

sub:version vol. 3
foreseeing the past

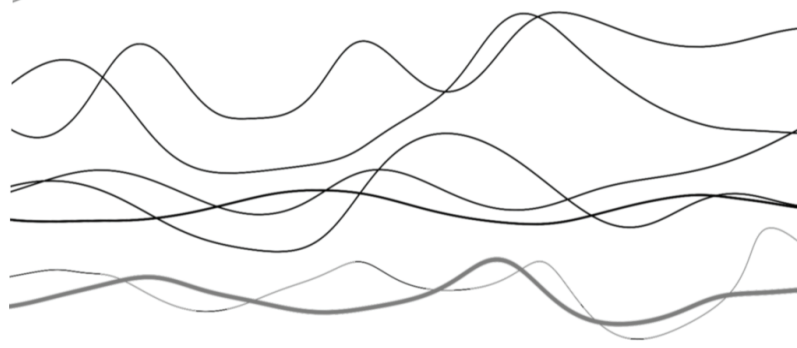


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Call for Proposals



theme.

There has rarely been a time in history when societies have not imagined themselves standing at the threshold of a new future.

At different moments, this future has arrived in different forms. It came as industrialization and the machine. It appeared as modernity and progress. It emerged through globalization, digitization, smart cities, artificial intelligence, and now increasingly, through sustainability, resilience, and adaptation.

Each era has announced its own inevitability. And with every such announcement has come a familiar assumption: that the future belongs to what is new. To move forward has often meant to move away. Away from inherited knowledge. Away from established ways of living. Away from traditions deemed too slow, too local, too ordinary to keep pace with the ambitions of the present. The future, in this imagination, has largely been a project of rupture.



For all our confidence in innovation, many of the crises that define our age seem curiously resistant to it. Ecological collapse, water scarcity, climate uncertainty, social fragmentation, loneliness, displacement, and the erosion of collective life persist despite unprecedented technological capability.

As solutions multiply, so too do the problems they seek to solve.

And when certainty begins to falter, do we find ourselves often looking backwards? Not out of nostalgia. Not out of sentiment.

Rather looking for a repository of values, processes, ways of understanding the world & ways of thinking that have been refined through generations of lived experience.

Ways of observing before intervening.

Ways of adapting rather than extracting.

Ways of sharing rather than accumulating.

Ways of belonging rather than merely occupying.

Embedded within traditional settlements, ecological practices, craft traditions, community institutions, and everyday rituals are forms of intelligence that evolved not through abstraction, but through continuous negotiation with people, place, climate, and circumstance.

inquiries.

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#Stewardship in an age of extraction

#Repair in an age of disposability

#Community in an age of isolation

#Restraint in an age of excess

#Care in an age increasingly defined by efficiency

These systems were not perfect to begin with. Nor were they universally equitable. Yet many were shaped by a recognition that human existence is inseparable from the larger social and ecological networks that sustain it. Increasingly, the values embedded within these systems seem less historical than urgent.

Today these ideas occupy the language of the future. Yet many emerged from practices refined over generations through observation, adaptation, reciprocity, and lived experience.

The water systems that sustained settlements for centuries

were technologies. The climatic intelligence embedded within vernacular architecture was innovation. The social institutions that governed common resources were sophisticated systems of collective management.

More importantly, they embodied particular ways of thinking about the relationship between people, resources, and responsibility.

The distinction between tradition and progress, so often presented as self-evident, begins to appear less convincing upon closer inspection. Perhaps the opposition itself is false. For the most enduring traditions were never static. They survived precisely because they adapted. They absorbed change without abandoning continuity. They evolved without severing themselves from accumulated knowledge.

What if foresight did not begin with prediction? What if it began with attention?

What if the past was not merely preserving inherited knowledge, but continually refining values and processes intended to sustain future generations?

These were not relics of another age. * They were expressions of a long-term way of thinking. * They were acts of foresight. Perhaps that is what Foreseeing the Past ultimately suggests. That some futures do not need to be invented from scratch. They need only to be recognized.

Waiting quietly beneath the surface of memory, experience, and collective wisdom, they remind us that the most radical visions of tomorrow may sometimes begin with a different understanding of yesterday.

For much of what we now describe as innovation once existed as ordinary knowledge.

**#Climate-responsive
architecture**

#Circular economies

#Localized resource systems

#Walkable settlements

#Community stewardship

#Regenerative landscapes

#Shared infrastructures

inquiries.

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- *Memory, place, and cultural identity*
- *Mapping, storytelling, and spatial narratives*
- *Heritage as a living and evolving process*
- *History, archives, and oral traditions*
- *Nature in cities and ecological approaches to urban development*
- *Landscapes, biodiversity, and environmental conservation*
- *Relationships between tradition and technology*
- *Technology, digital futures, and artificial intelligence*
- *Design for resilience and adaptation*
- *Architecture, landscape, and planning*
- *Education and pedagogy*
- *Community engagement, activism, and advocacy*
- *Art, photography, and visual narratives*
- *Literature, essays, and creative writing*
- *Journalism and critical documentation*
- *Speculative futures inspired by past knowledge and practices*

areas of inquiries.

We welcome contributions from researchers, practitioners, students, and interdisciplinary thinkers including (but not limited to) architecture, urban design, planning, landscape, anthropology, geography, and the arts.

Submissions may include:

- Critical essays
- Opinion pieces
- Reflective essays
- Personal narratives with broader societal relevance
- Theoretical explorations
- Historical reinterpretations
- Photographic essays
- Illustrated narratives
- Archival research
- Mapping studies
- Oral histories

submission formats.

- Abstract: 300–500 words
- Author's full name, abstract title, 200 word author introduction and institutional affiliation should be included
- Full paper: 3000–5000 words
- Images/drawings: High resolution with captions. All tables/images/graphs/figures should be numbered, have a title and have sources mentioned below them. Images used from an online source need to be open source/CC licensed with proper attributions.
- Citation style: APA format

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submission guidelines.

Submissions from all disciplines are welcome

Nationality: No restriction

Language: English (Multiple language with english may be acceptable)

Previously published work to be mentioned as such, with relevant 'Right to Use/ No Objection/ Copyright certificates and permissions as applicable and upheld in a court of law (India)

Note: All submissions will be considered as private and confidential. All approvals are subject to internal criteria as determined by the editorial team.

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