

Global Dissonant Modernities

17/08 — 21/08

Designing the Future for 20th-Century Architectural Monuments and Sites

The 2026 dual event focuses on the conservation of 20th-century architectural heritage, an epoch marked by starkly uneven levels of institutional recognition and protection. While early modernism has been largely canonised within established Western heritage frameworks, this acceptance is not universal. In many global contexts, even early avant-garde legacies remain vulnerable, while post-war and ideological architectures continue to face contestation worldwide. We aim to address these disparities, exploring how heritage frameworks can better accommodate the complex, often dissonant layers of the recent past.

APPLY
HERE:



**ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL '26**



International Council on
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Deutsches Nationalkomitee e.V.



ICOMOS KAZAKHSTAN

FUNDED BY:



WEST-EASTERN ENCOUNTERS FOUNDATION



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CALL FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

The Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) of the German National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), in collaboration with ICOMOS Kazakhstan, is pleased to announce a dual event: a **conference**, *Global Dissonant Modernities: Designing the Future for 20th-Century Architectural Monuments and Sites*, and a **summer school**, to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, between **17 - 21 August 2026**.

The event is conceived as a platform for mutual exchange between theoretical and practice-based knowledge, bringing together colleagues from Kazakhstan and the international heritage community, while fostering dialogue between established professionals and emerging professionals. Through this exchange, the summer school and conference aim to create a space for shared learning, critical reflection, and the transfer of experience across geographical and generational contexts.

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Kazakhstan presents a particularly outstanding opportunity for this exchange. As a relatively young independent state, its legal and institutional frameworks for heritage protection have not yet fully integrated modern architecture. This has led to rapid and often contradictory urban transformations, sparking debate among professionals, policymakers, and the public alike. Rather than framing these conditions as a deficit, the conference and summer school approach them as an opportunity for dialogue, comparative learning, and the co-production of knowledge across local and international perspectives.



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The event is organised around a dual structure:

- a three-day international conference providing a theoretical and methodological foundation, and
- a five-day hands-on workshop, where participants apply insights to a concrete case study. The Academy of Arts in Almaty, a building with Constructivist roots and multiple layers of later transformation, will serve as the central case study.

The call is open to:

- Emerging Professionals (EPs) from the fields of architecture, art history, heritage, conservation, museology, and related disciplines.
- Students, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers.
- International participants, particularly from the post-Soviet Asian region, are encouraged to apply to establish a balanced representation and stimulate knowledge exchange.

Key information for applications:

- Submission Deadline: 13 March 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: 1 April 2026
- Apply via the Google Form link below. Please submit a motivation letter, a short bio, and an A3 poster, as described in the application link below.
- File format of A3 poster: .pdf
- Language: English
- Apply here: <https://forms.gle/9sfyh3GhmYrUQsMk8>



The Organising Team is committed to providing free participation in the summer school. While the cost of travel and stay in Almaty will not be covered, some funds have been reserved for exceptional applicants (max. 10 participants, EUR 200 per person).

The dual event is organised by ICOMOS Germany and Kazakhstan and their EPWG Teams, and supported by the West-Eastern Encounters Foundation, as well as by the ICOMOS EPWGs of Kazakhstan, Belgium, and Portugal.

We are looking forward to your submissions!