

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

Our cities and urban landscapes are in transformation. They grow, expand, build, and rebuild. In North America, these efforts are being led by untamed global markets and private capital. What drives these forces is a unilateral model: return-on-investment (ROI). Such a model for urban development is becoming increasingly popular in most regions of the world. And yet, the present-day urban landscape is a complex array of interdependent systems, many of which do not operate towards making a profit. These systems are meant to respond to economical, political, social, and ecological challenges. Nowadays, the forces of global markets and private capital are increasingly negotiating with multiple stakeholders when investing in urban landscapes, demonstrating willingness to engage in cooperative relationships towards overcoming these challenges.

How does architecture perform in such an environment?

"In Between" is introduced as a concept exploring architecture's performance alongside a multiplicity of disciplines shaping the present-day urban landscapes. It aims to argue the critical role architects have in shaping our cities. It expects to highlight the key areas of interest for architecture in an increasingly complex environment and frames its responses in meeting new challenges. Finally, "In Between," targets sharing the achievements and opportunities of contemporary urban development models.

The seventh issue of *Prometheus*, titled "In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape," delves into four performative frameworks of the present-day urban landscape. The economical, addressing the role and impact of private capital in the development of the contemporary metropolis. The political, discussing opportunities available to local city governments in the face of mounting pressure when developing new urban landscapes within existing built environments. The social, focusing on neighborhood-scale challenges and providing community-based perspectives on the various mechanisms shaping them. And the ecological, centering around the global climate crisis it highlights strategies employed for ecologically performing architecture.

This edition follows the seventh annual International Graduate Student Symposium, focusing on the issues discussed there. It is organized by students of IIT's PhD Program in Architecture and showcases the extensive research of students from various parts of the world. Over the course of two days, we joined a unique selection of experts, scholars, and aspiring scholars. Our research addresses with optimism, the challenges that climate crisis and rapid urbanization put forward over the contemporary urban landscape. We wish to explore the many efforts currently shaping the blueprint for what can be humanity's finest hour.

This edition of the *Prometheus* journal is composed of three sections: An introduction to this volume and the symposium organized by the students of the PhD Program in Architecture. Part 1 is divided into three sections: Part 1.A) Political-Economical Framework features the excerpt of two of our keynote speakers, Dr. Karen Hinojosa Hinojosa (National Director of Urbanism Program, Monterrey Tech, Mexico) and Dr. Jan Doering (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, Canada) as well as authors whose work address the political and economical issues involved in the development of the urban landscape; Part 1.B) Social Framework featuring an excerpt from our panelist Prof. Christine Macy (Professor, School of Architecture, Dalhousie University, Canada) and the authors whose work deals with the social component of designing urban landscapes; and Part 1.C) Ecological Framework includes a piece from our panelist Prof. Edoarda Corradi Dell'Acqua (Associate Professor, IIT Armour College of Engineering, Chicago) and the research carried out by the participating authors, centered on all matters related to the contemporary challenges our cities face under climate crisis. Part 2 includes the PhD Program Overview which showcases all the activities undertaken over a major portion of 2023 and the early months of 2024. Finally, Part 3 highlights contributions from the members of our Scientific Committee as well as some other contributors to the 2023 PhD Symposium and this very journal.

This issue of the *Prometheus* journal received a broad response to the call for papers from authors all across the United States representing institutions such as the Illinois Institute of Technology, Texas Tech University, Pennsylvania State University, and Harvard University. Additionally, we welcomed papers from authors all around the world, most of which will be featured in this journal, including Dalhousie University in Canada, University of Naples Federico II in Italy, University of Sheffield and Cardiff University in the United Kingdom, University of Tehran in Iran, and Süleyman Demirel University in Turkey. All of them have been carefully curated and taken through a blind peer-reviewed process by a scientific committee from different institutions to make this volume a valuable resource towards expanding current scholarship on the development of cities and urban landscapes through multiple lenses centered around architecture. What we have prepared for you here at the IIT PhD Program is filled with a lot of sweat, large doses of optimism, and fueled by lots of passion.

Authors

Aamena Bakarram, Çiçek Karataş,
Alejandro Saldaña Perales, and Saaha Zanko
Illinois Institute of Technology

Acknowledgments

Prometheus 07 represents the building over a legacy in architectural research started by aspiring scholars like us at IIT more than 7 years ago. We would like to use this opportunity to thank Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino for his unconditional support to this symposium, as well as his mentorship throughout the course of our research. We also thank Dean Reed Kroloff for championing the PhD Symposium and *Prometheus*, taking great interest in all the work currently being done here at the PhD Program. In addition, we would like to thank Fred Hickernell, Vice Provost for Research and professor of applied mathematics at IIT, for his continuous support. We feel thankful for all our keynote speakers, Prof. Edoarda Corradi Dell'Acqua, Dr. Jan Doering, Dr. Karen Hinojosa Hinojosa, and Prof. Christine Macy. Similarly, we thank Dr. Youngjin Hwang, Dr. Ryan Roark, and Dr. Junko Taguchi for their contributions to our round-table discussions, and to Prof. Vedran Mimica for conducting one of the liveliest conversations we have seen take place at our Symposium. We thank all members of the Scientific Committee, including Dr. Peng Du, Prof. Martin Felsen, Prof. Ron Henderson, Dr. Hyesun Jeong, Dr. Yohan Kim, Prof. Jorge Pérez, Jaramillo, and those already mentioned in this section who are members of it. Please know that your thoughts and feedback are the backbone in advancing architectural research. Finally, we extend our gratitude to all the authors featured in this journal, without your hard work and dedication none of this would have been possible.

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Piyush Khairam and Alexis Arias Betancourt, the previous organizers and editors, for providing us with an operational framework for the Symposium and this issue of *Prometheus* journal. We are grateful to the College of Architecture and the staff at IIT for their unwavering support in ensuring the success of this event, especially to Christine Manuel, who provided constant support, and to Mark Osorio, who helped with the logistics. Finally, for helping us bring this publication to life, we would like to thank Mielinda Van Leer for the copy editing process, plus Bud Rodecker, Alyssa Arnesen, and Alec Hudson for the design of *Prometheus 07*.



From left: Çiçek Karataş, Aamena Bakarram, Prof. Edoarda Corradi Dell'Acqua, Dr. Karen Hinojosa Hinojosa, Saaha Zanko, Alejandro Saldaña Perales, and Dr. Jan Doering.