

CRIPPING THE CITY

Rethinking Norms in Space and Practice

Cities are shaped by power. They reflect political priorities and entrenched norms about whose bodies matter, whose movements are anticipated and whose participation is enabled. Urban space is therefore never fixed; it is continuously negotiated, adapted and contested by people whose experiences differ from these defaults.

This residency invites proposals that critically engage with **the relationship between bodies and the built environment**, exploring what it means to crip* space: to reveal hidden barriers, and imagine new ways of navigating the city.

We are interested in research that moves beyond compliance and accessibility checklists to examine access as an ongoing spatial, social, and political practice. We especially welcome perspectives that center disabled, neurodivergent, chronically ill, and elderly people, as well as people with temporary impairments and whose bodies, minds, and ways of being are often overlooked in urban design.

**Crip is a term reclaimed from the word “cripple” within disability justice movements. As a verb, to crip means to challenge ableist norms, question taken-for-granted assumptions about bodies and environments, and reimagine systems, spaces and practices from the standpoint of disability and difference.*

Application deadline: 23 June, 2026

OPEN CALL

Research Residency

+ A public presentation within the framework of **STADPLURAAL**

We are launching an open call for a research residency followed by a public presentation (sortie de résidence) to take place in September/beginning of October within our STADPLURAAL format. Exact dates for the research phase and public presentation will be decided together; our public presentation moments are on Wednesdays.

About **STADPLURAAL** + Accessibility within Recyclart

STADPLURAAL is Recyclart's format for multidisciplinary exchanges on the right to the city and collective practices in urbanism, architecture, and spatial design. The 2026 season examines Barriers and Norms, exploring how to crip the city and imagine non-ableist urban spaces. The program supports artistic and research-based practices that question dominant norms and open more inclusive perspectives on urban space, architecture, and collective life. It emphasizes experimentation, collaboration, and sharing of knowledge with different publics. Accessibility is an active commitment for Recyclart. Recyclart is based in an old printing hangar, our premises are old-school, but many of our spaces are accessible. For more info on accessibility, please have a look on our website: Our team is attentive, responsive, and experienced in assisting people with different disabilities and access needs. Recyclart is a non-profit organization.

What we offer:

- A research residency within our premises for two up to four weeks; time period between beginning of September until mid of October (dates to be decided together)
- Time and space to develop a research question, experiment or inquiry
- Curatorial and organizational support during the residency period
- The common organization of a public presentation / sortie de résidence (talk, performance, workshop, screening, discussion, installation, etc.)
- €1000 research budget
- It is possible to request up to €500 extra to invite additional people (collaborators, contributors, participants, guest speakers, etc.) to take part in the public presentation (sortie de résidence)

What we do not offer:

- Accommodation and travel (therefore looking for local propositions!)

We are looking for:

Local artists, activists, architects, designers, urbanists, researchers, collectives and practitioners from any discipline who are interested in:

- Bodies and minds that do not conform to dominant norms
- Accessibility, inclusion and spatial justice
- Situated knowledge and lived experience
- Barriers within education, professional practice and institutions
- Alternative ways of perceiving, participating and being present
- Rethinking architectural and cultural practices through embodied perspectives

Proposals can be exploratory, critical, speculative, or practice based.

Application modalities, please submit:

- A short description of your project or research question with possible format for public presentation (max. 1 page)
- A brief biography of the individual or collective (max.1 page)
- Timing and specific access/spatial needs
- Your preferred period to use our spaces as a research residency (September, October). Please note that we are open during the day from Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm.
- Infrastructure and your specific access needs (PMR, quiet space, etc.)
- A short note on the potential use of the additional budget for invited contributors (who, what, when)

We particularly encourage applications from people whose perspectives and experiences are currently underrepresented in architecture, design, and cultural practice.

Language: English, French or Dutch

Application deadline: 23.06.2026

Send questions and applications to: shama@recyclart.be