

# **NEB Goes to Osaka - From vision to practice: Towards Beautiful, Sustainable and Inclusive living spaces**

## **Day 1**

**Date and time:** Friday, 30 May, 15:00 – 18.00 JP time

**Venue:** Osaka, EU Pavilion

**Livestreamed:** Yes

**Moderator:** Sandra Steinbruck, Communications Officer, European Commission

*The first day of the conference explores the intersection of sustainability, architecture, and urban policy, fostering EU-Japan collaboration. Through speeches, keynotes, and panel discussions, experts will exchange insights on integrating traditional and modern building practices, addressing urban transformation, and strengthening connections between nature and architecture.*

## **AGENDA**

### **Introduction and speeches by:**

- Jessika Roswall, EU Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy (video message)
- Tom Gnocchi, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan

### **Panel discussion 1: Learning from Vernacular Architecture – Traditional Knowledge for a Beautiful, Sustainable, Inclusive Future**

This panel examines how the principles of traditional architecture—rooted in local materials, craftsmanship, and climate-adapted design—can inform and enrich contemporary building practices. By revisiting pre-industrial construction knowledge through the lens of the New European Bauhaus, the discussion will highlight how vernacular techniques can inspire more sustainable, resilient, and resource-efficient solutions today. Panellists will explore synergies between traditional wisdom and modern technologies, offering insights into how these hybrid approaches can shape the future of architecture and urban development in line with NEB values.

### **Speakers:**

- [introduction by] Atsushi Takano, architect, associate professor at Kagoshima University, Japan
- Marko Huttunen, architect, restoration specialist, partner at Livady Architects, Finland
- Juulia Mikkola, architect, non-fiction author, partner at Livady Architects, Finland
- Xu Tiantian, architect, founder and principal of DnA\_Design and Architecture, China
- Norihisa Kawashima, architect, founder and principal of Nori Architects, associate professor at Meiji University, Japan

### **Keynote speech by Studio 5.5.**

Studio 5.5 is a Paris-based design collective founded in 2003, known for their commitment to sustainability and social engagement, they focus on reimagining everyday objects and spaces to promote responsible consumption and ecological awareness.

Represented by:

- Claire Renard, designer, co-founder of Studio 5.5, France
- Jean-Sébastien Blanc, designer, co-founder of Studio 5.5, France

**Panel discussion 2: Rethinking Architectural Behaviour, Human-Nature Relationship, and Built Space.**

This panel explores how evolving design practices and cultural perspectives from Asia and Europe can reshape the relationship between architecture, people, and nature. Through an intergenerational dialogue, panellists will examine how values such as simplicity, material restraint, and spatial harmony contribute to healthier living environments, biodiversity, and climate-conscious design. The discussion will highlight how both traditional and contemporary architectural approaches foster circularity, social inclusion, and behavioural change—key to achieving sufficiency in the built environment. Emphasis will be placed on adaptive reuse, the transformation of existing structures, and the thoughtful use of materials to revitalise urban areas while reducing environmental impact.

Speakers:

- Maria del Carmen Garcia Sanchez, architect, assistant professor at Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain, affiliated researcher at the Centre for Privacy Studies at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Byoung Cho, architect, artist, founder of BCHO Architects, South Korea
- Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, architect, co-founder of Atelier BOW-WOW, Japan

*For those attending in person, the session will be followed by a light networking reception with refreshments.*

**Day 2**

(co-designed with Aalto University)

**Event name:** *NEB Goes to Osaka: From vision to practice: Towards Beautiful, Sustainable and Inclusive living spaces – Day 2*

**Date and time:** Saturday, 31 May, 15:00 – 17:15 JST

**Venue:** Osaka, EU Pavilion

**Livestreamed:** yes

**Moderator:** Matti Kuitinen, architect, professor, Aalto University, Finland

*The second day of the conference offers a unique opportunity to explore how future skills, creative education, and sustainable design are key to building resilient and inclusive living environments. Featured by leading academics and practitioners across Europe and Japan, the session will foster mutual learning and cultural exchange, connect like-minded professionals and institutions, and pave the way for new collaborations within the NEB Academy network.*

## AGENDA

### Greetings and introductions

#### Keynote speech by Sou Fujimoto

Presentation of the architect's work and philosophy, referring to the design of 'The Grand Ring', the vast wooden structure that encircle the pavilions at the Expo 2025 Osaka.

- Sou Fujimoto, architect, founder and principal of Sou Fujimoto Architects, Japan

#### Dialogue: Ten lectures for the Anthropocene

A dialogue to discuss about architecture education in Europe and Japan: values, skills, and what's needed to support the transition towards a cleaner future. How can we collaborate?

#### Speakers:

- Matti Kuittinen, architect, professor, Aalto University, Finland
- Yoshiyuki Kawazoe, architect, professor, University of Tokyo, Japan

#### The Vision and Mission of the NEB Academy

Introduction to the NEB Academy: Sharing practices and its future offering on skills for sustainable construction.

#### A video greeting from:

- Andreja Kutnar, architect, professor, University of Primorska, Slovenia

#### Workshop: future skills, design and radical creativity

In this session we will imagine together what a sustainable and enjoyable future could look like- and reflect on which skills are the most essential to make that vision a reality.

#### Moderators:

- Enni Äijälä, Senior Specialist, outreach and design, Aalto University
- Sini Koskimies, Communications Manager, Aalto University, Finland

#### Demonstration: New Wood Architecture with Augmented Reality and Circularity

Showcasing how historical methods utilizing organically shaped wood can inspire contemporary architecture, bridging traditional methods with modern design and digital workflows. The demonstration will illustrate practical applications of 3D scanning in various stages of the design and construction process.

#### Speaker:

- Jaakko Torvinen, architect, PhD researcher, Aalto University, Finland

*For those attending in person, the session will be followed by a light networking reception with refreshments.*