

Vila 31 x Art Explora
Rruga Ismail Qemali, Tiranë

Register here:
forumfaber.com

Tirana, Albania
2026

AGENDA



29-31 OCT

Forum for
Active Built
Environment
Research

INVITATION

WE HEREBY INVITE YOU TO JOIN FABER 2026 FORUM FOR ACTIVE BUILT ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH

On behalf of the organising committee, we are pleased to invite you to FABER 2026, taking place from 29–31 October at Vila 31 × Art Explora in Tirana.

FABER is an annual international platform dedicated to sharing knowledge and best practices in sustainable urban development. It brings together architects, planners, researchers, policymakers and industry professionals to exchange ideas and examine the future of the built environment.

The fifth edition of FABER is centered on the theme “Legacy.” It asks what we build, what we choose not to build and what we ultimately leave behind. Across three days, the programme will explore the long-term effects of architecture, urban growth and design decisions on cities, environments and societies.

FABER 2026 unfolds across three curatorial tracks:

- The Unbuilt: Exploring unrealized projects, speculative design and the value of restraint in shaping cities.
- Vertical Urbanism: Examining density, high-rise living and the social, environmental and spatial implications of building upward.
- What About Wood?: Investigating timber and bio-based materials as part of a regenerative, low-carbon construction future.

A special programme dedicated to the legacy of Zaha Hadid will include a keynote address, conversations and a screening of Zaha Hadid: Who Dares Wins.

We look forward to welcoming you to three days of dialogue, reflection and exchange in Tirana.

Sincerely,

The FABER 2026 Organizing Team

**29–31
OCT 2026**

Vila 31 x Art Explora
Rruga Ismail Qemali,
Tiranë

DAY 1

17:30 - 18:00	Registration of Participants
18:00 - 19:00	Opening Ceremony
18:00 - 18:20	Opening Remarks  Mrs. Joleza KOKA Executive Director of FABER
18:20 - 18:30	A Supporter's Note  Ms. Ana ZHIBAJ Advisor for Sustainable Urban Mobility at GIZ Albania
18:30 - 18:40	Leadership Address  Mr. Ervin DEMO Minister of Interior of the Republic of Albania
18:20 - 19:00	Keynote Address  Mr. Filippo INNOCENTI Director at ZHA Architects <i>A reflection on how radical architectural ideas evolve beyond their originators and become a collective legacy.</i>
19:00 - 20:00	Networking Cocktail

DAY 2

08:00 - 09:00	Guided Tour of Vila 31
09:00 - 09:30	Registration of Participants
09:30 - 09:40	Opening of the Symposium  Mr. Jon KOLA Project Manager of FABER
09:40 - 10:00	FABER Award Ceremony <i>Recognising sustainable public initiatives, emerging architectural studios and exemplary built projects.</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 - 11:30	MODULE 1 - The Unbuilt <i>Exploring unrealised projects, lost structures and the value of restraint in shaping cities.</i> Moderator  Mrs. Joleza KOKA Executive Director, FABER Speakers  Ms. Arbresha IBRAHIMI Assistant Professor at IBU Skopje  Mr. Kevi BEQIRAJ Architect and Lecturer, Istanbul Gelisim University  Ms. Anna KONDI Architect and Assistant Lecturer at POLIS University  Ms. Ledia LIBOHOVA Architect and Co-Founder of Libohova Architects Q&A

DAY 2

11:30 - 12:30

MODULE 2 - Vertical Urbanism

Examining density, high-rise living and the social, environmental and spatial implications of building upward.



Dr. Etleva DOBJANI

Lecturer and Head of the Department of Architecture and Design in UNIBA

Speakers



Ms. Amaia Celaya ALVAREZ

MYAA Resilience and Innovation Director



Ms. Nora CIMILI

Director of Transformation, Municipality of Prishtina



Mr. Marco GUARDINCERRI

Associate, ZHA Architects

Q&A

12:30 - 13:30

MODULE 3 - What About Wood?

Investigating timber and bio-based materials as part of a regenerative, low-carbon construction future.



Ms. Jetmira BELEGU

Architect, Writer and Filmmaker



Ms. Benedetta MEA

Partner and Managing & Creative Director for Albania, Settanta7



Mr. Paul Clemens BART

Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Beta Realities



Ms. Daria SHEINA

Founder and Principal, Daria Sheina Studio

Q&A

DAY 2

13:30 - 14:30	Lunch & Networking
14:30 - 15:30	FABER Symposium 2026 Concluding Remarks
17:30 - 19:00	Kids Workshop “Little Urbanists: Designing Tirana’s Urban Legacy for the Future” <i>In cooperation with The Third Space and Shtëpiza e Artit Facilitated by Ashique Mohammad, Jeta Kaçka and Ana Tafaj</i> <i>A hands-on workshop where children act as architects and urbanists, learning fundamental design concepts while collaboratively building a neighbourhood model for the future.</i> <i>Participants will map their own fictional neighbourhood and become familiar with key concepts and vocabulary before working in small teams to assemble and decorate cardboard building models. By negotiating where to place residential, commercial and open spaces on a shared map, the children will co-create a functioning neighbourhood.</i> <i>The session concludes with a collective reflection, encouraging participants to evaluate their neighbourhood from their own perspective and through the eyes of others. Ultimately, the workshop aims to inspire the next generation of architects, urbanists and designers to actively shape their built environment.</i>

DAY 3

09:30 - 10:00	Registration of Participants
10:00 - 13:00	Documentary Screening and Talk <i>Zaha Hadid: Who Dares Wins (2013), followed by a talk with:</i>  Mr. Marco GUARDINCERRI Associate, ZHA Architects <i>The session revisits Zaha Hadid's ambition, determination and continuing influence on architectural imagination.</i> Q&A
13:00 - 15:00	Walking the City <i>Pavements and Footprints: Shaping the City We Leave Behind</i>  Mr. Ashique MOHAMMAD Decolonial Urbanist, Activist and Organizer Executive Director - The Third Space  Ms. Jeta KAÇKA Executive Director, The Third Space <i>A participatory walkshop exploring the city through the perspectives of children, adults and older residents.</i>
15:00	End of FABER 2026