# REGIONAL DESIGN

## Online Conference | 2nd of October 2020

on Regional Design: A Transformative Approach to Planning
by AESOP Thematic Group on REGIONAL DESIGN
Part of the Shaping Regional Futures Conference Series 2020

**The AESOP Thematic Group Regional Design invites to the online conference "Regional Design: A Transformative Approach to Planning" – as part of the Shaping Regional Futures Conference Series 2020.**

The conference "Regional Design: A Transformative Approach to Planning" brings together empirical research and theoretical reflections on spatial visioning and regional design-led planning practices. Its main aim is a deeper understanding of how these practices contribute to emerging transformative and adaptive planning approaches and to resilient regional spatial development.

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| **Host of the conference** | University of Florence, Department of Architecture |
| **Organizing Committee** | **Valeria Lingua**, University of Florence<br>**Verena Elisabeth Balz**, TU Delft, B-TU Cottbus-Senftenberg<br>**Agnes Förster**, RWTH Aachen University<br>**Cristina Cavaco**, University of Lisbon |
| **Co-organizers** | Joao Pedro Costa, University of Lisbon<br>Giuseppe de Luca, University of Florence<br>Carlo Pisano, University of Florence<br>Alain Thierstein, Technical University of Munich<br>Wil Zonneveld, Delft University of Technology |

Objectives of the conference

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| **Understanding regional design in the context of transformative/adaptive planning approaches** | Attention to critical issues such as urban sprawl, climate change, and growing socio-economic disparities – all affecting areas that comply with neither fixed administrative boundaries nor traditional government-led jurisdictions – has triggered demands for new, more transformative, soft and adaptive planning approaches. Spatial visioning and regional design-led planning practices have been gaining momentum worldwide in this context. Practices involve knowledge about spatial particularities to foster tailored place-based spatial solutions while also envisioning the position of places in wider, regional settings and mediating between views in often contested multi-actor settings. A first objective of the conference a more sophisticated understanding of the performance of regional design in the realm of emerging modes of regional spatial planning and of the processes that support their institutionalization. |
| **Spatial planning for resilience - learning from the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic** | The advancement of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic renders regions as important planning arenas for the provision of basic needs, the organization of daily life, and the safeguarding of a resilient economic base. It also underlines that regional spatial development requires strategies that address social, economic, political and societal change coherently. The conference will raise questions concerning the pandemic's assumed effects, and how these reinforced or disrupted prevailing regional spatial development, planning, and governance. |
| **Preparing a special issue on "Regional Design: A Transformative Approach to Planning"** | The AESOP Thematic Group Regional Design currently prepares a special issue on "Regional Design: A Transformative Approach to Planning" @ Planning Practice and Research. Extended abstracts presented during sessions of the conference will be considered for publication in this issue. |

| **Date** | 2 October 2020, 10:00 - 17:00 |
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| **Location** | The conference will be held as an online-conference. Participation in the conference is free. More information on how to participate can be found on this website (click to follow link). |

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## Conference Program

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| 10:00-10:10 | Reception of participants | |
| **10:10-10.30** | **Welcome** | *Giuseppe de Luca, University of Florence;* |
| **10:30-10:50** | **Introduction: Regional design as a transformative planning approach** | *Maroš Finka, AESOP President; Vicent Nadin*, Editor-in-Chief Planning Practice & Research* |
| 10:50-11:00 | Short break | |
| **11:00-13:00** | **Parallel sessions** | *Moderators:* |

| S1 | S2 | S3 |
|---|---|---|
| Roles of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning | Tools and instruments / ways to involve spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning processes | Roles of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning / governance and actor constellations |

*Moderators: Alain Thierstein, Technical University of Munich; Agnes Förster, RWTH Aachen University; Valeria Lingua, University of Florence*

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| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch Break | |
| **14:00-16:00** | **Parallel sessions** | |

| S4 | S5 | S6 |
|---|---|---|
| Performance of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning | Tools and instruments in design-led approaches / visualisation and communication | Regional spatial planning and design in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic |

*Moderators: Verena Balz*, Delft University of Technology; Wil Zonneveld, Delft University of Technology; Joao Pedro Costa, University of Lisbon*

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| 16:00-16:10 | Short break | |
| **16:10-17:00** | **Discussion + Conclusions** | *Moderator: Verena Balz, Delft University of Technology; Discussants: Cristina Cavaco, University of Lisbon; Maroš Finka, Slovak University of Technology; Nina Alaily-Mattar, Technical University of Munich; Vincent Nadin, Delft University of Technology* |
| 17:00 | End of the conference | |

*\* to be confirmed*

## Session 1
**Roles of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning**
*Moderator*
*Alain Thierstein, Technical University of Munich*

**Planning by visions? – Ambivalences of regional design between promising images and reductionist restrictions**
Jörg Knieling, Hafen City University Hamburg (HCU), Hamburg, Germany

**Directed leverage vs. the big image – Comparing five approaches for designing regional strategies in transformative environments**
Timo Matti Wirth, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany
Sven Stremke, Wageningen University and Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands

**Regional design in China: Jiangnan Park as an exploratory case**
Christian Nolf, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Xi'An Jiaotong - Liverpool University, Jiangnan Lab, Suzhou, China
Yuting Xie, Institute of Landscape Architecture, Zhejiang University/Jiangnan Lab/China Urban Landscape Lab, Technical University of Munich, China/ Germany

**The option after life for citizens in a hyper aging society and land-use mangement: A case study of Thailand's central area**
Siriporn Dansakun, Silpakorn University, Bankok, Thailand
Phirakarn Dumluck, Silpakorn University, Bankok, Thailand

## Session 2
**Tools and instruments / ways to involve spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning processes**
*Moderator:*
*Agnes Förster, RWTH Aachen University*

**From territorial capital to a decision support framework for regional design: A multidimensional model for territorial analysis and scenario building evaluation**
Francesco Orsi, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon School of Architecture, Lisbon, Portugal
Cristina Cavaco, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon School of Architecture, CIAUD, Lisbon, Portugal
Jorge Gil, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Division of Urban Design and Planning, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden

**Introducing a new planning framework for identifying and measuring cross-border regional metropolitan functions, territorially and relationally**
Ahmed Bakry, Institute of Geography, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany

**Pathscapes. Designing Munich's green belt**
Henrik Schultz, Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, Osnabrück, Germany

**Application of form-based codes in regional design: Proposing a conceptual model**
Maryam Mohammadi, University of Art Tehran, Tehran, Iran
Faezeh Behnamifard, Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST), Tehran, Iran

**Highlighting pedestrian equity considerations using walkability space syntax: A case from suburb in India**
Rahul Tiwari, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, India
Yogesh K. Garg, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT),

Bhopal, India
Anjali Gupta, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, India
Vedankur S. Kedar, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, India

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**Session 3**
**Roles of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning / governance and actor constellations**
*Moderator:*
*Valeria Lingua, University of Florence*

**Planning/design relations and adaptive governance**
Kristof Van Assche, Planning, Governance & Development Department of Earth & Atmospheric Science, University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada

**Assembling the urban: An actor-relational perspective on spatial strategy-making for 'urban regions'**
Vladyslav Tyminskyi, Institute of Urban Planning and Design, University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany

**Strategic spatial planning and university involvement: Challenges from Italian and Lebanese experiences**
Rozana Darwich, University Paris Sorbonne/Lebanese University, Paris/Beirut, France/Lebanon
Antonio Raciti, Urban Planning and Community Development Program, School for the Environment, UMass Boston, Boston, US

**Without strings attached? – Practitioners in regional design in juxtaposition to students of regional design?**
Markus Weinig, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany
Nina Alaily-Mattar, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany
Alain Thierstein, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany

**Water as Leverage' - A transformative design-led approach to urban flood resilience in Asia**
Annet Kempenaar, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), Groningen, The Netherlands
Naim Laeni, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), Groningen, The Netherlands
Margo van den Brink, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), Groningen, The Netherlands
Tim Busscher, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), Groningen, The Netherlands

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**Session 4**
**Performance of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning**
*Moderator:*
*Verena Balz\*, Delft University of Technology*

**REVIERa – Setting up a regional platform as an instrument to enhance reflexivity and coherence in the transformation of the Rhenish mining area, Germany**
Agnes Förster, Chair of Planning Theory & Urban Development, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany
Eva Strobel, Chair of Planning Theory & Urban Development, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany

**The impact of regional design on river agreements: The case of the Ombrone river in Tuscany**
Carlo Pisano, University of Florence, Florence, Italy
Valeria Lingua, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

**Challenges and requirements for regional design in phasing out coal mining regions – The case of Lusatia, Germany**

Antje Matern, Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Interdisciplinary Centre for Ecological and Revitalizing Urban Transformation (IZS), Dresden, Germany

Robert Knippschild, Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Interdisciplinary Centre for Ecological and Revitalizing Urban Transformation (IZS), Dresden, Germany

Jessica Theuner, Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Interdisciplinary Centre for Ecological and Revitalizing Urban Transformation (IZS), Dresden, Germany

**Clusters of specialized activities, peri-urban spaces and regional design: Bologna Metropolitan City between continuity and urban planning innovation**

Giulia Fini, Department of Architecture and Urban Planning (DAStU), Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy

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**Session 5**
**Tools and instruments in design-led approaches / visualisation and communication**
*Moderator:*
*Wil Zonneveld, Delft University of Technology*

**Chasing dreams: How to scientifically observe and document the emergence of regional doctrines**

Terry van Dijk, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), Groningen, The Netherlands

**Landscape regionalism: Sketching Auckland as a resilient city-region**

Dushko Bogunovich, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand
Matthew Bradbury, Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand
Lucia Camargos Melchiors, Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand
Xinxin Wang, Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

**Rehabilitating utopias: The importance of imagination to confronting our spatial challenges**

Joey Koning, Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen, The Netherlands
Terry van Dijk, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), Groningen, The Netherlands

**Regional design as means to territorialise urban metabolism: Growing insulation material in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area**

Cecilia Furlan, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands
Alexander Wandl, Department of Urbanism, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands
Arjan van Timmeren, Department of Urbanism, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

**The physical model in landscape architecture: A tool for interaction from traditional solution to digital and new materials**

Olimpia Galatolo, Department of Architecture, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

**Session 6**
**Regional spatial planning and design in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic**
*Moderator:*
*Joao Pedro Costa,*
*University of Lisbon*

**European responses to the urban crisis generated by COVID-19: The role of regional planning**
Elena Tarsi, Centro de Estudos Sociais, Coimbra, Portugal
Maria Rita Gisotti, DIDA –Università di Firenze, Florence, Italy

**A critical perspective on the Veneto region-fostered regeneration of former military sites: The redevelopment of Maset barracks in Codognè (Treviso province) as an opportunity to deal with post-pandemic spatial development patterns**
Federico Camerin, ETSAV, UVA de Valladolid/Fakultät Architektur und Urbanistik, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Valladolid/Weimar, Spain/Germany

**Critical social innovation in regional design**
Camilo Vladimir de Lima Amaral, Universidade Federal de Goias, Goiânia, Brazil

**Time to return to earth: A required shift in regional design after SARS-CoV-2 pandemic**
Rebeca Merino del Río, University of Seville/University of Florence, Seville/Florence, Spain/Italy

**Call for papers**

Spatial planning approaches have changed over the last decade. Major shifts in the institutional architecture of planning schemes has occurred: plan-led planning approaches – characterized by fixed administrative boundaries, statutory frameworks, and paternalistic forms of government – have turned into development-led approaches, in which soft planning follows and facilitates development proposals by market actors and the civil society at large. Dilemmas that are triggered by an accumulation of competing spatial claims – often due to highly urgent climate mitigation and adaptation measures – and a coupling of structural social, economic and political change have resulted in a greater appreciation of adaptive spatial planning approaches. Such approaches involve knowledge about particular areas, place-based community-led initiatives, tailored temporary governance arrangements and more transformative perceptions of natural, metabolistic and evolutionary spatial change. In a context of uncertainty, contentiousness and complexity, they aim at unlocking greater and timelier societal responses to problems in the built environment while maintaining robust, long-term planning rationales at the same time.

Observations of the emerging softer, more adaptive or flexible modes of spatial planning indicate that they give a more important role to spatial visioning and spatial design. The changes described above seem to have inspired more iterative and reflexive planning processes that are characterized by normative and persuasive agenda-setting approaches, often involving a variety of knowledge repertoires and many actors. Spatial analysis, the imagination of spatial metaphors and the 'art' of making spatial representations have emerged as respected tools in capacity and consensus building in the deliberative, interactive multi-actor settings that flexible planning modes imply. In various countries, design-led approaches became more intimately related to regional spatial planning. Regional design - as an explorative search for spatial solutions to problems at high levels of scale, emerged as a distinctive discipline that contributes to uncovering the mechanisms of regional spatial development, mediating the divisions and conflicting rationales that are caused by mismatches between spatial ranges and administrative boundaries, and encouraging local action while also supporting the coordination of such action across multiple and multi-scalar territories.  Also, last but not least, it enhances the legitimacy and accountability of planning, linking the very different types of societal and civil actions that occur at different scales. However, while expectations of the performance of design-led approaches rise, their role in planning remains under-defined and the evaluation of their performance lacks empirical evidence.

The proposed special issue intends to gather contributions that critically discuss the impact that regional design has on regional governance and spatial planning at the regional and metropolitan level. Editors of the issue will in particular appreciate investigations of design-led approaches in a context of 'soft', 'adaptive' or 'flexible' spatial planning.  Such investigations elaborate how design-led approaches challenge spatial planning policies and practices that are anchored in rigid administrative boundaries, and on how spatial visioning and design contribute to defining and redefining territorial entities and actor networks. The main aim of the special issue is a more sophisticated understanding of the performance of regional design in the realm of emerging modes of regional spatial planning and of the processes that support their institutionalization. We invite proposals that take-up this broad intellectual and practical challenge while also considering more than one of the more detailed points below:

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| **Regional spatial planning in a context of social, economic, political and societal change** | Re-)conceptualisations of regional spatial planning with particular attention to theoretical notions of 'soft', 'adaptive' and 'flexible' modes of planning; the relation with contemporary dynamics of social, economic, political and societal change. |
| **Roles of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning** | Theoretically founded and/or empirically observed relations between design-led approaches and regional spatial planning, with particular attention to the position of design in planning procedures, governance and actor constellations, and/or wider spatial and institutional settings. Considerations emphasize on design thinking as an approach to the resolution of wicked problems that occur in complex spatial settings and territories while acknowledging disparities in e.g. the distribution of spatial resources or power. |
| **Performance of spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning** | Evidence of the impact of design-led approaches on regional spatial planning, expressed in for instance new allocations of resources, actor constellations, frames of reference, and/or fields of action; with particular attention to the role of spatial design in mediating between statutory and soft planning modes and frameworks, processes of governance rescaling and new territorial arrangements. |
| **Tools and instruments in design-led approaches to regional spatial planning** | New tools and instruments in regional spatial analysis, for instance concerning use of (big) data, and real-time modelling; elaboration of visualisation and communication techniques in design-led approaches; ways to involve spatial design and visioning in regional spatial planning processes such as design studios, international exhibitions, and design competitions. |
| **Teaching regional spatial planning and design** | Elaborations of transdisciplinary educational formats that involve learning about design and regional spatial planning. |
| **Regional spatial planning and design in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic** | As the recent coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 pandemic spreads across cities, regions and countries, it highlights the very misalignment between political-administrative jurisdictions and the real geographies of spatial development patterns. The fall-out of the pandemic seems to support localism on the one hand; it raises questions about the necessity for commuting, or the reliance of regional economies on global supply-chains for instance. Fall-out illustrates a need for coordination across administrations on the other hand. Emerging mechanisms in the distribution of health equipment or economic support render the costs of non-coordination on a daily base. The team of editors recognizes that a deep and thorough analysis of recent development is barely achievable within the time frame set for the special issue. It however welcomes contributions that use evidence triggered by the crisis to reflect on the roles of spatial planning, regional design and visioning in an alignment between jurisdictions and geographies |