The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada’s Indigenous Task Force presents: The RAIC International Indigenous Architecture and Design Symposium

**REDefining the Margins**

**June 2, 2020**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

The RAIC International Indigenous Architecture and Design Symposium is inviting abstract submissions for consideration for sessions and poster presentations.

**About the Symposium:**

The RAIC International Indigenous Architecture and Design Symposium is hosted by the RAIC Indigenous Task Force. It focuses on Indigenous representation, narratives and collaborations. The Symposium will take place during the RAIC 2020 Conference on Architecture at the Edmonton Convention Centre.

Read more about the results of the inaugural Symposium [here](#).

The second edition of the Symposium focuses on the following topics of discussion:

1) **First Nations, Metis and Inuit Housing / International Indigenous Housing**

This topic is designed to exchange innovative housing strategies & design solutions from a growing body of Canadian and international Indigenous practitioners. The focus will provide an opportunity for policy specialists, architects, builders and academics to come together to look at housing in a holistic way and to share success stories and challenges in the field of Indigenous housing.

This is open to:

- holistic and health-based approach from the bottoms up
- health and housing
- impacts of inappropriate housing and other social determinants
- raising housing standards on a global scale
2) Making Room for New Indigenous Voices on the Leading Edge of Architecture Practice

As an Architecture Policy of Canada is being implemented, post-secondary schools are creating more room for Indigenous design thinking. This topic provides an opportunity to hear and explore critical reflections on indigenous students’ and teachers’ experiences working with Indigenous communities.

This topic is predicated on the philosophy and objective of a University’s department of architecture (or School of Architecture, including Indigenous Planning) to produce future indigenous architects capable of understanding communal need for sustainable indigenous health, housing, land & water related issues etc. -- all the while translating these into appropriate environments to satisfy the social, cultural, and economic aspirations of indigenous communities in a local, regional, and/or international context.

3) Collaborations: Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Co-Design and Building with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities

Co-design is the ‘office’ collaborative design process between indigenous and non-indigenous practitioners, including interns. Co-design is not a formula. In each case, co-design takes its own distinct form.

The resulting design process and building designs are anchored in Indigenous peoples’ connection with the built environment and/ or natural world and reflect who they are as diverse practitioners – their traditions, culture, values and lifestyles, including their aspirations.

This topic will explore ‘the lessons learned’ by non-indigenous practitioners collaborating with indigenous practitioners; and turning these lessons into designs that resonate with indigenous communities that are socially, culturally and technically sound.

These co-designs and building projects reflect Indigenous identity and more importantly, shifting practices as a base for cultural reclamation and growth. In this way, architecture has
an important role in giving ‘agency’ back to Indigenous practitioners and promoting equitable, integral and transparent office practices.

**Eligibility**

Presentations can include a maximum of two (2) presenters per submission of which one (1) must be First Nations, Metis, Inuit or from the Indigenous global community.

**Option 1: Session Presentation**

The day is organized using World Café methodology, a format hosting large group dialogue\(^1\). Presentations are meant to kick-start an interactive conversation with participants. Each presentation will be followed by a conversational process in small group rounds and sharing of conversations with the larger group. Presentations should be no more than 40 minutes in length and can include a slide deck (Powerpoint, Prezi etc.). Sessions should focus on one of the discussion topics and foster small and large group conversations.

Presentations can include a maximum of two (2) presenters per submission of which one (1) must be First Nations, Metis, Inuit or from the Indigenous global community.

An abstract proposal should be submitted through the following link:

[https://forms.gle/MMgcJeDYXZQoZ49F6](https://forms.gle/MMgcJeDYXZQoZ49F6)

Please note that you will be required to sign in to Google to access the form.

Submission should include:

- Session title
- A short description of the session presentation (no more than 200 words). This should address how the presentation relates to one of the discussion topics outlined above.
- Three questions for small group reflection
- The presenter(s’) biography(ies) (max length: 100 words)
- Presenter(s’) headshot(s)

**Option 2: Poster Presentation**

Poster presentations will be featured as part of the project showcase. Submissions for poster presentations should feature the latest research and projects on the Symposium topics.

The poster presentation submission should be submitted as a short description of the poster and include a title and description of the poster. Submissions must be no more than 300 words and through the following link:

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\(^1\) Drawing on seven integrated design principles, the World Café methodology is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue. Each element of the method has a specific purpose and corresponds to one or more of the design principles.[http://www.theworldcafe.com/key-concepts-resources/world-cafe-method/](http://www.theworldcafe.com/key-concepts-resources/world-cafe-method/)
Up to two posters 24” x 36” (landscape orientation) may be submitted. These will be mounted on poster boards that are 4’ x 8’.

Please note that you will be required to sign in to Google to access the form.

Successful presentations are required to print and deliver their posters. More information will be provided to successful submissions.

**Deadline**

The deadline for submissions for both presentation types is April 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. PST.

**Review process**

All submissions will be reviewed anonymously by a selection committee made up of members of the RAIC ITF Education Sub-Committee, and RAIC staff—including the Vice-President of Corporate Affairs, the National Affairs Manager, and the Education Manager.

**Benefits**

Successful applications will receive the following:

**Presentations:**

One-night accommodation for up to two (2) presenters at one of the RAIC Conference on Architecture hotels (assigned by RAIC).

**Poster Submissions:**

One-night accommodation for one (1) presenter at one of the RAIC Conference on Architecture hotels (assigned by RAIC). Details will be provided to successful submissions.

**Timeline**

Call for Abstracts Launch – February 26, 2020  
Submission Deadline – April 10, 2020  
Successful Proposals Notified – May 1, 2020  
Symposium Date – June 2, 2020

**For more information:**

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