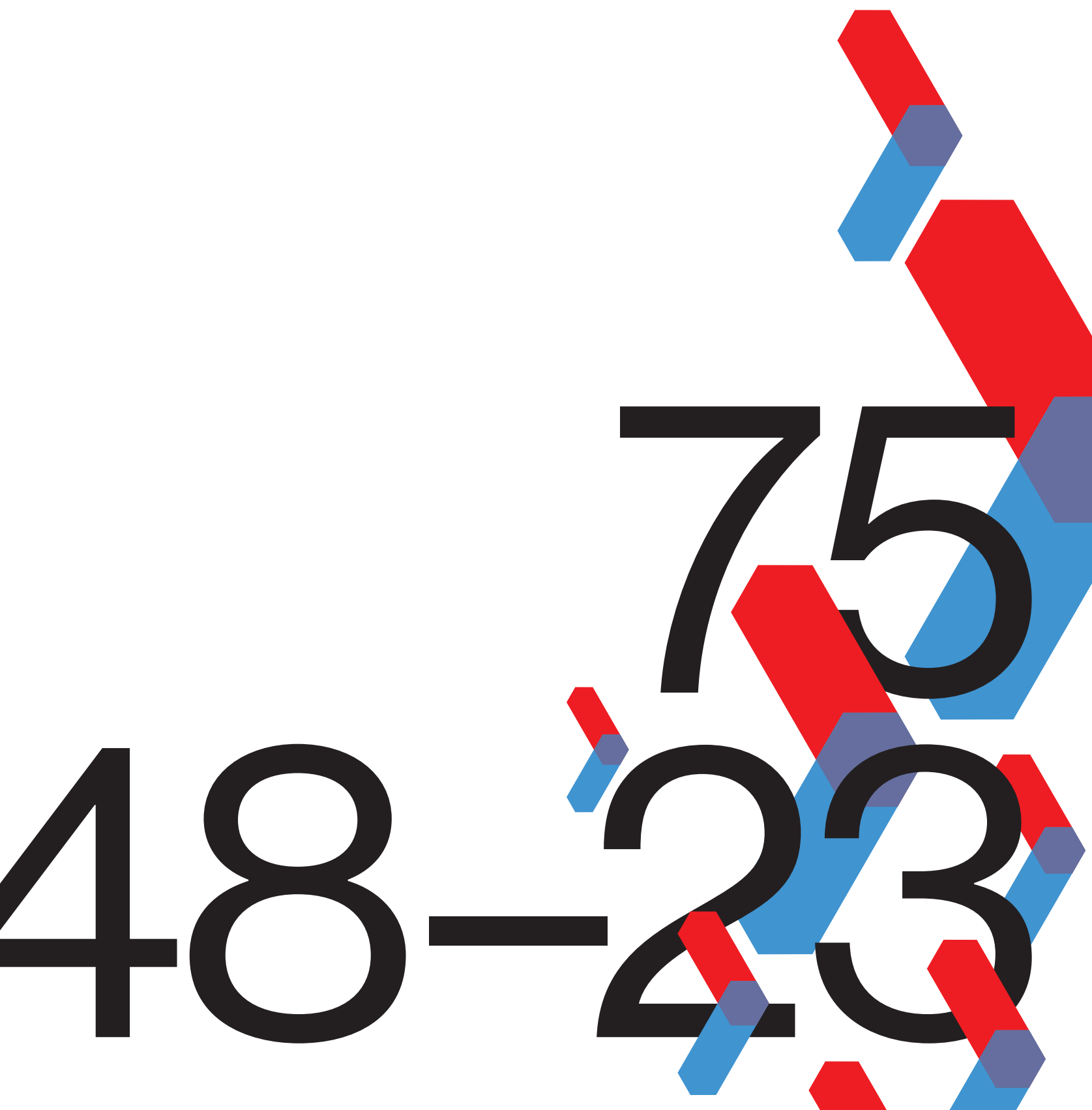


1948—2023 — Celebrating 75 years

International Union of Architects
Union Internationale des Architectes



Union Internationale des Architectes
International Union of Architects

1948—2023
— Celebrating
75 years

48—75
23

1948 – 2023
Celebrating 75 years
Union Internationale des Architectes
International Union of Architects

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1st Edition, 2023
Architecture, Design
ISBN 978-629-98334-0-6

Published by Memo Publishing Sdn Bhd
on behalf of the Union Internationale Des Architectes
– International Union of Architects (UIA)
19a, Jalan Kenari 4, Bandar Puchong Jaya,
47100 Puchong, Selangor

Printed by Percetakan Osacar Sdn Bhd (63461-W)

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Foreword

UIA President
José Luis Cortés, Mexico, 2021—2023



In 1948, the UIA was founded to assist architects in the crucial objective of reconstructing societies that had been ripped apart by successive international crises. Though 75 years have passed, we unfortunately still live in a world under great strain. Like 1948, we are faced with unprecedented economic uncertainty, but we are also facing a new and pressing international crisis: climate change.

Climate change presents a whole host of challenges, including the possibility that 216 million people in the developing world may converge on urban zones by 2050 because of the effects of global warming. The outlook is not optimistic. However, it is estimated that climate migration could be reduced by 80% if sufficient steps are taken to reduce carbon emissions.

The construction industry is a major source of these emissions and we as architects are thus uniquely placed to lead global sustainability efforts. The UIA provides a platform for the sharing of architectural innovation and consolidates the role of the architect in society. We should never underestimate its potential.

The core of this potential is tied to our Member Sections. As President, I have strived to reinforce the relations between Member Sections across all five of our Regions. The UIA needs to maintain its presence across the world in order to promote its local, as well as international, value. I have sought to engage with local architects and educate officials about the role that architecture can play in the optimisation of urban living conditions and the promotion of mental and physical well-being.

Even as we seek to tackle the critical challenges of our generation, the UIA must continuously build a programme of activities with a tight focus on architecture. It must promote the visibility of architects and their contribution to society. This could be achieved through offering more support to young architects via involvement in Commissions and Work Programmes, as well as via an increase in open competitions.

Let us be the link between housing, education and sustainability. The 2022 International Forum in Madrid reunited experts and highlighted access to affordable housing as a factor that can influence the trajectory of a whole generation. We want to encourage the participation of all architects so that, together, we can come up with visionary plans for the future of our planet.

We can all be proud to mark the 75th anniversary of the UIA, the only international organisation of architects. On this occasion of celebration, I want to extend my thanks to our national sections, international and regional partners for their support of our work and initiatives. I also wish to thank and congratulate all the architects around the world who have contributed to the success of our organisation, as well as the staff who have assisted us throughout the UIA's existence. Together, we can continue to drive for change in our profession and in our communities, building a brighter future for all.



The International Union of Architects (UIA) is a global organisation of national architectural associations, working to unify the profession across the world, influence public policies and advance architecture in service to the needs of society.

— The International Union of Architects (UIA) was founded in 1948, in Lausanne, Switzerland, following the merger of the Comité permanent international des Architectes and the Réunion International des Architectes.

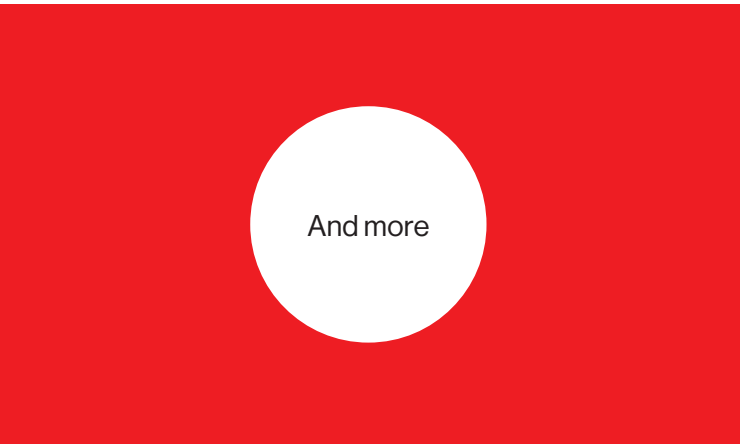
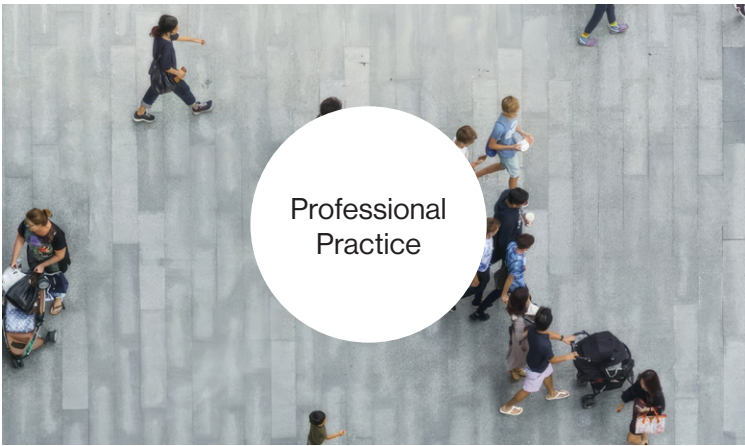
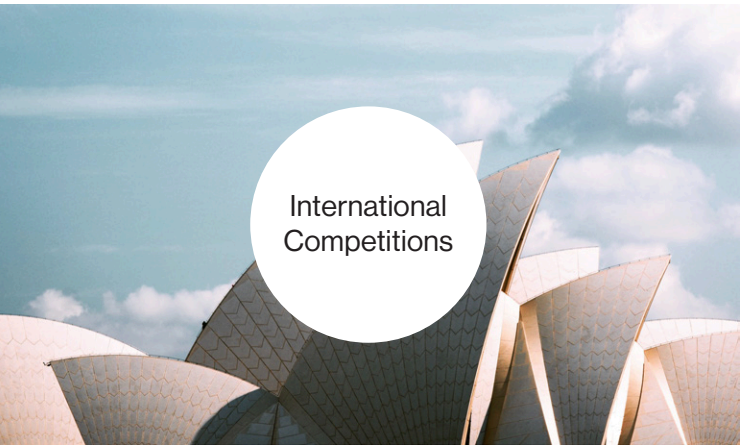


— Today, with the general secretariat located in Paris, France, the UIA is made up of over 130 architectural organisations, representing over 3 million architects worldwide.



— The breadth and scope of UIA’s activities have a global reach – and amongst the key activities are the triennial UIA World Congresses, World Architecture Day, World Capital of Architecture, and its various work programmes and commissions.

— Collectively, UIA’s activities play a crucial role in shaping the architecture profession globally, by promoting the importance of architecture and its impact on society, the environment and well-being, and advocating for the architectural profession and providing a platform for architects to connect, network, and share ideas and best practices.



About the UIA

Founding Countries of the UIA

- Argentina
- Australia
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Czechoslovakia
- Denmark
- Greece
- Egypt
- Finland
- France
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Lebanon
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Palestine
- Poland
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

Founding

The Second World War had left much of Europe, and indeed the world, in ruins. By 1948, there had been a clear paradigm shift in society and international relations, and architects recognised the necessity for a new, all-encompassing professional organisation that spanned the globe.

A founding committee, first in London and then in Paris, was invited to what would be the inaugural UIA Congress in Lausanne. As Switzerland had remained neutral during the conflict, it was the ideal place for architects from 27 different countries and territories to gather and collaborate on the reconstruction of bridges, homes and other infrastructure that had been ravaged by years of violence. The Congress, with the theme of 'Architecture faced with its New Tasks', provided a platform for participants to work together and discuss the challenges of rebuilding a shattered world. This event paved the way for the formation of the International Union of Architects, which took shape on the banks of Lake Geneva.

On June 28, 1948, a preliminary declaration was unanimously adopted and stated the desire of architects to unite across political, economic and aesthetic frontiers in a federation of their national organisations – The International Union Of Architects – by facilitating and furthering free contact between architects, irrespective of nationality, race, religion, professional training and architectural doctrines, has as its purpose and intent the creation among them of relations of friendship, understanding and mutual esteem, to enable them to compare their ideas and concepts, profit by their mutual experiences, broaden their knowledge and enrich each other through differences existing between them.



The first UIA congress in 1948, Lausanne



Jean Tschumi (top),
Patrick Abercrombie

They shall thereby be in a position to participate more effectively in the improvement of man's living conditions by the reconstruction of devastated cities and villages, the elimination of slums, the advancement of less developed regions, and the raising of housing standards by making their contribution to a better understanding between men and peoples by continually striving for the fulfilment of their aspirations for material and spiritual well-being; in collaboration with the other professional and cultural international organisations, they are resolved to contribute to the progress of human society and to the strengthening of peace. The Preamble can have meaning only in a world with peace among nations. The greatest obligation of governments in relation to humanity is the preservation of peace as the basis for realising the needs and ambitions of people throughout the world. Governments should stop production for war and use their resources for improvement of conditions for all humanity.

Within its responsibilities and scope of action, the UIA shall advocate for human dignity and the eradication of all forms of violence, discrimination, and inequity, and promote environmental and climate conditions that allow life in ecosystem balance and the well-being of humanity.



Jean Pierre Vouga, Ralph Walker

Present Day

Fast forward to 2023 and the UIA is celebrating its 75th anniversary as a major global force that stretches beyond the realm of architecture. It has grown from 23 participating countries to over 100 countries today, representing 1.5 million architects throughout the world, and is recognised by most UN agencies, including UNESCO. The UIA supports and sustains the work of each of its Member Sections at an international level and promotes the role of architecture in innovation and problem solving. It also works in close collaboration with regional organisations such as ACE, MASA, CIALP, UMAR, CAA, ARCASIA, AUA and FPA.

The UIA organises the World Congress of Architects every three years to reunite professionals from around the world and allow the exchange of ideas and solutions. These events welcome thousands of participants and notable speakers from all corners of the globe. In collaboration with UNESCO, the host city is named the UNESCO-UIA World Capital of Architecture for the duration of the year in which the Congress takes place. Since 2019, the UIA has organised an international forum approximately mid-way between these conferences with a focus on a specific problem for which architects can contribute solutions.

World Architecture Day was inaugurated by the UIA in 1985 and celebrated on the first Monday of October in parallel with UN World Habitat Day. A different theme is proposed each year to make architects and the wider public more aware of issues faced by cities and habitats.

On a more regular basis, the UIA created Commissions to address specific professional needs. These are composed of volunteer architects and are split into four themes: Architectural Education, International Competitions, Professional Practice and Sustainable Development. Whilst these Commissions are a permanent feature of UIA activity, the UIA General Assembly also establishes temporary Work Programmes which focus on current topics and are subject to review every three years. These Work Programmes collaborate closely with external partners such as UNESCO, the World Health Organization and UN Habitat to prepare charters, guidelines and events, as well as to support targeted action in their areas of expertise.

The UIA has proven time and again that it has the tools to contribute to the prosperity of the modern world. It has long been a proponent of sustainable and ethical development, evolving with the advancement of technology and architectural research, and we can be sure that it will continue to evolve and adapt to the changing tides of history.



The UIA's present
headquarters in
Paris, France

Key Milestones of the UIA

1948	1st UIA Congress, Lausanne	The Architect Faced With His New Tasks
1951	2nd UIA Congress, Rabat	How Does The Architect Perform His New Tasks?
1953	3rd UIA Congress, Lisbon	The Architect at the Crossroads
1955	4th UIA Congress, the Hague	Architecture and Building's Evolution UIA Newsletter begins publication Spain is admitted into the UIA
1958	5th UIA Congress, Moscow	Construction and Reconstruction This Congress saw a threefold increase in attendees (from 500 to 1500) and demonstrated the extent to which relations between Russia and the rest of the world had thawed
1960	The UIA magazine begins publication, with 6 issues a year About 60 issues were published in total before the magazine was discontinued	
1961	6th UIA Congress, London	New Techniques, New Materials The UIA welcomes a record 2000 participants for this Congress. The UIA creates the Auguste Perret Prize for applied technology in architecture The UIA inaugurates the Sir Patrick Abercrombie Prize for architecture and urbanism
1962	The UIA, along with UNESCO and other international organisations, supports the International Festival of Stage Production, a project and roundtable conference organised by the Hellenic Institute of Architecture	
1963	7th UIA Congress, Havana	Architecture in Developing Countries The UIA, as a non-political entity, maintains the location of this Congress despite the growing political tensions surrounding Cuba The UIA creates the School Buildings Group, charged with researching innovative ways to make school buildings fit for purpose and adaptable
1965	8th UIA Congress, Paris	The Education of an Architect This Congress once more breaks UIA records with 2500 participants 1st Festival of Films and Architecture

1966	The UIA organises the East-West Colloquium Meeting in Beirut on behalf of UNESCO, with the aim of studying the reciprocal influences of oriental and occidental architecture in the context of contemporary socio-economic evolution The UIA organises a colloquium in Bucharest on the impact of poor housing provision in developing countries, aiming for architects to be consulted during mass urbanisation projects The Industrial Construction Commission organises a conference on Industrial Architecture in Switzerland.	
1967	9th UIA Congress, Prague	The Architect and the Human Milieu The Jean Tschumi Prize is inaugurated
1968	The UIA organises a colloquium in Agadir to assess how architects can contribute to alleviating poverty in developing countries through dignified housing provision	
1969	10th UIA Congress, Buenos Aires	The Architect as a Social Factor
1970	The UN admits the UIA into NGO Category A, thus recognising its ‘record of major contributions to UNESCO's work’	
1972	11th UIA Congress, Varna	Architecture and Leisure
1975	12th UIA Congress, Madrid	Creativity and Technology The Congress attracts over 3000 participants from 85 different countries Group V (now Region V) is granted four Council members as well as the Vice President and thus achieves equal representation within the UIA
1976	Hong Kong is admitted into the UIA	
1978	13th UIA Congress, Mexico City	Architecture and National Development Congress participation doubles compared to 1975 The UIA creates the Sir Robert Matthew Prize
1981	14th UIA Congress, Warsaw	Architecture, Man, Environment

1985	15th UIA Congress, Cairo	Present and Future Missions of Architects The UIA creates World Architecture Day to draw the attention of professionals and the public to problems related to cities and habitat. The date chosen is the first Monday of October in order to coincide with UN World Habitat Day The first UIA Gold Medal prize is awarded
1987	16th UIA Congress, Brighton	Shelter and Cities: Building Tomorrow's World The UIA publishes the 'Brighton Declaration of Architects', recognising the problems of homelessness, pollution and crime that result from rapid population increase. The Declaration commits the UIA to the provision of dignified housing for all and to the improvement of living standards in cities
1990	17th UIA Congress, Montreal	Cultures and Technologies The UIA adopts the 'Declaration Toward National Policies for Architecture', pledging the furthering of architectural education and the promotion of the role of architecture as a means to combat social and cultural problems
1991	The UIA establishes its Architecture and Children Work Programme	
1993	18th UIA Congress, Chicago	Architecture at the Crossroads The UIA adopts the 'Declaration of Interdependence for a Sustainable Future', committing to placing environmental and social sustainability at the core of architectural practice and to campaigning for sustainable design practices in government and business
1994	The UIA Professional Practice Commission is re-established in response to increasing demand for international professional guidelines	
1996	19th UIA Congress, Barcelona	Present and Futures: Architecture in Cities The UIA publishes the UNESCO-UIA Charter on Architectural Education, which provides guidelines for a comprehensive education that will provide young architects with all the tools they need for a successful career
1998	The UIA celebrates its 50th Anniversary in Lausanne, Switzerland	
1999	20th UIA Congress, Beijing	Architecture of the 21st Century The UIA adopts the 'UIA Accord on International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice', intended to guide professionals, governments and lawyers in maintaining equal professional standards for global mobility purposes The UIA signs an agreement with the French Ministry of Culture to create an indexing system for the architectural heritage of the twentieth century

2000	The UIA signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Docomomo, a French organisation working to increase awareness of the role of architects and architecture in modern society	
2002	The UNESCO-UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education is created to independently assess the quality of architecture study programmes across the world against a set of clear benchmarks	
	21st UIA Congress, Berlin	Resource Architecture
2004	Singapore hosts the first UIA Regional Forum, which addresses the issues of sustainability, mobility and identity	
2005	22nd UIA Congress, Istanbul	Grand Bazaar of Architectures The UIA publishes the 'Istanbul Declaration', reinforcing the commitment of architects around the world to international collaboration, sustainable development and respect for culture and heritage. The Declaration equally highlights the role of the architect in reconciling the globalised modern world to national and local traditions The UIA signs a cooperation agreement with UN Habitat to work together for a more equal and sustainable built environment
2006	Memoranda of Understanding signed with the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)	
2007	Malaysia hosts the second UIA Regional Forum with the theme 'Design Energy', which celebrates the vision and works of architects who pursue their craft with great energy Memoranda of Understanding signed with the UAA, the Federación Panamericana de Asociaciones de Arquitectos (FPAA) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)	
2008	23rd UIA Congress, Turin	Transmitting Architecture Memoranda of Understanding signed with the Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR), VISEGRAD/ARES and Architectes de l'Urgence
2009	The UIA launches its Sustainable by Design Strategy to ensure that all Commissions and Work Programmes put sustainability at the forefront of their activities	

2010	<p>The UIA is granted access to the Green Zone of the COP16 summit, enabling it to publicise the key role that architects can play in tackling the climate crisis. Following the summit, the UIA delivers its ‘Cancún Communication’, expanding the ‘Sustainable by Design Strategy’ and reinforcing the responsibility of the architect to work for the benefit of people and communities the world over</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding signed with the Conselho Internacional dos Arquitectos de Língua Portuguesa (CIALP), the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) and the International Association of Eurasian Architectural Unions (MASA)</p>	
2011	24th UIA Congress, Tokyo	<p>Design 2050</p> <p>The UIA signs the ‘Beyond Disasters Declaration’, calling for architects to learn from the past and contribute to equitable, diverse and sustainable development through the sharing of knowledge and initiatives</p>
2014	25th UIA Congress, Durban	<p>Architecture Otherwhere</p> <p>The UIA adopts the ‘2050 Imperative’ Declaration, committing to reducing carbon emissions from the built environment to zero by 2050</p>
2015	<p>The UIA signs a joint Declaration with the ACE and the AIA to highlight the key role and responsibility of the architectural profession in tackling the biggest challenges of our time, including climate change, urban regeneration, social inclusion and heritage conservation</p> <p>The UIA signs the ‘Manifesto for Responsible Architecture’ with ACE, CNOA and CIAF following the COP21 summit. This Manifesto reminds world governments of the impact of the construction industry on climate change and calls for architects to be recognised as providers of sustainable design solutions</p>	
2016	<p>The UIA publishes its ‘Competition Guide for Design Competitions in Architecture and Related Fields’, with an emphasis on best practice and fairness in competition judging</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding signed with the International Committee of Architectural Cities (CICA)</p> <p>The UIA participates in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development, Habitat III, in Quito, Ecuador, and for the first time, made an official statement in the UN plannery session</p>	
2017	26th UIA Congress, Seoul	<p>Soul of the City</p> <p>The UIA publishes its ‘Seoul Declaration’, drawing on the role of architecture in restoring the soul of a city. The Declaration focuses on nature, culture and the future, indicating how the architect can work with each in order to combat problems arising in urban areas</p>
2018	<p>The UIA and UNESCO collaborate in launching the World Capital of Architecture initiative, whereby the designated host city for the UIA World Congress becomes the World Capital of Architecture for a period of one year</p> <p>The UIA signs a Memorandum of Understanding with FIG and ECCE</p>	

2019	<p>UIA International Forum, Baku</p> <p>The UIA signs the Baku Declaration on sustainable tourism to combat the detrimental effects of mass tourism and climate change</p> <p>The UIA signs the UNESCO-UIA Built Environment Education Charter, designed to enable the successful collaboration of architects and teachers all over the world. The Charter exists in 8 different languages</p> <p>The UIA signs the UIA SDG Dhaka Declaration, calling on architects across the world to actively contribute to the achievement of all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</p>	
2021	<p>The UIA is granted three Blue Zone accreditations at the Glasgow COP26 summit, giving architects a greater platform amongst world leaders and governments in the areas of sustainability and climate solutions</p> <p>The UIA signs an MOU with UN-Habitat for the organisation of the UIA 2030 Award to recognise the work of architects who actively contribute to the fulfilment of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda</p> <p>25th UIA Congress, Rio de Janeiro All the Worlds. Just One World. Architecture 21</p>	
2022	<p>The UIA designates 2022 as the Year of Design for Health, with the support of the World Health Organization. The goal is to emphasise design that protects, improves and restores health in humans, animals and the environment</p> <p>The UIA launches a specialised platform that ensures anonymity and fairness in its architectural competitions</p> <p>The UIA hosts the Madrid International Forum on Affordable Housing and launches the first global housing atlas. This brings together data from sources such as the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to offer an intersectoral perspective on the reality of housing, opening up opportunities to promote public-private collaboration</p> <p>The UIA-UN Habitat joint Award, the UIA 2030 Award, is introduced at the World Urban Forum 11 at Katowice, Poland</p>	



Commemorative stamps – 1958 5th UIA World Congress, Moscow, Russia



Commemorative coin – 1978 13th UIA World Congress, Mexico City, Mexico



Commemorative silver coins – 1985 15th UIA World Congress, Cairo, Egypt



Commemorative stamp – 1981 14th UIA World Congress, Warsaw, Poland

50th Anniversary 1998 in Lausanne, Switzerland



For the UIA's landmark 50th Anniversary in 1998, the UIA Congress once again returned 'home' to Lausanne – a fitting jubilee celebration as it provided an opportunity to collectively reflect on the distance the organisation has covered thus far, and to consider the challenges looking forward, in the very city in which the organisation was first founded.

Organised and hosted by the Swiss section of the UIA, the event was headlined under the theme of 'Architects without Limits – Architecture and Globalisation'. Exponents from politics and culture, as well as architects who practice internationally, discussed questions on economic challenges, sustainable development, the relationship between architecture, culture and politics, and the social responsibility of architecture.

The evening brought over 400 well-known architects from all over the world together for an event at Chillon Castle – the location where the founding charter of the UIA was signed in 1948.

Pierre Vago, co-initiator, founding member, longtime general secretary and honorary president of the UIA, presented his book "1948-1998 UIA". It contains his own observations and reviews as well as contributions from leading UIA architects.

For the 50th anniversary of the UIA, a sculpture was created that would symbolize the event and the profession of the architect. Designed by Jean Mauboules, 600 numbered copies were produced and given to participants on 8 June 1998 in Lausanne.



The Swiss watch brand Corum launched a national architectural competition in 1991, which was open to young architects who had been qualified less than five years. A record 116 project entries were received, with the winning entry awarded the task of building the new creative centre for Corum. The building was inaugurated in 1995, Corum would later support the UIA by paying tribute to young Swiss architects at the 1996 UIA Congress and the celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the UIA in Lausanne.



Berlin, 2021
21st UIA Congress



Turin, 2008
23rd UIA Congress



Durban 2014
25th UIA Congress



Tokyo 2011
24th UIA Congress



Seoul 2017
26th UIA Congress



Warsaw 1981
14th UIA Congress

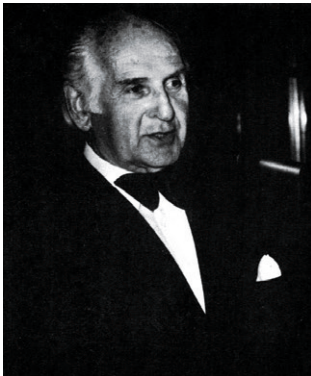
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Messages

Founder of the UIA, Pierre Vago died at the age of 92 in Paris. The French architect of Hungarian descent was also a successful writer, editor, and critic, and was well-known as the publisher of L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui. He served the UIA as its general secretary for many years, as well its honorary president until his death.

Born in Budapest in 1910 to an artistic family (his father was a prominent figure in Hungarian Art Nouveau architecture and his mother a well-known singer), Pierre Vago had an intellectual and open upbringing which influenced him from an early age.

The family emigrated to Italy in 1919, where Vago completed his schooling before travelling to Paris in 1928 to further his studies. Originally enrolled in an art course, he was soon admitted to the École Spéciale d'Architecture. By 1932, the year in which Vago graduated as an architect, he was already regularly publishing architectural reviews in French and Italian journals. Having discovered Soviet avant-garde architecture during a trip to Moscow, Vago felt compelled to advance international architectural relations so that such styles could be shared with architects in the West. He consequently founded the Réunions Internationales d'Architectes (RIA), an international professional association of architects, and started organising regular meetings in his capacity as Secretary General.



Pierre Vago

His services as an intelligence officer, a resistance fighter and a soldier during the Second World War earned him both the Légion d'Honneur and the Resistance Medal. In 1945, at a meeting of the RIA's Executive Committee, he proposed the foundation of an international association of architects from all over the world. Three years later, the UIA was established with the goal of uniting architects across the globe. Vago held the post of UIA Secretary General until 1969, after which he became Honorary President. Throughout this period, he also took on a number of architectural tasks, especially post-war construction projects. He designed the urban grids of several cities in France, as well as residential buildings, schools and office blocks.

One of Vago's most outstanding works is the University Library in Bonn, designed in collaboration with Franz Bornemann. In order to adjust to the slope of the terrain, it was designed as a two-storey structure on the main entrance side and only one-storey on the wing facing the river Rhine. The façade, with its framed, subdivided glass surface and geometric patterns, provides a serene yet disciplined composition that allows natural light to flood the larger interior spaces.

Nonetheless, Vago will mostly be remembered for leading the team of architects who designed the underground church at Lourdes. The oval-shaped St. Pius church is defined by raw, curved reinforced concrete ribs that run up to the longitudinal ridge, supported by slanting buttresses. Vago later added several more buildings to the Lourdes complex: St. Bernadette's Hall in 1964, a smaller church, a chapel and a recreation area in 1966 and a museum and health centre in 1977.

In one of his lectures on urban architecture, Vago said that 'the very first condition for the prosperity of the new art of urbanism (...) is the recovery of the cities and towns for humans'. Twenty-one years after his death, his vision of architecture as a tool for humanity still influences the work of the UIA today.





It is difficult to believe that 25 years have passed since we celebrated our 50th anniversary. 1998 seems like yesterday and yet we have already embarked on the final leg towards one hundred years. Are we ready for this new beginning?

Having the texts of this commemorative publication on record will help us rediscover many of the important issues faced throughout our first 75 years – how priorities have changed and how they differ across the globe. Whatever has been written or said during these past years gives but a small indication of the challenges encountered. In reading between the lines, we will be able to gauge the legacy of our actions, and see both where we have had a positive influence on the advancement of causes and where we have failed to produce a consistent follow-up. This publication is, consequently, much more than mere history.

In 1999, I found myself embarking on a triennium as President after two terms as Secretary General. This was to be a period of much experience, some results and many new challenges. The UIA needed to deliver at the highest level and, hopefully, leave a positive imprint on critical issues. Looking back at my presidency, it is not easy to single out what mattered most and what influenced the years that followed. Others will judge that. Nonetheless, certain events shed light on the power and influence of an organisation like the UIA. One is the creation of the UNESCO-UIA Validation System for Architectural Education in 2000, which cemented the UIA's commitment to students of architecture.

It is also worth highlighting the Triennial Programme's (1999-2002) focus on 'action to counter poverty, violence and exclusion', leading to six conferences on 'Housing for the Poor' that spanned four continents and six countries and opened a window on the potential of architects to make real life contributions towards alleviating the plight of our fellow human beings living below the poverty line.

Beyond reflecting on the past, it is equally important to consider the best way forward. One thing is clear. As we architects face our future, we don't want a rigid road map, however pertinent it may seem at the time of its adoption. We need a radically different perception of the UIA, a continuously evolving perception.

This perception needs to feature the participation of students and younger architects as two of its principal pillars. Their greater involvement in our activities is an essential condition for a new, rejuvenated UIA. Can the UIA become a constituent part of the life of schools of architecture? Only if we reach out. Nothing emanating from us alone will ever radically change the picture unless we hear and heed the voices of the younger generations of architects and of those still studying.

Equally important, it is crucial that our Member Sections and our international partner organisations always remain at the heart of our activities and that the UIA is at the heart of theirs.



1999 – Seoul ARCASIA Forum 10 / With Sukwon Kang, etc.



2017 – Warsaw AfA Friendly Spaces Jury / Joseph Kwan, Fionnuala Rogerson, Vassilis Sgoutas, Eduardo Elkous, Krzysztof Chwalibog



(top) 2001 – At the Hanoi Architectural Univeristy, Hanoi, Vietnam. (bottom) 2002 – Berlin Congress / Vassilis Sgoutas, Louise Noelle, Pierre Vago's widow, Alejandro Sokoloff



2000 – Sydney Council / With Alejandro Sokoloff

There is no magic formula. Everything has to start from a change of direction on our part. Our policies will need continuity in order to succeed. Simultaneously, they must be flexible enough to incorporate new ideas and to initiate projects that will be meaningful to even our less affluent and less established members. This is undoubtedly a tall order, but there is no simpler way for us to maintain our mantle of universality.

While it is relatively easy to make a list of priorities for the way forward, the problem will always lie in singling out those that matter most. A signal that something is changing would be the abolishment of subscription fees, at any rate for the Member Sections that are most in need. It is becoming evident that a gesture of some kind is necessary, but I do not think that we can do this alone – professional know-how and advice are clearly required.

Whatever else we do, we will never thrive unless we make space in our agenda for projects that matter, projects that break the ice. Projects with new and fresh ideas that are more than just ‘run-of-the-mill’ proposals. A chance perusal uncovered for me in 2019 the potential of the Great Green Wall Initiative. Encouraged by Allan Rodger of Australia I persisted. It is now a project that has given a new perspective to our African Member Sections.

Projects and tasks aside, our first 75 years have shown that some of the most significant decisions and initiatives taken by our elected officers have been during moments of respite from immediate obligations, with time available to look beyond what was on our desktops. Are we not, after all, sometimes allowed to dream?

I would hope that all of us believe that we can make a difference, both individually and, more importantly, collectively. An added plus to our years associated with the UIA is that we invariably emerge with a clearer belief in our capacity to do something on the world stage. It is no small thing for an organisation to be able to have its own ambassadors spread across the globe.

The road ahead is beckoning. What better way to continue delivering than through our own unique international organisation, our own UIA?



1993 – Santiago de Chile Council / Vassilis Sgoutas, Salah Zaky Said, Sara Topelson

1996 – Barcelona Congress / Sketch of Vassilis Sgoutas by Hernan Precht Banados of the Chilean delegation



Rod Hackney

United Kingdom



COURTESY OF RIBA COLLECTIONS

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the 75th anniversary of our organisation. It is with great pleasure and passion that I dedicate this to the rising architects around the world who bridge the world of the indigenous barefoot architects to the transformative power of future ways of living and designing. Remember that reality is limited only by your imagination.

I have been gifted an incredible career that has spanned many decades, during which I have explored a tremendous number of challenges. If you ever feel you are in a corner, you can expand the situation, think forwards, backwards, turn the obstacle into an opportunity and then you will know how to thrive in difficult times. My wish is for all communities to have architects living amongst them. Together, we will be better equipped to evolve how we architect our lives.

Olufemi Majekodunmi

Nigeria



To have been the President of the UIA is a position of great honour which I will always cherish and which I consider as the highlight of my professional career.

The position gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with senior government members of countries from each of the five Regions that constitute the UIA, in person as well as by other means of communication. This I owe to the assistance of our Secretariat in Paris, which was at the time an incredibly well-oiled and highly efficient organisation under the purview of Francine Troupillon, the Director of Administration.

My presidency enabled me to meet many very supportive members of the UIA Council and of Section Members from all over the world, more often than not in their own countries: United Kingdom, USA, USSR (as it was then during my tenure), India, Egypt, China, the Caribbean, Brazil, Canada, Tunisia, Israel, Turkey, Spain and Japan, to name but a few.

One particularly memorable moment for me was leading a parade of architects that included Fumihiko Maki, whom I had just decorated with the UIA Gold Medal. With us in the front row of the parade was the first woman to be elected president of the American Institute of Architects. Of the four thousand architects who had converged in Chicago for the joint AIA/UIA Convention, one thousand of us walked together through a major street of the city on our way to the Merchandise Mart.

May the next 75 years see the UIA break new ground in its goal of unifying architects around the globe to make the world a better place for all.

Sara Topelson

Mexico



In 1996 in the beautiful city of Barcelona, I was elected as the first female President of the International Union of Architects. My presidency was a unique experience in which I worked for the promotion of our profession internationally and in each of the 108 countries that integrated the UIA at that time.

As UIA President, I attended the UIA Bureau meeting in Bucharest in 1996, which was a very significant experience; one of the purposes was to announce the results of the UIA International Competition for the restructuring of the centre of Bucharest. Once an area devoted to the power of an authoritative regime, the winning project by Meinhardt Von Gerkan (Germany) rescued the concept of the city for the inhabitant and opening the envelope to announce the result was a moment full of emotion.

In that same year, we also signed an agreement of cooperation with UNESCO to develop the Charter for Architectural Education, which addressed the development of architecture in favour of sustainable development.

I was invited by the Polish Association of Architects SARP to join them on a visit to the President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewky, with the aim of increasing government recognition of the cultural role of architects. The result of our meeting was the creation of the Chamber of Polish Architects and the law to protect historical and artistic sites in the country.

Similarly, the Cuban architects' association UNAICC needed the help of UIA, as it was not recognised by Cuban authorities; I was thus invited to travel to Cuba for a meeting with some national authorities. A conference on architecture in Latin America was held in Havana, with significant UIA participation. During the post-conference party, we talked with an official who agreed to listen to the proposal of the architects in Cuba, with positive and fruitful results.

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UIA in 1998 was the most significant meeting during my term. The event took place in Lausanne and began with a visit to the Château de la Sarraz, the emblematic founding site of the UIA, which still preserves the memories and furniture of the CIAM, the Congress that preceded the consolidation of the UIA.

Being President of the UIA led me to understand the challenges and complexities of practising architecture in more than a hundred countries all over the world. The central objective was always to serve architects and their national associations and to promote their presence in all spaces and buildings, knowing that their work creates better, healthier and more sustainable environments.

As we celebrate the UIA's 75th anniversary, I look forward to continuous and constructive work on behalf of architects and architecture worldwide that champions diversity, inclusion, vision, innovation and friendship.

Gaëtan Siew

Mauritius



Coming from a small island, I never had any ambition to become president of a global organisation. Indeed, the number of architects in the world (over 3 million) is greater than the number of Mauritians! I was nonetheless elected as President of the UIA during the 2005 Istanbul General Assembly and I embarked upon a term defined by three key words that I believe are still relevant today: Transform, Share and Transmit.

Transformation can mean many things, but one of the key facets of the UIA is its relationship with sister organisations, whether global, regional or national. Fostering closer collaboration with these organisations enables the UIA to increase its visibility and presence in all four corners of the globe and should continue to be encouraged.

During my term as President, we aimed to connect each Work Programme with a major private player and a corresponding global organisation in their respective area, in order to broaden our opportunity for influence. Equally, the UIA was able to equal the Member Sections of the WTO (132), sharing our resources and community with countries such as the Netherlands, Austria, Chad, Mauritania and Rwanda.

To share is to strengthen, and the UIA has played a key role in bridging the gap in architectural access between developed and developing countries. For instance, along with the World Trade Organisation, we pushed for architects to be recognised and thus to be able to practise their craft abroad.

The unique global collaboration promoted by the UIA enables us to be a shining example of the positive impact of sharing knowledge across borders. An impact that was exemplified by the UIA network's response to the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. 1850 housing units were constructed with the support of the Sri Lankan Institute of Architects and the Urban Development Authorities to house those who had lost their homes in the disaster.

The future of the UIA lies in its ability to pass on the baton to successive Bureaus and continue the work that each has started. Transmitting the lessons that we have learnt and the ideas we have for the future is the basis upon which we can build success. To be President of the UIA was a unique and wonderful experience, leaving me with friends across the planet. The UIA stands testament to the transformative nature of international collaboration in our profession and I look forward to the continuation of its work in the years to come.

Louise Cox

Australia



I am very proud of what I managed to achieve as UIA President, meeting so many of our Member Sections and making connections with other international organisations. The experience enriched my life and understanding of other cultures, especially during roundtable discussions with our partners across the world.

When I was elected President of the UIA at the 2008 General Assembly in Turin, it was agreed that sustainability should be adopted as a transversal principle for all the Commissions and Work Programmes of the UIA. The UIA Sustainable by Design Strategy was launched in December 2009 in Copenhagen during the COP15 Climate Change Conference. It was initiated by Albert Dubler, who was Vice President for Region I at the time; as President, I was the spokesperson for the UIA.

In June 2010, as the first initiative of the strategy, a questionnaire on 'Sustainable by Design' was sent to each of our 116 Member Sections and the 124 countries and territories which they represented. We wanted to know about their sustainable principles and their ideas on how to help those countries that did not, in order to create a global report for the UIA General Assembly in Tokyo in September 2011. As a result, the strategy's 10 action points were accepted, with all UIA Member Sections and the 5 regional Work Programmes asked to carry them forward. For the UIA, climate responsibility is not a new interest. We have had a clear long-standing commitment to sustainability since the 1990s, with events such as those described demonstrating some excellent progress.

In the future, we must keep working with all of our partners in a more proactive and efficient way. As we are too few in this world, we should share much more and not duplicate those things which have been done by our partners (and vice versa).

We have signed Memoranda of Understanding with 11 regional architectural organisations, with ICOMOS International and Docomomo International. We have many areas of interest and cooperation with UNESCO that need to be reinforced. We are partners of the World Urban Campaign with UN-HABITAT. We are working ever more closely with UNECE, the World Green Building Council, the Active House Alliance and the Locus Foundation. One of the things I enjoyed during my UIA presidency was meeting and working with our partners.

Our heritage is all we must give to future generations. What we do today will reflect on us and our contribution to the world to come. Any new development should create a sense of place. Architecture, landscape, urban planning, engineering and infrastructure all play a part in the built environment, as they also do in the natural environment. The way we work with our surroundings will either highlight or mask the sense of place and the local culture. Context is the most important thing, not just the architecture itself.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us all rethink what we are doing as individuals and I am sure that we have all realised that we must really help each other, our neighbours and the wider community; we are all in this together. We need to take new opportunities, embrace new technologies and be positive. I am looking forward to the results of this over the next few years.

The UIA is a successful global organisation, the only one for architects, and we should be very proud.

Albert Dubler

France



The UIA was founded in 1948 on a multicultural approach to architecture that is free of dogma and national preference. As the UIA's second French President, I was committed to embracing the diverse legacy left by my predecessors from countries such as Australia, Mauritius, Brazil, Greece and so many more. This international heritage is what allows the UIA to remain relevant to all architects, regardless of situation and creed.

The UIA is a model of ethics and fruitful cooperation that seeks above all to preserve the independence of the architect and provide the necessary tools to ensure a quality built environment for all. In particular, collaboration with partners such as UNESCO has enabled us to propose standards of professional practice as well as guidelines for competitions that are fair, effective and that encourage the globalisation of the profession by opening up architectural contracts to the brightest talent from around the world. UIA competitions have, after all, brought attention to some of the most notable architects of our time: Jørn Utzon (Sydney Opera House), Johan Otto von Spreckelsen (La Grande Arche de La Défense), Christoph Kapeller and Ihab El Habbak (Bibliotheca Alexandrina).

Another area in which the UIA's influence is crucial is architectural education. We have a responsibility towards young architects that extends beyond the opportunities we can offer them through open competitions. The UNESCO-UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education is a vital tool for influencing the future of our profession by promoting and rewarding quality education. If we wish to promote the architect as a problem solver faced with issues of climate change, rural-to-urban migration and heritage preservation, then it is essential that we equip the next generation with an education that enables them to rise to meet these challenges.

The work of the UIA constitutes a delicate balance between crossing borders and globalising our profession whilst simultaneously supporting local culture and heritage. We do not want architecture to become uniform. There is no one size fits all approach to the built environment, and we must therefore seek to make contact with local people and professionals in order to assess the specific needs of the different communities in which we work. The relationships that we can build in the UIA can thus significantly enrich and enhance our work by facilitating such cultural exchanges. We are a network of equals, each with something new and valuable to bring to the table.

Let us continue to celebrate diversity, support our Member Sections and develop on the initiatives of our Commissions and Work Programmes. We can be proud of the UIA's growth over the past 75 years into a recognised international body of architects, the only one of its kind. As we mark this important anniversary, let us face the challenges of the years to come with determination, unity and meaningful action.

Esa Mohamed

Malaysia



During the General Assembly in Durban in August 2014 which marked the beginning of my presidency, I said: 'The UIA must keep up with the times. It is the only body that unites the world's architects. It must be responsive to members, remain relevant to the profession and reform itself to be effective with a programme based on three Rs: responsiveness, relevance and reform'.

Throughout its history, the UIA has focused its energies on various actions to obtain tangible results that make it relevant and visible. These include collaborating with other international bodies to lobby on key issues, increased cooperation with regional organisations and maintained influence and relations with governments. We have strengthened our positions in the Education, Practice and Competition Commissions by virtue of our partnership with UNESCO. We aspire to be the central hub for sharing and promoting knowledge and ideas. Providing leadership for the profession globally remains the principal mission of the UIA.

Most of our Member Sections are already promoting and investing in the next generation of architects, and we must do the same by bringing young architects into the heart of the Union. One way we can do this is by forging relationships with educational centres. During my mandate, there was an increase in the number of requests for UIA validation of architectural schools under the UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education (VCAE), demonstrating that the UIA is having an impact on the training of young architects. It is crucial that the UIA and its Member Sections continue to promote the UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education, which spells out the requirements for a sound architectural education and training. Networking with regional organisations on education issues would be the way forward for the UIA to expand the influence of the Charter globally.

A further notable event from my time as President was our participation in the 2017 COP23 Conference in Germany. I hope that the UIA will continue to be involved in the conference over the coming years, for it is vital that we continue to be actively engaged in climate change initiatives.

On the occasion of the UIA's 75th anniversary celebrations, I wish to record my thanks and appreciation to the honourable members of the Bureau and Council for extending their support and cooperation to strengthen the position of the UIA globally. Also, thanks must be extended to all the staff of the Secretariat for their dedication and hard work to keep it running.

We are living in a new and challenging world. Geopolitical volatility is putting pressure on the way we deal with and design our built environment. Safety and security have become major criteria in building public facilities, buildings and even open spaces. The UIA has always been forthright in its engagements with national governments on issues regarding human rights, conservation, heritage, sustainability, environment, climate change and more. These are the matters that we must continue to champion as we move towards the future.

Thomas Vonier United States



The world needs a strong global architecture organisation.

To meet today’s pressing human and environmental challenges, the world needs the best ideas and solutions that architecture can offer. And the world’s architects – some 3.2 million of us in all – need a global organisation that can accomplish these purposes. The UIA must therefore:

- Focus on the most critical issues facing society and our planet.
- Engage the greatest talents in practice, research and education.
- Develop and promote strong solutions and meaningful actions.
- Attract young architects as a platform for involvement and action.
- Join in strong actions with other global institutions and corporations.
- Help global political leaders to set sound policies and practices.

To achieve these aims, our global organisation must carry the full political will and weight of national professional bodies across the entire world. It cannot be a forum for the same individuals year after year. Direction and leadership are central challenges for the UIA today.

Young architects will see the UIA as relevant only if it renews its community of activists and extends opportunities for involvement and leadership. Failure to renew produces staleness, repetition, and self-absorption. As we move forward, our global architecture institution must project dynamism and an orientation toward the future in order to avoid obsolescence.

A strong global body needs superior and impeccable leadership if it is to set the right course and spur meaningful action. It must draw upon the people who have provided significant leadership for their national professional organisations.

More than ever, we need a global architecture organisation turned toward the future, one that can take on the world’s great challenges and achieve our original purposes – to unify the profession, influence building policies and advance society through excellent architecture.

In Memoriam of UIA Past Presidents

Sir Patrick Abercrombie
1st UIA President (1948 – 1953)
United Kingdom

The first president of the UIA, Sir Leslie Patrick Abercrombie was a British architect and town planner known for his role in the post-WWII reconstruction of London. In 1943 he created the County of London Plan and in 1944 the Greater London Plan, together commonly referred to as the Abercrombie Plan. In 1950 he received the AIA Gold Medal.

Jean Tschumi
2nd UIA President (1953 – 1957)
Switzerland

Jean André Tschumi was one of the most important representatives of modern architecture in Switzerland. A member of the Modern Movement, his best-known buildings are those he designed for Sandoz, la Mutuelle Vaudoise and Nestlé, the latter winning him the distinguished Reynolds Prize in 1960. He is also remembered for his contributions to architectural theory and education.

Hector Mardones Restat
3rd UIA President (1957 – 1961)
Chile

Hector Mardones Restat was a renowned Chilean architect who left an indelible mark on the country’s architectural landscape. A graduate-turned-professor of the University of Chile’s School of Architecture, he led changes that modernised the institution. He was made an honorary member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in 1961, and in 1973 he received the National Architecture Award.

Sir Robert Matthews
4th UIA President (1961 – 1965)
United Kingdom

Sir Robert Hogg Matthew was a Scottish architect and a leading proponent of modern architecture. He held roles with the Department of Health in Scotland and London County Council, where he was responsible for post-war reconstruction and design of prefabricated housing. Matthew served as the first Professor of Architecture at the University of Edinburgh, and was recognised with an OBE in 1952 and a knighthood in 1962.

Eugene Beaudouin
5th UIA President (1965 – 1969)
France

Eugène Beaudouin was a prominent French architect and urban planner, known for his work on the town plans of Havana and the Paris region and on post-war reconstruction plans. He served as the director of the School of Architecture at the University of Geneva and as a professor at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts. Beaudouin was also president of the Société Française des Planistes for 8 years.

Ramon Corona Martin
6th UIA President (1969 – 1972)
Mexico

Georgui Orlov
7th UIA President (1972 – 1975)
USSR

Georgui Orlov graduated from the Higher School of Architecture in Moscow before participating in the construction of the Dnieper hydroelectric station and of many Soviet cities. Orlov was awarded two Lenin Orders, the Order of the Socialist Revolution and several other decorations. He was one of the founders of the Union of Architects of the USSR and served as its First Secretary for 18 years.

Jai Rattan Bhalla
8th UIA President (1975 – 1978)
India

Jai Rattan Bhalla was the first President of the Council of Architecture (CoA), as well as President of the Indian Association of Architects (IAA). He was instrumental in bringing in the Architects’ Act of 1972 in India. Bhalla also held important positions in several international organisations such as the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) and the World Society for Ekistics.

Louis De Moll
9th UIA President (1978 – 1981)
USA

Louis De Moll was an architect and artist whose famous works include the former US embassy in Kabul, the McNeil Building at the University of Pennsylvania, the IBM office building in Dayton and the Master Plan for the Penns Landing Waterfront in Philadelphia. As President of UIA, he focused on improving the abilities of architects in developing nations and broadening their role in their own countries.

Rafael De La Hoz
10th UIA President (1981 – 1985)
Spain

Spanish architect Rafael de la Hoz is known for his work in promoting the production of Technological Building Standards. His architecture studio worked on such notable projects as the Cordoba Chamber of Commerce, the El Águila factory in Cordoba, the Torremolinos Conference Centre, the Inserso Head Office in Madrid and the extension of the Navy Ministry, also in Madrid. He became an Academician of Fine Arts in 1990.

Georgi Stoilov
11th UIA President (1985 – 1987)
Bulgaria

Georgi Stoilov was a renowned Bulgarian public figure and architect. He held various roles on a local and national level, specialising in overseeing architecture and urbanism. Stoilov is known for the design of many prestigious buildings in Bulgaria, which gained him numerous international recognitions, as well as for being the founder of the International Academy of Architecture and the World Biennials (Triennials) of Architecture held in Sofia, Bulgaria. He was also instrumental to the creation of World Architecture Day.

Jaime Lerner
17th UIA President (2002 – 2005)
Brazil

Jaime Lerner was a renowned Brazilian politician, architect and urban planner. He served as the mayor of Curitiba three times and was responsible for designing the city’s walkways, roads and public transportation system. Named one of the world’s 25 most influential thinkers by Time magazine in 2010, he received numerous international accolades such as the United Nations Environmental Award and the UNICEF Child and Peace Award.

Messages

UIA Bureau
Secretary General

2021—2023

Pei Ing Tan

Malaysia



75 years is by no means a short time and this anniversary marks a very important milestone in the development of the UIA. Our success today is attributed to the vision of our Bureaus and Councils, past and present, and to the unyielding support of our Member Sections and partners. I am truly proud to have been given the opportunity to serve the UIA in various capacities for more than 10 years and contribute in a small way.

We are heading towards a more urbanised environment, with more than 50% of today’s population living in urban areas. This number will have risen to more than 70% by 2050. Rapid and ill-controlled urbanisation has created many health concerns and contributed to climate change, which has had a huge impact on health and well-being.

Recognising the importance of architecture on health, the UIA General Assembly decreed that 2022 would be the ‘UIA Year of Design for Health’. The goal was to empower the architectural design process with appropriate research methods in order to ‘Protect, Develop and Restore Health’. There is increasing evidence showing that properly planned cities and urban environments will deliver multiple benefits to the health and well-being of society. Architecture should also embody each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and it has a crucial role to play in shaping our lives – this must remain the top priority of the UIA.

We must also reflect on how our profession contributes to equity and how we can ensure access to shelter, work, education and culture for all. We must not lose sight of the core of our profession, which is the creation of built environments that serve the whole community. There is an urgent need to reinvent our design strategy so that it incorporates the collective responsibility and role of architects in the future of the human habitat. Design will be the key differentiator and a critical tool for enabling the integration of health and well-being into the built environment. As such, the principles of design for health and for humanity shall form part of our design DNA. Architects have a pivotal role in creating liveable and sustainable cities that promote well-being and accommodate diversity, social inclusion and equality in line with the SDGs for a better world.

Unity is also of utmost importance. The strength of the profession and of the UIA rests on the unity of its members. We should actively promote a culture of transparency, integrity, professionalism, accountability and competency as these are the key fundamentals of good governance and are essential to ensure we remain at the forefront of the building industry, meeting the expectations entrusted to us by the public.

Moving forward, the UIA requires transformation and reform to be able to contribute to fulfil its vision more meaningfully and effectively. I believe that together we are able to rejuvenate our profession, meet new challenges, propagate our aspirations and elevate the UIA to even greater heights.

Seif Allah Alnaga

Egypt



The UIA was established as a hub for architects from all over the world, uniting professionals behind the goal of exchanging architectural knowledge to serve humanity and improve our quality of life. Pierre Vago, one of its founders, firmly believed in the benefits of global architectural cooperation in the midst of social and political tension following the Second World War. Seventy-five years later, the UIA represents more than 2 million architects from over 100 countries and continues to provide a space in which architects, with their particularity of being trained in both art and science, can share solutions to the issues facing today's world.

Architects add significant value to public life due to their contribution to heritage, housing, sustainable development, tourism and recreation. A bridge between the public, who benefit from our work, and the political and business entities that call on our services, we have a duty to enhance advancements in the built environment across the globe.

This is why the UIA's ability to unite millions of architects from all regions of the world is vital. Equitable advancements can only be achieved if we meet and exchange with counterparts in many different countries. In contrast with the UIA's early years, we now have technology that allows us to meet virtually, making such exchanges easier than ever. The dawn of the technological era also gives us direct means of dialogue with those outside of our profession, including local and national authorities, civil society and the general public.

These steps should be matched by reinforced commitment from the UIA to practical action by encouraging and publicising the efforts of experts working within our Commissions and Work Programmes. The UIA must continue to pursue partnerships and collaborations from across the cultural and environmental sectors, but its commitment must go beyond this. It must also provide the necessary financial support for these initiatives so that our experts have many opportunities to present their work and findings on the biggest international platforms. It is important for our Commissions and Work Programmes to share their recommendations not only during our World Congresses and International Forums, but also at highly mediated events such as UN and COP summits. As UIA Treasurer, I have made it my objective to expand the financial support granted to our Working Bodies so that we can successfully reach these platforms.

The UIA operates on the passion of volunteers and the support of its Member Sections. My role as Treasurer is to ensure that we have the means to take the ideas and collaboration resulting from our international exchanges and put them into action that can gain the attention of authorities and citizens around the world. Ultimately, this is how architects will be able to use their unique skills for humanity, for the common good and for the future of our planet.

Natalie Mossin

Denmark



In June 1948, Willy Hansen travelled as the official representative of the Danish Architects' Association to Lausanne, Switzerland, to participate in what was to become the founding meeting of the UIA. He arrived, together with representatives from Norway and Sweden, to meet other architect's association representatives from across the world. The assembled architects then unanimously adopted a preamble to the UIA Articles and Bylaws that stated 'the desire of architects to unite across political, economic and aesthetic frontiers in a federation of their national organisations'.

Today, as the UIA's global community of architects, we can rise to the occasion as our predecessors did. Dedicated architects assembling because the task ahead requires it. Because action is needed now and we must take it. Because architecture must contribute to social and environmental sustainability for future generations to thrive on this planet. Because a bold exchange of knowledge is the only answer, for all the difficulty of bridging the world. As architects, we must meet across borders to build on mutual experience, advance the profession, strengthen the quality of architecture and advance architecture's contributions to the needs of society in our time.

Since then, the 27 founding countries have grown to over one hundred, and the UIA's activities have matured over the last 75 years. The world has changed rapidly, made smaller by advances in transport and technology, more fragile by climate change, more crowded by growing populations. Nonetheless, some things remain the same. We are still divided on 'political, economic and aesthetic frontiers', and still in need of 'the reconstruction of devastated cities and villages, the elimination of slums, the advancement of less developed regions'.

As UN partner, the UIA has a dual mission. It must support architects all over the world, enable them to learn from each other and contribute more effectively to the advancement of sustainability through the sharing of ideas and concepts. The UIA must also always be ready to transfer that knowledge to the UN, to its agencies and to relevant regional and national governing structures.

It is a tall order for a small organisation that depends on the volunteer efforts of architects. Yet despite the apparent impossibility of the concept, the bumblebee flies. The global network is there, the exchange is happening, and even in disagreements and differences there are valuable lessons to bring home. The noble commitment to dialogue and common purpose, as expressed in that original preamble, is more needed than ever. In the UIA, we as architects have a forum and an invitation to work together in response to the many urgent challenges facing the profession.

Together, we must resolve to help all architects contribute to the progress of human society, the welfare of the planet and the strengthening of peace.

Istelianna Necho Atanassova

Bulgaria, Georgia



I am honoured to be the current Vice President of Region II – the most multifaceted region within the UIA. Region II's membership comprises of countries from Europe, the Baltic region, the Balkans, the Black Sea and Caspian Sea regions, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. This rather complex and diverse region teaches us tolerance and respect for differences, demonstrating the power of architecture to unite.

I was a student of architecture in Sofia when I started collaborating with the Union of Architects in Bulgaria and with the UIA. Over the years, the UIA has made me aware of the richness of our profession, as well as the power and responsibility of the architect in society. The UIA principles of solidarity among architects, of professionalism and collaboration regardless of political or religious affiliations are also at the basis of my work as Vice President.

Before I was Vice President, I was a Council Member for the region. In my role, I worked hard to unite the architectural bodies across the Western Balkan countries into one professional association, which subsequently became a collective member of the UIA in 2021. The association of architectural organisations from Albania, Kosovo, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia is a living testament to the power of architecture, proving to politicians that we should all work together for the development of the Balkans. I am convinced that the UIA must find a flexible approach to facilitating the collective entry into membership of smaller organisations which would otherwise struggle to join individually.

Over the years, I have been involved in various UIA Work Programmes and have both participated in and judged competitions for young architects. The UIA should build its leadership among students and young architects so that they can carry its goals forward, gain a good understanding of the organisation and respect its Articles and Bylaws. I believe that the UIA should create a committee of young architects and students and give their representatives the opportunity to participate in the work of the Council as observers. By doing so, they will take responsibility for the organisation before they become its future leaders.

The reassurance and support that the UIA provides to its member organisations is one of its greatest strengths because it shows them that they are not alone and gives them confidence in challenging situations. We must preserve the UIA's democratic spirit to build upon positive outcomes of its activities and to responsibly defend our profession and the just causes for which we fight. Together we are strong and together we can achieve a lot.

Sam Oboh

Canada



A few years ago, I stumbled upon intriguing stories about the construction of the Alberta Legislature Building that was completed in 1912. I found myself immersed in the considerable political machinations that were deployed to bring down the spiralling cost of construction, which eventually led to passionate debates about the materials to use in the building to depict the authority, affluence, clout and coming-of-age of what was then Canada's newest province. One of the materials debated was aluminium.

Aluminium was once one of the priciest commodities on earth. However, in 1886, Charles Martin Hall invented an inexpensive electrolytic reduction method to extract aluminium from bauxite, which made it ubiquitous and increased its usefulness value but with a sharp drop in monetary worth. Aluminium now features prominently as an indispensable material in our daily lives.

Was aluminium more valuable when it was rare or when it became ubiquitous? As the Vice-President of the most geographically expansive region of the UIA, Region III, I believe that the story of aluminium and the UIA's 75th anniversary present us with an opportunity to think more deeply on the concept of value. I wonder what story posterity will hold in another 75 years, in the year 2098, about the present-day UIA and our actions.

Like aluminium, the UIA must exchange rarity with ubiquity, solutions and future-mindedness. The organisation must prioritise its focus on leading people and the planet to thrive in a world where the next generation of leaders and emerging professionals are at the helm of the UIA.

To achieve this, the UIA must re-imagine a new post-pandemic normal where it actively focuses on advancing global ethical practices, environmental stewardship, wellness and equitable communities through practical initiatives. One such initiative is the cross-continental mentorship programme championed in 2022 by me, as Vice-President of Region III, and Michelle Montgomery from the American Institute of Architects. This programme aims to help emerging architects advance solutions for equitable, resilient and sustainable communities. It should not take another 75 years for the UIA to reach global policymakers, offering them the architectural solutions needed in tackling critical societal issues such as the climate emergency.

Let the story of aluminium serve as a reminder to the UIA that what was once rare and valuable can become ubiquitous whilst maintaining its usefulness. The UIA must take heed of this lesson and act upon it by prioritising transparency, future-mindedness and ubiquity. Waiting another 75 years to establish proper fiscal control measures, embrace transparency, implement good governance principles and integrate emerging professionals into the leadership structure is not an option. The UIA must shift its mindset and take on a leadership role in shaping the built environment of the future. As architects, we have the power to shape the world in which we live. It is time for the UIA to use that power for the greater good or risk being replaced by others who will.

Ishtiaque Zahir Titas

Bangladesh



Though it was born in Europe, over the last 75 years the UIA has become a truly global organisation where all our different voices can be heard. Diversity is one of our key strengths. There are very few such organisations in our world and while we can be proud of the UIA for this, we must refrain from complacency.

The architectural industry is constantly changing. One day hand-drawn sketches are the norm, and the next digitisation has completely taken over. The world is rapidly adapting to more streamlined processes and automation, with our industry predicted to reduce the cost of construction labour by 25% over the next 5 years. Is the UIA running at the same pace?

Over the last ten years the UIA has developed partnerships aimed at understanding the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals, learning how these goals relate to architecture and exploring how design choices by the architect can affect the human, social and environmental sustainability of a project.

The UIA should be a leader for architects around the world, but it cannot do this alone. We now have a strong presence amongst UN agencies, as well as other regional and international partners, that we must continue to nurture in order to realise our potential as a united global body. We should also build collaboration and partnerships with other organisations, including local authorities and municipalities and the informal sector. In some parts of the globe, including South America, Africa and Asia, the informal sector has a large role to play in public life. By engaging the informal sector as per UN Habitat recommendations, the UIA will become more relevant and sustainable for both architects and the wider public.

It is undeniable that today's world is facing constant challenges such as natural disasters and man-made conflicts. These affect the building industry and put our profession at risk. The UIA needs to engage more directly in the process of disaster risk reduction in cities, above and beyond verbal support for the affected Member Section.

We need to identify areas for change, then design and implement that change. We must not be intimidated by our 75 years of history, but should look at how we can adapt our Work Programmes, Commissions, Council, Bureau and Secretariat to the modern day, just as our founders and those who followed tailored them to the needs of their time.

People often ask what the UIA can offer them. The question should rather be what they can offer the UIA. The more we invest in our global organisation, the more it will grow in influence and relevance. If each one of us makes a contribution, we will look back in another 75 years and see exponential growth and a real impact on the pressing issues facing our world.

Tokunbo Omisore

Nigeria



During the course of my appointment as member of the UIA Education Commission (2018-2021), I realised that architects need to promote affordable developments for sustainability. We must ensure that we work collectively to reduce poverty with quality architectural education for all. As architects, we can provide an antidote to poverty and ignorance through the power of education. It thus gives me great pleasure to be the Vice-President of Region V for the 75th anniversary of the UIA, a world body of architects.

With a key objective to engage in stronger partnerships with other regions, I have had the pleasure of joining the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), which was introduced to the UIA by Honorary President Vassilis Sgoutas. The GGWI team adopted the theme 'Unleashing the SDG Potential of the GGWI through Architecture'. Through this initiative, the UIA was also able to reach out to students via the GGWI International Student Ideas Competition, which registered 1,176 participants on the registration deadline. The winning entry was submitted by a Kyrgyz student, emphasising the benefits arising from the UIA's facilitation of globally-sourced solutions to local issues. The GGWI Africa Research hub, a second phase, will develop research collaboration and exchange programmes amongst schools of architecture.

Indeed, we should be targeting the FUTURE – our students of architecture, our lecturers and our researchers. One step that the International Union of Architects' GGWI team has taken in order to do so is the adoption of coordinators from schools of architecture across the five subregions of the African Continent, with a sixth from Senegal to represent a summit of Francophone countries. There are also collaborating schools from the other four regions of the UIA, that is, Denmark, Turkey, Brazil and China.

The increasing role played by technology in our profession must equally be embraced in order to remain relevant and contribute innovative ideas in the future. We need to make a greater effort to connect people, their ideas and their goodwill.

On behalf of the 23 Region V Member Sections, their elected officers and my four colleagues in the Council, I wish the UIA all the best as it celebrates its 75th anniversary and look forward to the continual provision of opportunities for the benefit of all our members and wider society.

Through architecture, we must end poverty and bring greater prosperity and lasting peace to the world. Let us be wise of thought yet courageous in action as we embark on a collective enterprise that brings jobs, education, food, medicine, hope and belief in a better life to those who need it.



World Health Organization

WHO



Maria Neira,
Director of the Department
of Public Health and
Environment, WHO

We must think about health in everything we do. Designating 2022 as the UIA Year of Design for Health was therefore a very big and important step in the collaboration between the UIA and the World Health Organization (WHO). I am sure that you need no convincing that whatever we do in our built environment and cities is strongly linked to our health – not only to our physical health but, as we are increasingly aware, also to our mental health. Hence, healthcare, urban planning and architecture share an important role in society. We need now to make sure that architects, urban planners and landscape professionals who exercise this role do so in collaboration with health professionals to ensure the best design outcomes for the health of each and every one of us.

The UIA can count on the WHO and all its contacts for collaboration. The strong network that we will create together is vital, because we need you. We need you to consider a few very simple things. We want our cities to be interconnected, inclusive and clean. We need cities that have sustainable transport, that provide an abundance of green spaces and offer a better quality of life. Urban planning must encourage walking and socialising in order to combat the rise in mental health problems.

Is this a big agenda for you? I do not think that it should be. Some cities and built environments have already reached a crisis point. Nonetheless, we must remember that we were the ones who created those environments and, therefore, we can also reverse the choices we made, making sure that cities are contributing to and promoting our health. The built environment can be an enemy to health – I challenge you to turn it into a friend.

The association between the UIA and the WHO is very strong. Whether you realise it or not, you are both architects and ministers for health, carrying enormous responsibility for the health of your communities. We can quantify the health benefits of all the interventions you are making and we want to help you make them. One of the prescriptions laid out in the WHO Manifesto for a Healthy and Green Post-Covid Recovery is precisely to build healthy, liveable cities. This is one of the most important transitions we need to establish now if we want a more sustainable, healthy and financially viable future for all. Thus, we are counting on all of you to maintain our common engagement for healthy, urban design that protects the health of the people and benefits us all. Thank you very much for all you have done already and for all you will do over the coming years.



UN-Habitat



Maimunah Mohd Sharif,
Executive Director

Architecture brings together arts and engineering, craftsmanship and social science. The profession provides a unique opportunity to translate meaningful cultural expression in the built form of cities and other human spaces. Throughout the centuries, humans have created shelter with attention to quality, beauty, and functionality – and modern-day architects continue to pursue this dream. They draw from nature and from their cultural contexts to develop visions and give special meaning to our built environment.

Sometimes these visions are utopian and sometimes purely functional, but it is the passion to improve living conditions that drives the profession. I call upon the (UIA), not only as a professional organisation but as a collective of individuals with acute sensibilities and a special sense for space and its qualities, to continue to contribute and help us deal with the biggest challenges of our times: urbanisation, climate change, displacement, and inequality. UIA has been a formidable partner of UN-Habitat over the years, and we need to count on you to face the challenges ahead of us as humanity.

World Architecture Day, which coincides with UN World Habitat Day, is an excellent opportunity for joining forces to focus on effective and wide-ranging answers to contemporary problems.

Architects can provide us with innovative solutions for the use of materials, for housing typologies, urban patterns, nature-based solutions, and public spaces; the purpose of our joint initiative – the UIA 2030 Award for Architects – is precisely to highlight such solutions, in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. The architects' design skills and their mediating role between art and pragmatism will contribute to create cities and communities that are resilient, safe, human, and inclusive. The UIA is a vital motor in the future of our built environment and its commitment to unite architects to face the challenges of the modern world is an invaluable contribution for a more just, resilient and sustainable future.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO



Ernesto Ottone R,
Assistant Director
General for Culture

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the International Union of Architects (UIA) on their 75th anniversary. Since UNESCO's founding in 1945, the organisation has worked to build peace, fight poverty and promote sustainable development through international cooperation and dialogue in the fields of culture, education, science and communication, and information. Similar objectives brought about the creation of the UIA in 1948, as the world's only global architecture organisation.

For more than 60 years, UNESCO and the UIA have maintained close relations and developed numerous partnerships linked to culture and architecture. In 1956, UNESCO commissioned the UIA to establish standards of transparency, equality of opportunity and impartiality for international competitions in architecture and town planning. The design of the Sydney Opera House, the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Bamiyan Cultural Centre in Afghanistan were all developed through international UNESCO-UIA architecture competitions.

As countries continue to urbanise, UNESCO and the UIA are committed to protecting heritage and promoting innovative solutions for sustainable urban development, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.'

In 2018, UNESCO and the UIA joined forces to designate the host cities of the UIA World Congress as the World Capitals of Architecture. Every three years, the city designated as the World Capital of Architecture becomes a global forum for discussions on culture, contemporary urban planning and architectural issues. The goal is to highlight the key role of architecture, city planning and culture in shaping urban identity and sustainable urban development. As part of this programme, a UNESCO-UIA Committee has been established under the chairmanship of architect Dominique Perrault.

2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. Over the past five decades, the Convention has protected the treasures of humankind, becoming the most ratified international heritage protection treaty in the world. The Convention provides a unique mechanism for international cooperation, bringing together communities and countries to safeguard heritage. The 50th anniversary was also an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for World Heritage, such as the impact of climate change, the need for a balanced representation of inscribed sites, the promotion of sustainable tourism, the consequences of digital transformation, and post-COVID-19 recovery. Addressing these issues will require innovation and strong partnerships. The International Union of Architects will be a key UNESCO partner in this effort.

UNESCO recently held the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (MONDIACULT 2022), a landmark conference that resulted in a Declaration recognising culture as a global public good. The Declaration, adopted by 150 countries, calls for culture to be included as a specific development goal in the post-2030 development agenda and for the strengthening and adaptation of our cultural policies to contemporary challenges. It urges countries to ensure the effective implementation of relevant UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations, including the 2011 Recommendation of the Historic Urban Landscape. It also notably calls for the more systemic participation of a diversity of stakeholders in cultural policies, including local actors, members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, cultural institutions, civil society, professional networks and experts, and concerned communities. Using culture-based strategies, UNESCO has long-supported the development of sustainable, resilient urban areas through its World Heritage Cities Programme and the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation of the Historic Urban Landscape.

MONDIACULT 2022 highlighted the power of culture to renew and broaden bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and to enable dialogue and solidarity within and between countries. As the UIA celebrates its 75th anniversary, we look forward to many more years of cooperation, working together to support sustainable development in cities and settlements through culture and architecture.



Top: The UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education was signed in 1996, outlining a series of guidelines aimed at ensuring that young architects are capable of meeting the professional, social and cultural challenges of the modern world. At the signing was the then UIA President Sara Topelson (left).

Bottom: The UIA Education Commission celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education. Present was Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture (centre), and then UIA President, Esa Mohamed (4th from right).



Architects' Council of Europe ACE



Ruth Schagemann,
President

Hearty congratulations from the European architects on the 75th anniversary of the UIA. Such an anniversary is a testament to a consistency that is now more necessary than ever and for which we should continue to strive in the future.

On the occasion of the UIA 2023 World Congress, scientists, architects and other disciplines will meet to address the question of how architecture can create a more sustainable future – a future that includes everyone and leaves no one behind. The challenges are great: climate change, combatting pollution and loss of biodiversity. They are not confined to Europe, but are present worldwide.

It is clear that climate change, environmental exploitation and demographic trends are having a dramatic impact on how landscape is shaped, used and viewed. How we live together and the living conditions in ever-larger cities with ever-higher demands, for example, have long made it necessary to look at nature from more than just an aesthetic or economic point of view.

Turning away from the use of fossil fuels is the first task. In Europe, the European Commission has stated its aim to pioneer the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The climate crisis and its consequences have only just reached the wider European public and we are now being confronted with the reality of an invasion of a sovereign European country. Russia and Ukraine are both countries of global importance in the field of fossil fuels, but also in that of basic food provision.

All this will not pass us by without leaving a trace. The need to change the way we plan and build is finally being recognised across Europe. After years of discussion, it is now high time to act. Landscape architecture, urban planning, architecture and design must be brought together again. The common goal must be to transform the technocratic approach to public procurement, energy and environmental policy into a cross-connecting, cultural project for a future worth living. We must move towards a circular and regenerative economy.

To achieve this, we need a strengthened, networked multilateralism based on trust and global cooperation. Every individual, every planning concept and every planning decision is concerned. The pandemic has shown us how closely we are interconnected globally. We have to work together. There is only one planet Earth.

- In the past, the UIA and the ACE have worked together at different levels with common goals:
- Knowledge transfer in the framework of our respective General Assemblies to which we traditionally invite each other.
 - Close cooperation in the preparation for World Architecture Day and World Congresses of Architecture.
 - Joint advocacy for the recognition of housing as a fundamental universal right mentioned in the SDGs and a basic reference for the future of countries and the world in the framework of the UIA Housing Forum.
 - Joint activities such as the symposium at the Palais de Chaillot during COP21 or the joint conference on architectural design competitions at UNESCO in 2019.
 - Together, we have called on policy makers and government agencies to include architectural competitions as a recommended procedure in public procurement in order to find durable, excellent and responsible solutions for quality architecture in cities and towns.
 - Disseminating architecture through best practice in exhibitions and publications.

We already know a lot and have adequate experience with existing best practice examples. Although we are constantly expanding our knowledge, we still have a lot of catching up to do and many targets to continue working towards. My appeal is then: let us look courageously into the future together and continue to stand up for our common goals!

Conference on International Design Competitions, organised by the UIA and ACE, and held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 25th October 2019





Architects Regional Council Asia

ARCASIA



Ar Dr Abu Sayeed M Ahmed,
President

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the UIA on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. This milestone event is a testament to the dedication, commitment and unwavering passion of the organisation towards the advancement of architecture globally. Over the past seven decades, the UIA has played a pivotal role in promoting and advocating for the principles of excellence, sustainability and innovation in architecture. Through your various programmes, initiatives and partnerships, you have provided a platform for architects worldwide to share knowledge, expertise and best practices, which has in turn contributed to the betterment of the profession and the built environment as a whole.

As President of the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA), I am particularly proud of the strong relationship that we share with the UIA. Our organisation is one of the largest and most influential regional architect associations, representing over 150,000 professionals from 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Asia is one of the most populous regions in the world, and with that comes unique challenges and opportunities. Rapid urbanisation, climate change and social inequality are just a few of the complex issues that architects in Asia must address. Through our joint efforts, we could develop strategies and solutions that reflect the unique needs and contexts of our different regions, while also contributing to global discourse on architecture and its role in shaping our world.

The theme for this year's Congress, 'Sustainable Futures – Leave No One Behind', is a timely and crucial topic given our current global situation. Architects have a crucial role to play in shaping sustainable futures for all and ensuring that no one is left behind. We must think about the impact of our designs and planning decisions on people, the planet and our collective future. We believe that architecture and planning can play a critical role in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. As architects, we must incorporate sustainability principles into every aspect of our work, from the design and construction process to the operation and maintenance of buildings and cities. We must also ensure that our designs are inclusive and accessible to all members of society, regardless of their social and economic status. This is particularly important in Asia, where many people still lack access to basic services such as housing, education and healthcare.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, I would like to express my gratitude to the UIA for its unwavering support and commitment to our partnership. Your leadership, guidance and expertise have been invaluable in shaping the direction and scope of our collaboration, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the years to come. Your achievements over the past 75 years are a testament to the power and potential of architecture to transform our world, and I have no doubt that your future endeavours will continue to inspire and lead the profession toward new heights.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the UIA once again on this momentous occasion.



Africa Union of Architects

AUA



Donatien
Kasseyet Kalume,
President

The Africa Union of Architects (AUA) would like to extend its warmest congratulations to the UIA on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. Since the UIA's establishment in 1948, it has been a global leader in promoting architectural practice and advocating in the public interest. The AUA is proud to have a privileged bond with the UIA and to contribute to its growth and development.

Over the past decades, the UIA has been a catalyst for change in our profession. It has set quality standards for the betterment of architecture across the globe. The numerous events, workshops and conferences led by the UIA have been instrumental and very helpful to many architects. Your initiatives during and following the COVID-19 pandemic have also had a great impact on many Member Sections.

Moreover, the various UIA Commissions are instrumental in defining guidelines for architectural education and practice, as well as in promoting sustainable and resilient architecture. They enable exchanges among architects from all around the world, thus stimulating innovation and creativity. UIA competitions are also highly appreciated – I would once again like to congratulate all the participants in the Great Green Wall competition, which was a true success.

Across Africa, we are firmly committed to developing sustainable architecture projects that meet the needs of local communities while preserving natural resources. We are also keen to participate in capacity-building and training initiatives for architects, enabling them to better address the challenges of urban development and the built environment. The UIA World Congress of Architects is unique in its ability to gather architects across the world and foster both professional and personal connections within our industry. It is a rare opportunity to meet and discuss common challenges. Therefore, the AUA is expecting to participate widely in this year's Congress in Copenhagen.

The world is changing, and the UIA is facing a number of challenges that we should address together in order to continue our successful collaboration. I invite you to think about increasing the accessibility of UIA events for those who may not have the facility to travel for numerous valid reasons, as well as about redoubling efforts to cross language barriers, which remain a major constraint for architects in certain parts of the world. As the President of the AUA, I also encourage you to remember that participation fees must remain affordable for all – otherwise, the UIA risks restricting the representation and participation of African delegates, as well as delegates from developing countries across the globe.

As we commemorate the work of the UIA, it is worth recalling the part that Africa has been able to play in your successes. There have been two UIA Presidents from Africa, namely Femi Majekodunmi and Gaëtan Siew. They both also served as Secretary General of the AUA. Additionally, AUA Past President Jean-Jacques Kotto served as a great connector between our two institutions. More recently, the dynamic engagement of Tokunbo Omisore with a series of initiatives to bridge Africa to the UIA has successfully demonstrated the potential of our continent.

Africa faces numerous challenges, but it nonetheless represents a diverse ocean of opportunities, composed as it is of 1.4 billion inhabitants speaking over 2000 languages. It is important to highlight that the AUA has a greater number of Member Sections than UIA in Africa and is engaged in a number of regional and continental initiatives. Hence, we are eager to engage in more strategic actions with the UIA to increase representation across Africa. For this, we should coordinate our efforts in order to make a real change in our Region, enhancing the cohesion amongst African architects and their international counterparts.

We look forward to continuing to work with you towards a better future for architects and the communities we serve.

Happy anniversary!

UIA president José Luis Cortés (5th from right) at the AUA Congress and General Assembly in Rabat, Morocco, on July 2022.



International Council of Portuguese Speaking architects

CIALP



Rui Leão, President

In 2010, CIALP became an institutional partner of the UIA through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the President of the UIA, Louise Cox, and myself, then Vice President of CIALP.

This strengthened a long-standing relationship between our two international networks. The connection between the Lusophone world and the UIA goes back to 1953 and the hosting of the third World Congress of Architects by the Sindicato Nacional de Arquitectos in Lisbon. The importance of Brazil's presence in the UIA was highlighted by Jaime Lerner's illuminated presidency, being the first UIA president coming from a Portuguese-speaking country.

CIALP is a non-governmental organisation, based in Lisbon and composed of the professional architectural institutes from countries and territories with Portuguese as an official language. It was founded in 1990 by Member Sections from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé and Príncipe, later being joined by Macau, Timor and Goa.

Establishing itself as a platform of over 250,000 Portuguese-speaking architects, which corresponds to about 10% of architects worldwide, CIALP's main goal is to build the cooperation between its members while promoting architecture amongst Portuguese-speaking people.

CIALP has always recognised the enormous importance of the UIA World Congresses for developing the commitment and involvement of architects in a world with ever increasing challenges, as well as for the role they have in collectively implementing improvements on policy and practice worldwide.

The greatest turning point in collaboration between the UIA and CIALP was at the Tokyo Congress in 2011, where, for the first time, CIALP presented the exhibition 'Modernismo na Lusofonia: Arquitectura dos anos 40/50/60'. This was the first major joint exhibition developed collaboratively among CIALP Member Sections on the architecture of the Modernist Movement, and the UIA enabled us to showcase it on the world stage.

This watershed moment in Tokyo was followed by two very important moments that marked the joint development of CIALP with the UIA: the IAB's (Instituto de Arquitectos do Brasil) winning bid to host the 2021 UIA World Congress of Architects in Rio de Janeiro and the approval of Portuguese as a working language for the UIA at the General Assembly in 2021.

As an international network, CIALP has gained a lot of maturity thanks to our close relationship with the UIA. Collaborations are one of the greatest assets for international networking knowledge. The presence of the UIA at CIALP Forums has been a great opportunity for us to learn together.

We send our best wishes to the UIA for a long and fruitful future!

Pan-American Federation of Associations of Architects
FPAA



Gerardo Montaruli,
President

The Pan-American Federation of Architects' Associations (FPAA) wishes to extend special congratulations to the International Union of Architects on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and to emphasise the long-standing cooperation between our two institutions and the Member Sections that compose them.

In such a moment of celebration, we would like to commend the fact that the action we have taken together over the years has streamlined our resources and, in many cases, almost certainly avoided simultaneous yet uncoordinated efforts in mutual areas of concern and interest. We have thus been able to complement each other and more efficiently promote the fundamental role of architecture and urbanism in solving problems related to habitat and land management. The objectives we share make a long list: the championing of the architect as vital in the search for built environment solutions; the use of competitions as a tool to ensure quality and thus improve social, economic and cultural well-being; the creation of policies that give female architects greater visibility; the valuing of those with different access needs through the proposal of numerous physical solutions in both urban and complex spaces; the preservation and defence of the natural and built world through advocacy in favour of the importance of places, cities, territories, buildings, complexes, know-how and culture; cultural integration and the exchange of legal solutions, academic and professional knowledge across borders. In recent times, unease related to climate change, migration, natural disasters, mobility, public spaces for democratic engagement and persisting concerns over social housing can all be added to this list.

Of course, architectural competitions deserve a special mention, since they are used by both the UIA and the FPAA to create new ways to participate in architecture and organise architectural exchange. They have guaranteed equality of opportunity, transparency and plurality from the inception of each of our organisations to the present day. Additionally, the organisation of forums, congresses, architectural exhibitions, lifetime achievement awards and public declarations have succeeded in drawing attention to our collective beliefs and commitments. They have also allowed architects from the Americas to join with those from around the world in political spaces where changes can be made with our ideas for the benefit of society. This includes government-level involvement as well as collaboration with entities in the fields of development, culture and heritage, amongst others.

We are delighted to continue this positive show of support and cooperation, fulfilling the objectives that have allowed us to be representatives for architecture and its power to contribute to a more equal and fair society.

It is for all these reasons that the Pan-American Federation of Architects' Associations acknowledges the hard work and success of the International Union of Architects over the last 75 years and sends its best wishes to all those involved in its work.



International Association of Eurasian Architectural Unions
MASA



Nikolay Shumakov,
President,
President of the Union of Architects of Russia,
People's Architect of Russia

Bahrom Yusupov,
Past President,
President of the Union of Architects of Tajikistan,
Professor of MAAM

Igor Voskresensky,
Executive Secretary,
Honored Architect of Russia, Academician

The International Association of Eurasian Architectural Unions (MASA) has collaborated with the International Union of Architects (UIA) since 2010. MASA was founded in May 1992 to maintain and develop the architectural and multicultural ties established in the 20th century between professionals from independent states in the post-Soviet space. It unites the architects of Eurasia based on the principles of self-government, voluntariness and equal representation of members. The Association currently includes 16 professional public unions: the National Unions of Architects of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, as well as Serbia, the Unions of Architects of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Astana.

At the same time, MASA's activities can be characterised on a larger scale. Over the 30 years of its existence, the International Association of Eurasian Architectural Unions has significantly strengthened its authority, moving from a territorial organisation to the rank of a full member of the world architectural community.

One of the largest participants in this community, whose unifying role is exceptionally great, is the International Union of Architects (UIA). Though official collaboration between our organisations is relatively new, the international meeting at which the UIA was founded in 1946 was attended by a delegation of renowned architects from the USSR. This shows the capacity of the UIA to unite beyond borders and to gather together the very best minds in architecture.

MASA is a partner of the International Union of Architects in the countries whose Unions of Architects are members of the Association (Region II - Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East). This status was secured by way of the signing of a bilateral agreement in 2010, brought about by the efforts of UIA President Louise Cox (Australia), Vice-President of Region II Liza Siola (Greece), UIA Council Member Andrey Kaftanov (Russia), MASA President Bakhrom Yusupov (Tajikistan) and MASA Executive Secretary Igor Voskresensky (Russia). On the one hand, the role of UIA representative imposes great responsibility on the Association, but it nonetheless provides it with ample opportunities to promote the UIA's resources and provisions among its members. It also creates opportunities for joint participation in the work of Congresses and General Assemblies. Thus, architects from many countries whose organisations are not yet members of the UIA are included through their involvement with MASA. Similarly, architects from all over the world who participate in the UIA's activities can become more familiar with the latest trends in architecture in the post-Soviet space and the achievements of national architectural schools.

Being a partner of the International Union of Architects, MASA acts as a conductor of the goals and objectives of the UIA based on the ideas of humanism and sustainable development. It is open to further cooperation and seeks to strengthen creative ties and expand the exchange of professional experience.

The International Association of Eurasian Architectural Unions has found its place in the architectural community and managed to become an authoritative international architectural organisation. There is a growing understanding of the significance of the activities of architects, and architects themselves are increasingly aware of their responsibility to society.

We urge our colleagues in the UIA to do everything possible so that friendly ties between architects from different countries continue to grow stronger and so that their creative contacts expand and develop!



Union of Mediterranean Architects

UMAR



Wassim Naghi,
President

Since architecture became a licensed profession during the mid-nineteenth century, syndicates, orders and associations of architects have emerged worldwide. However, the critical question has always been how to address the expected and required role of those international, regional, and local architectural organisations. The Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR) was created in Rabat in 1993 to act as a derivative organisation of the UIA. Its role was to address the specificity of the Mediterranean region with all the common interests of its 13 Member Sections, which span three different UIA regions (I, II and V). Since then, UMAR has signed two major agreements of cooperation in 2008 and 2013, respectively. Together, our two organisations can play a vital role in improving the performance of architects through networking and exchanging of best practices and know-how.

If I must recommend something for every union of architects regionally and internationally, especially faced with increasing economic challenges, it is to consider involving young professional architects in more useful, practical, active and interactive internet content via new applications and social media platforms. This will engage a wider spectrum of followers and users and soften the fortress model of current organisations by reducing formalities and lessening conventional, expensive events that involve high logistic and travel costs.

Regional organisations are essential to the performance of the UIA.

Despite the fact that more than 75 years have passed since the founding of this union and despite all the successes, achievements and partnerships with major international organisations, the UIA's performance still needs improvement, especially at the level of inclusivity, efficiency and decision making.

The technological innovations that are rapidly migrating into architecture and the heightened emphasis on the role of architects are the next things to be addressed by the UIA. Throughout history, many architectural achievements have been driven by art, form and ego. However, with the recent shift towards performance, business necessity and economic practicality, the architect of the future must strike a balance between form and function and art and science, as well as technology and soul. Only time will tell how balanced these concepts will be. The role of architects' organisations must contribute to the creation, awareness and the needed synergy between academia and practice which will ensure our profession remains a fascinating and critical job of the future. There is no doubt that architects and architecture were, are and will be in better shape with the continuous evolution of their connecting organisations.

Next page top: UMAR Executive Bureau at the 2019 UIA International Forum in Baku.

Next page bottom: The Lebanon booth at the 25th UIA Congress, Durban, South Africa.



Messages

UIA Partners



Commonwealth
Association of Architects

CAA



Peter Oborn,
President

In my capacity as President of the CAA, it is both an honour and a privilege to have been invited to contribute my thoughts on the partnership between our two organisations but, before doing so, allow me to extend heartfelt congratulations to colleagues at the International Union of Architects (UIA) on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Formed in the aftermath of the Second World War, the UIA is unique in being the only organisation of its kind to 'unite across political, economic, and aesthetic frontiers in a federation of their national organisations' worldwide. One might imagine that one global body for architects would be sufficient, but the reality is that conditions around the world vary greatly from one region to another, with social, cultural, climatic, and political boundaries of one kind or another.

Commonwealth Member States are united by a shared set of values and aspirations which are set out in the Commonwealth Charter. The Charter expresses the commitment of Member States to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all its people. It also recognises and promotes sustainable development and acknowledges the role of civil society in supporting the goals and values of the Commonwealth. The CAA also therefore has an important and distinct role to play which is entirely complimentary with that played by the UIA.

In the preamble to the its Articles and Bylaws that were adopted in Lausanne in 1948, the UIA stated that: 'by facilitating and furthering free contact between architects...[the UIA]...has as its purpose and intent the creation among them of relations of friendship, understanding and mutual esteem, to enable them to...broaden their knowledge and enrich each other through differences existing between them. They shall thereby be in a position to participate more effectively in the improvement of man's living conditions by the reconstruction of devastated cities and villages, the elimination of slums, the advancement of less developed regions, and the raising of housing standards...they are resolved to contribute to the progress of human society and to the strengthening of peace.' This ambition is entirely consistent with the aims of the CAA, whose constitution defines these as being: 'the advancement of Architecture in the Commonwealth and the promotion and acquisition of knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith. In furtherance of the foregoing objects...the Association shall...promote co-operation between associations of architects with the object of ensuring the maximum contribution by architects to the well-being of society.'

It is clear from the above that the UIA and the CAA both share a clear sense of social purpose and that our objectives are closely aligned. This shared sense of purpose is underpinned by a spirit of collaboration which is also reflected in the aims of each organisation and further evidenced by the fact that members of one group may well be members of one or more regional associations.

Indeed, in my current role as President of the CAA, I have also served as a member of the UIA Sustainable Development Goals Commission and as Jury Chair for the inaugural edition of the UIA 2030 Award in 2022. Such roles are entirely complimentary, mutually supporting and enable knowledge and experience to be shared more widely.

Both groups share a strong interest in raising educational and professional standards and in supporting their member organisations. The UIA and the CAA also collaborate in a number of important international forums and both organisations are accredited with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), providing an opportunity to contribute to policy making at the UN. Both groups are also represented on the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) and are active participants at the World Urban Forum (WUF), hosted every two years by UN-Habitat, thereby further strengthening the voice of built environment professionals globally.

With barely seven years remaining to realise the Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals, faced with the combined challenges of climate change, rapid urbanisation, and increasing vulnerability and inequality, it is imperative that professional organisations such as the UIA and the CAA continue to support and work with one another to deliver their charitable objectives. Only by doing so can we each help to ensure that nobody and no place is left behind.



Top: Both the UIA and the CAA are accredited with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) thereby strengthening the voice of built environment professionals in this important international forum.



Bottom: The CAA has access to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) providing an important international forum in which architects can influence policy making at the highest level.

2

About the UIA

Architectural Education Commission

The UIA Education Commission acts as a think-tank for architectural education policy, proposing guidelines, documents, proposals and opinions related to education. The aim is to facilitate access to high quality education globally, focusing on increasing the international mobility of architectural education.



Commissions

Architectural Education Commission



The UNESCO-UIA Study Programme Validation aims to set an international standard for excellence in architectural education, ensuring the prestige and integrity of validated schools. The UNESCO-UIA Charter on Architectural Education, published in 1996, lays out a series of guidelines aimed at ensuring that young architects receive an education that fully prepares them to meet the professional, social and cultural challenges of the globalised profession. The Charter acts as the basis for the UNESCO-UIA Study Programme Validation.

UNESCO-UIA architectural study programme validation

The recognition of architecture study programs by the UNESCO-UIA Validation represents an internationally benchmarked assessment of quality in architectural education. Assessment is carried out through a process of robust, unbiased, evidenced-based peer review. The UNESCO-UIA Validation advances the creation of a global network of recognized architecture programs, putting certified institutions and their students at a great advantage.

In its role as keeper and advocate of the UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education, UNESCO-UIA maintains a significant overview of the Canberra Accord, a global system for recognizing the substantial equivalence of validation systems. The Charter is reviewed every 6 years by the UIA Education Commission. The Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA] acts as the system operator of the UNESCO-UIA Validation System.

Directors

Further Information

Marilys
Nepomechie,
United States

Ashraf Salama,
Egypt



International Competitions Commission

Through its advisory role, the UIA guarantees the prestige of international competitions such as those that led to the construction of contemporary landmark buildings like the Sydney Opera House, the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Tokyo International Forum, and the Alexandria Library in Egypt.



Drawn up jointly by UNESCO and the UIA, the UNESCO-UIA Regulations for International Competitions outline the conditions required to run an international architectural competition and specify the respective rights and obligations of promoters and competitors. The UIA is the sole body mandated by UNESCO to oversee the application of these rules and to approve competitions organised according to them.

1998 – 2023 International design competitions and recent tendencies

UIA competitions are a main contributor to the organisation's reputation. In all parts of the world architects and architecture students get to know the UIA through UIA competitions. This is not surprising, since architectural design competitions challenge the core specificity of the profession – the ability to translate needs into spatial solutions, respond architecturally to the particularities of the task and its context with innovative ideas and technology thereby representing the most honourable way for an architect to obtain mandates and recognition.

The history of international competitions is closely related to the history of the UIA, which began collaborating with national professional organisations in conducting international competitions as far back as 1949. The need for regulations enjoying international acceptance and validity became evident from the beginning of the UIA's creation and the goal was achieved in collaboration with UNESCO. With the help of its Member Sections and legal advisors, the UIA elaborated Regulations for International Competitions which were approved by the UIA General Assembly in 1955. Adopted in 1956 by the General Conference of UNESCO and revised in 1978, the UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning remain the global reference for competitions focusing on the quality of the proposal. They are based on the main tenets of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination and guarantee professional evaluation under anonymity as well as the protection of authors' rights.

In the 1990s and first decade of the new century, new public procurement legislations in EU member states and countries that are signatories of the World Trade Organisation agreement seemed to threaten the practice of design competitions focusing on the quality of the design, by orienting procurement towards the cheapest offer, and in the best-case scenario, the most advantageous proposal. In many countries, national competitions were obliged to open to international participation in order to respect international or bilateral agreements. These developments caused misunderstandings about the definition of international competitions and the validity of the UNESCO Regulations even within the UIA.

From the Renaissance up to the 19th century, competitions were conducted only for prominent and exceptional projects. A democratisation of competition tasks started in the 20th century. With the embedment in public procurement law, competitions are now also organised for more common tasks within the public sector, which is a positive development. However, competitions often became unnecessarily formalised, complex, time consuming and costly for competitors and were unfortunately sometimes reduced to a merely bureaucratic procurement procedure. Furthermore, organisers tend to request advanced projects at the competition stage instead of concepts and prefer conducting restricted procedures with usually excessive qualification requirements creating a real problem of access and affordability for the profession.

Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris, by Italian architect Renzo Piano and British architect Richard Rogers



Under such circumstances, the ICC had the task of clarifying the specificity of the UNESCO Regulations, verifying their validity and ensuring that design competitions retain their cultural dimension and values. The UIA Competition Guide for Design Competitions in Architecture and Related Fields elaborated in 2016 includes updated best practice recommendations for the implementation of the UNESCO Regulations, valid not only in the domain of architecture and urban planning but also other design fields and related disciplines. This opening responded to the need for interdisciplinary collaboration for the elaboration of architectural solutions and the increasing number of multidisciplinary competitions. The Guide, adopted at the 2017 UIA General Assembly in Seoul and amended with Sustainable Development Goals in 2019, emphasises the importance of the principle of fairness and can also be used as a model for developing regulations for national competition.

The UIA recommends that design competitions should, in principle, be open, in order to promote new talents, should avoid excessive requirements and remain accessible and affordable for all. Following the UIA's goals, endorsed competitions in the last years respect the holistic, culture-centred and interdisciplinary approach aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The ICC professionalised the consultancy on competitions seeking UIA endorsement and successfully proved the compatibility of UNESCO Regulations with all public procurement legislations (including EU legislation) under which UIA-endorsed competitions took place since 2017. The ICC also advised the EU Commission in the conduct of its own competitions.

Competitions are increasingly also conducted for projects within the private sector in sensitive urban or landscape zones. This is often required by urban planning regulations, but also in general because promoters have recognised the merits of good design and the potential to improve their profile. Design competitions are suitable for all architectural tasks, simple or complex, large or small while ensuring, of course, that the effort remains proportionate to the scale and future mandate. In today's context design competitions are the best means for contributing to a wide-ranging design quality in order to improve the quality of the built environment.

The ongoing political discourse, particularly in Europe, where discussion centres on the “Baukultur” and “New European Bauhaus” initiatives, recognises that a high-quality built environment is a necessity and a matter of public interest, best achieved through well-managed design competitions, proved to be the best tool for finding suitable solutions for architectural tasks. Their recognition and appropriate implementation in national legislations and cultures is in progress although the process is slow. In this regard, the UIA has an important role to play in the coming years promoting worldwide high-quality built environment as a matter of public interest and competitions as the best tool allowing for comparison.

The work of the International Competitions Commission

Since the 1950s, UNESCO entrusted the UIA to supervise the application of the Standard Regulations, assist competition organisers and promote international competitions. The way the UIA has responded to this task has evolved over the years to reflect the increasing complexity of consultancy and the needs and expectations of organisers.

Tokyo International Forum by
US architect Rafael Viñoly

During the initial years of the UIA, international competitions seem to have been entrusted to single persons or ad hoc groups, personalities with proven competition experience. According to Jean-Pierre Vouga's article in the 50th anniversary publication, international competitions are not included among the 8 committees (work groups) created by the UIA Council to deal with different topics. In 1974, at the 45th Council Session in New Delhi, a temporary committee under Pierre Vago was constituted with the task to analyse previous UIA competitions and formulate recommendations for the future. In 1985, the Council Session in San Francisco approved the “Programme International Competitions” and Gérard Benoit was appointed Director. The UIA created permanent commissions on important domains of the profession: Professional Practice (PPC), Education (EDUCOM) and International Competitions (ICC) in the mid 1990s.

The composition and organisation of ICC has changed form over the years. In 1999-2006 the Commisssion had one director and one member from each region, all elected Council members. Later on, the Commission was composed of two co-directors and two members from each Region, which were not necessarily elected Council members. During the current term (2021-2023), the ICC has two co-directors, two advisors and 24 members. 26 different UIA Member Sections are represented in the Commisssion. According to current practice, co-directors are nominated by the UIA President and appointed by Council decision. Commission members are nominated by UIA Member Sections. Up to now, there are no specific experience or qualification required from nominees.

The ICC has the task of providing consultancy to external entities and UIA organisers of competitions and awards. In this sense, it must function as a service of the UIA and needs a solid anchorage in the headquarters. Since 1985, the Commisssion has been assisted by the UIA Secretariat in Paris which in early years also verified the conformity of briefs to the UNESCO-UIA regulations. With the increasing complexity of procedures, consultancy and answers to organisers’ questions can only be provided at the ICC’s direction. The work is intensive and therefore it is recommended to adequately reinforce the Secretariat.

Competition organisers seeking UIA endorsement often come to the UIA for reasons related to prestige, but mostly because they need a guarantee for the proper conduct of their competitions and help to identify qualified jurors and reach competitors from other countries. Their profile varies from unexperienced to knowledgeable and exigent, requesting expert and competent advice based on proven experience as well as legal understanding. Award organisers interested in UIA collaboration come to the UIA usually for reasons related to prestige and in order to obtain global attention.

In all UIA-endorsed competitions and awards, the UIA nominates a juror and alternate as its representatives in the jury. Jurors must have the same qualifications required of the competitors. The UIA nominates experienced architects, well known for the quality of their own work and capable of inspiring confidence and attracting participants. In addition to the professional evaluation, the UIA juror has the role of ensuring the implementation of the rules. With the increasing complexity of formal and procedural aspects in competitions, an ICC member with proven experience, acting as a non-voting observer, is often entrusted with the task of ensuring that the jury session is properly conducted.

The UIA has been considering a fee to organisers of competitions and awards seeking UIA endorsement. In regard to the time, effort and expertise requested for serious consultancy in competitions, the practiced fee is actually a over contribution. The ICC recommends that this income (averaging at 70,000 euros/year in the past ten years) contributes to the Commission's professionalisation efforts and special projects rather than to buttress the Union's expenses.

It was not possible to investigate the endorsement policy and practice, the extent and depth of consultancy in early years. Today, consultancy requires not only expertise but also full time availability. This is not compatible with volunteer work. Furthermore, consultancy cannot be provided by a commisssion composed of many members and the promotion of competitions and competition culture cannot be accomplished without the help of UIA Member Sections and a network of representatives in all countries. The role of the Commission, its composition, its organisation, the nomination procedure, qualification requirements for co-directors and members are topics that must be clarified in regard to UIA's moral and legal responsibility in matters of consultancy. The UIA must find adequate and viable solutions to ensure expertise.

ICC Organisation 2021 – 2023

ICC work is multi-faceted and includes 5 different domains of activity.

1. Consultancy

The ICC provides consultancy for competitions and awards/prizes. Since 2017, the ICC also advises interested Member Sections in elaborating or reviewing their national regulations for architectural design competitions.

ICC consultancy on competitions consists of advising on the competition type, the definition of the task, the evaluation criteria, the deliverables, formal and procedural aspects, the composition of the jury, the number of prizes and the amount of total prize money, key parametres of the mandate in view in the case of professional competitions, educational value (in the case of student competitions), the elaboration of the jury report and the organisation of the exhibition. The ICC also provides advice for the conduct of the jury evaluation session and an observer supervising the session and giving competent advice on formal and procedural matters.

2. Regulatory work

The “UIA Competition Guide” and the “UIA Participation in international Awards /Prizes” are the basic reference documents for the consultancy on competition and award matters. Furthermore, the ICC has elaborated various documents for the different needs of competition organisers, which are working documents occasionally reviewed on the basis of new experiences. The following are the categories of ICC documents:

- Reference documents available to general public
- Documents for external use addressed to external Organizers (UIA clients)
- Documents addressed specifically to UIA Organizers (elaborated in 2022)
- Documents for internal use of ICC Members and support documents for the ICC Secretariat

3. Promotion

The ICC’s task is to promote UIA competitions and competition culture worldwide. With a handful of UIA-endorsed competitions launched every year, the goal is to set high standards, advocate best practices worldwide and promote design quality. Requirements for a successful promotion is that UIA competitions remain exemplary in all regards. In the effort to promote UIA competitions, in 2021 the ICC proposed commemorative plates on buildings that have resulted from UIA competitions. Such plates should be designed by the architects of the building and mention the year of the UIA competition, the names of the winners, the name of the client and the year of completion. Although the initiative was approved by Council, implementation has not yet started.

4. Professionalisation

- Further efforts are necessary in order to:
- Investigate the archives, establish an inventory and document the history of UIA competitions
 - Verify the list of all UIA competitions since 1949 and include the key data
 - Digitalise data of old competitions
 - Initiate a PhD research and envisage a scientific publication on UIA competitions
 - Conduct statistics on UIA competitions
 - Conduct a survey on ADC practice worldwide in collaboration with the UIA Professional Practice Commission
 - Promote best practices by organising courses for competition managers
 - A UIA competition platform for competitions organised by the UIA or UIA Working Bodies ensuring anonymity was adopted by Council and brought into fruition in 2022.

5. Special projects

Special projects are usually related to the UIA Congresses, during which the ICC organises plenary sessions on the performance of UIA competitions for the term or seminars on specific aspects of competition practice. A special edition of the newsletter on UIA competitions was published for the first time in 2021. The intention is to repeat such interviews with organisers, jurors and winners every triennium.

An interactive map indicating the cities and countries where UIA competitions were conducted giving relevant information about the competition, the jury report, the winners, and follow up regarding the realisation of the project, is in elaboration and should one day include information about all UIA competitions. It will be part of the ICC exhibition at the Copenhagen Congress in 2023.

The work of the ICC is organised as follows:

- Consultancy is provided by the expert consultancy team composed of the co-directors and advisors.
- Regulatory work is elaborated by the consultancy team, discussed in the Commission and approved by Council.
- Promotion is entrusted to Commission members who are sometimes also asked to accompany the co-directors on a particular consultancy or participate in special projects.

The Commission meets twice a year and discusses particular problems and tendencies in the practice of UIA competitions but also national competitions conducted in the countries ICC members come from. It is a valuable exchange of experiences which demonstrates that competitions are not conducted in all countries, and where they are, they are not always practised in the same way. The proposed UIA survey in due and necessary.

The Challenge

Thanks to the recognition of the importance of design quality in the built environment, the context is today more favourable than ever for the promotion of architectural design competitions and competition culture. Endorsement by the UIA is nowadays not only an assessment of conformity to the UNESCO Regulations and the UIA best practice recommendations, but became also a guarantee of fair conduct of the competition with equitable conditions for the competitors and the winner. It is thus a quality label. This is one of the reasons why UIA competitions have an excellent reputation today. To maintain such a reputation requires paradigmatic competitions and hard work of experts. Ensuring expertise and increasing professionalism in order for the UIA to maintain its reputation in competition matters are questions that will preoccupy future Councils and which the organisation must answer with adequate solutions.



Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre by Renzo Piano

Directors

Regina Gonthier,
Switzerland

Jerzy Grochulski,
Poland

Further Information



Professional Practice Commission

The Professional Practice Commission (PPC) sustains and implements “The UIA Accord on International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice”. The Accord is intended to guide member section professionals, governments and lawmakers in the promotion of the global mobility of architects.



At its meeting in Tokyo in 1994, the UIA Bureau established the Professional Practice Commission (PPC) in response to the increasing challenges faced by the globalization of the practice of architecture. The Bureau – under the Presidency of Duro Pifarré (Spain) – considered it necessary to establish a special committee to undertake that task. The first PPC Co-Directors were James Scheeler and Zhang Qingnan, establishing the U.S.A. and China Member Sections as the Commission’s Joint Secretariat.

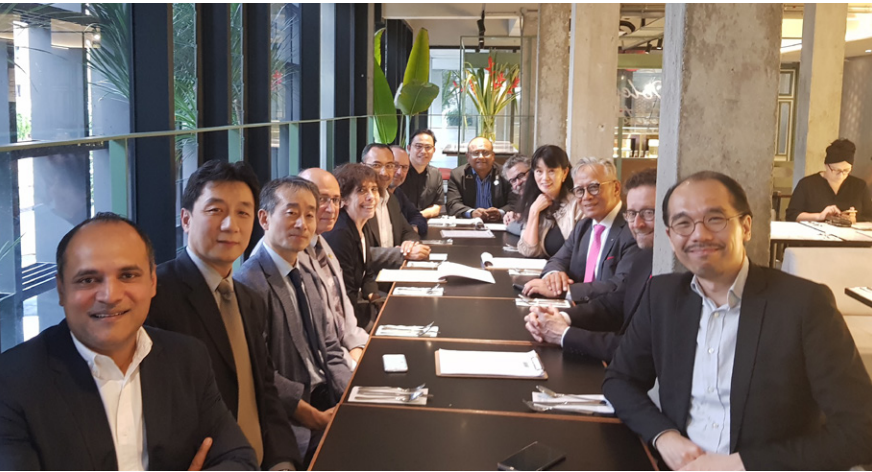
The PPC sustains and implements the UIA Accord on International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice as adopted by the UIA General Assembly in Beijing in 1999. The Accord guides UIA Member Section professionals and their respective governments and regulators in the promotion of the global mobility of architects.

The PPC continuously reviews the current relevance of the standards of practice and develops new documents that are reviewed and adopted by the UIA Council on a regular basis. The updated library of documents are adopted by the UIA General Assembly at the conclusion of each Triennium. The PPC’s agenda reflects its commitment to providing Member Sections with adaptable practice policies and guidelines in alignment with UIA universally held values concerning the architectural profession and its relationship with both society and the physical environment. The PPC also facilitates access to meaningful business information in the interest of professional practice development through global mobility.

The accomplishments of the PPC are many and wide-ranging, evolving to meet the ever-changing practice landscape. The core of the PPC’s agenda involves ongoing updates to general practice matters such as guidelines for pro bono services, policies pertaining to computer and software-driven design tools, project work stages, dispute resolution, a model project agreement, the ethics associated with nontraditional project delivery processes, etc. Architectural Practice Around the World (APAW), the PPC’s primary effort to provide a publicly-accessible online comparative global database of architectural practice conditions, will become reality once Member Sections complete the database questionnaire.



Members of Professional Practice Commission gathered in front of the headquarter of Malaysia Institute of Architects after the meeting



Left: Professional Practice Commission Meeting hosted by the Malaysia Institute of Architects in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Feb 2019



Right: Professional Practice Commission Meeting held in Rio de Janeiro in January 2020

Recently, the PPC's reach has expanded to include current social concerns of equity, diversity, and inclusivity within the profession, spanning issues associated with gender, ethnicity, and other forms of prejudice resulting in under-representation. The PPC is increasingly looking at establishing policies and best practice guidelines related to the regulation of the profession, including creation of a model practice act, matters concerning registration and licensure, mentoring, and title usage. Finally, the PPC embraces new initiatives resulting in inter-Commission collaboration.

Current PPC Co-Director Zhuang Weimin has many cherished memories associated with his years on the Commission. He notes that in his years of service with the PPC, he had witnessed the PPC having many architects representing Member Sections "...who work hard for professionalism with their rich professional experience and volunteer enthusiasm." He adds: "I was moved by their work. It is also the basic guarantee for the sustainable development of the PPC." Weimin's Co-Director Colleague, James M. Wright, FAIA, notes that while he has been in private practice on an international scale for over 40 years, in only five years with the PPC he has gained a wealth of insight flowing from new, global working relationships. "More than ever before, I believe an architect is always learning – and most importantly, is always growing in character through meaningful interaction with colleagues."

The UIA Professional Practice Commission is a vital international forum for professional engagement and interaction benefitting the practice of architecture.

Directors

James Wright,
United States

Weimin Zhuang,
China

Further Information



Sustainable Development Goals Commission

In this era of population shifts, climate change and unprecedented levels of urbanisation, architects have an important role in responding to the complex challenges of the built environment. Through the effective planning, construction, development, management and improvement of cities, urbanisation can become a model for sustainable development. It's time to embrace the intrinsic link between the built environment and job creation, livelihood opportunities, and quality of life.



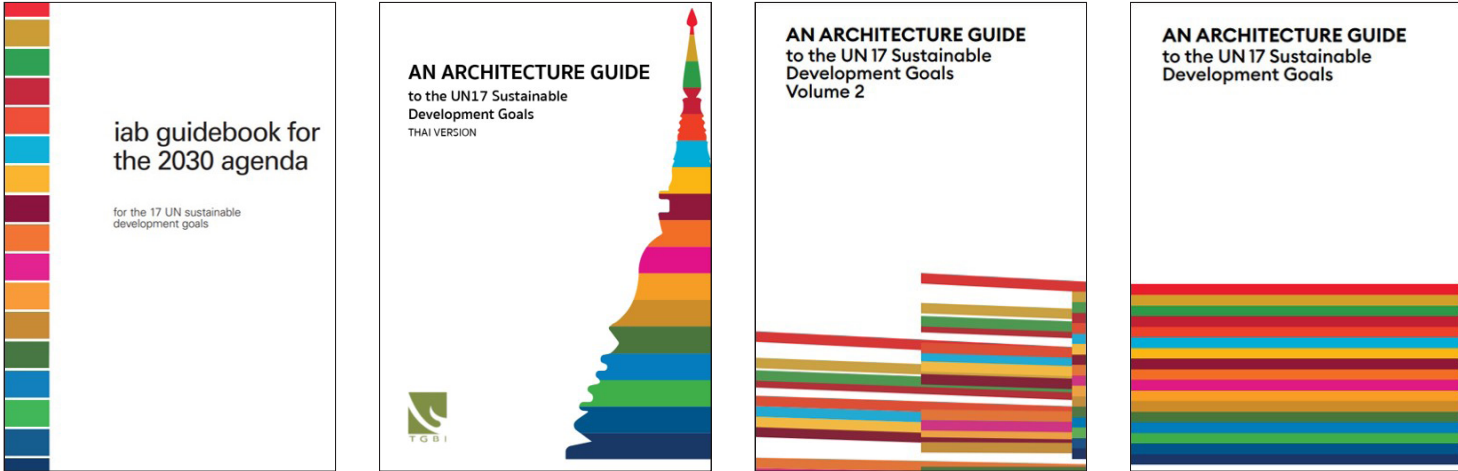
After the establishment of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), UIA created a new Commission, as decided at its General Assembly in Seoul in 2017. The UIA SDG Commission was established with two co-chairs, namely Natalie Mossin from the Nordic Section and Ishtiaque Zahir Titas from Bangladesh, with a great range of members representing all five UIA regions and a secretariat in Copenhagen, led by Annette Blegvad.

In general, the Commission responds directly to the Sustainable Development Goals, raising awareness, creating knowledge, facilitating communication, and disseminating information across its global network of members. With its unique position of global representation, members have been participating actively in the sourcing and dissemination of the first and second guidebooks “An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals”, published in English in December 2018 and June 2020, respectively. The guidebooks have been translated into Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, and French and local editions have been made in Japan, Brazil and Thailand. Thus, inspiration and knowledge has been widely spread among students, professionals, and parliamentarians.

In April 2019, the Dhaka Declaration was developed and signed. It is a call on architects worldwide to act in their own practice and as civic leaders to shape their work and their words to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the outset of the Decade of Action in 2020 a survey among UIA member sections was launched to understand how well equipped the UIA member sections are to help deliver the UN 2030 Agenda, the intention being to use the findings to better understand the ways in which the UIA can support its members. As a result of the survey, and in joint cooperation with UN-Habitat, the UIA 2030 Award was created recognizing the work of architects contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda through built projects that demonstrate design quality and alignment with the SDGs. The Award is biannual and will be awarded at the World Urban Forums up to 2030. The first award ceremony was held in Katowice in June 2022.

Following the UIA Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 2021 Cid Blanco Jr., from Brazil and Iman Gawad, from Egypt, took over as co-chairs and are leading the work as it continues towards 2030.



Right: UIA representatives at the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland in 2022



Virtual and physical meetings have been conducted since the creation of the Commission, and more recently subgroups have been created to dynamize and mobilize more members to work actively in disseminating the goals among the world architecture community.

Following the success of the inaugural award (2019 – 2021), a second edition of the UIA Award for Innovation in Architectural Education, organised jointly with the UIA Architectural Education Commission is being launched. Open to schools, departments, or programmes of architecture worldwide, the UIA Award will recognize excellence in architectural and urban design education, focusing on innovative pedagogies that foster contributions to realizing the UN SDGs across the five UIA regions, while reflecting their broad diversity.

An SDG Toolbox, developed by Yves Monnot (France), was adopted by the Commission as a compass to help in the selection of projects for the next edition of the Guidebook and a joint project with the Professional Practice Commission is being designed to create a virtual platform for the Toolbox.

The Commission is preparing several activities for international events, such as the COP27, and in particular organizing its participation in the UIA2023 Congress in Copenhagen that will promote, discuss, create, and showcase architecture as a vital tool to achieve the UN 17 SDGs by 2030.

Directors

Cid Blanco,
Brazil

Iman Gawad,
Egypt

Further Information

UIA Work Programmes interact more directly with society. They are policy-driven and relevant entities that are vital to the critical aims of the Union. The formulated policies affect public interest and the built environment.

Architecture & Society

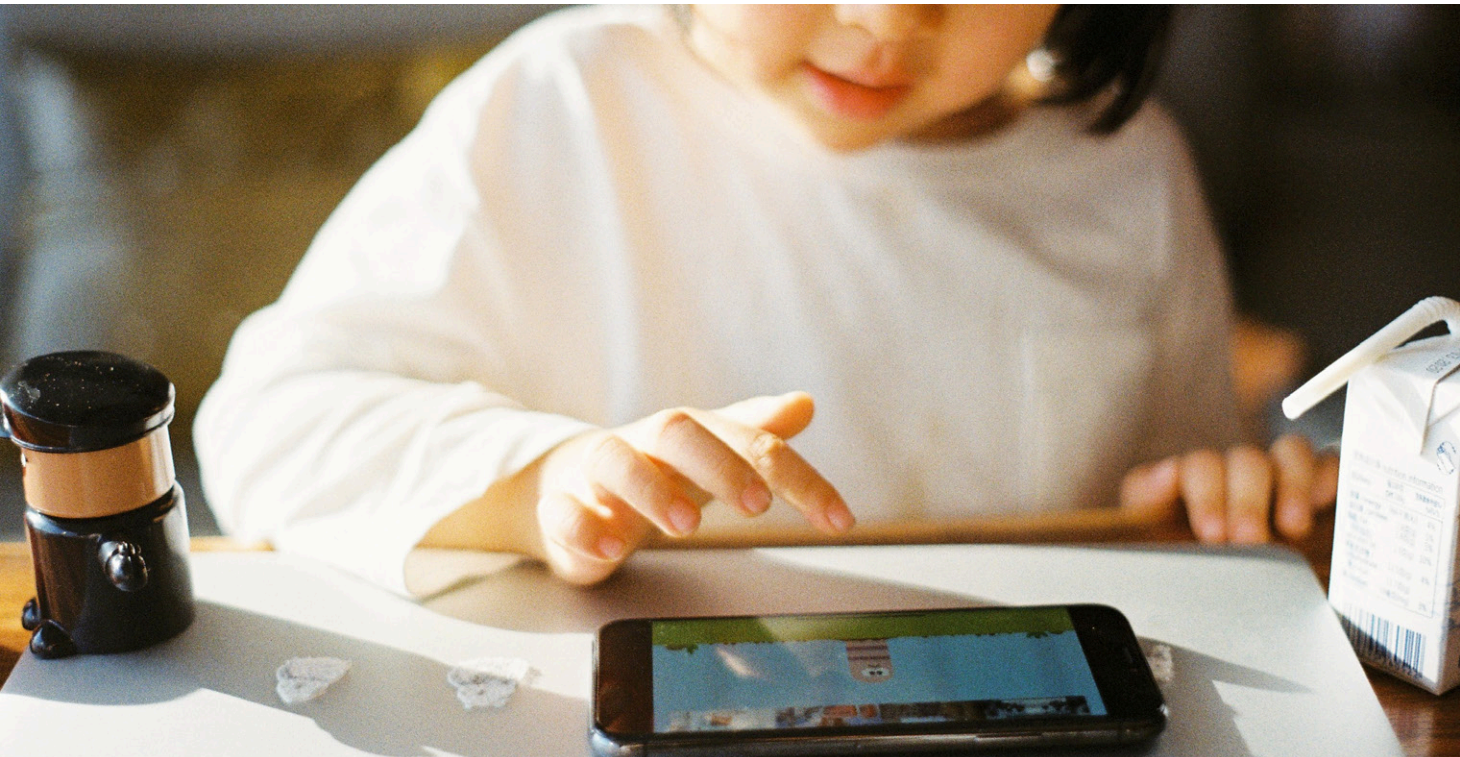
Architecture for All
Architecture & Children
Heritage & Cultural Identity

Social Habitat
Community Architecture & Human Rights
Architecture, Cities & Territories

Habitat

Public Facilities

Public Health
Sports & Leisure
Education & Cultural Spaces
Public Spaces



Architecture & Children

The UIA Architecture and Children Work Programme aims to raise awareness among children of the built environment, architecture, urbanism and sustainable development. Fostering their knowledge in these fields will ensure their development as responsible citizens, able to make their voices heard and influence the political, economic and social strategies that will shape their cities and their environment. In 2019, the Work Programme published the UIA Built Environment Education Charter for Children and Young People, to be used for the creation of a widespread network of built environment education for school children and young people in which individual initiatives and achievements can be shared by all. The Work Programme assists Member Sections in implementing the Charter and supports architectural education projects. It also organises the UIA Golden Cubes Awards, a triennial award initiated in 2011 and now in its fifth edition. The objective of the awards is to honour people and organisations that help children and young people to develop a better understanding of architecture and the built environment.

Directors

Further Information

Suzanne de Laval,
Sweden

Heba Safey Eldeen,
Egypt





Architecture for All

The UIA Architecture for All Work Programme (AfA) raises awareness of the architect's responsibility to ensure that accessibility and inclusive design are essential components of architectural design, construction and education. The Work Programme promotes good practice in accessible and inclusive urban design and architecture. As well as participating in webinars, radio programmes and public consultation sessions, AfA organises the Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards to raise awareness of the need for accessible architecture. Moreover, in 2022 the Work Programme launched an International Accessibility Symbol Design Competition in conjunction with Rehabilitation International. The Work Programme is recognised by a number of international bodies. In 2019, Programme members participated in a panel of experts at the European CEN/GENELEC Open Workshop. Similarly, the International Standards Organisation (ISO) liaised with the Programme in order to revise ISO 21542 on the built environment. The Work Programme also published the UIA Guidelines on Accessible and Inclusive Spaces and, in 2021, proposed a set of inclusive design guidelines for architects and urban planners working in response to natural disasters and emergencies.

Directors

Further Information

Krzysztof
Chwalibog,
Poland

Allen Kong,
Australia



Architecture, Cities and Territories

The UIA Architecture, Cities and Territories Work Programme aims to promote contextual architecture and urban and regional planning as tools for territorial development and the improvement of society. It seeks to raise awareness amongst the profession of the broad impact of architecture on social, environmental, economic and cultural life and to provide guidelines for sectoral planning and design that ensure healthy, inclusive and affordable urban environments. The Work Programme uses the UNESCO Base Plan methodology and learning platform and offers workshops on urban planning. It has recently developed seven principles for healthier cities which can be achieved by small interventions rather than slow, large-scale projects.

Directors

Further Information

José Gomez,
Colombia

Elbay Gasim Zada,
Azerbaijan





Community Architecture & Human Rights

The UIA Community Architecture Programme (CA+HR) is dedicated to advancing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular emphasis on Goal 11: making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. With current estimations stating that by 2030, two thirds of the world's population will live in cities, it is essential that urban environments develop in harmony with the UN guiding principles. This Work Programme aims to ensure that architects are mindful of the Sustainable Development Goals in all the projects that they undertake. Through numerous webinars led by external associations or Member Sections, the Work Programme provides information on the latest innovations in socially and environmentally sustainable architecture so that they can be adopted by architects all around the world. Aside from events and visits, CA+HR works to collate policy directives and best practice examples for consultation by the international architectural community. These can then be distributed to legislative bodies on a national level. The Work Programme organised the 2019 Just City Jozi Conference in Johannesburg, which explored how architecture can influence policy to guide sustainable urbanisation and human dignity.

Directors

Further Information

Qazi M-ARIF,
Bangladesh

Nadia Tromp,
South Africa



Educational & Cultural Spaces

The UIA Educational and Cultural Spaces Work Programme analyses the role played by educational spaces in the overall educational experience of those who use them. It explores how architecture can adapt to the cultural needs and educational systems in place across the world, focusing especially on school buildings. By publishing studies on their findings, the Work Programme seeks to inform local, national and international authorities of best practices for educational architecture, encouraging the creation of improved guidelines and legislation for the design industry. International knowledge exchange and comparison is a key facet of the Programme's work, as it allows recommendations to be adapted to local cultures across the world. In order to spread awareness about the role of architecture in educational experience, members of the Work Programme also participate in seminars on educational innovation, often in collaboration with cultural institutions and pedagogical experts.

Directors

Further Information

Lawrence
Tak Yin Leung,
Hong Kong SAR
China

Jorge Marsino,
Chile





Heritage & Cultural Identity

The UIA Heritage and Cultural Identity Work Programme engages in questions of the urban and sustainable development, rehabilitation, renovation and heritage management of existing sites, striving to establish high international standards for good practice. It promotes responsible cultural heritage management methods and collaborates with UNESCO to protect heritage sites from human, natural and climate change related threats. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the World Heritage Convention, the Work Programme organised and hosted a 3-day virtual conference in 2023, discussing the global impact of the Convention and possible solutions to the challenges it faces going into the future.

Directors

Further Information

Mohammad Habib-Reza,
Bangladesh

Kassim Mwamba Omar,
Kenya



Indigenous Peoples

The UIA Indigenous Work Programme seeks to promote the role of Indigenous knowledge in the architectural profession in order to achieve a better built environment. It works to provide the global architectural community with the knowledge, skills, and resources to advocate for and work in collaboration with Indigenous communities. The Work Programme also supports and encourages the work of Indigenous architects, raising awareness of the obstacles that they may face and suggesting legislation or recommendations to reduce their detrimental impact. It collaborates with Member Sections in order to increase recognition and stimulate implication in architectural projects that draw on Indigenous culture, with the aim of creating a better world for everyone.

Directors

Further Information

Patrick Stewart,
Canada

Elisapeta Heta,
New Zealand





Public Health

The UIA Public Health Group helps the design profession understand how to create places that protect, improve and restore human health. Every project by every professional in every practice impacts the health of the people who use it, which means that the work of the Public Health Group is relevant and useful to architects all over the world. The Work Programme organises and participates in International Public Health Seminars (IPHS) to emphasise the role of architecture in improving living, working and care environments. It also collaborates closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Hospitals (IHF), publishing joint papers on the optimisation of the built environment in healthcare settings. The Work Programme was crucial in the adoption of the 2022 UIA Year of Health and organised a number of events on the theme. For example, it held hospital tours for architects to highlight ways in which space can be optimised and adapted for more efficient healthcare facilities.

Directors

Further Information

Ray Pentecost,
USA



Public Spaces

The UIA Public Spaces Work Programme examines examples of healthy and sustainable public spaces in order to share key factors of success with the wider profession. It analyses how public spaces can be designed for multiple different uses and collaborates with architects who champion sustainable design that promotes public health. Recognising the importance of the built environment on well-being, the Work Programme proposes guidelines to restore public spaces in a way that improves the quality of life of those who use them. It advocates for the incorporation of protected green spaces in cities that can be freely accessed by everyone and advises local authorities on the redevelopment of public spaces that are no longer fit for purpose.

Directors

Further Information

Maria Feitosa,
Brazil





Social Habitat

The UIA Social Habitat Work Programme aims to address the diverse issues surrounding social housing and to provide a range of possible responses that can be adapted to the specific needs of different countries. It focuses on analysing the effects of funding, location, construction techniques, quality, ecology and versatility on architectural outcomes, presenting best practice recommendations that benefit both social housing operators and occupants. The Work Programme organises debates and seminars that encourage practising architects to start implementing positive social action within the architectural community. It collaborates with local and national legislators as well as social activists to promote the role of the architect in providing innovative solutions to combat the social housing crisis and its potential repercussions.

Directors

Further Information

Philippe Capelier,
France

Sahar Attia,
Egypt



Sports & Leisure

The UIA Sports and Leisure Work Programme explores how sports and leisure facilities can be optimised in terms of user-friendliness, cost and sustainability. To do so, it organises frequent webinars and participates in the biannual International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) Conference. The Work Programme has also published a thesis on the Sustainable Stadium that has been adopted by the International Olympic Committee and is displayed on the latter's website. Work Programme members have a strong presence on architectural juries for sports and leisure projects, thus ensuring that new construction projects are in accordance with the wider UIA values of sustainability, accessibility and functionality. The Work Programme works closely with various sporting committees as well as local and national legislators.

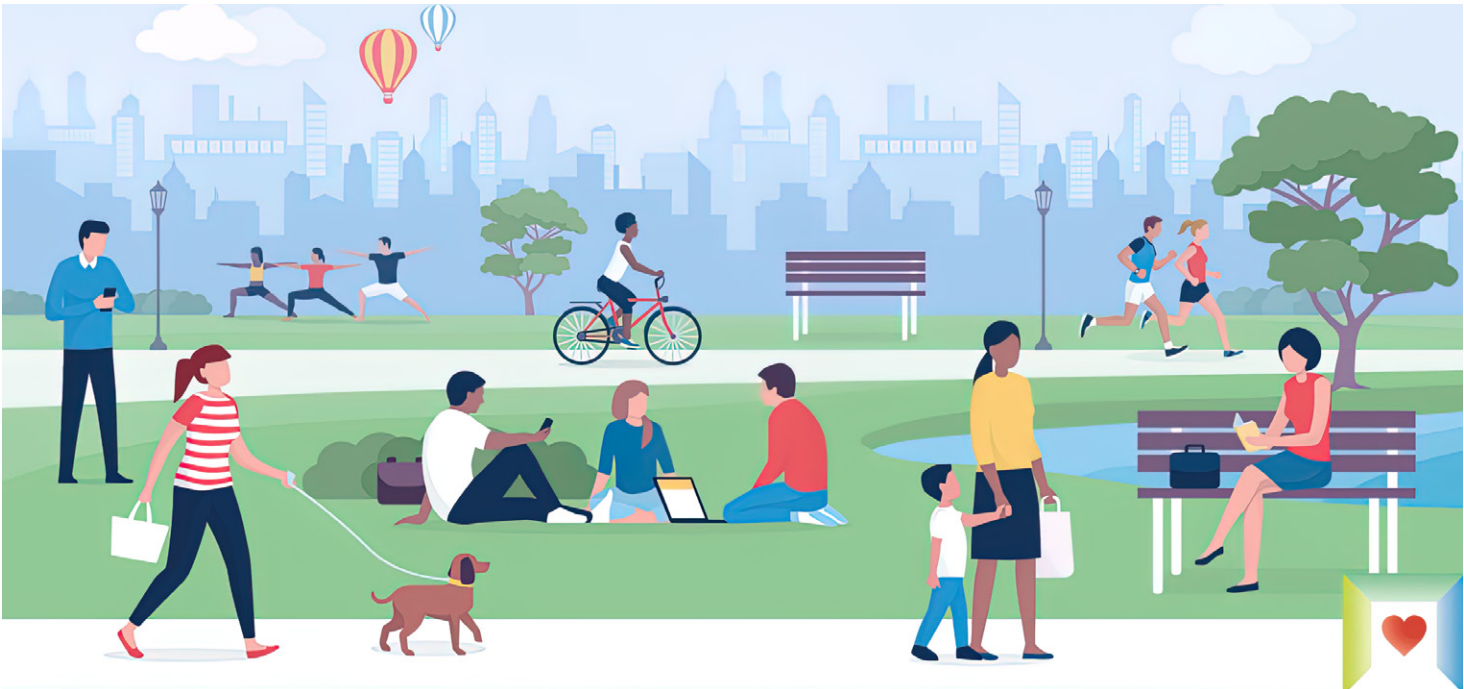
Directors

Further Information

René Kural



2022 Year of Design for Health



In July 2021, the UIA General Assembly declared 2022 the “UIA Year of Design for Health”. This commitment urges all UIA Member Sections to encourage architects and their clients to use evidence-based design to promote health in buildings and cities.



Further Information



This initiative seeks to raise awareness of public and stakeholders on the impact of our design on health and well-being. Architects around the world are urged to explore how good design can contribute to security, healing and well-being that goes well beyond health care facilities, reaching our homes, our schools, our public spaces and our institutions.

The UIA Year of Design for Health worked to illuminate the important role design and architecture play in fostering, restoring and rejuvenating physical and mental well-being. Architects around the world were invited to organise activities to use evidence-based design to promote health in buildings and cities.

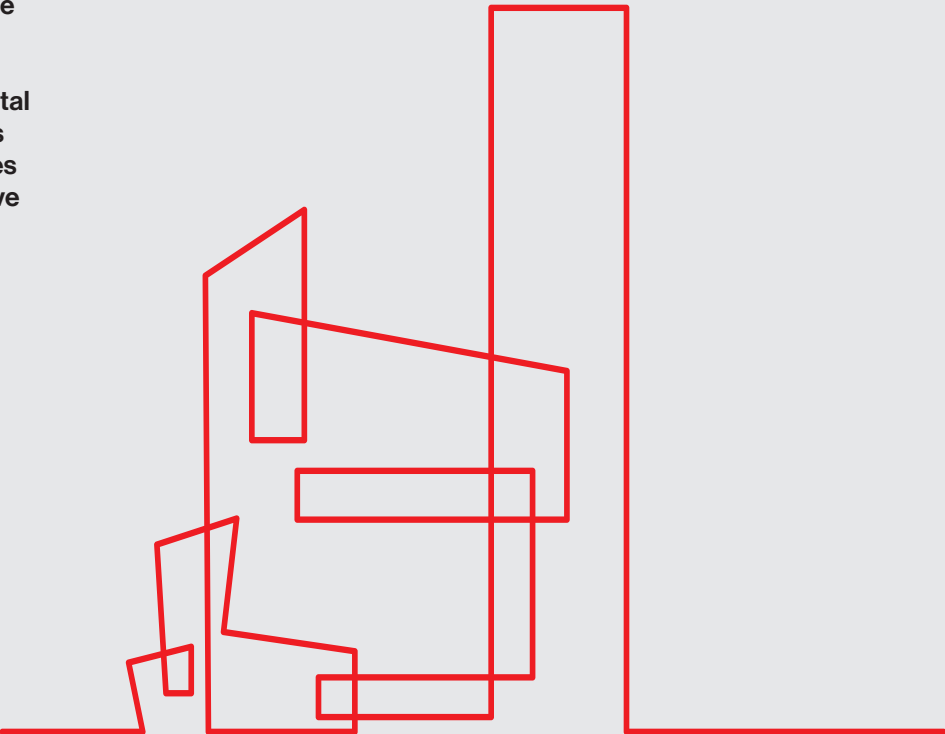
What does the built environment need to provide people so that people can grow and flourish? What is the healthiest relation between nature and the built environment and how can architects foster and protect that relationship? It is the responsibility of architects, built environment professionals and policymakers to lead the way.

World Capital of Architecture

UNESCO and the UIA launched the World Capital of Architecture initiative on 23 November 2018 to highlight the key role of architecture, city planning, and culture in shaping urban identity and sustainable urban development. Every three years, the city designated as World Capital of Architecture becomes a global forum at the forefront of discussions on contemporary urban planning and architectural issues.

After receiving the candidacies of the cities to host and organise the UIA World Congress and General Assembly, the Joint UNESCO-UIA Committee preselects a maximum of three cities, one of which will subsequently be designated as the World Capital of Architecture for a period of one year.

Cities chosen as the World Capital of Architecture will host a series of major events and programmes aligned with the year’s respective World Congress.



Rio de Janeiro

Brazil

2020/2021

Rio de Janeiro became the first city to receive the title of World Capital of Architecture (WCA) with the theme “All worlds. Just one World. Architecture 20”. The crowning of the city as World Capital of Architecture was officially celebrated on 2019-2020 New Year’s Eve. At the beginning of March 2020, when the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 a global pandemic, there were already more than 300 cultural projects registered as part of the WCA programme in the city.

Due to the pandemic, the UIA in consultation with UNESCO and the Institute of Architects of Brazil decided to postpone the Rio Congress, initially scheduled for July 2020, to July 2021. In doing so, the city of Rio held the WCA title for two consecutive years (2020 and 2021).

The team in Rio adopted digital communication methods including webinars and social media live broadcasts to continue its work and produce content linked to architecture, cities and the global pandemic. The rich content developed with the collaboration of students, architects and other professionals from around the world was converted to a series of e-books.



Copenhagen

Denmark

2023

The city of Copenhagen has been officially designated as World Capital of Architecture for 2023 by the Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay, on the recommendation of the UIA. This decision is in keeping with the partnership agreement established between UNESCO and the UIA in 2018, through which UNESCO designates the host cities of UIA’s World Congress as World Capitals of Architecture.

As the World Capital of Architecture for 2023, Copenhagen will host a series of major events and programmes on the Congress theme “Sustainable Futures – Leave No One Behind.” In cooperation with the Danish Association of Architects and various Nordic professional bodies, the municipality will examine how architecture and urban design contribute to meeting the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



World Congress of Architects

The UIA World Congresses are key events for professional and cultural exchange among all the world’s architects, bringing together thousands of participants from around the globe. Debates, exhibitions, tours and networking events make the UIA Congresses the perfect meeting place for experts, colleagues, friends, and students of architecture.

UIA Congresses are organised by a host UIA Member Section. Congress bids are submitted to the UIA General Assembly and selected by vote six years in advance of the event.



28

World Congresses from 1948 to 2023



Lausanne

Switzerland

02—06 JULY 1948

How Does the Architect
Perform his New Tasks?



Lisbon

Portugal

20—27 SEPTEMBER 1953

The Architect at
the Crossroads



Rabat

Morocco

24—28 SEPTEMBER 1951

The Architect Faced
with his New Tasks



The Hague

Netherlands

29 MAY—1 JUNE 1955

Architecture and
Building's Evolution



Moscow

Russia

25—28 JULY 1958

Construction and
Reconstruction of Cities
1947-1957



Havana

Cuba

08—10 SEPTEMBER 1963

Architecture in
Developing Countries



London

England

10—13 SEPTEMBER 1961

New Techniques,
New Materials



Paris

France

05—09 JULY 1965

The Education of
the Architect



PragueCzech Republic

11–14 JUNE1967

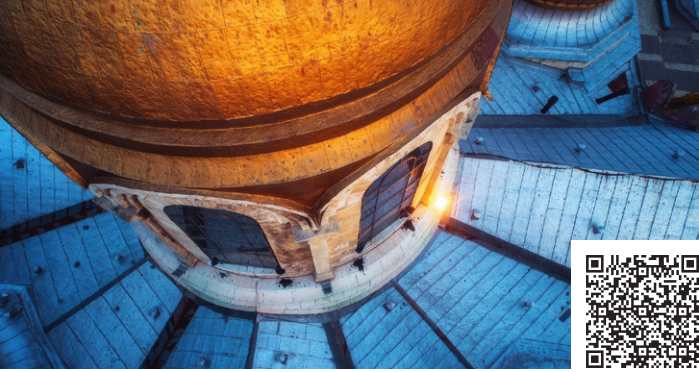
The Architect and
the Human Milieu



VarnaBulgaria

23–26 JULY1975

Architecture and
Leisure



Buenos AiresArgentina

15–18 JUNE1969

The Architect as
a Social Factor



MadridSpain

08–11 JUNE1972

Creativity and Technology



Mexico CityMexico

27 MAY–01 JUNE1978

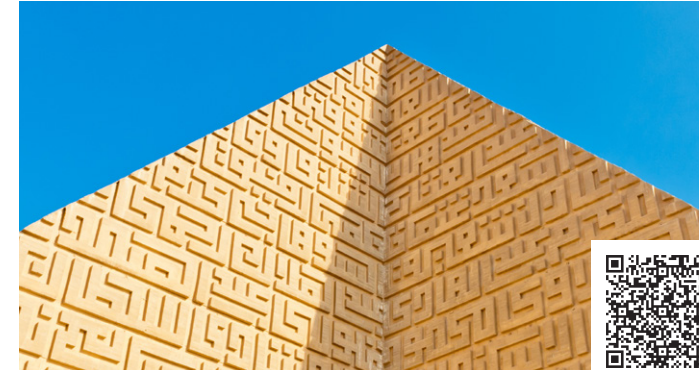
Architecture and National
Development



CairoEgypt

20–26 NOVEMBER1985

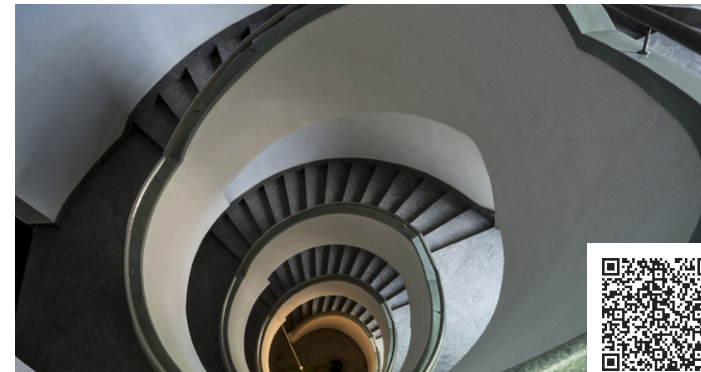
Present and Future
Missions of the Architect



WarsawPoland

15–21 JUNE1981

Architecture, Man, Environment



BrightonEngland

13–17 JULY1987

Shelter and Cities—
Building Tomorrow’s World



MontrealCanada

27 MAY—01 JUNE1990

Cultures and Technologies



BarcelonaSpain

03—06 JUNE1996

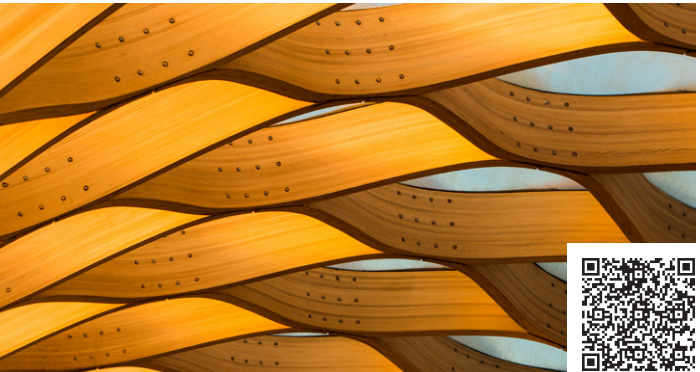
Present and Futures: Architecture in Cities



ChicagoUSA

15—21 JUNE1993

Architecture at the Crossroads



BeijingChina

23—26 JUNE1999

Architecture of the 21st Century



BerlinGermany

09—12 JUNE2002

Resource Architecture



TurinItaly

30 JUNE—03 JULY2008

Transmitting Architecture



IstanbulTurkey

03—07 JULY2005

Grand Bazaar of Architectures



TokyoJapan


25—28 SEPTEMBER2011

Design 2050



DurbanSouth Africa


03—07.08.20142014

Architecture Otherwhere



Rio de JaneiroBrazil

18—22.07.20212021

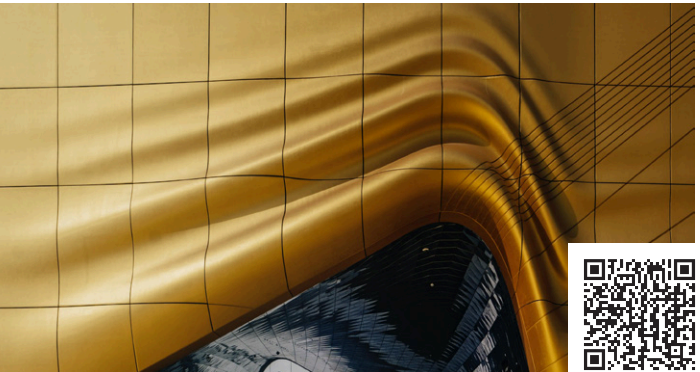
All the worlds. Just one world. Architecture 21.



SeoulKorea

03—10.09.20172017

Soul of the City



CopenhagenDenmark

02—06.07.20232023

Sustainable Futures — Leave No One Behind



World Architecture Day

Created by the UIA in 1985, World Architecture Day is celebrated annually on the first Monday of October in parallel with UN World Habitat Day.



2022
Architecture
of Well-being

Architecture for well-being. The theme is in line with the designation of 2022 as the UIA Year of Design for Health and the Union's commitment to use evidence-based design to promote health in buildings and cities.

Health, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), is “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity,” and “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition” (WHO, n.d.).

2021
Clean Environment for a
Healthy World

The theme for 2021 addresses housing, public spaces and global environmental issues in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the aim of contributing to the global conversation on the 2030 Development Agenda.



2022—Architecture of Well-being

2020
Toward a Better
Urban Future

Just as it is reshaping social customs and spaces all across the world, the global pandemic is revealing once again how crises affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations disproportionately.

In far too many of the world's cities, people cannot follow safe practices, simply because they lack clean water and air, and even space itself. Urban policies must ensure adequate services, shelter, and recreational space for all citizens. Urban planning, design, and architecture are critical to a better urban future for all.

The UIA and its member countries sought to show how urban design and architecture can make our communities strong, safe, equitable, and affordable — how they can move us toward a better urban future.

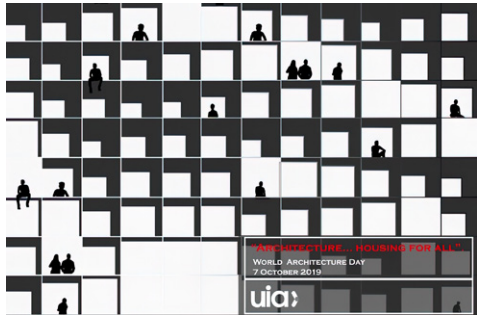
2019
Architecture –
Housing for all

Affordable housing is part of the New Urban Agenda, constituting one of the main axes of UN Sustainable Development Goal number 11: “to make cities and human settlements safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable”. With over a billion people living in slums and informal settlements, the theme for 2019 explored how architects can contribute to solutions ensuring universal access to safe housing.

2018
Architecture...
For a Better World

Architecture can help our planet face two of its gravest problems - environmental degradation and ever greater human needs. Architects can help to reverse patterns that destroy heritage, degrade habitat, squander resources and perpetuate social imbalances.

Architecture can make our world better, for all people. Through design, we can help stop the destruction of natural landscapes and valuable agricultural land. Through design, we can help meet the staggering global scale of human need, much of it concentrated in our largest cities.



2019—Architecture – Housing for all

2017
Climate Change Action!

Climate change is an issue around which all architects should rally without hesitation, since they have a fundamental role to play. With the theme for 2017, the UIA hoped to raise awareness and mobilise architects towards their roles in the intersecting goals of a safe and healthy environment, the improvement of urban planning and the necessity of developing sustainable energy and transport.



2017—Climate Change Action!



2018—Architecture... For a Better World

Further Information



2022



2021



2020



2019



2018



2017



International Forums

The UIA holds interim Forums approximately mid-way between the triennial UIA World Congresses. The first such event was the UIA 2019 International Forum, which was held in 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan along with the UIA 137th Council meeting and the Extraordinary General Assembly.



UIA International Forum 2022 Madrid, Spain

Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing 18–20 May

Housing is a basic universal right specified in the SDGs and is a fundamental reference for the future of countries and the world.

Organised by the the Spanish Section of the UIA – Consejo Superior de Colegios de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE) in collaboration with public and private partners, the Forum will have in-person attendance in Madrid with a maximum number of participants according to availability of different spaces. The city of Madrid will also be used as stage and multi-scenario for online transmissions. Online participation will be available to all those registered persons willing to attend.

Topics included: Housing affordability, inequality, house price and rent dynamics, rent control, low-income housing supply and demand, private-public partnerships, mortgage and housing finance system, design and performance to support affordable housing , urban design and architecture, land use regulation and entitlements, demographic factor, homelessness, urban stratification, population mobility and immigration, policy at all levels of government, legal issues and regulations, healthy housing

Further Information



UIA International Forum 2019 Baku, Azerbaijan

Mass Tourism in Historic Cities 07–09 June

The UIA International Forum on Mass Tourism in Historic Cities took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, at the Heydar Aliyev Centre. The event brought together architects, tourism professionals, heritage conservation experts and city representatives.

The Forum was launched with an introductory presentation entitled “Tourism in Numbers: Managing sustainable tourism growth”, from Michel Julian, Senior Officer at the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Read the opening speech from Michel Julian (UNWTO).

Over the course of the following days, experts discussed the challenges and benefits of tourism, and the role that architects and heritage conservationists have to play in rehabilitating, reconfiguring and protecting historic sites and cities, in order to optimise the relations between residents, tourists, and the place itself.

On the final day of the Forum, the UIA released a declaration detailing the conclusions of discussions, notably the ways in which architecture, planning and design can be used as tools to safeguard heritage in the age of mass tourism.

Further Information



An Overview
of International
Competitions from
1949—2022

By Regina Gonthier
(Switzerland) &
Jerzy Grochulski (Poland)

ICC Co-Directors
2015—2023

Region	No. of competitions	% of total competitions
Region I	60	20%
Region II	117	39%
Region III	36	12%
Region IV	43	14%
Region V	44	15%
Total	300	100%

Entrusted by UNESCO to promote international competitions worldwide, supervise the application of the Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning and assist competition organisers, the UIA can proudly affirm at its 75th anniversary that it fulfilled its task of promotion. 300 UIA-endorsed professional competitions conducted in 86 different countries since 1949 and over 50 student competitions conducted since 1998 is a remarkable performance. The following study is not a scientific research but a first attempt to analyse the data that could be assembled with the help of the Secretariat.

Professional competitions

300 competitions conducted in 73 years gives an average of 4.1 competitions a year. A brief analysis of the data shows that although they were conducted in 86 different countries, the geographical repartition is not equal among the five UIA Regions. 59% of the competitions were conducted in European countries in Region I and Region II, which already had a tradition of organising competitions before 1956, and 41% were conducted in countries in the other three Regions (III, IV and V).

The ranking according to the number of UIA competitions conducted in a country gives Germany first place with 22 competitions, followed by Belgium with 19, France with 15, Spain with 14, USA and Italy with 13 each, Korea with 12 and Greece with 9. This reflects the historical context after World War II, the reconstruction of destroyed cities, the reunification of Germany, and also undertakings such as “Les grands projects” in Paris during the 1980s. Furthermore, it manifests the impact UIA Congresses may have in motivating the organisation of UIA competitions in a Congress country (Korea). But the above analysis also shows that 117 competitions (39%) were conducted in only 8 countries, 6 of which are European countries.

Among the 300 competitions, ca. 70% are architectural design competitions sometimes combined with urban and/ or landscape design. During the last 10 years, the collaboration of architects with landscape architects has frequently been a requirement for participation. Moreover, organisers increasingly request multidisciplinary teams as competitors. About one-fourth of the architectural design competitions were classified as competitions with research or theoretical goals or without clear realisation intention. Ca. 30% of the 300 competitions were classified as competitions in related disciplines. 82 (27.3%) in town planning and urban design competitions, 10 (3.3%) in landscape architecture competitions, and one single in furniture design as an interior design competition.

Architectural competitions endorsed by the UIA during the past 75 years have been conducted for a large spectrum of different tasks. The analysis of the topics of the 156 selected competitions below shows that numerous prestigious projects of different building-type categories have been UIA project competitions.

- Government/administration: 31 competitions including 4 Parliament Buildings and 6 Town Halls
- Music/Performance: 10 competitions including 6 Opera Houses, 3 Theatres, 1 Concert Hall
- Art: 22 competitions including 10 Museums, 6 Cultural Centres, 2 archaeological sites
- Education/Research: 22 competitions including 11 University Campuses and 5 National Libraries
- History: 15 competitions for memorials
- Religion: 8 competitions for places of worship for different religions
- Sports and Leisure: 12 projects including 3 Stadiums and 7 Hotels
- Transport: 4 competitions including 2 train stations and 1 airport

- Office buildings: 19 competitions for headquarters of organisations, foundations, firms
- Housing: 13 projects the majority of which are theoretical without the intention of implementation

The analysis of UIA-endorsed competitions has faced several challenges including limited resources that hindered the digitisation of its physical archives, stored since the UIA headquarters moved from the Auguste Perret building to the Montparnasse tower in a warehouse outside Paris with difficult access. The overview serving for determining the number of UIA competitions relies for the years 1949 – 995 on the list included in the publication of the PHD work of Nicolas Aymone and for the period 1997 – 2022 on the list assembled by the ICC Secretariat.

It was not possible to investigate about the endorsement policy and practice, the extent and depth of consultancy in early years. Reliable information about the type of competitions (ideas/project, open/ restricted) is available for competitions conducted since 2005 and about the number of stages since 2014. The overview of competitions needs to be completed with the names of the jurors, UIA representatives, winners and follow-up regarding the realisation of the project.

In the past 18 years, (2005 – 2022) 54 UIA endorsed professional competitions were conducted in 30 different countries, representing an average of 3 competitions a year.

- 57.4% took place in Region I and Region II, 42.6% in the other three Regions

- 42.6% were conducted in Region II which has the highest record of UIA competitions
- 66.7% of the competitions were conducted in open procedure and 33.3% in restricted procedure
- 75.9% were project competitions and 24.1% ideas competitions
- 62.5% of the project competitions were conducted as open and 37.5% as restricted procedures
- 77% of the ideas competitions were conducted as open and 23% as restricted procedures

When evaluating the overview below, it is necessary to note that the percentage of ideas competitions (24.1) is high for professional competitions, since ideas competitions do not lead to a mandate for the winner. A more detailed analysis of the data, not documented in the above table, shows that the percentage of restricted project competitions (37.5%) is high and the percentage of restricted ideas competition (23%) is not comprehensive when considering the UIA policy recommending open procedures in order to ensure a wide range and diversity of solutions, promote new talents and offer enhanced opportunity for the emergence of innovative ideas. From the 23 professional competitions conducted since 2014, 3 (13%) were two-stage competitions requesting more work than necessary from the competitors. This tendency is especially noted in competitions conducted in Region I.

The UIA recommends that design competitions should, in principle, be open, in order to promote new talents, should avoid excessive requirements and remain accessible and affordable for all. Following

UIA endorsed competitions
2005 – 2022

	Total	Percentage	Project	Ideas	Open	Restricted
Region I	8	14.8%	7	1	2	6
Region II	23	42.6%	18	5	18	5
Region III	2	3.7%	2	0	2	0
Region IV	15	27.8%	8	7	11	4
Region V	6	11.1%	6	0	3	3
Total	54	100 %	41 (75.9%)	13 (24.1%)	36 (66.7%)	18 (33.3%)

the UIA’s goals, endorsed competitions in the last years have respected the holistic, culture-centred and interdisciplinary approach aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The ICC has pointed out the necessity of creating and maintaining a detailed database of all its competitions as well as research on the outcomes thereof. Indeed, such information is necessary for recognising tendencies and better directing the ICC’s efforts and promotion but also for advising organisers seeking UIA endorsement. Furthermore, analytical studies are necessary in order to measure the concrete successes of UIA competitions. This is especially because it is not the number but the quality of procedures and successful realisations that contribute to the reputation of UIA competitions. The goal of a competition is not accomplished with the conduct of a fair procedure. The “raison d’être” of a competition is the realisation of the best proposal.

Architectural design competitions practice elevates the general level of quality of the built environment. However, only a small percentage of winning projects can be expected to be particularly innovative, or have the potential to be pilot projects that are recognised as such in the history of architecture. In this sense, the success rate of UIA professional competitions corresponds to expectations.

On the basis of the available information, the UIA can be proud to count many successful UIA-endorsed professional competitions which led to the construction of prestigious iconic pilot projects, numerous outstanding projects of high architectural and/or urban design quality and projects with remarkable architectural quality, but also competitions that had a significant impact on architectural approach (Lima, Peru), design language (The Peak) or animated critical discourse (Place des Nations, Acropolis Museum) regardless of whether the projects were realised or not. In many cases, the winners of UIA competitions were unknown young architects at the time, who became well-known world architects thanks to the

Overview of selected reference projects and UIA competitions	
<u>Prestigious, iconic pilot projects, result of open UIA competitions</u>	
1956	Sydney Opera House (Australia) <i>Winner: Jørn Utzon (Denmark)</i>
1971	Georges Pompidou Centre (Paris, France) <i>Winners: Renzo Piano, Richard Rodgers (Italy/UK)</i>
1989	Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Alexandria, Egypt) <i>Winner: Snøhetta Architects (Norway)</i>
<u>Outstanding buildings with exemplary architectural and/or urban design quality (7 of 9 open ADCs)</u>	
1959-60	World Health Organization Headquarters (Geneva, Switzerland) <i>Winner: Jean Tschumi (Switzerland)</i>
1960	Trinity College Library Extension (Dublin, Ireland) <i>Winner: Ahrends Burton Koralek (Ireland)</i>
1965	Berlin Tegel Airport (Germany) <i>Winner: GMP - Gerkan, Marg + Partners (Germany)</i>
1982	La Grande Arche (La Défense Paris, France) <i>Winner: Johann Otto von Spreckelsen (Denmark)</i>
1982	La Villette Park (Paris, France) <i>Winner: Bernard Tschumi (France/USA)</i>
1989	Tokyo International Forum (Japan) <i>Winner: Rafael Viñoly (USA)</i>
1989	La Bibliothèque de France (Paris, France) <i>Winner: Dominique Perrault (France)</i>
1990	Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre (Nouméa, New Caledonia) <i>Winner: Renzo Piano (Italy)</i>
2015	2015 Bamiyan Cultural Centre (Afghanistan) <i>Winners: Carlos Nahuel Recabarren, Manuel Alberto Martinez Catalan, Franco Morero (Argentina)</i>

successful UIA competition. A few decades after their completion, several buildings realized in the 1950s and 1960s as a result of UIA competitions have been listed in their countries and today enjoy protection and are acknowledged as part of the country’s heritage. Examples include the Berkley Library at the Trinity College in Dublin

(Ireland) and the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland). The Sydney Opera House was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007. A complete list of listed buildings would document the cultural dimension of UIA competitions also from the point of view of their impact on heritage.

<u>Projects with remarkable architectural quality (3 of 5 open ADCs)</u>	
1980	Foreign Affairs Ministry (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) <i>Winner among 12 invited: Henning Larsen (Denmark)</i>
1995	The National Museum (Seoul, Republic of Korea) <i>Winner: Chang-il Kim (South Korea)</i>
2002	Grand Egyptian Museum (Cairo, Egypt) <i>Winner: Heneghan Peng Architects (Ireland)</i>
2004	Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Heritage Park (Malta) <i>Winner: Walter Hunziker (Switzerland)</i>
2013	International Olympic Committee Headquarters (Lausanne, Switzerland) <i>Winner: 3XN (Denmark)</i>
<u>Competitions with impact on either approach, design language, critical discourse (3 of 4 open ADCs)</u>	
1956-57	Place des Nations, Geneva (Switzerland) <i>Winner: André Gutton (France). Project not realised</i>
1969	Low-cost housing (Lima, Peru) <i>3 winners: Maki-Kurokawa-Kikutake (Japan), Herbert Ohl (Germany), Atelier 5 (Switzerland). Christopher Alexander (USA) was among the competitors</i>
1982	The Peak (Hong Kong) <i>Winner: Zaha Hadid (UK). Project not realised</i>
1989	Acropolis Museum (Athens) <i>Winners: L. Passarelli and M. Nicoletti (Italy). Project not realised</i>
<u>Competitions conducted in recent years promising outstanding realisations</u>	
2019	National Concert Hall in Vilnius (Lithuania) <i>Winner: Arquivio Architects (Spain) open single stage</i>
2021	JRC Headquarters in Seville (Spain) <i>Winner: BIG Bjarke Ingels Group (Denmark) along with team members Argenia Ingeniería y Arquitectura (Spain), Buro Happold Limited (UK) and HCP Arquitectos y Urbanistas (Spain). Restricted with 15 competitors, single stage, multidisciplinary.</i>

Student competitions 1998 – 2023

Over 50 student competitions conducted since 1998 is a remarkable performance. Included are also a few competitions organised for both students and professionals in different categories or competitions organised exclusively for young architects.

With such competitions, the UIA aims to elevate awareness for specific challenges facing society and the profession, invite reflection about general and specific domains to which architecture can contribute, train design skills and build capacity for finding architectural solutions, give insight into specific topics, introduce students to professional practice and help young architects start their professional career.

Student competitions are usually ideas competitions without a concrete project commission for the winner. Nevertheless, it is recommended, whenever possible, to envisage some involvement of the first prize winner in a further development of the competition topic as a reward provided there is a chance to do so.

When the UIA organises an international student competition in architecture and related fields, the aim is primarily educational characterised by a holistic approach. UIA student competitions do not serve commercial purposes and are not conducted for profit. They play an important role in familiarising the future generation of architects with the International Union of Architects and its mission.

Since its 50th anniversary, the UIA has organised 13 recorded student competitions (9 of which were in relation with the UIA World Congresses) and has endorsed 41 student competitions organised by external organisers. Examples include universities such as the International Olympiades (Korea) and the UIA-HYP Cup (China), or private organisers such as Velux (Denmark). The UIA has also endorsed international student competitions initiated and conducted by Member Sections as well as the Young Architects’ competitions

organised by the Antalya branch of the Turkish Chamber since 2010. Most of these competitions are repetitive and either annual or biennial.

During the 2002-2005 term, two combined student and professional competitions were organised by the UIA with the theme “Celebration of Cities”, the first in collaboration with UNESCO, the second in collaboration with the UIA Italian Member Section, that is, the CNAPPC. During the term 2021-23, UIA Work Programmes and Commissions have been encouraged to organise student competitions on topics related to their field of competence.

An important chapter of UIA student competitions are the competitions organised by UIA Congress cities, usually on topics related to the Congress theme and/or place. They interest numerous participants from all parts of the world and often request that students be tutored by their teachers for the elaboration of entries. Jurors of student competitions are challenged to highlight the didactic value and document the didactic approach in their reports.

The UIA is neither primarily a competitions organiser nor an educator. When the UIA uses the ADC tool to elevate awareness of actual challenges and attract students, competitions:

- have an evident educational value
- are in alignment with UIA strategies and priorities
- are of general interest and global relevance
- serve as didactic experience
- are documented with clear conclusions and recommendations on the topic

The ICC has pointed out the need to create and maintain a database permitting to know in each case, how many students UIA competitions reach and from which countries student participants come.

It is not the number of conducted competitions but the pertinence of topics and the quality of procedures that determine the UIA student competitions’ reputation and success.

Overview of Student Competitions since 1998

13 UIA student competitions

- 1 competition on eradication of poverty (organised by the UIA in 1998)
 - 2 Celebration of cities (organised in 2004 and 2005 with separate category students and professionals)
 - 9 Congress student competitions
 - 1 Competition organised by an UIA Working Body (the UIA Public Health Group in 2022)
- Eventually a few others, less formalised, were organised in previous years

41 UIA-endorsed student competitions organised by external organisers

- 10 editions of the International Velux (Denmark) biennial since 2004
- 10 editions of the International Olympiades (Korea) 2006-2016
- 8 editions of the Antalya Young Architects’ Competition (Turkey) annually 2010 -2017
- 8 editions of the UIA-HYP Cup (China) annually since 2012 interrupted during the pandemic
- 1 edition of the Blue award student competition (Austria) 2011
- 4 Member Sections (3 Greece, 1 Korea)

Overview of Congress Student Competitions

1999	UIA Beijing World Congress Student Competition <i>International Confrontation of Projects of Architecture Students Urban Housing for the XXI Century</i>
2002	UIA Berlin World Congress Student Competition <i>Redevelopment of an inner-city area in Berlin-Mitte</i>
2005	UIA Istanbul World Congress Student Competition <i>EXTREME Creating Space in Extreme and Extraordinary Conditions</i>
2008	UIA Turin World Congress Student Competition <i>Planning and the carrying out of the new UIA Info Point for the city of Torino</i>
2011	UIA Tokyo World Congress Student Competition <i>Design 2050</i>
2014	UIA Durban World Congress Student Competition <i>Warwick Junction Student confrontation</i>
2017	UIA Seoul World Congress Student Competition <i>Post-human Urbanity: A Biosynthetic Future on Namsan</i>
2021	UIA Rio World Congress Student Competition <i>Sustainable Design Solutions for the Integration of the Maré-Cidade</i>
2023	UIA Copenhagen Student Competition <i>Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI organized by R5)</i>

UIA Gold Medal & Triennial Prizes

UIA Gold Medal

The UIA Council created the UIA Gold Medal for outstanding architectural achievement in 1984. It is the most prestigious distinction attributed to an architect by architects, selected from nominations submitted by professional organizations from around the world. The prize itself is a solid gold medal on which the words “UIA GOLD MEDAL”, the date and the name of the winner are engraved.

The Patrick Abercrombie Prize for Urban Planning and Design

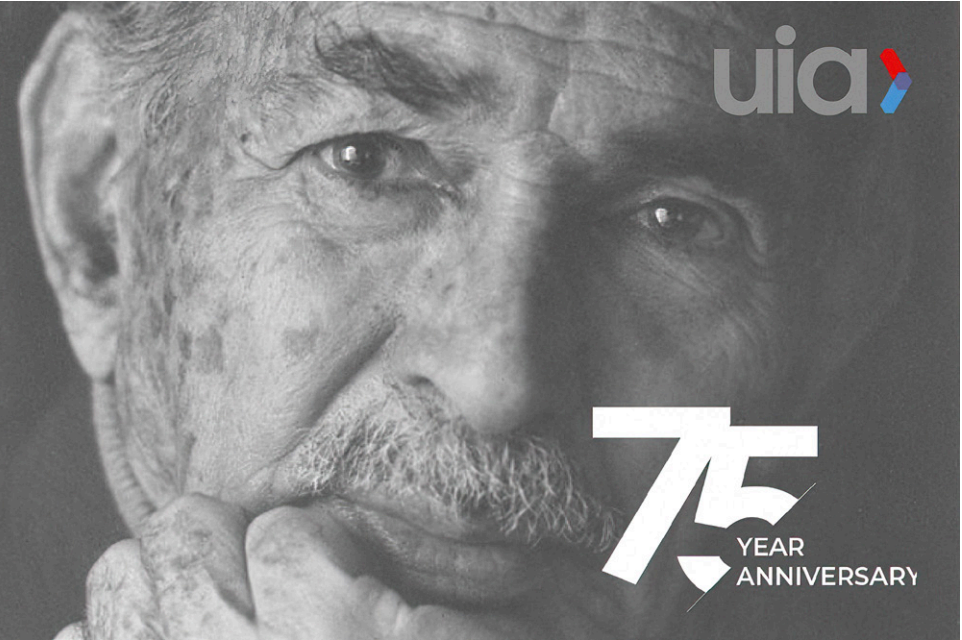
Established in 1961 and named after the first UIA President, Sir Patrick Abercrombie, the UIA's Abercrombie Prize recognises exemplary works of urban and regional planning and design.

The Auguste Perret Prize for Technology in Architecture

Named after Honorary UIA President Auguste Perret, renowned for his pioneering use of reinforced concrete and attributed triennially since 1961, the Auguste Perret Prize rewards architecture characterised by technological excellence.

The Jean Tschumi Prize for Architectural Writing & Critique

Named after the former UIA President, the Jean Tschumi Prize was first awarded in 1967, and recognises excellence in architectural writing & critique.



Hassan Fathy, 1985 UIA Gold Medal recipient

The Robert Matthew Prize for Sustainable & Humane Environments

Named after the Past President of the UIA, Robert Matthew, and attributed since 1978, this prize embodies the goals of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The Vassilis Sgoutas Prize for Implemented Architecture Serving the Impoverished

Founded in honour of UIA Past President, Vassilis Sgoutas, and attributed since 2008, this prize recognises ingenious and implemented architectural solutions.

Further Information



COURTESY OF ARCHITECTUUL WEB

3

The Future



Sara Martín Cámara,
France

Fres Architectes, National
Concert Hall in Vilnius
(Lithuania), 2nd prize

We are living through a landmark era in which climate change is pushing us to design and build in a different way. The construction sector is responsible for a significant proportion of greenhouse gas emissions and the operation of older buildings requires large amounts of energy. In addition, citizens are demanding lifestyle changes in the wake of the pandemic, seeking to explore a new balance between the built and the natural.

It is therefore a fascinating time for architects as we need to imagine new ways of living together and improving our quality of life without relying heavily on dwindling resources. As a collective, architects have the opportunity to be part of the solution. We must enhance the place of architecture and urban planning in public debate and strengthen the role of architects in the decision-making processes of territories and cities.

We need to take care of what is already built, finding intelligent solutions to transform our built heritage. We also need to design new buildings that are efficient, sustainable and adaptable. We must broaden our vision from the small details to the big picture so that we can imagine the evolution of our cities, the reintegration of nature into urban space, the mobility of tomorrow... there are so many challenges to be met.

In this context, I can think of no better way than competitions to stimulate architectural innovation and to look for exceptional creations to improve our built environment. An architectural competition is the ideal

place to test new concepts, to confront many different proposals and to create a deep debate about our visions for the future. They are a real asset for our society.

They are also an added value for the architectural profession, supporting all architects and in particular the new generations who benefit from equal treatment in anonymous competitions. For an architect, it is a space of freedom and an invitation to share ideas with the community.

In its 75 years of existence, the UIA has proven its important role as a major player in international competitions, ensuring professionalism, equality and fairness. The visible part of this work is the great buildings resulting from UIA competitions, such as the Sydney Opera House, the Centre Pompidou, the CIO headquarters in Lausanne and many others. This work is complemented by extensive work to promote architecture through education and communication in a wide range of programmes around the world, sowing the seeds for the future.

The presence of the UIA provides a guarantee for talented architects so that they can embark in a competition process and take their chances. Winning an open international competition is the best reward an architect can receive.

Now, more than ever, we need the UIA to continue and expand its mission, promoting architecture, creating debate, helping administrations make the right choices and, in so doing, helping architects to make the world a better place.



Tibor Fátýol,
Hungary

Adviser, International
Competitions

Since the beginning of 2019, I have been a member of the steering committee for the UIA International Competitions Commission (ICC), representing the Hungarian Association of Architects (Region II – Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East).

The world of competitions has been close to my heart since the very start of my career. As a young architect, I took many chances and participated in many competitions. These competitions allowed me to win commissions and get references that would have been hard to reach otherwise. Later, I became involved in the Competition Workgroup in Hungary and I spent many years doing regulatory work, dealing with legislative bodies, supervising competition documents and briefs, preparing guidelines and recommendations for all the parties involved in competitions and taking part in different juries.

In the ICC I have been able to use my expertise on an international level. This led to me becoming a member of the ICC Consultancy Team, together with Paula Huotelin (Finland-Nordic Countries) as well as our Co-Directors Regina Gonthier (Switzerland) and Jerzy Grochulski (Poland).

Collaborating in international projects and contributing to the emergence of optimal solutions is very satisfying and instructive, especially when you were initially faced with many differing points of view. The fundamentals of Quality-Based

Selection are always the common ground. Creating, forming and protecting our built environment must always rely on these main criteria. Competitions are the best tools for this. Aside from the fact that they help reach a consensus on decisions, good competitions also ensure fairness and equality for architects. The role of the UIA is extremely important in this field. Regulations, recommendations and UIA-endorsed competitions must aim for the complete embodiment of these principles.

Encouraging and supporting young and newly qualified architects and their businesses must be always a main priority. Alongside the many quality, fairness and consensus-based advantages of competitions, this is another one of their very important benefits – they provide opportunities for everybody, especially when they are open. Like all architectural organisations, the UIA needs young and newly qualified architects just as much as they need the UIA.

Region II is very active, boasting several regional architectural organisations and many common events, competitions and awards. My years of participation in the UIA have strengthened my belief in the importance of collaboration between different nations and creating connections with architectural platforms. I have learnt that real success is within our reach if we work as a team and make time to find consensus.



Sofie Stilling,
Mauritius

University of Copenhagen/
Copenhagen Architectural
Festival

In the summer of 2022, Pakistan was hit by a huge monsoon which left one third of the country under water. Secondary effects of the flooding have taken many more lives and the damage on infrastructure suggests decades of recovery are needed. As the climate dystopia plays out and millions of people are left exposed to climate change-related disasters, UN Secretary General António Guterres has tweeted that world leaders ‘sleepwalk towards the destruction of our planet by climate change’. This is the pessimistic forecast of our future, emphasising the urgent need for influence from transnational federations such as the UIA. We must maintain pressure on policymakers to take legislative action to ensure a more sustainable and regenerative approach to living, whilst simultaneously highlighting and raising awareness of the solutions that are already here on various scales and in different continents.

Climate change researchers and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have long called for immediate action in all professions to reduce carbon emissions. The building and construction sector is a major contributor to carbon emissions, waste production and resource consumption globally. We must all change our ways. Architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning have the potential to improve global health and

prosperity in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, reaching out first to those furthest behind. Through my work with the UIA, I have recently had the privilege of collaborating with a dedicated team of co-editors on the book ‘An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals’, in which we translated all 17 goals into an architectural context. Our main aim was to emphasise the relevance of each and every goal to architecture, to inspire stakeholders in all levels to engage with the challenges embedded in the SDGs and to shed light on the architectural solutions that are already among us.

Fixing objectives brings international, cross-sector awareness to the challenge of sustainability, leaving space for states to formulate policies and for stakeholders to mobilise, innovate and act. On the occasion of the UIA’s 75th anniversary, I would like to emphasise our organisation’s importance as a platform working to unify architects around the SDGs and a regenerative agenda. My hope is that the UIA will continue to influence public policies and raise awareness of how architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning has and will contribute to sustainable development.



Bibitayo Omidiora,
Nigeria

Great Green Wall (GGW)
social media

Like many students who decided to study architecture, I had no idea what I was getting into. Architect Bibitayo sounded fancy, and I enjoyed being called the next Zaha Hadid. Reality, however, is so far detached, though thankfully not far enough to rid me of my motivation to solve the problems I see through design.

Getting to work with the UIA has been a privilege and it is an honour to be given the opportunity to share my experience. While working with the UIA and with the ever-passionate Vice President for Region V, Tokunbo Omisore, I was tasked with managing social media for two different organisations that ultimately intertwine: the AYA (Africa Young Architects) platform, a community whose primary aim is to provide a platform for networking young architects throughout Africa and reorient them to think more towards sustainable architecture, and the GGWI (Great Green Wall Initiative) Competition platform, an initiative with the objective to spotlight innovative design ideas for providing simplified affordable housing within the 8000 km long, 16 km wide living region stretching across the Sahel-Savanna desert region from Dakar to Djibouti known as the Great Green Wall (GGW).

The AYA platform is a solution to an unspoken problem; the lack of community amongst young African architects. One cannot deny the profound impact of being part of an engaging community. It is, without question, central to human experience. Not only does it give us a sense of belonging, but it provides support, connections, resources and the necessary stimulation for innovation and growth – after all, ideas breed new ideas. This platform has connected students with young architects outside their local sphere, provided sustainable architectural education and, more importantly, a proper understanding of the context of African architecture. It is a project run on the power of community.

The future, as they say, is in the hands of the youth. Of course, architects often attain the stage of mastery when they are much older, but the question of what happens along the way remains. The youngest winner of the most sought-after prize in architecture, the Pritzker Prize, was 44 when it was awarded to him. I believe that the future of the UIA is in providing leverage for the younger generation of architects through the creation of award schemes that recognise their spectacular works. Ultimately, this would grant them opportunities to meet with more seasoned veterans and bring visibility to their work.



Mariana Loeza Medina,
Mexico

National Committee of
Young Architects of the
Federación de Colegios de
Arquitectos de la República
Mexicana (FCARM)

For 75 years, the UIA has been an organisation that has sought above all to support and encourage an ethical professional practice with the conviction that architecture is an opportunity to improve cities and society. As a young architect, it seems to me a great platform from which to promote the professional practice of architects and to create ties beyond the profession. Meeting friends and colleagues from different countries gives us a vision of the transcendence of our profession, regardless of any territorial limits – sharing this profession brings us together.

I applaud all the architects of the UIA for establishing a network of dedicated and passionate professionals who work together on a daily basis to promote good architectural practices.

I hope that in the coming years the UIA will consolidate its position as an organisation that allows us to value architecture so that all people understand its importance and impact, and architects act as agents of change in their cities. The international perspective that this organisation offers us should encourage us to share knowledge and experiences that contribute to architectural work, allow us to grow as people and as professionals, help us to create ties that last beyond the profession and consolidate friendships through this common passion. Because, as Luis Barragán said, ‘functional architecture must solve the material problem without forgetting the spiritual needs of man’.

Let us celebrate the architects who had the vision to bring architecture and its transcendence to an international level, creating bonds of work and fraternity that, 75 years later, endure and grow ever stronger.



Laia Grau,
Spain

Barcelona City Council
Urban Planning Manager

One of the essential motivations underpinning the creation of the UIA was the need to rebuild cities and communities that had been destroyed by the Second World War. The founding architects and town planners devoted themselves to this objective with a vocation for service, talent, rigour and commitment, aware of the social function required of architecture in those times of collective struggle.

Today’s world is a different one and the practice of architecture and urban planning risks serving the interests and profits of private individuals rather than the common good. Fortunately, there is now a cross-generational and international stream of non-conformist architects and urban planners who share a new vision of their profession and are ensuring that their practice is a commitment to building a better common future.

Thanks to these professionals, a revolution in urban planning and architecture is now underway. They understand architectural work more as a process of intervention than as a destination. A process of collective production with the mission of improving everyone’s lives and an innate commitment to having a positive impact on the future of the planet.

Universal access to comfortable housing and ample provision of public services are just two of many basic needs that can and should be served by socially committed architecture. Architecture must also pay the utmost attention to the environmental impact of any new construction project. The design of cities and buildings must always consider the maintenance these projects will require.

This is how a UIA capable of providing institutional support to new ways of thinking and working together takes on new meaning – by putting the ideas and contributions of architecture and urban planning back into the service of building a fairer world.



Jeravej Hongsakul,
Thailand

IDIN Architects Co., Ltd.

Architecture is often the result of a particular culture and society; it portrays the belief and the way of life of a certain place. Although it could be interpreted as the result, architecture is also the cause. Spaces are able to shape the user's behaviour and they therefore create habits. Thus, when architecture is done well, it possesses the ability to turn a group of individuals into a society. The architect is, in a way, a creator, a problem-solver and an influencer in society. Their role is therefore a significant one as they have the ability to guide and lead the people with their works. While architecture may be the cause of certain problems, it can also be the solution to many crises. Hence, a collective architectural vision is crucial to the future of cities around the world.

The coming together of international architect associations such as the UIA is vital, as it provides support for the profession and serves as a central meeting point for architects worldwide. The UIA creates opportunities for architects to exchange information, see the overall picture on certain issues and share different localised methods to solve problems. For instance, the UIA's emphasis on the United

Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlights the relationship between these goals and architecture, demonstrating how architecture can affect the future of cities on a larger scale. Architecture is a tool which can be utilised for solving urban problems, contributing directly to improved living conditions.

With its every action, the UIA sets out visions for our society and the environment which should then be reflected in the ethics of young architects. As architects develop, their works will be automatically influenced by these visions, which will, in turn, result in more sustainable and liveable cities for the world.



Denny Setiawan,
Indonesia

Binus University Lecturer,
member of ARCASIA
Committee of Young Architects

'Architecture is a tool for sharing the future'. This is the title of the exhibition material that we presented at a joint exhibition called 'Bintaro Design District' in Jakarta. I have long believed that architecture is a tool that marks an era as it is continuously shaping culture. In other words, the architect is the actor behind the changes that occur from generation to generation.

The world is changing faster than ever before. The climate crisis is accelerating, new technologies are emerging almost daily and geopolitical relations are constantly evolving. How can architecture encourage a new way of life? What is the role of young architects in societal change? Is there an opportunity for them to do something to mark their era? These questions should not be viewed as merely rhetorical, but rather as dilemmas that must be answered.

I have now been an architect in Indonesia for a decade and I continue to observe that young architects who are given opportunities find creative solutions that pave the way for the future. The issue then lies in the trust placed by seasoned professionals in the abilities and capacities of these young architects. This is where the UIA should take the role of parents and encourage their youth to answer the problems of the era through architecture.

The UIA is an umbrella for all professional architects in the world to serve the community in order to create a new and better built environment. 75 years is no mean feat. The organisation is getting more and more experienced in encouraging and providing opportunities for its young architects to continue to develop. As architects of a new generation, we believe that the UIA's involvement in opening up space for the younger generation of architects is very important. We believe this equal opportunity should be the right of all young architects around the world.

I have personally seen how young architects from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and many other countries continue to excel. This is a very encouraging sign that we should welcome. Expanding equality across generations will further encourage young architects to improve their abilities.

Equal opportunity for all young architects in all continents of the world is the hope for a better future. Our generation needs to provide better living spaces for those to come. The UIA has the opportunity to take a role in changing the world for the better, and we must not let it pass us by.



Carlos Nahuel Recabarren,
Argentina

M2R Arquitectos, Bamiyan
Cultural Centre Design
Competition, Winner

The UIA offers tremendously exciting opportunities to all architects, young and old alike. In 2015, my team and I won an open project competition run by the International Competitions Commission to design the Bamiyan Cultural Centre in Afghanistan. Not only did this represent the opportunity to work on a world heritage site with a moving and tragic history, but it also enabled us architects to contribute to the creation of a bright future.

The UIA brief and competition materials were high quality and enabled us to properly understand the environment for which we were designing. Without such information, making an adequate project would have been impossible. Responsible architecture should always be centred on the natural and cultural environment in which it is realised.

Combining the international scale of an entity such as the UIA with its transparent guidelines and ethical concerns allowed an open dialogue at the local level regarding the future of Bamiyan. It is rare for global organisations to give such time to local concerns, though it adds much value to

operations. Local people in Bamiyan were aware of everything that was going on and could voice their opinions about the competition and the winning designs. Because of this, the local population was very welcoming of the resulting project and it was one that worked for them as well as for the Cultural Centre.

The open, international platform of the UIA was the backbone for being able to successfully complete the project. The immense international and local notoriety and support that this gave the resulting design really helped in carrying it forward with minimal difficulties, even in the challenging context of Afghanistan. This really shows the value of the UIA as a non-political, socially-committed body seeking to promote the role of the architect and of architecture in today's world.



Kesia Lima ,
Cape Verde

The UIA was founded in 1948 to unite architects regardless of nationality, race, religion or architectural doctrine. 75 years later, it holds the key role of providing an architectural perspective on the numerous important discussions being held by organisations and governments around the world.

The current challenge is then how the UIA can bring these discussions to young architects, how it can give us a voice and how it can provide mentorship for us to grow into strong leaders who provide solutions to the huge challenges that the world is facing. The creation of a Youth Council with representation from all five Regions could be a way to give us this voice and bridge the generational gap, allowing networking, knowledge exchange, professional development and global access to resources from different UIA Member Sections.

Today's world faces difficulties such as climate change, international conflict and humanitarian crises – our generation is the one that has the tools to work together and find solutions to these issues. In an era of globalisation, digital connection and technological advances, it will be our generation's responsibility to use these societal developments to make impactful changes for the advancement of all.

The Covid-19 pandemic showed us that we are able to reach, connect and mobilise a bigger group of professionals worldwide when we incorporate technology into our operations. For example, the last UIA Congress, UIA 2021 RIO, was fully digital and attracted more than 85,000 attendees from 190 different countries, making it the 'largest-ever World Congress of Architects'. Let us build upon this to strengthen our professional ties and encourage wider international collaboration.

I would like to congratulate the UIA on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, recognising its contribution to making architecture more inclusive, impactful and global. Going forward, I am looking forward to seeing young architects participating in the work of the UIA so that it can continue to be part of the change the world is looking for.



Michelle Montgomery,
USA

AIA Mentorship
Programme

The UIA is strengthening its future by building relationships with young professionals around the world. The spring of 2022 brought a new international mentorship programme through a partnership between the UIA Professional Practice Committee (PPC) and American Institute of Architects (AIA) International. The post-pandemic work environment is a challenging place for new graduates to begin their careers, one that no generation before has experienced. Meanwhile, mid-career architects want to discuss their own careers and career planning methods.

The UIA is a strong ally in the broad reach it provides by endorsing such a programme. It contributes forward-thinking presenters with international experience and cross-cultural awareness who can speak to the professional development required by today's architectural community.

The UIA's commitment to supporting this programme is a continued commitment to mentorship. I sincerely believe that by sharing its collective experience, the UIA can be a pillar for the world community and can foster growth amongst both young and seasoned architects.



Rashed Chowdhury,
Bangladesh

Founder of Dehsar Works

Architecture is no longer limited to its original role of creating a responsible, responsive, resilient built environment. Today, we acknowledge the power of architecture as an act of activism, a discipline that can transcend its physicality and shape the thought process, as well as the collective behaviour, of its environment.

The UIA has acted as a catalyst in fostering diverse ideas and promoting practices that strive to create a new narrative for architecture. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the UIA, we must acknowledge the significant contribution this organisation has made over the years.

During its 75 years of existence, the UIA has continuously pushed to expand the very definition and scope of architecture. Architecture, as an act, is no longer exclusive to architects. Instead, architects are stewarding the process of integrating people from all walks of life into the creation process to develop meaningful inclusive spaces. Architectural intent, in general, has shifted from mere space crafting to creating catalytic objects of change.

Today, we have embarked into a new reality that is no longer defined by the rules of our physical world. The unknown terrain of virtual reality is opening new ways of collaborating, thinking, living and engaging. Cyberspace is no longer a concept from science fiction; a significant part of our daily life is now conducted in it. Our collective construct has changed, and we need to unlearn our understanding of it so that we can learn instead about its new nature.

Architecture, thus, must respond to our time. Humanity has always moved, evolved and shifted from its given circumstances. Change being its only constant, we must adhere to it, responding to its needs and to its possibilities. The nostalgia of the past should be transformed into inspiration that guides us to face the unknowns of the future.

The UIA, now at its 75th anniversary, continues to bring together the brightest minds from around the world for new ideas and visions that are responsive to our time, place and existence. As a young architect, I am hopeful and enthusiastic for the future.

A future that may not be predictable... but a future worth working for.

Looking Forward—
Thoughts on the

Next 75 Years

Where is the UIA now? What has been accomplished, and what more should be done? Where does the UIA go from here? A brainstorming session was held with the UIA Council to allow them to express their personal thoughts and views on a vision for UIA looking forward. This session allowed council members to freely express their ‘vision for the UIA’ and ‘the future we need’.

Among the key questions that were asked were—What is the UIA? What should the UIA be? What value does the UIA bring to you? What are the UIA’s strengths which should be reinforced, and what areas should it improve on? Where does UIA want to go? Here are their collated opinions, in no particular order.



What if we rise to the occasion as our predecessors did?

A group of dedicated architects assembling, because the task ahead requires it. Uniting across political, economic and aesthetic frontiers, as the preamble to the UIA reads.

Because action is needed now and we must take it.

Because architecture must contribute to social and environmental sustainability for future generations to thrive on this planet. Because a bold exchange of knowledge is the only answer, for all the difficulty of bridging the world.

Together we must resolve to help all architects to contribute to the progress of human society, the welfare of the planet and the strengthening of peace.

— Natalie Mossin
Vice President Region I

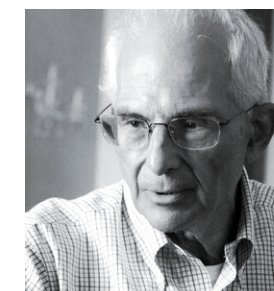


Good architecture fulfils two things. It is good for people and good for the environment. This is what I envision for the UIA. A UIA that is good for people and for the environment.

A UIA that is good for people is inclusive, progressive collaborative and adaptive.

A UIA that is good for the environment considers the future of the planet in all its programmes and activities. Our professional practice, education, competitions and commitments should all be geared towards what is good for the environment.

— Mugure Njendu
Council Member Region V



Oscar Wilde famously said ‘The one thing we owe to history is to rewrite it’.

For us it is not a question of rewriting our history, but of studying it and seeing what were our strengths and where we were lacking.

Studying the history of the UIA helps us shape its future history. In so doing, one objective stands out in particular – to bring students and younger architects into the everyday life of the UIA, to make them part of its core activities. To date, some headway has been made with competitions, but so much more is needed.

Let us orientate our future policies through the eyes of the next generations of architects as well. Let universities across all continents become breeding grounds for our actions. Let the ideals and forceful impetus of students and young architects inspire the UIA towards its foremost architectural target – an architecture in keeping with our sustainable development goals, an architecture that will become a vehicle for a more environmentally-oriented planet.

— Vassilis Sgoutas
Honorary President



What if we started from zero?

An international professional body would encourage global collaboration. It would advance best practices in all areas of building.

Its work would be useful to governments and clients. It would help citizens and architects to work for better cities. It would be low-cost and oriented to action. It would convene architects to learn about and act upon key issues. It would incite leaders of international bodies and national professional societies to act and commit resources. It would promote examples of successful approaches. It would stress practical ways to improve environmental outcomes. It would fight adverse practice conditions. It would work to enhance community life and improve education. It would focus on actions that only a global organisation could take. An international architecture organisation would unify architects worldwide to influence public policies and advance society through design.

It would increase public demand for excellent architecture and urban design.

— Thomas Vonier
Immediate Past President



Just as good architecture is based on a balance between the three basic principles laid down by the Roman architect Marcus Vitruvius – Utilitas, Firmitas and Venustas – so the UIA was built. It had a clear function and it fulfilled it. The organisation was useful – Utilitas – because it helped rebuild a devastated world after the Second World War. It was solid and well-constructed – Firmitas – because it was based on solidarity and responsibility as fundamental principles and, finally, it respected the canons of harmony and proportion – Venustas – as synonymous with respect and democracy.

I believe, therefore, that we must go back to our origins to better understand our founding history and the spirit in which architects from all over the world came together and promoted an institution such as the UIA. This will show us with greater clarity and certainty the way to be able to build the future because with the passage of time, and especially in times of rapid and profound transformations such as the present, this balance can easily be disrupted.

— Teresa Taboas Veleiro
Council Member Region I



— Pei Ing Tan
Secretary General



The UIA needs to create a strategic plan to uphold its vision, one which reinforces its partnerships with other international organisations as well as with its own Member Sections. We should also be investing in quality architectural education as a starting point to engage young architects and consolidate the future of our profession as a starting point to engage young architects

— Vity Claude Nsalambi
Council Member Region V



Diversity is the strength of the UIA. I believe efforts should be made to ensure there is balanced representation among regional section members. The strength of UIA is in its long history, but we should ensure we do not become shackled by it – the world is changing, and the UIA needs to change along with it. Collaboration with other organisations and the empowerment and engagement of youth should be our priorities.

— Istelianna Necho Atanassova
Vice-President Region IV



We all agree that the UIA unites us, but what is its ultimate role and mission? Does it take action, or is it a thinking platform for those that do? Should the UIA take action more often? Should it have enforcement powers? I think it should.

The mission should be inspired by a long-term vision and not by individual mandates. It should involve the next generation and work towards a sustainable future and planet for them.

— Gaetan Siew
Past President



The world is changing and the UIA needs to change with it. We must ensure that every single UIA structure, starting from the Member Sections and ending with the UIA governance, is as democratic and transparent as possible, notably in areas such as financial policy and member participation.

The continuity of the UIA relies upon a long-term vision and strategy which will be bolstered by investment in students and young architects as future leaders of the organisation. This could be achieved by increasing the visibility of the UIA at a national level through closer individual collaboration with Member Sections.

One thing is clear: the priorities of the UIA must always remain clearly linked to our profession and to solidarity amongst architects. In a world that can often seem fractious, the key to the UIA's success is and always has been the unity of its members.

— Istelianna Necho Atanassova
Vice President Region II



The UIA must review the past and study the present in order to imagine the future. To find our best fruit, we must return to our roots. Let us remember Pierre Vago's principles and values and apply them to our globalised world. By consolidating its values and guidelines, the UIA will be able to orient its urbanisation agenda towards improving the quality of architecture and, consequently, the quality of life in our communities. This will bridge the gap between architects and non-architects, empowering the role of the architect in society.

To succeed, the UIA must unite across generations, giving a voice to young professionals with exciting solutions in favour of sustainable development and social equity. This is how the UIA can continue to serve its Member Sections, the public and humanity.

— Seif Allah Alnaga
Treasurer



— Regina Gonthier
Council Member Region I

A strong, independent, inclusive, democratic and transparent organisation that respects its ethical principles and champions equity, diversity and local identities. A place where communities are consulted, heard and influential.

A professional international organisation of architects that is a global policy maker in matters concerning education and best practice. A coordinator of questions about the implications of heritage, the environment, the climate and socio-economic factors on the built environment. An organisation capable of providing a synthetic overview and expert advice on architectural questions, with society at the heart of all it does.



The UIA has tremendous potential to be a positive force for change. In order to achieve this, it is imperative that there is a clear vision and strategy moving forward, with the ability to gauge and measure the outcome of any initiative. One area which we can be improved on is from ensuring we can learn from the past – and this can be achieved by ensuring we have the adequate resources and systems in place to document and archive the UIA's activities in greater detail.

— Sam Oboh
Vice-President Region III



The UIA is ultimately about people and uniting them. Students and young architects are the future, and priority should be given to ensuring the UIA can engage and interact with these individuals effectively. I firmly believe that while the UIA can be a powerful organisation, it must always be willing to be its own worst critic in order to improve on any weaknesses.

— José Luis Cortés
UIA President 2021-2023

The UIA must be a space for the dedicated efforts of those wanting to make a difference, not a space for the advancement of personal ambition. The biggest advantage of the UIA today is that it still commands the respect of the architectural community. We are living in a historic moment of global geopolitical conflicts, uncertainties and transformations. Bringing changes to the UIA that will adapt its profile accordingly throughout the next 75 years is a priority.

The major challenges for the future remain the pursuit of external collaborations, the maintenance of internal unity and the empowerment of the role of the architect in modern society.

A democratic UIA must be based on the principle that the one who is sovereign is the member architect, with power being shared and moderated. The UIA system must therefore be audited and accountable to architects. Its structure should be flexible enough to adapt to the continuous changes that our rapidly transforming world demands.

— Fani Vavili-Tsinika
Council Member Region II



I would like the UIA to be a place for dialogue that values the cultural and professional differences of all its members. I would like it to remain firm in its fundamental founding principles but to change shape and structure in order to respond more effectively to the challenges of the times we live in. A new relationship between built and natural spaces is essential, not only for the health of the planet but also for the very health of all mankind.

The UIA should continue to provide innovative and sustainable ideas and projects to institutions like the UN, UNESCO and UN-Habitat to help guide political choices for the development of our territories and cities. It should be an architectural platform for the exchange of best practices, making the most of the new frontiers of technology and digitisation.

I would like each of us to take a step back from our consolidated 'certainties' and take one step forward all together.

If not now, when?

— Lilia Cannarella
Council Member Region I

My thoughts for where the UIA should go from here are simply to strengthen, raise the visibility, focus on youth and, as per the 26th (World) Congress theme, 'to leave no one behind'!

— Sara Topelson
UIA Past President





I believe there is a lot more the UIA can offer to member sections through our commissions like the Professional Practice Commission, Architectural Education Commission, and more. Communication is key to this, such as the timely sharing of information with member sections. Finding ways to get members to be more involved at all levels should be the way forward.

— Jacinta Kabarungi
Council Member Region V

Good architecture contributes to social, cultural and environmental sustainability. The UIA should be a platform to share best practice from around the world, bridging the gap between societies to maintain a good balance between human intervention and mother nature within the built environment.

Let's discuss how modern technology can help to sustain indigenous knowledge systems that have been proven to be better for the sustenance of the earth.

Starting at a personal level we should pledge to help build a better future for all living beings within the boundaries of our education, professional practice and lifestyle.

— Anju Malla Pradhan
Council Member Region IV



Our students and young architects yearn for visibility on their ideas and research. Our Member Sections yearn for more. Can we remain apolitical as we negotiate global challenges?

To ensure that the architectural profession remains relevant, let us continue to work towards a vision of inclusivity and influence. A vision where students and young architects are valued, where we collaborate with those outside of our profession and where we push for policies and governance that reflect the key role of the architect in society.

— Tokunbo Omisore
Vice President Region V



The UIA has become a medium of encounters and a platform of solidarity among the architects of the world.

Today and for the future, we need to rely on our togetherness and use the power of transmitting our voice to our stakeholders and to decision makers. We must push for the things we can achieve in the world and in our Member Sections with the common wisdom that the UIA can offer.

The UIA's regulations on practice, education and competitions are great achievements. Now it is time for architects to take responsibility for and commit to the future of our planet.

— Aysen Ciravoglu
Council Member Region II









Region I—Western Europe

- Andorra

Collegi d'Arquitectes d'Andorra
- Austria

Bundeskammer der Zivitechnikerinnen
- Belgium

Fédération Royale des Architectes de Belgique
- France

Commission des Architectes Français pour l'International
- Germany

Federal Chamber of German Architects / Bundesarchitektenkammer
- Ireland

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland
- Italy

Consiglio Nazionale Degli Architetti, Planificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori
- Luxembourg

Ordre des Architectes et Ingénieurs Conseils
- Malta

Kamra Tal-Periti
- Nordic Countries:

Denmark

Danish Architects' Association

Finland

Finnish Association of Architects

Iceland

Association of Icelandic Architects

Norway

Norske Arkitekters Landsforbund

Sweden

Swedish Association of Architects
- Portugal

Ordem dos Arquitectos
- Spain

Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España
- Switzerland

Conférence Suisse des Architectes
- United Kingdom

Royal Institute of British Architects

Region II—
Central & Eastern Europe & the Middle East

- Armenia

Union of Architects of Armenia
- Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Union of Architects
- Baltic Countries:

Estonia

Estonian Association of Architects

Latvia

The Latvia Association of Architects

Lithuania

Architects' Association of Lithuania
- Belarus

Belarusian Union of Architects
- Bulgaria

Union of Architects in Bulgaria
- Cyprus

Cyprus Civil Engineers & Architects Association
- Czechia

Society of Czech Architects
- Georgia

Union of Architects of Georgia
- Greece

Technical Chamber of Greece
- Hungary

Association of Hungarian Architects
- Israel

Israel Association of United Architects
- Kazakhstan

Union of Architects of Kazakhstan
- Kosovo

Architects Association of Kosovo
- Lebanon

Lebanese Order of Engineers and Architects
- Palestinian Territories

Association of Architects of Palestine
- Poland

Stowarzyszenie Architektow Polskich
- Romania

Ordinul Arhitectilor din Romania
- Russian Federation

Union of Architects of Russia



Region III—The Americas

- Slovakia

Slovak Architects Society
- Slovenia

Chamber of Architecture & Spatial Planning of Slovenia
- Syrian Arab Republic

Order of Syrian Engineers and Architects
- Türkiye

Chamber of Architects of Turkey
- Ukraine

Union of Architects of Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

Union Architects of Uzbekistan
- Western Balkan Countries:

(Members of Balkan Architecture Forum)
- Albania

Albanian Architects' Association
- Montenegro

Union of Architects of Montenegro
- North Macedonia

Association of Architects of Macedonia
- Serbia

Union of Architects of Serbia
- Argentina

Federación Argentina de Entidades de Arquitectos
- Bolivia

Colegio de Arquitectos de Bolivia
- Brazil

Instituto de Arquitectos do Brazil
- Canada

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
- Chile

Colegio de Arquitectos de Chile
- Colombia

Sociedad Colombiana de arquitectos
- Costa Rica

Colegio de Arquitectos de Costa Rica
- Cuba

Unión Nacional de Arquitectos E Ingenieros de la Construcccion de Cuba
- Dominican Republic

Sociedad de Arquitectos de la República Dominicana
- Ecuador

Colegio de Arquitectos del Ecuador
- El Salvador

Colegio de Arquitectos de El Salvador
- Honduras

Colegio de Arquitectos de Honduras
- Mexico

Federación de Colegios de Arquitectos de la R. Mexicana Mexicana (FCARM)
- Paraguay

Asociación Paraguaya de Arquitectos
- Peru

Colegio de Arquitectos del Peru
- Puerto Rico

Colegio de Arquitectos de Puerto Rico
- Trinidad & Tobago

Trinidad & Tobago Institute of Architects
- United States of America

American Institute of Architects
- Uruguay

Sociedad de Arquitectos del Uruguay

Region IV—
Asia & Oceania

- Australia

Australian Institute of Architects
- Bangladesh

Institute of Architects of Bangladesh
- China

Architectural Society of China
- Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei Association of Architects
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Korean Architects Union
- Hong Kong SAR China

Hong Kong Institute of Architects
- India

Indian Institute of Architects
- Indonesia

Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia
- Japan

Japan Institute of Architects
- Macao SAR China

Architects Association of Macau
- Malaysia

Malaysian Institute of Architects
- Mongolia

Union of Mongolian Architects



Region IV— Asia & Oceania	Region V—Africa		
Nepal Society of Nepalese Architects	Angola Ordem de Arquitectos de Angola	Egypt Society of Egyptian Architects	Nigeria Nigerian Institute of Architects
New Zealand New Zealand Institute of Architects	Benin Ordre national des architectes et des urbanistes du Bénin	Ethiopia Association of Ethiopian Architects	Rwanda Rwanda Institute of Architects
Pakistan Institute of Architects of Pakistan	Botswana Architects Association of Botswana	Gabon Conseil National de l'Ordre Gabonais des Architectes	Senegal Ordre des Architectes du Sénégal
Philippines United Architects of the Philippines	Burkina Faso Ordre des Architectes du Burkina	Ghana Ghana Institute of Architects	South Africa South African Institute of Architects
Republic of Korea Republic of Korea	Cameroon Ordre National des Architectes du Cameroun	Kenya Architectural Association of Kenya	Sudan Sudanese Institute of Architects
Saudi Arabia Saudi Umran Society	Cabo Verde Ordem de Arquitectos Cabo-verdianos	Libya Libyan Institute of Architects	Tanzania Architects Association of Tanzania
Singapore Singapore Institute of Architects	Chad Ordre national des architectes du Tchad	Madagascar Ordre des architectes de Malagasy	Togo Ordre National des Architectes du Togo
Sri Lanka Sri Lanka Institute of Architects	Congo Société des Architectes du Congo	Mali Ordre des Architectes du Mali	Tunisia Ordre des Architectes de Tunisie (OAT)
Thailand Association of Siamese Architects	Democratic Republic of the Congo Ordre National des Architectes de la République Démocratique du Congo	Mauritius Mauritius Association of Architects	Uganda Uganda Society of Architects
Vietnam Vietnam Association of Architects	Côte d'Ivoire Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes de Côte d'Ivoire	Morocco Ordre des Architectes du Maroc	Zambia Zambia Institute of Architects
		Namibia Namibia Institute of Architects	



Presidents	Governing Bodies	
1948-1953	Sir Patrick Abercrombie, United Kingdom	The governing bodies of the UIA are:
1953-1957	Jean Tschumi, Switzerland	The Assembly
1957-1961	Hector Mardones-Restat, Chile	The supreme body of the UIA composed of delegates from UIA Member Sections in addition to Council members.
1961-1965	Sir Robert Matthew, United Kingdom	
1965-1969	Eugène Beaudouin, France	Council
1969-1972	Ramon Corona Martin, Mexico	Between meetings of the Assembly, the Council is responsible for managing and directing the affairs of the Union. It is composed of 4 elected members from each of the UIA's five regions in addition to the Bureau members.
1972-1975	Georgy Orlov, Russia	Bureau
1975-1978	Jai Rattan Bhalla, India	Composed of the President, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, and a Vice-President from each Region
1978-1981	Louis deMoll, USA	
1981-1985	Rafael de la Hoz, Spain	
1985-1987	Georgi Stoilov, Bulgaria	
1987-1990	Rod Hackney, United Kingdom	
1990-1993	Olufemi Majekodunmi, Nigeria	
1996-1999	Sara Topelson de Grinberg, Mexico	
1999-2002	Vassilis Sgoutas, Greece	
2002-2005	Jaime Lerner, Brazil	
2005-2008	Gaétan Siew, Mauritius	
2008-2011	Louise Cox, Australia	
2011-2014	Albert Dubler, France	
2014-2017	Esa Mohamed, Malaysia,	
2017-2021	Thomas Vonier, USA	
2021-2023	José Luis Cortés, Mexico	

The Assembly is the supreme body of the UIA and is composed of delegates from the UIA Member Sections together with the members of Council.

The Assembly meets every three years to:

- Receive reports on the activities of the Union since the previous Assembly.
- Approve or reject decisions or resolutions proposed to the Assembly by the Council or other subordinate bodies of the Union.
- Determine the general policy of the Union until the next Assembly.
- Approve or reject the admission, re-admission, or expulsion of Members.
- Determine the basis of calculation for the membership fees to be paid by Member Sections.
- Determine the overall budget of the Union until the next Assembly.
- Determine the venues of Assemblies and Congresses as well as the World Capital of Architecture.
- Elect the President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice-Presidents, and Members of Council.

Extraordinary sessions of the Assembly are convened by the President, through the Secretary General, at the request of the Council or at least one third of all Member Sections.



Council

Region I
Western Europe

Regina Gonthier
Switzerland

Eric Wirth replaced by Lionel Dunet
France

Teresa Taboas Veleiro
Spain

Carmela Lilia Cannarella
Italy

Region II
Central & Eastern Europe & the Middle East

Fani Vavili-Tsinika
Greece

Ruta Leitanaite
Lithuania

Aysen Ciravoglu
Turkey

Bodhan Lisowski replaced by Grzegorz Stiasny replaced by Marek Chrobak
Poland

Region III
The Americas

Rim Safar Sakkal
Bolivia

Antonio Carlos Moraes de Castro
Brazil

Augusto Xavier Ballen Rey
Colombia

David Ignacio Rojas Escarrega
Mexico

Region IV
Asia & Oceania

Zhang Li
China

Richard Kirk
Australia

Debatosh Sahu
India

Anju Malla Pradhan
Nepal

Region V
Africa

Vity Claude Nsalambi
Angola

Jacinta Kabarungi
Uganda

Mugure Njendu
Kenya

Mohamed Sahby Gorgi
Tunisia

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Mexico

Immediate Past President
Thomas Vonier
United States

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Pei Ing Tan
Malaysia

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Egypt

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Denmark

Vice President Region II
Istelianna Necho Atanassova
Bulgaria - Georgia

Vice President Region II
Istelianna Atanassova
Georgia

Vice President Region III
Sam Oboh
Canada

Vice President Region IV
Ishtiaque Zahir Titas
Bangladesh

Vice President Region V
Tokunbo Omisore
Nigeria

Contact



www.uia-architectes.org

Founded in 1948, the International Union of Architects (UIA) is a federation of national professional organisations working to unify architects, influence public policies and advance architecture in service to the needs of society.



ISBN 978-629-98334-0-6