

Shift

Shift

Shift



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About SHIFT

SHIFT is a research platform at UMPRUM (Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague), whose aim is to explore how architecture, design, and art can contribute to the transition towards sustainability and socio-ecological resilience. Its mission is to tackle complex questions of the present through interdisciplinary practice and to strengthen the social relevance of artistic disciplines. The lab was established in 2024 as an independent unit whose activities grow from the professional interests and needs of researchers, teachers, and students across UMPRUM’s departments and studios.

Goals

- To co-create UMPRUM’s research infrastructure and stimulate the emergence of new research and creative initiatives in the fields of architecture, design, art, and theory with a focus on sustainability;
- to develop its own research agenda based on the current needs of the school and the individual intentions of doctoral students, academic staff, and researchers;
- to form interdisciplinary research teams connecting experts from academia, the arts, the non-profit sector, the public sphere, and private enterprise;
- to develop strategic partnerships with public and private entities that share a commitment to sustainability and seek to integrate design, architecture, and art with technically, environmentally, and socially oriented disciplines;
- to connect research and education through courses, lectures, workshops, and seminars;
- to support public education and knowledge transfer among diverse stakeholders.

Research Trajectories

SHIFT’s goal is to build interdisciplinary teams through collaboration with relevant organisations and to develop both theory and practice-based research projects. Research areas are progressively specified in response to the current interests and needs of UMPRUM. We currently focus on the following themes:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sustainability in Architecture | Research focused on the Czech discourse in the field of “sustainable architecture” and the practices that derive from the positions and approaches of individual actors. We foster critical professional debate in this area and situate local concepts of sustainability in architecture within the international context of thinking about the future of the discipline and its relevance in an era of polycrisis. |
| 2. Urban Natureculture | Research focused on urban natural and technical infrastructures. We address the topics of biodiversity and climate adaptation in urban environments, examining the potential of using environmental data in the design and validation of nature-based solutions. We are also interested in possibilities for their representation in the context of education and collaboration with local communities. |
| 3. Ignored Technologies | Research focused on crafts, materials, tools, and technologies whose potential has long been overlooked or underestimated. We are interested in what would happen if certain traditional or experimental technologies were to receive broader social recognition, and what would need to happen for innovations carrying the promise of deeper structural change in sociotechnical systems to gain traction. |
| 4. Design for Sustainability Transitions | A cross-cutting, “horizontal” theme that permeates the methodological level across the laboratory’s individual research topics. We examine the possibilities of participation and co-design, as well as the use of design thinking, systems thinking, and strategic thinking methods in research and creative practice. We are interested in future scenarios as well as systemic innovations, and the processes that lead to them. |

Education

We contribute to UMPRUM’s offer of courses, lectures, and workshops for students and the general public. Our researchers also engage in studio teaching through individual and group consultations. Long-term courses in which we participate:

Contemporary Thinking on Art, Design and Sustainability	compulsory, or compulsory-elective, course within the Master’s programme in Design and the Master’s programme in Theory and History of Modern and Contemporary Art
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Interdisciplinary Seminar	compulsory course within the doctoral programme in Fine Arts
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Strategic Thinking for Sustainability	compulsory-elective course within the Master’s programme in Design, taught from the autumn semester of 2026
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Also central to SHIFT is the support of students in their research projects and intensive collaboration with doctoral students.

Exhibitions, Conferences, Presentations

We contribute to the conception and realisation of UMPRUM’s exhibitions and other presentations in the Czech Republic and abroad that are connected to its research activities. Occasionally, we organise conferences and symposia for UMPRUM’s students and staff as well as for expert and general audiences.

Strategic Partnerships

We establish strategic partnerships with organisations from the public and private sectors that share our commitment to addressing sustainability, wish to integrate design and art into their work, and help open pathways to knowledge from non-artistic disciplines and from the field of technological and social innovation.

We have long-term collaborations with, among others:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| → Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (ČZU) | → Operátor ICT |
| → Faculty of Civil Engineering, CTU Prague | → Rethink Architecture Institute |
| → UCEEBS CTU Prague | → Bieno |

Shift in 2025

2025 in Numbers

- 1 publication project
- 1 short animated film
- 2 international exhibitions
- 5 specialist lectures by international and local guests
- 4 workshops in collaboration with UMPRUM's studios
- 4 grant applications submitted
- 3 partnership agreements signed



Research and Artistic Project Outputs

- 01** **What is Sustainable Architecture?
Texts on the Possibilities
and Challenges of Architecture
in an Era of Polycrisis**
- 02** **The Architecture of Sharing:
From Crisis to Resilience**
- 03** **Micro-Stations:
Sensory Architecture
for Urban Space**
- 04** **Upcycling Statement:
Rethinking Textile Waste**
- 05** **Ignored Technology**

01 What Is Sustainable Architecture?

www.udrzitelna-architektura.cz

In 2025 we launched an online platform dedicated to a straightforward yet complex question: What is sustainable architecture? The forty-odd texts published on the website attest that this question cannot be answered with a single definition, but rather with a multiplicity of arguments, approaches, and perspectives that reveal the tensions between the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability. The platform focuses primarily on manifestations of “sustainable architecture” in the Czech context, which it contextualises using concepts and strategies long developed within international professional discourse on the ecological, social, and political dimensions of the built environment.

The platform has three sections: **Strategies** address concepts and approaches to sustainability in architecture, such as climate neutrality, self-sufficiency, urban acupuncture, and circularity. **Examples** illustrate these approaches through projects from the Czech context – the aim is not to select the “best” examples, but to demonstrate the diversity of approaches to sustainability. **Interpretations** open a space for research and creative outputs offering further specific perspectives.

The project was developed in collaboration with Rethink Architecture Institute and the Faculty of Civil Engineering, CTU Prague, through Kateřina Eklová, who, together with Klára Peloušková, carried out partial research published on the platform under the title **Czech Discourse on Sustainability in Architecture**. As part of this research, the researchers (with consultancy support from Tomáš Hoření Samec of FA CTU) conducted a questionnaire survey complemented by in-depth interviews focused on the Czech discourse around trends in contemporary architecture and construction, with an emphasis on sustainability.

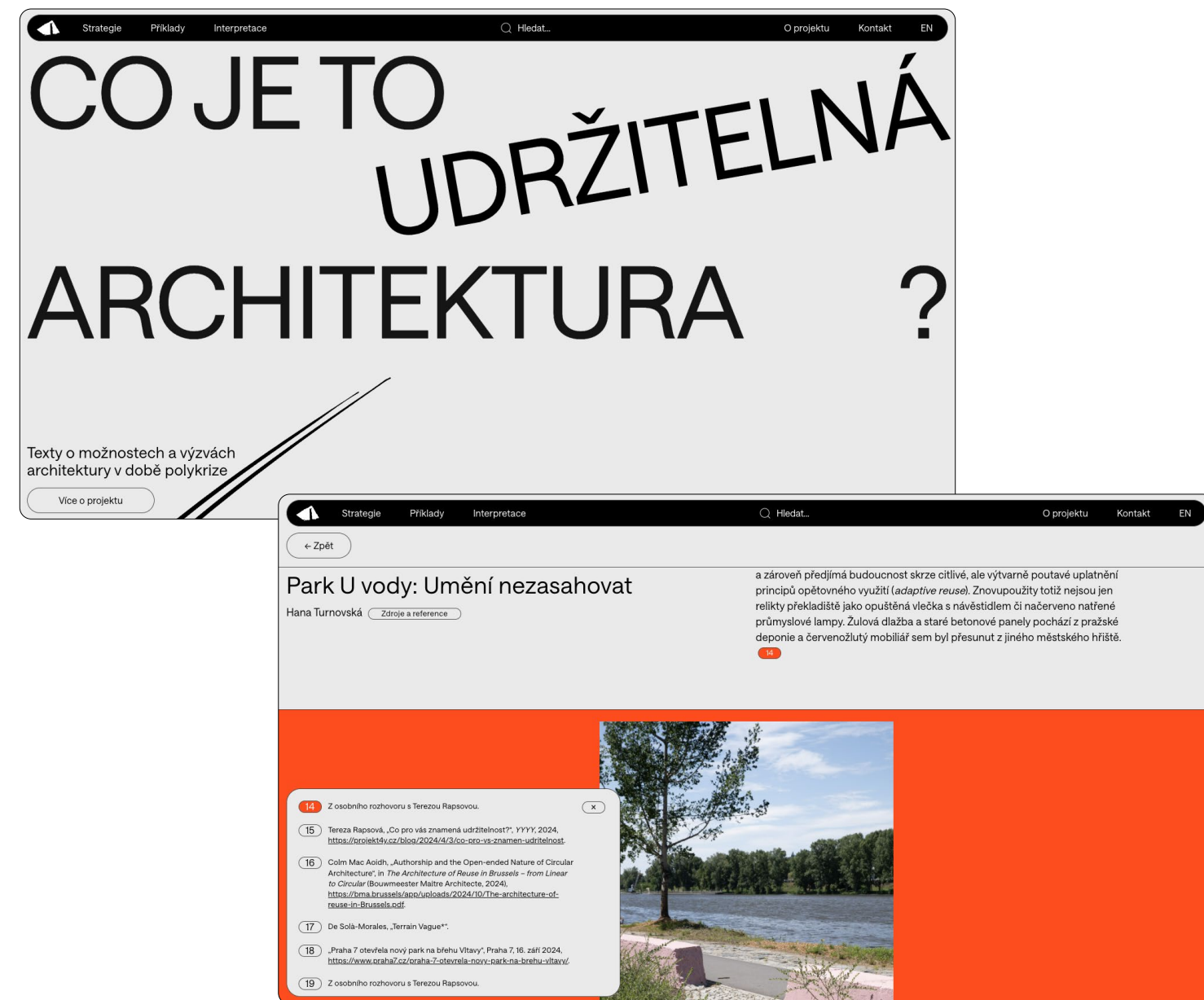
RESEARCH AND EDITORIAL TEAM
Klára Peloušková, Kateřina Krebsová,
Veronika Miškovíčová, Hana Turnovská,
Magdalena Uhlířová, Adéla Vavříková,
Kateřina Eklová (Rethink Architecture
Institute, Faculty of Civil Engineering, CTU)

PHOTOGRAPHY
Barbora Marka Žentelová, Apolena Typltová

ILLUSTRATIONS
Sofie Gjuričová, Matyáš Kytka

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND WEB
Martin Czeller a Marián Reháč

Texts on the Possibilities and Challenges of Architecture in an Era of Polycrisis



The project was realised with the financial participation of the EU through the National Recovery Plan and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. It was funded through the project “Web Platform for Sustainability in Architecture” (project registration number at the Ministry of Culture: 0443000045).



Nová Perla in Kyjov
architecture: Gabriela Náhlíková
photo: Apolena Typltová



Casa De Mi Luna near Karlštejn castle
architecture: Studio Circle Growth
photo: Barbora Marka Žentelová



Selective Demolition of Merkuria in Prague
photo: Barbora Marka Žentelová



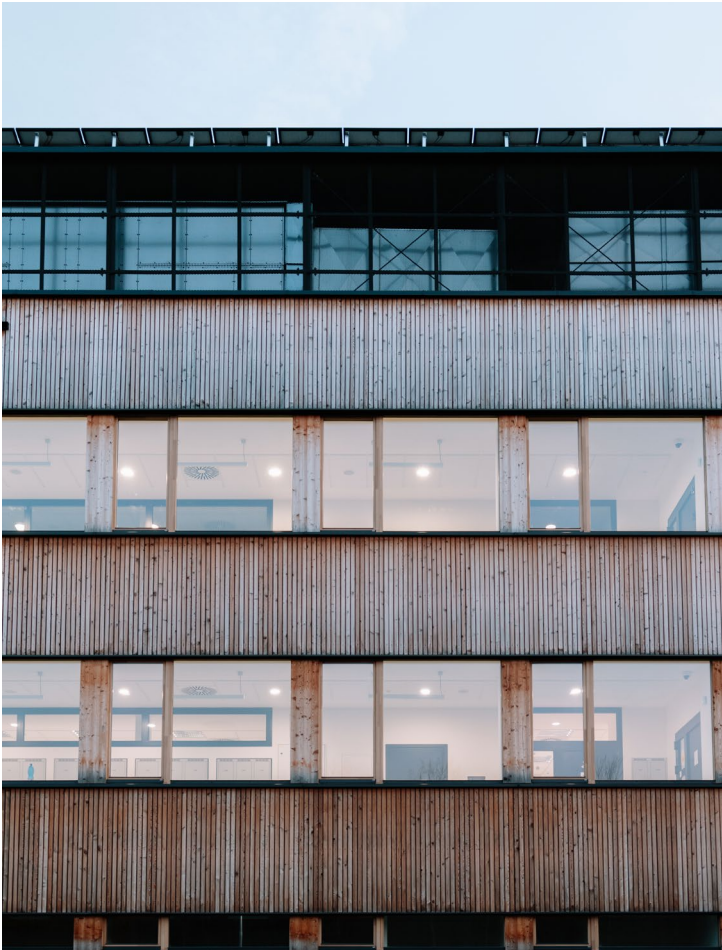
Chapel in Nesvačilka
architecture: RCNKSK
photo: Apolena Typltová



Rohan Island in Prague
photo: Barbora Marka Žentelová



School in Českobrodská in Prague
architecture: ECOTEN s.r.o.
photo: Apolena Typltová



SHQ ČSOB in Prague
architecture: Chalupa architekti
photo: Apolena Typltová



Hodonín
photo: Apolena Typltová



Large ungulate reserve in Milovice
photo: Barbora Marka Žentelová



Environmental Studies Pavilion, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, architecture: Origon
photo: Barbora Marka Žentelová



Park U Vody in Prague
architecture: YYYYY
photo: Barbora Marka Žentelová



Biofarm in Velké Hostěradky
photo: Apolena Typltová



→ NKÚ headquarters in Prague
architecture: Masák & Partner
photo: Barbora Marka Žentelová

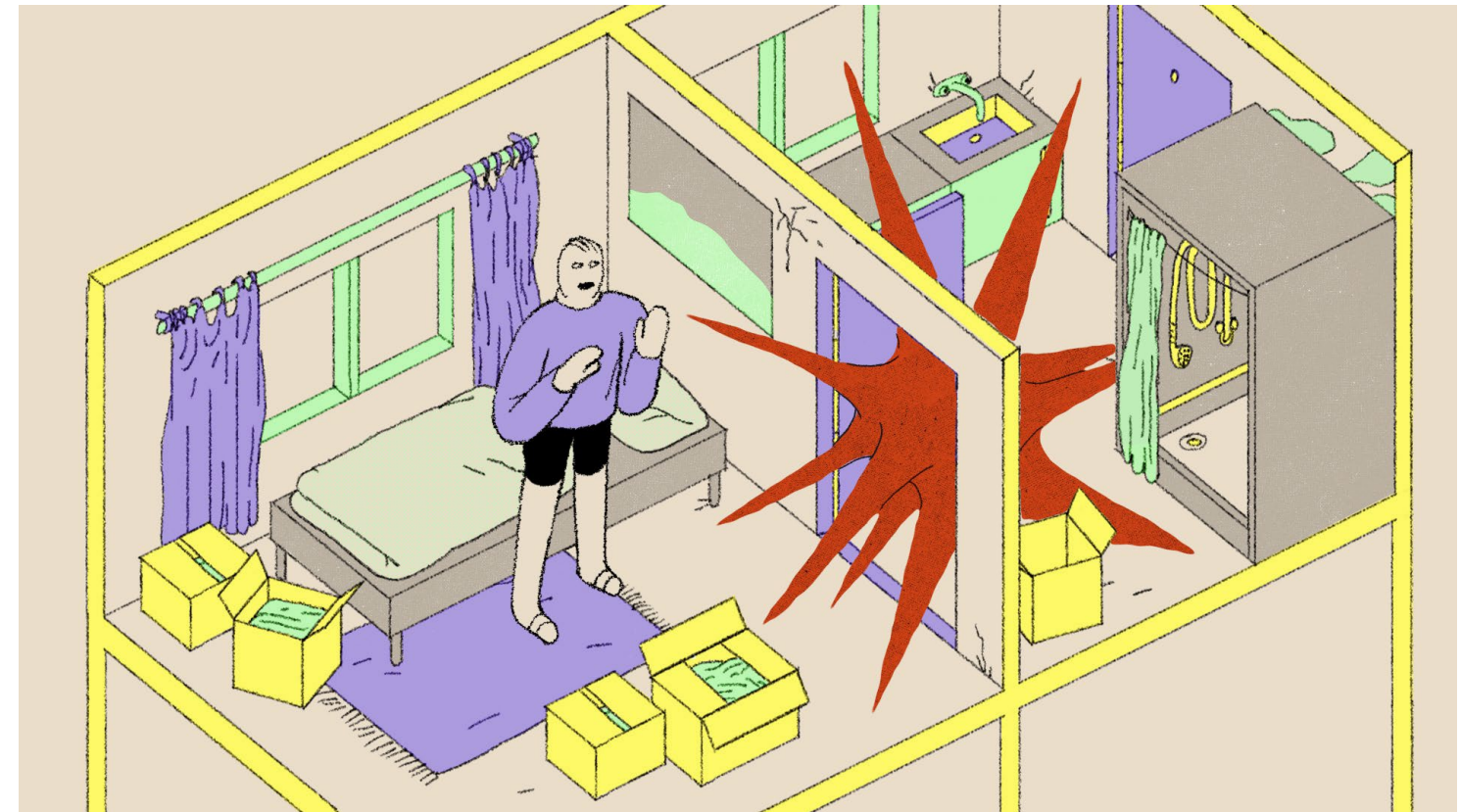


The Architecture of Sharing: From Crisis to Resilience

Building on research in the field of sustainability in architecture, SHIFT initiated the production of a short animated documentary [The Architecture of Sharing](#), dedicated to participatory and community housing as one possible response to the current housing crisis. Using the example of the Czech initiative Sdílené domy (Shared Houses) – specifically the social cooperatives First Swallow in Prague and Flyful Seagull in Děčín – the film presents a replicable model of collective housing organisation based on shared governance, a non-profit structure, and the adaptive use of existing properties. The film situates the everyday experience of sharing within a legal and economic framework, demonstrating that architecture can function as both a spatial and institutional infrastructure ensuring long-term housing affordability and strengthening community resilience.

The film premiered at Dutch Design Week 2025 in Eindhoven, in an installation designed by Kateřina Krebsová and Veronika Miškovičová.

www.architectureofsharing.site



CREATIVE DIRECTION
Michaela Režová

CONCEPT, RESEARCH, SCRIPT
Kateřina Krebsová, Klára Peloušková

ANIMATION
Julie Černá, Hanna Palamarchuk

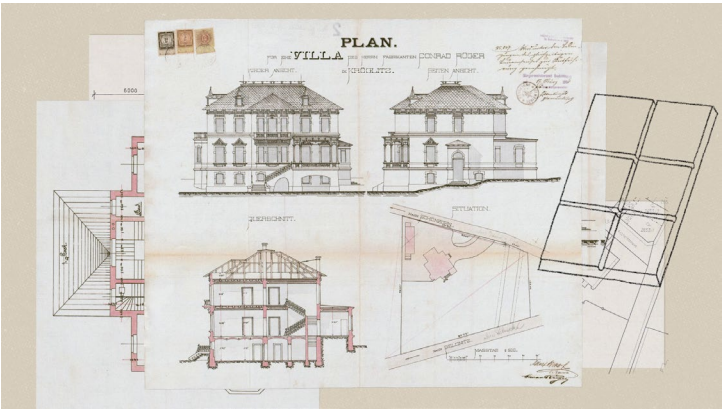
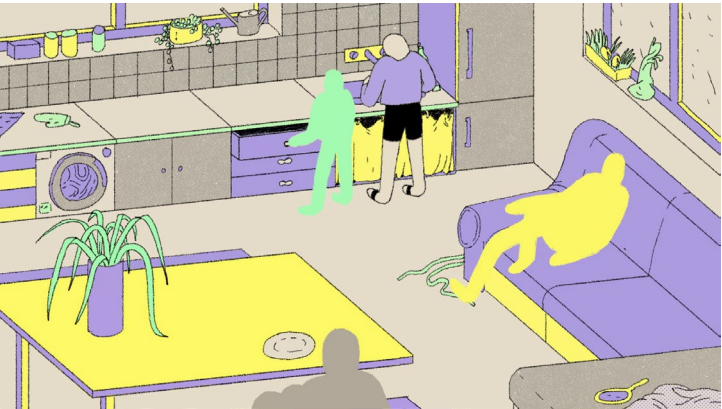
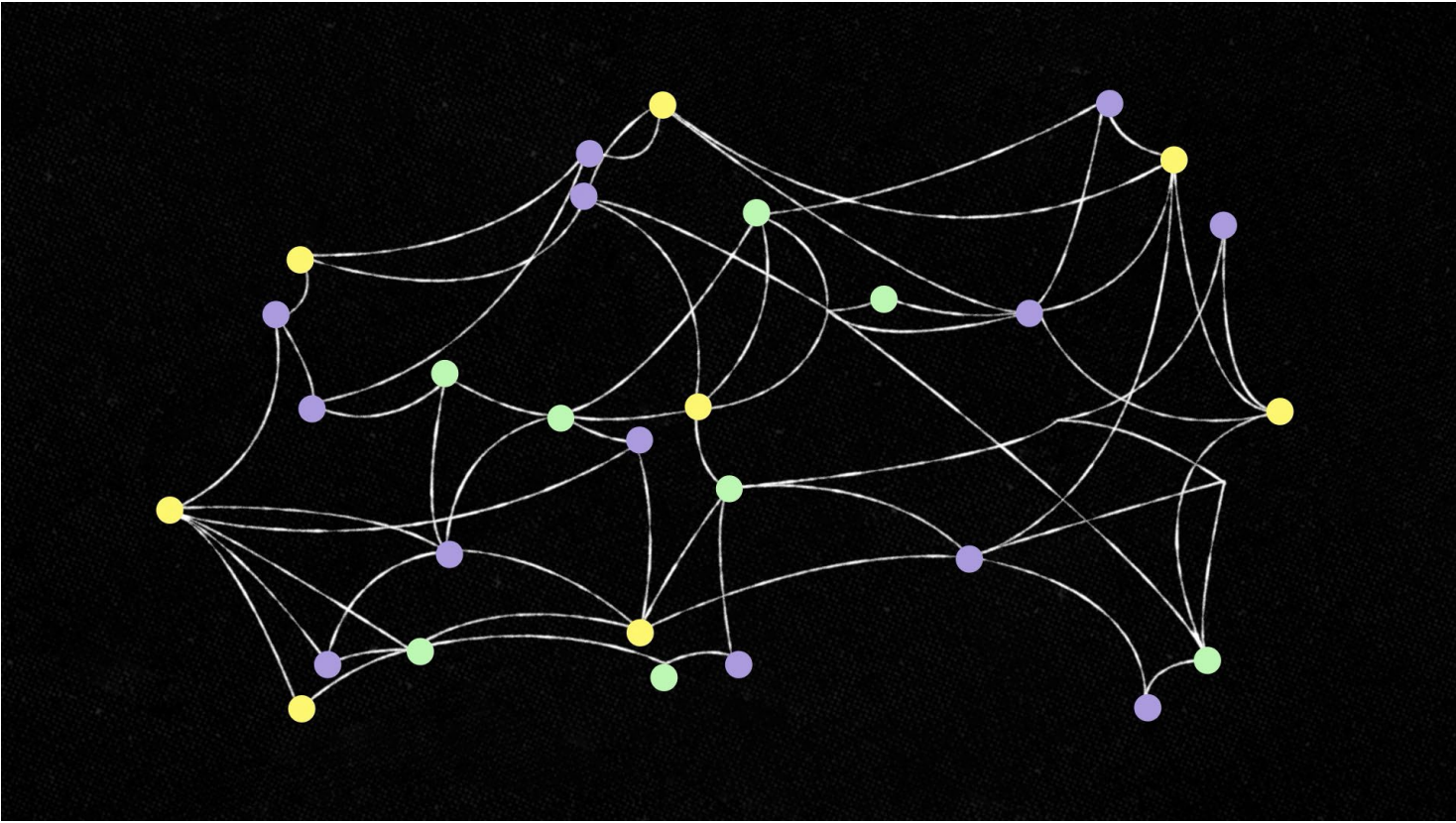
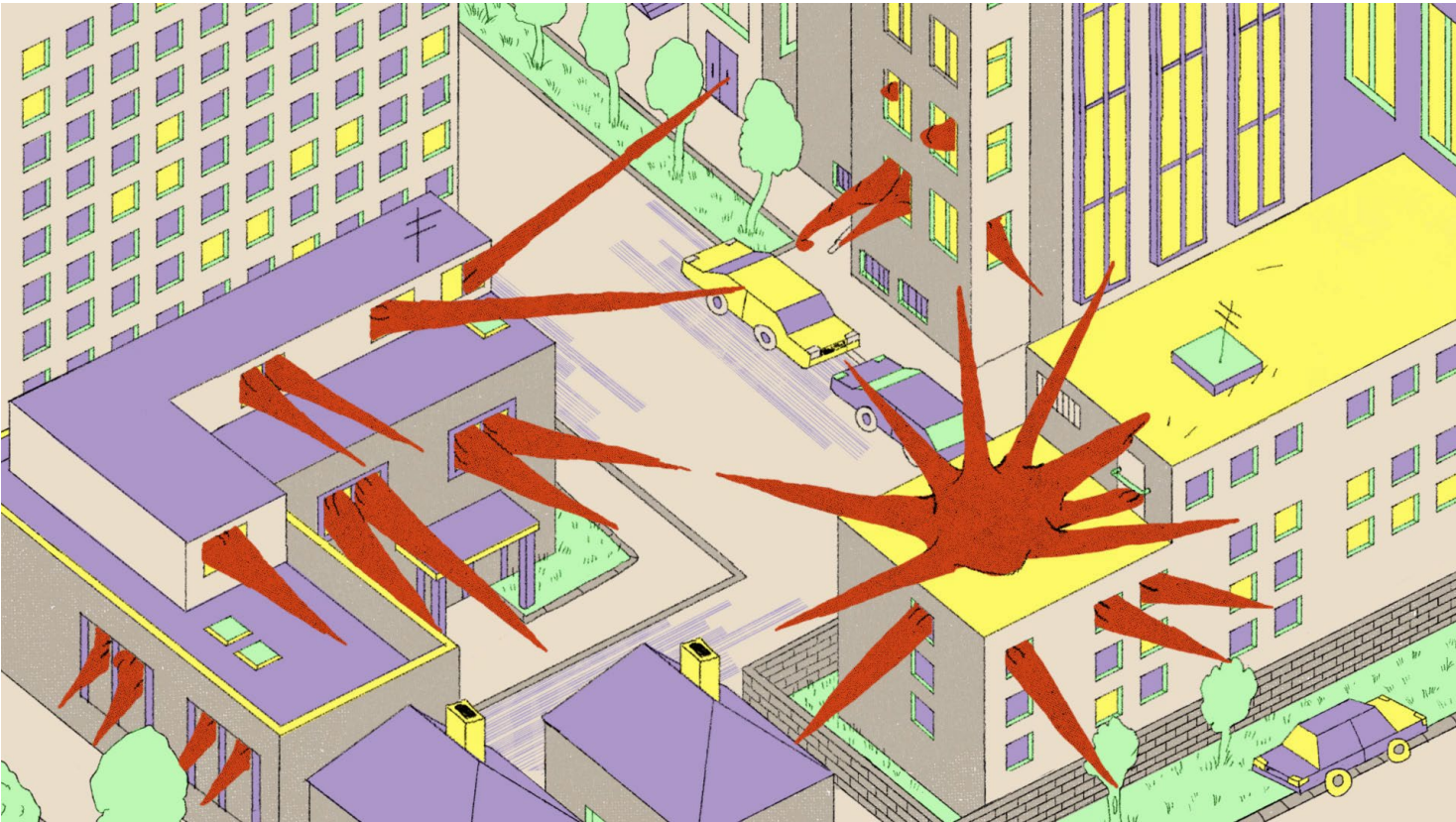
GRAPHIC DESIGN
Pavčina Smékalová a Sara Maria Szyndler

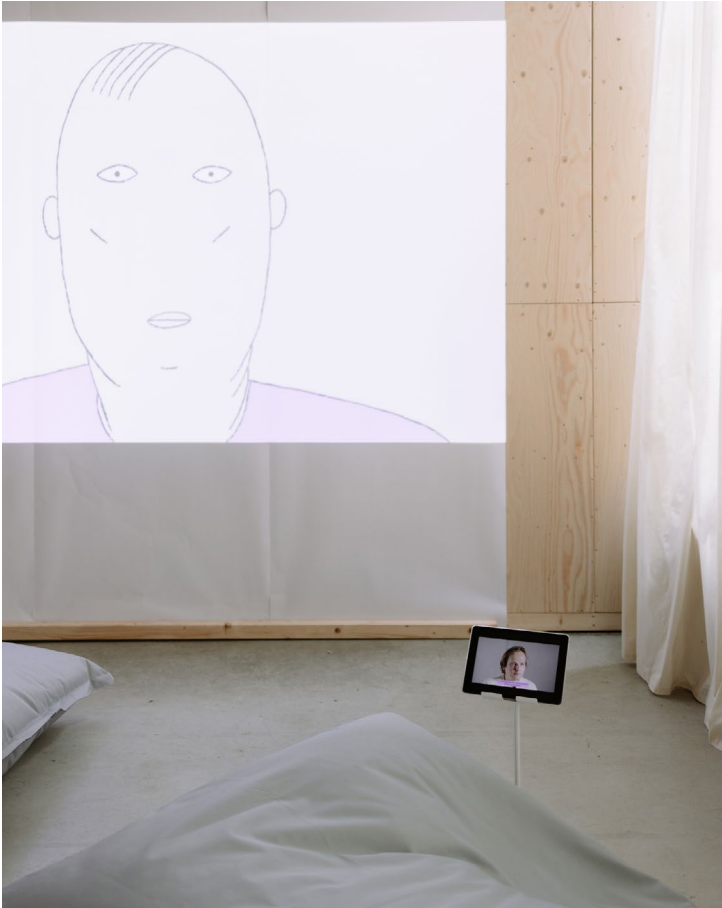
The project was realised with the financial participation of the EU through the National Recovery Plan and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. It was funded through the project Green Transformation of UMRUM, NPO_UMPRUM_MSMT-2132/2024-4.



UMPRUM

From the animated documentary The Architecture of Sharing
animation: Julie Černá and Hanna Palamarchuk



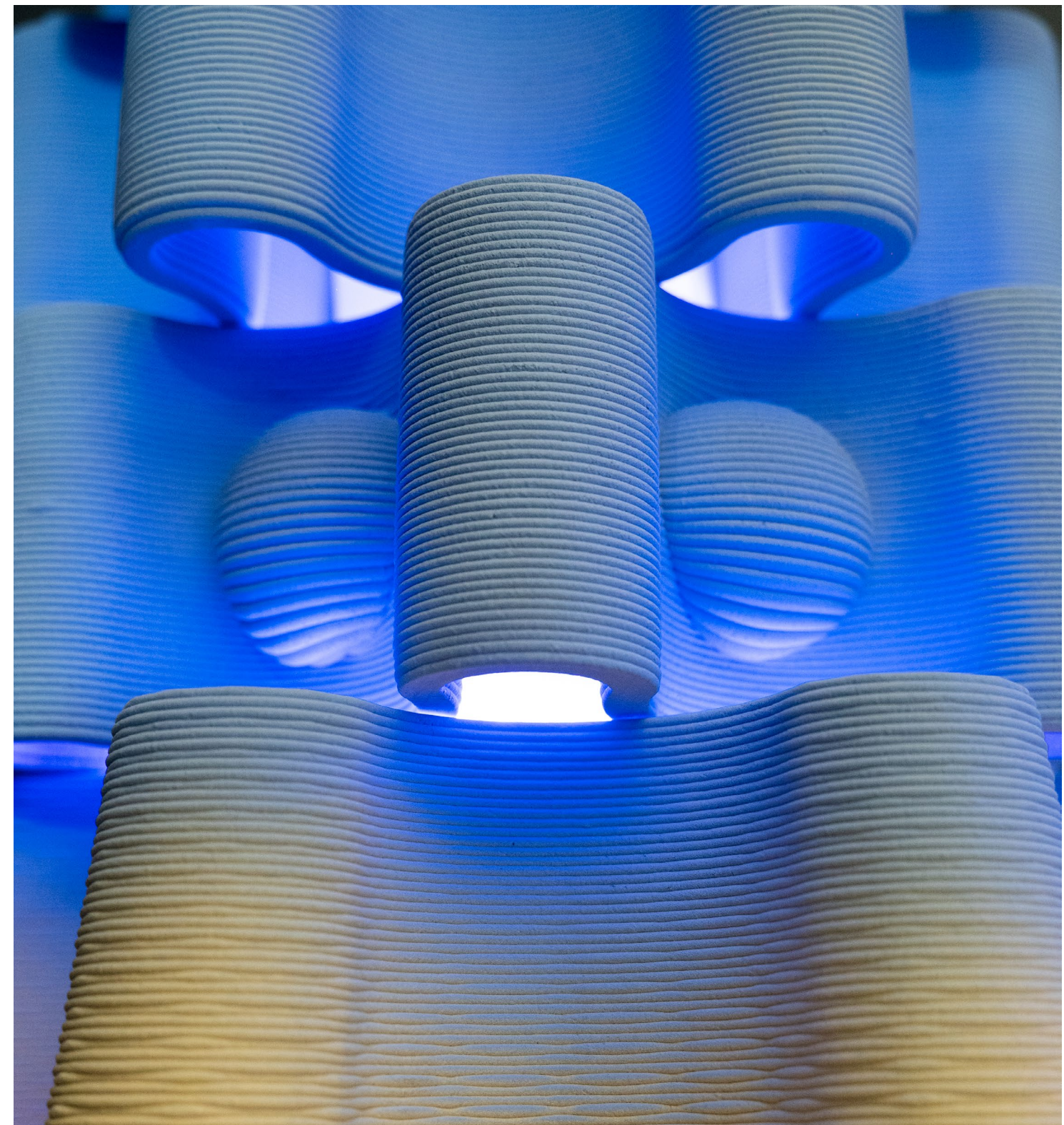


Micro-Stations: Sensory Architecture for Urban Space

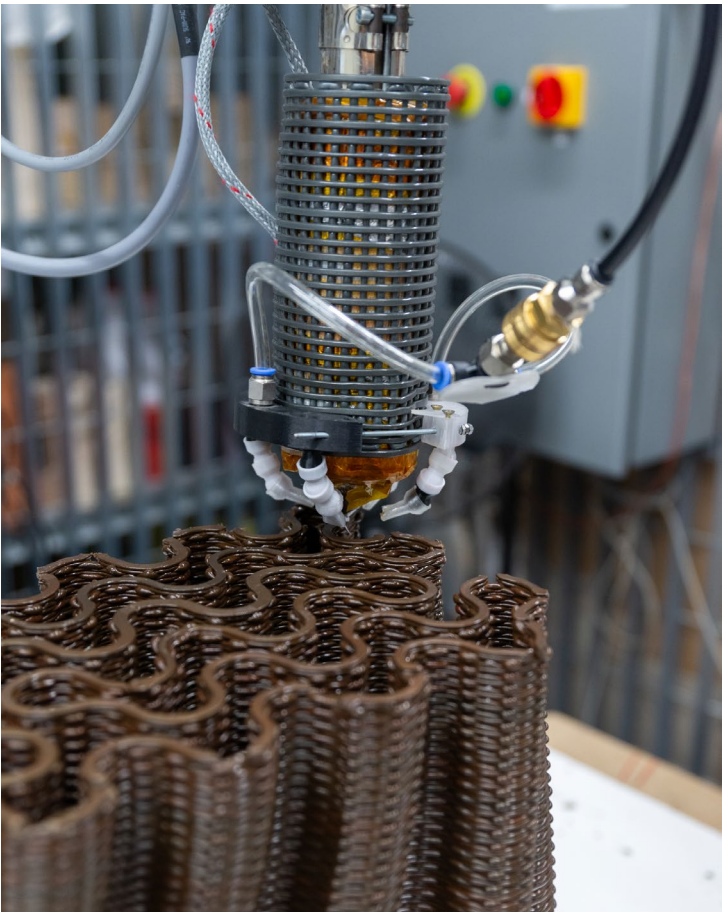
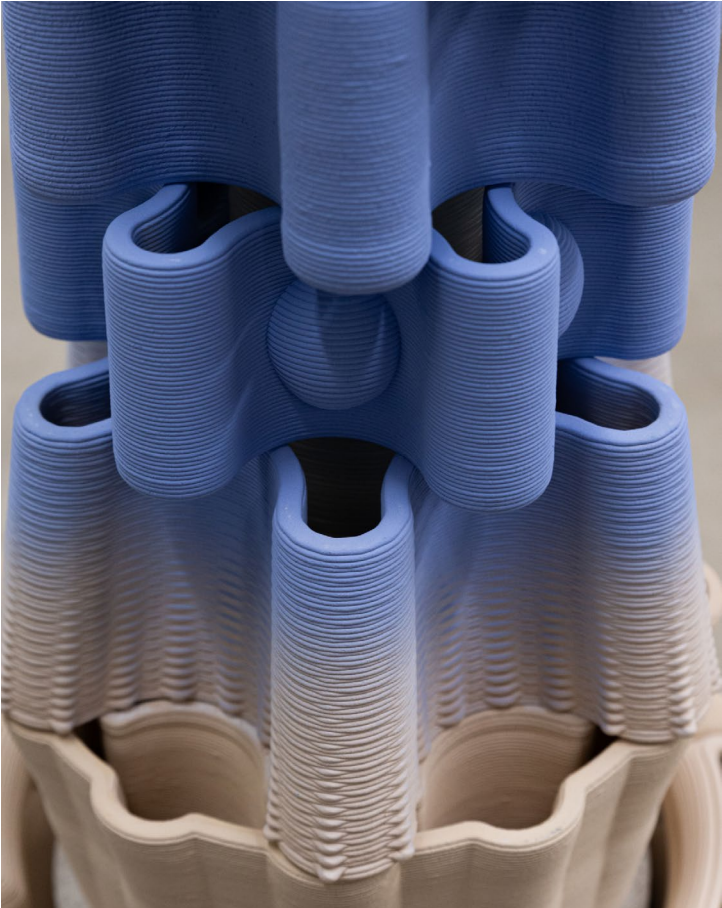
In collaboration with the SHIFT lab, doctoral student Adam Varga developed modular urban furniture prototypes called **Micro-Stations**, which translate the invisible dynamics of urban environments into a shared sensory language. The project is grounded in the conviction that urban intelligence need not be communicated solely through numerical and analytical means. Through shifting light and colour, the devices make urban phenomena – such as temperature, humidity, air quality, and movement intensity – perceptible, transforming abstract streams of environmental data into an atmosphere that can be physically experienced. Micro-Stations are also distinctive in their materiality: rather than using displays and dashboards, they work with the haptics and organic forms of glazed ceramics.

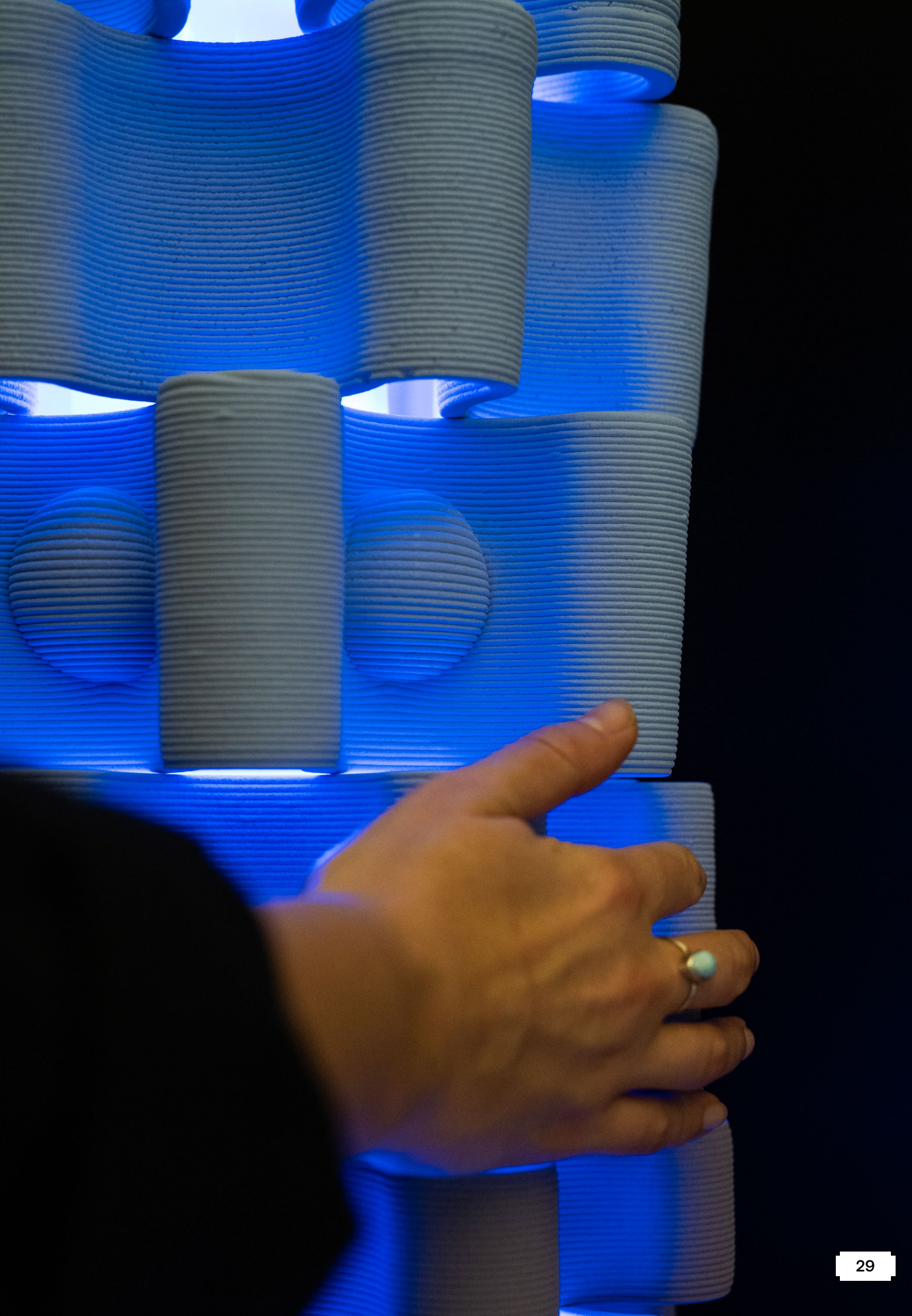
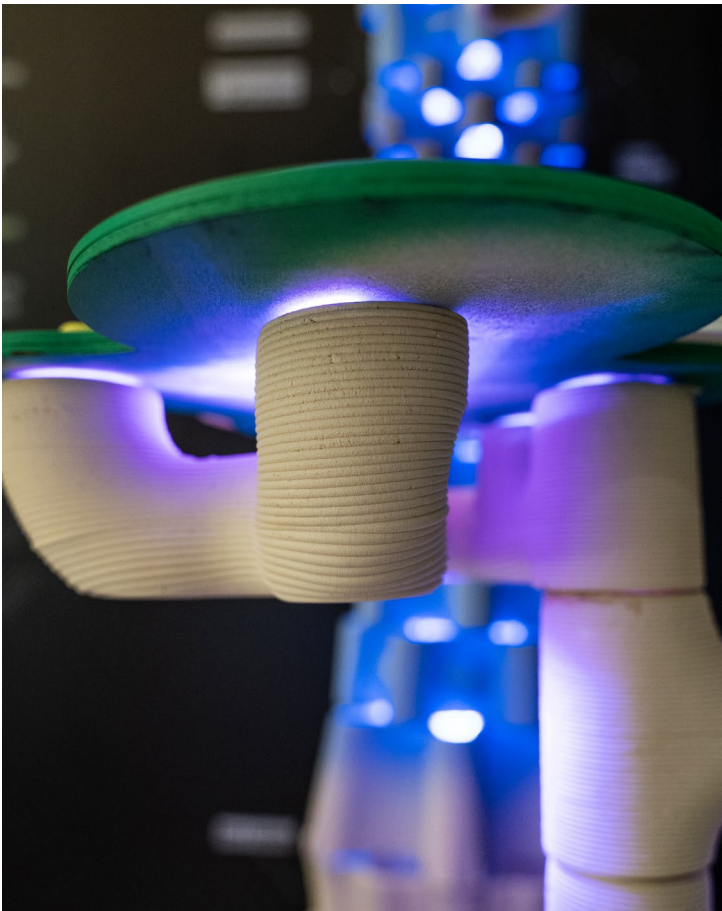
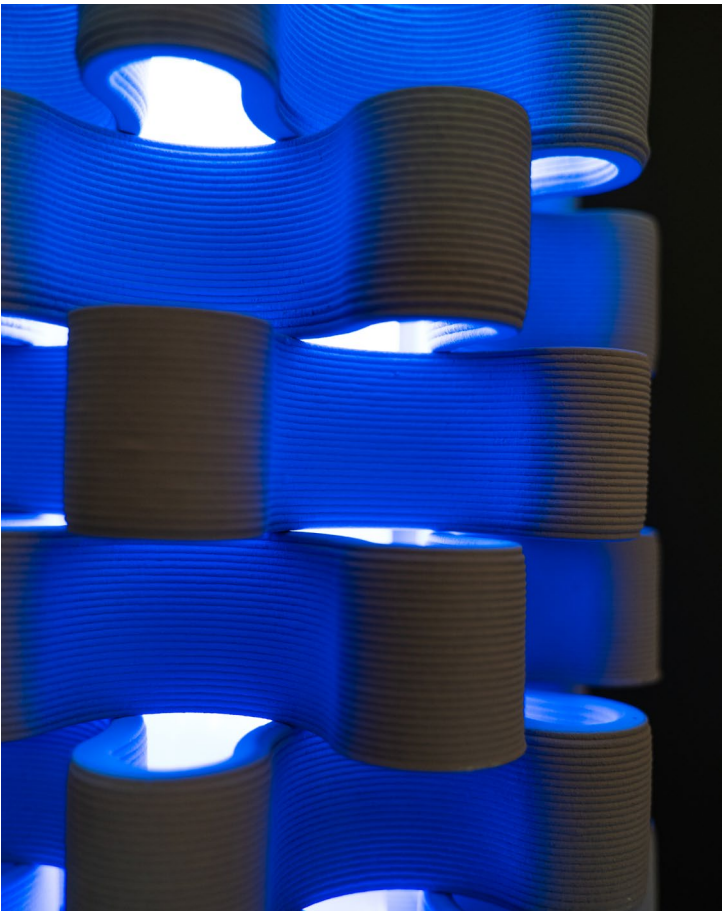
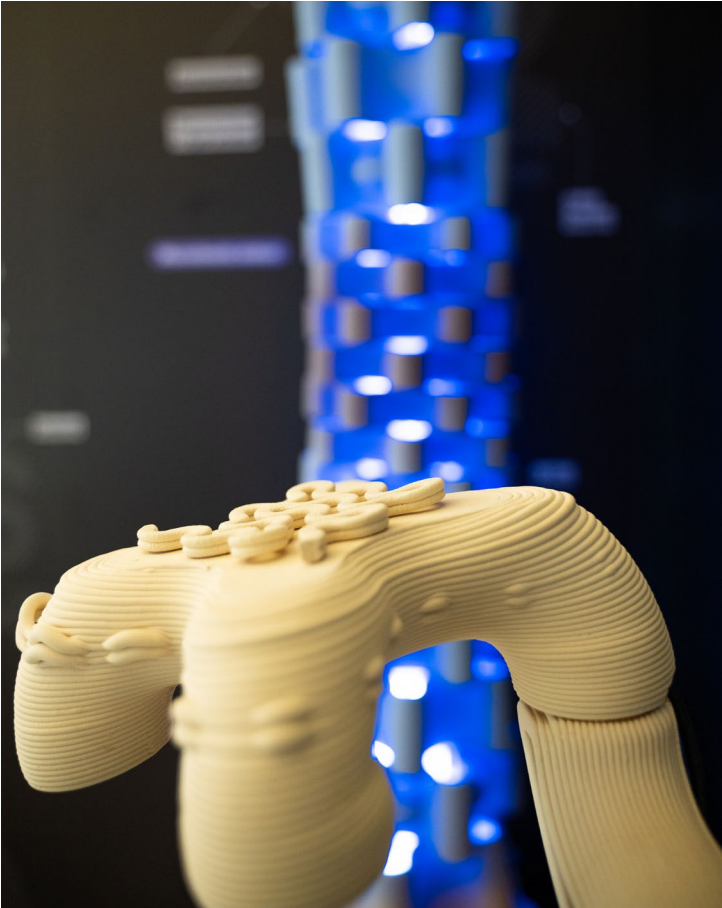
The device prototypes were first presented at the **Barcelona Smart City Expo 2025**, as part of the **Urban Sense** exhibition produced in collaboration with the city company **Operátor ICT**.

CONCEPT, RESEARCH, DESIGN
Adam Varga, Veronika Miškovičová



The project was realised with the financial co-participation of the EU through the National Recovery Plan and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. It was funded through the project Green Transformation of UMRUM, NPO_UMPRUM_MSMT-2132/2024-4.





Upcycling Statement: Rethinking Textile Waste

Through doctoral student Veronika Soukupová, SHIFT became involved in a long-term pedagogical and research project of UMPRUM's Fashion and Footwear Design Studio, focused on the issues of textile waste and sustainability in the fashion industry.

The project [Upcycling Statement: Rethinking Textile Waste](#) was realised in collaboration with Diakonie Broumov – a social cooperative operating a sorting and processing facility for used textiles. Students of the studio worked with denim, leather, and other materials from second-hand sources, creating original collections based on the principles of upcycling – that is, the redesign of used textiles into products of high craft and conceptual quality. Veronika Soukupová contributed to teaching in both the Fashion and Footwear Design Studio and the Product Design Studio, and also participated in the preparation of a Czech-English peer-reviewed publication [Born in Broumov: From Local Tradition to Global Challenges in Contemporary Fashion](#), planned for publication in 2026.

EXPERT AND PEDAGOGICAL
LEADERSHIP
Simona Rybáková, Vojtěch Novotný

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION CONCEPT
Simona Rybáková, Karolína Juříková,
Veronika Soukupová



The doctoral student's research was realised with the financial co-participation of the EU through the National Recovery Plan and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. It was funded through the project Green Transformation of UMPRUM, NPO_UMPRUM_MSMT-2132/2024-4.



The research and educational project Ignored Technology is a platform for critical reflection on technologies that can be considered long-marginalised, overlooked, or excluded from the dominant discourse and practice of architecture and design. The project challenges the persistent distinction between “technologies” and “crafts”: innovations are typically associated with tools and processes linked to mechanisation and industry, while hand-made or community-oriented modes of making remain outside this frame. The project’s aim is to account for the social, cultural, material, and ecological dimensions of technology and to expand the concept to include techniques, materials, tools, and processes that, for various reasons, have not broken through into mainstream construction, manufacturing, or communication practice.

The project is being developed in collaboration with the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna (AKBILD) and the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava (AFAD). It includes the development of research and pedagogical collaboration between individual departments and studios of UMPRUM (Department of Architecture, Department of Applied Arts, Department of Fine Arts, Department of Theory and History of Art). Over the course of 2025–2027 a series of lectures and workshops will take place within its framework.

RESEARCH, PEDAGOGICAL
AND PROJECT LEADERSHIP
Michelle Howard (AKBILD), Adam Hudec
(AKBILD), Veronika Miškovičová (UMPRUM),
Klára Peloušková (UMPRUM), Danica Pišteková
(AFAD), Tomáš Tholt (AFAD)

GRAPHIC DESIGN
WorkOut Office



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Courses

In 2025 we contributed to curriculum development by creating new courses and revising existing ones within the Master’s programme in Design ([Contemporary Thinking on Art, Design and Sustainability](#); [Strategic Thinking for Sustainability](#)) and the doctoral programme in Fine Arts ([Interdisciplinary Seminar](#)).

Lecture Series

In autumn 2025 we organised a series of four specialist lectures focused on questions of ecological design, local socio-ecological resilience, civilisational change and the future of the planet.

- 6 November 2025
[Rachel Pearl, Stephanie Sherman, and Lukáš Likavčan](#) on clothing and wearable technologies as means of climate adaptation.
- 21 November 2025
[Folke Köbberling](#) on wool and its processing in the context of artistic and architectural experiments.

- 27 November 2025
[Asia Bazdyrieva](#) on the transformation of energy infrastructures in times of geopolitical tension and armed conflict.
- 4 December 2025
[Barbara Mayer](#) on community participation in urban planning and the care of public space.

Collaboration with doctoral students

In 2025 we also developed intensive collaboration with UMPRUM doctoral students from both the Fine Arts programme and the Theory and History of Modern and Contemporary Art programme. In particular, [Kateřina Krebsová \(Architecture Studio II\)](#), [Veronika Soukupová \(Department of Theory and History of Art\)](#), and [Adam Varga \(Architecture Studio III\)](#) were involved in the above-mentioned research projects and other activities.

Workshops

In collaboration with individual UMPRUM studios, we held four workshops developing students’ knowledge and skills regarding the environmental and social dimensions of architectural, design, and artistic practice.

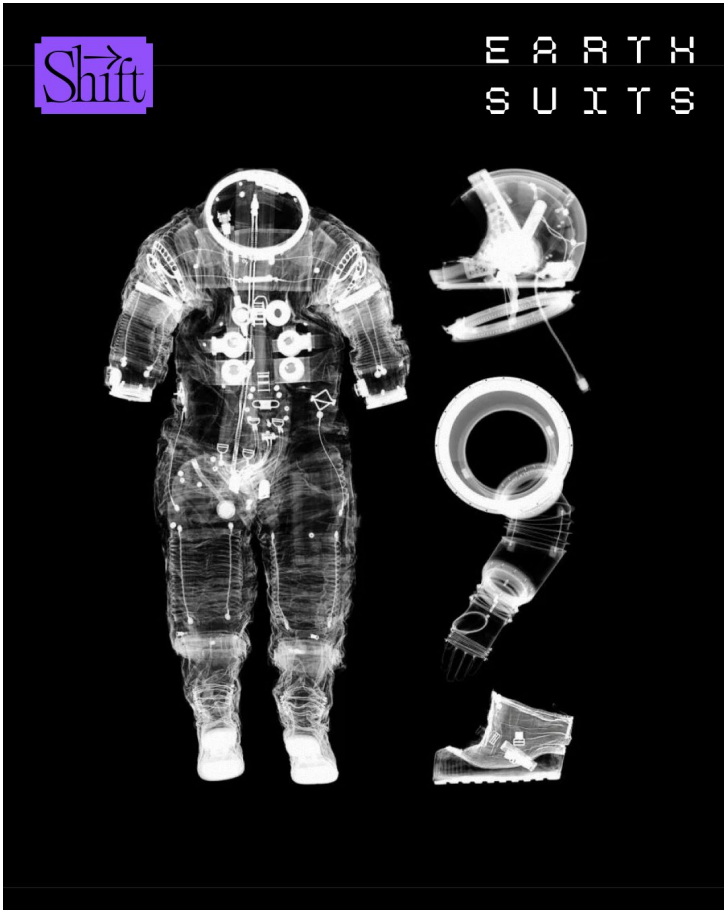
- 6 May 2025
Workshop in collaboration with the [Conscious Design](#) initiative on eco-design and circular approaches in design and manufacturing practice (for the Product Design studio).
- 25 September 2025
Workshop in collaboration with the association [Bieno](#) on “good neighbourhood climate” – landscape and architectural interventions in the courtyards of residential buildings and collaboration with local residents.
- 6–7 November 2025
Workshop in collaboration with [UAL Central Saint Martins](#) on clothing and wearable technologies as a shared infrastructure for climate adaptation.
- 21 November 2025
Workshop with [Folke Köbberling](#) on sheep’s wool as an overlooked renewable material applicable in art and architecture.

Lectures and workshops were realised with the financial co-participation of the EU through the National Recovery Plan and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. They were funded through the project Green Transformation of UMPRUM, NPO_UMPRUM_MSMT-2132/2024-4.

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Autumn Lecture Series 2025

06	11	Stephanie Sherman, Rachel Pearl and Lukáš Likavčan
21	11	Folke Köbberling
27	11	Asia Bazdiryeva
04	12	Barbara Mayer



Autumn Lecture Series 2025

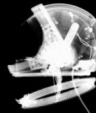
SHIFT Autumn Lecture Series brings together thinkers and practitioners exploring civilizational transitions, ecological design, and planetary futures. Each lecture opens a space for dialogue across disciplines — from architecture and design to philosophy, ecology, and technology. We invite you to join the conversation.

Shift



EarthSuits: Wearable Worlds for a Changing Planet

EarthSuits is a global R&D platform based at UAL Central Saint Martins that reimagines wearable technologies as shared infrastructures for adaptation and augmentation on a changing planet.



Collaborations

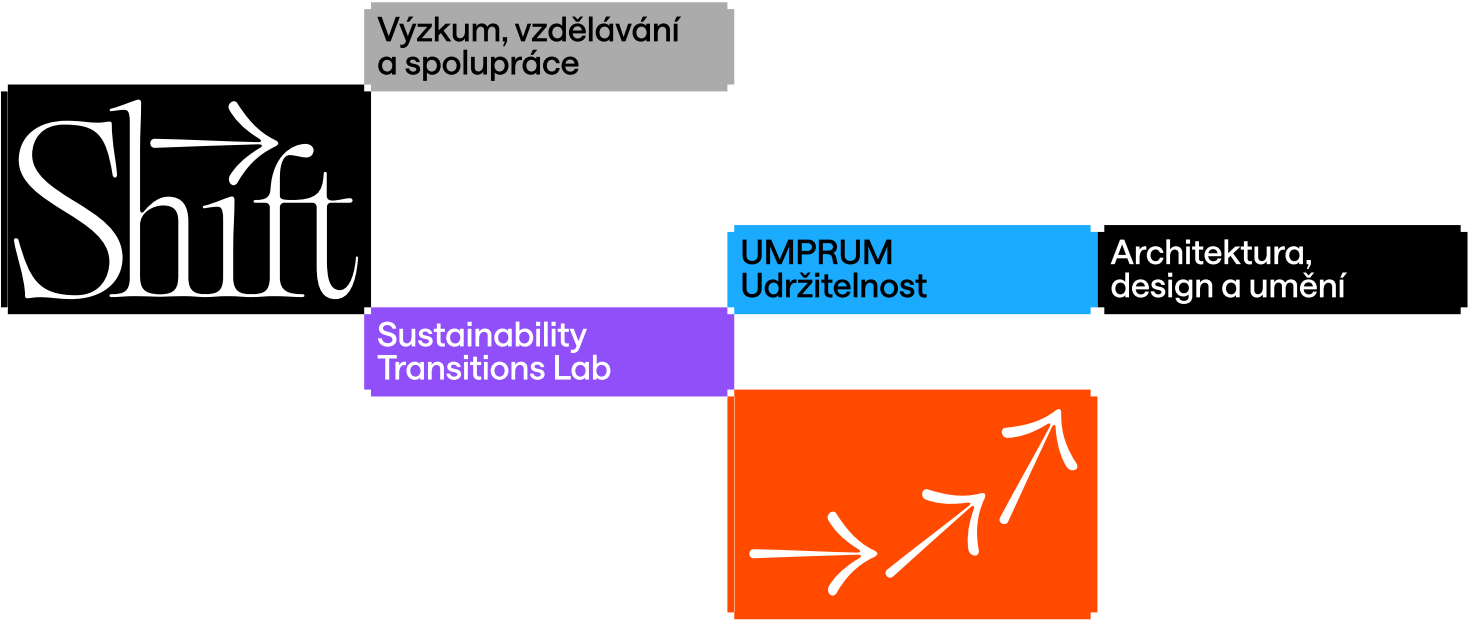
In 2025 we signed three partnership agreements, enabling us to develop long-term collaboration with organisations with whom we share research priorities and whose expertise and know-how complement our own.

Operátor ICT, a.s.	Operátor ICT is the provider of digital and information services for the City of Prague. Within this partnership, we aim to explore topics related to the collection, use, and representation of environmental data (biodiversity, microclimatic data, etc.).
Bieno, z.s.	Bieno has a long track record of working with residents of Prague apartment buildings, developing courtyard revitalisation projects in close collaboration with them. Within this partnership, we explore the potential of combining civic participation with the technological dimension of adaptation measures and environmental monitoring.
Rethink Architecture Institute, z.ú.	Rethink Architecture focuses on education and consultancy in the field of sustainable solutions in architecture and the built environment. Within this collaboration, our focus is primarily on reflecting on the discourse and practice of sustainability in architecture in the Czech context.
Others	In 2025, we also developed informal collaborations with a number of other organisations, including Czech University of Life Sciences Prague , UCEEB CTU Prague and Kampus Hyberská . We also held discussions on potential collaboration with representatives of universities such as the Royal Danish Academy in Copenhagen and the Design Academy Eindhoven .

Visual Identity

In 2025 we also began working with the visual identity created for SHIFT by graphic designer [Martin Czeller](#). The identity is based on a combination of the typeface Editorial Old Ultralight in the logo (Pangram Pangram Foundry), Saans Medium for body text (Display Type Foundry), and several colours: black, white, purple, blue, and orange. The visual identity allows for sufficient variability across graphic outputs, both through the colour palette and through the modular element of the “tile”, on which the logo itself is placed and which can be used as a graphic module.

Over the course of the year, SHIFT’s visual identity was applied to our social media communication, managed by our collaborator [Viktória Žigmundová](#), student of the Architecture Studio III.



The SHIFT laboratory operates under the leadership of Veronika Miškovičová and Klára Peloušková.

Veronika Miškovičová

Veronika Miškovičová, Ph.D., focuses on research at the intersection of architecture, public space, and technology, with an emphasis on contemporary environmentally and materially informed approaches to design. Alongside developing and conducting research within SHIFT, she is also involved in UMPRUM's project and grant management.

Her primary interests include the relationships between natural and technological systems, the use of digital data in environmental design, and collaboration with local communities within participatory processes. She works externally as a lecturer at AFAD in Bratislava and as a consultant for Operátor ICT, where she contributes to the development of data-driven interactive installations for public space.

Klára Peloušková

Klára Peloušková, Ph.D., focuses on contemporary design and innovation in the context of transition theory and systems and strategic thinking. Alongside SHIFT, she also teaches at UMPRUM's Department of Art History and Theory, where she lectures on design theory and design thinking.

As a researcher, designer, and facilitator, she also collaborates with the Department of Information Studies and Library Science at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, and with the innovation studio Pábení. Her current research focuses on systemic innovation in the context of spatial governance and climate adaptation, social innovation for the future in the context of informal care, and critical reflection on Czech discourse on sustainability in architecture.

→ photo: Apolena Typltová



Contact

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Web shift.umprum.cz

Instagram shift_umprum



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Transitions Lab
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