Manuel Steiner (Universität Würzburg)
Narrative Interactions as a Practice of Critical Art of Living:
Intergenerational Coexistence in Urban Space
- 14:30 Swarna Anandha Kumar (Deakin University, Melbourne)
Social circularity for Intergenerational Engagement in Urban Precincts
- 15:00 **Guided Visit to Monte Verità**
- 16:30 *Coffee*
- 17:00 **Future Research on Intergenerational Cities**
Plenum Discussion among all participants
- 19:30 *Social Dinner*



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Saturday, February 28th, 2026

Health Inducing Environments gathers recent insights on the relationships between the properties of architectural and urban space and human well-being and health.

- 09:30 Prof. Dr. Ola Söderström (Université de Neuchâtel)
Co-designing cities for mental health
- 10:15 Prof. Stamatina Kousidi (Politecnico di Milano)
Between Childhood and Care: Mediating Communities and Environments in Modern Architecture
- 11:00 *Coffee*
- 11:30 Dr. Hoda Allahbakhshi (University of Zurich)
Enhancing Inclusive Urban Accessibility and Walkability through Digital Technologies
- 11:45 Milan Ristic (University of Belgrade)
Accessibility Mapping Methodology: Experiences in Urban and Rural Contexts
- 12:00 Kristina Danicic (Politecnico di Milano)
Out of the Woods: Revitalisation project of Sanatorium Brestovac
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 14:00 *Farewell and Departure*



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