How Can Architecture Contribute To Social And Environmental Change?
INVITATION

Call for manifestos on architecture and sustainable development! We are calling for architects, designers, urbanists and planners from across the planet to create a written or visually composed manifesto addressing the roles and potentialities of architecture and urbanism in the fulfillment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The manifestos will be used for kickstarting debates, grounding further research and inspiring exhibitions leading up to, during and after the 28th UIA World Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, 2023 (UIA/Union Internationale des Architectes).

We have reached the limits of our planet and therefore we have no choice but to act now. As architects, we hold both the potential and the responsibility to radically change the way we design and build our physical societies. We hope to use the UIA World Congress in Copenhagen 2023 as a milestone on our common path towards the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Natalie Mossin, President of Congress and Co-Chair of the UIA Commission on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The content of the manifestos will be mirrored by the World Congress’ Scientific and Practice Tracks and reflect the Congress’ six themes:

1. Design for Climate Adaptation
2. Design for Rethinking Resources
3. Design for Resilient Communities
4. Design for Health
5. Design for Inclusivity
6. Design for Partnerships for Change.

(More on those further below)

The themes are based on the UN 17 SDGs’ overarching mission, which defines Earth as a sophisticatedly interlinked human-environmental system, as described in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report “The Future is Now - Science for Achieving Sustainable Development” by Prof. Katherine Richardson et al.
We are in a decade of urgency and action, and we must use events such as the UIA World Congress 2023 as a forum for change-making on a global stage. The SDGs do not directly address the agency and potentiality of architecture as a contributor to solutions; however, architecture’s inherent multi-disciplinarity and engagement across sectors, positions architectural practices as central facilitators and generators for change across many of the UN SDGs. We, therefore, wish to use the UIA World Congress 2023 as a vehicle to collectively explore and formulate a shared vision for how we as architects and across different contexts and agendas are part of the solution.

Mette Ramsgaard Thomsen and Martin Tamke, the UIA Scientific Committee
The format of each Manifesto can be equally playful or serious, imaginative or pragmatic, if it pursues the objective of challenging perspectives, provoking considerations and generating new insights. The Manifesto Relay exists in parallel with the UIA World Congress Science Track and other congress-related contributions.

Once assembled into a single heterogeneous piece, with one manifesto following another, a diverse, dynamic and holistic reading will take form. Thus, we are very keen on keeping the format as free and open as possible; however, the guidelines below must be accepted and applied:

- The manifesto can be written and/or visually composed.
- It must not exceed the size of two A4 pages.
- It has to be uploaded as a pdf.
- If the manifesto contains text, it must be written in English and proofread.
- The manifesto will be published in the same design/layout as it is received.
- The manifesto’s author(s) must agree to the terms and conditions described in the submission form.
- Upon submission, the manifesto’s author(s) must indicate which of the six congress themes their manifesto addresses (can be more than one).

**GUIDELINES**

**FORMAT & SUBMISSION**

Each manifesto will be categorized according to the theme, and each thematic section will be contextualized by introductory texts that synthesize the research and practices contained in a non-academic language.

**GUIDELINES**

**THE SIX THEMES**

1. **Design for Climate Adaptation:**

   The built environment exists within a larger, more powerful natural ecosystem. As climate patterns change, so must the role of buildings, settlements, and cities and how they interface with their environment, protecting especially vulnerable residents. ‘Design for Climate Adaptation’ allows us to mitigate against changing environments and encourage a symbiotic ecology, promoting peaceful and cooperative adaptation of the built environment.

2. **Design for Rethinking Resources:**

   As we grow more aware of the limits of our planet’s resources, shifting from an exploitative to a restorative, regenerative, and circular design ideology becomes necessary. ‘Design for Rethinking Resources’ means re-assessing all aspects of the production and consumption cycles with sustainability in mind.

3. **Design for Resilient Communities:**

   Sustainable futures are dependent on the thoughtful planning of cities and communities. Rapid urbanization and high-density cities are putting unprecedented pressures on the way we live. ‘Design for Resilient Communities’ investigates multiple perspectives defining the way we live, including aspects of economy, sociality, and the environment.

4. **Design for Health:**

   The built environment affects our physical and mental health as humans. With increases in population and unequal infrastructures, considerations of access to healthcare, the spread of diseases and preventable premature mortality are of major concern for sustainable futures. Beyond direct healthcare, taking action to improve basic infrastructures such as developing sewage systems for informal settlements or better building practices for disease prevention, sharply increases public health and well-being. Furthermore, design can promote individual health by shaping mobility and accessibility for all, creating spaces for an active outdoor life and ensuring indoor climate health and comfort.

5. **Design for Inclusivity:**

   This panel addresses universal design and the shaping of gender-equal environments. Furthermore, it discusses how vulnerable and marginalized groups can be included through the careful consideration of cultural differences and strategies for cultural preservation, how social housing strategies and design of inclusive community buildings can work to cement cohesion across communities, how responsible improvement of informal settlements can stimulate social equality, and how innovation can offer new solutions to emergency shelters, refugee housing and post-disaster regeneration.

6. **Design for Partnerships of Change:**

   Implementing changes requires partnerships between government, the private sector and civil society. ‘Design for Partnerships of Change’ examines how architecture and the built environment can encourage such partnerships, the agency they embody, and the results they can achieve.

> Please visit www.uia2023cph.org for further information about the six themes.
1. Copenhagen Architecture Festival will create a series of public events in real life and online from Autumn 2022 until the Summer of 2023. These events will focus on architecture and sustainable development taking the manifestos and the agenda of the UIA World Congress of Architects 2023 Copenhagen as points of departure.

2. Leading up to and during the UIA World Congress of Architecture 2023 the manifestos will be distributed to presenters, committees and attendees, relevant decision-makers, the international press, and more.

3. In 2023, the manifestos will be published on a digital platform where they can be downloaded for free to democratize and enlarge the debate and stimulate knowledge exchange.

The incoming manifestos will be revised by Copenhagen Architecture Festival in collaboration with the UIA World Congress Scientific Committee and the UIA World Congress Secretariat.

If you have any questions related to the call, please send an email to Copenhagen Architecture Festival: manifesto@cafx.dk
The UIA World Congresses are triennial key events for professional and cultural exchange among architects that bring together thousands of participants from all around the globe.

Under the overarching title “Sustainable Futures – Leave No One Behind”, the UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen will demonstrate how architecture contributes to the achievement of the UN 17 SDGs and establish new global sustainability practices across all architectural disciplines by 2030.

UIA World Congresses comprise keynote speakers, lectures and seminars, research presentations, exhibitions as well as social and cultural events.

For further information about the 2023 UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen, please visit → uia2023cph.org

Copenhagen Architecture Festival

Copenhagen Architecture Festival (CAFx) was established in 2014 and is the largest annual architecture event in Scandinavia. Each year the festival engages the public through debates, lectures, film screenings, guided walks, exhibitions and more, critically exploring the impact architecture has on our lives, and the impact we have on architecture.

CAFx also hosts an annual Summer School that brings together students from across the globe to experimentally investigate the relation between film and architecture, runs a Journal with contributing essays, articles, podcasts and short films, and is involved in a series of different research projects.

For further information about Copenhagen Architecture Festival please visit → cafx.dk

We look forward to receiving your contribution to this urgent call for action and collaboration.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Josephine Michau,
CEO of Copenhagen Architecture Festival

Annette Blegvad,
CEO of UIA World Congress CPH 2023