

Re - City

Urban Democracy & Radical Care

30 - 31 October 2025

Re-City Conference

Urban Democracy and Radical Care

In the 3rd International Re-City Conference, we focus on the questions of radical care, justice, democracy, and the city. We divide our approach into four partly overlapping themes of **1) the theory and ethics of care in the city 2) urban transformation, 3) social and spatial justice, and 4) urban democracy and activism.**

Radical care means recognizing urban vulnerabilities and carrying collective responsibility with and for our cities by adopting caring and critical approaches and practices. Linking care with democracy highlights how care is crucial for everyday democratic action and vice versa, when aiming to create *care-full* cities and inclusive societies

Organizing team and session chairs

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Anna Kobierska	Antti Wallin

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Theme 01 - Theory and Ethics

Theme 01 explores urban care as a concept and a value. The focus is on feminist and relational ethics of care and care-full cities, but also other related theories and concepts can be discussed. Further, we are interested in what makes care a radical approach and practice in current urban environments.

Theme 01 Index

Urban care as embodied moving together
Elina Alatalo & Working group

RADICAL CARE: KEEPING UP A PALACE FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE
Ruth Baumeister

Visualizing the Care-less City: A Feminist and Rhythmanalytic Reading of City Symphony Phenomenon
Aygen Erol Çakır

Making Care Visible: Infrastructure, and the Public Architecture of Carmen Gil Torres
Aygen Erol Çakır, Ángel Cordero Ampuero & Paula Ruiz Usero

The Subconscious Home
Sara Hayball, Elena Marco, Mike Devereux

Reclaiming the City for Gaia: Terrapolis Planning and the Right to the Urban Planet
Merete Kemppainen

Poetic Dwelling and the Horizon of Meaning: A Heideggerian Perspective on Care for the City
Tuomas Lammi

Between justice and care – a recognition-theoretical approach to justice and ethics in participatory planning
Hanna Mattila & Tiina-Riitta Lappi

Design developer competitions: Local policy as toolbox for the production of ecological architecture
Markus Rönn

Ecological justice and radical care
Nicolette Slagle

Spatializing Rights: Designing Fields of Action for Spatial Justice and Care
Marianna Frangipane & Arianna Scaioli

Urban Anomalies. Fragments of Siena.
Nuria Casais

Capacity building for care-full transformations: findings from an urban experimentation in Helsinki
Elif Erdogan Öztekin & Elisa Lähde

Case Studies in Mass Timber Humanism: Advancing Democratic Values and Care-Oriented Urbanism in Wood
Edward Becker & Sarayu Buchireddygar

Spatializing Rights: Designing Fields of Action for Spatial Justice and Care

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Architecture, often conceived and perceived as a complete, static and neutral object, is a cultural and political act of social control and an expression of hierarchical rituals and relationships (Aureli, 2020). This contribution questions the need to investigate the theme of care, its times and its forms from the point of view of the design discipline. Therefore, emancipatory architecture is actively engaged in reformulating design as a tool for political change, redistributing authorship and empowering marginalized voices in line with feminist materialist perspectives such as Silvia Federici's (2019). Here, the role of architecture is not only to respond to functional or aesthetic needs but also to provoke forms of spatial justice, through acts of care and collective resistance.

Spatializing Rights explores the role of design by pointing out five fields of action that will be explored in a conceptual and design-oriented dimension through some relevant projects:

The Right to Space

The Right to the Everydayness

The Right to be Heard

The Right to Relations

In this sense, these fields of design action propose a renewed reflection on the poetics of space as a possible beacon of "Hope in the dark" (Solnit, 2016).