

# GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS

FRIDAY 06/12/2024

15:00 — 19:00

UNIRI / FFRI / LECTURE HALL F-006

# GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS SYMPOSIUM



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## 1.

GREETINGS OF THE  
SYMPOSIUM PARTNER:  
ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY  
IN ZAGREB

Croatia and Norway share a deep connection through the sea, which has shaped our cultures, cuisine, history, and partnership. Many sailors from Rijeka and nearby areas have worked on Norwegian ships, while numerous Norwegian vessels and ferries have been designed and built here. This shared maritime heritage underscores our common values of openness, inclusivity, and tolerance, which are essential for creating resilient societies.

In recent years, our ties with Rijeka have grown stronger, particularly through partnerships with local organizations. The collaboration with the University of Rijeka stands out: starting with joint projects in inclusive design, we have since expanded our work to include initiatives in democracy in education, green energy, and

sustainable development. Today, we are proud to support further cooperation between Norway and Croatia in shipbuilding, the defense industry, and sustainable solutions. By sharing expertise in defense materials, green maritime industries, and renewable energy, we contribute to mutual progress in these areas.

The friendship we are building together goes beyond borders, creating a future where our connection runs deeper than the sea, envisioning broader horizons and a stronger partnership.

Arne Sannes Bjørnstad





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## 2.

GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS:  
INTRODUCTION

The Green Neighborhoods symposium explores the transformative potential of green urban renewal in shaping the port cities of tomorrow. As urbanization, social challenges, and climate crisis continue to accelerate, the need to reimagine our neighborhoods as sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant places has never been more pressing. This symposium brings together experts related to urban planning, architecture, landscape, and system design to discuss the manifold integration of both ecological and social considerations into urban development.

At its core, green urban renewal addresses the environmental challenges posed by rapid urban growth by embedding sustainability into the very fabric of our cities. But the vision for green neighborhoods goes beyond environmental benefits. It equally emphasizes social equity and community well-being, recognizing that cities must serve the needs of all their residents. Thus, the focus of our lectures is how ecological improvements can harmonize with social objectives to create neighborhoods that are both environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. From affordable housing projects that incorporate

green infrastructure, to community-led initiatives that tackle neglected urban spaces, we will explore strategies that empower both residents and policymakers in fostering healthier ecosystems.

Through keynote presentations and lectures, the Green Neighborhoods symposium aims to inspire innovative ideas, drawing specific attention to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by contemporary port cities, with a focus on Rijeka and Oslo. Despite their geographical, political, and economic differences, both cities share a rich maritime heritage and are undergoing significant transformations aimed at incorporating green urban renewal into their development strategies. Rijeka, with its industrial past, is reimagining its waterfront to foster sustainable tourism, green infrastructure, and cultural revitalization. Oslo, known for its progressive environmental policies, has been at the forefront of urban sustainability, reclaiming industrial waterfronts for public green spaces, residential areas, and cultural hubs.

This year the City of Rijeka commissioned the creation of a Green Urban Renewal Strategy, based on

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which the development of an action plan until 2030 is underway. These circumstances offers an opportunity for valuable cultural exchange and transition of knowledge between Oslo and Rijeka tackling how port cities can balance ecological preservation with economic growth, all while addressing social inclusion, environmental justice, and public participation. We hope this symposium can help inspire the City of Rijeka to embrace holistic approaches to urban regeneration that benefit both the environment and the communities that call these cities home.



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## 3.

## SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

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15:00	GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES
15:15	KEYNOTE: PETER HEMMERSAM (AHO)
16:00	KEYNOTE: ARILD ERIKSEN (FRAGMENT)
16:45	SMALL COFFEE BREAK
17:00	LECTURE: VIŠNJA ŠTEKO (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE D.O.O.)
17:20	LECTURE: MARIN NIŽIĆ (URBANI SEPARE)
17:40	LECTURE: IDA KRIŽAJ LEKO (DELTALAB / URBAN STUDIES)
18:00	Q&A

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4.  
LECTURES



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## 4.1.

OSLO: BALANCING  
SUSTAINABILITY AND URBAN  
CHALLENGESKEYNOTE LECTURER  
PETER HEMMERSAM (AHO)

Peter Hemmersam is a professor in urban design at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design. He directs the Oslo Centre for Urban and Landscape Studies, co-directs the Executive Master in Urbanism programme, and teaches urban planning history. His research includes Arctic urbanism, urban design practices, strategic design for placemaking, and sustainable urbanism. Recent publications include "Urban displacement and placemaking in public space for wellbeing: a systematic review of global literature" (2014) *Environment & Urbanization*; *Learning From Neighbourhood Planning* (2023) Pagh, Cook, eds, *Mission Neighbourhood — (Re)forming Communities*. Danish Architec. Press. [aho.no/en/aho-staff/peterhem](http://aho.no/en/aho-staff/peterhem).



Courtesy of Peter Hemmersam



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Photo by: Duncan Cumming (2018) / CC BY-NC 2.0

## 4.1. LECTURE BRIEF

Oslo was the 2019 European Green Capital. Its sustainable and landscape-based urban planning has a long history and includes river-opening projects and a revitalised post-industrial harbourfront. Other green policies include emission reduction zones, a programme for urban liveability in the central district, and electrification of the public transport network. While green, Oslo still struggles with gentrification, social segregation, and political greenwashing.

## 4.2.

BEYOND THE MARKET:  
HOUSING ALTERNATIVES FOR A  
RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE OSLOKEYNOTE LECTURER  
ARILD ERIKSEN (FRAGMENT)

Arild Eriksen is educated at the Bergen School of Architecture. He ran Eriksen Skajaa Arkitekter until 2018 when he started Fragment to work with different approaches to the resident-developed city and a bioregional architecture based on local resources. He has taught at both Bergen and Oslo School of Architecture and has been an examiner at NTNU in Trondheim. He is on a number of boards in associations that work with social urban development, both the Norwegian Tenant Association, the Artist Housing Association, the Ormsundveien ecovillage, and the Norwegian Association for co-builders. He is both the author of books and a number of articles, which elaborate on the office's work. In 2025, he publishes the book with the working title Co-housing Atlas at the German Birkhäuser Verlag.



Courtesy of Arne B. Langleite



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Photo of Rammeverk, by Fragment / Kvant-1

## 4.2. LECTURE BRIEF

Oslo is one of the most market-liberal cities in Europe when it comes to housing development. The municipality sells all its plots at market price. There is no non-commercial rental sector. Affordable premises for artists or start-ups are becoming increasingly expensive.

Work trips are getting longer. For the past ten years, Fragment has worked with a number of housing alternatives: artists' housing, urban ecological neighborhoods in the city, models for resident participation in construction and renovation, and in the last year together with the trade union movement to inspire them to build housing again.



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## 4.3.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OF  
THE CITY OF RIJEKA

KEYNOTE LECTURER

VIŠNJA ŠTEKO (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE D.O.O.)

Višnja Šteko is a licensed landscape architect with over twenty years of experience in landscape architecture, green infrastructure, sustainable spatial planning, and environmental protection. She earned her degree in Landscape Architecture from the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Zagreb and is an active member of the Croatian Chamber of Architects. Since 2016, she has served as the Executive Director of Green Infrastructure d.o.o. and recently established Land Studio d.o.o., a firm specializing in landscape architecture and sustainable spatial planning. In addition to her professional work, Višnja is highly engaged in professional associations and educational initiatives. She has been a guest lecturer at numerous conferences, roundtables, and workshops, where she shares her expertise on landscape studies, green infrastructure, and sustainability.



Courtesy of Višnja Šteko

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Courtesy of Zelena infrastruktura d.o.o.

## 4.3. LECTURE BRIEF

The Study and Strategy for Green Infrastructure in the City of Rijeka provides a comprehensive and integrated analysis of all factors essential to shaping the city's existing green infrastructure elements. It includes a typology of these elements and evaluates their current significance and potential for developing new functions within a planned green infrastructure network.

The Strategy defines a thematic and programmatic concept, presenting specific opportunities, initiatives, and projects for establishing green infrastructure, along with pathways for their implementation. Together, the Strategy and its Plan serve as a critical professional foundation for updating the City of Rijeka's spatial planning documentation.

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## 4.4.

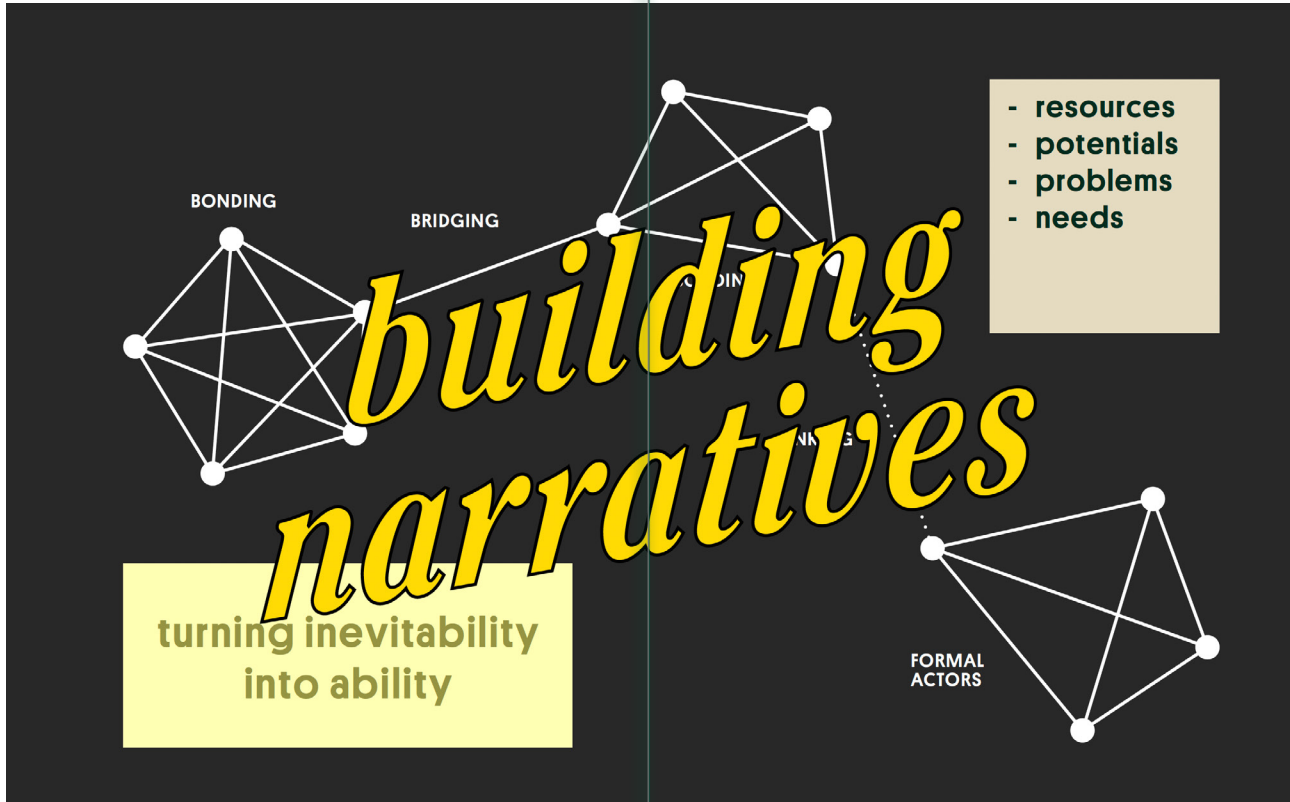
## BUILDING NARRATIVES

KEYNOTE LECTURER  
MARIN NIŽIĆ (URBANI SEPARÉ)

Marin Nižić is a strategic designer working in the fields of space and community. Through the NGO Urbani separé, Nižić coordinates multi-year participatory projects revolving around the activation of urban and natural areas of the city of Rijeka, and beyond — on their way towards regeneration. Through projects like Local Councils, Greetings from Rijeka and Nature Park Ričina, he coordinated the design and production of more than 150 public events with over 400 activities, 15.000 visitors, and 1.000 involved volunteers. Besides Urbani separé, Nižić actively works in fields ranging from informal education and urban pedagogy, visual and informational design, cultural production, and other.



Courtesy of Marin Nižić



Courtesy of Urbani separate

#### 4.4. LECTURE BRIEF

The lecture *Building Narratives* outlines the foundation of a growing practice born and raised in Rijeka. Urbani separate is a collective that works through long-term, layered, and deeply participatory projects that create sustainable microsystems for the endogenous and regenerative development of Rijeka.

Here, endogeny is seen as the potential of places and their communities to define, gather, and action both resources and bits of knowledge within themselves to participate in — and sometimes even direct — growth. Projects of various scales, tackling distinct urban, rural, and natural areas, will be dissected to explain the desired place of collectivity in formal and informal participatory spatial processes in Rijeka and beyond.

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RESILIENT CAMPUSKEYNOTE LECTURER  
IDA KRIŽAJ LEKO

Ida Križaj Leko is an architect and Head of the interdisciplinary post-master program Urban Studies at the University in Rijeka. Her work was recognized nationally and internationally. The project where she was the co-author, mentor, and project leader - reconstruction of an existing building in Rijeka for children and their families who live on the edge of poverty - called "My place under the sun" was nominated for Mies van der Rohe Award 2024. In 2021, as a member of the team of authors, she represented Croatia at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia (2021). She is currently the curator of the Croatian Pavilion for the 19th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia (2025).



Photo by: Mara Prpić / Courtesy of DELTALAB



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Photo by: Ida Križaj Leko

#### 4.5. LECTURE BRIEF

The Campus of the University of Rijeka is a monofunctional enclave, whose development is burdened by the rector's four-year mandates, the constant changes in the needs of students and its locational and topographical limitations such as strong wind surges of "bura", large terrain slopes and coastal karst.

This ostensible state of continuous crisis that characterizes Campus makes it an extremely fertile field for reflection on and investigation of the contemporary city, whose zero state is defined by dynamics of contradictions and continuous crisis, by anthropocenic permeations that test all inherited, inevitably modernist, architectural skills. In such an environment, only the resistant architecture and territories survive.





# 5.

## IMPRESSUM

DELTALAB — Center for Urban  
Transition, Architecture, and  
Urbanism at the University of Rijeka

MAIL  
info@deltalab.hr

FACEBOOK  
www.facebook.com/deltalab.rijeka

INSTAGRAM  
www.instagram.com/deltalab\_rijeka/

WEB  
www.deltalab.hr

PARTNER  
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Zagreb

DESIGN  
Maša Poljanec, OAZA

PROOFREADING  
Nina Premuš

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UNIRI.

Rijeka / December 6, 2024



Norwegian Embassy  
*Zagreb*

**UNIRI** Sveučilište u Rijeci  
University of Rijeka

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CENTRE  
FOR URBAN  
TRANSITION,  
ARCHITECTURE  
AND URBANISM



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