



## UIA COUNCIL MEETING IN PARIS

Six months after the renewal of its membership at the Durban general assembly, the UIA Council met in Paris on 12 & 13 February 2015, in the offices of the National Council of the Order of French Architects (CNOA). The 126th session followed a series of working meetings implicating the three UIA permanent commissions and the UNESCO-UIA validation council for architectural education, as well as a coordination meeting of newly appointed or reappointed work programme directors. The UIA has systematically restructure working bodies to get all councillors and regional vice presidents to be actively involved with them.

During this session, Council heard the final report on the UIA congress in Durban, presented by congress president Hassan Asmal, and a report on preparations for the Seoul congress that will take place in September 2017, by the Council member from Korea, Kun Chang Yi. The contract for the 2020 congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was co-signed by UIA president Esa Mohamed and the president of the Institute of Architects of Brazil, Sergio Ferraz Magalhães.

The UIA Council adopted a policy declaration “to supports efforts to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of national professional institutes, and to enhance their ability to participate in addressing issues of global concern to society and the profession”.

The Council announced the theme for the next World Day of Architecture, on October 5, 2015: *Architecture and the eradication of poverty*.

The Council members welcomed the Association of Iranian architects back into active UIA membership.

The next Council meeting will take place on an invitation from the College of Architects of Peru, in Lima, on 5 & 6 November 2015; an intermediate, online meeting is scheduled in March. A UIA Bureau meeting will take place in Kuala Lumpur on August 15, 2015, on invitation from the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM).

### MOLEWA COMPETITION

REGISTRATION EXTENDED  
UNTIL 31 MARCH

The deadline for receiving projects remains unchanged: 10 April.

[www.uia.archi](http://www.uia.archi)

### IS ARCHITECTURE RELEVANT ? by THOMAS VONIER

Editorial by the UIA secretary general

>> p.2

### REGION III

Regional, online meeting, a UIA first!

>> p.2

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## IS ARCHITECTURE RELEVANT?

Unusually, the popular US press has recently been full of articles and commentaries about architecture.

*This began when an opinion piece ran in the New York Times, accusing architects of losing touch with everyday reality—and thus with issues that really matter to the public—becoming preoccupied instead with weird forms and odd ideas expressed in obscure language.*

*Guilty? Mais non, according to many architects: We work every day to meet needs and desires expressed by clients and by users, using common language! And that is certainly true.*

*But isn't there also at least a grain of truth in the "out of touch" accusation? Do we pay too much attention to the novel, often simply for its own sake?*

*If architecture reviews dwell too much on arcane aspects of formal aesthetics, maybe the recent press buzz will help to move the critical pendulum toward issues of deeper concern to a wider public.*



Thomas Vonier FAIA RIBA  
UIA Secretary General



## REGION III, ONLINE MEETING A FIRST !

Under the leadership of its vice-president, Carlos Alvarez Guzman, UIA Region III is committed to making this triennial period a constructive one. The first online regional meeting was held on February 25th, with the participation of 20 representatives from 13 professional organisations in the Americas, and the president of the Pan-American Federation of Associations of Architects (FPAA), Joao Suplicy. The agenda for this exchange focused on participation in the UIA working bodies and its continuing professional development programme, as well as the project on climate change spearheaded by Costa Rica, Peru, and Brazil. Carlos Alvarez is sharing his energy and enthusiasm in a process he describes as a "Region III awakening" that will culminate with the UIA congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2020.

Contact:

[vpreion3uia@cfia.or.cr](mailto:vpreion3uia@cfia.or.cr)



## PRESIDENTS MEETING IN KRACOW FOR REGION II MEMBER SECTIONS

The Union of Polish Architects (SARP) will organise in Krakow (Poland), the next meeting of presidents of member sections in UIA Region II (Eastern Europe and the Middle East). The meeting will take place on 15 & 16 October 2015, in Krakow, as part of the city's architecture biennial, in conjunction with a host of cultural events.

Contact:

[sarp@sarp.org.pl](mailto:sarp@sarp.org.pl)





## TWO MEETINGS IN CAIRO

In December 2014, two events brought together UIA Region V representatives in Cairo, on invitation from the Society of Egyptian Architects (SEA). A seminar and trade show on stone architecture and a meeting of the Africa Union of Architects (AUA) to discuss revising the AUA statutes and preparations for its next general assembly in Kampala, Uganda, in May. UIA vice president Hayder Ali, SEA president Seif Alnaga, and AUA president Tokunbo Omisore attended these meetings.

Contact: Hayder Ali, UIA vice president  
[alihayder@uia-architectes.org](mailto:alihayder@uia-architectes.org)



## WOLF TOCHTERMANN RECEIVES THE UIA INSIGNIA OF HONOUR

Following the meeting of the UIA Architectural Education commission, UIA President Esa Mohamed and UIA Immediate Past President Albert Dubler, presented the UIA insignia of honour to Wolfgang Tochtermann "for his outstanding commitment to architectural culture and education." Wolf Tochtermann distinguished himself as director of the UNESCO-UIA validation council and the UIA commission on international architectural competitions. For many years he worked tirelessly to bring the UIA and UNESCO closer together.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES IN FLOOD DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION FOR MALAYSIA

The flooding that occurred in Malaysia, in December 2014 was an unprecedented act of nature that displaced hundreds of thousands of Malaysians. In the wake of this disaster, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) has decided to spearhead an initiative to tackle the endemic problems of flooding and natural disasters as a whole in the country with the following objectives:

- to identify, address and enhance both existing and new working methods
- to propose the formation of a Malaysian Disaster Preparedness Centre (MDPC)
- to develop standards and guidelines.

The Institute has developed and published *Strategic initiatives in flood disaster preparedness and mitigation for Malaysia*, a document that contains elements of research, analysis and solution propositions through a predominantly architectural approach. This document may be downloaded on the UIA web site:

<http://www.uia.archi/en/exercer/nouvelles/9539#.VQAIvSnOrNg>



## AIA ANNOUNCES FIVE HONORARY FELLOWS FOR 2015

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) announced the names of five renowned architects who are neither US citizens nor residents in the USA, honoured this year by AIA for their exemplary achievements. They are: Chilean architect Pedro Gubbins Foxley, Mei Hongyuan (China), Fuensanta Nieto and Enrique Sobejano (Spain), Jo Noreo (South Africa). They will be inducted at the next AIA convention (Atlanta 14-16 May 2015).

<http://www.aia.org/practicing/awards/2015/honorary-fellows>





## BRIAN MACKAY-LYONS 2015 ARCHITECTURE CANADA-RAIC GOLD MEDAL

The 2015 Architecture Canada (RAIC) Gold Medal is awarded to Halifax architect Brian Mackay-Lyons. Though best-known for his houses, Mackay-Lyons has also designed university and commercial buildings including the Canadian Chancery in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the computer science building and the architecture school at Dalhousie University in Halifax, and the Plaza building at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. His works have won many prizes and been featured in over 300 publications, including six monographs. He has also taught Dalhousie University for 30 years.



The jury emphasised that, “His work is universally recognized as pure, dignified, poetic and beautiful. His work comes from an intimate connection with his communities.”

The Gold Medal will be presented to him at a ceremony during the Canadian architecture festival to be held from June 3 to 6 in Calgary.

Learn more:

<https://www.raic.org/news/raic-honours-brian-mackay-lyons-2015-gold-medal>



## SAMUEL ÓGHALE OBOH PRESIDENT OF ARCHITECTURE CANADA-RAIC

Architect Samuel Óghale Oboh became president of Architecture Canada - RAIC. Originally from Nigeria, he graduated from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, and the University of Alberta. He has worked on major projects in Africa and Canada with various firms including O2 Architecture, Kasian, IBI Group, FMA Architects in southern Africa, and F&A Services. In 2003, he emigrated from Botswana to Canada and began participating in RAIC. He became president of the regional chapter in Alberta, where he initiated several projects to raise awareness about architecture among the public.



<https://www.raic.org/news/samuel-oboh-inducted-76th-president-raic>



## FUENSANTA NIETO & ENRIQUE SOBEJANO 2015 ALVAR AALTO MEDAL

The duo of Spanish architects Fuensanta Nieto and Enrique Sobejano were awarded the Alvar Aalto Medal by a collective of Finnish architectural and cultural organisations including the Association of Finnish Architects (SAFA). The prize was presented to them during a ceremony at Helsinki’s town hall on Architecture Day, 3 February 2015.



These two architect’s career path is strewn with prestigious awards, including the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, and their works have been exhibited worldwide. They share their time between professional practices in Madrid and Berlin and teaching at the European University of Madrid and the Berlin University of Arts. They were among the leaders of the new wave of Spanish architecture that emerged in the 1970s and, according to the jury, restored faith in the competitiveness of contemporary European architecture while meeting the new requirements of sustainability and ecology. Among their major works are the Cordoba Contemporary Art Centre (2013), and the Aragon Convention Centre and auditorium in Zaragoza (2008).

Fuensanta Nieto & Enrique Sobejano: <http://www.nietosobejano.com>



## ALESSANDRO MENDINI 2014 EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE AWARD

The European Prize for Architecture was awarded to Italian architect and designer Alessandro Mendini. The prize is awarded annually by the European Centre for Architecture and the Chicago Museum of Architecture and Design to professionals who have influenced contemporary architecture through a humane and intellectual approach. The jury members saluted the theory and perspective developed by the transalpine designer who, with Andrea Branzi and Ettore Sottsass was instrumental in creating the Radical design movement and contributed to bringing into the heart of design the human “values” and “sensibilities” related to history and notably the Italian renaissance.

<http://www.europeanarch.eu/european-prize-for-architecture-nominations/>



## LUIS MANSILLA & EMILIO TUÑÓN FINE ARTS GOLD MEDAL

On 3 February 2015, the Spanish architectural studio Mansilla + Tuñón received the 2014 Gold Medal of Merit in fine arts from the hands of Felipe VI, King of Spain. This award recognises Spanish creators in all artistic fields. Authors of the auditorium and the MUSAC in Leon, Mies van der Rohe prize winners in 2007, and authors of numerous projects in Spain, the firm's founders have taught at universities around the world and founded, in 1993, with Luis Rojom, the ideas cooperative 'Circo' that publishes the magazine of the same name.

Learn more about Luis Mansilla and Emilio Tuñón:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mansilla%2BTu%C3%B1%C3%B3n>



## SNEC 2015 IN SHANGHAI RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND GREEN BUILDING

The SNEC 2015 international conference on solar energy and green building will take place in Shanghai on 28 April 2015. It will run in parallel to an international exhibition and conference on photovoltaic energy production, from 28 to 30 April, that will present the latest innovations in these fields related to architecture and construction. Nikos Fintikakis, UIA Council member and director of the UIA work programme on architecture and renewable energy sources (ARES), is among the guest speakers and a contributor to the scientific programme.

Learn more about the conference:

<http://www.snec.org.cn/Default.aspx?lang=en>

Learn more about the UIA-ARES work programme:

<http://uia-ares.org>



## IAKS AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES

The International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) announce the launch of their 15th Architecture and Design Awards. These awards will recognise sports and leisure facilities around the world built between 2008 and 2014. Buildings must satisfy criteria of excellence in the areas of sustainability, heritage, town planning, and architectural design. The submission deadline is 31 March!

[www.iaks.org](http://www.iaks.org)





INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS - ACE

## GROWING OPTIMISM AMONG EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS

The fourth study on the architectural sector commissioned by the Architect's Council of Europe (ACE) shows that the profession of architect in European countries is growing, flexible, resilient and international. Though the economic context remains difficult, the study reveals a number of encouraging trends and prospects, as well as a renewed optimism within the profession.

Based on responses from 18,000 architects in 26 European countries, the 2014 edition of the study was expanded to include new areas of research, making it one of the most comprehensive studies on the architectural profession in Europe.

<http://www.ace-cae.eu>



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS - CAA - MEMBER SECTIONS - RIBA

## INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON RESILIENT CITIES

Two days of international debates are organised on 16 & 17 June at the RIBA offices in London on the theme Designing City Resilience. This summit will bring together the key players involved in design and construction, development and infrastructure, governance, insurance and finance, technology and communications. The goal is to formulate strategies to implement meaningful principles that will make for better cities, capable of coping with the stress of mass urbanisation, climate change, and unexpected shocks to the system.

<http://www.designingcityresilience.com>



PARTNERS - IFLA

## ESA MOHAMED JURY MEMBER FOR THE 2015 GEOFFREY JELlicOE PRIZE

Kathryn Moore, president of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), invited UIA president Esa Mohamed to sit on the jury for IFLA's most prestigious annual award, the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Prize which recognise internationally respected landscape architects. The prize commemorates IFLA's founding president, and will be officially presented at the next IFLA world congress in Saint Petersburg, Russia, from 7 to 15 June 2015. The theme for this year's congress is: *History of the Future*.

<http://ifla2015.com/en/>



Geoffrey Jellicoe



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS - UNESCO

## UNESCO PRIZE FOR ASIAN-PACIFIC HERITAGE CONSERVATION

UNESCO announces the opening of submissions to the 2015 UNESCO Prize for conservation of cultural heritage in the Asia/Pacific region. The prize recognises the efforts made by individuals and organisations that have managed to restore or preserve structures, spaces, or goods belonging to the region's heritage. The prize highlights the importance of conservation and spotlights the technical aspect of the process, and well as its social and community impact. The deadline for submissions is 31 March 2015.

<http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritage/wh/heritageawards/2014ha0>





## INNOVATIVE HOUSING PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD HABITAT AWARDS

The 2015 session of the World Habitat Awards, organised in partnership with UN Habitat, is open. Since 1985, these awards have recognised innovative and sustainable housing projects that provide housing solutions for poor communities throughout the world. The project design must be adaptable or transferable to other contexts. The concept of habitat must include issues such as user's well-being, access to drinking water, social inclusion, health, and education.

The prizes will be awarded at the United Nations' Habitat III conference that will take place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. The deadline for submissions is 30 April 2015.

[www.worldhabitatawards.org](http://www.worldhabitatawards.org)



## BAMIYAN CULTURAL CENTRE WINNER CARLOS NAHUEL RECABARREN

Carlos Nahuel Recabarren, Manuel Alberto Martinez Catalan, and Franco Morero are the winners of the international competition to design the Bamiyan Cultural Centre in Afghanistan. An international jury selected their project from among 1070 entries, from 117 countries. The competition was launched in November 2014 with support from the UIA, which was represented on the jury by Korean architect Young Joon Kim.

According to its authors, the winning project, entitled *Descriptive Memory: The Eternal Presence of Absence* "tries to create not an object-building but rather a meeting place," inspired by "ancient local building traditions," where communication and exchange will take place with minimal impact on the environment and total integration into the landscape.

The jury acclaimed the exceptional qualities of the Argentinian team's project: the distribution of space and inclusion of all the programme elements, the subtle implementation strategy resulting in an elegant entry sequence, the building's insertion into a landscaped garden and the creation of interior spaces and passageways serving as informal meeting spaces. The jury also selected the project for its appropriate scale and the feasibility of its construction.

The jury attributed four honourable mentions:

- . Ahmet Balkan, Emre Bozatli, Turkey
- . Noel Dominguez, Agathe Culot, Anna Kampmann, Alexandre Ferron, France
- . Costas Nicolaou, Constantinos Marcou, New Zealand
- . Graham Baldwin, Alessandra Covini, Netherlands

UNESCO, in partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture, and thanks to generous financial support from the Republic of Korea, is going to proceed immediately with construction of the centre, which will be built near the Bamiyan archaeological remains, a World Heritage property. The Afghan President H.E. Ashraf Ghani has endorsed the international architecture competition as a project selection procedure. He confirmed the jury members' choice and renewed his commitment to protect the nation's cultural heritage.

See all the winning projects on the UIA website:

<http://www.uia.archi/en/s-informer/concours/9252#.VPeRsGZVoRI>





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Tour Maine Montparnasse  
BP 158, 33 avenue du Maine  
75755 Paris CEDEX 15 (France)

T. (33.1) 45 24 36 88  
F. (33.1) 45 24 02 78  
E-mail: [uia@uia-architectes.org](mailto:uia@uia-architectes.org)  
Site internet:  
<http://www.uia-architectes.org>

Director of publication  
Thomas Vonier, UIA Secretary General  
Editor in chief  
Catherine Hayward  
[c.hayward@uia-architectes.org](mailto:c.hayward@uia-architectes.org)  
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