WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY 2020: TOWARD A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

The UIA is pleased to announce the theme of World Architecture Day 2020 (Monday, 5 October 2020): “Toward a better urban future.”

Just as it is reshaping social customs and spaces all across the world, the global pandemic is revealing once again how crises affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations disproportionately. Urban planning, design, and architecture are critical to a better urban future for all.

The UIA and its member countries will mobilise on 5 October 2020 to show how urban design and architecture can make our communities strong, safe, equitable, and affordable.

WAD Webinar Announcement

Read the President’s declaration.

Register for the webinar here:
UIA PRESIDENT THOMAS VONIER INTERVIEWS UNESCO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CULTURE ERNESTO OTTONE

To mark the one-year countdown to the UIA World Congress (18-22 July 2021, Rio de Janeiro), UIA President Thomas Vonier interviewed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, Ernesto Ottone Ramirez. During the interview, Ottone spoke of the impact of the pandemic on the culture sector, informing that 77% of World Heritage sites are closed and 13% of the world’s cultural institutions are unlikely to ever reopen after the pandemic. Thomas Vonier highlighted the need for architects and urban planners to give consideration to how to adapt spaces for continued use during pandemics.

Watch the interview

UIA GOLD MEDAL & PRIZES ▼
INTERVIEW WITH HOANG THUC HAO, WINNER OF THE 2017 VASSILIS SGOUTAS PRIZE FOR IMPLEMENTED ARCHITECTURE SERVING THE IMPOVERISHED

This past summer, the UIA Secretariat spoke with 2017 Vassilis Sgoutas Prize laureate, Vietnamese architect Hoang Thuc Hao. Hoang’s commitment to vernacular architecture in rural communities has earned him international acclaim. Hoang describes his guiding philosophy as “Happiness architecture 1+1 > 2”, an equation combining architecture and core vernacular values to generate a common voice greater than the sum of its parts.”

UIA Member Sections & elected officials may upload nominations for the 2021 UIA Gold Medal and Prizes on the UIA Prizes Platform.

See interview

For more information on the 2021 UIA Gold Medal and Prizes

COMPETITIONS & PRIZES ▼
INTERNATIONAL VELUX AWARD 2020: REGIONAL RESULTS

Organised around the theme, “Light of Tomorrow”, the International VELUX Award asks students of architecture to explore how we use sunlight and daylight for energy and light in our daily lives and in the built environment specifically. The jury for the 2020 International VELUX Award, composed of Odile Decq (France), Nóra Demeter (Hungary), Sebastián Adamo (AR), Juri Troy (AT) and Martin Pors from VELUX A/S (Denmark) met virtually on 6, 7 and 8 July 2020. UIA Representative Nóra Demeter was elected Chair. Over the course of 3 days, the jury evaluated 579 projects from 250 different schools of architecture in 60 countries.

Find out more
ABDULLATIF AL-FOZAN AWARD FOR MOSQUE ARCHITECTURE: 3RD CYCLE

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency, the executive committee of the Abdullatif Al-Fozan Award for Mosque Architecture has decided to postpone the ceremony for their Third Cycle, open only to submissions from Islamic countries, to March 2021. The ceremony was originally planned for March 2020.

Find out more
THE UIA AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION: SUBMISSION DEADLINE APPROACHING

The submission deadline for the UIA Award for Innovation in Architectural Education, organized by the UIA's own Education Commission is fast approaching on 20 October. There is still time for innovative architectural school programmes with a focus on fostering the development of sustainable environments to apply on the UIA Prizes Platform.

Questions may be addressed to the prize organisers.

UIA WORKING BODIES▼


THE ROAD TO RIO: SPOTLIGHT ON THE UIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS COMMISSION (UIA-ICC)

This month, we're spotlighting the UIA International Competitions Commission. This Commission acts as an advisory body for architectural competitions. It is the sole entity mandated by UNESCO to oversee the application of the UNESCO-UIA regulations for International Competitions. These Regulations outline best practices for design competitions, with a particular emphasis on transparency, fairness, equality, design quality and innovation.

See more on the ICC website

Read the UIA ICC activity report

UIA MEMBER SECTIONS▼
THE ROAD TO RIO: SPOTLIGHT ON THE UIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS COMMISSION (UIA-ICC)

From 28 to 30 September, Archifest Singapore, organized annually by the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), will take place as an innovative virtual conference entitled Architecture Saving OUR World. Speakers from all over the world will apply their diverse expertise to the following 3 themes: "Radical Indigenism", "Design Empowerment" & "Empathic Interventions".

For more information and to register
LUXEMBOURG: Bauärepräis

UIA Luxembourger Member Section, Ordre des Architectes et des Ingenieurs-Conseils (OAI), is celebrating its 30th birthday on Monday 21 September at Luxembourg’s Philharmonic. The festivities fall in the middle of the OAI’s Bauärepräis 2020, an annual prize for realized high quality architectural, urban planning or landscape architecture projects in the public or private sectors.

Find out more
ESTONIA: TALLINN ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE 2022

“Edible. Or, the Architecture of Metabolism” has been selected as the theme for the next Tallinn Architecture Biennale (TAB) 2022. The winning curators are architects Lydia Kallipoliti and Areti Markopoulou in collaboration with Ivan Sergejev.

“Edible” explores the literal and metaphysical meaning of “food” from an architectural perspective, examining its role in urban life and the built environment.

For more information

NEW ZEALAND & IRELAND: ‘A sense of Place’

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects have teamed up for a series of webinars on the theme ‘A Sense of Place’. Due to the time difference between Ireland and New Zealand, this webinar will take place starting 17 September as a breakfast webinar in Ireland (9-10.30am) and an evening webinar in New Zealand (8-9.30pm).

This first discussion is about public housing and will include several architecture practices, each speaking for around 15 minutes each.

More information and to register

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS▼

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is an international non-governmental organisation based in Paris. Established in 1948, it is the only organisation representing architects across the globe working to unify architects, influence public policies on construction and development, and advance architecture in service to the needs of society.