

World Architecture Day

**“Architectural quality, a
guarantee for the common
good”**



Declaration from the CSCAE

In 2018, all the Ministries of Culture of the European Union, and the Spanish Government a year later, signed the Davos Declaration: “There can be no democratic, peaceful and sustainable development if culture is not at its heart. The way we use, maintain and protect our cultural heritage today will be crucial for the future development of a high-quality built environment”.

Our society is faced with incessant change, on a scale which increasingly moves beyond the local level. The effects of globalisation, the climate emergency, the breakneck development of technology, the impact of the Covid19 pandemic and the increase in conflicts, also at the door of Europe, in addition to other issues, such as the difficulty in accessing adequate and affordable housing, the imbalance between urban and rural areas as illustrated by the “Empty Spain” phenomenon and the increase in inequalities, form a backdrop with many challenges, which, despite its global nature, requires consensuses, common effort, and short, medium and long term actions on a local scale: in our towns, cities and territories, as vectors for recovery and social progress.

Our urban environments are the spaces from which to address all these challenges. For this reason on World Architecture Day we advocate architectural quality as a guarantee for the common good; to advance towards a fairer, more equal, healthier and more sustainable society across all scopes: economic, social and environmental.

With its basic, universal, artistic and cultural, social and ethical values and the nature of durability that underlies its works, Architecture contributes to the individual and collective well-being of people: it provides comfort, security, is a factor in preventive health, promotes social cohesion, creates collective identity and inspires and feeds back the creative power of human beings with its beauty. What's more, in the middle of the climate crisis, its innovative, responsible and comprehensive solutions become essential to mitigate the effects of global heating, transition towards a circular economy and recover environmental balance, reuse and optimise the use of natural and economic resources, and reduce energy use.

Architecture regenerates and rehabilitates, bringing versatility to our homes and buildings, giving them back all their usefulness and updating them, based on the principle of quality and an integral perspective, to respond appropriately to the needs of 21st century citizens and successfully face challenges that require an urgent response,

such as the decarbonisation of the housing stock in our country, where more than half of its 25.7 million homes require energy rehabilitation, in addition to other pressing improvements in terms of accessibility, conservation and functionality.

Architecture is caring. It helps us to move towards a more equal, more human, healthier and more sustainable society; a better society which adapts to adverse circumstances and changing scenery with greater flexibility and strength. However, to do so, intervention from Public Administrations is also necessary, promoting exemplar policies that place architectural quality and defence of the built environment at the epicentre of current urban transformations; opting for architectural tenders that prioritise the general wellbeing of the population and for raising society's awareness to protect the built environment, as the cultural heritage of all.

On World Architecture Day, architectural quality, a guarantee for the common good.