

AIA 2025 CONFERENCE BOSTON 07.06.25

Dear AIA President, Dear Evelyn Lee
Dear colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor to have been selected by the American Institute of Architects Board of Directors to receive the AIA Presidential Medal and Honorary AIA Membership.

I very much regret not being able to attend the 2025 AIA Conference and the International President's Forum in person. I am grateful to UIA Immediate Past President José Luis Cortés for kindly accepting to represent me and read this short message on my behalf.

The United States is a founding member of the International Union of Architects (UIA). Founded in 1948, in Lausanne Switzerland, my homecountry, the UIA is built on humanistic values and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, embodying the Western philosophy of the post-World War II era.

The Union is based on mutual respect and friendship among architects across the whole world. It unites architects, influences public policies, and advances architecture in service to the needs of society. It brings together its members around common values, upholding the social and ethical responsibilities of architects as designers.

Today, the world is changing at an unprecedented speed. In addition to the climate and affordability crises, humanity is also facing rapid advances in digitalisation and artificial intelligence, which are endangering our capacity for sound and responsible decision-making.

Values we share and advocate, such as equity, inclusivity, diversity, sustainability, and resilience, are increasingly under threat, while inequalities continue to increase. Peace, freedom of expression, and social cohesion are in danger. Our globalised, increasingly urbanised, and polarised world is losing its ethical foundations. The future of architecture in the era of artificial intelligence is uncertain.

In this context, the UIA and its member Sections are more challenged than ever. We must stand together to defend and reinforce our shared values through collaboration and solidarity.

I remain deeply grateful for this recognition and the continued commitment to fostering dialogue and mutual understanding in the practice of architecture across diverse and complex contexts—an endeavour I share with the distinguished colleagues who have been honoured before me and whose efforts and commitments have previously been acknowledged.

Regina Gonthier
UIA President

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