

THE UIA COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH  
*Designate 2022 as “The Year of Design for Health”*

Request to the UIA General Assembly, July 2021

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The International Union of Architects Public Health Group<sup>1</sup> asks the UIA General Assembly to make an international commitment to public health and to declare 2022 *The Year of Design for Health*, urging all UIA Member Sections to encourage architects and their clients to use evidence-based design to promote health in buildings and cities.

As part of this commitment, the UIA Public Health Group asks the UIA General Assembly to endorse the use of UIA resources to launch an open-access digital information hub on designing for improved health, benefitting all nations; to establish an international research agenda to advance the goals of designing for health; and to support the creation of resources that will help architects conduct research in designing for health.

The COVID pandemic has highlighted the importance of environments in controlling disease, the value of creating safe and healthful spaces for all people, and the necessity of using evidence-based research to support design.

We believe that the UIA can and must make vital contributions to these ends. We urge the UIA General Assembly to support these commitments and to declare 2022 *The Year of Design for Health*.



Thomas Vonier FAIA RIBA  
*UIA President 2017-2021*



A Ray Pentecost III DrPH FAIA FACHA  
*PHG Director 2020-2023*

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1. Founded in 1948 and based in Paris, the International Union of Architects (UIA) is the only international non-governmental organization representing the world's architects. The UIA Public Health Group is an international body of architects dedicated to improving design for health in the conviction that architecture must always promote occupant and user health.

SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH GROUP PROPOSAL  
*Designate 2022 as “The Year of Design for Health”*

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**Peoples Republic of China**

*Design for Health is the need of the times. In the context of the pandemic, urban planning and human habitat design need to pay more attention to the environment and human health. In the future, architects should apply the design for health concept, continue to conduct targeted research and practice, advocate the human-centered design principles that emphasize health, efficiency, and humanity, and contribute to a more livable environment for all mankind!*

**Dr. Jianmin Meng**

Director of the Institute of Healthcare Architecture  
Architectural Society of China

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**United States of America**

*. . . the American Institute of Architects Academy of Architecture for Health (AAH) provides knowledge which supports the design of healthy environments by creating education and networking opportunities for its members. Continuing to grow the evidence-based is crucial to move this important work forward . . . we look forward to how we may support the initiative in 2022.*

**Ellen Taylor**, PhD, AIA, MBA, EDAC

2022 President Elect  
American Institute of Architects - Academy of Architecture for Health

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**Australia**

*In my capacity as the Chair of the Australian Health Design Council, I strongly endorse the proposal . . . in the context of the world-wide pandemic, we believe that [this] proposal has the potential to focus the attention of all those who are involved in the creation of the built environment to ensure that design for health is a priority.*

**Kate Copeland**, AM

FACHSM MAHDC MAIPM  
Chair, Australian Health Design Council

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**South Africa**

*I strongly support and endorse the . . . call for 2022 to be declared ‘The Year of Design for Health’. Appropriate planning, considered building codes, and an on-going research effort, in-step with a changing world, are critical at this time. A focused year of Design for Health . . . will be beneficial to both Architecture and Humankind.*

**Kevin Bingham SAIA UIA Pr Arch M Arch**

Past-President - South African Institute of Architects  
Council Member - International Union of Architects  
Council Member & Education Chairperson - South African Council for the Architectural Profession

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**Brazil**

*We, the 2021 Brazilian host . . . enthusiastically support the proposal . . . [this] would give the UIA-PHG the opportunity to take a year and shine a global spotlight on the many dimensions of design for health, including good housing, healthy buildings and healthy cities, sustainability, resilience, and many others. Our passion is to make our world a healthier place.*

**Jerônimo de Moraes Neto**

Tecnologista em Saúde Pública / Arquiteto Divisão de Projetos /DIPRO/DEPEM Bio-Manguinhos / FIOCRUZ

**Renato da Gama-Rosa Costa**

Chief of the Heritage Department/Oswaldo Cruz Foundation

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**Greece**

*In an era of critical crises . . . with rapid technology developments, issues concerning public & individual Health are of great priority. Thus, HEALTHY CITIES, in the broadest context, together with healthy buildings has to be the focus of our interest and discussions. Thus, I give my full support to the proposal.*

**Fani Vavili-Tsinika**

MA (MU, London), PhD (A.U.Th)  
President, UIA Greek Section

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**United States of America**

*We believe that long-lasting sustainable public health is impacted by design in substantive ways – from the design of our communities to the design of the healthcare settings that serve them. The Center strongly supports this proposal and the initiative to shine a spotlight on the impact design has on the health of our communities and citizens, ensuring the best possible environments for generations to come.*

**Debra Levin**, Hon. FASID, EDAC

President and CEO  
The Center for Health Design

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**Switzerland**

*As a professional in healthcare planning, consulting decision makers how to develop their future buildings, I think it is important to have strong evidence and a shared common knowledge on design for health.*

**Karin Imoberdorf** MA MPH, Member of SIA

UIA-PHG Member representing Switzerland  
Focal point to the World Health Organization

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**Australia**

*As a former National President of the Australian Institute of Architects and the former National Chairman of the Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions, I . . . offer my support for the proposal. I believe that all members of the Australian Institute of Architects and the Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions (representing all architects, engineers, project managers, quantity surveyors and landscape architects in Australia) would benefit from this initiative to promote an evidence-based design to health for all buildings and infrastructure.*

**Warren Kerr**, AM, B.Arch, MHP, LFRAIA, FACHSM, Hon AIA  
Adjunct Professor  
University of Western Australia

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Letters of support follow.



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**Roger S. Ulrich, PhD, EDAC**  
Professor, Department of Architecture  
Center for Healthcare Building Research  
Chalmers University of Technology

July 16, 2021

Dear Dr. Pentecost,

I am writing in support of your proposal requesting the UIA declare 2022 as The Year of Design for Health.

For more than three decades, the non-profit Center for Health Design has been dedicated to uncovering the many ways in which the design of the physical environment can improve health outcomes for our world's citizens. We believe that long-lasting sustainable public health is impacted by design in substantive ways - from the design of our communities to the design of the healthcare settings that serve them.

There is a large and growing body of research that connects the design of the physical environment to better health and safety outcomes. The Center for Health Design has long been a proponent leveraging that body of research in design decision-making through the use of an evidence-based design process. To help make this body of knowledge actionable, we have developed a wide array of tools and resources including webinars, workshops, conferences, research journals and publications, and made these resources available to architects, students, educators and healthcare administrators worldwide.

The Center strongly supports this proposal and the initiative to shine a spotlight on the impact design has on the health of our communities and citizens, ensuring the best possible environments for generations to come.

With sincere regards,

Debra Levin, Hon. FASID, EDAC



A. Ray Pentecost III, DrPH, FAIA, FACHA, LEED AP  
Ronald L. Skaggs FAIA and Joseph G. Sprague FAIA Chair of Health Facilities Design  
Director, Center for Health Systems & Design  
College of Architecture, Texas A&M University  
2020-2023 Director, UIA-Public Health Group]

July 13, 2021

Dear Dr. Pentecost,

Thank you for sharing your proposed UIA public health commitment to declare 2022 as The Year of Design for Health. As one of the AIA's oldest Knowledge Communities, the Academy of Architecture for Health (AAH), provides knowledge which supports the design of healthy environments by creating education and networking opportunities for its members. As you know, the approach to healthcare has broadly expanded over the years to represent a more holistic approach to health that touches so many — the work of healthcare architects often reflects a public health perspective.

The AAH is a strong proponent for advancing education and resources that articulate the value of well-designed healthcare environments, and we wholeheartedly support your goal to advance the goals of designing for health. Our own work highlights evidence and research in many forms, among them webinars, the AAH Journal, our annual Summer Leadership Summit, and our Research Initiatives Committee work on case study exemplars. Creating an information hub to benefit all who practice is a vital component to foster understanding. (I imagine there will be a newly-found recognition by many that they have quite an influential role in facilitating health.) Continuing to grow the evidence-based is crucial to move this important work forward, as well, and we look forward to how we may support the initiative in 2022.

With regards,

Ellen Taylor, PhD, AIA, MBA, EDAC  
2022 President Elect  
Academy of Architecture for Health

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**ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ - ΤΜΗΜΑ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΩΝ**  
**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI - SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**  
**ΤΟΜΕΑΣ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΕΔΙΑΣΜΟΥ & ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΗΣ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Πανεπιστημιούπολη, 54124 Θεσσαλονίκη - University Campus, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece

In an era of critical crises concerning ecology, climate, growing astyfilia, increasing numbers of refugees as a result of geopolitical conflicts and instability, and lately the Covid pandemic together with rapid technology developments, issues concerning public & individual Health are of great priority. Thus, HEALTHY CITIES, in the broadest context, together with healthy buildings has to be the focus of our interest and discussions. This is the work that can be done by UIA-PHG as a continuation of its long experience in the broad field of Health & architecture

Thus, I give my fully support to the proposal for 2022: UIA The Year of Design for Health.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fani Vavili-Tsinika'.

Professor Emerita, School of Architecture, Aristotle University Thessaloniki Greece,  
President of UIA Greek Section.

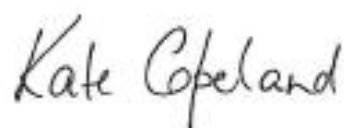
Prof. Em.Fani Vavili-Tsinika, MA. (MU, London), PhD (A.U.Th.)  
Alex. Michailidi 1, Thessaloniki 54840, Greece  
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## **Statement of Support for UIA PHG Proposal to declare 2022 The Year of Design for Health**

In my capacity as the Chair of the Australian Health Design Council, I strongly endorse the proposal put forward by the UIA Public Health Group to declare 2022 as the Year of Design for Health.

As the organisation representing all sectors of the health design industry in Australia established to promote the sharing of knowledge, information, research innovation and experience to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health facility design, we aim to be the prime professional body that facilitates collaboration between health design professionals across Australia.

In the context of the world-wide pandemic, we believe that the UIA Public Health Group's proposal has the potential to focus the attention of all those who are involved in the creation of our built environment to ensure that design for health is a priority.



### **Kate Copeland AM**

FACHSM MAHDC MAIPM

Adjunct Associate Professor Griffith University

Executive Director, Assets and Infrastructure, Metro North Health

**Chair**

**Australian Health Design Council**



**The South African Institute of Architects**

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14 July 2021

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Dear Sir/ Madam

**2022: The Year of Design for Health**

I strongly support and endorse the International Union of Architects Public Health Groups' call for 2022 to be declared '*The Year of Design for Health*'.

While all architects are trained to design healthy environments, and are the best equipped to do so, it is not until pandemics such as COVID-19 bring to the fore possible areas for improvement in thinking, design, and implementation.

The launch of the UIA's COVID-19 Information Hub in the early days of the pandemic proved successful in information sharing between architects, countries, and governments, and highlighted the essential need for further coordinated research efforts across a broad range of environmental conditions to enable greater successes in the creation of healthy buildings and public spaces.

Inappropriate environments and living conditions, including poor ventilation, promote the spread of disease. Appropriate planning, considered building codes, and an on-going research effort, in-step with a changing world, are critical at this time.

A focused year of Design for Health is strongly recommended and will be beneficial to both Architecture and Humankind.

Yours faithfully

**Kevin Bingham SAIA UIA** Pr Arch M Arch

Past-President - South African Institute of Architects

Council Member - International Union of Architects

Council Member & Education Chairperson - South African Council for the Architectural Profession



15 July 2021

Dr Ray Pentecost DrPH, FAIA, FACHA, LEED AP  
Director  
International Union of Architects Public Health Group

Dear Ray,

**UIA PHG PROPOSAL TO DECLARE 2022 THE YEAR OF DESIGN FOR HEALTH**

In my capacity as a former National President of the Australian Institute of Architects and the former National Chairman of the Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions, I am delighted to offer my support for the proposal put forward by the International Union of Architects Public Health Group to declare 2022 The Year of Design for Health.

I believe that all members of the Australian Institute of Architects and the Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions (representing all architects, engineers, project managers, quantity surveyors and landscape architects in Australia) would benefit from this initiative to promote an evidence-based design to health for all buildings and infrastructure.

With best wishes and kind regards,



Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM B.Arch MHP LFRAIA FACHSM Hon AIA  
University of Western Australia

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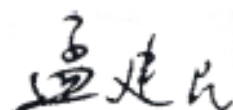


# 中国 建筑 学会

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健康设计是时代发展的需要。在疫情背景下城市与人居环境设计，需要更加关注环境和人类健康，未来建筑师应坚持的健康设计理念，持续开展针对性的研究和实践，坚持本原设计理念，以健康、高效、人文为原则，为人类宜居环境建设作贡献！

Design for Health is the need of the times. In the context of the pandemic, urban planning and human habitat design need to pay more attention to the environment and human health. In the future, architects should apply the design for health concept, continue to conduct targeted research and practice, advocate the human-centered design principles that emphasize health, efficiency, and humanity, and contribute to a more livable environment for all mankind!



MENG jianmin

中国工程院院士

The Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering

深圳大学本原设计研究中心主任

Director of Benyuan Design and Research Center, Shenzhen University