PLEA WORKSHOP 5

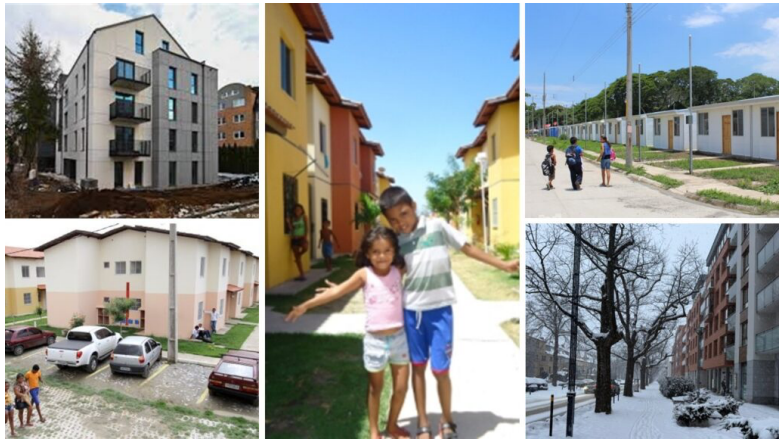
Social and Cultural Aspects of the Right to Daylight: Context Matters!

by Laboratory of Environmental Control and Energy Efficiency, University of Brasilia / Urban Transformations Lab, Faculty of Architecture, University of Gdansk / Faculty of Architecture, University of Costa Rica

Date: July 28, 2026
Location: School of Architecture, Universidad de Costa Rica
Language / Capacity: English / 30 participants

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Claudia Amorim, Natalia Sokol, María do Carmo, Andrea Sancho-Salas, and Helga von Breymann are architects, researchers, and educators affiliated with the Laboratory of Environmental Control and Energy Efficiency at the University of Brasília, the Urban Transformations Lab at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Gdańsk, and the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Costa Rica. Their work spans environmental design, urban sustainability, climate-responsive architecture, energy efficiency, urban transformation, and participatory approaches to the built environment. Through interdisciplinary research, teaching, and professional practice, they explore innovative strategies for creating resilient, inclusive, and environmentally responsible cities and buildings, contributing to international discussions on sustainability, urban development, and climate adaptation.



OVERVIEW

This workshop examines daylight as a social, cultural, and environmental right within the context of tropical social housing in Costa Rica. Combining expert talks, guided field visits, and collective observation exercises, participants will explore how urban density, shading, housing policies, construction practices, and cultural habits shape access to daylight and environmental comfort. Through discussions, sketches, photographs, and collaborative reflection, the workshop aims to foster new perspectives on daylight justice, equity, and quality of life in vulnerable urban communities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to critically examine daylight as a social, cultural, and environmental resource within the context of tropical housing and urban development; understand how urban form, housing policies, building practices, and cultural factors influence access to daylight and environmental comfort; develop observational and analytical skills for assessing daylight conditions in real-world settings; and explore concepts of daylight justice, equity, and wellbeing to inform more inclusive, climate-responsive, and socially sustainable approaches to housing and urban design.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday 7/28/26 Morning & Afternoon	**10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Participants will engage in a collective observation and reflection exercise focused on daylight access, spatial quality, urban density, shading conditions, environmental comfort and everyday living practices. The visit aims to encourage discussion on how climate, housing policies, social inequality, construction practices and cultural habits influence daylight availability and perceptions of adequate living conditions. Participants will document observations through notes, sketches and photographs, identifying opportunities and challenges related to daylight justice in tropical social housing contexts. **2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.** Group work and closing discussion: Towards a global concept of daylight rights. Participants will share their work on site, drawings, pictures, and appreciations Collaborative reflections, identification of key themes and future research directions. Participants and organizers will collectively reflect on the lessons learned during the workshop and discuss how different climatic, cultural and socio-economic realities shape understandings of the “Right to Daylight.”.

Workshop Details + Tutors

Social and Cultural Aspects of the Right to Day | PLEA Costa Rica 2026

WS5

PARTICIPANTS

This workshop is intended for undergraduate and graduate students, architects, urban planners, landscape architects, housing professionals, researchers, policymakers, community practitioners, and professionals interested in environmental design, social housing, urban sustainability, daylighting, and climate-responsive architecture. It is particularly relevant for those seeking to better understand how access to daylight influences health, wellbeing, environmental comfort, and social equity, and how these considerations can inform more inclusive and resilient housing and urban development strategies.

RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Participants should have an interest in architecture, urban studies, housing, sustainability, environmental design, social sciences, public policy, or related fields. No specialized technical knowledge is required. Familiarity with concepts related to housing, urban environments, or environmental comfort may be beneficial, but the workshop is designed to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and welcomes participants from diverse academic, professional, and community backgrounds.

MATERIALS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Laptop
- Sketching materials

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Date: July 28
Location: School of Architecture, Universidad de Costa Rica
Capacity: 30 participants
Language: English
Registration: https://www.tiquetebox.app/e/workshop_5
Plea email: pleacr2026@gmail.com

ABOUT THE TUTORS

Clauda Amorim

Claudia Amorim is an architect, researcher, and professor at the Laboratory of Environmental Control and Energy Efficiency, University of Brasília (UnB), Brazil.
Her work focuses on environmental design, daylighting, energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and sustainable architecture, with a particular interest in improving environmental quality in buildings and urban environments.

Natalia Sokol

Natalia Sokol is an architect, urban researcher, and member of the Urban Transformations Lab, Faculty of Architecture, University of Gdańsk, Poland.
Her research explores urban transformation, social and environmental justice, participatory planning, and the relationships between urban form, wellbeing, and sustainability in rapidly changing cities.

Maria do Carmo

María do Carmo is a researcher affiliated with the Laboratory of Environmental Control and Energy Efficiency, University of Brasília (UnB), Brazil.
Her work focuses on environmental performance, energy efficiency, and the role of environmental quality in promoting healthier and more sustainable built environments.

Andrea Sancho-Salas

Andrea Sancho-Salas is an architect, researcher, and professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Costa Rica (UCR). Her work addresses sustainable design, daylighting studies and participatory approaches to the built environment, with a particular interest in environmental and comfort quality.

Helga von Breymann

Helga von Breymann is an architect, educator, and researcher at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Costa Rica (UCR). Her work focuses on urban studies, post occupation studies, and architectural education, promoting interdisciplinary approaches to resilience, wellbeing, and sustainability in the built environment.