

Human Ethics Committee information

If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research, you may contact the Victoria University of Wellington HEC Convenor: Associate Professor Judith Loveridge. Email hec@vuw.ac.nz or telephone +64-4-463 6028.

Some keywords with their definitions:

1) Regenerative built environment: In a regenerative built environment, buildings are considered to be part of ecosystems with a focus on both human and ecological well-being. Regenerative buildings/developments contribute to ecological health rather than just reduce negative impacts on the surrounding ecosystem.

2) Ecosystem services: These are the benefits that people derive from nature, such as climate regulation, air purification, habitat provisioning etc.

3) Ecosystem functions: Ecosystem functions are the habitat, biological or system properties, or processes of ecosystems.

4) Habitat provisioning: Biological ecosystems provide living space for (and are made up of) plant and animal species. This is known as habitat. It is essential to maintain suitable habitats to ensure the continuation of biodiversity and the provisioning of ecosystem services. This research focuses on how building design can facilitate habitat provisioning and address, in part, the global issue of biodiversity loss.

5) Carbon sequestration: This is the process of actively removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, often but not exclusively through the growth of vegetation. This research focuses on how building design can facilitate the natural process of carbon sequestration through integrating vegetation into architecture.

6) Keystone species: Species that have a large effect on aspects of ecosystem functioning.

7) Microtopography: Patterns of elevation over small spatial scales formed by hydrologic and/or physical environments that can support biological processes and alter microclimate/local climate.

8) Habitat fragmentation: When a large expanse of habitat is transformed into a number of smaller patches that are isolated from each other.

9) Stepping stones: Habitat patches in a landscape that provide species with refuge as they travel through or across on their way to other larger patches of habitat. In this research context, building-integrated vegetation is considered as providing potential stepping stones that can connect habitat patches (reduce fragmentation).

REGENERATIVE ARCHITECTURE: CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND HABITAT PROVISIONING THROUGH BUILDING DESIGN

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS FOR THE SURVEY

You are invited to take part in this research. Please read all the information before deciding whether or not to take part. If you decide to participate, thank you. If you decide not to participate, thank you for considering this request.

Who am I?

My name is Kamiya Varshney, and I am a doctoral student at the Wellington School of Architecture at Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa, New Zealand. This research project is work towards my dissertation on 'Regenerative architecture: carbon sequestration and habitat provisioning through building design'.

What is the aim of the project?

Urban biodiversity is typically not considered in many urban built environments. Where it is considered, it is often through the design of urban green space. My research investigates how architecture itself can contribute to increasing biodiversity while concurrently providing carbon sequestration.

This research aims to explore the relationship between carbon sequestration and habitat provisioning; and prepare a methodological framework for building professionals to think about the synergistic co-benefits of biodiversity and carbon sequestration through architecture.

Your participation will support this research by bridging the gap between the theory and practice of regenerative strategies for habitat provisioning and sequestering carbon.

This research has been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee (application reference number: 0000029804).

How can you help?

You have been invited to participate because of your knowledge/expertise in the field of sustainable or regenerative architecture. If you agree to take part, you will complete a survey. The survey will ask you about your understanding of carbon sequestration and habitat provisioning strategies. The survey will take you approximately 20-25 minutes to complete.

What will happen to the information you give?

This research is anonymous. This means that nobody, including the researchers, will be aware of your identity. By answering it, you are giving consent for us to use your responses in this research. Your answers will remain completely anonymous and unidentifiable. Once you submit the survey, it will be impossible to retract your answer.

However, personal details will be collected only for those who wish to participate in the semi-structured interview. All personal details will be received separately from the survey data and will be held in confidence. This ensures that your answers to the survey questions will not be linked to your identity. The survey responses will be kept securely and destroyed on 30-08-2026.

What will the project produce?

The information from my research will be used in my PhD dissertation and/or academic journal publication and conferences.

If you have any questions or problems, who can you contact?

If you have any questions, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact either:

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