



MANIFESTO

Social Habitat Work Programme

WORLD CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS
UIA 2023 COPENHAGEN
2-6 JULY 2023

MANIFESTO

The Architecture of Social Habitat: Leave No One Behind

Following the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 25.1, «Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services [...]» and the UN Housing 2030 Agenda, we affirm the following intentions:

1. THE RIGHT TO HOUSING IS A RIGHT TO THE HABITAT

HABITAT | Housing is an organic part of wider built environments and the right to housing is a right to a holistic habitat that includes community life, health, cultural and education services and social-economic opportunities within a respectful environmental feasibility. Therefore, housing is a permanent or temporary (intended as both provisional and humanitarian emergency) safe and healthy private space and the communal and public spaces which are required for a full life as habitat.

2. THE RIGHT TO THE HABITAT IS UNIVERSAL AND INALIENABLE

SOCIAL HABITAT | Everyone has the right to the habitat and societies must be committed in providing it, guaranteeing the adequate solutions to satisfy an undeniable necessities, even to the needy people: disabled, single parents, aged people, immigrants and poor.

3. THE RIGHT TO THE HABITAT IS EFFECTED BY THE ARCHITECTURE

THE ARCHITECTURE OF SOCIAL HABITAT | Architecture is the society's proxy to design inclusive social habitat, which have to meet all of the human needs and capabilities, and guarantee at least the minimum rights as (but not less than) the affordable housing.

In order for the habitat to be socially inclusive, it must provide not only shelters, but also decent, long-lasting and healthy solutions, ensuring at the same time the privacy and the individuality for the inhabitants. Hence, the habitat should be built on four essential pillars:

I. HABITAT AS A HOME

DIGNITY | To design a good habitat, it has to be conceived ensuring also the minimum of qualitative existence and not only the minimum of size. Moreover, houses (especially the affordable ones) have not to be stigmatized, but perfectly built, harmonized and blended within the context.

II. HABITAT AS A CORE

INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION | To design an active and lively habitat, it has to be intended as a spacial and dwelling infrastructural framework, achieved by an inclusive architectural process and a holistic system where people can live in and participate, designing their habitat according to their needs, desires and abilities. Therefore, the social habitat is not a preconfigured solution, but a continuous work-in-progress where inhabitants can expand the given nucleus over time, rethinking their homes as well as the private or shared, indoor and outdoor spaces.

III. HABITAT AS AN ORGANISM

URBAN INTEGRATION | To design an inclusive social habitat, it has to avoid isolation and segregation: it must include dwelling, public spaces and facilities. An integrated urban habitat instead of an isolated sub-urban housing must be planned: a widely green spaces system, kindergartens and schools, shops, cultural and religious buildings, sports facilities, public transportation etc. must be guaranteed and accessible to everyone.

IV. HABITAT AS A RESPONSIBLE PROCESS

SUSTAINABILITY | To design a future respectful social habitat, it must be also sustainable, ensuring both feasible and environmental principles: the former from economic, social and technical points of view; the latter by designing in terms of energy consumption and natural life preservation, but also using recyclable, local building materials and techniques that let people take part in the economy, produce things by themselves and market them, to be part of a wider system and community life.

We strongly call on all decision makers in the governmental authorities, public and private entrepreneurs, professional experts in relevant fields and our colleagues in the architectural discipline, to adopt – as well the general public to demand – the principles of this manifesto

UIA Work Programme in Social Habitat

in concert with Architecture and Children | Architecture for All | Community Architecture and Human Rights | Educational and Cultural Spaces | Heritage and Cultural Identity | Architecture, Cities and Territories | Public Health | Public Spaces | Sports and Leisure

WHAT WE DO

Social inequality is becoming increasingly visible, especially in the urban environment, where people from various social strata live in close proximity. The increase in social inequality in urban areas has been shown to have a direct correlation with homelessness, unemployment, social deprivation, and health problems. The UIA Social Habitat Programme works to investigate these problems from an architectural standpoint, and to start implementing positive social action within the architectural community.

HOW WE DO IT

#Peer learning – Programme Members from around the world exchange experiences and good practice through debates and seminars organised by the Programme.

#Research – The Programme produces analysis, compilations of case studies, and best practice recommendations to be distributed to the relevant local and national authorities.

WHO WE WORK WITH

Architects, urban planners, local and national legislators, and social activists.

UIA Social Habitat Committee Members

DIRECTORS

Philippe Capelier
France

Sahar Attia
Egypt

MEMBERS

Agatha Irabor
Nigeria

Bülent Batuman
Türkiye

HAN Young-Keun
South Korea

Debatosh Sahu
India

George Ndege
Kenya

Jie Han
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Chile

Enock Ruziga
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Greece

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Victor Galves
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Edited by Han Young-Keun / Designed by Kim Keun



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