

## **Foreword**

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## Foreword

It is my great pleasure to preface these proceedings of the 12th European Academy of Design conference, hosted by the Faculty of Architecture at Sapienza University over three days of a very warm April in 2017. The location could not have been more suitable: the largest and oldest University in Europe with a strong reputation for high-level academic endeavour, on the edge of one of the most beautiful public parks in central Rome.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the joint Chairs of the conference, Professor Lorenzo Imbesi and Associate Professor Loredana Di Lucchio, who were ably supported by Conference Manager Angela Giambattista and Communication and Media Manager Viktor Malakuczi, and a whole team of dedicated student helpers too numerous to mention by name. Despite its complexity, the conference ran smoothly, and all concerned seemed to enjoy the experience.

Design for Next was one of the busiest EAD conferences to date, with 550 delegates attending over the three days. In total, 379 full papers were presented across nine parallel tracks, along with 22 poster presentations, and 8 workshop events. The six keynote speakers gave thought-provoking and inspirational presentations, and set the tone for in-depth academic debate centred on the forwardthinking topics forming the thematic strands of the conference.

The results of the event are collected here to form a lasting record of an amazing conference. The range of topics covered and the variety of issues debated is a wonder to behold. I hope they prove of interest and value to everyone.