

November
6–7th, 2025

IFA Forum, Technische Universität Berlin, Institut für Architektur
Straße des 17. Juni 152, 10623 Berlin

DESIGNING REFIGURATION

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

REFIGURING DESIGN

Collaborative Research Center
1265 „Re-Figuration of Spaces“

*Exploring Practices
of Changing Spaces*

with DEANE SIMPSON,
GEORGEEN THEODORE, JANE RENDELL,
GABU HEINDL + DREHLI ROBNIK
and many others

Event Venue:

IFA Forum, Technische Universität Berlin,
Institut für Architektur
Straße des 17. Juni 152, 10623 Berlin

Organisers:

Christian Haid, Martina Löw, Séverine
Marguin

Contact:

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Registration:

Open from October 13
no participation fee

[https://sfb1265.de/veranstaltungen/
designing-refiguration/](https://sfb1265.de/veranstaltungen/designing-refiguration/)



sfb1265.de



PROGRAM

The globalized, interconnected, and rapidly changing nature of contemporary societies is expressed in the ways in which spaces are produced, experienced, understood, and transformed. Large-scale societal shifts—such as globalization, digitalization, migration, and climate change—have led to the refiguration of spaces into heterogeneous, overlapping, and often conflicting spatial orders.

Over the past eight years, the CRC “Refiguration of Spaces” has played a leading role in researching these dynamics. This conference aims to examine how spatial refiguration is designed, how it influences design, and how design can address the growing complexity of social change and its spatial implications. The coexistence of diverse and often conflicting spatial logics challenges our everyday lives and traditional design paradigms. This evokes the need to create polyvalent spaces that cater to varied cultural practices and user perspectives.

We therefore ask, is refiguration designable? And what kind of design might be able to integrate all its dimensions while addressing fluid boundaries and interconnections? What kind of design can navigate spatial conflicts? Considering social change as multi-scalar, to what extent can design respond through multiscalar, intersectional, and entangled spatial constitutions? Could speculative and adaptive design thinking be critical in addressing the uncertainties of spatial change and envisioning alternative futures?

This conference brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars and practitioners to share their knowledge on spatial reorganization under conditions of social change. The event aims to reconsider the practical relevance of refiguration research through two key perspectives: first, by exploring how design actively reshapes and reconfigures societal dynamics (Thematic Focus Day I: Design as a Driver of Refiguration); and second, by critically examining the potential of design to adapt to and address societal dynamics (Thematic Focus Day II: Design under Refiguration).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

DESIGN AS DRIVER FOR REFIGURATION

09:30
Registration

10:00
Designing Refiguration, Refiguring Design
Introduction
Martina Löw & Christian Haid (CRC 1265)

10:30
Design as Driver for Refiguration Positions
Deane Simpson (Copenhagen)
On the Multiscalar, and Other Refigurations

11:30
Coffee Break

12:00
Design as Driver of Refiguration Panel I
Jörg Stollmann (CRC 1265)
Designing Homophily: From Society As-a-whole to an Assemblage of Enclaves. A Visual Essay

Séverine Marguin (CRC 1265)
Staging Desirability: Conflicting Spatial Stories of Home in West-African Afronovelas

13:30
Light Lunch

14:30
Design as Driver for Refiguration Panel II
Ignacio Fariñas (CRC 1265)
Design in Re (Minor): On the Processuality of Re-figuration

Jochen Kibel (CRC 1265)
Refiguring Landscapes – Designing Subjects? ‘Colonial Psychiatry’, Villagization and Resistance in Kenya

16:00
Coffee Break

16:30
Debate
The International Building Exhibition (IBA) as an Instrument of Refiguration

17:30
Break

18:00
Lecture
Georgeen Theodore (NYC)
People, Property and Practice: Neighborhood Planning Now in the USA

19:00
Reception

The conference is accompanied by the exhibition **Investigating Refiguration** in the foyer and on the gallery, open throughout the conference.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

DESIGN UNDER REFIGURATION

09:00
Design under Refiguration Positions
Jane Rendell (London)
Towards Critical Spatial Practice as Figuration: Introductions and Adjustments

Gabu Heindl/Drehli Robnik (Vienna)
Composing Holes and Decomposing Wholes: Nonsolution as a Concept in Planning Practice

11:00
Coffee Break

11:30
Design under Refiguration Panel
Angela Million (CRC 1265)
Spatial Appropriation, Hybridity, Conflict: What Refiguration Means for Urban Planning and Design

Philipp Misselwitz (CRC 1265)
Designing Solidarity Infrastructures under Conditions of Refiguration

13:00
Break (Speakers’ Lunch)

15:00
Investigating Refiguration: Methods and Practices for Grasping the Multiplicities of Spacetimes Roundtables (parallel)
> Mapping
> Transecting
> Sounding
> Gaming

16:30
Wrap-up and Farewell