#COVID-19 Urban Thinkers Campus Series 2
UIA Report

1. UTC Title:  
   Architects' response in reshaping our cities that are resilient to pandemic situations

2. UTC Date and Time:  Saturday 11th July 2020

3. Lead organizer: International Union of Architects, UIA

4. Partner(s) organizations

   Names and URL of partner organizations to be associated to the Campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.hkia.net/en">https://www.hkia.net/en</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iab.com.bd/">http://www.iab.com.bd/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil (IAB)</td>
<td><a href="https://iab.org.br/">https://iab.org.br/</a></td>
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5. Number of Participants: Registered 516, Attended 188

6. Background and objectives of your Campus:

   \textit{Objectives of the campus aims to achieve in light of the COVID-19 crisis (maximum 500 words)}

   International Union of Architects, (UIA) has been the profession’s international force, propelling architects to work in nonpartisan alliance toward a world made better by design. And that is what we need today—first, to help the world to fight the deadly pandemic now gripping it, and then to help communities recover and rebuild, applying lessons that will help to avoid future health & environmental catastrophes.

   Through this discussion on the local perspective and experience across the diverse geographic locations, we indented to mobilise architects, planners, researchers, academia and other allied urban professionals in search of the new urban solutions in reshaping our cities to increase resilience to the pandemic.
The ultimate objective is to attain the knowledge about the prevailing and new solutions to prevent homelessness, address the lack of water and sanitation, actions in informal settlements, introduce safe and affordable mobility, generate innovative ideas of open space to ensure wellbeing in this new normal situation.

We have a decade ahead of us to implement the SDGs. As the leading urban professionals organisation the UIA aims to share this commitment with its 124 member sections and to support the institutes and individual members to practice ethically and sustainably, furthering the SDGs and Agenda 2030. This will lead to the building of better cities, for the benefit of all people, while making cities more resilient to any pandemic crisis for the future.

7. Relation of your Campus to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals*

Architects have a significant role in shaping communities and society as a whole; the impact of their work extends beyond the physical structures they design. Architects are uniquely placed to influence how environments are shaped, how they function, and who they engage in the process. In this process we acknowledge the decade of action to implement all the 17 sustainable development goals, especially the goal no 11. It also accepts the New Urban Agenda as a recipe for action that will transform the way we construct, manage, operate and live in our cities. This campus ultimately adopts the following effective implementation clauses of new urban agenda:

No 100: We will support the provision of a well-designed networks of safe, inclusive for all inhabitants, accessible, green, and quality public spaces and streets.

No 107: Promote access to a wide range of affordable and sustainable housing options, cooperative solutions such as co-housing, community land trust, and other forms of collective tenure, that addresses the needs of communities and low-income groups.

No 108: We commit to combatting homelessness as well as combatting and eliminating its criminalisation through including strategies such as comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable housing.

No 114 We will promote access for all to safe, age- and gender-responsive, affordable, accessible, and sustainable urban mobility. This will enable meaningful participation in social and economic activities in cities and human settlements.

No 120: We will work to equip public water and sanitation utilities with the capacity to implement sustainable water management systems, promoting equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, and adequate sanitation and hygiene for all.
8. List of Speakers:

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE MODERATOR:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ishtiaque Zahir Titas</td>
<td>Co-Director, UIA SDG Commission.</td>
<td>Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB).</td>
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**SPEAKERS:**

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Natalie Mossin</td>
<td>Head of Institute, Co-Director, UIA SDG Commission.</td>
<td>The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts (KADK).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yves Monnot</td>
<td>SC Member, UIA SDGC.</td>
<td>Conseil International des Architectes Français (CIAF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chan Cho Sing Joel</td>
<td>Member, UIA SDGC.</td>
<td>Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CID Blanco Jr</td>
<td>SC Member, UIA SDGC.</td>
<td>Institute of Architects Brazil (IAB).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Bingham</td>
<td>Council member, UIA Region V.</td>
<td>South African Institute of Architects (SAIA).</td>
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9. Speakers’ Key Points:

*Natalie Mossin*

- Architecture can act as a messenger at a time of emptied public space. In Denmark and elsewhere, balconies, building facades and windows have been used to send signals of solidarity and perseverance into public space.

- To implement social distancing, new spatial organizations can be implemented in architecture through simple solutions like “one-way traffic” in buildings and on walkways, reorganization and subdividing space with temporary partitions such as string and markings, and by assigning space for use by a specific group at a specific time.

- The pandemic is bringing about a new culture of public space, with security and health at the forefront. We must remember the combined challenge of the UN SDGs as we move forward, humane and environmental sustainability must be advanced together with designs that advance safety and lower the spread of diseases.

*Yves Monnot*

- We need to rethink the relationship between the city and the countryside.

- For food security, urban agriculture, rethinking roof-gardens, vertical farming and garden cities to address the crisis of food at the time of lock-down and pandemic.

- Emphasis on a new building code for design layouts for proper sanitary facilities to ensure health and safety.
**Joel Chan**
- To tackle any future crisis we should decentralise the CBD for the people to have a better life.
- Governments need to legalise personal mobilily facilities along with public infrastructure mobility. New plans for infrastructure are required for individual travel and walkability.
- Quarantine camp sanitation design may be a useful reference and guideline for future built environments.
- People-centric and age-friendly cities are inevitable to tackle any pandemic situation in Hong Kong.

**Cid Blanco**
- We have to think about the homeless and slum people, who do not have the basic necessities to protect themselves from Covid 19.
- The pandemic situation has compelled professionals to revisit the recent upgrading of slums (favelas) in Latin America, like Rio and Medellin. In the current situation slum upgrades must include the access to good infrastructure, access to land, access to better housing conditions. and access to clean water.

**Kevin Bingham**
- Addressing the realities faced by the poor in times of crisis is the critical departure point; public spaces, including the streets (which are the public realm of the poor) requires intervention. Health safety and security must be ensured in the designing of public space. Community participation is essential in the design process.
- We must take lessons from past pandemic situations and act accordingly through designing appropriately. The use of courtyards for light and ventilation, as well as well ventilated spaces must be implemented effectively.

10. **Main results of the Campus:**
- The campus recognises that in addition to climate, economic and political crisis, the COVID-19 crisis is paramount;
- To get solutions to tackle the crisis, we need to review and rethink existing architectural standards, values, and all spectrum of built environment conditions;
- Overall mobility decreased, but the pedestrian movement has increased, so provisions for pedestrians must be created, particularly in local areas;
- To design and bring actions in informal settlements, we need to have access to underutilised urbanised land, and review the abandoned spaces and houses in the cities, to resolve the crisis of land and housing through urban planning;
• Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene is very crucial not only during the pandemic but also in the normal times. Architects need to work on effective ways of capturing water by rethinking various elements of buildings, like the roof, to solve the water crisis. Drainage systems to be carefully designed to avoid contamination; reduce the use of water and recycle waste-water; rainwater harvesting and innovative design to capture moisture from the air should be considered as main stream solutions;

• It is recognised that we have to reshape the environment. Instead of urban sprawls, the design of self-sustainable small local areas is necessary. Self-sustainable neighborhoods in compact city planning, are most needed.

11. Recommendations:
• Institutions like the UIA and the UN Habitat are important, as we cannot rely only on governments to deal with such an array of crises. The UIA, other civil societies and stakeholders, should be pro-people and implement oriented work programs and influence the policymakers in the government;
• Politicians/ Governments should respect people's desires. If government does not respond to society / public interest, those governments should be replaced. If good work examples, and new effective and affordable solutions can be shown to the Government, these can bring good changes. Professionals must be the loud voice of the problems of people;
• The experiences learned through disaster management must be integrated into the study of Architecture.
• To fight against natural disasters, accurate data has to be collected, and we must use technology, and work with the main stakeholders;
• Through Good design we can combat pandemics. Natural light and ventilation, alternative connectivity, and all other positive values of good Architecture can contribute and will help in pandemic situations;
• Local contextual characteristic values need to be highlighted in the city design or in guidelines. This is how cities can become inclusive, compact and walkable.

12. Solutions and Good Practices in addressing the Covid-19 crisis:
• To address homelessness during the COVID-19 situation, shared housing solutions can be explored, while ensuring the minimum standard of living as per the social condition of the place, like alternative uses of existing facilities, flexibility, and adaptive reuse;
• To avoid the congestion during circulation movement, we need to re-emphasise mobility/movement within local areas – and to have a symbiotic relationship between live and work where one resides; an alternative to long-distance commuting within or outside cities;
• We need to explore/rethink ground floors and inside spaces in buildings as gathering spaces as an alternative to traditional open spaces;

• To ensure open space within a building’s traditional spaces requires a readjustment through innovative ideas. Balconies and micro-gardens are missing in urban housing. These elements need to be reintroduced in buildings for relaxation and health;

• Safe public sanitation and clean water must be provided and “sharing” designs developed that help users maintain distance and minimize the risk of the spread of disease;

• In 1846 the French capital was overcrowded, dingy, dirty and riddled with regular outbreaks of cholera and typhoid. It needed light, air, clean water and good sanitation. Georges-Eugène Haussmann carried out a massive urban renewal program of new boulevards, parks and public works in Paris to address the situation. This is a positive reference from the past, as Haussmann’s renovation of Paris can be refined to ensure a better living conditions in the cities and address the inclusiveness of the city. Each city should include a good percentage of social housing.

13. Media:

14. Picture
ALL SPEAKERS

JOEL CHAN

High Density CBD
DEN-CITY?

Temporary and repurposed spaces for emergency services
"De Hvide Telt" (white tents) for testing have gone up all over Denmark
COVID-19: The South African Context

KEVIN BINGHAM

CID BLANCO