

deadline for  
abstract  
submissions

**APRIL  
24  
2024**

... but, who are we  
building for?

**OPEN  
CALL**

for publication  
contributors.

Edited by:

 **BUILDING  
DIVERSITY**

Published by:

**DANISH  
ARCHITECTURAL  
PRESS** ARKITEKTENS  
FORLAG



## INTRODUCTION

... *but, who are we building for?* is the second publication, following *who is the architect?* published in 2023, as part of a series of publications initiated by Building Diversity. The series seek to explore, discuss and unfold diversity and equality in architecture — past, present and future. We are hereby inviting everyone who is interested in taking part, to submit an abstract for contribution.

## THEME

Architecture affects everyone and everything. Historically, it has served — and still does — as a potent tool for power, capable of establishing, limiting and distributing different forms of dominance, control and exclusion. Architecture also tends to reflect societal values, ideologies, measuring systems and building standards. It therefore also has the capacity for care and inclusion, but sometimes established power structures and blindspots create obstacles, by not taking into account multiple diverse needs and the many ways of being in the world. And it is not only humans who are affected by architecture — the biosphere, multispecies, biodiversity, microbes; everything has been and still is being impacted by architecture. The increased implications are shedding light on numerous social and environmental challenges, so we ask the question; ...*but, who are we building for?*. A question that aims to discuss, investigate, suggest and challenge existing narratives and structures, not just about the architecture itself — but everything and everyone it influences.

This second publication takes off from the question of *who is the architect?* and pivots towards the more profound inquiry; ... *but, who are we building for?*. Shifting the focus from the creators and curators of the built environment to its inhabitants — temporary or permanent, human or non-human, with the intention of exploring for whom cities, buildings, spaces and infrastructure is created, the underlying power structures, the discrimination that occurs through design, and on the other hand the opportunities of creating more inclusive and diverse environments.

## WHO IS “WE”? AND WHAT IS “BUILDING”?

The intention from the editors is to use the term “we” as a broad category of perspectives, not solely professions related directly to architecture, but instead inviting a broad spectrum of voices. Within the use of a universal “we”, we acknowledge geographical, cultural, financial, political and other differences, which has an impact on the understanding of how “we” is interpreted. The intention is that the use of “we” can emphasise the aim for more unity across differences while respecting and celebrating the diversity of contexts. The term “building” recalls the name of Building Diversity and it is intended as an active and broad term, which can include for instance the action of adapting, preserving and transforming. Contributions should refer to those terms, and are welcome to challenge them as well.

## THE PUBLICATION AS A TOOL

... *but, who are we building for?* is not aimed to be a guide for how to build, nor a catalog of “solutions”. It is meant to be a collection of perspectives, imaginations, thoughts, challenging questions — and ideas from various perspectives, coming from different backgrounds and angles. It is the ambition that it can be a tool for opening up conversations, expanding existing discussions and starting new ones.

## SUGGESTIONS ON TOPICS...

Contributors are invited to interpret the open call freely and new, unique perspectives are encouraged. Meanwhile, some sub-themes in the form of concepts and thematic paths are suggested here as a source of inspiration. The structure of the book and the different chapters are not predefined, and will be determined according to the diverse topics proposed in the selected contributions. They are by no means limited by the suggested sub-themes below.

The *we*: the policy makers, developers, the designers, consultants

The *who*: the users, the community, the climate

Climate adaptation for disability

Embracing Imperfections and learning from mistakes

The social impact of design

The collective biosphere/ creating frameworks for non-humans

Universal design / Inclusive design

Future generations and changemakers

Inclusive (design) processes

Designing new narratives / imagining new futures

Towards inclusive standards

Breaking down barriers

## FORMATS

The abstract submission includes a text description of the contribution’s content, as well as a description of the desired format — preferably with a visual attachment or a reference as a minimum. While we do have some limitations, in regards to the book’s dimensions and length, we do encourage contributors to challenge the standard formats and suggest others which could be more suitable for the contribution’s content. With that said, we have several guidelines to help understand the scope of the contributions:

### Text contribution

**e.g. essay / interview / poem / article**

A text that describes, clarifies, argues, or analyses. In the case of contributions that require peer review, this must be clearly stated. Peer assessment of research is offered and will be coordinated with the editors.

*Limited to between 1000 - 3000 words with 1 - 5 visual elements.*





**Visual contribution****e.g. photo(s) / illustration(s) / infographic(s)**

A visual representation of information or data, e.g. as a chart or diagram.

*Limited to between 100 - 1000 words with 1 - 15 visual elements.*

**Peer reviewed contribution**

It is possible to submit contributions which require a peer-review, as peer assessment of research is offered and will be coordinated with the editors. In the case of contributions that require

peer review, this must be clearly stated in the submission form, and the contribution will be assessed by the following criteria:

- Professional quality, originality and relevance
- Illumination of the publication's theme
- Follow the Oxford style guide for scientific formatting, references, etc.
- Follow Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

*Limited to between 1000 - 3000 words with 1 - 5 visual elements.*

**LANGUAGE**

*...but, who are we building for?* will be published in English. However we encourage and welcome abstract submissions in any mother tongue alongside an English translation. This is to embrace a proper presence of diversity, where language is not an obstacle for being included. For abstracts submitted in another language, we will do our best to include a native speaker of this language for the evaluation process.

**IMAGE COPYRIGHTS**

The author is responsible for ensuring copyrights to text, illustrations, photos, etc., and to provide the editors with legal documentation. For your convenience, accepted submissions will receive a dedicated form which they could send to the copyright holders, together with all the necessary information. Funds required to secure image rights can be discussed with the editors.

## CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

The submitted abstracts will be evaluated by the editorial team based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the open call
- Diversity in regards to contributors\*
- Diversity in regards to themes and formats

While each abstract will be evaluated independently and separately, the selection process will also focus on achieving as diverse a list of contributors and formats as possible, taking into consideration the submitted bios and ideas together with the quality of the content.

The editorial team will be members of Building Diversity in collaboration with external consultants advising on biases, blindspots and how to secure as diverse and qualitative a selection as possible.

Each accepted contribution is honored with 2000 dkk, which will be paid upon completion of the full contribution.

## SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

1. Abstract submission (200-300 words) outlining the main idea of the contribution, including a tentative title.

2. Impression of the format of the final contribution (20-50 words + 1-5 visual elements)

3. Author's bio(s) (50 -100 words)

Submissions should be uploaded through to the link below. Please note that we do not accept submissions by email. Once uploaded, you will receive a confirmation email through which you could edit your submission as much as you like, before the deadline.

*Click here to submit the abstract*

## TIMELINE

March 15, 2024	Open call launch
April 20, 2024	Open call Q&A deadline
April 24, 2024	Abstract submission deadline
May 16, 2024	Notification of acceptance*
August 14, 2024	Submission of full contribution*
August 28, 2024	Final feedback on full contribution*
December 2024 / January 2025	Publication launch*

\*These dates are anticipated. The editors will inform you if the dates change.

## CONTACT

Building Diversity will host an online Q&A meeting (date will be communicated via social media channels), where we will go through the publication's themes, formats, timeline and we will answer any questions. The Q&A will be shared after the meeting.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with us directly regarding specific queries, comments, and submissions to our email [contact@buildingdiversity.dk](mailto:contact@buildingdiversity.dk). We look forward to reading your submissions. Please address inquiries with *Publication* in the subject line.

# ABOUT BUILDING DIVERSITY

Building Diversity is a non-profit organisation based in Copenhagen working for increased diverse and inclusive architectural fields and built environments. Building Diversity weaves together activism, dialogues and emotional truths to unfold futures where every voice is heard and every perspective valued. At our table, there is a seat for anyone who wishes to take part. Expanding and growing: We are Building Diversity.



Danish Arts Foundation

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