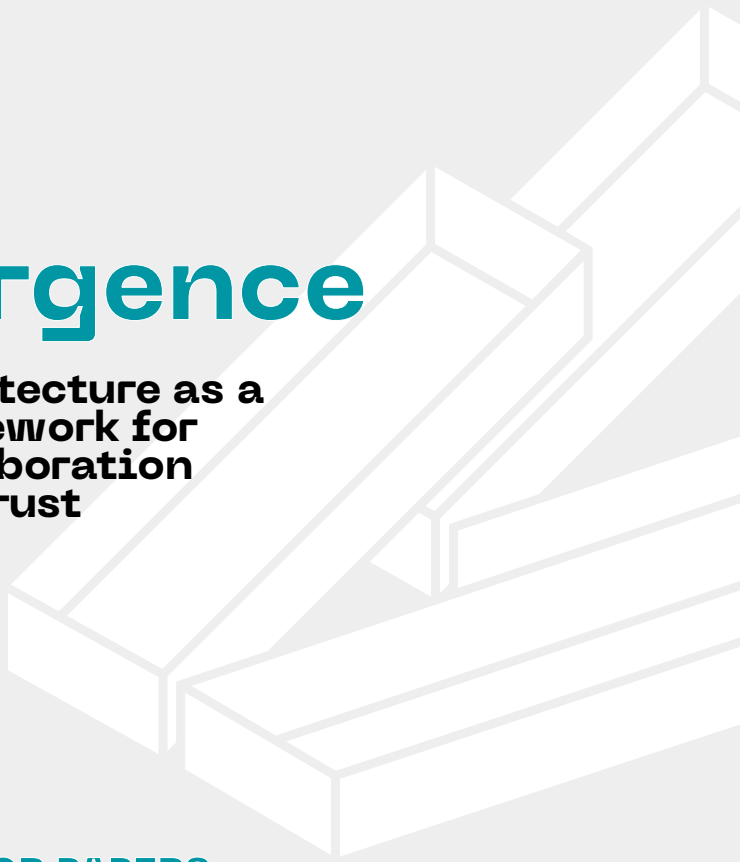
FAST Festival for Architecture Schools of Tomorrow

NOVEMBER 2025
IAȘI

Convergence

Architecture as a Framework for Collaboration and Trust



CALL FOR PAPERS

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The "CONVERGENCE - Architecture as a Framework for Collaboration and Trust" conference aims to explore the evolving role of architecture as a multidisciplinary nexus for fostering collaboration, trust, and innovation in contemporary society. Scheduled for November 2025, this event convenes scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from architecture, urban studies, sociology, engineering, and allied fields to interrogate how architectural frameworks—both physical and conceptual—can serve as catalysts for interdisciplinary synergy and societal resilience.

The designation “Convergence” encapsulates a multifaceted concept that resonates deeply with contemporary architectural discourse, particularly when viewed through the lens of “Architecture as a Framework for Collaboration and Trust". In a scientific and academic sense, convergence refers

to the process by which disparate elements—whether ideas, disciplines, technologies, or stakeholders—come together to form a unified whole, often yielding emergent properties that transcend the sum of their parts. This notion aligns with current trends in architecture, where the discipline increasingly operates at the intersection of diverse fields, societal needs and technological advancements, fostering collaborative frameworks that underpin trust and collective action.

The primary focus of the Convergence conference corresponds closely with the framework of “FAST’s Becoming Trustworthy,” following an expanded iteration of the thematic that emphasizes the integration of collaborative practices and trust-building mechanisms within architectural contexts.

"Becoming trustworthy" reframes architecture as an active participant in a trust ecosystem, where its value hinges on continuous demonstration of competence, care, and accountability. For a conference, this topic bridges theory and practice, inviting architects, scholars, and technologists to interrogate how the discipline can evolve in response to contemporary demands. It positions architecture not as a static artifact but as a living framework—one that earns trust through its capacity to adapt, perform, and connect, ultimately

shaping a more resilient and equitable built environment. In an era marked by rapid urbanization, technological advancement, and socio-political complexity, architecture transcends its traditional boundaries as a discipline of form and function. It emerges as a critical medium for negotiating relationships between individuals, communities, and systems. The theme of Convergence underscores the premise that architecture is not merely a passive backdrop but an active framework capable of engendering trust—between stakeholders, across cultures, and within ecosystems—and facilitating collaborative problem-solving. This conference posits that such convergence is essential for addressing global challenges, including climate change, social inequity, and the digital transformation of built environments.

For a conference setting, "Becoming Trustworthy" serves as a starting conceptual point, seamlessly bridging the theoretical and the pragmatic. It beckons architects, academics, and technologists to engage in a rigorous interrogation of how the discipline can adapt and innovate in response to the multifaceted exigencies of the contemporary world.

The scientific program is structured around three key topics:

T1 Architectural design as a Collaborative Praxis,

which examines how design processes integrate diverse expertise and stakeholder input to produce relevant outcomes.

Sections:

S1. Convergence of Disciplines in Participatory Design Practices

This section explores how architecture serves as a nexus for integrating insights from fields such as engineering, urban planning, sociology, and environmental design. Presentations might examine collaborative projects where interdisciplinary teams have tackled complex challenges—like resilient infrastructure or socially responsive housing—highlighting the methodologies that enable effective synthesis. Topics could also include the use of participatory tools (e.g. digital surveys) and the impact of user input on spatial functionality. A key focus could be: How does cross-disciplinary collaboration redefine architectural problem-solving?

S2. Collaborative Ecosystems for Sustainable Design

This section examines how interdisciplinary teams collaborate to embed sustainability into design processes. Topics might include frameworks for integrating renewable energy systems, lifecycle assessments or green infrastructure, emphasizing the synergy of expertise. Key question: How does collaboration amplify the ecological efficacy of architectural outcomes?

S3. Technology and Collaboration in Resource Optimization

This section investigates how collaborative praxis leverages technologies—such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), parametric modeling, or IoT systems—to maximize efficiency in material use, energy consumption, and spatial performance. Discussions might highlight team-based approaches to zero-waste construction or smart building management. A guiding theme: How do technological tools facilitate collaborative sustainability?

S4. Temporal Collaboration: Sustaining Efficiency Across Generations

This section considers how collaboration spans time—integrating historical lessons, current needs, and future projections—to achieve enduring

efficiency. Presentations might cover intergenerational design dialogues, adaptive reuse projects driven by collective input, or long-term monitoring of sustainable performance. A central theme: How does collaborative foresight sustain efficiency over a building's lifecycle?

T2 Trust in the Built Environment,

which investigates the psychological, structural, and ethical dimensions of trust as mediated by spatial design.

Sections:

S1. Critical studies and interdisciplinarity

This section of the conference aims to explore the relationship between architectural critique, architectural theory and interdisciplinary approaches in education. Participants are invited to present on how the integration of disciplines such as visual arts, sociology, ecology and digital technology can improve the education of architects. Presentations might examine architectural critique as an essential tool for the development of critical thinking, and processes that facilitate practical learning and interdisciplinary dialogue. This discussion will highlight the importance of an integrated

education in the formation of adaptable professionals who are aware of the impact of their work on society and the environment.

S2. Dynamic Intersections: Trust in Adaptive Environments

This section is focused on where does architecture situate itself today and how does it respond or reflect the ever-growing fractures in today's divided society, and explores the role of critical thinking in navigating a world increasingly divided by extremist tendencies. It examines how architecture can serve as a mediator in addressing contemporary social and political fractures, fostering dialogue and inclusivity. Additionally, the discussion will focus on the ways in which public and private architecture can be critically reassessed in the wake of the pandemic, considering new paradigms of space, functionality, and resilience. A key focus could be: How does architecture today address the particularities of human perception and how does it respond to the individual's memory scale?

S3. Ethical Frameworks for Trustworthy Architecture

This section delves into the ethical principles that underpin trustworthy architecture, emphasizing the responsibility of architects, urban planners, and

policymakers in shaping the built environment. As cities evolve, ethical considerations must guide decision-making processes to ensure that architectural solutions promote social equity, environmental sustainability, and inclusivity. By critically evaluating these issues, this section aims to propose guidelines for ethical architectural practice that balances technological progress with human-centered values, reinforcing trust in the spaces we inhabit.

S4. Contextual Trust: Place, Culture, and Identity

This section investigates how the interplay between the values of architectural heritage and contemporary architectural design practices can cultivate authentic community trust in the built environment. It emphasizes contextual interpretation, which links heritage architecture to the values of modern society, underscoring the significance of adaptive reuse of heritage buildings within urban landscapes. Additionally, it delves into the emotional aspect of place, recognized as fundamentally critical in promoting ethical directions in contemporary architectural practice. A pivotal element that reinforces the connections among the built environment, place, and cultural identity is the emotional connection of current architecture with the cultural narratives and lived experiences of the communities it serves.

Comprehensive documentation plays a vital role in ensuring informed and appropriate conservation, while the dynamic interactions between historical heritage and contemporary architecture inspire innovative projects. A crucial question emerges: How do these practices foster trust and cultural identity?

T3 Technological and Cultural Convergence,

which explores the intersections of emerging technologies (e.g., artificial intelligence, parametric design, and sustainable materials) with cultural and historical contexts.

Sections:

S1. Heritage Reimagined: Technological Interventions

This section focuses on how modern technology can contribute to the preservation, revitalization and, not least, reinterpretation of a society's cultural and historical heritage.

Technological interventions such as artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), 3D printing, scanning and archiving, intelligent monitoring systems and others can not only help to restore, protect and enhance heritage,

but can contribute to a more interactive, deeper and sustainable learning experience in concordance with contemporary societal demands.

S2. Cultural Narratives in the Age of Automation

This section explores the impact that automation, artificial intelligence, digitization and others can induce communities to create, transmit and reinterpret their stories and traditions.
In architecture and arts, automation can facilitate the creation of innovative works, new forms of architectural and artistic expression, but at the same time, it can also raise dilemmas about the role of the architect and artist.
Technology can offer many opportunities but also challenges in how culture is preserved, shared and understood.
Automation is therefore not only a tool for efficiency but also a catalyst for changing cultural narratives (stories), influencing identities and traditions.
Conclusion: a balance needs to be found between innovation and respect for heritage authenticity.

S3. Converging communities: Past, Present, and Future

This section investigates how participatory design and user-centered solutions can enhance social cohesion. Discussions might highlight specific

community-driven solutions, transparency in public architecture process and urban governance. Such approaches not only enhance transparency but also empower local communities to take ownership of urban transformations, ensuring that development reflects cultural identities and evolving societal needs. A key focus could be: How can participatory design and digital technologies work together to foster social cohesion and ensure inclusive urban development?

S4. The city of the architecture school

This section investigates the intimate process of understanding a place in order to formulate a relevant answer that starts from the school years, when most of the projects rely on sites which are accessible. Thus, the city where one finds a School of Architecture becomes an archive and depository of students' visions and envisions of its places chosen as sites of study and proposals. How does this shape and enhance the school of architecture? This is an invitation to reflect upon the cities that have shaped our minds in the process of studying and understanding Architecture. It is, as well, an invitation to reflect upon Iași as the host of the FAST event, having as a purpose the gathering of memory "imprints" of Iasi from its observers and spectators from all over the country.

These core themes will be explored through an integrated approach comprising keynote addresses, presentations of peer-reviewed research papers, and panel dialogues.

Submissions are encouraged to address, though not be restricted to, the three aforementioned areas of focus.
Contributions are expected to draw on empirical research, theoretical frameworks, or case studies to advance scholarly discourse and practical applications.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND REVIEW PROCESS

All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review process.
Papers will be evaluated based on:

- Originality and innovation
- Research methodology
- Theoretical foundation
- Practical implications
- Relevance to conference themes.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Selected papers will be:

- Published in the conference proceedings
- Considered for publication in a special issue of Bulletin of the Polytechnic Institute of Iași - Construction. Architecture section (BDI indexed journal)
- Featured in the conference's digital repository

IMPORTANT DATES

~~May 12th~~	Deadline for abstract submission (500 words, English and Romanian version)
June 16th	Extended Deadline for abstract submission
July 1st	Deadline for full paper submission (6 to 8 pages)
September 15th	Deadline for revised full paper submission
September 29th	Deadline for poster submission

REVIEWERS

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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ORDINUL ARHITECTILOR DIN ROMÂNIA

Timbrul de arhitectură

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