Form, Identity and Development The meaning of design in architecture 10.-12. Oktober 2025



Architecture Conference at the Goetheanum Visual Arts Section

Architecture Conference at the Goetheanum

Form, Identity and Development The meaning of design in architecture

We live in a time of unprecedented technical and creative possibilities. At the same time, architectural design processes have never been more complicated and constrained by a wide range of requirements. The use of CAD and parametric modelling software, through which computers generate themselves design solutions for complex tasks, seems to be a tempting prospect. But what does this mean for the design of our living environment and for our relationship to it?

Throughout the history of architecture, design has always been an expression of people's culture and worldview. It conveyed values and formed an important basis for social and individual identification. According to Rudolf Steiner, forms are expressions of thoughts and in turn stimulate thoughts, values and behaviours. In addition, depending on their specific nature, they connect us with spiritual beings and entities.

Can we develop a sense of the meaning and effect of forms? How does working on the computer change design processes as well as our relationship to our own body, which is the basis of our own sense and self-perception? What is the significance of human creativity as a creator of design alongside artificial intelligence, and how can we use AI to create new, meaningful forms in architecture?

We want to explore these topics by means of interdisciplinary contributions from cultural history, human science and media psychology and deepen them through perception and artistic exercises.

The conference will be held bilingually, in German and English. All Germanlanguage lectures will be simultaneously translated into English. The working groups will be in either German (DE) or English (EN) as indicated.

For the Visual Arts Sektion

Charlens Fischel

Yaike Dunselman

Markus Fischer

Pieter van der Ree

Programme

Friday, 10th October

19:00 Welcome and introduction to the conference topic

> Form, design processes and meaning in transition Pieter van der Ree

Humankind between reality and virtuality Edwin Hübner

Questions and Exchange

21:30 Closing

Saturday, 11th October

09:00 Prelude: Form and Movement in Space Stefan Hasler

> **Creativity through parametric Design** Diederik Veenendaal

The Role of Spirit in Form Creation Johannes Schuster

Questions and Exchange

- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:45 Workshops
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:30 Workshops
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Form-finding for the Arlesheim Clinic Yaike Dunselman

Concept and design of the Rudolf Steiner exhibition Pieter van der Ree

- 17:30 Excursion to the Arlesheim Clinic or guided tour of the Rudolf Steiner exhibition
- 19:00 Evening break
- 20.00 The effect and significance of forms for humans Markus Treichler

Questions and Exchange

21:30 Closing

Sunday, 12th October

09:00 Prelude: Form and Movement in Space Stefan Hasler

Creating with Human and Artificial Intelligence Johannes Schuster

Realising the Human Future in the midst of Artificial Intelligence Edwin Hübner

Questions and discussion

- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:45 Closing plenary session and outlook
- 12:45 End

Workshops

1

Architecture as a language of forms and gestures

Markus Treichler und Pieter van der Ree How do we perceive architecture, how has its form language changed over the course of history and what does this mean for us? Architectural observation and drawing exercises. (DE)

2

Images in virtual space versus imagination in reality

Edwin Hübner und Yaike Dunselman Looking at the screen opens up new possibilities, but at the same time changes the way we see. Concrete perception exercises in nature and on the screen want to make these subtle qualitative differences tangible. (DE)

3

Form, identity and development in Rudolf Steiner's Architecture Markus Fischer

Viewing the Architecture of the Goetheanum Hill and sculpturalartistic works. Where do we perceive traces of the architectural process and how can they enrich our own artistic work? How can you work sensibly with CAD tools? (DE)

4

Working with the 4 Etheric Form Signatures

Sue and Johannes Schuster In this informative and practical clay modelling workshop we will explore how the language of the four Ethers can enliven and impart meaning to the forms of art and architecture. (EN)

5

From architectural perception to encounter of the essence

Luigi Fiumara und Martin Riker We will practice a differentiated architectural perception with our body and our senses in order to understand the different dimensions of architecture and to create the basis for an encounter with essence. (DE/EN)





Biographies

Yaike Dunselman

Studied architecture at the Alanus University near Bonn. Since 2003, together with Lars Frerichs, he has been head of the architectural firm *9grad architektur* in Amersfoort (NL) and Oldenburg (DE). Since 2020 part of the Art Section leadership team at the Goetheanum in Dornach.

Markus Fischer

Architect, studied at the University of Siegen and at the Visual Arts Section at the Goetheanum, managing director of the social therapeutic community Altenschlirf, Herbstein near Fulda, where he is also active in the planning of renovations and new buildings for people living in social therapeutic communities.

Dipl. Architekt SIA Luigi Fiumara

From 2000 - 2010 responsible for the architecture department of the Visual Arts Section at the Goetheanum. Chairman of the International Forum for Man and Architecture, IFMA. Honorary professor at the National University of Construction and Architecture in Kyiv. Internationally active as a freelance architect.

Prof. Stefan Hasler

Studied music in Basel, Stuttgart, Pescara, Budapest, conducting in London, eurythmy in The Hague and Hamburg. Teaching and lecturing in Ham-

Biographies

burg. Professor of eurythmy at Alanus University since 2003. Head of the Section for the Performing Arts since 2015. Collaboration in the Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble. Member of the board since 2024.

Prof. Dr. Edwin Hübner

Studied mathematics and physics in Frankfurt am Main and Stuttgart. From 1985 to 2015 teacher at the Waldorf School in Frankfurt am Main. From 2015-2022 he held the Chair of Tessin Media Education at the University of Stuttgart. Emeritus since 2022. In 2025 he published *Between Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Spaces.*

Martin Riker

Architect and interior designer, building biologist, building energy consultant, colour designer, board member of IFMA International, the German Child Protection Association Mainz e.V. Member of the study group on colour and art. Since 1993 own practice *archikult*.

Johannes Schuster

Founding class teacher and building designer of the *Little Yarra Steiner School*, Melbourne. His interest in the 4 Ethers inspired him to research and formulate an Anthroposophically grounded theory and methodology of *Transformative Art & Architecture*, which he and his wife Sue have been teaching in Australia, Europe, China and South America for the last 15 years.

Sue Schuster

Co-founder of the *Little Yarra Steiner School.* As longstanding Senior School art teacher, class teacher and *Waldorf Teacher Training* tutor, she was responsible for writing the *Steiner Art Curriculum* for the Australian educational government authorities. Sue collaborates with Johannes in teaching the practical, artistic components of the eight module Transformative Art & Architecture Course.

Markus Treichler

Studied performing arts, philosophy, psychology and medicine. Specialist training in psychiatry and psychotherapy. From 1987 to 2012 senior physician of the department of Psychosomatic Medicine, Psychotherapy, Art Therapy and Eurythmy Therapy at the Filderklinik near Stuttgart. Since 2018 courses in anthroposophy-based psychotherapy.

Prof. Ir. Pieter van der Ree

Architect in the field of ecological architecture and organic building design since 1990. From 2005 - 2020 Professor for Organic Architecture at the Alanus University near Bonn (DE). Author and coordinator of the Art Section in the Netherlands and member of the international section team in Dornach.

Dr. sc. ETH Ir. Diederik Veenendaal

Is director and co-founder of *Summum Engineering*, an employee-owned cooperative and social enterprise that provides structural design and engineering service, based in Rotterdam. In 2024 he was recognized as the Dutch 'Structural Engineer of the Year' and won the National Timber Construction Award for best timber building in the Netherlands.



Conference ticket

Prices include 1 lunch on 11 October at 13:00 and 2 coffee breaks on 11 October and 12 October at 11:00:

| Sponsorship price | CHF | 500 |
|-------------------|-----|-----|
| Normal price | CHF | 290 |
| Reduced price | CHF | 190 |
| Students | CHF | 90 |

The dinner on 11 October can be booked optionally in addition to the conference ticket: CHF 28

Registration

The registration is made via: https://goetheanum.ch/en/events/architecture_2025

Or via:

Goetheanum Reception - Ticket sales +41 61 706 44 44 Tue. to Sun.: 9:00 - 18:00 h

Visual Arts Section

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