

Housing@RMIT Network

Quarterly Newsletter Sep 2026



Who are we?

Housing@RMIT is an interdisciplinary network of 250+ researchers across 13 disciplines and 18 schools, working to address Australia’s housing challenges. We focus on housing supply, sustainability, affordability, and equity—collaborating with government, industry, and communities to create real-world impact. Check our [LinkedIn](#) & [website](#) for more details.

To become a member, reach out to **Karien Dekker** (karien.dekker@rmit.edu.au)

Network Update

Konstantina Vasilakopoulou has taken new role of **Academic editor of PLOS Climate** (June 2026) and **Academic editor of International Journal of Sustainable Energy** (Taylor & Francis) (April 2026)

Tasma Eddy won the AHURI top up scholarship for her PhD research. She will investigate how Australian policy shapes experiences of secure, **suitable and affordable housing for people with disability**. Despite policy commitments to housing inclusion and. accessibility, people with disability continue to experience disproportionate housing insecurity and barriers to accessing suitable, affordable housing. Through policy analysis and participatory research methods, her PhD will examine the relationship between policy intent and housing experiences of people with disability in Australia. See more details [here](#)

Muzna Anam passed 2MR and her research explores business model innovation for incorporating circularity with Nature-based Solutions in Australian Infrastructures. She is developing the framework for contractor organisations to embedd this incorporated approach in their business. This is qualitative research for which Muzna has conducted 39 interview across six stakeholder holder groups across Australia. See details [here](#)

Upcoming Event

Join us on Tue, 15 Sep at RMIT University, Building 16, Level 7, Room 7 (The Green Brain)

• Sustainable Housing Futures (2pm - 3pm)

Panel discussion that is going to explore most pressing issues: how we can create better housing for everyone? Register from [here](#)

Panel Chair: Anna Cumming – Managing Editor of Sanctuary Magazine

Panel Members:

- Dr Maud Cassaignau – Senior Lecturer, Landscape Architecture
- Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou – Vice Chancellor’s Research Fellow, School of PCPM
- Lauren Garner – Lecturer, Architecture & Urban Design
- Dr Louise Dorignon – Senior Research Fellow, School of PCPM
- Claire Scorpo – Lecturer, Architecture & Urban Design

• Rebuilding Cities After Disasters and Conflicts (3:30pm - 5:30pm)

Panel discussion will draw on lessons from diverse international contexts to examine challenges, opportunities, and pathways for housing recovery. Register from [here](#)

Moderator: Professor Matt Duckham - RMIT

Panel Members:

- Professor Julie Lawson - RMIT
- Julianne Tice - Climate Change Policy Advisor at Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS).
- Dr Mittul Vahanvati - Senior Lecturer in RMIT’s Sustainability and Urban Planning
- Saman Homaeifar - Lead Design Integrator, Aurecon

Member Spotlight!

Sadaf Dalirazar is a third-year PhD candidate at the School of Property, Construction and Project Management. She has a background in civil engineering and construction management. Her research focuses on the **role of demonstration and best-practice projects** in facilitating knowledge transfer and the scaling of sustainability initiatives within the housing sector.

Sadaf has also contributed to international research and industry projects, including the Build Digital project in Ireland, where she worked as an innovator exploring the synergies between digitalisation and the circular economy in the built environment.

During her PhD candidature, she has received the AHURI Top-Up Scholarship, the Best CIB Doctoral School Presentation Award at AUBEA 2024, and the Best HDR Poster Presentation Award at the PCPM Industry Night 2025.



Profile: [Google Scholar](#), [Linkedin](#)

Opportunities for HDRs

PCPM End-of-Year Colloquium

The PCPM End-of-Year Colloquium will be held on **2 December 2026, from 10:00am to 3:00pm**. The event aims to bring together our HDR candidates, academic staff, and industry guests to showcase current research, foster connections, and encourage discussions around career development pathways and opportunities.

Featuring guest speakers:

- Professor Ron Wakefield
- Professor Sujeeva Setunge
- Dr Yazid Ninsalam
- Professor Karien Dekker

Further details about the program will be announced soon.

Network publications

Konstantina Vasilakopoulou published her research. Check out the intresting full read below:

- **Vasilakopoulou, K.**, Khan, A., Rajagopalan, P., Wijewardane, S. and Santamouris, M., 2026. Urban thermal inequity: Advancing thermal justice transitions for vulnerable low-income populations. PLOS Climate, 5(6), p.e0000968. Full paper: <https://journals.plos.org/climate/>
- Santamouris, M. and **Vasilakopoulou, K.**, 2026. Passive cooling for the built environment. Nature Reviews Clean Technology, pp.1-17. Full paper: <https://www.nature.com/articles/>
- **Muzna Anam did her first journal (Q1) publication from PhD work. Give a full read [here](#)**
Anam, M., Shooshtarian, S., Udawatta, N., Maqsood, T. and Schandl, H., 2026. Review of Factors Affecting the Incorporation of Nature-Based Solutions in Circular Construction. Circular Economy and Sustainability, 6(4), p.317.

Designed and Co-edited by Muzna Anam

