



MEDIA INFORMATION

Munich, 26 February 2025

TREES, TIME, ARCHITECTURE! DESIGN IN CONSTANT TRANSFORMATION.

MEDIA CONFERENCE: 12 MARCH 2025, 11.00 A.M.

OPENING: 12 MARCH 2025, 7.00 P.M.

EXHIBITION DURATION: 13 MARCH UNTIL 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

Trees are among the largest, oldest, and most complex living organisms on Earth, and they also grow exceptionally slowly – often taking decades or even centuries to reach their full size. This means they exceed human lifespans, and their temporality is at odds with the ever-accelerating pace of social, technological, and ecological change. At the same time, we need trees now more than ever to help solve the drastic problem of climate change. With their large canopies, trees significantly reduce temperatures in urban heat islands and maintain the quality of life for a growing urban population through shade and evaporation. However, trees are also increasingly becoming victims of climate change, threatened by drought, storms, hail, and the spread of new diseases. "Trees, Time, Architecture!" explores the potential and contradictions of 'building on trees' in architecture and landscape architecture. For the first time, an exhibition project addresses the topic area of trees, time, and architecture from a holistic, multidimensional perspective. Concrete project examples from diverse cultural contexts and climatic zones demonstrate the need for a fundamental paradigm shift: moving away from designing finished objects and towards designing processes to foster a fruitful and sustainable relationship between trees and buildings. The exhibition aims to highlight this fascinating relationship, for only then can we see the possibilities and seize the opportunities to create a future worth living for ourselves and most animal and plant species. This requires transdisciplinary collaborations that combine scientific approaches, artistic practices, indigenous knowledge, and new technologies. The research, prototypes, and experiments of the Baubotanik research area at the Technical University of Munich, among others, illustrate what this could resemble.

Thematically and spatially, the exhibition is structured around three main sections: "**A: Tree, Time, and Human**," "**B: Tree and Architecture**," and "**C: Tree as Architecture**." In addition to the three exhibition spaces, "Trees, Time, Architecture!" extends into the area in front of the main entrance of the Pinakothek der Moderne with the installation **Baumlager**. This installation features 22 hornbeams, each five meters tall, displayed in a high-bay warehouse. It illustrates the tension between the slow growth of trees and their immediate availability as a commercial commodity.

A: TREES, TIME AND PEOPLE

Ever since the beginning, human history has been marked by a complex relationship with trees: from using trees to build the first dwellings early in evolution to worshipping them as gods in many cultures. But centuries ago, humans destroyed vast tracts of forest for farmland, building materials, and fuel. Trees must, therefore, be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon: beyond specific spatial and temporal perspectives, they encompass ecological, socio-cultural, aesthetic, and political dimensions, among others. The climate crisis has further highlighted the central role of trees in the global carbon cycle. An adjacent illustration shows this in different time dimensions: about 300 million years ago, in the Carboniferous period, the first 'peak era of trees' began. The remains of vast forests were converted into coal over millions of years, removing large amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Until the Industrial

Revolution in the mid-19th century, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere remained relatively stable. However, with the growth of cities and the rise in the production of modern building materials, the amount of greenhouse gas increased dramatically. Energy-intensive processes, such as the production of structural steel and cement, the basis for concrete, release enormous amounts of CO₂ through coal burning, with well-known consequences for the global climate.

One of the most pressing questions of our time is whether this development be halted, or even reversed. Can trees help? How can they be used – as living organisms and building materials – to shape our environment in a socially and ecologically just way?

B: TREES AND ARCHITECTURE

How can we design our living environment with trees? What is the relationship between trees as living organisms and the built environment? How do the growth, life and death of trees relate to the creation, use, maintenance and decay of buildings?

A selection of 30 design projects, historical examples and research studies offers possible answers to these questions. Organised around the themes of "Trees in Open Space", "Trees between Architecture", "Trees on Architecture", "Trees in Architecture" and "Trees beside Architecture", these examples illustrate how trees can contribute to improving the microclimate, enhancing biodiversity and enriching everyday experiences of nature.

Two conceptual approaches can be identified. On the one hand, trees are regarded as "objects of nature" – a focus that often highlights a particular stage of life, typically the mature, healthy tree valued for its functional or sensory qualities. On the other hand, some approaches consider the entire life cycle – from the germination of a young tree to its growth and eventual decay – as an integral part of the design process.

For socially and ecologically responsible (landscape) architecture, it is essential to weigh the advantages and limitations of these perspectives and critically examine the underlying arguments. Are the claimed ecological and climatic benefits truly achievable, or do they merely create a "green" aesthetic? Under what conditions can the anticipated effects materialise? While definitive answers are not always easy to find, reflecting on these questions helps ensure that the vast potential of trees is harnessed in a meaningful and responsible way.

C: TREES AS ARCHITECTURE

Can we build or let architecture grow directly from living trees? Can we imagine buildings as living entities, constantly evolving or even repairing themselves? Is it possible to think of architecture as an ecosystem that has a positive impact on the environment?

This is the idea behind Baubotanik – a form of (landscape) architecture that arises from the combination of technical construction and natural plant growth. To achieve this, the trees are deliberately guided in their growth, interconnected, and combined with inanimate construction elements to form a unified plant-technical entity.

The term "Baubotanik" was introduced in 2007 at the Institute for Principles of Modern Architecture (IGMA) at the University of Stuttgart. Since 2017, this field of research has been located at the Professorship for Green Technologies in Landscape Architecture (gtla*) at the Technical University of Munich, in close cooperation with the Office for Living Architecture (OLA). The interdisciplinary research and practice of Baubotanik draws on the disciplines of botany, soil bioengineering, arboriculture, and forestry, and



combines insights from Frei Otto's 1985-initiated special research area "Natural Constructions" with aspects of garden culture.

In Baubotanik, nature is reprogrammed for human purposes; however, tree growth is inherently linked to factors that can only be influenced to a limited extent. Although it takes time, this fundamental insight is the basis for developing growing tree architectures. The idea of creating functional structures with living trees may seem utopian, but centuries-old examples prove it is possible – and current projects point to exciting prospects.

Participating Artists, Architects and Scientists: atelier le balto, Bauchplan).[, Bernard Rudofsky, Carlo Ratti, CRA, Casagrande Laboratory, C. Th. Sørensen, Conceptual Joining, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Duncan Lewis Scape Architecture, Francis Hallé, Frei Otto, Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Gilles Clément, GOA Architecture, Grüntuch Ernst Architekten, Ilkka Halso, Ines Dantas, Laura Leonelli, Living Bridge Foundation, Maison Edouard François, Marco Pisano, Mark Primak, OLA – Office for Living Architecture, Ot Hoffmann, Salomé Jashi, SITE, James Wines, Sou Fujimoto, Spacetime Architects, Stefano Boeri Architetti, Suzuko Yamada Architects, Sverre Fehn, Terreform One, Walter und Marion Griffin, White Arkitekter, Wilfrid Middleton

Head of project / Curatorial lead: Ferdinand Ludwig, Kristina Pujkilović

Co-Curation: Andjelka Badnjar Gojnić

Project Coordination: Andres Lepik

Scientific and Curatorial Advisory Board: Noël van Dooren, Sonja Dumpelmann

Graphic Design: strobo B M

Exhibition Design: Buero Kofink Schels

Funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation).

Funded by the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media).

Funded by PIN. Freunde der Pinakothek der Moderne e.V. and the co-operation partner of Allianz.



PUBLIC PROGRAM

For the duration of the exhibition, we offer a diverse public program; you can find the latest information on the museum website at www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell/.

Nevertheless, we would like to point out the following formats in advance:

LECTURES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

11 MARCH 2025 | 17:00 - 20:00

Oskar von Miller Forum, Oskar-von-Miller-Ring 25, 80333 München

Moderation:

Andres Lepik

Speaker:

Ferdinand Ludwig, curator "Trees, Time, Architecture!", Professor für Green Technologies in Landscape Architecture, TUM

Sonja Dümpelmann, Chair of Environmental Humanities, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU

Noel van Döeren, scientist and landscape architect, (PhD: Drawing Time)

Duncan Lewis, Duncan Lewis Space Architecture

Jake Ford, White Arkitekter

Daniela Kröhnert, Lukas Allner, Conceptual Joining

Kristina Pujkilović: curator "Trees, Time, Architecture!", TUM

EXHIBITION OPENING

12 MARCH 2025 | 19:00

Architekturmuseum der TUM in der Pinakothek der Moderne, Barer Str. 40, 80333 München

Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Werner Lang (Vice President for Sustainable Transformation and holder of the Chair for Energy Efficient and Sustainable Planning and Building (ENPB) at the TUM), Prof. Dr. Andres Lepik (Director of the TUM Architekturmuseum), Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Ludwig (curator of the exhibition, holder of the Chair for Green Technologies in Landscape Architecture at the TUM), Kristina Pujkilovic (curator of the exhibition), Andjelka Badnjar (co-curator of the exhibition).

AUDIO-VISUAL PERFORMANCE

05 JUNE 2025 | 18:30

Architekturmuseum der TUM in der Pinakothek der Moderne, Barer Str. 40, 80333 München

Artists: Marco Pisano & Onur Sönmez

DOI [decode/overlay/intermodulate]

An Audio-Visual Performance



EXCURSIONS

Experience trees: Architecture, Landscape and Time in Munich's Urban Space

As part of the exhibition the Architekturmuseum is organising a special series of excursions. Together with the curators of the exhibition and experts from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture and urban ecology, we will explore pioneering examples of the interplay between trees, time and the built environment in Munich.

The excursions offer a unique opportunity to experience Munich's urban forest history, pioneering landscape parks and alternative tree locations in the city up close. The focus will be on how trees shape our cities, what ecological and climatic functions they perform, and how architecture and urban planning can enter into a dialogue with their growth and temporality.

16 MAY 2025 | The History of Munich's Forests using the Example of Forstenrieder Park | time and place t.b.a

06 JUNE 2025 | Baumkirchener Zentrum Landscape Park in Munich | time and place t.b.a

11 JULY 2025 | Trees in Planters at the Olympic Village in Munich | time and place t.b.a.

OPEN AIR CINEMA

24 JULY 2025

(time and location to be announced)

Film: Taming the Garden, duration: 1:31 h

Film screening and online-discussion with filmmaker Salome Jashi

ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN WITH A GUIDED TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION

Pavillon 333, Türkenstrasse 15, 80333 Munich

With Enrica Ferrucci, architect, *ichbaumit.com*

Limited number of participants, registration required: anmeldung@architekturmuseum.de

Workshops for school classes in July available upon request.

22.03 / 05.04. / 24.05.25 | 10:00–12:30 | BAU(M)WORKSHOP | For children from 8 to 14 years

29.03 / 17.05 / 12.07.25 | 10:00–12:30 | CARBONE | For children from 6 to 12 years

CURATOR GUIDED TOURS

Thu, 27.03.25 | 18:30 | with Ferdinand Ludwig

Thu, 22.05.25 | 18:30 | with Ferdinand Ludwig

Thu, 26.06.25 | 18:30 | with Kristina Pujkilović

Thu, 17.07.25 | 18:30 | with Kristina Pujkilović

MORE GUIDED TOURS

Please visit our websites: www.architekturmuseum.de and www.pinakothek-der-moderne.de/programm



SUMMER SCHOOL

26 AUGUST - 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

"Trees, Time, Architecture!" invites international participants to a summer school in Munich and Freising to explore the potential of architecture in interaction with living trees. The transdisciplinary program combines theoretical reflection, conceptual design and 1:1 workshops to explore new ways of building that understand time, growth and ecological dynamics as integral components of architectural processes.

The central experiment is the construction of a building botanical prototype using the hornbeams from the "Baumlager" installation, which will be temporarily stored in front of the Architekturmuseum during the exhibition. This living structure is developed as a fragment of a larger concept that investigates how architecture can not only coexist with trees but also enter into a lively exchange with them.

Inspired by vernacular living architecture, such as the root bridges of Meghalaya, an urban vision will be developed during the Summer School that integrates growth and decay as design principles. Traditional knowledge meets experimental design strategies and contemporary technology to open up new perspectives for sustainable urban development.

The Summer School is aimed at students and young professionals from architecture, landscape architecture, art, design, engineering, horticulture, arboriculture and related disciplines.

Further information on participation and application will follow shortly.

PUBLICATION

Exhibition catalogue featuring architectural case studies, research approaches, essays, conversations, and photographs. **'Trees, Time, Architecture! Design in Constant Transformation'** edited by Andjelka Badnjar Gojnić, Kristina Pujkilović, Ferdinand Ludwig, and Andres Lepik, published by Park Books, Zurich (German ISBN 9783038604242, English ISBN 9783038604310, selling price 35 Euros).

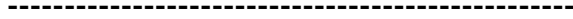
"Trees, Time, Architecture! Design in Constant Transformation" explores the many possibilities offered by the interplay between architecture and trees in an ever-changing world and marks an evolutionary step from shaping objects towards designing processes. In the form of a magazine, the volume brings together a variety of views on the relationship between trees and architecture, urban spaces, modernism, politics, feminism, and cultural values. This collage of historical, research-based, and discourse-related perspectives looks at how trees can be preserved, used, and appreciated in the Anthropocene. It highlights historic examples of growing architecture, such as the living root bridges of the Khasi people in India, the accommodation of trees within civic spaces of streets and housing in cities, novel approaches to design and build with living trees as well as the tree as resource for building materials.

The essays, photographs, memoirs, film reviews, and conversations in this publication are supplemented with exemplary architectures, new research perspectives, and current design approaches. They illustrate dynamic processes in which trees play a key role as constantly changing organisms. They invite a transdisciplinary examination of relationships between people, trees, and architecture, as well as their rethinking and further development in our time of constant change and limited resources.

With contributions by Sonja Dümpelmann, Noël van Dooren, Jana VanderGoot, Kelly Church, Samantha Jamero, Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner, Rico Newman, Laura Leonelli, Wilfrid Middleton, Morningstar Khongthaw, Mark Primack, Édouard François, Roberta Martufi, Salomé Jashi, Caimi Piccinni, Michael Vollmer, Hannes Harter, Office for Living Architecture, and White Arkitekter.



WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR REVIEWS.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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