

Call for papers

London Festival of Architecture 2020 Symposium in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts

The London Festival of Architecture is now welcoming submissions for the third annual LFA Symposium, hosted in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts. The symposium brings together two institutions to celebrate the culture of our built environment and has established itself as one of the key events in the London architectural calendar.

The symposium represents an opportunity for both emerging and established practitioners, academics and researchers with bold new ideas to reflect on this year's theme of 'power' and to share their work with a broad multi-disciplinary community.

About the theme

Those who hold power have always used architecture to make it as visible as possible. Whether used in religious, regal, political or military contexts, buildings are essential for creating space – both public and private – for an expression of power dynamics. A walk through London tells a story of shifting power through its built form: the growth of commerce and the decline of historic power structures.

Today, the order of power is being disrupted. The power of protest is returning to the foreground of civic life, alongside a rise in populist movements. Spatial practitioners have an important responsibility to both explore and challenge different manifestations of power in architecture.

We invite you to explore who holds the power to shape our cities and buildings and in turn the power of architecture to impact our lives.

The LFA is seeking submissions of original research exploring the relationship between power, people and architecture. The symposium will group submissions into those exploring 'Architecture and Power' during the first session and 'Power of the collective' during the second session. Examples include:

- Panel 1 topic – Power of the place

- Physical expressions of power in the built environment - monumentality then and now
 - Critical assessments of the effects these built forms have on the people who live with their legacy and how it affects different generations
 - Agency of the architect in negotiating and blurring power relations
 - The use of architectural brands to communicate power
- **Panel 2 topic – Power of the people**
 - People using built environment as a tool to affect change, e.g. protest and occupation or urban commoning
 - Authority - who holds the power amongst the web of stakeholders? Does it lie with regulators, planners, landowners, designers or, is the public in ultimate control?
 - Power shifts in architecture practice, questions around the ways power is distributed along lines of class, gender and race

How to submit

Please submit an abstract of up to 300 words plus a one-page CV, outlining any institutional affiliations, by Monday 10 February 2020, at 3:00 pm.

Your CV and abstract should be saved together in one file (as pdf or word document) and submitted via:

<https://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/symposium2020>

Successful applicants will be notified by Monday 24 February.

For symposium enquires please contact:
rosa@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org

We welcome international submissions. Funds may be available to assist with travel and accommodation expenses, although it is expected that applicants apply to their own institutions for support in the first instance.

The successful applicants will be invited to present their selected work at the third London Festival of Architecture symposium at Royal Academy of Arts on **Thursday 11 June 2020**.



The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) is the world's largest annual architecture festival and is exploring the theme of 'power' in 2020. The LFA's mission is to support London's architectural and design talent, enthuse and engage with the public, and find new ways to look at familiar places. Every June it celebrates innovation and design through a public programme that showcases London as a global architectural hub and promotes positive change to its public realm. The theme for the 2019 event – boundaries – inspired over 500 events across the capital, attracting over 800,000 visitors and a global audience of 138 million. A year-round programme of design competitions, design charettes, campaigns and other activities also champions London as the best place in the world to practice and enjoy architecture. The LFA is now launching a separate Call for Participants for the LFA Symposium.

Background to the London Festival of Architecture Symposium at the Royal Academy



In 2018, London Festival of Architecture in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts, established the LFA Symposium as a focal event of the festival that offers a rich exploration of the annual theme. Bringing together prominent architects, academics and commentators, the inaugural symposium entitled '*Does Identity Matter?*' challenged how people connect and identify with their homes, workplaces, neighbourhoods, and the city as a whole. In 2019, the second symposium '*Thresholds or barriers? Perspectives on boundaries and architecture*' offered a rich exploration of the role and application of boundaries in architecture and placemaking.



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Previous keynote speakers include Farshid Moussavi OBE RA (Director of Farshid Moussavi Architecture), Eyal Weizman (Director of Forensic Architecture and Professor of Spatial and Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London) and Mary Duggan (Founding Director, Mary Duggan Architects).