

# Interspecies Design in the Age of Climate Change

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## ABSTRACT

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report noted with high confidence that “human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, beyond natural climate variability.” The report stated that one of the most critical concerns, which was presented with high confidence, is that species and ecosystems are increasingly at-risk due to climate change impacts including “more species [which] will be exposed to potentially dangerous climate conditions and more biodiversity [that] will be lost.” What is interspecies design and what can we do at various design scales to help species adapt to the negative effects of climate change? How have designers approached design for animals in the past? How can we change our design process to a more ecocentric approach that considers the impact of architecture on other species? How can this approach improve the health and wellness of humans and non-human species alike in the built environment? Are there models, case studies, rating systems, etc. available that can help guide us towards a more holistic approach? Knowing the scientific facts behind the IPCC report and beginning to understand how species might experience the world differently than we do, we can begin to shift our mindset as we approach design. Being familiar with the history of human-centric design for animals and how collaborative architectural design choices can positively impact both animals and people can help us design more mindfully and more in tune with nature to begin to make changes towards an architecture that better serves all species.

## BIOGRAPHY

**Nicolette** is the Founding Architect and Interior Designer at Nourish Architecture, DPC. Through her work she is interested in creating healthy buildings for people, pets, and the planet. She has been deeply passionate about sustainability throughout the course of her 15-year career and is interested in the intersection of human-centered sustainability and interspecies design in architecture. Nicolette has experience in a broad array of architectural typologies from Education (K-12 and Higher Ed), Military, NYS Parks, Commercial, Veterinary, and Residential design. She is a NYS Licensed Architect, NCIDQ Interior Designer, LEED AP BD+C, NCARB Certified, and a CalOES Certified Safety Assessment Program Evaluator for post-disaster assistance. Nicolette is also currently pursuing her WELL AP and Fear Free Design Certifications.