



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

HISTORY OF THE UIA



Founded in **1948**, in Lausanne, Switzerland

27 different countries and territories:

1. Argentina	10. France	19. Palestine
2. Australia	11. Hungary	20. Poland
3. Belgium	12. Ireland	21. Portugal
4. Bulgaria	13. Israel	22. Sweden
5. Czechoslovakia	14. Italy	23. Switzerland
6. Denmark	15. Lebanon	24. Turkey
7. Greece	16. Mexico	25. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
8. Egypt	17. Netherland	26. United Kingdom
9. Finland	18. Norway	27. United States of America



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

MISSION



Unify architects

Influence public policies

Advance architecture in service to the needs of society

Cooperate for a solidary, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, peaceful world

Unite architects on common professional goals and ethical values

Produce valuable professional outcomes and positions

GOALS



Global representative of the profession

Policy maker with influence on world decision makers

Catalyst of worldwide knowledge in the domain of architecture

Centre for information on the profession worldwide

Network facilitating contacts between professionals

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the UIA

- Unite the world's architects on a democratic basis, strengthen their bonds of friendship as well as their intellectual, artistic, scientific, and professional ties
- Maintain unrestricted contact between the architects of all countries irrespective of national and political frontiers
- Represent the profession at an international level
- Maintain public confidence in the integrity and the ability of architects
- Develop progressive ideas in the fields of architecture and related fields, as well as their practical application for the welfare of the community
- Define and re-define, whenever necessary, the role of the architect in a changing world
- Encourage the association of architects with other disciplines and stress the value of architects' work
- Encourage all actions aimed at raising awareness of space and three-dimensional form at all stages of general education

OBJECTIVES

- Highlight the role and identity of the architect in the contexts of quality, sustainability, and cultural and community values, emphasising the holistic nature of architecture and urban design
- Give all possible support to architectural organisations in all countries
- Work towards the establishment of internationally accepted and recognised standards of competence to practice and mutual recognition of qualifications
- Promote and encourage the development of architectural education in all its aspects and facilitate international exchange and cooperation
- Contribute to preservation of peace among nations as the basis for realising the needs and ambitions of people throughout the world
- Advocate for human dignity and the eradication of all forms of violence, discrimination, and inequity
- Promote environmental and climate conditions that allow life in a balanced ecosystem and the well-being of humanity

MEMBERSHIP



Membership is divided into five regions:

- Region I (Western Europe): **14** Member Sections, **19** countries, **253,574** architects
- Region II (Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East): **24** Member Sections, **27** countries, **112,905** architects
- Region III (The Americas): **20** Member Sections, **164,783** architects
- Region IV (Asia and Oceania): **24** Member Sections, **130,708** architects
- Region V (Africa): **35** Member Sections, **83,695** architects

MEMBERSHIP

The UIA has **117** Member Sections and represents approximately **745,665** architects in **125** countries



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GOVERNANCE



The governing bodies of the UIA are, in order of precedence:

General Assembly

Delegates from UIA Member Sections in addition to Council members.

Council

4 elected members from each of the five regions, in addition to the Bureau members

Bureau

President, immediate Past President, Secretary General, Treasurer and a Vice-president from each region

THEMATIC STRUCTURE

Working bodies led by experts in their fields; grouped according to thematic areas to ensure better coordination

Education
Professional Practice
Sustainability

THEMATIC STRUCTURE

THEMATIC AREA 1: EDUCATION

- Education Commission
- UIA-UNESCO Validation Commission
- Architecture and Children Work Programme
- Educational and Cultural Spaces Work Programme

THEMATIC AREA 2: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- Professional Practice Commission
- International Competitions Commission

Focus on Building Typology

- Public Health Work Programme
- Sports and Leisure Work Programme

Focus on Methodology and Actions

- Natural and Human Disasters Work Programme
- Architecture for All Work Programme

THEMATIC AREA 3: SUSTAINABILITY

- Sustainability Commission
- UN 17 SDGs Commission

Focus on Urbanisation

- Public Spaces Work Programme
- Architecture, Cities and Territories Work Programme

Focus on Cultural Aspects

- Heritage and Cultural Identity Work Programme
- Indigenous Peoples Work Programme

Focus on Social Aspects

- Social Habitat Work Programme
- Informal Settlements Work Programme
- Community Architecture and Human Rights Work Programme

A PRIVILEGED NETWORK

The **UIA** is recognised as the only global organisation representing the world's architects. It has partnerships and representatives in **UN** agencies and international organisations globally:

ECOSOC: Economic and Social Council

GABC: Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction

ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites

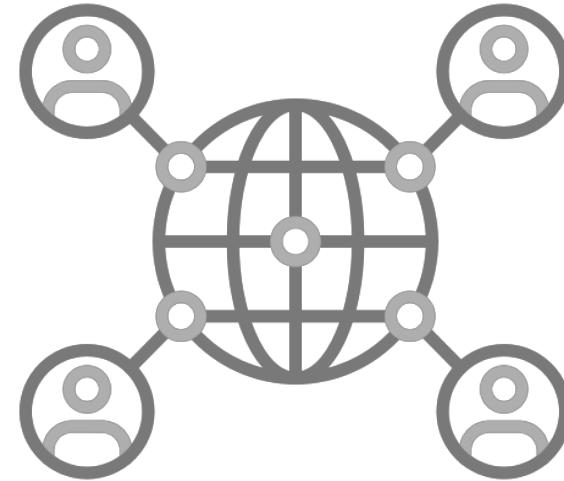
WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization

WHO: World Health Organization

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

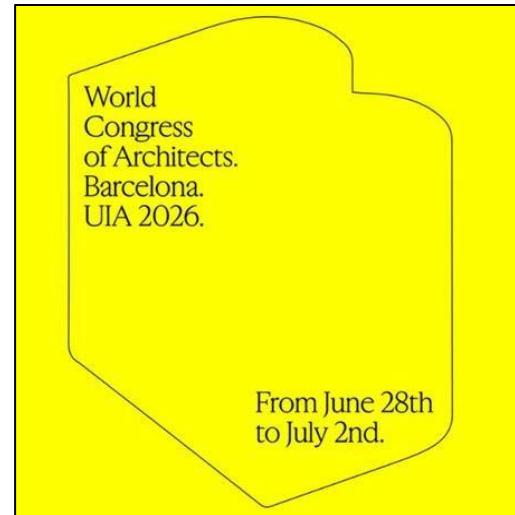
UN-Habitat



CONGRESSES

Key events for professional and cultural exchange among all the world's architects, bringing together thousands of participants from around the globe.

1948 Lausanne	1987 Brighton	2023 Copenhagen
1951 Rabat	1996 Barcelona	2026 Barcelona
1953 Lisbon	1999 Beijing	2029 Beijing
1958 Moscow	2002 Berlin	
1961 Cuba	2005 Istanbul	
1967 Prague	2008 Turin	
1972 Varna	2011 Tokyo	
1978 Mexico City	2014 Durban	
1981 Warsaw	2017 Seoul	
1984 Cairo	2021 Rio	



UIA GOLD MEDAL AND PRIZES

Awarded on a triennial basis to recognise achievements of international impact

Since 1984: **UIA Gold Medal** for outstanding architectural achievement; the most prestigious distinction attributed to an architect by architects

Since 1961: **Patrick Abercrombie Prize** for Urban Planning and Design

Since 1961: **Auguste Perret Prize** for Technology in Architecture

Since 1967: **Jean Tschumi Prize** for Architectural Writing

Since 1978: **Sir Robert Matthew Prize** for Sustainable and Human Environment

Since 2008: **Vassilis Sgoutas Prize** for Implemented Architecture Serving the Impoverished



WORLD CAPITAL OF ARCHITECTURE

In 2017, the **UIA** adopted a resolution to formally request that **UNESCO** be associated with its initiative to designate the next **UIA World Congress** host city as the **World Capital of Architecture**.

UNESCO and UIA agreed to prepare a 10-year plan of action covering the period 2017-2027, and including the designation of the 2020, 2023 and 2026 World Capitals of Architecture.

UNESCO's participation in the nomination of the UIA World Congress host cities as World Capitals of Architecture, represents the natural continuation of this long-standing partnership.



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FORUMS

The **UIA** holds interim **Forums** approximately mid-way between the triennial **UIA World Congresses**, focusing on a specific theme that is of significant relevance to the architectural profession.

2019 Baku: Mass Tourism in Historic Cities

2022 Madrid: Affordable Housing Activation

2023 Kuala Lumpur: Divercity



WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY

Created by the **UIA** in 1985

Celebrated annually on the first Monday of October
in parallel with **UN World Habitat Day**

By choosing a different theme each year, this world day seeks to draw the attention of professionals as well as the public to problems concerning cities and habitat



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Architectural Guides to the UN 17 SDGs (2023, 2020, 2018)

UIA Accord on International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice (1999, last updated in 2017)

Review the **UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education** (1996, last updated in 2023)

UNESCO-UIA regulations for international competitions in architecture and town planning (1956)

UIA Competition Guide for design competitions in architecture and related fields (2017, last amended in 2020)

MAIN PROJECTS FOR THE 2023-2026 TERM

Organise and structure

- Revise the UIA Articles and Bylaws
- Increase transparency, revise financial and ethical regulations
- Restructure and reinforce the Secretariat
- Intensify and concretisation of collaboration with international organisations

Actions

- UIA Student Competition on “Rebuilding an urban area destroyed by a disaster”
- UIA Young Architects Competition for the 2025 Venice Biennale

Update and increase relevance

- Review the UIA Accord on International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice
- Launch a data bank and international survey on the profession
- Prepare guidelines on intellectual property with focus on digitalisation and AI
- Review the UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education
- Further develop the UNESCO-UIA Validation System Procedures Manual for Study Programmes and Systems

Thematic Focus

- Develop a charter on urbanisation



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