

UNITED NATIONS
 RIO+20
A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On 19 July 2011, sixty-eight countries joined Bhutan to support the idea that happiness is an important development factor by furthering the resolution "Towards a holistic approach to development", adopted by the 193 members of the United Nations general assembly. To pursue this objective the government of Bhutan organized a high-level meeting at UN headquarters in New York on 2 April 2012. Attendees included 600 representatives of UN member states, international organizations, civil society and universities along with economists and journalists, the president of "the planet's greenest economy", **Laura Chinchilla** from Costa Rica, UN Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon**, and several Nobel Prize winners. UIA President **Albert Dubler** was among the participants, representing the world's architects.



As we approach the **Rio+20 international conference on sustainable development**, which will focus on economic growth, environmental protection and human development, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, **Jigmi Y. Thinley**, felt this was an opportunity to prepare a decisive contribution describing concrete measures and **drawing the outlines of a new world economic paradigm based on sustainable well-being**. The UIA supports this movement and will pursue its participation at the Rio conference next June.

Watch the video interview with **Jigmi Y. Thinley**, Prime Minister of Bhutan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZXIZDg5Rgk>

CHINESE TAIPEI

WELCOME TO UIA

The UIA welcomes the architects of Chinese Taipei, through their association NAAROC, to the UIA professional family. NAAROC was created in 1980 and regroups 24 regional branches representing 5 973 architects. The current president is **Lien Fu-Hsin**.

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INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITIONS**DESIGN A BIOCLIMATIC EUROPEAN SCHOOL IN GREECE**

The Greek Association for Educational Facilities (SBO), in collaboration with the International Union of Architects, through its work programme **Architecture and renewable energy sources (UIA-ARES)**, is launching a competition to design a European educational complex in Voutes, Heraklion, on the island of Crete. The complex must rely on renewable and efficient energy sources and concepts and demonstrate an innovative and responsible architectural design. Japanese architect **Ben Nakamura** will represent the UIA on the jury. Registrations are open until 31 May 2012.



More information

www.seeh-competition.gr

SINGAPORE



THEODORE CHAN - SIA PRESIDENT

Theodore Chan was recently elected president of the **Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)**, succeeding Ashvinkumar Kantilal at this post. A graduate of the National University of Singapore, he has been a member of the institute's governing bodies since 2008, dedicating his efforts to issues of education and professional practice. Over his 25 years of work as a liberal practitioner he has realised a number of prestigious structures in Singapore and received numerous prizes and awards.

More information

<http://www.sia.org.sg/>

GREECE



MYRTO DESPOTIDI

The **Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE)** and the **UIA Hellenic Section** announce the election of Myrto Despotidi as president of the **Greek Association of Architects (SADAS-PEA)**. At 42, Ms. Despotidi is in independent practice in Athens and leads a number of dynamic actions within her country's professional structures. The three Greek professional associations work in close collaboration and **constantly unite their efforts in favour of the profession, culture, and architectural heritage.**

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UNITED KINGDOM



LONDON ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL

From **28 June to 8 July 2012**, the annual celebration of the London Festival of Architecture will spill its events throughout the streets of the British capital city. Architects and communities will come together to suggest improvements to their neighbourhoods under the theme **The Playful City**, in reference to the eminent arrival of the Olympic Games and Paralympics in London (27 July - 12 August 2012).

More information and detailed programme

<http://www.lfa2012.org>

UNITED KINGDOM



SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE

The Royal Institute of British Architects developed and edited this guide to help architects implement sustainable principles and techniques in their work. It identifies the concepts and factors that make a design or realisation sustainable and details the benefits of sustainable architectural projects for promoters and clients. The guide defines **10 steps architects should take to make their daily practices sustainable.**

The .pdf format guide can be downloaded from the RIBA website

<http://www.architecture.com/SustainabilityHub/Publications/RIBAGuidetoSustainabilityinPractice.aspx>

JAPAN



TOYO ITO IN VENICE WITH 'MINNA NO IE'

Toyo Ito will serve as curator for the Japan pavilion at the Venice architecture biennial. The pavilion will focus on the concept of **MINNA NO IE** – 'House for Everyone', developed immediately following the 11 March 2011 earthquake by the 'Kisyn no Kai' group, composed of eminent Japanese architects including Toyo Ito himself, Riken Yamamoto, Kengo Kuma, Hiroshi Naito, and Kazuyo Sejima.

These new housing complexes will be built in Rikuzentakata, Iwate prefecture, in north-eastern Japan. They were developed through consultations with the interested communities and architecture students with the goal of **creating spaces for interaction and solidarity that will reconnect the communities** and re-establish hope in the lives of victims.

More information

http://ajw.asahi.com/article/cool_japan/culture/AJ201203170011

COSTA RICA



RESET: CRITERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL ARCHITECTURE

Costa Rica's Tropical Architecture Institute, directed by **Bruno Stagno**, has elaborated a series of norms for sustainable development that **focus on architectural design and know-how**, entitled RESET. This economic and practical certification, that can apply to all types of buildings and housing units, is based on the idea of **more design and less technology**. These new alternative norms will be applied throughout Costa Rica starting in May 2012.

The Tropical Architecture Institute has donated all rights and profits from RESET to the **College of Architects of Costa Rica** and national institutions that will help to pursue its constant update and preserve its philosophy.

Costa Rica Tropical Architecture Institute

www.arquitecturatropical.org

COSTA RICA



PRIORITY ON GREEN ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

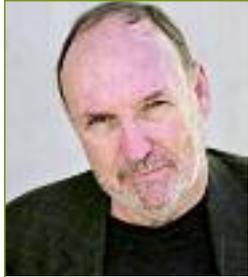
On **2 to 5 May 2012**, San Jose, Costa Rica, will host an international architecture biennial dedicated to sustainability. The Central American architecture biennial and the biennial for students of architecture will be held simultaneously. The goal of these events is to highlight the importance of sustainability, ecology and the environment along with the solutions responsible architectural design can offer in the construction field.

Contributors include **Simon Velez** (Colombia), **Jorge Tames** (Mexico), **Bruno Stagno**, **Benjamin Garcia** (Costa Rica), **James Wine** (USA), **Lars Anders** (Germany).

More information

<http://www.colegiodearquitectosdecostarica.com/>

AUSTRALIA



LAWRENCE NIELD WINS GOLD MEDAL

The **Australian Institute of Architects** awarded its 2012 Gold Medal to Lawrence Nield. AIA president **Brian Zouleïkhâ** praised his “outstanding contribution to architecture for over forty-five years. His career combines a prolific and continued output of significant architecture and urban design projects, services to the Australian Institute of Architects, and academic and teaching achievements, including a distinguished list of writings and publications.” His realisations have consistently received awards and citations and his designs for both health and sports and leisure facilities have had considerable influence throughout Asia and Australia. Lawrence Nield has played a key role in developing innovative sports complexes, in particular as director of the master plan for the Sydney Olympic facilities.

<http://www.architecture.com.au/i-cms?page=1.64.34.15164.23890>

Read the transcript of Lawrence Nield’s conference on the impact of tall buildings

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xhqxc0_lawrence-nield-on-the-impact-of-skyscrapers_creation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION: DESIGN CONNECTS

The American Institute of Architects’ 2012 annual convention will take place in **Washington DC on 17 - 19 May**, on the theme **Design Connects**. According to the convention’s advisory committee chairman, **James H. Determanchair**, “As we confront a new order, we’ve never had better tools at our disposal, or a more pressing need to use them wisely. This year’s convention will convene a community of thought leaders to share their most provocative questions and most promising ideas, and we will begin to work together on new approaches to our profession’s toughest challenges.” A special ceremony on 19 May will honour the ‘architects of healing’ that contributed to rebuilding the ground zero sites destroyed by the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks: **Daniel Libeskind, David Childs, Michael Arad, Craig Dykers, Steven Davis, and Santiago Calatrava**.

More information about the convention

<http://convention.aia.org/event/convention-home.aspx>

CANADA



2012 ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL

On **13 to 16 June**, St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, will host the Canadian architecture festival. **Deep roots in a new energy city** is the theme for this year’s meeting, that will focus on architects’ contributions to improving living conditions and the built environment. The festival will spotlight **sustainable urban development, social commitment, and the importance of architecture**. **Ted Cullinam, Peter Busby, Robert Mellin** and archaeologist **Gerald Penney** are among the prestigious speakers that will address participants at the festival.

More information

http://festival.raic.org/index_e.htm

LOCUS FOUNDATION



GLOBAL AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

On 13 April 2012, the **five winners** of the 2012 Global Award for sustainable architecture were announced at the *Cité de l'architecture* in Paris. The five winners are: the **TYIN** team (Norway), **Salma Samara Damludi** (Iraq), **Anne Feenstra** (Netherlands), **Suriya Umpansiriratana** (Thailand) and **Philippe Madec** (France).

All five winners share the pattern of questioning how resources are managed and addressing equitable access to development, the definition of progress, urban migrations, and the future of popular housing in their work. During a symposium at the *Cité de l'architecture*, they presented the **proactive and radical approaches they apply far from their home countries and cultures**, immersed in the contexts in which they have chosen to practice.

More information: Cité of architecture and heritage

<http://www.citechailot.fr/fr/>

UMAR



ANDRE BEKHAZI - PRESIDENT

During its meeting on **22 & 23 March 2012** in Istanbul, the **Union of Mediterranean Architects**, UMAR, elected its new board. The new president is Lebanese architect Andre Bekhazi. Mr. Bekhazi earned his degree in architecture and urban planning at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts (ALBA), and works independently in Beirut while also teaching at ALBA, where he was recently appointed dean. He served as president of the architects section of the Beirut Order of Engineers and Architects from 2001 to 2003.

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EMERGENCY ARCHITECTS



PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN PARIS

The Emergency Architects Foundation offers regular cycles of a professional development course to structure voluntary intervention by architects on disaster relief sites. These classes **satisfy a need for professional organisation expressed by architects, local and national authorities and emergency relief organisations.**

The next session will take place in Paris on **9, 10 & 11 May**. It will include contributions from experts in different technical fields and humanitarian organisations as well as members of Emergency Architects. Their combined experiences will give participants the tools necessary for technical and human solutions adapted to disaster situations. A course dedicated to earthquake resistant construction will be proposed on **4, 5 & 6 June 2012**, also in Paris.

<http://www.archi-urgent.com/index.php?lang=en>

ARCHITECTURE
AND CHILDREN**VIENNA MEETING**

On **30 & 31 May 2012**, in Vienna, Austria, this work programme will hold a meeting dedicated to developing collaboration with other UIA working bodies and laying out a strategy in view of its contribution to the next UIA world congress in Durban in 2014. Also on the agenda are preparations for the second edition of the UIA Architecture and children Golden Cube Awards.

Attendees will be able to participate in the **Architecture Days** celebration that will take place in Vienna on 1st and 2nd June on the theme '*Architecture, another way of life*'.

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HERITAGE
REGION I**SYRACUSE MEETINGS**

A meeting of this regional work programme is scheduled for 3 June 2012, in Syracuse, Sicily, immediately following the UIA Bureau meeting (31 May - 3 June). The meeting is hosted by the Italian National Council of Architects, Urban Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservationists (CNAPPC).

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