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People to
architecture,

architecture
to people.

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OPEN
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EUROPE

Open House Europe Project presentation



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Project coordinator:

Architektūros fondas

Project partners:



Project partners are part of:

OPEN HOUSE WORLDWIDE

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Open House Europe team
from the left: Martynas,
Agnė, Austėja, Paulina,
Vilius. Photo by Giedrius
Akelis. Courtesy of
Architektūros fondas



Open House Europe

About the project

Open House Europe is a cooperation project that connects different Open House festival organisers across Europe and enables their collaboration and knowledge exchange. By encouraging and promoting an interest in architecture among various audiences, Open House Europe helps residents to gain new perspectives on their local surroundings and invites them to envision the shared future of European architecture.



Sede Banco de Portugal in Open House Lisbon. Photo by Pedro Sadio. Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture Triennale

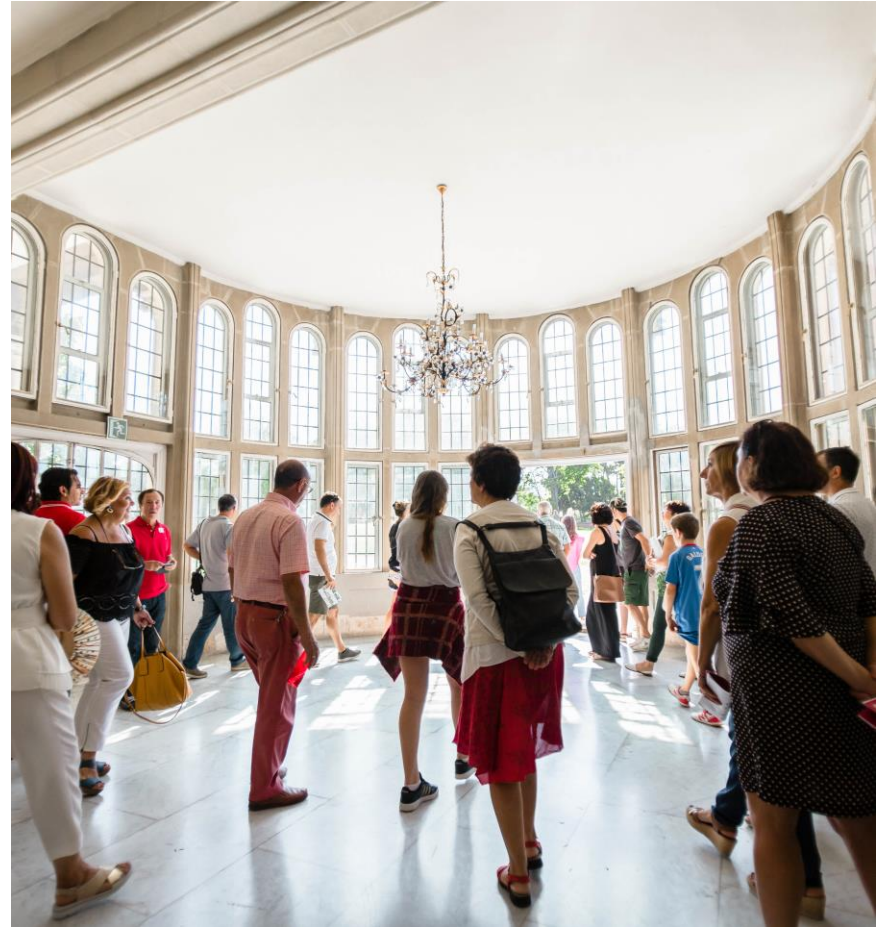
Open House Europe

Our mission

Open House Europe builds bridges between professionals and the curious public by utilising their common passion for architecture. It seeks to provoke dialogue, encourage the exchange of knowledge and foster community building.

This interconnection of organisations exposes audiences to different architectural ideas that have shaped and continue to shape architecture in Europe. By engaging different stakeholders in a debate, Open House Europe prompts people to imagine, shape and build a common future.

A moment from a guided tour in Open House Bilbao 2019. Photo by Ane Ydalga. Courtesy of Open Urbanity



Open House Europe

Local Open House festivals

Open House Europe serves as a network linking 14 local Open House festivals. The events offer free guided tours of notable buildings in various cities, also, including lectures, discussions, performances, and other engaging activities. Open House Europe fosters accessibility and creates interactive tools to reveal architecture's role as part of European identity and showcase positive examples of how architecture could respond to contemporary environmental and social challenges.



Pirellone Skyscraper in Open House Milan 2018. Photo by Luca Rotondo. Courtesy of Open House Milano

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Activities

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Annual Theme

Why this is important?

Throughout the year, different local Open House events across Europe respond to a common Annual Theme by highlighting the buildings in the local Open House festival programme or having other theme related activities. This is important to face challenges by contemporary planetary and civil society, following the values of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

In 2023 Open House Europe Annual Theme was 'Sustainability - Building Futures Together'. The preliminary Annual Themes for 2024 and 2025 are 'Access and Inclusion' and 'Future Heritage'.



A moment from a guided tour in Open House Praha 2023. Photo by Dusan Vondra. Courtesy of Open House Praha

Visual Stories

About the activity

Every year, Open House Europe launches an international open call for visual stories, encouraging participants to share their views on architecture and reflect on the Annual Theme through photography, film, drawing and other visual art forms.

The selected Visual Stories become an exhibition and travel across Europe to various Open House Europe partner organisations. Additionally, selected works are featured in a printed publication and online.



Visual Stories exhibition in Lisbon 2023.
Photo by Hugo David. Courtesy of Lisbon
Architecture Triennale

Visual Stories

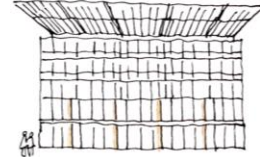
How to participate?

To participate in the Visual Stories open call, applicants need to submit their creative interpretations of the Annual Theme, based on experiences during the local Open House festival.

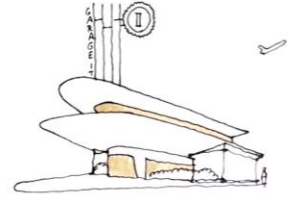
While exploring buildings, areas and sites during the festival visitors seek out elements of the Annual Theme within the city's architecture and urban planning. Creative visual narratives that capture experience and offer deeper understandings and personal interpretations of the theme are encouraged.



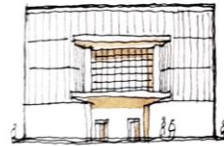
NTT Data Milan



Monte Rosa 21



Garage Italia



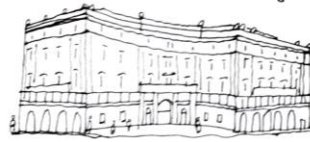
EX CINEMA MAESTRO



CHIESA DI SAN GIOVANNI
BONO E IL QUARTIERE
ARRIGHETTI



OPEN 336



THE MEDELANI E HORTO



EDIFICI STORICI DI PORTA VENEZIA



VERTRA BUILDING

Tomás
Reis

Illustration by Tomás
Alberto Saraiva da Silva
Delgado dos Reis

Visual Stories

Catalogue

You can find Visual Stories catalogue [here](#).



Volunteer Exchange Programme

About the activity

To encourage the exchange of knowledge and experience, Open House Europe facilitates volunteer exchanges between partner organisations. The programme is dedicated to international learning and collaboration among European cities and Open House Europe partners.

In 2023, exchanges were held across all 11 partner organisations in Europe. 57 volunteers participated, actively contributing to the success of Open House events while also gaining valuable insights to bring back for their local festivals.



Exchange volunteers in Open House Thessaloniki 2023. Photo by Anastasia Angeli. Courtesy of Open House Greece

Volunteer Exchange Programme

Volunteer testimonials

I have gained new friendships, and I hope that with new ties we will weave the paths of European architecture.

- Maša, volunteer from Open House Slovenia in Open House Vilnius

It was a heartwarming reminder that people everywhere are interested in the built environment and that Open House festivals should carry on introducing projects and promoting knowledge of urban landscapes, architecture, and history.

- Katarina, volunteer from Open House Tallinn in Open House Slovenia



Exchange volunteers in Open House Vilnius 2023. Photo courtesy of Maša Rebernik

Annual Summit

About the activity

The Annual Summit is a gathering of the Open House community, architecture enthusiasts and professionals. Each summit, held in partner cities Lisbon (2023), Dublin (2024) and Athens (2025), features a dynamic public programme with inspiring discussions, lectures, workshops and guided tours. Besides this, the summit is a unique opportunity for the Open House community, including anyone who is planning to launch an Open House festival in their city, to come together, learn, exchange knowledge and share experiences.

Guided tour in Vilnius during
Launch meeting in 2023.
Photo by Bon Alog. Courtesy of
Architektūros fondas



Annual Summit

Annual Summit Lisbon, 2023

Between December 14–17, 2023, the Lisbon Architecture Triennale hosted the first Annual Summit of Open House Europe dedicated to the theme of sustainability 'Building Futures Together'. The Annual Summit gathered the community of Open House festivals' organisers, architecture enthusiasts, students and professionals. First Open House Europe Annual Summit featured a lively public and internal programme.

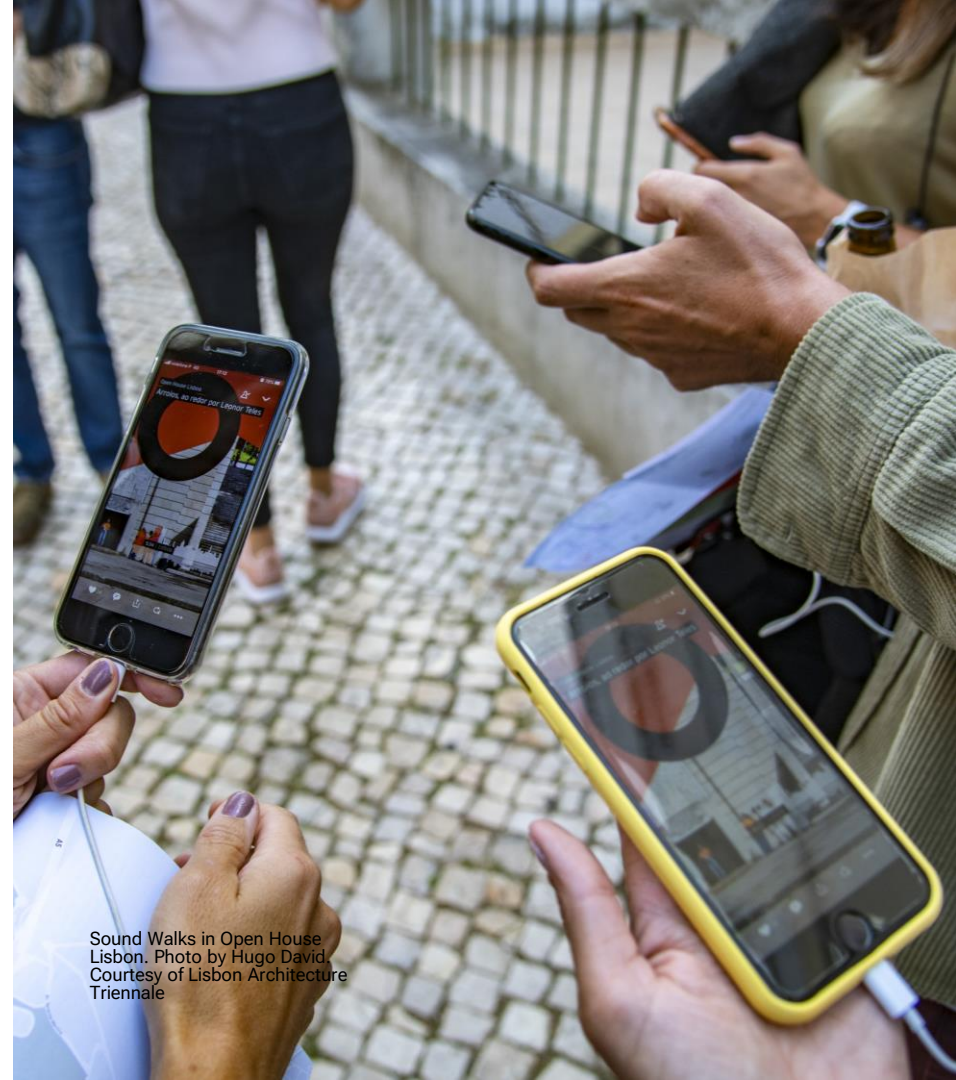


Digitalisation

About the activity

To seamlessly unite the diverse activities of Open House Europe and effectively present them to wider audiences, a website has been established, complemented by an in-progress mobile application. These digital tools help to enhance the experience of local events as well as work as a live archive for architectural projects presented during Open House festivals.

Additionally, the Digital Atlas is now under development. This will be an interactive map-archive that presents architecture objects with information gathered from Open House events.



Sound Walks in Open House
Lisbon. Photo by Hugo David.
Courtesy of Lisbon Architecture
Triennale

Audience Development

About the activity

To enhance the audience's engagement in various Open House Europe consortium activities Audience Development Guide was created. This tool gathers the best practices and recommendations for digital and physical solutions for engaging, making inclusive and accessible various Open House events.

To monitor Open House Europe user experience, visitors will be asked to participate in quantitative surveys and qualitative feedback.

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



New partner organisations and guest cities

Open call

To strengthen the internal Open House Europe consortium and increase its impact among cultural organisations annual open call for guest cities and new partner organisations are organised.

The open call for guest cities targets organisations that implement or aim to organise Open House events.

The open call for new partner organisations is for Open House organisers seeking to join the consortium and integrate the Open House Europe activities into their local festival.



Croatian State Archives in Open House Zagreb 2023. Photo by Bojan Zibar. Courtesy of Open House Zagreb

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Q&A

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