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Cultural, Spatial & Sensory Futures of Art, Design and Architecture

Editors

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We are proud to present this collection of research, reflections, and critical inquiry emerging from ZEITGEIST 2026, the International Conference on the Cultural, Spatial and Sensory Futures of Art, Design and Architecture, hosted by the School of Architecture, World University of Design, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. This volume captures the pulse of a world in transition, a moment when creative disciplines are being reshaped by technological change, environmental urgency, and evolving cultural identities.

ZEITGEIST, meaning the spirit of the times, is more than a conference title; it is the lens through which this gathering has been conceived. In an era defined by climate crises, digital immersion, rapid urbanisation, and shifting social values, architecture, art, and design are being called upon to respond with greater responsibility, imagination, and inclusivity. The papers selected for this volume reflect that call, offering diverse perspectives on how space, form, experience, and culture are being rethought for a changing world.

ZEITGEIST 2026 has drawn over two hundred submissions from scholars, practitioners, and emerging researchers across India and abroad. The abstracts presented here represent a carefully curated cross-section of that global dialogue, spanning themes such as sustainable futures, sensory experience, heritage and memory, digital environments, spatial justice, and cultural expression. Together, they map the intellectual landscape of contemporary creative practice and research.

What makes ZEITGEIST distinctive is its interdisciplinary spirit. Here, architects engage with artists, designers converse with theorists, and technologists collaborate with cultural historians. This convergence allows the conference to move beyond disciplinary silos and toward a more holistic understanding of how environments are imagined, experienced, and lived. By bringing together cultural, spatial, and sensory perspectives, ZEITGEIST creates a platform where ideas do not merely coexist, but actively inform and enrich one another.

As you explore this volume, we invite you to see it not only as a record of a conference, but as a reflection of a larger moment in creative thought, one that seeks to shape more humane, responsive, and meaningful futures through art, design, and architecture.



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