

# Call for contributions Retirement – The Backdrop

RETHINKING / Academy  
RETIREMENT / of Life

**BIO 26** | 26th Biennial of Design  
Ljubljana, Slovenia  
14. 11. 2019–9. 2. 2020

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## The deadline for submissions is midnight CET, the 25th of October

Please send them to [fuzinebio26@gmail.com](mailto:fuzinebio26@gmail.com)

If any doubts arise, do not hesitate to contact us  
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## Key dates:

Deadline for submission: 25th of October  
Notification of accepted contributions: 1st of November  
Issue of "fuZine" no. 1: 14th of November

## Editorial team:

Rebecca Carrai, Natalia Skoczylas

## Retirement Home team:

Guendalina Ballerini, Rebecca Carrai  
Yelizaveta Strakhova, Natalia Skoczylas

## More info:

<https://bio.si/en/>

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This year, the 26th Biennale of Design of Ljubljana, under the motto 'Common Knowledge', is addressing a largely debated topic: the information crisis. The notion of "common knowledge" refers to what people know; more broadly, it refers to what people think and how they structure their ideas, feelings, and beliefs. Furthermore, the term carries a sense of communal or shared knowledge. In the context of BIO 26, the pressing issues of our society's primary institutions of knowledge production and transmission have been addressed through an experimental Designathon process.

Selected institutions - a library, a museum, a university, a news media organization, and a retirement home - require fresh perspectives on the roles they can play in changing societies. Academy of Life / Rethinking Retirement is one of the six winning projects selected through the Designathon proposed by the BIO 26 curators Thomas Geisler and Aline Lara Rendeze.

Our interdisciplinary team has decided to look at the retirement home as a space of wisdom, experience and knowledge, and an entry point to a wider debate about the phenomena of ageing populations and retirement. Two architects, a spatial practitioner and a political scientist, engaged in a discourse with a local retirement home in Fuzine, out of which the vision of an 'Academy of Life' emerged. Through interviews and numerous site visits, the team tried to touch upon the questions of wisdom, ability, architectural solutions, social attitudes, political mechanisms and economics, but also alternative scenarios for aging populations.

While the set-up of the exhibition, displayed during BIO26, may only scratch the surface of this global phenomenon, in order to go a little further, a monthly edition of a special zine will be proposed. This will be available both in printed version to the Biennale visitors and to the wider public, digitally. Four editions of "FuZine" will be issued, respectively in November, December, January and February, with four different focal topics. Each of them will be structured around a call for submission which is open to whoever would like to share his opinion on any of these focuses.

## "The Backdrop from an inside-out perspective"

The first edition of "FuZine" aims to investigate what is re-tirement. It will contain various takes on how retirement, or lack thereof, have evolved in different societies and how changes in social demographics have impacted design of retirement. It will also offer an overview of the phenomenon by presenting evidence and scripts from the research undertaken by our team during the past months. For instance, the feedback from the interviews that created the backdrop to our creative process, and outputs from ethnographic research, which functions as a global conversation in which participants imagine how they would like to spend their later years of life.

Especially, the magazine seeks for people's takes on questions such as: How much do we think about our own retirement? What do we think about? And what do we avoid thinking about? How shall we plan retirement for our future? What can we learn from other cultures, and their attitudes towards aging and the elderly? What are the main political concepts? What are the economies behind these ideas? What is the role of the changing demographics, but also ability, longevity, health, inequalities, access to resources and health care? Are there some scenarios and experiments that need to be heard about?

The answers to such questions can be originated either from real-life experiences and from external references to a broader discourse, including both the Western conception of ageing and retirement, as well as perhaps neglected practices and beliefs, from non-Western or primitive societies.

We are eager to receive your (scientific) articles, pamphlets, opinions, poems, interviews, comics, drawings, and whatever other forms of expression you prefer, with response to this call. Maybe there's something else you wish this magazine would talk about? Feel free to suggest and add some of your ideas as well. The minimum contribution would be 1 page, in English language.