



# AMAZING CITY

ŁÓDŹ, POLAND

21-22 SEPTEMBER, 2026

Scientific Conference:

## AMAZING CITY – HISTORIC PUBLIC SPACES IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

### Organisers:

City of Łódź

Polish National Committee of ICOMOS

International Committee for Theory and Philosophy of Conservation

### 1. Conference Theme

The management of historic cities is an extremely complex task. This results from the overlap of many factors – the complicated structure of buildings and functions, the large scale of activities, numerous stakeholders, diverse values and characteristics of heritage objects, as well as the dynamic changes in standards relating to use, technology, ecology, safety and accessibility. Managing such a multidimensional structure requires taking into account a wide range of aspects, including aesthetic, legal, social and functional.

Public spaces – squares, streets and courtyards – constitute a clear indicator of the quality of city management. In historic cities their ongoing shaping must respond not only to technical, transport, ecological, economic or safety requirements, but must also take into account conservation, tourism and aesthetic considerations. The management of historic public spaces is therefore a process of seeking balance between these often contradictory conditions.

Historic public spaces are used both by residents and by visitors to the city, co-creating its character. A particular example of such spaces are courtyards in historic urban blocks, which often function as public or semi-public spaces. Traditionally, they remained spaces forming the service areas of urban blocks and were used mainly by local residents. Today they are increasingly being modernised in accordance with contemporary environmental and conservation standards, becoming shared spaces that complement and strengthen the quality and value of historic cities.

Environmental factors are having an increasing influence on the design and arrangement of public spaces. The need to limit the effects of high temperatures, control rainwater, provide shading, protect against wind and introduce greenery are becoming important design considerations. At the same time, these interventions affect historic spaces both in their material and immaterial dimensions.





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It is particularly important to note that responsibility for the maintenance, arrangement, modernisation and protection of public spaces rests primarily with local governments, which possess the greatest capacity to act in this field. In the context of contemporary interventions, it is therefore necessary for conservation authorities to define the principles governing such actions from the perspective of heritage protection. For this reason, it is essential to analyse and evaluate contemporary legislation and design solutions for shaping historic public spaces, as well as to exchange experiences between practitioners and researchers.

## 2. Objectives and Thematic Scope of the Conference

The aim of the conference **“Amazing City – Historic public spaces in the age of climate change”** is to create a platform for interdisciplinary discussion and exchange of experience between representatives of local governments, conservation authorities, academic communities and design practitioners – architects, urban planners and landscape architects – concerning contemporary conditions, principles, forms and limits for the shaping of historic public spaces, particularly in the context of their adaptation to climate change.

The conference also aims to encourage deeper reflection on the relationship between the protection of heritage values and the need to introduce environmental and functional solutions. An important element of the debate will be to define the scope of permissible interventions in the substance and composition of historic public spaces, as well as to develop principles for balancing conservation, social, aesthetic and climate-related requirements.

Another objective of the meeting is the identification of good practices in the management and modernisation of public spaces in historic cities, as well as the indication of models of cooperation between local government and heritage protection authorities.

An important component of the conference will be the presentation of theoretical studies and practical solutions developed within the **Re-Public Spaces** project, co-financed by the **Interreg Central Europe Programme**. The project concerns the adaptation of historic courtyards to climate challenges in Central Europe and culminated in the implementation of four pilot climate-oriented revitalisation projects in partner cities: Łódź (Poland), Pinerolo (Italy), Osijek (Croatia) and Velenje (Slovenia), addressing the most significant local climatic factors.

As part of the summary of the Re-Public Spaces project, recommendations concerning a document formulating the principles for the protection and modernisation of historic public spaces in the context of climate change – the **Charter for the Modernisation and Protection of Historic Public Spaces** – will be discussed, evaluated and subsequently adopted during the conference.





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The conference theme will be divided into three thematic sections:

- **Adaptation of public spaces in historic cities to climate challenges and conservation requirements – theoretical and practical aspects.**
- **Good practices in shaping public spaces in historic cities – squares, streets and courtyards.**
- **Conservation aspects of the modernisation and adaptation of historic public spaces – Charter for the Protection of Historic Public Spaces.**

Representatives of conservation services, local governments, academic communities, artistic communities and design practitioners – landscape and greenery designers, urban planners and architects – are invited to submit presentations and participate in the conference.

The conference will provide an opportunity to present and discuss projects concerning the revitalisation of historic public spaces implemented in recent years, with particular emphasis on their conservation and climate-related dimensions.

The programme of the event will also include study visits combined with presentations of revitalised historic public spaces in the centre of Łódź.

### 3. Organisational Information

Abstracts should be submitted by **15 June 2026** to the following address: [sekretariat@icomos-poland.org](mailto:sekretariat@icomos-poland.org)

Abstracts should not exceed **two pages of text** (a structure in the form of separate points will help reviewers grasp the concept of the presentations).

The selection of papers to be presented at the conference will be made by reviewers appointed by the Organising Committee. Authors will be informed of the reviewers' decision by **15 July 2026**.

Conference papers – after peer review – will be published in the journal “**Ochrona Dziedzictwa Kulturowego**”.

Information about the conference will be published on the official websites of the **City Architect Bureau, City of Łódź** (<https://architektmiasta.uml.lodz.pl/>), the **Polish National Committee of ICOMOS** (<http://www.icomos-poland.org>), and the **ICOMOS International Committee for Theory and Philosophy of Conservation (TheoPhilos)** (<https://theophilos.icomos.org>).





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We warmly invite you to submit proposals for conference presentations.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference.

## Organising Committee

