CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD: QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Graduating during a pandemic: what's next?

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• Abstract (300 words):
Digital technologies are changing different economic areas. The 2016 World Economic Forum, in Davos, named this era as "The Fourth Industrial Revolution", considering the impacts on all sectors. Virtual reality, Augmented Reality, Internet of Things are examples of alternatives that can enhance the quality of the design and construction process and attendance to the user's requirements, significantly changing the process of architectural and urban design. At the same time, connectivity is an important aspect of this evolutionary process, allowing collaboration among professionals from different cities or countries. The future of design teams includes architects, engineers and other specialists from different parts of the world, working collaboratively through cloud-based video-conferencing services, such as the Zoom platform. But the 2020 pandemic brought a new reality, as all schools and faculties were closed due to COVID 19, and all academic activities were "pushed" to the digital world. Fortunately, through the effort of professors and digital technologies consultants, undergraduate courses were rapidly adapted to the "new normal" and academic activities have
continued - including final project presentations and graduation ceremonies. It is necessary, however, to evaluate how the students have faced the challenge. This paper presents the results of a survey conducted among graduating students of two architecture programs in order to identify their perception of the use of the Zoom platform for developing and presenting their final project. Results indicate pros and cons of the technology, and highlight some aspects to be considered.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):


Emily Moss is the Director of the BFA in Architectural Design and Assistant Professor of Architecture and Interior Design at Parsons School of Design, New School University, in New York City. She has served as Director of both the BSc in Urban Design and the BSc in Environmental Studies at Parsons, and continues to coordinate the Sustainable Cities Minor. She is an architect in practice in New York City, working on institutional, commercial, and residential projects. For the past few years she has built urban furniture for community-based farms and gardens in the city. She has a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and a Bachelor's degree in literature from Yale. Her research has looked at ways in which ancient knowledge and methods can inform current and future design practice, and at how architects in collaboration with communities can create richer, more useful shared public space.