

Session 4

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Building Bridges with Our Environment: A Collaborative Workshop

15-Minute Interactive Session | Moving Boundaries Amares 2025

Workshop Concept:

This workshop engages designers and researchers in an interactive, data-driven exploration of how we perceive, shape, and are shaped by our built and natural environments. By combining collaborative reflection with real-time data collection, participants will generate insights into how architecture can support a deeper human-environment connections.

Workshop Flow:

1. Introduction & Provocation (3 minutes)

We begin by briefly introducing key concepts of embodied perception, multisensory experience, and environmental affordances in architecture. Participants are asked to consider:

- How do spaces shape our behavior, emotions, and cognition?
- What sensory and cognitive experiences are often overlooked in design?
- How can we create environments that invite participation, connection, and well-being?

2. Interactive Reflection & Data Collection (7 minutes)

Three large sheets of paper are placed around the room, each with a thought-provoking statement. Participants are invited to move freely, read the prompts, and respond directly by writing their reflections, drawing connections, or posing counterarguments.

Prompt Examples:

1. "The environment perceives us as much as we perceive it."

How do spaces respond to human presence? Can architecture be truly adaptive?

2. "Our most memorable places are not always the most "designed ones."

What makes a place meaningful? What role do intuition, movement, and memory play?

3. "Design should provoke, not just accommodate."

How do we design for engagement rather than passive experience?

Participants can also engage in silent conversations, reacting to others' comments with arrows, symbols, or additional thoughts.

3. Group Discussion & Synthesis (5 minutes)

The facilitator will summarize key themes emerging from the shared reflections. As a group, we will discuss:

- **Patterns and insights** "What common themes emerged? Any surprising perspectives?"
- **Actionable ideas** "How can we integrate these reflections into research and practice?"

At the end of the session, participants will have collectively mapped perspectives on human-environment interactions, creating a foundation for ongoing inquiry into embodied, sensory, and cognitive dimensions of design.