



**WISE CITY – theory and practice**  
**URBANITY < ARCHITECTURE < NATURE**  
**13–14 October 2025**

**19th**

**INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE**

organised by

THE CHAIR OF URBANISM AND CITY STRUCTURE ARCHITECTURE A-9  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE OF THE CRACOW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

and

THE URBAN PLANNING SECTION OF THE URBAN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE COMMISSION  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES KRAKOW BRANCH

under the patronage of

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The city is the natural habitat of contemporary humans. Designing and planning the urban and architectural space of a city is a great responsibility. It extends far beyond structural measures, addressing many of the interdisciplinary themes that we have discussed in a series of international, Krakow-based conferences over the past twenty years:

- **City Within the City** 14–15 May 2004.
- **Public Space of Contemporary City** 17–18 November 2005.
- **Living in the City** 25–26 May 2007
- **The Heart of the City** 26–27 October 2008
- **Public Space in the Housing Environment Within the City** 08–09 October 2010
- **Future of the City – City of the Future** 20–21 April 2012
- **Future of the Cities – Cities of the Future** 23–24 May 2014
- **11th CTV CONGRESS – Back to the Sense of the City** 06–08 July 2016, jointly organised by the WPK Institute of Urban Design and the Center of Land Policy & Valuation ETSAB Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Barcelona
- **Urban Composition of Resilient City** online 25–26 March 2021
- **Wise City – Theory and Practice** Krakow and online 12–13 May 2023
- **Wise City – Theory and Practice: Challenges in the face of Crisis** Kraków and on-line 23–24 May 2024

We are approaching yet another international conference on the problems of the contemporary city, organised in accordance with a long-standing tradition by academic and research staff originating from the former Institute of Urban Design, continued by a team from the Chair of Urbanism and City Structure Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, Cracow University of Technology.

In 2023, we started a new thematic series, addressing the theme of the *Wise City* – in theory and practice. In the face of the many challenges of modern times, such as military crises, demographic shifts, mass migration or the global climate crisis, cities continue to undergo more or less controlled transformation. This year's conference addresses the need to seek solutions to many aspects of the operation and design of the contemporary city. It is also about redefining the basic concepts of urban planning in view of the aforementioned dynamic changes that cities, urban functional areas and metropolises undergo.

The *Wise City*, as a concept for the development of urban structures that combines sustainable development guidelines with inclusive social policies, places the well-being of all city users at the forefront. Sensitisation to human needs thus means a pursuit of means of inclusive urban transformation. Is polycentricity the answer to the challenges of a compact city, a city of short distances, where sustainable transport provides convenient connections? What is the answer to contemporary phenomena such as exurbanisation or urban shrinkage? How should contemporary spatial policies and planning instruments be shaped? What about the restoration of damaged areas and the reuse of previously developed land in the face of sustainability and the circular economy? What role can urban composition and landmark buildings play in it? The Architecture of the City? How do we plan and design residential architecture, which is a fundamental part of the urban fabric?

Against this background, the fragile balance between the urban, architectural and natural structure of cities, urban functional areas and metropolises needs to be re-examined. Or perhaps even redefined. Towards which model of the city are we heading? The need to protect the environment and preserve the most valuable natural resources can also be implemented in urbanised areas. At the same time, we are also dealing with increasingly unpredictable, violent natural disasters that particularly affect areas that have been transformed by humans, including cities. How do we counter these threats effectively?

The vision of the *Wise City*, as a city able to meet these challenges and adapt to changing socio-environmental needs, is therefore invariably the guiding principle of the conference series.

**During this year's edition of the conference, we ask questions about the essence of the wise city in the context of current phenomena in urban space. They revolve around the themes of: How do we understand the idea of the 'wise city' in opposition to the concept of the 'smart city'? Is the 'wise city' about skilfully balancing social, environmental and technological needs, while the 'smart city' focuses mainly on optimising processes through technology? To what degree does this distinction shape our thinking about the future of cities?**

1

How to redefine basic urban concepts in the face of **new patterns of mobility, hybrid employment and the sharing economy**? How can polycentricity of urban structures **go beyond the traditional understanding of service centres to become a mechanism for building local communities and reducing transport needs**? How do we use **technology as a tool to support a city's development while maintaining its social character**?

2

In what way can the architecture of a 21st-century city answer the need for **adaptability and energy transition of buildings**? How to ensure that **urban structures are able to evolve alongside changing user needs, while respecting the principles of the circular economy**? What role should strong forms and buildings-symbols play so that **they both form place-based identity and catalyse positive social and environmental change**? And finally, how to shape the **beauty** of a contemporary city?

3

How is the role of nature in the city changing – **from a system of green spaces to a concept of integrated natural infrastructure, combining climate, production (urban farming) and social functions**? To what extent **can urban biodiversity be an indicator of urban resilience** and how to view nature in the city **through the prism of its multidimensional impact on the quality of life of residents**?"

4

**How to effectively combine the achievements of classical urban planning with modern analytical and design methods? How can the parameterisation and modelling of urban phenomena support sound design and planning decisions without becoming an end in itself?**

## THEMATIC SESSIONS

We propose the following thematic blocks as the main areas of discussion:

### URBANISM

- The form of the contemporary city in the face of changing social needs and new mobility paradigms
- Reconstruction, revitalisation, regeneration – the impact of crisis risks on urban transformation
- Growth and de-growth – two faces of contemporary urbanisation processes
- City, urban functional area, metropolis – a redefinition of terms
- Legal instruments and urban policies in the shaping of urban space in Poland and around the world
- *Polycentricity* and *monocentricity* of urban layouts – what is the image of the contemporary city?

### ARCHITECTURE

- *Architecture of the City (L'architettura della città)* - a retrospective
- *Strong forms* and *landmarks* as catalysts for change
- Contemporary residential architecture – individualism or prefabrication?
- Heritage as a basis for the development of urban structures – inspiration and creative continuity (in the context of the circular economy)
- Heritage – protection, adaptation and reconstruction

### NATURE AND CLIMATE

- Functional and spatial structure of the city in the face of climate challenges – urban planning measures, architectural and infrastructural solutions
- Shaping blue-green infrastructure – recreation and protection
- Interventions in areas under threat – how to protect urbanised areas from the effects of natural disasters?
- Protected areas and historic sites – courses of action in the context of climate change
- Nature in the city – our ally or enemy?
- Positive Energy Districts as a way of mitigating climate change locally

### ANALYTICAL METHODS AND TOOLS IN URBAN PLANNING

- Advanced methods of spatial analysis in the diagnosis and design of urban structures
- Big data and urban sensing in urban user behaviour research
- Parametric modelling in the urban design process
- Digital twins of cities as a planning and management tool
- GIS and spatial information systems in urban analysis
- AI tools in diagnostics and forecasting the development of urban structures
- Machine learning methods in the analysis of space use patterns
- Using social media and mobile phone data in urban research

## **KEY DATES AND DEADLINES:**

**15.02.2025** - CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT - ANNOUNCEMENT I OF THE 19TH IAC

**10.04.2025** - ANNOUNCEMENT II

**27.05.2025** - SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS WITH ABSTRACTS

**16.06.2025** - ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**30.06.2025** - PAYMENT OF THE CONFERENCE FEE (PROOF OF TRANSFER SUBMISSION)

**25.09.2025** - ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**30.09.2025** - SUBMISSION OF PRESENTATIONS (\*.pdf)

**13-14.10.2025** - HYBRID CONFERENCE, ON-CAMPUS IN KRAKOW AND ONLINE

## **FEES:**

**700 PLN** - CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR ONLINE WITH A PRESENTATION

**350 PLN** - CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE ON-CAMPUS OR ONLINE WITHOUT A PRESENTATION, STUDENT FEE WITH A PRESENTATION IN THE STUDENT SESSION (ALSO INCLUDES DOCTORAL STUDENTS).

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**PRESENTATION:** Multimedia presentation in .pdf or Power Point format, Presentation length: 10 min. Key speaker presentations: 20 min.

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