

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a tree trunk. The image is heavily stylized, with the tree's bark and branches appearing as dark, textured shapes against a stark white background. The central text is overlaid on a dark rectangular background. The text is in a white, italicized serif font.

*Can we talk about this?*

## ***An overview***

In a recent Architectural Review article, architectural educators Francesca Hughes and Leslie Lokko questioned architectural schools' capacity to keep up with world complexity. "Are we asking the right questions?" they say, and "Can we use the shape-shifting identity of architects to create new imaginaries that are relevant to the current criticalities?" Already a decade ago, in the same journal, Pete Buchanan was calling for a 'Big Rethink' of architectural education. But have architectural schools accommodated the necessary changes and if yes, how? And what do we need to do from now on?

Inquiring on the future of 'design after design,' Jeremy Till declares the demand for provisional answers "to replace the previous assumptions and operations." "The world is in a fragile state and humanity has responsibilities in helping to repair that fragile state," argues Ronald Barnett. He urges universities to create "feasible utopias" and to engage "with different ecologies of knowledge, culture, institutions and the economy and across all levels from the individual all the way through communities and societies to the world itself."

The vision on education of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment here at TU Delft, currently targets three main challenges for the future: Urban Inequality, Climate Crisis and Scarcity (of resources). The school has identified an equal number of strategies to steer the changes needed and Circularity in the Built Environment features as one of the three.

For the past five years, the Circular Built Environment (CBE) Hub of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment has been systematically researching how circularity manifests in the built environment and also how the input of this research can be converted to communicable knowledge. Circularity principles is gradually being integrated in the school curricula and new online learning offerings are produced in the form of MOOCs or continuing adult education. As of a late, a new Circular Impulse Initiative has also been put into place: a project consisting of actions that support learning about and for circularity for students and educators alike.

While reflecting upon our programmes, practices, on what we have learned so far and how to move ahead, we reach out to the international broader community of educators and students and learn from their experiences. Question is, *can we talk about this?*

## ***Programme***

### **DAY 1 | Wednesday 02 November**

10:00-11:30 | Session 1: Integration of circularity in architectural education

*Lunch Break*

13:30-15:00 | Session 2: Cross-faculty educational encounters

*Break*

15:30-17:00 | Session 3: Cross-level educational encounters

### **DAY 2 | Thursday 03 November**

10:00-11:30 | Session 1: Effective Use of Technologies

*Lunch Break*

13:30-15:00 | Session 2: Innovative Pedagogies

*Break*

15:30-17:00 | Session 3: Learning in uncertainty

### **DAY 3 | Friday 04 November**

09:15-12:30 EAAE Workshop

**Day 1 | Wednesday 02/11/2022 | Focus on Circularity**

This first part of the symposium will focus on the current status quo in circular education. In particular it will be split in three sessions: the first will be dedicated to mapping current approaches at course and at curriculum level. The second session will investigate cross disciplinary collaboration practices amongst TU Delft faculties: is it possible to re-establish connections between different types of knowledge towards a more inclusive, integrative learning approach? How open are we to the otherness? Finally, the last session will address cross-level collaborations between educational institutions: how can circular education be enhanced by combining different types of skills? Can people with different ways of knowing and different toolkits develop ways of working together and learn from one another?

**Wednesday 02/11/22 | 10:00-11:30 | Integration of circularity in architectural education**

Format: Round Table Discussion

Moderator: **Tillmann Klein**

Panel: **Meryem Birgül Çolakoğlu** | ITU, Turkey

**Lisbeth M. Ottosen** | DTU, Denmark

**Deepika Raghu** | ETH, Switzerland

**Mario Rinke** | University of Antwerp, Belgium

**Leonardo Rosado** | Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

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**Key questions**

- What drives the change? What are the underlying themes?
- How is ongoing research channelled in education?
- What are the main barriers of transitioning to a circular education?
- Is circularity channelled across all types of courses? Or is it monopolized by technical or theoretical courses only?
- Can schools work together and learn from one another? Can they share knowledge and programs to achieve the transition?

**Wednesday 02/11/22 | 13:30-15:00 | Cross-faculty educational encounters**

Format: Round Table Discussion

Moderator: **Remon Rooij**

Panel: **Olaf Oosting** | Valstar Simonis

**Indy van de Sande** | Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

**Michiel Susebeek** | Saint Gobin

**Helmut Thoele** | Province Zuid Holland

**Hans Wamelink** | BK Launch

**Emma de Wijs** | Municipality of Hague

Members of the Delft Circular Impact (DCI) group

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**Aims** | The objective of our session is to explore and discuss directions for new cross-faculty and new university-industry educational encounters and co-operations. In Delft, there is room in our master's curriculums to have students from various programs work inter- and/or transdisciplinary on urgent societal challenges. Circular buildings, a circular built environment, circular cities and regions, and a circular building industry are such challenges. After a brief welcome and introduction, we would like to discuss with you in five steps and along three axes. See here several questions we would like to bring forward for the axes.

**Wednesday 02/11/22 | 15:30-17:00 | Cross-level educational encounters**

Format: Round Table Discussion

Moderator: **Thijs Asselbergs**

Panel: **Hannah Beljaars Frederiks** | HBO Rotterdam

**Josef Bischofs** | Head of Academy of Architecture Maastricht

**Atze Boerstra** | Professor of Building Services Innovation, TU Delft

**David Peck** | Associate Professor, TU Delft

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**Key questions**

- Is circularity a priority in the building industry professional education?
- What are the current approaches in education for circularity?
- What are the responsibilities of the building industry professionals? What is their role in the transition to a CBE?
- Do we need to work together?
- How can we bridge different types of knowing of the world? How can we expose students to different ways of knowing and what do we expect to gain from this?
- Can we think of new formats that allow students of different levels to join forces? What would it look like? What would be the role of docents? What would be the students' tasks?





**Day 2 | Thursday 03/11/2022 | Focus on Learning**

The second part of the Symposium will focus on learning and pedagogy. A number of three sessions will explore different aspects, starting with the way technology changes the educational process and its capacity to redistribute agency across educators and learners. The second session will focus on innovative pedagogies and new ways of knowing. Finally, the third session will be dedicated to discussing how learning has been affected by our increasing sense of uncertainty in conditions of (super)complexity.

**Thursday 03/11/22 | 10:00-11:30 | Effective Use of Technologies**

Format: Workshop

Organizers: **Atefeh Aghaee** | Blended Learning Advisor, TU Delft

**Serdar Asut** | Assistant Professor Design Informatics, TU Delft

**Olga Ioannou** | Assistant Professor Building Product Innovation, TU Delft

**Marcus Specht** | Professor for Digital Education, TU Delft

Participants: BK Docents, registered participants

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**Workshop Aims**

This session will develop over two hours in the form of a workshop. BK docents from all departments will be invited to co-create different scenarios for blending and experiment with the content delivery of their courses. The two new platforms 'Circularity for Educators' and 'Educators for Circularity' will be used as background content. The scope is to showcase the possibilities of switching to a pedagogy that assigns learners with more agency and to help educators comprehend the benefits of such practices. It will also help promote the CII learning offerings and consolidate the ways these will be communicated across the school.

**Thursday 03/11/22 | 13:30-15:00 | Innovative Pedagogies**

Format: Round Table Discussion

Moderators: **Leo van den Burg & Olga Ioannou**

Panel: **Peter van Assche** | Architect & Professor at the Academy of Architecture of the Amsterdam

**Mia Roth-Čerina** | Associate Professor, University of Zagreb

**Tom Parker** | Critical Concrete

**Angeliki Sioli** | Assistant Professor, TU Delft

**Jeremy Till** | Architect, writer and educator

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**Key Questions**

- What are the main challenges we are facing? What do we have at hand to overcome them? And what is it we need to come up with? What are we missing? Do we listen to the world?
- How can we enable our students to cope in a complex world? How can we mix the scientific-technical problem-solving competence with an understanding of what needs to be solved? Can we work in the spaces in-between?
- Can we create shared imaginaries? What tools do we have at hand? Can concepts such as circularity help us structure our understanding of the world? Can they drive the new imaginaries needed?
- Can (or should) education put the climate crisis on the agenda as activism?

**Thursday 03/11/22 | 15:30-17:00 | Learning in uncertainty**

Format: Round Table Discussion

Moderator: **Olga Ioannou**

Panel: **Ronald Barnett** | Professor Emeritus University of London

**Nina Bohm** | PhD Researcher MBE, TU Delft

**Dave Cormier** | Digital Learning Specialist, University of Windsor

Students from BOUT, Stylos, FSC

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**Key Questions**

- How does complexity interfere with our learning? What happens when knowledge produces further uncertainty? How do we learn in a complex world? How do we overcome/tackle the uncertainty caused by extreme complexity (supercomplexity)?
- Can we cope with the not-yetness of the world? What are the virtues that we are hoping that students might acquire to become citizens in and of this Earth, and how might the pedagogical relationship be shaped thereto? How might the student experience be developed so as to help students develop their sense of mystery, wonder and awe in being immersed in the world? Are the ideas of stillness, slowness, wisdom and quietness helpful in developing pedagogy in higher education?
- What is the place of knowledge in uncertainty? How does learning take place? To what extent should education deal with the unknown?
- What is challenge-based learning? Is learning happening through making decisions? And who is (or should be) making these decisions? What might be meant by an 'open learning situation'?
- How does that affect teaching? Is the learning community the new curriculum? Is it the educator? What is the educators' role? What is the Universities' role?
- Is there a value in concepts like circularity in organizing learning?

**Day 3 | Friday 04-11-2022 | EAAE Workshop**

Throughout the past year, the EAAE has been running a series of SDGs workshops linking the EAAE Education Academy & the EAAE Research Academy with the EAAE Conservation Network. Refreshing the discussions about the SDGs in education and research, and also concerning the New European Bauhaus initiative, the SDGs workshop series has been helping to map and exchange best practices among various EAAE member schools.

The aim of this workshop in Delft is to bring forward and discuss intentions, concepts, and positions about SDGs in architectural education and research, interlinking to conditions, circumstances, and challenges faced by institutions.

**Friday 04/11/22 | 09:15-12:45 | EAAE Workshop**

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in education & research**

Moderators: **Roberto Cavallo, Mia Roth-Čerina, Ilaria Valente**

09:15-09:30 Introduction and goals of the EAAE workshop; outcome position paper workshop series EAAE; SDGs & New European Bauhaus

**Roberto Cavallo**, Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology

**Mia Roth-Čerina**, Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb

09:30-10:00 Findings EAAE survey 'SDGs in Architecture'

**Ilaria Valente**, Department of Architecture & Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

10:00-10:45 SDGs Best practices, various speakers (part 1)

**Janna Bystrykh**, Academy of Architecture, Amsterdam University of the Arts

**Matija Pogorilic**, Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb

**Jörg Schröder**, Leibniz Universität Hannover (online)

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:00 SDGs Best practices, various speakers (part 2)

**Olga Ioannou**, Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology

**Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira**, Department of Architecture & Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

Architectural Education in Times of Uncertainty Symposium

**Gerardo Semprebon**, Department of Architecture & Urban Studies,  
Politecnico di Milano (online)

12:00-12:30 Thematic discussions (tracking methodologies, content shifts, impact, EAAE  
position paper updates) & conclusion

# Architectural Education in Times of Uncertainty Symposium

## Symposium Organizers



Olga Ioannou



Tillmann Klein



Roberto Cavallo



Leo van den Burg



Nicolet Mansveld-Olsthoom