Call for students: “Carnival of Civic Space”, Summer School at the World Congress of Architects, Rio 2020

The summer school will run over 13 days in Rio de Janeiro in July 2020 prior to the Union of International Architects (UIA) World Congress. The summer school is arranged by UIA2023Cph “Sustainable Futures - Leave no one behind” in collaboration with the UIA, UIA2020Rio, the UIA Commission on Sustainable Development and Imaginations Cross Cultures.

Our outset is to explore the potential of civic space as driver for better sustainable futures between communities. We will gather a group of tutors and students from all 5 regions of UIA and from various architectural disciplines. Together will we explore the intangible means of space and make a tangible 1:1 installation. Our work will be showcased as an intervention called “Carnival of Civic Space” open to citizens and visitors to the UIA Rio 2020 world congress.

The Carnival of Civic Space

The theme for the UIA Rio 2020 congress is: “All the worlds. Just one world”. The theme for the forthcoming UIA congress in Copenhagen 2023 are: “Sustainable Futures – Leave no one behind”. The summer school will bridge the two congresses objectives with the intervention “Carnival of Civic Space”.

The enjoyment of the public space is a very expressive attribute for Rio de Janeiro. The city has more than 40 miles of urban beaches, free, open and available to its 6.5 million residents and 2.3 million yearly visitors. This natural asset where beaches become incorporated urban living spaces is unique, and an addition to the conventional system of a city’s public spaces. More importantly – it has grown a way of life where social interaction has high appearance and welcomes all layers of society.

The summer school will explore the role of civic spaces as driver for better sustainable futures between communities. We start at the beach and move inland to explore and reimagine sustainable civic spaces for Rio. Who owns public space? What does shared space mean for social cohesion? Are Rio’s public buildings civic spaces with equal access? What influence does the natural wealth of Rio mean for the city? These are some of the questions we will debate at the summer school.

Outset and Output

Our outset is that public space must work harder to engage with civic society. That public space should encourage interaction between people from all layers of society – and that public space is not only urban but also our public buildings. During the summer school will we learn about Rio’s civic challenges and we will explore what larger natural assets means for a city’s social life.

We will then invite the beach inside the city and reimagine the relation between public buildings and their immediate urban realm. We will not work with one specific site. We will work with a generic set of typologies throughout the city to understand neighbourhoods and communities. During the first days will we collectively explore the city and then decide on five intangibles we feel would support a better civic connection between neighbourhoods and their public buildings. We will then in five smaller teams illustrate these five intangibles as physical installations (or perhaps large-scale costumes). Towards the end will we collectively gather our five intangible suggestions for Rio as one collective “Carnival of Civic Space” as an intervention and stage it at the UIA congress venue.
When?
The summer school will run from Saturday 11. July to Thursday 23. July. The first 9 days is the actual workshop followed by 4 days of exhibition/intervention at the UIA Rio 2020 congress.

Where?
We will have a workshop space central in Rio. This space will be our base and where all activities and installation work will be built. The installation work will then move to the UIA conference site the last 4 days workshop which is at Pier Mauá where we will exhibit or perform for citizen and visitors.

Does it cost anything?
Participating in the summer school is free of charge. Students are to pay for their own flight, accommodation and insurance. Installation work materials, sketch materials, talks and walks, handbook and lunch during workshop days are included. Participants are to cover themselves any other expenses beyond this.

Who can apply?
We are searching for students who are openminded, team players and interested in trying new methods. Applicants with specific research or experience working with civic space and/or larger 1:1 physical installation work will be given priority. Eligible applicants should be studying at a school of architecture in one of the UIA member countries. Successful applicants are expected to be fully committed and active participants for the duration of the summer school. The workshop language will be English.

Eligible student applicants should have finished minimum their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year at a school of architecture in a UIA member country.

We will be selecting students based on their motivation letter, experience and aim for a diverse mix of UIA member countries. We will require selected students to submit a written confirmation acknowledging their self-financing of accommodation, travels and insurance during the summer school in Rio together with a proof of enrolment at their home university.

How to apply?
Student applicants should prepare a motivation letter (max. one A4 page) describing their interest and experience with the theme or installation work, CV (max. one A4 page) together with illustration of their own work (max. two A4 pages). Candidates have to demonstrate their fluency in English thought certificates of other information. Only files less than 10MB and emailed in PDF format by the end of Monday 2nd December 2019 to: summerschool_UIA2020_prourb@fau.ufrj.br will be evaluated. Successful applicants will be notified by end of 20th December 2019.

Contact and Questions from Brazilian Architecture students:
Please contact Professor Lúcia Costa PROURB – FAU/UFRJ for any questions by email:

summerschool_UIA2020_prourb@fau.ufrj.br
About

**KUIA2023Cph** - is a non-profit association founded by the Danish Association of Architects to deliver the UIA World Congress in Copenhagen 2023. KUIA2023Cph is the ultimate body behind the UIA 2020 summer school. [https://uia2023cph.org/](https://uia2023cph.org/)

**UIA Rio 2020** - is the organizing committee of UIA World Congress in Rio 2020. UIA Rio 2020 are collaborators of the UIA 2020 summer school. [https://www.uia2020rio.archi/](https://www.uia2020rio.archi/)

**The UIA Commission on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals** - has been set up in 2017 by the UIA. The Commission brings together architects from all over the world with the purpose of collecting, analysing and disseminating knowledge of how architecture and architects can and will contribute to the fulfilment of the Goals. [https://www.uia-architectes.org/webApi/en/working-bodies/sdg](https://www.uia-architectes.org/webApi/en/working-bodies/sdg)

**Imaginations Cross Cultures** - is a non-profit organization to foster greater cross-cultural understanding between young people through co-creation. Imaginations Cross Cultures is the executive organizer and holds the editorial control of the UIA 2020 summer school project and its implementation. [http://www.imaginationscc.org/](http://www.imaginationscc.org/)