Experts discuss and explore how to meet the challenges of climate change in four interconnected areas: Mobility, Energy, Green Buildings, and the Public Realm. The four presentations will break down silos and share emerging approaches to meet the challenges of the 21st century city.

Climate change represents an unprecedented threat to our future, including global warming driven by human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases and the resulting large-scale shifts in weather patterns. Though there have been previous periods of climatic change, since the mid-20th century humans have had an unprecedented impact on Earth’s climate system and caused change on a global scale. The impact of climate change is increasingly evident with sea-level rise, shifts in traditional weather patterns with violent storms and flooding, droughts, and forest fires that have affected both cities and rural communities alike. Droughts have especially impacted areas of the developing world and led to increased pressures of migration to find a better life. The challenge of climate change comes at a time when the world is beset by the threat of pandemics and the need to accommodate a global population growth of 3 billion by end of the century. New population growth will be attracted to cities and place greater stress on their resources. Cities increasingly occupy central economic and cultural roles in their regions and countries and cannot fail. Despite the challenges, cities led by innovative mayors have been leaders in planning for climate change. This networking event invites a cross-section of global thought leaders to present cutting-edge thoughts and case studies on planning for climate change followed by a discussion of the critical role of design in planning for the future.

Moderator

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA
President, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, DPACSA is an architect, urban designer, educator and author. He is ACSA Distinguished Professor, Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, CCNY, CUNY, served as assistant director at the Program at the NFA, as advisor to the World Trade Center Site 9/11 International Memorial Design Competition and Boston’s 9/11 memorial Competition. Awards include AIA New York State President’s Award for Excellence and the AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education. He is Founding Co-Chair of the AIANY Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee and Founding Board member of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization.

Panel Respondents

Milena Ivkovic, MSc. Arch. Board Member Placemaking Europe Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands. CEO Placemaking Western Balkans Association, Belgrade, Serbia

Theodore Liebman, FAIA, Principal, PERKINS EASTMAN
VP, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization

Anna Rubbo, Ph.D., Center for Sustainable Urban Development, Columbia Climate

Speakers

Setha Low - Public Space
Setha Low began her career in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently Distinguished Professor of Environmental Psychology, Geography, and Anthropology, and Director of the Public Space Research Group at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She received a Getty Fellowship, a NEH Award, a Fulbright Senior Research Grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship for public space research in Latin America and the U.S. Recent books include Why Public Space Matters (2023), Spatializing Culture (2017), Anthropology and the City (2019) and Spaces of Security with M. Maguire (2019).

Chhavi Lal - Energy
Chhavi is a practitioner with more than 15 years’ experience in the building sector in India. She is an Associate Principal with global design firm Perkins Eastman, and has been instrumental in establishing the firm’s presence in the country. She has designed and delivered large scale academic and institutional campuses and worked on projects around the region. Her work is informed through research and dialogue with stakeholders to translate the design vision keeping human experience in the forefront of development. She is passionate about place making and sustainability. Currently she is leading the design for a campus targeting net zero energy and water. She is involved in academia and research, and is an associate member of the Indian Institute of Architects and Institute of Urban Designers in India.

Eleanor Mohammed - Mobility
Eleanor Mohammed, RPP, MCIP, EP, MTCP is the President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, Co-Chair of the UN-Habitat Professionals Forum, and the Founder/Principal of Strategic and Resilient Together. She is an executive leader with over 17 years of public, private, and not-for-profit sector experience. As a passionate professional who regularly speaks and presents at international events on city building, Eleanor is a champion for the planning profession, climate action, equity and inclusion, healthy communities, technology adaptation, and sustainability. She holds a Masters with Distinction in Town and Country Planning from the University of the West of England, and has an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto with a specialization in Environmental Management.

Mona Rady - Green Buildings
Mona Rady holds a Bachelor of Architecture and a PhD in Global Cities and Urban Competitiveness from Alexandria University in Egypt. Her practice, Art & Architecture House for Planning and Architecture, focuses on planning and designing sustainable and affordable residential settlements and contemporary Egyptian houses. She is currently serving UN-Habitat and its role in planning sustainable human settlements to support NUA & SDGs. She has been the Chairperson of the UN-Habitat Professional Forum (HPF) since 2020, and a Member of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization for PAG President of UN-general assembly 76th session as a Steering committee member for Africa in the International Union of Architects (UIA) Commission on the UN SDGs, and a Commissioner in the Africa Union of Architects (AUA) Habitat & Environment Commission.