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Annual  
Summit  
Report,  
Year 1

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2023.12

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# About the Annual Summit

Between December 14–17, 2023, the Lisbon Architecture Triennale hosted the first Annual Summit of Open House Europe (OHEu), an international cooperation project co-funded by the European Union. Dedicated to the theme of sustainability, this public programme, supported by Creative Europe, covered three scales: the macro scale, which aims to reflect on how cities can become more sustainable through public policies; the urban scale, focusing on concrete cases reflecting the outcomes of such policies; and the scale of a building. ‘Building Futures Together’ served as the motto for the Annual Summit programme.

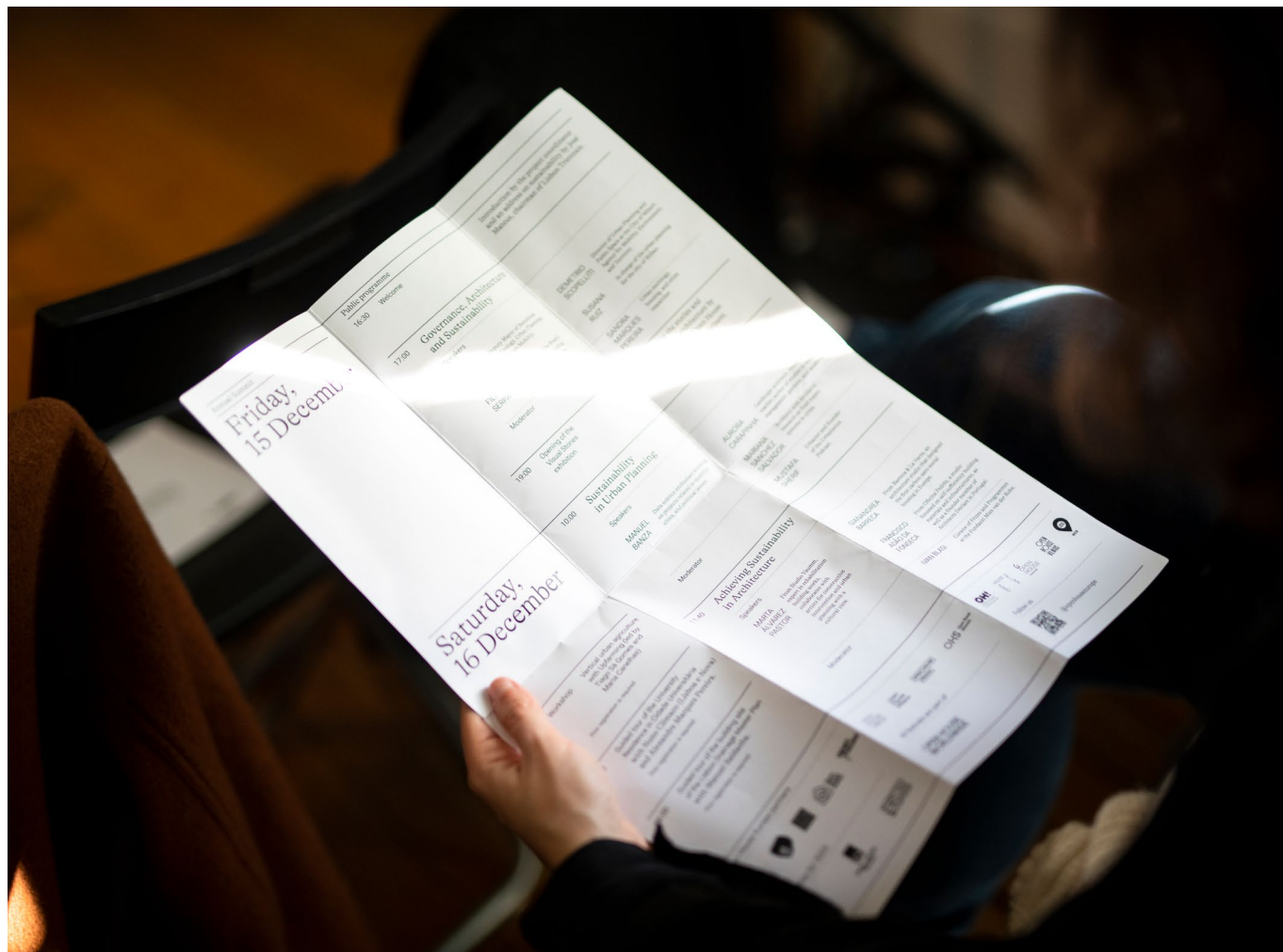
The Annual Summit gathered the community of Open House festivals’ organisers, architecture enthusiasts, students and professionals. Hosted by the Lisbon Architecture Triennale in Palácio Sinel de Cordes, an 18th-century palace transformed into a cultural centre, the first Open House Europe Annual Summit featured a lively public and internal programme. For the public programme, visitors were invited to participate in three public debates, two guided tours, a workshop and an exhibition. For the internal programme, there were five different workshops, seven presentations on relevant topics and four guided tours. The Annual Summit aimed to facilitate cross-regional exchange, bringing together perspectives and expertise from diverse fields of knowledge. It was a unique opportunity for the Open House community—including anyone planning to launch an Open House festival in their city—to come together, learn, exchange knowledge and share experiences.

The event was organised by the Lisbon Architecture Triennale, Associazione Open House Milano, Asociación Open Urbanity from Bilbao, Open House Europe coordinators and with the support of Open House Worldwide.



Annual Summit 2023. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photo by Hugo David

# Annual Summit programme



Annual Summit 2023. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photo by Hugo David

The opening day, Thursday, December 14, was dedicated to the Open House community. The morning was focused on discussions with Open House Europe project partners about the 2023 progress, and the sharing of best practices and concerns. The afternoon session was open to the entire Open House community, featuring a workshop on including diverse audiences in the festivals, along with presentations from Open House Worldwide members from Open House Taipei and Open House Santiago.

The following morning, December 15, continued the previous day's themes, addressing the entire Open House community. The afternoon shifted to a public format, starting with a welcoming session and a public debate. The day concluded with the public opening of the 'Visual Stories' exhibition.

( This successful collaboration exemplified the efficacy of strategic planning, teamwork and adaptability. )

Carolina Vicente, Open House Lisbon

( Sharing time and debating over several days made us feel part of the same community. )

Irati Alonso, Open House Bilbao

The third day of the Annual Summit opened its doors to the general public, offering a variety of lectures, workshops, guided tours and panel discussions focusing on the topic of sustainability. The public programme was also attended by members of the Open House community.

The last day of the Annual Summit was reserved for Open House Europe project partners, focusing on the 2024 theme: 'Access and Inclusion'. The day involved a workshop and discussions to develop the slogan for 2024.

The programme schedule for the Annual Summit was strategically designed in a chronological way. Thursday, the first day, was a review of the past year continuing to Friday morning. Starting from Friday afternoon, the event catered to architecture professionals, catching them just after work hours. Saturday was dedicated to the general public, architecture enthusiasts and Open House festival attendees. Sunday was exclusively for Open House Europe project partners to plan for the upcoming year and review recent events. Some of the activities had a limited number of attendees. For this reason, most of the activities started concurrently, giving participants the possibility to choose their preferred one. Public programme was live streamed online. Internal programme was documented.

## Day 1 - December 14



The first day of the Open House Europe Annual Summit featured a collaborative reporting meeting reflecting on 2023, a tour of Sinel de Cordes palace and two lectures on the theme of 'Access and Inclusion' by representatives of Open House Taipei and Open House Santiago. Workshops and sessions explored audience development, participatory design and curatorial approaches, emphasising inclusivity, collaboration and innovative strategies within the Open House community.

Annual Summit 2023. Day 1  
© Photo by Alberto Rodriguez Arias

# Internal Session



Annual reporting meeting and workshop. Day 1 © Photo by Joanna Messmer

## Annual reporting meeting

The annual reporting meeting focused on reporting and evaluating the implementation of OHEu's 2023 activities. It started with each partner sharing their best practices and concerns from the past year. In the second part of the session, there was a workshop led by OHEu coordinators where all the partners were divided into three groups, with each group discussing a different problem to find the best solutions to it. Other issues were also highlighted by the coordinator, who summarised the development of the projects from 2023 and the implementation of OHEu activities into each local festival.



## Tour of the Palacio

During the meeting, the members of the Open House community were given a guided tour of the main building of the Palácio Sinel de Cordes, which is home to the Lisbon Architecture Triennale team that organises Open House Lisbon and is the main organiser of 2023 Annual Summit.

## ‘Access and Inclusion’ lecture

In line with OHEu’s Annual Theme of 2024, ‘Access and Inclusion’, the organisers of Open House Prague and Open House Basel highlighted the implementation of inclusivity tools in their local festivals. Open House Prague shared their experience of creating a collaborative environment ,with’ and ,by’ people of diverse abilities. This approach facilitated the participation of individuals with disabilities in shared activities, fostering an inclusive atmosphere. Additionally, Open House Basel showcased an initiative where collaborations with individuals who are blind were undertaken to develop guided tours for sighted people.

All participants, including members of the OHEu consortium and experts featured in the public programme, provided highly positive feedback on their involvement.

Carolina Vicente, Open House Lisbon

## ‘Audience Development Guide: progress to date’ lecture

The lecture, part of the ‘Perspectives on the Implementation of the Guide’ workshop, focused on audience development strategies for Open House Europe’s partner festivals. It emphasised methods for attracting, diversifying and deepening relationships with various audience groups, including those less engaged in art and cultural activities, like seniors, students and vulnerable groups. The discussion included strategies for engaging local communities and educating them about local architecture. The key challenges addressed were resource limitations, volunteer community building, accessibility, inclusivity and effective communication strategies for diverse audiences. The lecture concluded with guidelines on audience segmentation, developing tailored activities and enhancing the international and inclusive nature of local Open House events.

# Internal Session



'Perspectives on the Implementation of the Guide' workshop. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photo by Hugo David

## 'Perspectives on the Implementation of the Guide' workshop

Following the lecture, the workshop focused on a few main goals: identifying and discussing Open House Europe's audience development principles and sharing effective practices from various organisations. Participants formed groups to discuss key OHEu principles, such as building bridges between the public and professionals, linking local and international contexts, and ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. The workshop included a group reshuffle to facilitate diverse discussions that identified priority steps for continued implementation of the key principles in local Open House events. The session concluded with a wrap-up, emphasising the importance of audience interests, continuous participation, effective communication and cross-sectoral cooperation in audience development.

## ‘Participatory design with volunteers’ lecture

Occurring during the ‘Perspectives on the Implementation of the Guide’ workshop, this lecture was exclusive to OHEu project partners and a limited number of audience members. Led by representatives of Open House Taipei, Jeanne Lee and Richard Hsu, the lecture focused on participatory design and the exploration of Taipei’s rich architectural and cultural heritage. They discussed the involvement of volunteers in guiding and educating citizens and tourists about the city’s unique characteristics, from its dense urban landscape to its historical sites. The presentation highlighted collaborations with universities, government bodies and organisations, addressing challenges and achievements, particularly during the pandemic. It also emphasised interactive and inclusive activities, volunteer engagement and training and the initiative’s commitment to social and environmental responsibility. The overarching theme was enhancing public understanding and appreciation of Taipei’s history, architecture and urban development through Open House Taipei’s diverse and educational activities

It has also given us the strength to realise what we do locally is also being done outside our borders. This keeps alive the illusion of what we do and gives meaning to our efforts.

Irati Alonso, Open House Bilbao

## ‘Curatorial approaches’ lecture

Also taking part during the ‘Perspectives on the Implementation of the Guide’ workshop, this lecture by Robert Newcombe, co-founder of Open House Santiago, was open to OHEu project partners and a limited number of audience members. The lecture centred on the 2023 edition of Open House Santiago marking its sixth year. It was focused on integrating the festival with Chile’s complex socio-political context, particularly the 50th anniversary of a significant period in Chilean history related to Pinochet’s regime. The theme ‘City and its Memories’ was used to explore the role of architecture and urban design in reflecting societal changes and addressing sensitive issues of state violence and persecution. Robert Newcombe emphasised the festival’s efforts in creating relevant social engagements and highlighted the challenges of commemorating sensitive historical events. He also discussed the importance of the global Open House network in sharing experiences and innovations to address broader urban and societal challenges.

## Day 2 - December 15

The second day of the Open House Europe Annual Summit commenced with an internal programme featuring a strategy workshop by the Open House London team, focusing on evaluations, digital infrastructure and securing sponsors. Sociologist Dr Tadas Šarūnas led a workshop exploring the motivations of festival organisers and the impact of Open House events on visitors. Karen Lee Walpole, a representative from Open House Dublin, shared insights on expanding the festival to nine days, emphasising engagement and innovative event formats. Vilius Balčiūnas, Communications Coordinator of Open House Europe, presented the Digital Atlas, providing the Open House community with guidance on integrating local festival programmes within it.

The day culminated in the opening of the public programme, featuring a debate on sustainability and governance moderated by Sandra Marques Pereira, with esteemed panellists from Milan, Barcelona and Bilbao. The event also marked the launch of the 'Visual Stories' exhibition, showcasing interpretations of sustainability from local Open House festivals across Europe.

Annual Summit 2023. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photo by Hugo David



## Strategy workshop

The Open House London team hosted an engaging workshop centred on strategic planning. They highlighted three main priorities: evaluations, digital infrastructure and securing headline sponsors. These priorities were well-considered, especially given that Open House London was the first event of its kind. Throughout the workshop, there was a strong focus on understanding the event's audience and the importance of connecting with attendees in the architectural field. The team also shared insights into their digital setup, discussing its strengths and areas in need of improvement. Additionally, they offered valuable advice on managing headline sponsor relationships, drawing from their experiences with major companies. This sharing of experiences was highly inspiring for the entire community.

## 'Celebrating Meaning and Success: Why I Am Opening Exceptional Houses to Common People' workshop

In the workshop titled 'Celebrating Meaning and Success: Why I Am Opening Exceptional Houses to Common People', sociologist Dr Tadas Šarūnas led a focus group made up of representatives from partner organisations. He initiated the session with a visualisation exercise, prompting each participant to create a mental representation of the typical visitor to an Open House event. Later, this mental construct served as the basis for discussing the professional motivations of festival organisers and the impact these events have on the general visitor. The participants delved into the role of architects in conducting effective Open House tours and provided detailed descriptions of how such events contribute to a broader understanding of spatial quality. The discussion culminated in the consensus that the context and history of specific cities must be carefully considered when assessing the impact of individual Open House initiatives.

## 'Expanding the festival beyond two days' lecture

Karen Lee Walpole from Open House Dublin shared lessons with the whole Open House community about how they expanded the Open House festival to nine days, leading to increased engagement, participation and impact. The festival kicked off with an Open House Junior weekend dedicated to young people and families. It had developed new modes of engagement with the new Open Table conversation series, journal articles and podcasts. Additionally, it had brought together all four local authorities in Dublin to build a programme of tours, talks, exhibitions, films, podcasts and more across the city and county.

## 'Website ideation' lecture

Vilius Balčiūnas, Communications Coordinator at Open House Europe, delivered a comprehensive presentation focusing on the challenges, requirements and procedures involved in developing the Digital Atlas. The presentation provided the entire community with insights into the anticipated appearance of the OHEu product and outlined ways for them to collectively integrate their local Open House festivals' programmes within it. This session also devoted time to a Q&A segment addressing inquiries about the advantages and challenges of existing platforms.

# Public programme

## Day 2 - December 15

### Opening of the public programme

The Open House Europe Annual Summit programme for the general public started with a warm welcome and an introduction delivered by the Open House Europe Project Lead Martynas Germaničius. Following this, Manuel Henriques, Executive Deputy Director of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale, delivered an address emphasising sustainability.

You can watch a video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqSUw7it\\_DM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqSUw7it_DM).

### ‘Governance, Architecture and Sustainability: How Can the City Be Sustainable through Public Policies?’ public debate

Later, a public debate took place focusing on the topic of ‘Governance, Architecture and Sustainability: How Can the City Be Sustainable through Public Policies?’. The panel included esteemed figures such as Demetrio Scopelliti, the Director of Urban Planning and Public Space at the City of Milan’s Agency for Mobility, Environment and Territory; Filipa Serpa, Vice-President of the Board of IHRU (Institute of Housing and Urban Rehabilitation), renowned for her expertise in public housing policies; Janet Sanz, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for Ecology, Urban Planning and Urban Mobility; and Susana Ruiz, an architect and the Technical Manager of Bilbao for Urban Planning, specialising in urban master planning.

The session was moderated by Sandra Marques Pereira, a researcher in urban sociology, housing and cities, affiliated with DIN MIA/CET and Socio Digital Lab for Public Policy/ ISCTE—Instituto Universitário de Lisboa. The discussion explored critical perspectives and insights into sustainable urban development, particularly regarding the role of governance, architecture and public policies in fostering sustainability within cities.

You can watch a video of the debate here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q\\_mG6NWbG70](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_mG6NWbG70).



Welcome speech by Manuel Henriques © Photo by Joanna Messmer



Public debate: 'Governance, Architecture and Sustainability'. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale.  
© Photo by Hugo David

# Public Programme

## ‘Visual Stories’ exhibition opening

During the first year of the Open House Europe project, there was an open call for visual stories, inviting participants of each local Open House festival to visually interpret the annual theme of sustainability and the slogan ‘Building Futures Together’ in a variety of formats. The organisers of each local festival selected three of the best entries. There were 121 applications related to 12 Open House festivals of which 34 were selected. All selected entries were exhibited during the evening of the official public opening event at Palácio Sinel de Cordes, the building of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale.



Open House Europe partners from Lisbon were responsible for the layout and preparation of the exhibition. The Open House Europe project coordinator was responsible for the exhibition catalogue. In the near future, exhibition catalogues will be sent to all exhibition participants as a thank-you gift from the organisers. The exhibition is portable and will travel through Europe as some project partners plan to show it at their local festivals.

Visual Stories exhibition. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photos by Hugo David



## Day 3 - December 16

On the third day of the Open House Europe Annual Summit, a vibrant array of events unfolded. The morning featured compelling public debates on the topics of 'Sustainability in Urban Planning' and 'Achieving Sustainability in Architecture', addressing water scarcity, heat islands and innovative architectural solutions. Moderated by experts, these debates were broadcasted online, reaching wider audiences.

Simultaneously, a parallel programme included a hands-on workshop on 'Vertical Urban Agriculture with Upfarming', exploring sustainable farming systems. The afternoon showcased guided tours, with a focus on the student accommodation in Cidade Universitária and its sustainable features, and an underground exploration of the Lisbon Drainage Master Plan building site, outlining initiatives for flood prevention and environmental resilience.

Overall, the day offered a dynamic blend of discussions, workshops and tours, providing valuable insights into sustainable practices and innovative urban solutions, contributing to the ongoing dialogue on shaping resilient and eco-friendly cities.

Guided tour of the student accommodation.  
© Photo by Joanna Messmer





'Sustainability in Urban Planning' public debate Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photo by Hugo David

## 'Sustainability in Urban Planning' public debate

The second day of the Annual Summit public programme started with the public debate 'Sustainability in Urban Planning'. The event featured presentations on diverse research projects concerning water scarcity, heat islands and supply systems, followed by an open discussion with the audience.

Manuel Banza presented his work on data science projects linked to mobility, cities and political issues, including case studies of climate shelters in Lisbon. Mariana Sanchez Salvador, an architect, shared her comprehensive research on food supply systems within urban environments.

The session was skilfully moderated by Mustafa Sherif, an urbanist and the founder of the 'Urbanistica' podcast. The discussion provided valuable insights into the challenges and solutions at the intersection of sustainability and urban planning.

You can watch a video of the debate here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V10\\_S7Q-efM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V10_S7Q-efM).



'Achieving Sustainability in Architecture' public debate. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photo by Hugo David

## 'Achieving Sustainability in Architecture' public debate

The 'Achieving Sustainability in Architecture' public debate featured Marta Álvarez Pastor from Studio Vaumm, an expert in rehabilitation building works in collaboration with artists for constructive interventions and urban planning; Gianandrea Barreca from Barreca & La Varra architecture studio, who discussed their design of the first zero-carbon social housing in Europe. Francisco Adão da Fonseca, representing Oficina Pedrêz, a studio focused on self-sufficiency in building materials and infrastructures and a founder member of Architects Declare in Portugal, also shared his insights.

Ivan Blasi, the Curator of Prizes and Programmes at Fundació Mies van der Rohe, moderated the discussion. The topics covered provided a comprehensive exploration of sustainability in architecture, touching upon various innovative approaches and projects.

You can watch a video of the debate here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIVh4Fx\\_wT4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIVh4Fx_wT4).

# Parallel Programme

## 'Vertical Urban Agriculture with Upfarming' workshop

Led by Tiago Sá Gomes and Maria Canelhas, this interactive activity provided participants with an opportunity to explore vertical urban farming systems, offering a unique approach to food production in limited spaces. During the workshop, attendees learned about the benefits and challenges of vertical farming, various management and production models and the significance of these systems in the urban context. The focus was on how these practices contribute to a more sustainable future.

The workshop consisted of two stages. In the first stage, participants sowed vegetable seeds that would germinate in the seedbed. Following the sowing, the second stage involved planting: participants transplanted the seedlings from the seedbed to the shelves of a vertical garden to grow until ready for harvest.

The workshop had 15 people, lasted for 2 hours and required registration. Attendees engaged actively in hands-on activities, gaining practical insights into the principles and practices of vertical urban agriculture.

'Vertical Urban Agriculture with Upfarming' workshop. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photos by José Martins





Guided tour of the student accommodation in Cidade Universitária. © Photo by Joanna Messmer

## Guided tour of the student accommodation in Cidade Universitária

The guided tour, led by Nuno Clímaco (Lisboa e-Nova) and Alexandre Marques Pereira, took place at 15:00. Accommodating 240 students, the building draws inspiration from Le Corbusier's renowned Unités d'Habitation. This collective housing complex effectively organises various functional parts into a unified structure for communal use.

The block exemplifies sound sustainability practices, adapting to the conditions of the local climate through thoughtful material selection, the shading design of the façade, natural ventilation and the incorporation of solar panels. During the visit, the focus was on the integration of design principles with considerations of energy efficiency and strategies of sustainability.

The guided tour had a maximum capacity of 25 people, lasted for 1 hour and admission was free. The tour was fully booked. Attendees had the opportunity to explore and gain insights into the architectural and sustainable features of the student accommodation in Cidade Universitária.



Guided Tour of the building site of the Lisbon Drainage Master Plan. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photo by Hugo David

## Guided Tour of the building site of the Lisbon Drainage Master Plan

The guided tour of the building site of the Lisbon Drainage Master Plan, an ambitious infrastructure project to fortify the city against floods, preparing it for future challenges and climate change, was led by Manuel Saldanha at 16:00. Participants delved into the underground excavation of the first tunnel spanning 5 km, connecting Monsanto and Santa Apolónia.

Scheduled to be implemented by 2030, the plan revolves around three crucial actions: enhancing and strengthening the drainage network, constructing retention basins and establishing two large drainage tunnels. These measures not only mitigate social and economic impacts but also address environmental concerns. Anti-pollution basins have been strategically placed to capture and store rainwater and recycled water is employed for urban washing, irrigation and firefighting. In addition, a sustainable mini-hydro power station has been set up and activated.

The guided tour, with a maximum capacity of 15 people, lasted for 1 hour and was free to attend. The tour was fully booked and this event provided a firsthand look at the innovative solutions and infrastructural developments shaping Lisbon's resilience against environmental challenges.

## Day 4 - December 17



The final day of the 2024 Annual Summit was dedicated to exploring the theme for the upcoming year—'Access and Inclusion'. The objective of the fourth day was to delve into this theme and develop a suitable slogan for future communications. The day commenced with an insightful talk by Mustafa Sherif, an urban planner and the founder of the 'Urbanistica' podcast, who shared his perspectives on this theme. Following his presentation, a workshop was conducted in collaboration with OHEu partners, also led by Mustafa Sherif. This session focused on selecting an appropriate slogan for 2024.

Annual Summit 2023. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photos by Hugo David

## Lecture and workshop

The Annual Summit's concluding day in 2024 began with a captivating lecture by Mustafa Sherif. His lecture, centred on the theme 'Access and Inclusion', was not only informative but also served as an inspirational introduction to the subsequent workshop. This set the stage for an engaging and interactive session.

During the workshop, OHEu partners were divided into three groups. Each participant was tasked to identify what 'Access and Inclusion' meant for them in the context of Open House. This brainstorming exercise led each partner to identify key points and ideas, which were later shared among all groups. Building on these insights, each group developed its own slogan. The day culminated in a voting process for the slogan as the representative message for the coming year.

The internal workshops  
increased and facilitated a  
sense of community.

Maya Plata, Open House Milan

Sharing time and debating over  
several days made us feel part  
of the same community.

Irati Alonso, Open House Bilbao

## Open House Europe coordination meeting

Following the workshop, the Annual Summit allocated additional time for an open discussion, resembling a Q&A session, primarily focusing on future festivals. This segment of the day provided a valuable platform for the partners to raise inquiries, share insights and engage in deeper dialogue about upcoming events. Moreover, this time was also utilised to address some major issues that had been identified during the summit, allowing for a comprehensive and collaborative approach to problem-solving and strategic planning for future endeavours.



# Communication

Communication of the Annual Summit was executed as a collaborative effort between the project's coordinator, Architektūros fondas, and the Annual Summit's host, Lisbon Architecture Triennale. The communication plan was developed and implemented by Open House Europe Communications Coordinator Vilius Balčiūnas and Lisbon Architecture Triennale Head of Communication Sara Battesti.

The Triennale's communication channels provided the necessary reach to engage local audiences in the promotion of the Annual Summit's public programme, as well as increasing the international visibility of the event. The event was promoted on the website of the Portuguese daily national newspaper, Público. Local press releases were distributed both in Portugal and Spain. Extensive information about the public programme was communicated via the Triennale's newsletter, website and social media channels.

A communication materials package, including texts announcing the event, promoting the live stream and illustrations, was provided to all the project partners, which ensured a wide engagement of audiences across the continent. A detailed programme of the event was published on [openhouseeurope.org](http://openhouseeurope.org), including a schedule of the event, information about the speakers and links to the live-streamed portions of the Annual Summit. The social media channels of the project were also used to communicate and promote a detailed event programme and share moments from the summit.

Besides the project's and the Triennale's communication channels, an international press release was published on the E-flux platform and the architecture website ArchDaily to interest and attract professionals across the continent and beyond.

# Organisers' Reflections

Carolina Vicente, Open House Lisbon

Our experience in organising and hosting the Annual Summit in Lisbon was both dynamic and gratifying, shedding light on the significance of collaborative teamwork. During the initial planning phase, the organising cities and the OHEu coordinator engaged in extensive brainstorming sessions to establish clear objectives and define the scope of the event. The programme comprised both internal working sessions and public sessions.

Collaboration within the team played a pivotal role, with each member taking on specific responsibilities, fostering effective communication and ensuring a streamlined workflow. Bilbao, Milan and Lisbon were tasked with implementing the public programme, while the OHEu coordinator oversaw the internal sessions.

All activities were hosted at the Lisbon Architecture Triennale headquarters, an 18th-century palatial building with a privileged location. To meet the specific needs of the public programme and internal work sessions, careful planning and reorganisation of spaces/rooms was undertaken to better accommodate all the different activities and audiences. Logistics and operations, guided by well-thought-out contingency plans, ensured a seamless execution, even in the face of unexpected challenges.

As custodians of the budget, we meticulously allocated resources, implementing cost-cutting measures without compromising the quality of the event.

The marketing strategies, combining digital and traditional approaches, yielded positive results, driving participant engagement. Despite the well-attended public programme, we acknowledge that hosting the event close to Christmas may have posed challenges for the media to publicise it more widely.

Reflecting on the inaugural Annual Summit of this consortium, we are confident the outcome is overwhelmingly positive. This successful collaboration exemplified the efficacy of strategic planning, teamwork and adaptability. All participants, including members of the OHEu consortium and experts featured in the public programme, provided highly positive feedback on their involvement.

Undoubtedly, this summit played a crucial role in shaping better futures and reinforced our commitment to fostering ongoing success through meaningful and impactful gatherings.

## Irati Alonso, Open House Bilbao

As for the event's public programme, we believe it dealt with very current and relevant issues in the development of cities. The debates that took place between professionals helped to bring very technical concepts such as sustainability, architecture and urban planning closer to the citizens. As for the internal programme, it was an excellent opportunity to share experiences and concerns. On one hand, it has been really useful in improving the project for the future. Although overall, the coordination during the first year of the project has been smooth and joint activities have demonstrated good results, there are things that can be improved. This event, in particular through the workshops of the internal programme, allowed us to share those elements that we need to improve in coming years and more importantly, seek and agree on solutions that benefit all partners.

On the other hand, these workshops had very enriching discussions. Sharing time and debating over several days made us feel part of the same team and community. It has also given us the strength to realise what we do locally is also being done outside our borders. This keeps alive the illusion of what we do and gives meaning to our efforts.

## Maya Plata, Open House Milan

We were very pleased to be part of the first Annual Summit that, for us, deepened the objectives of the Open House Europe manifesto such as the importance of building cities and communities with a sustainable and inclusive approach, on top of fostering a stronger commitment to what we want to achieve.

We believe that the structure of the public programme and internal sessions was successful. The exchanging of different experiences, perspectives, and points of view by involved speakers was enriching and relevant to building up interesting and inspiring round tables and lectures, to the full engagement of the attendees.

The internal workshops increased and facilitated a sense of community, useful in developing the next stages of the project. However, we believe they can be improved with more structured activities, making the moments of sharing and the working sessions more effective.

The dissemination of the event had an impact on local and global levels, and we think that helps to increase the value of the project at all levels.

# Open House Europe team



Open House Europe team picture. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale. © Photos by Hugo David

# Partner festivals



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