

Envisioning Future HealthScapes

Rethinking Methodologies of Design Practices
Toward Regenerative Environments

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Foreword

Consul General, Ambassador Helle Meinertz

Consulate General of Denmark in New York

The future of cities will be shaped by our ability to think across boundaries that have too often been kept apart: between health and sustainability, between people and ecosystems, between research and practice, and between local action and global responsibility.

Envisioning Future HealthScapes contributes to this important and necessary dialogue. It brings together perspectives that explore how the built environment can support not only more sustainable urban development, but also more inclusive, resilient, and regenerative ways of living. Its significance lies in this broader understanding: that the spaces we design are never only physical structures, but are part of the social, ecological, and material systems that shape everyday life.

This publication also points to a shift in architectural thinking that is becoming increasingly urgent. Future design practices

must be able to respond to human difference and dignity while engaging with the environmental consequences of how we build, maintain, adapt, and transform our surroundings. They must be informed by research and education, but also strengthened through collaboration among institutions, practitioners, communities, and decision-makers. In this sense, the publication does not present a single solution. Rather, it helps frame the questions, foster the alliances, and advance the shared understanding needed to move the conversation forward.

The volume grows out of the ongoing collaboration between New York Institute of Technology's School of Architecture and Design and the Consulate General of Denmark in New York, developed through our joint participation in the 10th United Nations Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sci-



From left to right: Architect Daniel Baumann- Henning Larsen, Dean Maria Perbellini- School of Architecture and Design at New York Institute of Technology, Consul General, Ambassador Helle Meinertz – Consulate General of Denmark in New York, Professor Marcella Des Signore- School of Architecture and Design at New York Institute of Technology

ence, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in spring 2025. This context reflects the value of exchange across countries, institutions, and disciplines at a time when the transformation of our built environment demands shared knowledge, collective engagement, and coordinated action.

I am grateful to New York Institute of Technology's School of Architecture and Design, and to all contributors, for their commitment to this exchange. I hope this publication will serve as an invitation to continue the work toward healthier, more just, and more sustainable cities and environments.

Introduction

Maria R. Perbellini, AAIA, OAI

Dean, School of Architecture and Design at New York Institute of Technology

Envisioning Future HealthScapes is the result of an ongoing exploration of the relationships between design, health, ecology, technology, and social equity. This publication emerges from The Future of Cities symposium series and represents the latest chapter in a five-year collaboration between the New York Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Design and the Consulate General of Denmark in New York. Over the years, this partnership has created a valuable platform for interdisciplinary exchange, bringing together academic research, professional practice, public institutions, and international perspectives to address some of the most urgent challenges facing our cities and communities.

We are deeply grateful for the longstanding partnership with the Consulate General of Denmark in New York, whose collaboration has been instrumental in fostering dialogue on sustainability, innovation, design, and the future of the built

environment. Through this shared commitment, our institutions have cultivated opportunities for meaningful exchange across disciplines, sectors, and cultures, advancing conversations on environmental stewardship, social well-being, urban resilience, and the role of design in shaping a more sustainable future.

The ideas collected in this volume were developed in conjunction with the United Nations Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum 2025). The Forum provided a unique opportunity to examine how scientific research, technological innovation, and collaborative action can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Within this international context, the concept of Future HealthScapes emerged as a framework for rethinking methodologies of design practice toward regenerative environments that support the health of people, communities, ecosystems, and the planet.

The contributions gathered here investigate the interconnected challenges that define our contemporary condition: climate change, environmental degradation, health inequities, social inclusion, accessibility, biodiversity loss, and the need for more sustainable and resilient urban systems. They explore how architecture, urban design, planning, and emerging technologies can move beyond conventional approaches to embrace holistic, multidisciplinary, and regenerative strategies. Collectively, these essays, research projects, and case studies advocate for new forms of collaboration that integrate academic inquiry, professional expertise, public policy, and community engagement.

A recurring theme throughout this publication is the recognition that health extends far beyond the absence of illness. Health is understood as a dynamic condition shaped by social, environmental, cultural, and spatial factors. The built environment plays a critical role in influencing physical, mental, and ecological well-being, requiring designers and decision-makers to adopt approaches that acknowledge the profound interdependence between human systems and natural systems. From neurodiversity and inclusive design to circular material practices,

ecological stewardship, and regenerative urbanism, the work presented here proposes innovative pathways toward more equitable and sustainable futures.

This publication also reflects the collective efforts of the faculty, staff, students, researchers, and collaborators of the New York Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Design. Their dedication, creativity, and commitment to advancing knowledge through research, teaching, and practice have made this work possible. Through their contributions, they demonstrate the essential role that design education can play in shaping future generations of leaders capable of addressing complex global challenges.

As we confront an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world, *Envisioning Future HealthScapes* invites us to reconsider the ways we design, build, and inhabit our environments. It encourages us to imagine new models of cooperation, new methodologies of practice, and new visions of health that are regenerative, inclusive, and resilient. Ultimately, this volume is both a reflection on current challenges and a call to action - one that seeks to inspire transformative approaches toward healthier futures for all.



From left to right: Joerg Leheste, Professor and Director of the Center for Health Policy Research, Biomedical Sciences, COM at New York Institute of Technology, Consul General, Ambassador Helle Meinertz – Consulate General of Denmark in New York, Dean Maria Perbellini- School of Architecture and Design at New York Institute of Technology, Architect Daniel Baumann- Henning Larsen, Maiken Tandgaard Derno- Former Vice Consul, Cultural Attaché Head of Culture & Public Diplomacy



Overall view of the conference room from the 2025 STI Forum event on May 6 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York