

IAPEX ARCHITECTURAL FORUM 2025

Urban Horizons: Architecture and the Future of Urban Precincts

Rapid increase in population and urbanization, on an unprecedented scale, across the world, underlines the imperative need for innovative and inclusive strategies in designing and managing urban precincts. This year's IAPEX 2025 theme, **Urban Horizons**, explores the transformative role of architecture in shaping sustainable, resilient, and equitable urban environments. The forum will examine pressing challenges and opportunities arising from land development and urban growth while emphasizing the multidisciplinary and participatory nature of cities. It calls upon architects, planners, urbanists, and community leaders to rethink a future that is truly inclusive, adaptive, and forward-looking.

As Pakistan's cities are expanding rapidly, addressing the complexities of cities and the architects' position in this cosmos has become a pressing concern for 2025 and beyond. Islamabad, a city laid out with careful planning, now struggles with pressures of urban sprawl, environmental degradation, and socio-economic disparity. Urban Horizons is dedicated to exploring the transformative potential of architecture.

The dialogue will also examine the architects' evolving role in urban scenarios. As spatial justice stewards, they hold a privileged position where the gap between policy, design, and community needs can be mediated. Their contribution to the development of cities extends beyond aesthetics, encompassing environmental stewardship, socio-cultural integration, and economic vitality. Through collaboration with allied disciplines, architects can play a pivotal role in forging holistic urban solutions while impacting design, governance and building control initiatives.

Recognizing the multidisciplinary nature of the subject, Urban Horizons emphasizes the importance of participatory and collaborative approaches towards solutions. The problems faced by Pakistan's cities range from informal settlements and inequitable resource distribution to environmental vulnerabilities that call for responses rooted in sociology, ecology, engineering, and governance. This will be a platform for encouraging cross disciplinary collaboration, showing how diverse and varied expertise can come together to create holistic and inclusive urban solutions.

Urban Horizons offers a platform to critically interrogate and reconceptualize the future of urban precincts. It seeks to catalyze actionable frameworks toward the creation of inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable urban environments while reaffirming architecture's critical role in shaping the cities of tomorrow.

It is with this foresight in mind that Urban Horizons aspires to encourage dialogue, forge partnerships, and create actionable ideas toward reshaping urban precincts in Pakistan, while placing Islamabad as the vortex of discourse on an exemplary model city: poised for balanced, inclusive, and future-readied urban development. The conference will thus set a roadmap toward Sustainable Urbanism in Pakistan and beyond.

We welcome papers and presentations addressing the following questions

The Architect's Role in Urban Transformation

How can architects redefine their role in shaping sustainable and equitable urban precincts, addressing the gaps between policy, design, and community needs in rapidly urbanizing cities like Islamabad?

Multidisciplinary Collaboration for Holistic Urban Design

What models of cross-disciplinary collaboration can be developed to tackle the multifaceted challenges of urban growth, such as informal settlements, environmental degradation, and socio-economic disparity?

Participatory Urban Design and Spatial Justice

How can participatory design practices empower communities, particularly marginalized groups, to contribute to spatial justice and inclusivity in urban precincts?

Urban Futures and Sustainable Urbanism

What strategies can architects adopt to envision future-ready cities that address the pressures of urban sprawl, climate change, and resource constraints while ensuring socio-cultural and economic vitality?

Contextual Responses to Urban Challenges

How can Pakistani cities like Islamabad develop innovative yet context-sensitive responses to urbanization, drawing upon local socio-cultural, ecological, and economic realities?

Architecture's Role in Governance and Policy Advocacy

What actionable frameworks can architects and urban designers develop to influence governance, building control, and policy initiatives toward creating more resilient and adaptive urban environments?

The following broad-spectrum domains can guide the direction of papers.

Architectural Advocacy	Placemaking Strategies
Contextual Design	Participatory Design
Sustainable Urbanism	Cultural Identity
Public Spaces	Multidisciplinary Collaboration
Urban Resilience	Smart Cities
Spatial Justice	Community Empowerment
Ecological Architecture	Climate Adaptation

SUBMISSION TIMELINE FOR THE CALL FOR PAPER

Abstract Submission Deadline: 8 January 2025
Notification of Acceptance: 12 January 2025
Full Paper Submission Deadline: 20 January 2025
Conference Dates: 8 & 9 February 2025
Submissions should specify the chosen domain.

FORMAT FOR ABSTRACT

Title of Paper/Presentation

Abstract [No more than 200 words]

Keywords: 3

**ALL SUBMISSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO THE
IAPEX FORUM 2024, BE DIRECTED TO**

Ar. Rweeda Himayat, Convener Forum
Ar. Sannah Ejaz, Convener Forum
Ar. Nimraz Qazi, Co-Convener Forum