

Call for Contributions

Submission

Extended Abstract: 15 January 2026

Contribution: 15 May 2026

Detached Realities: Spatial Explorations in the Context of Single-Family Homes

Dimensions 14 sets out to explore the spatial dimensions of existing single-family home areas. This significant part of our built environment, despite its popularity, is surprisingly excluded from architectural discourse. Under the title Detached Realities. Spatial Explorations in Single-Family Homes, we engage in a critical examination of their structural and spatial dimensions on different scales: L – the neighbourhood and the transitions to its margins, M – the relationships between several houses, the turnaround, the garages, down to S – the individual building and its details.

Single-family home areas are often viewed and criticized in the context of mobility issues, ecological concerns, or socio-spatial debates – due to their spatial and functional isolation, their high land consumption, hidden vacancies, or because they fail to deliver on their promises. This criticism is certainly valid, but the debate falls short as it ignores the architectural qualities and spatial potential of these buildings and settlements. Starting from this premise, this issue aims to close this gap and takes a different approach, explicitly focusing on the existing architectural stock to highlight its material and immaterial qualities and values and make them productive for future transformations.

This issue focuses on the built reality of suburban residential areas, with particular attention to the architectural substance, spatial configurations, and material conditions on site. We are interested in the architectural and spatial consequences of socio-spatial and socio-cultural aspects: How are they articulated in space, how do they flow into planning, and what architectural expression do they find? Attention is turned not only to functional or ecological issues, but also to the architectural quality of what already exists, on subtle dynamics between private, semi-public, and public spaces, and on surprising spatial constellations that only become visible through detailed observation.

The specific local and geographical contexts, as well as the economic production conditions and building regulations of these locations, come into focus as essential reference points and form an indispensable framework for understanding their architecture. The (implicit or explicit) aim of these considerations is to highlight potential areas that offer starting points for a productive engagement of the architectural discipline with the future and further development of single-family housing areas, thereby helping to make this currently marginal subject an active part of the architectural discourse.

Topics of Exploration

Architectural Qualities of the Single-Family Housing Stock

Existing single-family houses and their urban structures are often assessed purely in functional or ecological terms. However, many of these buildings do have architectural qualities and a material substance that are worth a closer examination. What historical or contemporary design features can be discovered in these contexts? What role do details, materiality, and joints play? How does the existing building change in the process of ageing and transformation?

Artistic and Photographic Perspectives

In addition to architectural analyses, we would like to invite artistic and photographic explorations of these neighbourhoods. What visual narratives can be developed about single-family house architectures and their urban contexts? How can images stimulate critical reflection and aesthetic appreciation at the same time?

Private and Public Space

How is the relationship between private and public space spatially negotiated in single-family housing contexts? What architectural elements characterize these threshold spaces between landscape, street, garden, and house? Are there subtle hierarchies, surprising degrees of permeability and/or flexibility?

Community and Social Spaces

Contrary to the common perception that single-family home areas are purely places of private seclusion, forms of community do exist. How are socio-spatial qualities created by residents themselves? What public or semi-public spaces exist here? How are they appropriated, redesigned, changed, and further developed?

Surprises in the Everyday

What unexpected architectural, social, or cultural phenomena can be found in and around detached housing? How does the view of these structures, which are often perceived as uniform, change when we take a closer look? What subtle differences break with the supposed uniformity?

Schedule

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|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Release of Call | 20.10.2025 |
| Submission of Extended Abstracts | 15.01.2026 |
| Announcement of Editorial Pre-Selection of Abstracts | 15.02.2026 |
| Submission of Contributions | 15.05.2026 |
| Revision Period | 15.06. – 01.08.2026 |
| Editorial Feedback and Approval | 01.12.2026 |
| Publication | June 2027 |

Submission

This issue of *Dimensions. Journal of Architectural Knowledge* aims to create an open platform for research into the spatial dimensions of existing single-family housing areas. We invite contributions from all disciplines that relate to spatial aspects of architecture and urban planning. We welcome text-based contributions with accompanying images as well as visual essays, photographic series, case studies, interviews, contributions from the field of research by/through/on/as/design, and experimental formats. We particularly welcome contributions that use a multi-layered methodological approach to open new perspectives and reveal the potential of single-family housing areas – especially where there are starting points for a progressive debate within the discipline of architecture. Contributors from all geographical and cultural regions are invited to contribute to this issue, making their own position visible and reflecting on it.

All contributions have to be original works, which have not been published in another context.

Dimensions. Journal of Architectural Knowledge publishes research that has been completed, but also explicitly intends to present research projects that have not yet been completed. Here, the focus is on the presentation of the procedures/methods and intended goals or findings achieved so far.

Extended Abstract

Language UK English, citation Harvard Style
 Title max. 60 characters
 Keywords 5–8 keywords / terms
 Text max. 5.000 characters (spaces incl.)

Full Paper

Language UK English, citation Harvard Style
 Title max. 60 characters
 Keywords 5–8 keywords / terms
 Abstract max. 1.000 characters
 Text 20.000–25.000 characters (spaces incl.)

Visual Contribution

Language UK English, citation Harvard Style
 Title max. 60 characters
 Keywords 5–8 keywords / terms
 Abstract max. 500 characters
 Text 5.000–10.000 characters (spaces incl.)
 This call is explicitly open to all forms of media. Visual contributions require a short textural reflection in order to incorporate the background, genesis, and relation of these works to the contribution. Text 5.000–10.000 characters (spaces incl.) Visuals see below.

Anonymous Submission

Please submit your contribution as a text file (doc; docx; pages) anonymously with no reference to your identity and affiliation.

Structure

The main part of the texts can be structured by the authors as they wish, but should cover the following aspects: Introduction – Material and Methods – Results – Discussion – Conclusion. In this, the authors should give an overview of the aim of the research and the underlying questions, as well as of the state of knowledge and research in the field. This should be followed by an explanation of the approach used to address the research question.

Submission

Please submit your Extended Abstract by **15 January 2026**.

If your proposal will then be invited in the editorial selection, please submit your contribution by **15 May 2026**.

To: **issue-14@dimensions-journal.eu**

Maximum upload capacity is 10 MB, for larger files please provide a download link.

Issue Editors

Jan Engelke and Valerie Kronauer (Technical University of Munich).

Furthermore, each contribution should end with a conclusion that reflects on the knowledge gained from the work on the different Dimensions of Knowledge in Architecture. The text can be structured with sub-headlines, which should be reduced to a necessary minimum, provide comprehensibility and allow the readers to follow your argumentation. Footnotes can be inserted to provide additional information, but should be reduced to an absolute minimum.

For further technical information on the requirements and formatting of the text please consult the [Author Guidelines](#).

Biography

Please provide short biographies of all authors, max. length 1.000 characters, as an extra file.

Images and Figures

Extended abstracts can include up to five images or figures. Images or figures can be included in the text. In the text, please refer to images or figures in brackets, i.e. (fig. 1). After the selection of abstracts, full papers can include up to nine images or figures. Images or figures can be included in the text. In the text, please refer to images or figures in brackets, i.e. (fig. 1). All images must be handed in as separate files (pdf, jpg, 300 dpi). Frame for images on one page: 100/180 mm. For visual contributions the number of images is unrestricted, but the total length of the contributions should not exceed approx. 8 pages (are not obliged to the images and figures criteria above and can have another size and format).

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Peer-Review

All contributions invited after the pre-selection of extended abstracts and both full paper or visual contributions with larger portions of non-textual content will be reviewed in a double-blind peer-review procedure. This evaluation may lead to full acceptance, acceptance with requested revisions, or non-acceptance.

Contact

For further information, please visit www.dimensions-journal.eu and feel free to contact us via mail: mail@dimensions-journal.eu