



**World Architecture Day. 5 October**

# **Architecture, construction, climate. Commitments and solutions**

The International Union of Architects (UIA) celebrates World Architecture Day 2015 on October 5 under the theme, "Architecture, Building, Climate. Commitments and Solutions". This event precedes the United Nations COP21 Conference in Paris from 30 November to 11 December, aimed at reaching an international climate treaty aimed at setting limits to global warming.

Architecture, in its two main branches -urban planning and construction-, is a discipline with a direct link to energy consumption and waste emission, both of which influence climate trends. Spain's construction boom between 1992 and 2007 generated a scattered settlement pattern with unsustainable external costs due to the multiplication of transport requirements and the construction of huge networks of basic infrastructure.

Moreover, most of the existing properties in Spain do not satisfy a minimum balance between the comfort standards sought by society and a restrained use of non-renewable resources.

Today, Spain's architects are insisting on the urgent need for a radical change to the architecture and urban planning policies applied in the preceding decades. In the field of territorial planning, we defend the proactive protection of natural ecosystems in the environs of our towns and cities, the minimisation of anthropogenic land, and an increase in our biodiversity through the creation of networks of parks, green zones and urban market gardens.

In the field of urban planning, we are focusing on density, with compact, orderly models, functional diversity and as a consequence, a reduction of mobility requirements and their satisfaction with non-motorized and collective systems, and priority treatment for the regeneration of the consolidated urban fabric, all of which are highly conducive to greater social cohesion.

In the construction field, we support the adaptation of existing buildings to current standards of habitability, accessibility and reduced energy consumption, as well as the adoption of rational economic sustainability throughout the lifetime of housing systems. Although these measures are peremptory, they are neither easily nor immediately applicable, and they require broad social and political consensus.

Looking beyond 5 October, Spain's architects will, through their representative bodies, maintain their commitment to the established path of retraining, aimed at adapting the sector's professional practice to today's needs and the spreading public awareness of the importance of urban models and buildings that are conducive to the future viability of our social well-being.

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President

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