

The 18th International Research Conference of Faculty of Architecture Research Unit (FARU 2025) Event Report

The 18th International Research Conference of Faculty of Architecture Research Unit (FARU2025) was successfully held on 9th and 10th December 2025 at the University of Moratuwa. The conference which was originally scheduled on 5th and 6th December 2025 had to be re-scheduled due to the unfortunate national disaster that affected the whole country.

The conference theme was “Beyond Boundaries: Co-Creating Inclusive & Resilient Spaces” that emphasizes the importance of breaking down barriers and working together to create spaces that are welcoming to everyone and can withstand challenges in order to promote collaboration, diversity, and adaptability to build stronger, more equitable communities.

The conference received 113 papers, which is a substantial level of improvement in terms of the number of papers received for FARU annual conference. After review process and screening, 79 papers including 7 foreign papers had been accepted and presented. The conference had several key sessions as presented below.

The **Conference Inauguration** was commenced at 4.30 pm on 9th December with the National Anthem followed by the lighting of traditional oil lamp by the chief guest, invitees, and faculty staff members. A minute of silence was observed in remembrance of all those affected by the recent national disaster. The conference was officially commenced with a curtain riser. Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake, Conference Chair of FARU 2024 and Dean, Faculty of Architecture warmly welcomed the attendees. Then the conference theme address was delivered by Prof. Menaha Thayaparan, Conference Co-chair and Director, FARU. Then Prof.D.P.Chandrasekera, Deputy Vice Chancellor, delivered his Chief Guest address. The keynote was thereafter delivered by the keynote speaker, Professor Harhsa Munasinge from School of Architectural Studies, George Brown College, Toronto, Canada. Prof.Harsha was also the founding member of FARU annual conference which was initiated in 2007. The keynote address was on Research in Design: Reinterpreting the Design Studio Pedagogy. Then the theme for FARU2026 was unveiled by FARU2025 committee member Dr. Pournima Sridarran, and the theme for the next year will be **Resilient Intelligence: Adapting the Built Environment to a Changing World**. The inauguration was officially concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by FARU2025 committee member Plnr. Eshi Wijegunaratna.

The conference dinner which had been arranged for the day 1, at a restaurant outside the university has been cancelled to scale down the conference, due to the country’s disaster situation. However, the delegates were given the opportunity for networking and collaboration soon after the inauguration session.

The technical sessions of the conference were held on the day 2 in 4 sets of parallel sessions.

The **First set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 8.30 am to 10.00 am on 10th December 2025.

- Session A1 - **Public Spatial Behaviour** (Chaired by Dr. Nadeeka Jayaweera) – 5 papers
- Session A2 - **Sustainable Tourism Development** (Chaired by Prof. Udayanagani Kulatunga) – 5 papers
- Session A3 - **Inclusive Spatial Design** (Chaired by Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama) – 5 papers
- Session A4 - **Sustainable Landscapes and Ecology** [Online] (Chaired by Dr. Mihiri Hirudini) – 5 papers

The **Second set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon on 10th December 2025.

- Session B1 - **Heritage and Culture** (Chaired by Prof. Narein Perera) – 6 papers
- Session B2 - **Construction and Property Management** (Prof.Thanuja Ramachandra) – 6 papers
- Session B3 - **Functional Aesthetic Spaces** (Chaired by Prof. Wasana de Silva) – 5 papers
- Session B4 - **Design for People** [Online] (Chaired by Dr.Kamal Wasala) – 5 papers

Conference Lunch was served for the cofnerence delegates at the TCB Building from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm

The **Third set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm on 10th December 2025.

- Session C1 - **Blue Green Infrastructure** (Chaired by Prof. Jagath Munasinghe) – 5 papers
- Session C2 - **Safety, Health and Wellbeing** (Chaired by Dr. Dumindu Soorige) – 5 papers
- Session C3 - **Urban Space Dynamics** (Chaired by Dr. Rizvi Noordeen) – 5 papers
- Session C3 - **Architecture, Technology and Practice** [Online] (Chaired by Dr. Sagara Jayasinghe) – 4 papers

The **Fourth set of Parallel Sessions** were held from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm on 10th December 2025.

- Session D1 - **Water and Coastal Environmental Management** (Chaired by Prof. Samitha Manawadu) – 5 papers
- Session D2 - **Sustainable Construction Materials** (Dr. Nandun Madushanka) – 5 papers
- Session D3 - **Ecological Coexistence** (Dr. Chathura de Silva) – 4 papers
- Session D4 - **Community Engagement and Behaviour** (Chaired by Dr. Priyanwada Singhapathirana) – 4 papers

The **Closing Ceremony** was finally held from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm, which was graced by the conference delegates who joined both physically and virtually. Initially the Rapporteurs' Report summarising the 2-day conference was presented by Dr. Suranga Jayasena. Then the Director, Postgraduate Studies Dr. Sachie Gunatilake presented the Postgraduate Research conducted at the Faculty of Architecture. The awarding ceremony was then held. From each technical session, one presenter was awarded with the Best presenter award. Additionally, the conference awarded one best paper award and two highly commendable paper awards. With the vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Menaha Thayaparan the 18th International Research Conference of FARU 2025 was officially concluded.

Both the conference inauguration and closing ceremony were compered by Ms. Chanthurangi De Silva.

On behalf of the FARU 2025 team, we wish to thank all the attendees of FARU2025 conference for witnessing the annual conference of the Faculty of Architecture Research Unit. We also would like to thank several individuals who have contributed in various ways to make this event a success. We wish to thank the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans of the Faculties, Librarian, Bursar, Heads of the Departments of Architecture Faculty, General President SLASS, Directors at the Faculty, Director Research, and Chair Research Week for gracing the inauguration of FARU2025 conference. Our sincere thanks to Prof. Harsha Munasinghe, the keynote speaker for accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address which provided great insightful thoughts about the Design in research. We would like to specially thank Dr. Rizvi, the Head of the Department of Town and Country Planning for offering the venue for us to conduct the 2nd day of the conference successfully. Our special thanks to the international scientific committee members of FARU who took their valuable time in reviewing the papers to ensure the quality of the publication. Thanks are due for all the session chairs and session coordinators who have immensely supported to the smooth running of the sessions in a timely manner. We thank all the authors and presenters who contributed to this conference both physically and virtually. Special thanks to Dr. Sumathri and Mr. Sathira Ravin for providing the artwork for the conference. We appreciate the generous support offered by the main sponsors of the FARU2025 conference who are the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa, Prof. Samitha Manawadu and his Project Consultancy Unit Team, Jayakody Cost Consultants (Pvt) Ltd, Prime Land Residencies, AKK Engineers (Pvt) Ltd, and Sripalie Contractors Pvt. Ltd. Many thanks to those who provided photography and videography. We are grateful for Ms. Chanthurangi De Silva for bringing so much life to this event. We also would like to thank Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake, Dean Faculty of Architecture and the Conference-Chair for her guidance and advice given to us whenever we needed. We are very much thankful to the FARU committee members representing each department, and conference organising committee members. Sincere thanks go to all the technical support received from the departments of Integrated Design, Town and Country Planning, Architecture and Building Economics, UG division, Project Consultancy Unit, the Dean's Office, PG office and FARU office. Special thanks to Mr. Ruwan Attanayake who ensured that all the tough logistics issues were taken care of.

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Photos of FARU2025 Annual Conference



Conference registration



Inauguration



Welcome Address by Conference Chair / Dean,
Faculty of Architecture, Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake



Theme Address by Conference Co-Chair /
Director-FARU Prof.Menaha Thayaparan



Address by Chief Guest, Deputy Vice Chancellor,
University of Moratuwa
Prof .D.P.Chandrasekera



Keynote Address by Prof. Harsha Munasinghe, School
of Architectural Studies, George Brown College,
Toronto, Canada



Unveiling the theme of FARU 2026 by FARU
Committee Member Dr.Pournima Shridarran



Vote of Thanks by FARU Committee Member
PInr. Eshi Wijegunaratna



Conference Inauguration



Conference Inauguration



Technical Sessions



Technical Sessions



Technical Sessions



Technical Sessions



Technical Sessions



The comperè of the inauguration and closing ceremony
Ms.Chanthurangi De silva



Rapporteurs' Report by FARU Committee Member Dr. Suranga Jayasena



Postgraduate Research at the Faculty of Architecture by Director, Postgraduate Studies Dr.Sachie Gunatilake



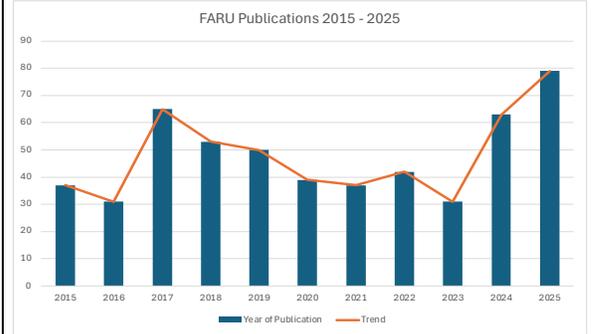
Awarding Ceremony



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Closing Ceremony



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Prepared by:
Prof. Menaha Thayaparan
December 2025