Bioclimatic Architecture for a Sustainable Future

Approaching architectural excellence through innovative sustainable ideas

Where:
Noesis - Thessaloniki Science Center
and Technology Museum

When:
Monday
1st of December

17:30 - 18:00 – Attendance, Welcome coffee

Part 1 18:00 - 18:55

Contextualizing Sustainability: Case studies & Best practices

- **"Contextual Configurations in Bioclimatic Design"**
  Sanjay Puri - **Sanjay Puri Architects** (India), Chief architect
- **"Context, Re-Configured: Less carbon, more city"**
  Charalampos Giannikopoulos – **DCarbon** (Greece), Sustainability Advisor

Break
(20 minutes)

Part 2 19:15 - 20:10

Bioclimatic design: Smart Tools and Mindset

- **"Clima & Façade Design"**
  Irene Gallou - **Foster + Partners** (UK), Senior Partner,
  Head of Specialist Modelling Group
- **"Sustainable environmental design in architectural education & research"**
  Aggeliki Chatzidimitriou – Assistant professor of Sustainable Environmental Design, Architecture department, **University of Patras** (Greece)
- **"Staying in the Loop: The strategic road to decarbonization"**
  Giorgos Fytianos – Sustainability Manager **ALUMIL**

Panel Discussion with All Participants: 20:10 - 20:40

- **"Creating Collaborative Visions for Sustainable Design and Decarbonization"**
  Moderator: Charalampos Giannikopoulos

organiser Alumil

Introduction

In an era where environmental challenges are redefining the role of architecture, sustainability is no longer merely a choice but a necessity. The event **“Bioclimatic Architecture for a Sustainable Future”** brings together international and Greek pioneers in bioclimatic design, presenting strategies, tools, and real applications that highlight architecture as a catalyst for positive change.
Through two thematic sessions — **“Contextualizing Sustainability: Case Studies & Best Practices”** and **“Bioclimatic Design: Smart Tools and Mindset”** — speakers will explore how respect for local context, smart envelope design, and net-zero approaches can transform the way we build. Featuring real project examples, digital analysis methodologies, and decarbonization strategies, the event demonstrates how architecture goes beyond form and function to become a medium for environmental responsibility, social well-being, and innovation. The goal of the conference is to inspire, stimulate discussion, and encourage the adoption of a new design mentality — where architectural excellence is achieved through sustainable, evidence-based, and truly innovative ideas.

Speakers

Sanjay Puri | Chief Architect, Sanjay Puri Architects (India)

Sanjay Puri leads one of the largest architectural firms in India, with international experience and a strong focus on contextual and climate-responsive architecture. His projects leverage morphology, orientation, and natural airflow to achieve energy efficiency and thermal comfort. With sustainability and bioclimatic design at the core of the practice, the team develops projects that emerge from their surroundings rather than impose themselves on them, exploring new spatial experiences and design directions. With a team of 108 people, the firm delivers projects in 36 cities across India and internationally, including Spain, Australia, the UAE, and the USA. Sanjay Puri has participated as a juror in major international design institutions such as the World Architecture Festival and the Dezeen Awards. The firm has received more than 450 awards — including Best Residential Project (CDA Paris 2023), Best Housing Project (WAF Lisbon 2022), and Best Completed Building (WAF Singapore 2023).

Charalampos Giannikopoulos | Sustainability Advisor, DCarbon (Greece)

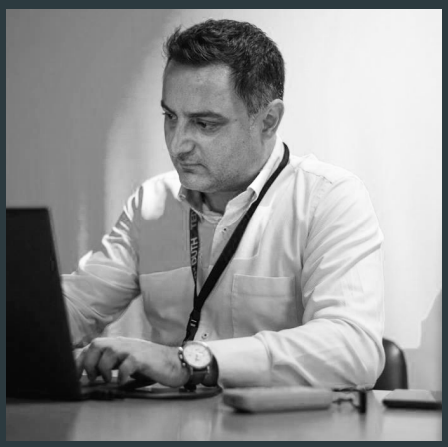
Charalampos Giannikopoulos is the founder and Managing Director of DCarbon, with international experience in sustainable architecture and consulting on ESG and decarbonization. He began his career in London as Sustainability Coordinator in Aedas’ R&D team, and since 2011 he has contributed to the first implementation of LEED in Greece on large-scale projects. He has worked on major developments including the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Healthcare projects, Masdar City’s sustainable masterplan, and the Abu Dhabi Investment Council development. He has extensive expertise in global certification systems (LEED, BREEAM, WELL) and indeveloping ESG strategies for real estate portfolios. He is a LEED Fellow at the USGBC and holds numerous professional accreditations (WELL AP, BREEAM Assessor, DGNB Consultant). He is a frequent speaker at international conferences and a recognized climate leader, promoting sustainability and decarbonization globally.

Irene Gallou | Senior Partner, Head of Specialist Modelling Group, Foster + Partners (UK)

Irene Gallou is a Senior Partner at Foster + Partners and Head of the Specialist Modelling Group — the firm's R&D unit specializing in building physics, environmental simulation, complex geometry, and digital fabrication. Since joining the practice in 2006, she has contributed to pioneering research projects including post-occupancy evaluation, large-scale 3D printing in steel and concrete, and the development of 3D-printed extraterrestrial habitats. Her work bridges architecture with cutting-edge technological innovation, driving sustainable design through advanced modelling tools.

Aggeliki Chatzidimitriou | Assistant Professor of Sustainable Environmental Design, University of Patras (Greece)

Aggeliki Chatzidimitriou is an Architect Engineer specializing in sustainable environmental design. Her research focuses on building and outdoor space design, microclimate development, and outdoor thermal comfort. She holds a Diploma from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MA from the Architectural Association, and a PhD from the Civil Engineering Department of AUTH, along with two post-doctoral research projects. She has taught courses of architectural and environmental design in undergraduate and post graduate academic study programs in Greece (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, TEI of Central Macedonia, Hellenic Open University), given lectures in Greece and the UK, joined scientific committees for regulation codes formulation on building energy performance and bioclimatic design and collaborated with architecture practices as an environmental design consultant in public and private design projects. In 2023 she was elected assistant professor of sustainable environmental design at the Architecture department of the University of Patras.



Georgios Fytianos | Sustainability Manager at Alumil Group

Georgios Fytianos is the Sustainability Manager at Alumil Group. He is responsible for shaping and implementing the company's sustainability strategy. He holds a degree in Chemistry from AUTH, a Master's in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development from the Department of Civil Engineering (AUTH), and a PhD in CO_2 sequestration from the Department of Chemical Engineering at NTNU, Norway. Before joining Alumil, he served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Tokyo (Department of Ocean Engineering, Policy and Environment) and as Head of Environmental Science at the American Farm School. He has authored 25 scientific papers in international journals and delivered over 30 conference presentations. In 2022, he led his research team to win the first prize in the MiT Enterprise Forum–EYATH SA innovation competition for developing a cost-effective solution for energy recovery in wastewater treatment.