

A-Place

Linking places through
networked artistic practices

Newsletter #03

May 2023

We are expanding places...



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Introduction

During its third year, the A-Place project continued its efforts to connect individuals and communities, cultures and fields of knowledge, with the goal of fostering a shared sense of place and belonging.

In 2022, the project's activities gained momentum, allowing for consolidation of some of the on-going lines of work, as well as the exploration of uncharted territories.

In partner cities, local communities, students, artists, and experts were engaged in interventions in public spaces, installations in public buildings, music and dance performances, and on-site pedagogical activities. The aim of these initiatives was to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the significance of place in shaping our lives and experiences, while fostering cross-cultural exchange and collaboration between individuals and communities from diverse backgrounds.

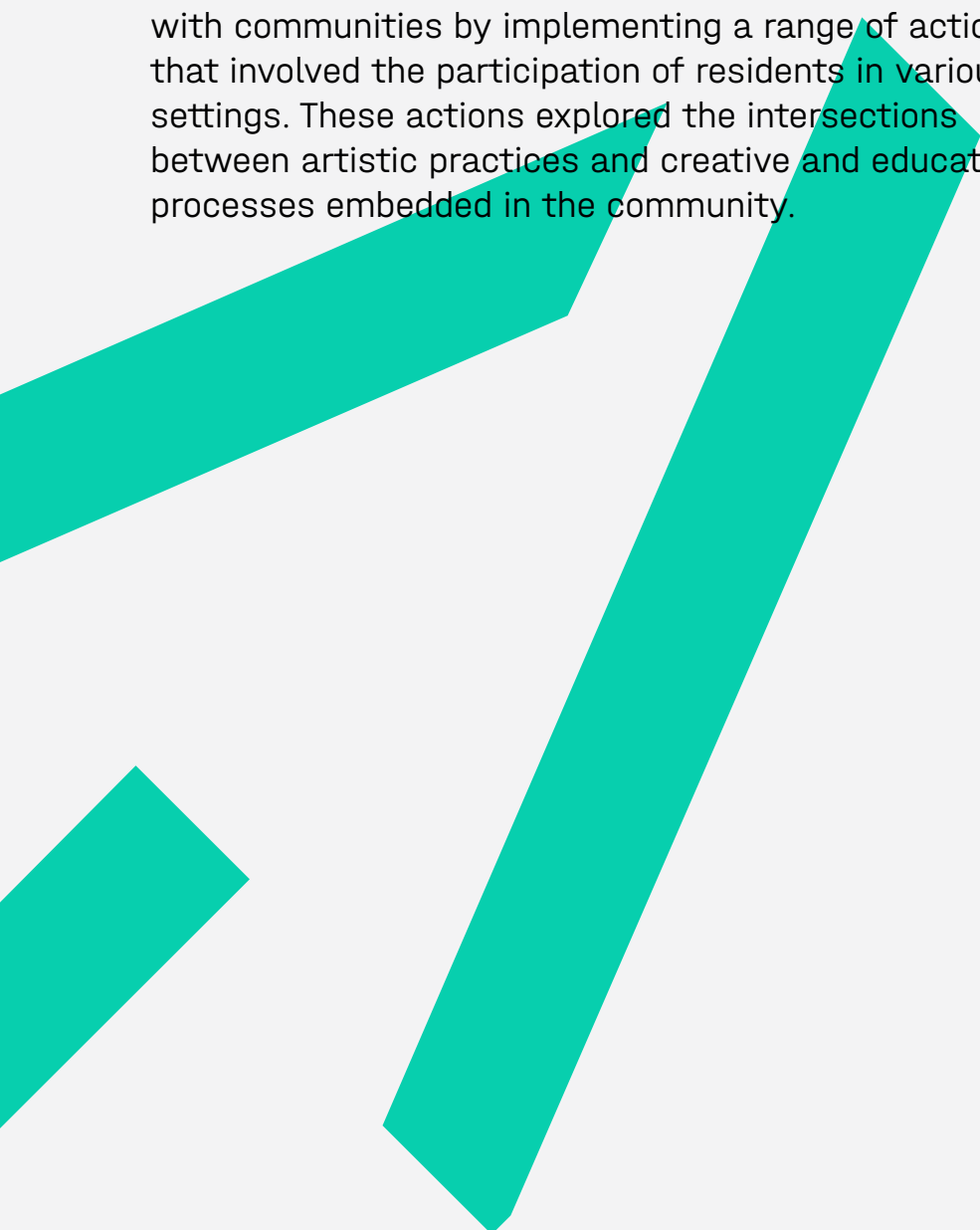
The three festivals participating in A-Place - LOOP Barcelona, Urban Visions and Pame Kaimakli- organized their annual editions. The ES_CULTURA Public Art festival was held for the first time in L'Hospitalet on 26 and 27 November 2022. The project's open calls and contests remained active, with five new contests for artistic productions that attracted participants from all over the world.

In June 2022, A-Place took part in the New European Bauhaus Festival in Brussels by setting up a stand and hosting two workshops and two side events. The stand featured five thematic videos showcasing the work done in the first two years of the project.

In the fourth and last year of the project, a programme of events will take place in Barcelona, Brussels, and Lisbon in May, June and September 2023, including exhibitions, debates, and on-site activities. Everyone is invited to join us!

Placemaking activities

In 2022, we had the opportunity to strengthen our ties with communities by implementing a range of actions that involved the participation of residents in various settings. These actions explored the intersections between artistic practices and creative and educational processes embedded in the community.



A Weaved Place

School of Architecture La Salle

The programme of activities that the School of Architecture La Salle developed in the previous two years in the city of L'Hospitalet **continued in the third year**. In the first semester of 2021/22, students of the course Systems of Representation carried out a photographic survey of the city. They related the images to texts on urban theory, and explored the relationships between photographs of the districts they visited. Based on the outcomes of the photographic survey, Teresa Rubio, a cultural mediator, art educator and collage artist, led a two-day **workshop** to create a cartography of the city of L'Hospitalet using collage techniques.

After the visual analysis of the cityscape, during the second semester students continued to explore the socio-physical territory of the city of L'Hospitalet by means of the audiovisual language. Students were tutored by two guest artists -Claudio Zulian, filmmaker, and Miquel Garcia, multidisciplinary artist- and the architecture staff. Students and tutors met in the city premises, the Tecla Sala Art Centre and in Plantauno, a centre dedicated to prototyping knowledge of cultural practices and their relationship to social development.

Creating maps of the city of L'Hospitalet with collage techniques, School of Architecture La Salle, February 2022



On 9 June 2022, the videos produced by students were exhibited in an [installation in Plantauno](#). This event was included in the New European Bauhaus festival under the title "A-Place: Placing audiovisual narratives". The installation in Plantauno consisted of screens with simultaneous projections of the videos, and the four collages created in the previous workshop.

At the end of the seminar, both artists created a video production with the recordings made by students: "[80.189](#)", by Miquel García, and "[A journey to L'Hospitalet de Llobregat](#)", by Claudio Zulian.



Students planning the audiovisual survey in at a session at the Tecla Sala Art Centre with Claudio Zulian

Students planning the audiovisual survey in a session at Plantauno with Miquel García



ES_CULTURA Public Art Festival

The ES_CULTURA Public Art Festival was held on November 26 and 27, 2022 at Plaça de la Cultura in the Bellvitge district, with the support of the municipality of L'Hospitalet. Out of the 42 proposals submitted by artists and students in response to an [open call](#), a jury selected ten installations to install in the public space.

The [festival](#) transformed the public space into a hub for artistic expression with the participation of pupils of local schools, architecture students, artists, neighbours and civic organizations members. [Sculptures and paintings, film projections, a sound installation as well music and dance performances](#), transformed the square and the surroundings during the two-day event.

Activities during the ES_CULTURA festival, L'Hospitalet, November 2022



A Happy Place

in Dardaar (Brussels)

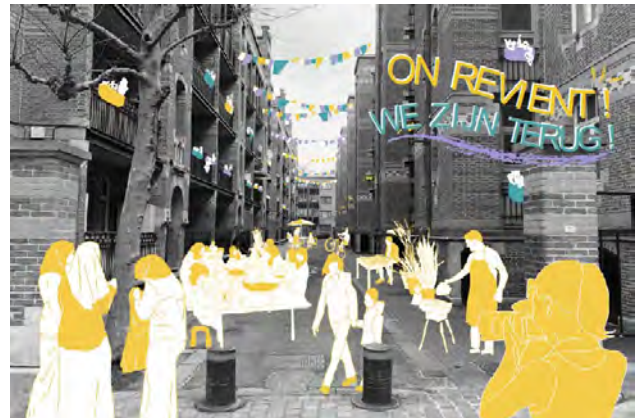
Alive Architecture, in collaboration with ASBL BRAVVO

In its second year of activities, “A Happy Place” continued with the transformation of the Pieremans playground, expanding to the alleys of the Cité Hellemans in the Marolles district, one of the first examples of a social housing estate located in the heart of the city.

Between April and September 2021, the Alive Architecture and BRAVVO team organized a total of 10 events at the Pieremans playground. In April, they held 4 co-design workshops to gather information about the community’s needs and desires, and identify opportunities for the site. During 5 co-production workshops from June to August, they painted the ground and constructed a temporary gate to prevent children from running onto the street. On 29 September 2021, the first phase of the project was inaugurated. In 2022, they implemented permanent changes to the playground based on the participatory process that took place in 2021.

In the Cité Hellemans alleys, the team organized a total of 9 activities in April and in June. Due to the site’s protected historical heritage status, the interventions in the alleys were limited to temporary installations, with the exception of some balcony planters, which did not leave a permanent impact on the site.

On Friday, 24 June 2022, there was an [opening ceremony](#) for the transformed sites, and A-Place partners present in Brussels joined the event.



Community-based project to transform the Hellemans alleys into a lived space

Children from the neighbourhood planting in the newly installed garden



A Re-Place

in Ljubljana

Faculty of Architecture University of Ljubljana, ProstoRož

The Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana and ProstoRož, continued working on the Bežigranski Dvor area in Ljubljana, known as Krater. The programme of activities in this phase focused on circular design and materials reuse, moving beyond the traditional take-make-waste extractive model. Architecture students, experts and residents worked together to make use of resource flows, keep products in continuous and repurpose designs.

In recent years, the Krater area has become a focal point for various interest groups, activities and events. As a result, the site has become a dumping ground for materials from past activities that have lost their purpose and meaning. "A-Re-Place" action introduced new ideas for reusing these leftover materials, and thus bringing new life to the site. Experts in the fields of architectural reuse, place redesign, and the "art of recycling art" were invited to share their knowledge and expertise.

"A Re-Place" brought a new perspective to the Krater area, viewing it as a space for redesign and recreation that can benefit the community. The activities facilitated a space for dialogue where various participants, including guest speakers, commentators, students, and members of the public, could come together and learn from each other.



The participants of "A Re-Place" created new objects using recycled materials in the Krater area

New objects were created using recycled materials in the Krater area



A Just Place: Expo & Radio

in Brussels

KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture

"A Just Place: Expo & Radio" showcased the results of Architecture Design Justice Studio (ADJ), and an architectural design studio at KU Leuven's International Master Brussels. The Grand Hospice, with its significant history, was used as a base for questioning the temporary occupations in Brussels' centre. Currently available for temporary occupation, the site was rented by the f28 artist collective and shared with KU Leuven.

In "A Just Radio", a series of podcasts were produced which included interviews with architects, students, NGOs and activists working on issues and themes raised by the ADJ studio. The podcasts and the exhibition showcased the outcomes and reflections of master's students who took a critical stance on issues surrounding spatial justice in Brussels, particularly the displacement of homeless and transmigrant communities.

Both the exhibition and radio studio were successful in bringing together a network of artists and NGO representatives who are actively questioning and protesting against the temporary cultural occupations that contribute to the displacement of vulnerable communities.



Working session at the Grand Hospice

"A Just Radio" studio at Grand Hospice



A Reconnecting Place

in Lisbon

Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Nova FCSH

“A Reconnecting Place” is a programme of activities designed with and for the Rego neighbourhood in Lisbon. The goal of these activities, jointly carried out by community members, PhD students from NOVA FCSH, artists, and researchers, was to activate public spaces through a series of actions that include music, dance, and video.

We invited the public to join us for a soundwalk through Bairro do Rego, where they could share experiences and listen to the sounds of the neighbourhood in a unique way. The sound pieces featured on the soundwalk were collaboratively created by the young residents using sounds recorded in the neighbourhood. Musician and composer João Dias Ferreira provided guidance and composed the pieces.

The choreographer and dancer Inês Galvão Teles used the music piece created during the community music creation activities as inspiration and worked with the neighbourhood youth to explore movement individually. In a workshop with neighbours, a choreography was developed for the music of Bairro do Rego, which was then performed in a flash mob.



Workshop in creative dance

Recording the sounds of the neighbourhood



A Seedling Place

in Nicosia

Urban Gorillas

“A Seedling Place” is a series of actions aimed at transforming places while adding meaning and empowering communities through collective planting initiatives carried out in multiple contexts. The goal is to create a digital community of urban visionaries who are actively working to positively transform their urban and rural environments through community planting initiatives.

In the third year of the project, Urban Gorillas carried out a series of activities aimed at nurturing a connection between residents and the plants and vegetation of their neighbourhood, which were part of the 2022 edition of the Pame Kaimakli festival.

In April 2022, the Forest Department of Cyprus facilitated the [adoption of 100 plants](#) and trees by the residents of Kaimakli. Two months later, they returned with their plants and seeds and planted them in ceramic pots in the [Vertical Gardens](#) which was installed on Synergasias Street, transforming the old railroad tracks into a linear green park.

The new garden has become a meeting point, rest area, and source of water for both plants and animals, establishing a significant “place” in the neighbourhood. After negotiations with the municipality, it was agreed that the installation would remain permanently in the public space. The residents are responsible for maintaining it, taking turns to water and care for the plants.



Adopting a plant

Vertical Gardens with the plants brought by residents



A Wish-full Place

in Nicosia

Urban Gorillas

“A WISH-full Place” was an installation located in the City Plaza, a former bustling shopping centre in Nicosia. When it opened in 1989, City Plaza was a popular destination and a premier department store in Cyprus. Then it has been slowly declining, particularly after the 2008 financial crisis. Since 2013, with the support of the Nicosia municipality, the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre (NiMAC) has been organizing pop-up festivals to create temporary interventions.

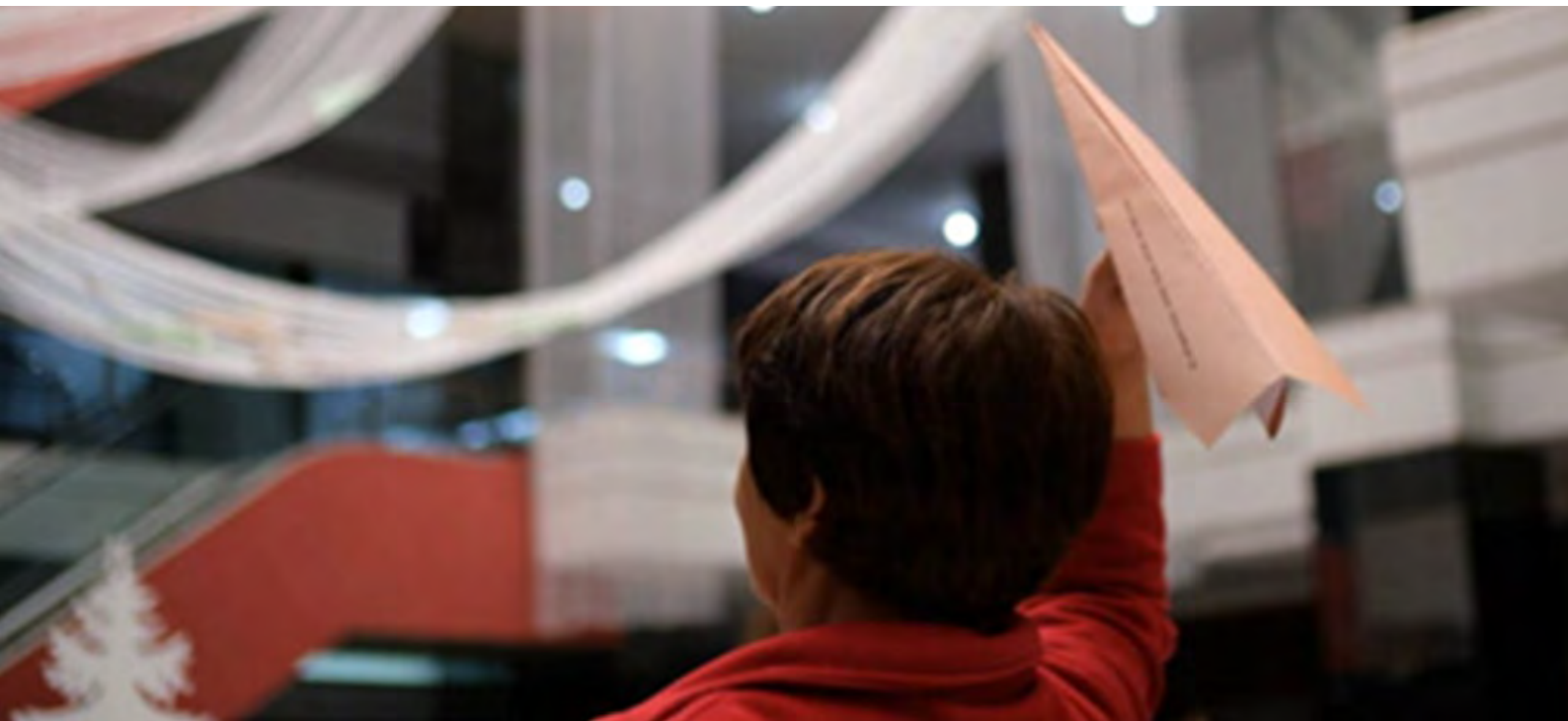
Our temporary installation aimed to create an interactive experience for visitors through paper folding workshops. The installation consisted of 600 meters of fabric hanging from the balconies of the atrium. Visitors were invited to write their wishes on folded papers made using origami techniques, which they learned in workshops held as part of the event. These papers were then thrown onto the hanging

fabrics, creating a visually striking and interactive display. During the five weeks the installation was in place, a handful of wishes were collected to be exhibited later in collaboration with the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre.



Installation in City Plaza: hanging fabrics ready to receive the messages

A young participant ready to send a message



Festivals

A-Place sections in LOOP Barcelona, Urban Visions and Pame Kaimakli festivals

The three festivals that participate in A-Place organized their annual editions in 2022 in Barcelona, Bologna and Nicosia. These festivals provide a platform to showcase the diverse uses of films for promoting artistic productions, exchanging knowledge, fostering debate, exploring urban humanities through an interdisciplinary approach, and supporting experimental bottom-up practices with local communities in the public realm. Scholars, filmmakers, artists, art curators and activists, as well as a diversity of audiences, on-line and off-line, engaged and participated in the three festivals.

LOOP Barcelona

8 to 20 November 2022

In addition to the premieres of the video works commissioned by LOOP Barcelona, two professional debates were organized in the A-Place section of the 2022 edition of this festival. The discussions focused on the themes raised by the video productions commissioned by LOOP.

– What about production?

A discussion with Gisel Noë, Oscar Abraham Pabón, Estefanía Peñafiel Loaiza and Laura Arensburg, moderated by Victoria Sacco. The participants addressed some of the issues artists face when producing material works and immaterial ideas, and about the support they get from existing structures.

– Audience engagement

Meeting between programmers and festival professionals in order to share experiences and challenges around audiences engagement and development. The participants Ulya Soley, Luisa Bravo, Leandro Madrazo, Neus Miró, Mario Gutiérrez Cru and Louise Martin Papasian engaged in a dialogue led by Victoria Sacco about increasing audiences, strategies to foster loyalty, fragmented audiences and new ways of mediation.

[LOOP Studies](#) → [Professional meeting](#)

A-Place : What about production?

Thursday 17 November 2022, 11 am — 12:30 pm



[LOOP Studies](#) → [Professional meeting](#)

A-Place: Audience engagement

— Programming & displaying video

Wednesday 16 November 2022, 11 am — 12:30 pm



Urban Visions

24-27 November 2022

City Space Architecture organized the [third edition of the film festival Urban Visions](#) for these two categories:

– **“Migrants, refugees and displaced communities”** aimed at investigating the living conditions of migrants, refugees and displaced communities in cities, in Italy and elsewhere. There were 34 works submitted, of which 19 were assessed by an international jury.

The awarded works were:

- “Forbidden to enter” by Paul Buske and Omar Alsawadi, first prize.
- “Zafar” by Aqsa Altaf and John X Carey, second prize.
- “Lili Alone” by Jing Zuo, third prize.

There were two honourable mentions for “Waiting Working Hours” by Ben De Raes, and “Their Land, Our Home” by Ryan Powel.

– **“Resilient Communities”**, aimed at investigating the work of self-organized communities through creative and multidisciplinary placemaking initiatives. We received 19 works and 12 were evaluated by the jury.

The first prize was for “The Silent Echo” by Suman Sen. “Holy Houses” by Annefleur Schut, and “The Lions Are Not For Sale” by Sergio Osvaldo Valdes, received honourable mentions.

The award ceremony took place both on-line and in person, at the Cinema Nosadella in Bologna.

The festival included several in presence activities at City Space Architecture’s headquarters, with the engagement of artists and filmmakers. These included screening followed by debates on the two topics of the contest, and the screening of “La città dentro” by the Zimmerfrei Collective at its headquarters, winner of the first open call promoted by LOOP Barcelona in 2020.



“Forbidden to enter” by Paul Buske and Omar Alsawadi



“The Silent Echo” by Suman Sen

Pame Kaimakli

July 2022

The A-Place related activities of the [Pame Kaimakli](#) festival took place in July 2022 and included:

- Film screenings from the Urban Visions festival, Bologna, curated by Luisa Bravo, from City Space Architecture.
- Film screening from LOOP Barcelona
- Curated Discussion “Festival Urban Activism”
- Pop-up cinema screening the A-Place thematic videos
- Inauguration of the Vertical Gardens installation



Vertical Gardens: Inauguration of the festival at Synergiasias Street



Urban Visions screening: young migrants on bikes watching a film



A-Place thematic video screenings

New European Bauhaus

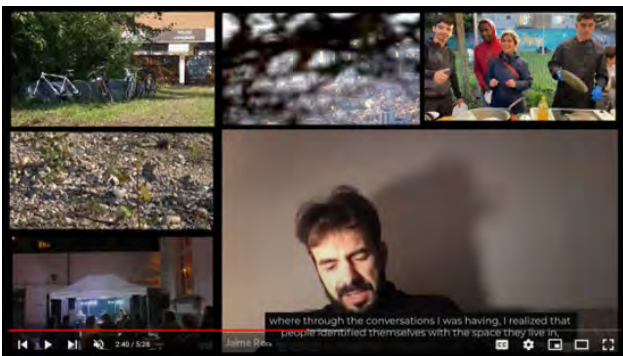
June 9 to 12, 2022

A-Place had a [stand](#) in the New European Bauhaus (NEB) festival in Brussels held in the Gare Maritime in Brussels, showcasing an interactive installation with 300 pots and packages of seeds that were distributed to visitors.



A-Place stand at the NEB Fair in Brussels

A collection of [five independent but interconnected short videos](#) that creatively showcase the projects implemented in the first two years of A-Place (2019-21), were displayed on a monitor. The videos are a collage of the work done by the network partners, together with other participants and collaborators around the world.



Frame of the thematic video "A Sense of Place"

NOVA organized two workshops in the NEB fair:

– **"(Re)Connecting places through artistic practices"**, by Marta Fiolic, addressed topics such as community building through artistic practices and creation with and for the community. It took as a case study the activities organized by A-Place in Bairro de Rego in collaboration with the association Passa Sabi.



Workshop "(Re)Connecting places through artistic practices", by Marta Fiolic

– **"Creating a soundscape with Bairro do Rego"**, by João Dias Ferreira, focused on the co-creation process and aimed to explore the concept of soundscape and its potential use in a community context for recognizing and strengthening the relationship with a specific place.

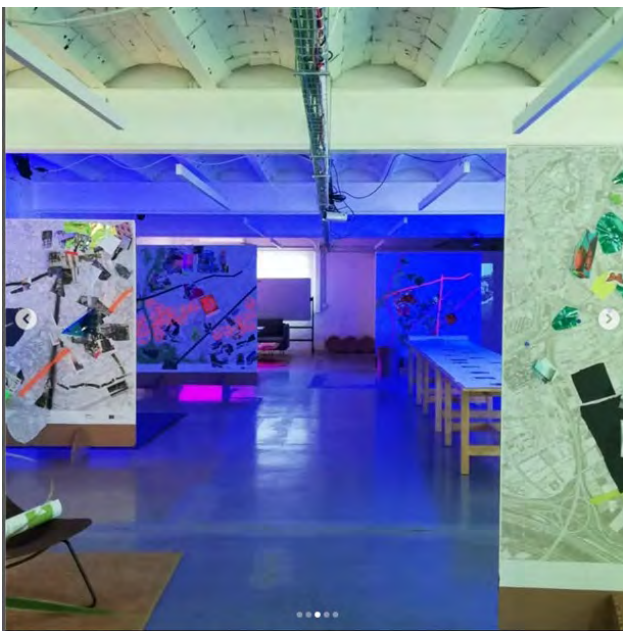


Workshop "Creating a soundscape with Bairro do Rego", by João Dias Ferreira

And the School of Architecture La Salle, in collaboration with local artists, organized two side events in L'Hospitalet as part of the NEB Festival:

– **“A-Place: Placing audiovisual narratives”**,

The [event](#) held in Plantauno featured a public premiere of the videos created by the students of the La Salle School of Architecture of Barcelona. The videos explored the socio-physical territory of the city and were supervised by two audiovisual artists, Claudio Zulian and Miquel Garcia.



Exhibition at Plantauno

– **“A-Place: Mapping Places”**, was an installation in [La Florida neighbourhood](#) by [La Gloria Factoría de Arte](#). The works submitted to the contest “The experience of living at home” were assembled and displayed in the outer walls of the civic centre.

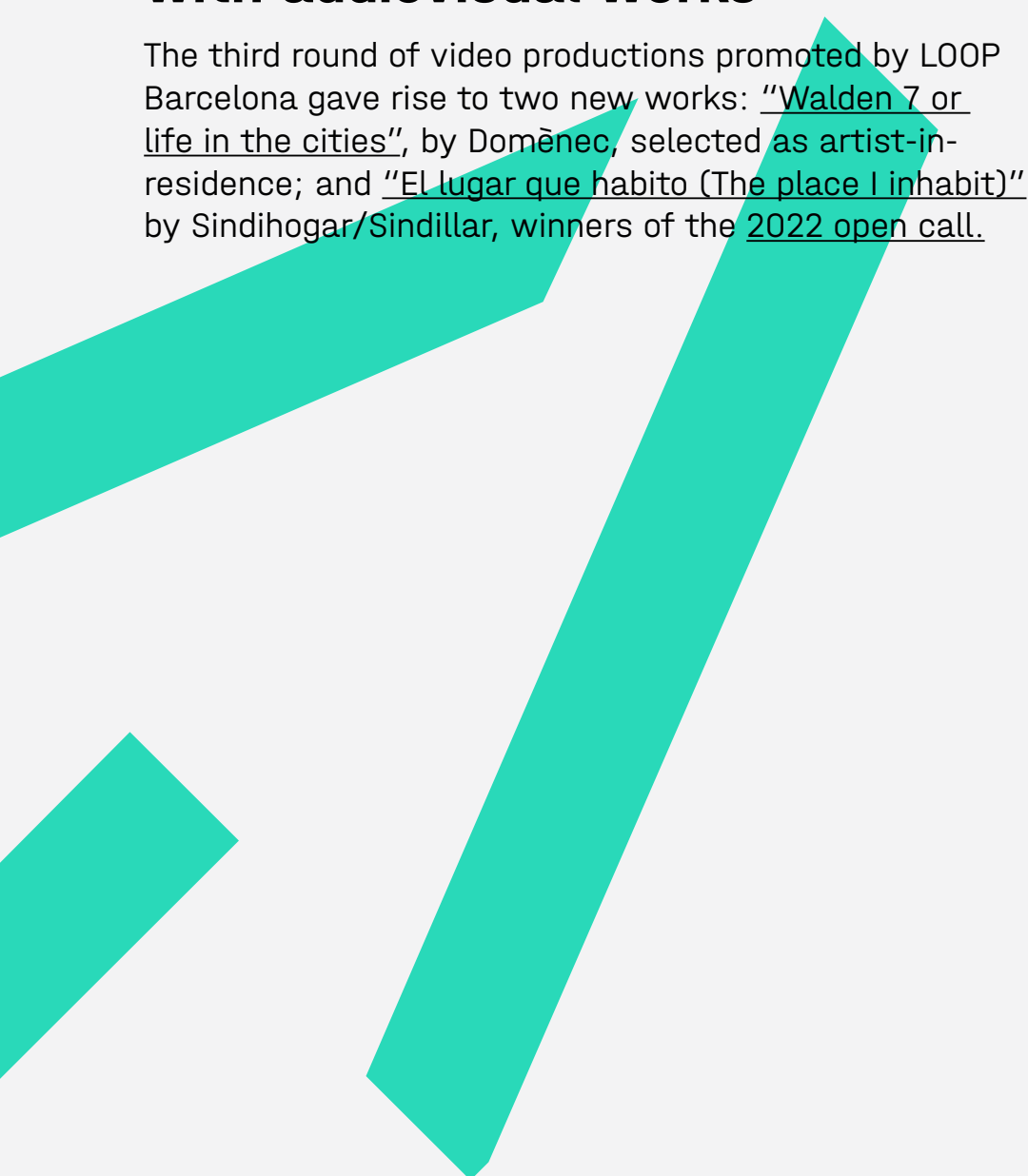


Exhibition at La Florida neighbourhood

Art Video Productions

Developing a sense of place with audiovisual works

The third round of video productions promoted by LOOP Barcelona gave rise to two new works: "Walden 7 or life in the cities", by Domènec, selected as artist-in-residence; and "El lugar que habito (The place I inhabit)" by Sindihogar/Sindillar, winners of the 2022 open call.

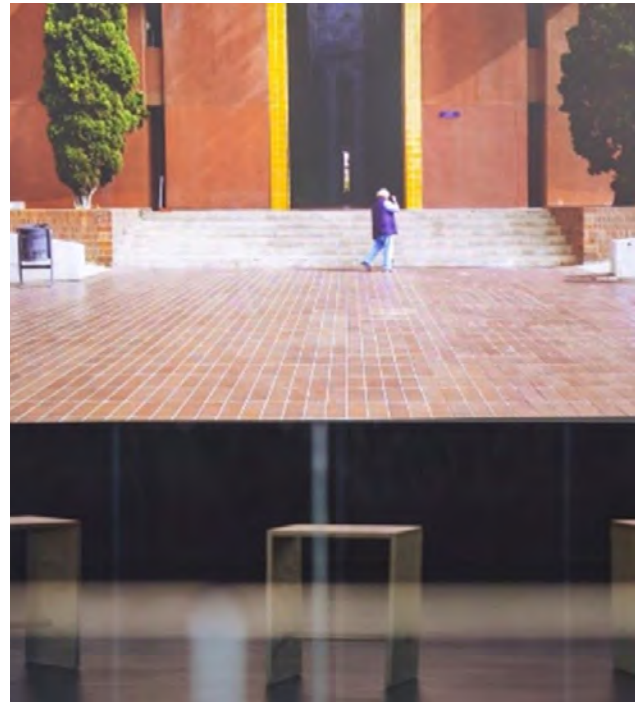
The page features several large, teal-colored geometric shapes that overlap and extend from the bottom left towards the center. These shapes include a long, thin parallelogram, a larger trapezoidal shape, and a smaller parallelogram, all pointing towards the right side of the page.

Walden 7 or life in the cities

by Domènec

The artist used archival images and interviews to trace the evolution of the building from its original design to its current state, and structured a series of testimonies around a conversation with the architect's sister and co-author of the project, Anna Bofill, who is also an architect and has lived in the building for over thirty years. Her perspectives and experiences offer a unique insight into the relationship between the building and its inhabitants.

On 7 November 2022, LOOP Barcelona organized a premiere of the video at the Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC) in Barcelona, with the participation of the artist. The video was on display until 17 November 2022.



“El lugar que habito (The place I inhabit)”

by Sindihogar

A visual essay that delves into the experiences of migrant women working as domestic workers in Barcelona. It critically examines the invisibility and lack of agency these women face in shaping cultural heritage and their segregation into domestic labour in private households. The work also highlights the significance of recognising the sense of belonging and active participation of migrant women in public spaces. These issues are explored through various perspectives and observations, accompanied by a soundscape of a diverse voices to emphatically guide the viewer in a multidimensional journey through private and public spaces.



The video was premiered at [Casa Elizalde](#), from 8 November to 23 December, 2022. Together with the video, there was an exhibition of the work done by Sindihogar.

A round table on the topic "The role of women migrants in the public space" with Aurea Patricia Ayon, representative of the Sindihogar/Sindillar syndicate, historian Isabel Segura, and Victoria Sacco, from LOOP Barcelona, discussed the underlying social issues of the video.



Exhibition and video screening "The place I inhabit" at Casa Elizalde, Barcelona. November 2022

Contests

Open calls are an integral part of the project communication strategy. In 2022, the five contests we organized provided us with an opportunity to connect with creators from around the world who are involved in art and placemaking.



ES_CULTURA Public art festival

The aim of this [open call](#) was to create artistic interventions in the Plaça de la Cultura and its surroundings, in the Bellvitge neighbourhood of L'Hospitalet, as part of the ES_CULTURA festival, which was held for the first time this year. We received 42 proposals for the three categories: secondary school students, university students and artists. A [jury](#) selected 10 proposals that were installed in the neighbourhood on 26 and 27 November 2022. In addition, the public attending the festival selected [one work from each category for the public prize](#).



The experience of living at home

As part of the installation in La Florida neighbourhood, commissioned to the local artist collective La Gloria Factoría de Arte for the New European Bauhaus festival, we organized the contest "[The experience of living at home](#)" for residents to represent with a photograph and a text their domestic spaces. 17 works from residents were submitted and three of them received an [award](#). The submitted photographs and texts were assembled in an exhibition at La Florida civic centre.



A-Place MAPPING

The second edition of contest “A-Place MAPPING: Share your experience of places” was dedicated to domestic places. 29 works from 18 cities and 12 countries around the world were submitted to this contest.

An international jury composed of Spela Hudnik, Professor of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, Andreia Saraiva Santos, Cinematographer and Thales Leite, Photographer, awarded the works from:

- “Wild and Free”, by Azbah Ansari, Lahore, Pakistan (first prize)
- “An ode to laundry”, by Nives Otašević, Athens, Greece (second prize)
- “A new sublime”, by Iñaki Volante, Balaguer (Lleida), Spain (third prize)



Urban Visions. Beyond the ideal city

The 2022 edition of the A-Place section of the festival Urban Visions received 53 submissions from 18 countries.

The selection of the award winners by an international jury and the awards ceremony were both integral components of the 2022 Urban Visions festival.



LOOP Barcelona

The 2022 Open Call received 73 project proposals from 13 European countries. A jury composed by Ramon Parramon from Idensitat; Eva Paia, Marina Ribot Pallicer and Angelica Tognetti from pli-e collective; Leandro Madrazo, A-Place project coordinator, and Victoria Sacco, LOOP Barcelona, selected the proposal "The Place I Inhabit" presented by Sindihogar.

The selected works were featured in the LOOP Barcelona festival 2022.



Debates



On 13 July 2022, an open discussion on urban activism was held during the Pame Kaimakli festival. Festival participants, local residents, and invited cultural operators debated the importance of festivals in fostering community involvement and the role of artists in creating a sense of place. The discussion provided valuable feedback on how the festival could be improved in the future to be more engaging and better represent the diversity of social groups.

Most importantly, it examined the valuable contributions of artists and international connections in the context of A-Place. Luisa Bravo from City Space Architecture participated in the discussion and talked about possible links and opportunities for future collaboration between the Urban Visions and Pame Kaimakli festivals.



Curated discussion about urban activism

On Saturday, 11 June 2022, A-Place coordinator Leandro Madrazo presented the work of the project and participated in the meeting "Creative Europe Projects in dialogue with NEB", organized by the Creative Europe Desk at the New European Bauhaus festival.

The discussion was moderated by Sara Machado, from the Creative Europe Desk Portugal, and the participants included: Marianne Schadler ("Beyond Matter" project), Andrea Conserva ("Public Play Space" project) and Ruth Schagemann ("NETARCH >> Networking in Architecture for the Common Good" project).



Debate at the New European Bauhaus

On 24 March 2022, on the occasion of the World Water Day, a round table was organized at the Auditorium of the Bellvitge Cultural Centre to discuss ways of convergence of scientific knowledge, community action and cultural creation. The video "TERRApolis. La Marina", part of the trilogy produced by Sitesize with the support from A-Place and LOOP Barcelona, was screened during the event.



Publications

Two articles have been published since the last newsletter:

Rapanta, C., Madrazo, L., Aparício, M. I., Fonseca, N., Pinto, R., & Verovšek, Š. (2021). "Assessing the Quality and Social Impact of Creative Placemaking Practices". *Annales Series Historia et Sociologia*, 31(3), 427-440.

Madrazo, L., Zupančič, T., Pak, B. and Aparício, M. I. (2022) "Creating a Network of Places with Participatory Actions across Cities and Cultures", *The Journal of Public Space*, 7(3)

And two papers were presented at conferences:

Madrazo, L., Martín, A., Hernández, M. Embedding learning places in a sociophysical territory: a case study in the city of L'Hospitalet. 3rd Research and Teaching Innovation Conference, La Salle Campus Barcelona, 25 January 2023.

Madrazo, L., Martín, A., Hernández, M., Llorens A.S. Emplacing architectural education in a sociophysical territory. AMPS Conference "A Focus on Pedagogy: Teaching, Learning and Research in the Modern Academy" 20-22 April, 2022

Reports

The work carried out in the third year has been documented in reports, as was done in the previous two years.

A comprehensive description of the activities at each partner city can be found in ["Local placemaking activities 2021-22"](#). The work carried out in the three festivals participating in A-Place is reported in ["LOOP, Urban Visions and Pame Kaimakli festivals 2022"](#). The video productions commissioned by LOOP Barcelona are described in ["Artist videos 2021-22"](#).

A-Place

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Artist Videos 2021-2022

Deliverable 4.5.1

A-Place

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LOOP, Urban Visions and Pame Kaimakli festivals 2022

Deliverables 3.6.1 and 3.6.2

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