

# OFFICE FOR URBANIZATION

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CONFERENCE

**Heliomorphism**

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CONVENED BY

**Charles Waldheim  
Sergio Lopez-Pineiro  
Daniel Ibañez**

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EVENT DATE

**09-15 to 09-16-2016**



Harvard University  
Graduate School of Design

**Heliomorphism**  
the inaugural conference of the  
Harvard GSD Office for Urbanization  
09-15 to 09-16-2016

The Harvard Graduate School of Design's Office for Urbanization draws upon the School's history of design innovation to address societal and cultural conditions associated with contemporary urbanization. It develops speculative and projective urban scenarios through sponsored design research projects.

The topic of solar orientation and urban form is both perennial and, once again, timely. The discourses and practices of 'ecological urbanism' have turned our focus to the terrestrial topics of hydrological connectivity and ecological function. Heliomorphism proposes to revise and extend the ecological urbanism agenda by returning to solar performance. Recent projects by a number of leading architects and urbanists have suggested new forms of urban order through solar orientation. In many of these projects, designers correlate the shape of the city to a complex and contradictory economy of solar performance.

The topics of solar orientation and social order, public health, and political economy were fundamental questions for many protagonists and projects of modern planning. In the wake of the collapse of modern planning, singular models of social urban order based on latitude and solar equity have given way to neoliberal models of market driven urbanization. The inaugural conference of the Harvard GSD Office for Urbanization returns to this archaic aspect of urban order, and convenes an international group of GSD faculty, doctoral candidates, and a select group of GSD alumni to examine its present potentials through three discursive frames: plug-ins, commons, and zero-sum.

### Plug-ins

Ralph Knowles's concept of the 'solar envelope' proposed a design tool that anticipates contemporary interests in parametricism and relational modeling. The envelope offered a projective form through which urban morphology was indexed to solar performance. The technological developments of the last decade have enabled an unanticipated degree of precision and feedback, potentially infusing new possibilities into an idea that has a half-century of history. Plug-ins revisits the changes, conceptual and projective, that contemporary models of computational geometry have brought to this design model.

### Commons

Independent of location or latitude, access to the sun is considered an ancient and inviolable right in many cultures. Several current politico economic conceptions, however, protect it for health considerations while others regulate it for energy reasons. Regardless of these two distinctions, Commons reconsiders both types of solar access to be issues of social equity and it examines, accordingly, the tensions that exist between built form through capital accumulation and access to sunlight through environmental consensus.

### Zero-Sum

The energy crisis and economic shocks of the 1970s led to experimental and counter-culture practices of architecture and urbanism. These practices enabled the emergence of domestic applications and DIY methods of implementation in a new political economy of solar energy. The current environmental crisis embraces zero-carbon responses and has pushed the scale of operation to neoliberal corporate and governmental urbanizations. Zero-sum reviews the shifts from the domestic to the urban, from the individual to the conglomerate (political or economical), from the alternative to the new normal.

Day 1

09-15-2016  
Stubbins Room

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14:15

Introductions

Charles Waldheim  
Daniel Ibañez

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14:45

Plug-ins

Heliomorphic Manhattanism:  
Spatial Logics of the Neoliberal  
City

Mariano Gómez Luque

Density vs. the Ethics of the Solar  
Envelope: A Case Study

Arta Yazdanseta

Response

John Davis

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15:30

Break

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15:45

Commons

Ludwig Hilberseimer's Organic  
Principle as a Reconciliation of  
Urban Form with Itself

Miguel López Meléndez

Design Responsibility in Human  
Health: An Analysis of Sunlight  
Use in Social Housing in Chile

Nicole Beattie

The 1978 Sun Congress:  
Exploring the Technopolitics of  
Solar Architecture in the Third  
World

Ateya Khorakiwala

Response

Adam Tanaka

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16:45

Break

17:00	<b>Zero-Sum</b>	
	Energetic Determinisms: From Heliobiology to Thermostemiosis	Daniel Daou
	Non-zero-sum Net-zero codes	Aleksandra Jaeschke
	Response	Justin Stern

17:45	<b>Conclusions</b>	Helen Kongsgaard Ed Eigen
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**9-15-2016  
Piper Auditorium**

18:30	<b>Introductions</b>	Mohsen Mostafavi Charles Waldheim
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18:45	<b>Keynotes</b>	Jeanne Gang Studio Gang
		Thom Mayne Morphosis

**Q & A**

**Day 2  
09-16-2016  
Piper Auditorium**

09:15	<b>Introductions</b>	Charles Waldheim Sergio Lopez-Pineiro
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09:45	<b>Project Lights On</b>	Mariana Ibañez
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10:15	<b>Plug-ins</b>	
	The Heuristic Ecology of Heliomorphism	Andrew Witt
	Using Parametric Simulation to Design for Future Contexts	Holly Samuelson
	Balancing Urban Form: the Means, the Ends and the Tools	Andres Sevtsuk
	On (de)light	Silvia Benedito
	Hosted by	Florian Idenburg

11:30	<b>Project Adaptive Architectures</b>	Eric Howeler
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**12:00 Lunch**

13:00	<b>Commons</b>	
	Heliomorphism and the Production of Socialist Space	Eve Blau
	The Thermal Resonance of Buildings	Salmaan Craig
	Fabrications	Leire Asensio and David Mah
	Heliomorphic Urban Space	Sergio Lopez-Pineiro
	Hosted by	Carles Muro

14:15	<b>Project</b> Density and Reflection	Scott Cohen
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14:45	<b>Break</b>	
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15:00	<b>Zero-sum</b>	
	Sun from the North: Enrico Tedeschi and a Cosmic Architecture	Felipe Correa
	Solar Driven: Interventions in Form(al) and Surface Typologies	Elizabeth Whittaker
	Amazing Sun	Francesca Benedetto
	Parasol	Camilo Restrepo Ochoa
	Hosted by	Ashley Schafer

16:15	<b>Keynote</b> False Friends	Iñaki Ábalos
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<b>Heliomorphism</b>	<b>09-16 to 9-15-2016</b> the inaugural conference of the Harvard Graduate School of Design Office for Urbanization
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convened by	Charles Waldheim Sergio Lopez-Pineiro Daniel Ibañez
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keynotes by	Iñaki Ábalos, Ábalos i Sentkiewicz Jeanne Gang, Studio Gang Thom Mayne, Morphosis
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projects by	Scott Cohen Mariana Ibañez Eric Howeler
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panels featuring	Leire Asensio Nicole Beattie Francesca Benedetto Silvia Benedito Eve Blau Felipe Correa Salmaan Craig Daniel Daou John Davis Ed Eigen Florian Idenburg Aleksandra Jaeschke Ateya Khorakiwala Helen Kongsgaard Mariano Gómez Luque David Mah Carles Muro Miguel López Meléndez Mohsen Mostafavi Camilo Restrepo Ochoa Ashley Schafer Andres Sevtsuk Holly Samuelson Justin Stern Adam Tanaka Arta Yazdanseta Elizabeth Whittaker Andrew Witt
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