

Session description

F **Arctic Cities and Design**

Satu Miettinen, University of Lapland and Päivi Tahkokallio, Tahkokallio Design+ Ltd.

More than half of the globe's population lives in cities, and today every other resident of the Arctic also lives in an urban area. The total of 2 million people living in Arctic cities is a small number compared to the globe's mega cities, where populations may exceed 10 million. While some challenges facing the cities in the Arctic are similar to those faced by cities globally, many of the challenges to be addressed are different and specific to the Arctic.

The session Arctic Cities and Design will discuss quality of life in Arctic urban environments, exploring them through design thinking and design methods. The session will present research work and benchmark good practice relating to how Arctic design can enable, create and support quality of life in the region's urban areas. The session invites research and best-practice case studies on co-design processes involving users and inhabitants in development processes that have a noticeable impact in generating wellbeing. These processes can include design of services, products or strategies. In addition, the session will discuss the concept of Arctic design in the context of Arctic cities.

Arctic design emerges from understanding the environment and living conditions in the Arctic. It takes into account human adaptation to conditions in the region. Arctic design responds to the needs of extreme and marginal contexts, for example, by providing solutions for service co-production in sparsely populated areas. These solutions can be scalable to and applicable in other contexts.

Lying at the core of Arctic design are respect for natural conditions and resources and respect for indigenous knowledge, rich co-operation, international networks and strategic, multi-disciplinary research. The co-chairs of this session encourage an active and participatory approach on the part of those contributing proposals as well as other participants.

Miettinen, S. (2012). Service design, radical innovations and arctic wellbeing. In Arctic Design - Opening the Discussion. Tahkokallio, P. Ed. University of Lapland. Publications of the Faculty of Art and Design of the University of Lapland Series C. Overviews and Discussion 38. Rovaniemi.

Miettinen, Satu & Tahkokallio, Päivi. (2014). Arktisesta muotoilusta kansainvälinen kilpailuetu. Muotoiluajattelu. Edit. Satu Miettinen. Teknologiateollisuus ry. Pages 164-169.