Call for students:

‘Carnival of Civic Space’, UIA Summer School at the World Congress of Architects, Rio 2020

The UIA 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 partnership with the UIA2020Rio, UIA 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. Towards the end will we collectively gather our five intangible suggestions for Rio as one collective intervention and stage it at the UIA congress venue.
When, where and cost?

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 and intervention at the UIA Rio 2020 congress.

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 at Pier Mauá where we will showcase the work.

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 provided. 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. Eligible applicants should be studying at a school of architecture in one of the UIA member countries and have finished minimum their 2nd year at a school of architecture. Applicants with specific experience working with civic space and/or larger 1:1 physical installation work will be given priority. Successful applicants are expected to be fully committed and active participants for the duration of the summer school. The workshop language will be English.

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, and 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). Only files less than 10MB and emailed in PDF format by the end of Monday 3rd February 2020 to: amg@imaginationscc.org will be evaluated. Successful applicants will be notified by end of February 2020.

Please contact Imaginations for any questions by email: amg@imaginationscc.org

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/

UIA Rio 2020 - is the organizing committee of UIA World Congress in Rio 2020. UIA Rio 2020 are the host city partner of the UIA 2020 summer school. https://www.uia2020rio.archi/

Imaginations Cross Cultures - is a non-profit association 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. https://www.galmstrup.com/rio-2020