EUROPEAN NETWORK ARCHITECTURE FOR HEALTH

our vision

The European Network Architecture for Health (ENAH) is a non-profit platform dedicated to advancing the intersection of architecture, urbanism, and health. In an era in which built environments have a profound influence on physical and mental well-being, ENAH mobilises research, practice, and education to create healthier living and healing spaces.

Our vision is to foster interdisciplinary research and knowledge exchange, equipping professionals and institutions with the knowledge and expertise to design environments that actively promote health.
ENAH connects universities, research institutes, hospitals, architects, and other design professionals in a shared effort to rethink architecture as a critical factor in public health.

ENAH's approach is rooted in collaboration, impact, and innovation. By integrating expertise from medicine, neuroscience, architecture, and urban design, the network not only contributes to academic knowledge but also translates research into tangible outcomes: healthier hospitals, resilient urban systems, and environments that support human well-being.

Our strategic framework is structured around three key pillars:

Exchange! – A platform for dialogue, sharing best-practice , and international symposiums such as Health Care of the Future.

Advance! – Educational formats and training programmes that enable researchers and professionals to navigate the complexity of transdisciplinary collaboration.

Develop! – Research-driven projects that translate academic insights into practical guidelines and evidence-based design criteria for healthcare architecture.

Looking ahead, ENAH aims to scale up its formats, expand its European partnerships, and position architecture as a systemic partner to healthcare delivery.

our approach to addressing challenges

ENAH supports interdisciplinary research, knowledge transfer, and exchange in the fields of architecture, urban planning, and health — all within the overarching framework of public health. While this may seem self-evident, it is important to emphasise: ENAH's work is fundamentally rooted in public health concerns and goals.

ENAH brings together experts from architecture and urban planning with scientists and decision-makers from the fields of medicine, health sciences, medical technology, health economics and management, environmental and architectural psychology, sociology, and neuroscience.

One of ENAH's core missions is to bridge the gaps between these diverse disciplines and professions involved in healthcare architecture and healthy urban development. While their perspectives and priorities may differ significantly, ENAH serves as the connective tissue — a platform for collaboration rather than fragmentation.

We approach healthcare architecture primarily from the perspective of the design disciplines, with architecture at the core — the "A" in ENAH is no coincidence. This focus is not only intentional, but is also our unique selling point: while many organisations engage with health-related topics and occasionally address architecture, ENAH is grounded in architectural expertise and its full disciplinary richness.

Moreover, we aim to link the positive health impacts of architecture in healthcare settings to its broader societal benefits. Health has always been a central driver in the evolution of architecture and urbanism — and continues to fundamentally shape our built environment.
ENAH works at the crossroads of design, science, and technology:

Design: trends and innovations rooted in architecture; spatial performance; performative aesthetics; and design-driven impact.

Science: public health, health economics, management, and healthcare systems.

Technology: digital communication, automation and robotics, AI, and modular building technology.

By fostering true interdisciplinary collaboration, ENAH promotes a deeper understanding of how built environments influence health — and how thoughtful design can contribute to healthier, more resilient societies.

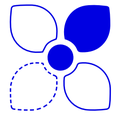
Across Europe, healthcare systems are under immense pressure to adapt to demographic change, rising rates of chronic disease, and increasing urban complexity. Architecture and urbanism — traditionally treated as peripheral to healthcare — are now recognised as central factors shaping health outcomes.

Hospitals, care facilities, and urban infrastructures do more than serve as functional spaces. They actively influence recovery rates, mental well-being, social interaction, and resilience to climate change. Yet, despite growing evidence, health impacts remain insufficiently integrated into architectural and planning processes.

ENAH was founded to fill this gap: as a transdisciplinary platform that aligns architecture, medicine, public health, and policy to create built environments that promote human well-being. Despite significant progress in research and practice, several challenges remain unresolved.



Fragmentation of Expertise: Knowledge in architecture, medicine, and public health often remains siloed, limiting cross-sector innovation.



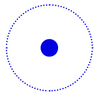
Lack of Evidence-Based Standards: While evidence exists, systematic design criteria and evaluation methods are not consistently applied in healthcare architecture.



Demographic Pressure: Ageing populations and rising care demands require rethinking hospitals and care infrastructures at scale.



Climate Resilience: Health facilities must become more sustainable and adaptable to climate change, from energy use to material choices.



Educational Gaps: Architects, planners, and healthcare leaders rarely receive training in interdisciplinary collaboration, slowing the adoption of new approaches.

together.



exchange!

ENAH initiates and organises interdisciplinary conferences, workshops, and expert meetings on current topics in the field of Design & Health and publishes the results in reports and other publications. In doing so, ENAH actively promotes outstanding examples of practice and best practice.

An established format within ENAH Exchange! is the biennial symposium **Health Care of the Future**, held in Berlin every two years since 2006. In 2025, ENAH extended this format to Venice for the first time, creating a more select international gathering. Building on its success, the next Venice event is planned for May 2027.



advance!

Courses and seminars prepare participants for transdisciplinary work by complementing their core backgrounds with knowledge from the health sciences, planning, and design disciplines.

ENAH's Summer School **Hospital + the City** is organised in collaboration with TU Berlin and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. It provides an intensive interdisciplinary learning environment. ENAH offers scholarships to doctoral students and postdocs who wish to explore the relationship between architecture, urban planning, and health.



develop!

ENAH brings together specialists and researchers from a broad range of disciplines who support public and private institutions in evaluating, developing, and implementing innovative projects at the intersection of health and design, as well as in initiating and carrying out groundbreaking research.

A key focus of ENAH's further development is **Healing Architecture**, with the aim of advancing evidence-based approaches and strengthening the role of the built environment in promoting health and well-being.

our strategy



symposium
health care of the future berlin

Since 2006, ENAH's biennial symposium **Health Care of the Future** has served as an established platform in Berlin for exploring emerging developments in healthcare and their implications for healthcare design and the wider built environment.

- → Interdisciplinary exchange on the future of healthcare and healthcare environments.
- → Bringing together approximately 250 participants from architecture, healthcare, science, and industry.
- → Connecting planners, healthcare managers, practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers
- → Inspiring innovative approaches and new perspectives in healthcare planning and design.
- → Fostering knowledge transfer, professional dialogue, and cross-sector collaboration.
- → Biennial event in Berlin, open to all interested professionals and stakeholders.





Ben van Berkel | UNStudio





Christine Binswanger | Herzog & de Meuron



Antoine Chaaya | Renzo Piano Building Workshop




Stig Vesterager Gothelf | 3XN




Jette Cathrin Hopp | Snøhetta





podium & dialogue symposium
health care of the future
venice

In 2025, ENAH expanded **Podium & Dialogue** to Venice for the first time, creating an exclusive international platform for exchange. Following its successful debut, the next gathering is planned for May 2027.

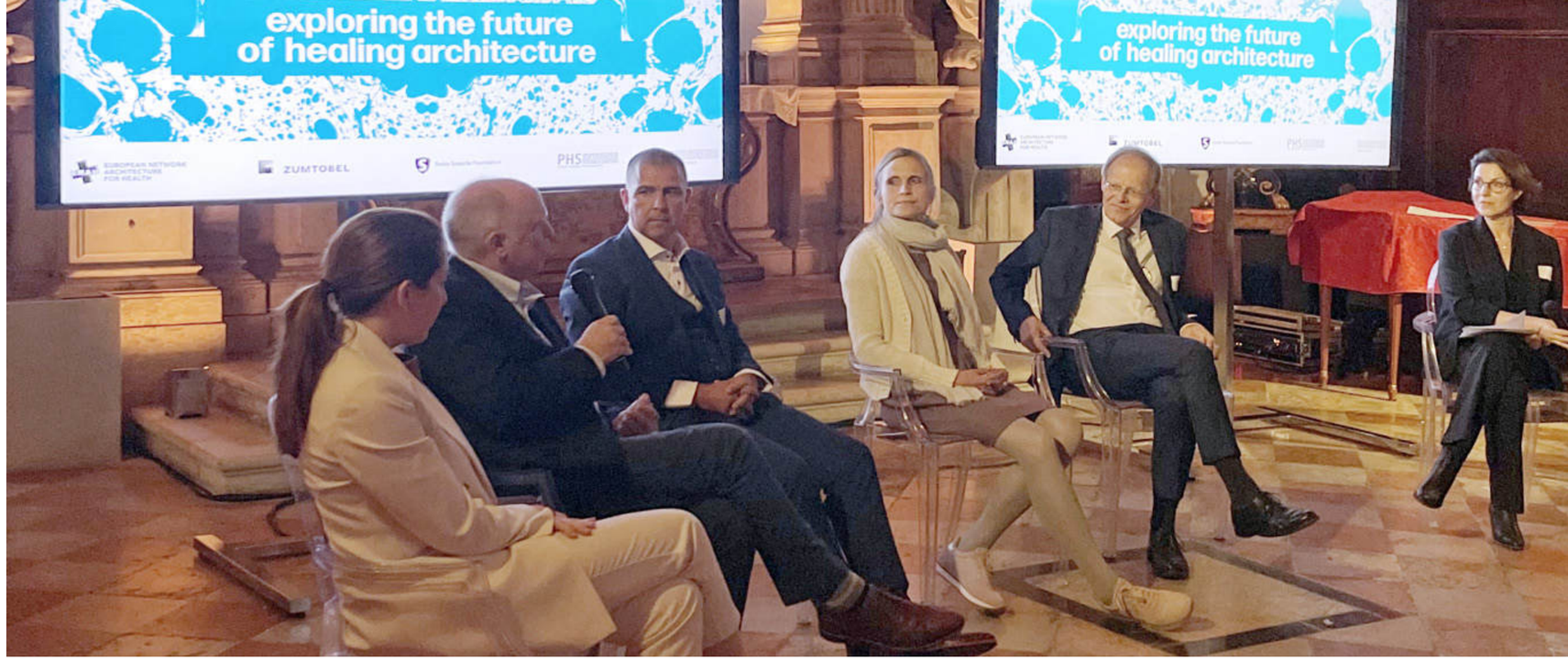
- → Exclusive, invitation-only platform for high-level exchange on the future of healthcare.
- → Bringing together international decision-makers and leading voices from architecture, healthcare, science, and industry.
- → Carefully curated gathering of approximately 110 selected participants from diverse sectors and backgrounds.
- → Creating opportunities for strategic networking, new partnerships, and engagement with emerging markets.
- → Connecting with influential stakeholders and expanding professional networks beyond established boundaries.
- → Distinctive international meeting point during the opening of the Biennale Architettura in Venice.



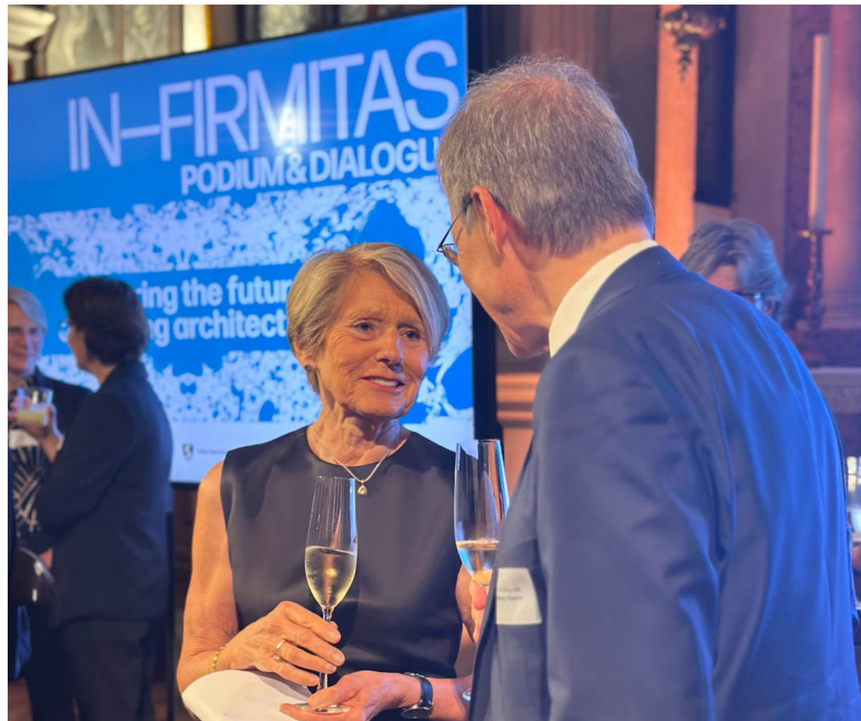
Shigeru Ban






exploring the future
of healing architecture
ZUMTOBEL
exploring the future
of healing architecture


-FIRMITAS
PODIUM &
IN
exp
of he


IN–FIRMITAS
PODIUM & DIALOGU
ing the futur
g architect



6–7 may 2027
opening of the 2027 venice architecture biennale.



speakers from previous years, among others

Architects
Ban, Prof. Shigeru, Shigeru Ban Architects
Binswanger, Christine, Herzog & de Meuron
Boje Larsen, Bo, 3XN Architects
Bornfeld, Sibylle, Sauerbruch Hutton
Brunet, Jérôme, Brunet Saunier Architecture
Chaaya, Antoine, Renzo Piano Building Workshop
Christiaanse, Prof. Kees, KCAP Architects & Planners
Dan-Weibel, Mette, LINK Arkitektur
de Graaf, Reinier, OMA
de Rijke, Prof. Alex, dRMM Architects
Eberle, Prof. Dietmar, Baumschlager Eberle
El-Ishmawi, Karim, Kinzo Architekten
Gerber, Prof. Eckhard, Gerber Architekten
Hascher, Prof. Rainer, Hascher Jehle Architekten
Hofrichter, Prof. Linus, sander.hofrichter architekten
Hool, Dominik, BDP
Hopp, Jette Cathrin, Snøhetta
Kada, Prof. Klaus, RWTH Aachen University
Kaijima, Prof. Momoyo, Atelier Bow-Wow
Lechner, Prof. Hans, Graz University of Technology
Marg, Prof. Volkwin, gmp Architekten – von Gerkan, Marg und Partner
Nickl, Prof. Hans, Nickl & Partner Architekten
Nickl-Weller, Prof. Christine, Nickl & Partner Architekten
Pert, Prof. Alan, NORD Architecture
Sahlmann, Thorsten, Renzo Piano Building Workshop
Schmidt, Michael, Herzog & de Meuron
Schulz, Edzard, Heinle Wischer & Partner
Sobek, Prof. Werner, Werner Sobek Engineering & Design
Steffensen, Prof. Lars, Henning Larsen Architects
Stamenovic, Prof. Ruzika Bozovic, University of Belgrade & National University of Singapore
van Berkel, Prof. Ben, UNStudio
Vesterager Gothelf, Stig, 3XN Architects
Villadsen, Kristian, Gehl Architects
Willemeit, Thomas, Graft Architekten
Wimmer, Albert, Albert Wimmer ZT GmbH

Medical Professionals
Adli, Prof. Mazda, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Debatin, Prof. Jörg F., MBA, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)
Göke, Prof. Burkhard, University Medical Center, Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)
Jonitz, Prof. Günther, Berlin Medical Association
Meyer-Lindenberg, Prof. Andreas, Medical Director of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Mannheim
Niemeyer, Prof. Charlotte, Center for Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Freiburg
Rüther, Prof. Eckart, Feldafing
Stock, Prof. Günter, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities
Wenz, Prof. Frederik, University Medical Center Freiburg
Willich, Prof. Stefan, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Health Experts
Barlow, Prof. James, Technology and Innovation Management, Imperial College London
Beilner, Prof. Janina, Siemens AG
Böttinger, Prof. Erwin, Hasso Plattner Institute for Digital Engineering, University of Potsdam
Breckner, Prof. Ingrid, HafenCity University Hamburg
Busse, Prof. Reinhard, Technical University of Berlin
Di Marco, Michele & Fontana, Luca, WHO Téchne, Geneva
Guthknecht, Prof. Tom, Lausanne Health and Hospitality Group
Jensen, Frank, Søren Jensen Consulting Engineers A/S, Aarhus
Lohfert, Peter, Lohfert – Praetorius A/S
Lohfert Praetorius, Carolina, Lohfert – Praetorius A/S
Lurati, Astrid, Finance and Infrastructure, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Mücke, Hans-Guido, German Environment Agency (UBA)
Pilosof, Nirit, University of Cambridge & Tel Aviv University
Prem, Friedrich, PRECON Consulting & Engineering GmbH
Straff, Wolfgang, German Environment Agency (UBA)
Tulley, Matthew, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Vollmer, Prof. Tanja C., Architectural Psychology, Technical University of Berlin
Wagenaar, Prof. Cor, Delft University of Technology & University of Groningen
Wimmer-Puchinger, Prof. Beate, Strategic Health Consulting
von Eiff, Prof. Wilfried, University of Münster
Ziegler, Rita, University Hospital Zurich

Politicians
Sabine Dittmar, MP, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Health
Renate Künast, MP, Parliamentary Bündnis 90/Die Grünen
Malte Spitz, Author and Politician, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen
Annette Widmann-Mauz, MP, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health

Experts Related to Specific Symposium Topics
Belliger, Prof. Andréa, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
von Hirschhausen, Prof. Eckart, Humor Helps Heal Foundation
Mayer, Hannes, ETH Zurich, Gramazio Kohler Research
van Heel, Lisbeth, Erasmus MC
Reding, Dominik & Benjamin, EYE!Warning Film Production
Rief, Stefan, Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering and Organization (IAO)

Titles and institutional affiliations reflect the speakers' positions at the time of their respective presentations.

symposium history

publications



exchange!

Since 2006, the symposium **Health Care of the Future** has served as a creative platform in Berlin for discussions on emerging developments in healthcare and their impact on healthcare facility design, as well as the broader implications for architecture and urbanism.

→ ENAH documents the findings and insights from its interdisciplinary conferences in a series of conference proceedings entitled **Health Care of the Future**.



Fig. 2 Rigshospital Nordfløjen ©Adam Mørk

Fig. 3 Reverse engineering of the design principles ©LINK ARKITEKTUR

These five key parameters are often driving the design development in the early phases of healthcare projects at LINK ARKITEKTUR, as they are considered to be at the heart of creating healing architecture.
The quality assessment of the design proposals today is based on a combination of empirical knowledge, built up within the department of healthcare architecture and scientific research carried out at university

frastructure down into the primary design
meters (s. fig. 3):
ght
ations and





international summer school
hospital + the city

The one-week intensive course is aimed at professionals and master’s students who wish to deepen their understanding of the intersection of healthcare architecture, urban planning, healthcare management, and public health.
The Summer School is organised in collaboration with TU Berlin and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and welcomes participants from a range of disciplines, including architecture, urban planning, public health, life sciences, sociology, and economics.

advance!













architecture for health student award & charité special prize

The Architecture for Health Student Award honours outstanding master's theses on the theme of Architecture for Health. The prize is intended to promote work in the field of architecture and urban planning for health and to encourage students to engage in this important topic.

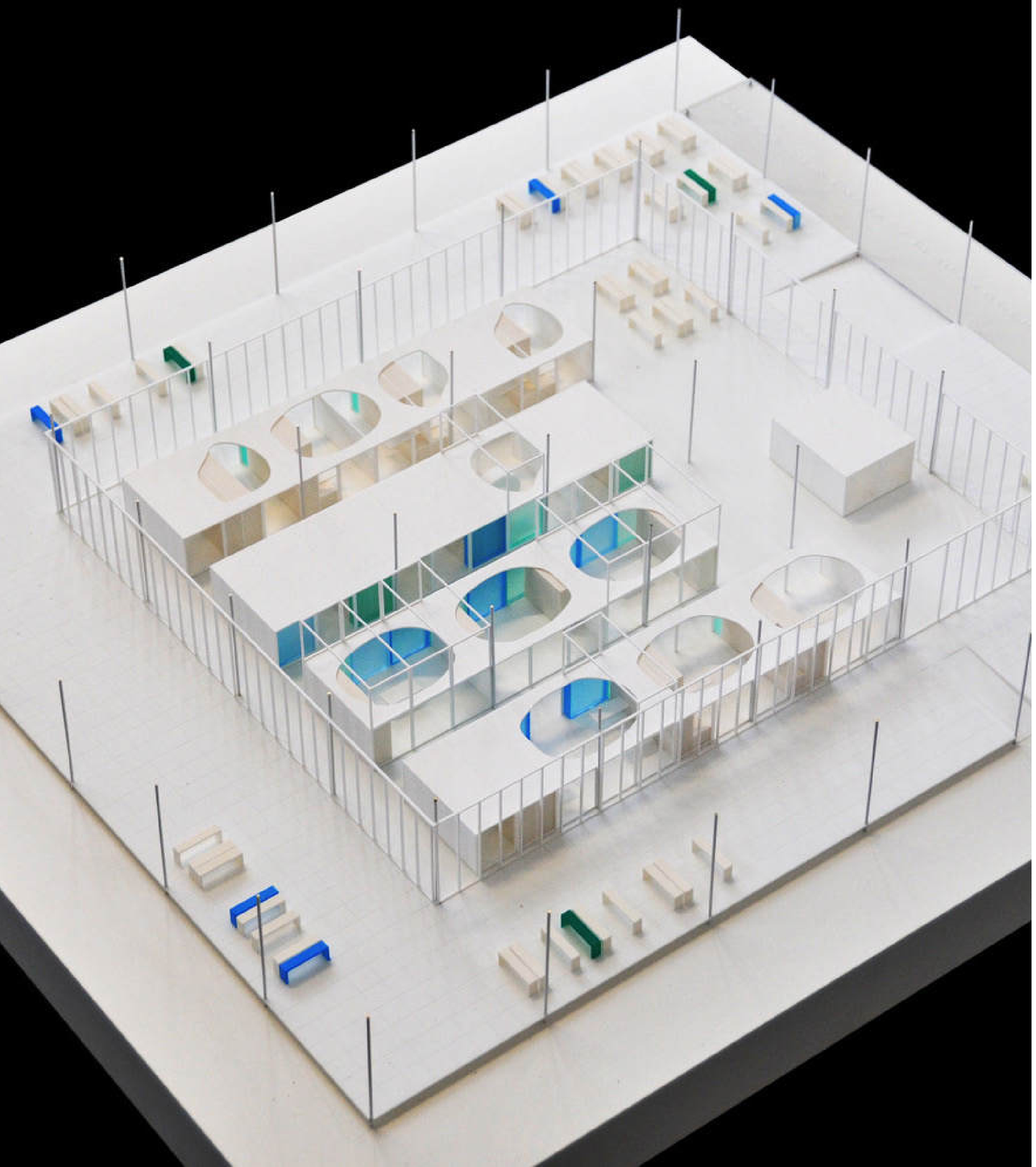
The prizes are awarded by the Hans and Christine-Nickl Foundation and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.


ex
stru
ctur
+a



webinars

ENAH offers webinars and seminars focusing on a range of topics related to planning, building, and development. These events are aimed at professionals, decision-makers, representatives of public authorities and administrations, students, and anyone interested in the subject matter.




HAUS
TRIUM



advance!

exhibitions

ENAH regularly makes selected projects, award-winning work, and other outcomes of its activities accessible to the wider public. Through exhibitions, publications, digital formats, and public events, ENAH shares innovative approaches and research findings beyond its professional network.
These activities are often developed and presented in collaboration with universities, cultural institutions, professional organisations, and other partners, creating opportunities for broader public engagement and knowledge exchange.


HARTMANN
Bacillol® Zero
Tissues
NEU
VIROBAC




SPACE
HEALTH
UNITY
Living together...until the end
–
Zusammenleben...bis zuletzt
Radically new

Radikal neu
The human factor

Der menschliche Faktor
Hospital in the city

Das Krankenhaus in der Stadt



studies

ENAH develops pioneering concepts in Healing Architecture and patient-centred healthcare design. In projects such as Regio 2030 by Regio Kliniken and new centres at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, ENAH establishes quality-oriented design and construction criteria that prioritise the needs of both patients and staff.

Since 2020, ENAH has been part of the Urban Health Hub Community, addressing global challenges in urban health. ENAH also draws on its expertise in hospital project evaluation, advising organisations such as CREDES and Carl-Thiem-Klinikum Cottbus, and analysing the impact of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and heat stress on hospitals.



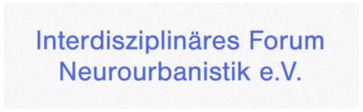














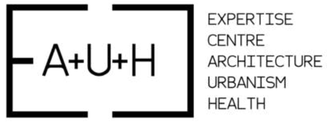






















our partners

ENAH gGmbH
European Network Architecture for Health

www.enah.eu
mail@enah.eu

Berlin
Wikingerufer 7
10555 Berlin
Germany
+49 (0)30 2005 1408 363

Munich
Lindberghstraße 19
80939 München
Germany
Registered Office: Munich
Commercial Register: HRB 238094

Tax Number: 143/237/23762
VAT ID: DE332701873

contact

ENAH Scientific Advisory Board
Wagenaar, Prof. Cor, University of Groningen (Chair)
Busse, Prof. Reinhard, TU Berlin (Vice-Chair)

Nickl, Magnus, Vamed WWH
Nickl-Weller, Prof. Christine, Nickl Foundation
Pasel, Prof. Ralf, CODE, TU Berlin
Pilosof, Nirit, Tel Aviv University
Steffensen, Prof. Lars, Tegnestuen Kontekst ApS

Management
Theißen-Helling, Mena, CEO of ENAH
Kuşcu, Hilâl
Michelle-Martine Wittmer