

POWERFUL XII : OPTIMISM AND RESILIENCE 2025 WORKSHOP SESSIONS



Each attendee may chose [2] two workshops to attend during the afternoon session:

01 RESILIENT FUTURES: Staying Relevant in an Age of Change

This panel explores how we stay relevant and innovative as rapid technological change reshapes our profession. Through candid conversation, our panelists of leaders, innovators, and change-makers will share personal and professional strategies for staying ahead of the curve while staying grounded in their values and craft. They will dive into questions of adaptability, emerging tools and methods, and having a thriving mindset within the context of Artificial Intelligence and future-focused thinking in practice and in leadership.

02 BRIDGING THE GAP: Integrating Cross-Disciplinary Knowledge to Design for Neurodiversity

This workshop connects the architecture community with essential knowledge from cross-disciplinary fields—including psychology, health studies, special education, and sociology—focusing on neurodiversity, with an emphasis on autism and ADHD. Rather than prescribing design solutions, it offers a vital foundation for understanding neurodiverse experiences. By engaging with diverse perspectives, attendees will gain meaningful insights to thoughtfully inform their own practice and create more inclusive, supportive environments.

03 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE: Women Shaping the Future of Practice

Join us for an inspiring conversation with female architects who turned vision into reality by launching their own design studios. This panel brings together founders at different stages of their entrepreneurship journey, offering an inside look at what it takes to build a practice from the ground up. Through personal stories, lessons learned, and hard-won wisdom, panelists will share how they found the courage to start, grew their teams, built meaningful client relationships, and created businesses that reflect their values. Whether you're imagining your own studio or already on the path, this conversation offers insight, motivation, and practical resources from those who have been there.

04 DESIGN YOUR NARRATIVE: Shaping Careers with Purpose

The workshop is a reflective and goal-oriented session designed to help participants reconnect with their personal and professional aspirations in architecture. The session invites attendees to pause, reflect, and articulate their unique journey, values, and ambitions through a series of structured prompts. Participants will explore where they currently stand in their careers and are encouraged to identify defining moments that have shaped their path, offering space to reflect on both successes and setbacks to help map their future.

05 RESILIENCE BY DESIGN: Support Others & Empower Yourself

Whether we're supporting clients, colleagues, family, friends or ourselves — resilience doesn't happen by accident. It's something we can intentionally design. In this workshop, we'll walk through the architecture of personal and relational resilience: building strong internal foundations, adaptive frameworks, and connected support networks. Perfect for anyone who wants to feel less alone — and help others do the same.

06 WILDFIRE REBUILD: Rising from the Ashes

When a wildfire reshapes a community, the path to recovery demands healing the residents and the environment. In this workshop, architects and community leaders who have dedicated themselves to the wildfire recovery process will share their firsthand experiences, hard-earned lessons, and visionary strategies. Through their stories, attendees will learn how design can address urgent needs while honoring community identity, strengthening resilience, and working in harmony within a fire-prone context. Together, we can explore how our contributions can support long-term recovery and build resilience in areas heavily affected by wildfires.