

Call for Contributions

Submission: January 15, 2025

Contact can be an intimate affair, a source of friction, resulting in collisions or in new forms of cohesion and mutual understanding. Considered within a zone, contact is framed within a spatial context, producing not only a conceptual but also a physical effect. According to Marisol de la Cadena and Arturo Escobar, pluriversal contact zones are zones of encounter, sites of divergent and overlapping interpretations of material bodies that seek to coexist in a time of ecological destruction.

The climate emergency requires enormous reductions in CO² emissions, resource consumption and waste generated by construction, and creates conceptual and methodological challenges for the design of just environments. These challenges go beyond the question of how to equip architecture with more sustainable techniques and materials that nonetheless reproduce the same distances and dichotomies between nature and culture, matter and form.

Recently, the Post-Anthropocene has opened up a discourse that focuses on more-than-human ways of knowing, critical spatial practices, and the long-term effects of architecture on the environment – a discourse that radically expands the possibilities for spaces of proximity and contact.

Focussing on the processes, methodologies and insights of architectural practice on all scales, contact zones can allow for a rethinking of more-than-human relationships, address material issues of inequality, lack of responsibility or material breakdown from a new angle, or even offer a zone of resistance, of cohesion or solidarity. Contact zones can be thought of as material and spatial configurations, following the implications of both *contact* and *zone*. While also inviting other interpretations, this dual reading is offered here as a possibility of approaching this call:

Contact is mediated through matter and across bodies, allowing us to explore the sensory and material affects and effects of an encounter. Contact is a reciprocal event, suggesting that it involves ›touching‹ and ›being touched‹. With its specific temporalities and transformative processes over time, materialities influence the way we inhabit it. This implies a rethinking of the material and spatial dimensions of landscapes and the built environment that allows for non-anthropocentric relationships: How do material breakdowns and decay open up contact zones, for example through acts of repair?

Zones are understood as spaces that are constantly meditated and negotiated in encounters across differences. Using anthropologist Anna Tsing's concept of friction, we can understand a contact across difference as a transformative space, an arena for the production of new agendas – and thus as an inherently political space. Navigating such spaces forces us to foreground the social and activist qualities of an architectural practice. At a time of changing climates, we can work architecturally with this transformative potential of conflict – the frictions mentioned above. Reflecting on activist space-making, for example, what are the methodologies for establishing contact zones as zones of resistance and solidarity? What spatial implications does such a zone have?

This call offers four main focus-areas for responses (which may be merged and combined):

1. **Perspectives** as the discursive frameworks and premises for engaging with contact zones in architecture. How is it possible to reveal their transformative function? How can we talk about embodied contact between human and non-human matter, and what language do we need to generate non-anthropocentric knowledge beyond anthropocentric abstractions and physically distant concepts?
2. **Methodologies** emerging in the context of designing contact zones. How do zones of contact manifest themselves, and is it possible to establish methodological frameworks for making them accessible? How can we rethink our (human) relationship with matter through non-anthropocentric methodologies?
3. **Media** practices that allow us to sense contact zones. Is an embodied perception of contact zones without media possible? What are the ethical and aesthetic considerations when mediating landscapes and built environments of contact zones?
4. **Pedagogies** considering contact zones as a particular space of learning. What kinds of pedagogies can foster non-anthropocentric ways of learning and knowing? What spatial configurations would support such a space of learning?

Schedule

Release of Call	August 15, 2024
Deadline for Submissions	January 15, 2025
Notification for Peer-Review	February 1, 2025
Peer-Review Period	February–March 2025
Revision Period	March–April 2025
Rebound Peer-Review	May 2025
Editorial Feedback and Approval	May–August 2025
Publication	January 2026

In the context of *Dimensions* as a journal of and for architectural knowledge, we want to explore the commonalities of our environment and its inherent potential for contact, exchange, and collaboration, as well as to investigate human/non-human agency and the proximity and reciprocity of different agents. Marisol de la Cadena and Arturo Escobar's intention was to contribute to ›a world of many worlds‹. Following this line of thought, we wish to foster a dialogue across disciplines, proposing even more worlds beyond existing modes of anthropocentric knowledge production in architecture.

Our aim is to embrace a hybridity and transdisciplinarity that undermines presumptions of architectural purity and rigour by expanding previous notions of contact. Similarly, we recognise the hybridity within the field of spatial practices; that most of us have multiple roles and identities, where perceived boundaries between research, teaching and practice are often illusory. We look forward to contributions that acknowledge this and work across methods and formats.

This issue is intended as a collaborative format. While we welcome individual voices, we will prioritise multi-authored contributions, medial explorations of the relationship between human and non-human bodies, dialogues between authors previously separated (whether by disciplinary boundaries, time, language, geography, etc.), practice based research and research by/through design approaches, visual contributions such as maps, diagrams, or comics, or other formats dedicated to the physical space of the lifeworld that create hitherto unexplored architectural contact zones in the Post-Anthropocene.

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.

Submission

Please submit your contributions by **January 15, 2025** at **issue-11@dimensions-journal.eu** addressing the editors: Lidia Gasperoni (University College London), Beata Hemer (Royal Danish Academy), Jennifer Raum (Bauhaus-University Weimar), Guro Sollid (Royal Danish Academy).

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Contact

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Visuals see below (Section ›Images and Figures‹)

Anonymous Submission

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

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 – Genesis or 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. 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.

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

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Peer-Review

The selected contribution, full paper or visual contribution 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.