

PART I.B

Theme 2 Introduction: Social
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In November 2023 in Rotterdam, the Nieuwe Instituut — a museum for architecture, design, and digital culture — hosted a conference titled Architects, not Architecture. The conference featured superstar architect Thom Mayne, founder of Morphosis, with a strong statement regarding his perspectives of the role of architecture and architects in today's world. In his remarks, Mayne revealed that during the earlier stages of his career, he was openly unencumbered by the social aspect of architecture. He shares a view where he regarded architecture as an absolute field without intervention of other fields. However, Mayne goes on to say that in order to become a responsible professional nowadays, even if one's objective may well only be the better understanding of the field in its present context, it is important to place architecture within a larger scale of work. This larger scale includes identifying who is architecture for?

In this section, authors will address and discuss the social implications of architecture in our current urban landscapes. These implications, determined by architectural strategies and established through socially performing mechanisms, are meant to have positive effects on communities and individuals. Although positive outcomes are rarely achieved, the field of architecture thrives in exploring creative solutions to everchanging social challenges pushing the boundaries of what the field demands of itself and its practitioners.

IN BETWEEN: SOCIAL FRAMEWORK

Evening stroll at Sugar Beach in Toronto's waterfront district. Photo courtesy of Alejandro Saldaña Ferrales.