

AZURE

Human/NATURE

A CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION
IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

**CALL FOR
PROPOSALS**

Present at Azure's Human/Nature Conference in Fall 2025

We want your proposal for an hour-long CEU-accredited session at our in-person 2025 conference in Toronto, Canada! Sessions will address the intersection of design and climate change and aim for solution-oriented strategies for mitigation and resilience.

ABOUT HUMAN/NATURE

At Human/Nature, architects, landscape architects, designers and more will find insight into effective ways for integrating climate-conscious design thinking into their own practices. Students and educators will learn how their work could be aligned to mitigation, adaptation and combatting climate change. Business leaders will see how major industry players are achieving carbon neutrality. City planners and officials will hear from colleagues around the world who are galvanizing public support and investment funds for game-changing infrastructural projects. And for all who are concerned about climate change and how it will impact their future, this conference will present new ways of thinking about and acting on their climate change goals.

Session abstracts should highlight recent projects, initiatives and/or research into one or more of these streams.

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT?

Any practitioner or multi-disciplinary group with proven results and/or viable approaches to mitigating climate change through design. Projects we are interested in learning about include landscapes that mitigate the effects of rising temperatures and superstorms, housing projects that are both inclusive and sustainable, and product lines that are carbon neutral.

- / Architects
- / Landscape Architects
- / Urbanists
- / Product Designers
- / Interior Designers
- / Manufacturers
- / Developers
- / Policy makers
- / Artists
- / Activists
- / Technologists

WHAT MAKES A GREAT CONFERENCE PROPOSAL?

Solutions: We are looking for panel sessions that present proven solutions – and the processes through which the solutions were achieved. Sessions should also be geared toward presenting viable approaches to future problems that will arise from global climate change.

Multiple perspectives: Panel sessions should be as multidisciplinary as possible and include the voices of practitioners (architects, urban planners, designers, etc) alongside those of clients, community members, artists, activists, policy-makers and other relevant points of view.

Engagement: Panel sessions need to engage attendees in meaningful ways, whether they are shaped as panels with prompts for group discussion or hands-on workshops.

Broad themes and specific topics to consider when proposing your project(s), initiative(s) and/or research for a presentation

1. GREEN MANUFACTURING

KEY IDEAS: Circular Economy, Carbon-Neutral/Zero-Carbon Manufacturing, New Sourcing and Distribution Models, Local Manufacturing, Green Technologies, Designing For Disassembly

- How can designers and brands build business models and processes around everything from the ecological manufacturing of products that last to their sustainable delivery and end-of-life retrieval?
- What are the most meaningful approaches to our plastics problem?
- How are manufacturers building green production processes from A to Z, with less to no reliance on extractive practices or fossil fuels?
- What new tools are available for ensuring a transparent supply chain?

2. HEALTHY INTERIORS

KEY IDEAS: Sourcing Green Furniture and Products, Biophilia, Wellness

- What do interior designers need to know about designing more environmentally friendly interiors?
- What tools are available for interior designers who want to confront climate change?
- How do ecologically healthy interiors contribute to human health outcomes?

3. INDIGENEITY

- How can we adopt Indigenous ways of knowing into architecture, landscape and urban design?

4. RETROFITTING EXISTING BUILDINGS

KEY IDEAS: Adaptive Reuse

- How can we adapt existing buildings to take into consideration upfront and overall embodied carbon and lessen our reliance on fossil fuels?
- What policies and codes need to change for us to protect and adapt more of our building stock?

5. BUILDING AND DESIGNING FOR A LIVEABLE FUTURE

KEY IDEAS: Climate-Resilient Architecture, Green Tech, Carbon Footprint

- How can architects calculate and forecast the carbon footprint of their new building or development? What tools are available?
- Which new solar and other green technologies are the most promising?
- How does responsible forest stewardship impact mass timber building, and vice versa?
- Which policies and codes need to adapt for the widespread adoption of more ecological building practices?

6. HEAT AND WATER

KEY IDEAS: Resilient Communities, Livable Cities, Productive Landscapes

- How can we retrofit our cities to mitigate extreme heat and ensure their long-term comfort and livability?
- How can we create more resilient landscapes and urban realms? How do we future-proof against extreme weather events, such as forest fires and flooding, through better architecture and urban design?

7. GREENER TRANSPORTATION & THE ELECTRIC ERA

KEY IDEAS: Public Transportation, Green Infrastructure, Climate Change and Society, Post-Carbon Communities

- Which transportation models best accommodate urban growth?
- How are cities successfully implementing new transportation designs that are accessible, ecological and beautiful?
- What will the switch away from fossil fuels to green electricity look like for communities?
- What challenges lie ahead for a truly electric future?

8. SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

KEY IDEAS: Complete Neighbourhoods, Affordable Housing, Job Creation, Health, Food Security

- How can climate-conscious design meaningfully intersect with the societal needs that will grow in importance alongside a more unstable climate: shelter, food and jobs?
- How can policies and codes be adapted to allow for more complete neighbourhoods?

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please answer the questions below and attach your responses as a Word doc or PDF in an email to **conference@azureonline.com**

For a submission to be evaluated, all questions must be completed.

Submissions are due by 10pm January 24, 2025.

Session Title:

Main Presenter:

- 1. What is your session about?** Briefly describe your session's topic. (200-word limit. If accepted, this will be used in your abstract.)
- 2. How does this content explore new strategies for mitigating climate change via design?** (200-word limit. If accepted, this will be used in your abstract.)
- 3. Which projects of yours will you be using as examples?**
Which disciplines and/or community members will be included among your panelists?
- 4. How will you engage your audience throughout your session?** How will your session keep attendees current, educate them on new or proven strategies, inform their projects, and inspire them to act?
- 5. Please provide a breakdown of your session:** Indicate time allotted for presentations, panel discussions, audience engagement and other.