



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Institute for Land, Livelihoods and  
Housing

# International Urban Design Workshop

Urban design as crossover strategy between disciplines and practices:  
workshop with urban design practitioners with a focus on Windhoek

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Date:** Monday, 19 June - Friday, 30 June 2023





The workshop aims to advance the debate on urban development beyond the provision of public services and housing by focusing on intent: what kind of urban life are we creating?

The focus will therefore be on the ways of doing urban development, placing emphasis on considerations that have been overshadowed by the urgency of “delivery”: what socio-natural aspects should be incorporated in urban design? What are the mental barriers preventing us from imagining a substantively different urbanization? What are the historical legacies underpinning negative connotations of urban life? What are the existing forces shaping informal trade and settlements, and how can these be harnessed towards developing a shared vision for urban development?

The workshop will test the usefulness of urban design tools to approach urban development conditions strategically. The emphasis will be in the practical yet reflexive implementation of tactics informed by international experience and calibrated to the local context.

### Cross-cutting issues to be addressed:

- Nature in urban areas, climate change
- Implementation of the Revised National Housing Policy
- Defining informality in our current context and relate this to policy
- Challenging apartheid / colonial legacies in urban development
- Implementable interventions in absence of substantive public funding

### Proposed case study

The workshop will focus on the broader urban questions with a focus on participatory informal settlement upgrading, with integration to the broader urban systems. The context of the City of Windhoek will help as a case to understand the issues at stake in the different scales, while eventually focusing on a number of neighbourhoods that present different contextual attributes in terms of upgrading, infrastructure, community participation, geographical location, and histories.



## Modality

The workshop will be imparted as two consecutive one-week modules between 19-30 June 2023, transitioning from the wider/territorial scale to the neighbourhood level. Participants have the option to apply for one or both modules.

The workshop will be delivered through a series of input lectures, seminars, field visits; including workshop time and studio-based reviews. Participants are required to commit to attend 80% of all activities to obtain a certificate of attendance.

### Module 1: From Territory to Neighbourhood

**Date:** 19 June - 23 June 2023

**Facilitator:** O-RU (Mr Victor Rico and Ms Carolina Crespo)

The workshop will zoom in from the territorial scale beyond the regional and municipal delimitations, following natural, geological, infrastructural systems and risk information databases. Some of the themes that will be explored are:

- Main climate and environmental aspects and main ecological structures.
- Urban form, city-wide integration of informal settlements and urban-environmental conflict.
- Opportunity map and spatializing strategic spatial interventions.
- Governance/finance aspects of urban development and implementation roadmap draft.

Methods: Mapping for identifying the resilience of the urban area (base maps: environmental, urban infra, socio-economic, risk/resilience); moving from a broad analysis of the city towards a shared vision; identification of a pipeline of projects: sequence of steps to move from planning to implementation.



## Module 2: Engaging with the Locals

**Date:** 26 June - 30 June 2023

**Facilitator:** Dr Kathryn Ewing (UCT)

Engaging at the neighbourhood level in urban design transformations to achieve agreed-upon outcomes and implementable actions by the participants.

- Community-led land servicing and housing typologies
- Transformation of informal settlements into urban neighbourhoods
- Area-based approaches and a focus on the public realm
- Participatory co-design
- Urban livelihoods

Methods: Envisioning strategic projects - in public space, infrastructure, housing and policy - advancing a shared vision

### Participation

The workshop is aimed for practitioners, central and local government officials, professionals, academics, civil society, and other parties involved in urban development. A limited number of places will be allocated to outstanding postgraduate students in related fields.

### Application

Interested parties can apply by sending a short statement (up to 500 words) outlining their interest in attending the workshop and the envisioned impact on their own work; a CV with two references (name and contact details only); an indication of whether the application is for module 1, module 2, or both; and confirmation that arrangements to participate in the workshop can be made [i.e., application for work leave, transport/accommodation arrangements].

[Click here to access the application form.](#)



## Costs

Participation is free of charge. The workshop is supported through the NUST-GIZ Grant Agreement on Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development. Participants are required to arrange for their own transportation and accommodation arrangements to attend the workshop.

## Dates

Friday, 28 April 2023	Launch of call for participation
Wednesday, 10 May 2023	Deadline for applications
Monday, 15 May 2023	Notification of acceptance
Wednesday, 31 May 2023	Online orientation meeting
Monday, 19 June - Friday, 23 June 2023	Module 1
Monday, 26 June - Friday, 30 June 2023	Module 2
Wednesday, 12 July 2023	Feedback session

## Facilitators

**The Office of Urban Resilience (O-RU)** is a women and minority-led urban and landscape design practice focusing on building resilience to climate change. O-RU believes in the transformative power of urban design and landscape infrastructure to shape new futures of interconnected urban regions, strengthened ecological structures, environmentally integrated cities, and resilient communities. O-RU designs processes for integrating urban and environmental dynamics at different scales and within multiple social, economic, and political contexts. Our projects seek to generate socio-environmental impact through applied research and collective processes. ORU's team brings together more than ten years of experience in the academic, public, and private sectors and multilateral organizations. ORU works from a collaborative approach, forming interdisciplinary teams to connect the best solutions to the most pressing needs of regions, cities, and communities.

**Website:** <https://www.o-ru.mx/>





**Mr Victor Rico**, Co-founder. He is an architect and urban designer, with degrees from the Universidad Anahuac in Mexico City and Harvard University.

**Linkedin:** [Click here](#)



**Ms Carolina Crespo**, Project Manager. She holds a Bachelor in Architecture, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico City Campus); a Master in Fine Arts in Spatial Design from Konstfack (Sweden); and a Master in Science in Sustainable Urban Planning and Design, from the KTH-Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden.

**Linkedin:** [Click Here](#)



**Dr Kathryn Ewing** is a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town, convening the urban design programme there. She has a background in architecture and urban design, and holds a PhD from the University of Glasgow. She is founding co-director and currently a non-executive director at Violence Prevention for Urban Upgrading (VPUU) NPC in Cape Town.



Ewing has experience in informal settlement upgrading; safe and inclusive cities; participatory design and public space; and building on lessons from design practice for policy development and academic teaching and knowledge exchange. Her current research focuses on the everyday occupation of space and the changing informality in African cities.



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**Personal website:** [Click here](#)

**Linkedin:** [Click here](#)

**Instagram:** [@urbandesign.uct / buildingsforchange](#)

**Master in urban design website:** <https://ebe.uct.ac.za/school-apg/programmes-study/urban-design>





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