

PRESS RELEASE

Barcelona 6th of March, 2023

The second edition of Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival will be held from 20 to 30 April. Under the theme Radical Empathy, the festival will take place in a new location in the area around Parc de les Glòries

>> The second edition of *Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival* will be held from 20 to 30 April under the theme of Radical Empathy and featuring a new location.

>> The area around the Parc de les Glòries will be the epicentre of the festival. It will serve as a meeting place for city residents, featuring temporary installations, debates, exhibitions, routes, workshops and concerts, among many other activities.

>> For nearly two weeks, the festival will turn this area of Barcelona into a laboratory for architectural and urban experimentation and dissemination. Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival is a space for reflection and celebration that brings us experimental architecture and helps us to rethink how we want to live together through new city models and visions.

>> One of the other new features of this year's edition is the introduction of the Model Award, which seeks to highlight the independent work of local and international creators. There are three award categories: the Installation Model Award, the Digital Architecture Model Award and the Curatorial Model Award, worth €8,000, €3,000 and €4,000, respectively. The first edition of the Model Awards for Architectural Experimentation received 117 entries from 60 cities and 23 countries.

>> Thirteen winners have been selected. They will have the opportunity to conceptualise and design one of the installations, augmented realities, curatorial projects and/or experimental projects to be presented during the 2023 edition of Model in the city of Barcelona.

>> The +MODEL call for proposals for activities and installations on the impact of architecture and heritage on the city is open until 20 March. The proposals selected will be included in the festival programme.

>> *Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival* was founded by the Barcelona City Council in 2022 and this year it is being run through the Fundació Mies van der Rohe.

The **second edition** of *Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival* will be held from **20 to 30 April**. Founded by Barcelona City Council in 2022, the festival is now managed through the Fundació Mies van der Rohe and aims to transform the urban space into a platform for architectural talent and up-and-coming design; the city into a meeting forum for leading thinkers from around the world; and, more significantly, architecture into a space for exploration and inspiration for all.

The festival was created when Barcelona was named as the UIA-Unesco world capital of Architecture for 2026 as a space for reflection and celebration that introduces us to experimental architecture and helps us to rethink how we want to live together through new city models and new imaginaries.

For almost two weeks, from 20 to 30 April, *Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival* promotes and provides the framework for events formerly held during Architecture Week and turns Barcelona's streets into a laboratory for architectural and urban experimentation and dissemination.

The festival's epicentre in the vicinity of Parc de les Glòries is a meeting space for city residents to enjoy temporary installations, debates, talks, exhibitions, projections, routes, workshops, concerts, initiatives and works of architects, urban planners, landscape architects, artists, scientists, lawyers and poets, to name a few, who are contributing to this second edition of the festival.



THEME 2023: RADICAL EMPATHY

Model was founded on the spirit and values of material circularity, diversity and scalability in time and space. These values remain relevant as a way of understanding all the projects undertaken within the festival framework (re-use, re-diversify, re-situate, re-plan).

The 2023 edition of the Barcelona Architectures Festival presents spaces for research, experimentation and a celebration of the transformative power of **Radical Empathy** in design, architecture and the city.

Radical Empathy goes beyond sympathy or understanding - it encourages individuals and communities to take steps to address the needs and experiences of others in a profound and authentic way. In the context of architecture and design, radical empathy involves designing spaces and buildings that not only respond needs and desires of users, but also strive to address social, cultural and environmental issues in a transversal manner.

The goal of radical empathy in architecture is to create spaces that not only carry out practical functions but which also have a positive impact on the communities they serve, helping to bring about a fairer, more inclusive, more just and more sustainable world, both today and in the future.

What are the aesthetics, materiality, and design methods to create an architecture that aspires to be radically empathetic? What legislation, economies and innovative architectural processes are being developed in Barcelona and around the world for building a better society? These are some of the issues that will structure the latest edition of the festival.

Model 2023, Festival promoted by Barcelona City Council and organised this year by the **Fundació Mies van der Rohe** with the artistic direction of **Eva Franch i Gilabert** in collaboration with a large team of architects and curators, and over 50 institutions and organisations from the city selected in an open call.

MODEL AWARDS 2023

With the aim of highlighting the independent work of local and international creators, Model 2023 began inviting architects, cultural researchers and curators from around the world to take part in the **2023 Model Awards** and join the creative team managing this major city event. The **first edition of the Model Award for Architectural Experimentation received 117 entries from 60 cities and 23 countries.**

The Model Awards for Architectural Experimentation are presented to groups or individuals and consist of a sum of money and an opportunity to conceive and design one of the installations, augmented realities, curated projects and/or experimental projects to be developed during the 2023 edition of Model in Barcelona.

There are **three categories**:

- Installation Model Award: Worth €8,000, its aim is to support the production of projects promoting new ways of occupying, planning and constructing public spaces.
- Digital Architecture Model Award: Worth €3,000, it rewards projects that promote new ways of occupying, planning and building public spaces based on digital forms, including augmented reality.



- **Curatorial Projects Model Award:** Worth €4,000, is aimed at initiatives based on curatorial projects, exhibitions and debates that promote new ways of occupying, programming and constructing public space.

The five members of the **jury**:

Tatiana Bilbao, the founder and head of Tatiana Bilbao Estudio, Mexico; **Carson Chan**, the curator and director of the Emilio Ambasz Institute for the Joint Study of the Built and the Natural Environment at the MoMa in New York; **Eva Franch i Gilabert**, the artistic director of Model.Barcelona Architectures Festival; **Xavier Matilla**, the chief architect at Barcelona City Council, and **Anna Ramos**, the director of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe, chose the following as the winners from among the proposals entered:

Installation Model Award:

- Equal Saree (Barcelona)
- Daryan Knoblauch (London/Cologne)
- H3o Architects + DFMD (Barcelona/Mexico City)
- Harrison Atelier (HAt) (New York)
- Kosmos i Parabase (Zurich/Graz/Barcelona/Basel)

Digital Architecture Model Award:

- Besler & Sons (New York)
- Farah Michel (Dubai)
- Mathilde Marengo and Iacopo Neri, Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (Barcelona)
- Víctor Enrich (Barcelona)

Curatorial Projects Model Award:

- Ethel Baraona (Barcelona)
- Noa Yarkoni, Mar Gené and Tiffany Whittaker (Barcelona)
- Oscar Guayabero and Daniele Porretta (Barcelona)
- Temporary Pleasure (Berlin/Brussels/ Barcelona)

THEMES

As a forum, festival and laboratory of architecture, ideas and thought, Model presents common spaces for experimenting, disseminating and debating. The festival allows us to delve into key issues from both a philosophical and social point of view, from an architectural and a cross-disciplinary perspective through concepts articulated within a dialectic space in constant development and transformation.

The festival's **five thematic areas**, developed on the basis of several meetings with Barcelona's associations, organisations and collectives in 2022, offer a conceptual and practical meeting platform for all the events developed during the festival, including +Model activities. These five themes, which will grow and undergo modifications over time and in future editions, constitute the structuring elements for a research process that allows us to carry out transversal and cumulative conversations year after year.

Between-Species: At a time when we must go beyond the idea of the human being as the centre of everything - beyond anthropocentrism - the city can no longer solely consider the interests of people. The health of city residents depends on the trees that clean the air we breathe and on the vitality of our microbiota. Our quality of life is directly linked to the insects that share our space. Every city today is an ecosystem with delicate balances and a multi-species community. The COVID crisis has made us all the more aware that the destiny of humans is linked to that of the planet's other species. Global threats from the climate and biodiversity crises are compelling us to rethink urban planning from new perspectives that balance the well-being of humans with that of the other species in the city. And even to develop architectural projects designed to meet the needs of these non-human species.

Between-Cultures: The city is a space where the coexistence of different people entails a constant conflict of views on how the city should be and how it should be built. The city must be a place that integrates celebration and festivity as well as rest and silence. We need to be capable of integrating every new resident and their histories and traditions, while maintaining a shared identity and memory.

The city's transformation is largely a cultural transformation, a time to review the mistakes of the past and incorporate new convictions about what is truly important and what can improve our lives. Changing gender stereotypes and the heteropatriarchal culture of certain architectural typologies, and proposing new forms of mobility, is neither easy nor something that will happen overnight. Rethinking the relationship between the city and the countryside in the 21st century may not be obvious, nor is it clear what a diverse and multicultural public and private space means. Nevertheless, architecture in a city like Barcelona in the 21st century requires us to propose new models that help us understand this complexity and transform it into a space that reaches beyond the sum of its parts.

Between-Classes: The stark inequalities in contemporary cities are leaving a large, visible mark on their maps and societies, segmenting them and creating chasms of every kind. A person's life expectancy and possibilities for prospering continue to be decisively shaped by the particular neighbourhood they are born in. Architecture and urban planning need to serve, above all, as a counterweight to the class divide.

Permanently threatened by the predatory logic of speculation, the right to decent and accessible housing continues to be one of the most pressing needs facing architecture and urban policies today. But there are many others as well: the right to education, culture, participation and access to a whole host of opportunities that enable each citizen to imagine and choose their path. What can architecture do to produce more egalitarian and accessible spaces?

Between-Generations: Designing and building 'a city for everyone' is only possible if we include every kind of person: young people, adults, the elderly, children and anyone who does not identify with the values of any generational label. Our public space is where the needs of each generation converge and such forms of friction give rise not only to conflicts

but also to opportunities for positive community life. Over and above our generational differences, how can we imagine forms of architecture for mutual care?

From the climate crisis to the biodiversity crisis, the Anthropocene's conflicts are forcing us to think about the long term, bearing in mind the interests of future generations. The city is the long-term artefact par excellence: we build it today for our successors to inherit. What vision of the city needs to be promoted if we understand it as an agreement between generations?



Between-Materials: If we are to meet the Paris Agreement's goals for decarbonisation and the energy transition, then cities of the future will need - at the very least - to reconstruct themselves using new sustainable materials and methodologies that reduce their material footprint. Basic procedures include the regeneration of systems and infrastructures to maximise the reuse and circularity of resources and to optimise energy flows and the networks that depend on them, from mobility to food supplies. The new architecture materiality also includes logistics, microbiology and technology.

Many of the contemporary city's conflicts actually arise from intangible fields or transcend our senses. New technologies and apps aimed at making cities smarter are creating new uses and links to urban spaces that are changing the fabric and even materiality of streets themselves, going beyond the capacity of current regulations – and the speed of their transformation – to regulate them. From food delivery apps to dating apps, from car-sharing to fast delivery e-commerce, and so on. Many of the city's contemporary problems can be found in intangible aspects which architecture is constantly transforming into material issues. From the air-quality crisis to noise and light pollution, how do we respond architecturally in this measured and augmented city?

MODEL BOOKS

This year, Model coincides with the **Sant Jordi festivities**. On April 23rd, in the **Mercat dels Encants**, with a full program of book presentations and debates, Model invites international architecture publishers to present their books in the **Model Architecture Book Fair**.

Throughout the week, Model Books will present again a selection of books from various international publishers which promote and disseminate works and ideas in the sphere of architecture. The selected books about architecture, philosophy and critical thinking invite the visitor to reflect on the main theme of Model 2023: Radical Empathy.

As part of 'Model Books', a series of Barcelona **bookshops and libraries** will also present special collections to reflect on the main theme and the five main areas of the festival: Between-Classes, Between-Cultures, Between-Species, Between-Generations and Between-Materials.

As a new format, this year Model launches the **Model Book Salons**, a series of visits to private libraries and book collections, opening the doors of private homes to the public.

+MODEL

Model. Barcelona Architectures Festival is an all-embracing and inclusive city event that promotes collective reflection with the whole of society taking part. With this in mind, Model is inviting the entire architectural sector and city residents to take part through +MODEL, with the aim of enriching the debate on architecture's impact on society and the recognition of architectural and cultural heritage from several points of view.

Associations and institutions from several social, cultural and artistic disciplines will join the festival as part of this open call to the general public, where each kind of event has its place, including every format: installations, exhibitions, augmented realities, debates, routes, competitions, workshops, films, festivities and talks aimed at collectively re-imagining what shapes Barcelona. Proposals can be submitted until 20 March. Model invites all participants to respond creatively to the Model 2023 theme: Radical Empathy and to position the proposal within one or several of the festival's areas of research.

All selected participating individuals and organisations will receive official recognition of their participation in +Model through graphic material; presence on the Model.Barcelona website; presence on the festival's events agenda; presence on the participants and organisers page and in the official list of acknowledgements; visibility on the official social networks of [@Modelfest](#); invitations to all the official opening and closing events and support while organising the proposed events.

This year will feature the launch of the **+Model Awards**, worth €1,000 each. These awards will be given to a maximum of 15 activity proposals, which will be selected by a jury that will assess the relevance and contribution to the festival's themes and objectives.

LOCATION

Model is held throughout the city through the +Model initiatives. It is also concentrated in specific areas, which allows the festival to experimentally explore unresolved situations in the process of change or transformation. The first edition of Model was held around Ciutat Vella and this second edition is taking place **in the vicinity of Parc de les Glòries**, a space boasting a historical centrality and building potential. Featuring a large number of urban spaces in the process of being defined and a large number of facilities of importance for the

city, the area around Parc de les Glòries has been an important laboratory for architectural and urban innovation and remains a place for reflection, experimentation and urban development for the city.

Website - model.barcelona Instagram - [@modelfestbcn](https://www.instagram.com/modelfestbcn)

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