

Call for Participants – Experimental Workshop

Sound, Rhythm, and the City: Exploring Architecture, Emotion, and Brain-Responses

We warmly invite **architectural practitioners, urban designers, planners**, to take part in an experimental, practice-based workshop exploring the relationship between **music, rhythm, architecture, and urban experience**. Music is usually a good thermometer for different emotions. Could music help us better understand the connection between design and the feelings it evokes?

This one-day workshop brings together **artistic practice, architectural thinking, neuroscience and live music** to investigate how rhythmic sound environments influence perception, emotion, and spatial imagination and how these insights might inform future approaches to designing cities with sound, atmosphere, and affect in mind.

Why participate?

- Gain **conceptual and practical insights** into rhythm, sound, and neuro-responses in architectural and urban contexts
- Engage in a **live artistic experiment** combining music, improvisation, sketching, and spatial reflection
- Contribute to an interdisciplinary exploration of how **sound and emotion shape design processes**
- Be part of a documented research process, with outcomes contributing to analysis and exhibition material

Participation formats

We are recruiting participants for two modes of engagement:

- **Experiment with sketching participants (3 persons):**
Participants will wear a headset to measure brainwave activity during the sound-based sessions.
No prior experience with neuroscience or equipment is required.
- **Sketching only participants (open group):**
Participants will join the sessions through **live sketching and observation**, responding to live improvised music without measurements.

Both groups are equally central to the experiment and discussion.

What the day will include

- A short academic lecture on
- Guided preparation and introduction to the experiment

- Improvised music sessions combined with live artistic performance. We explore how music and drawing can influence each other in real time
- Individual and collective sketching sessions
- Group reflection on architecture, music, emotion, and urban design

Key details

- **Date:** 11 June 2026
- **Time:** 09:30–15:30
- **Location:** Architecture Programme Studio, Orkanen, Room A426

The full **day programme** :

- **09:30–10:15** : Short lecture on **responsiveness in architecture and music as carriers of rhythm and emotion**
- **10:30–11:00** : Introduction to the day and instructions, including preparation of the practical headset setup
- **11:00–12:00** : First session
- **12:00–13:00**: Lunch break
- **13:00–14:00** : Second session
- **14:00–15:00** : Third session
- **15:00–15:30** : Wrap-up and final reflections

Documentation

The workshop will be video recorded for research and exhibition purposes. Selected material will be used for analysis and for producing a short film to be presented at the **Form & Design Center**.

Registration

Participation is free, but places are limited.

Please register using the link below and indicate whether you are interested in:

- participating with brain measurements, or
- participating as a sketching observer.

👉 [Link to registration form]

<https://forms.gle/GZiqY55GhLF9AwCg9>

Who is your host and organizers for the workshop ?

Marwa Dabaieh

Architect and professor of environmental architecture and urban sustainability at Malmö University.

Zakaria Djebbara

Architect and associate professor in architecture with expertise in naturalistic cognitive neuroscience.

Erik Hjärpe

Keyboardist and composer, member of Timbuktu & Damn!, composer “Så Byggdes Sverige”, “A Drop of Midnight” among other TV and theatre productions. erikhjarpe.com