



**INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION OPEN TO  
ARCHITECTS AND STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE**

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# **"CELEBRATION of CITIES"**

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CELEBRATION OF CITIES  
**FOREWORD**

## **A Celebration of Cities**

**The city** is the greatest invention of mankind.

A city is not only where people dwell, but also where they pursue self-evolution and seek to enjoy their existence to the most.

Architects are blessed professionals because, more than anyone else, they possess the means to get deeply involved with the city. That alone is reason to celebrate, but we can achieve much more.

Every architect has a good idea for his own city. UIA will give them the opportunity to show these ideas, by mobilising architects around the world to create feasible projects, capable of capturing the imaginary of cities and sensitising their administrators.

Actions that get the city to react. That poke an area in a certain way that it helps the whole to heal, to improve, to create positive reactions. Chain reactions. Reactions that intervene to revitalise, to make the body work differently. In cities that succeed in making this kind of transformation, there is the possibility of a beginning, a rising. That's what makes a city react. Urban planning is a process that, even at its best, cannot produce immediate change. Almost always it is a spark that initiates a sequence of actions. A real "urban acupuncture".

The Celebration of Cities is a huge process of supporting the city, of recovering its essence as a meeting place, a place for creativity and for solidarity. It is meant to be the promoter of projects that improve people's lives, the facilitator of "urban acupunctures".

Many underdeveloped communities can be helped by these projects. The social value of this action is reason enough to participate. Moreover, Celebration of Cities will promote a valuable exchange of experiences, very limited today, by making it possible for projects to be shared, almost instantaneously, all over the world. It is going to be the ultimate venue for architects to show their value and recover the space that has been gradually lost over the past few decades.

Through our international consultation, all of this will be possible. With all of these ideas being fostered simultaneously around the globe, shortly there will be great new projects, hundreds of them, a real Celebration of Cities.

Jaime Lerner