



## Call for Papers

# Reimagining Public Spaces and Built Environments in the Post-pandemic World

## Convenors

Paul Messenger, University of Alberta  
Kishwar Habib, University of Alberta  
Vivian Manasc, Reimagine Architects  
Eleni Stroulia, AI4Society – University of Alberta

## Call for Papers Timeline

Abstract (Proposal) Submission Deadline: **September 20, 2021**  
Notification of Abstract (Proposal) Acceptance: **September 30, 2021**  
Full Paper Due: **December 01, 2021**  
Symposium Presentation: **December 10-11, 2021**  
Revision of Paper Submission for Edited Book: June 2022  
Publication: December 2022

## Introduction

Don't Let Another Crisis Go to Waste – Cities are shaped by the aftermath of various crises. History of the pandemic shows how urban life and the built environment have been rehabilitated as a result of crisis / disasters and cure/ prevention measures from chronic diseases. In reverberation we saw reimagining public spaces and built environments by embracing new socio-spatial concepts, design, policies, and practices.

As the COVID-19 pandemic crisis hits, a shift of paradigm now demands for reshaping our (in)tangible spatial layouts from micro to macro level, apart from the 'new normal' of social distancing guidelines and public health measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. We have seen, the movement of the people as well as social contact have been reduced considerably by transformation and/or imposing restrictions on the use of public spaces often with law-enforced stay-at-home order. As this crisis in global health and restricted social interaction poses challenges, many places are leveraging the communication technologies to be connected virtually online. Meanwhile, as we depended vastly on technology, the need to connect to the outdoors and accessibility to the neighbourhood park became evident/vital for our mental health and well-being. Parks, urban voids-green space seem to be the safest places to venture while maintaining social distancing. In many parts of the world, we also have seen balconies, terraces become a place for refuge to connect with the public and outdoor urban environment. To enhance the quality of public space, cities around the globe initiated tactical urbanism and/or temporality- by modifying, closing, widening streets for the pedestrians, bike lanes to provide more room for the sanity of the common ground.

From planning to design, as observed the challenge arises more on demand inclination towards resilient planning and suggests a need for re-evaluating spatial settings for the emergent need of the new practice. As we are in the second year of the pandemic, the call for the symposium 'Reimagining Public Spaces and Built Environments in the Post-pandemic World' seeks submissions that addresses the post pandemic challenges in the public space and built environment as a means to reimagining a novel urban paradigm for socio-spatial conceptions of designing equitable and healthy communities. The primary objective of this conference is to analysis the ongoing (post) pandemic crisis, spatial settings and everyday users' experience, and lessons learned for designing, building, and managing public space and built environment. The second overarching objective is to contribute to the discourse of public space and built environment in generating knowledge that responds to emerging questions about post pandemic future consideration, policies, and practices.

## Recommended Topics

Submissions can be centred on a specific case(s) or a geographic location and should engage the built environment. The full paper proposals can be forward-looking and more theoretical, however, should still be rooted in evidence-based and empirical observation, and could engage a combination of methods i.e., literature reviews, empirical studies, historical research, or interviews. We invite authors across the world and from a wide range of disciplines, to submit research articles that may include, but are not restricted / limited to the following topics:

1. Public Space and Urban Built Environment
2. Tactical Urbanism and Temporality
3. Smart Cities and Artificial Intelligence
4. Designing Built Environments and Hybrid Remote Space
5. (In)formal Public Space
6. Engaging Community and Participation
7. Connection with Nature for Mental Health and Wellness
8. Future of Post Pandemic Public Space and Disaster Preparedness

## Key Dates and Submission Information

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit on or before **September 20, 2021**, a chapter proposal abstract of 250 words clearly explaining the mission and concerns of her or his proposed chapter. The author(s) should also submit a proposed chapter title, five key words best suited to their topic and short bio (100 words maximum). The abstract (proposal) should be submitted via <https://ai4society.ca/post-pandemic-world/>

Authors will be notified by September 30, 2021 about the status of their abstract (proposal). Full paper is due by **December 01, 2021**. For inquiries: [kishwar1@ualberta.ca](mailto:kishwar1@ualberta.ca) Please note there are no submission or acceptance fees for manuscripts submitted to this symposium and book publication.

