

YOUNG ARCHITECTS  
WORLD FEDERATION



FEDERATION MONDIALE  
DES JEUNES ARCHITECTES

CONSEIL D'ARCHITECTURE,  
D'URBANISME ET DE



L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
DE L'ORNE

Ordre des architectes  
Syndicat de l'Architecture  
UNSFA



CONSEIL POUR  
L'INTERNATIONAL DES  
ARCHITECTES FRANCAIS

Ville de FLERS

FLERS  
agglomération

COMMUNAUTE  
D'AGGLOMERATION  
DU PAYS DE FLERS

# 12<sup>th</sup> Young Architects World Forum

## 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Flers: A rural metropolis  
in an urban development process**

**Pays de Flers Conglomeration Community (Orne)  
France**

**YOUNG ARCHITECTS WORLD FEDERATION (FMJA)**

With the support of the International Union of Architects#





**Rural Metropolis : the city and its environment**



**Site**

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# 12<sup>th</sup> YOUNG ARCHITECTS WORLD FORUM

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## Flers: a rural metropolis in an urban development process

The Young Architects World Federation (FMJA), the City of Flers, the Pays de Flers Community propose within the scope of the 12<sup>th</sup> Forum to study the City of Flers development within its role at the centre of a rural metropolis. The community envisages a study on the regeneration of the station neighbourhood and its relationship with the city centre that has the peculiarity to have been reconstructed after the Second World War.

**The main issue for the future of this area is the identification of solutions that favour both the quality of the lifestyle, a new image of the city (its centrality) and control of the environmental impact (outskirts), respect for the environment (outskirts and countryside) that together constitute the rural metropolis and the particular context of reconstructed city centres (new town).**

**In short, how to provide an innovative living environment that responds to the specificities of a rural metropolis?**

Organization of the Forum in France enabled the French Section of the International Union of Architects together with the Young Architects World Federation to be accredited with the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) and OECD as an operational NGO. Today the French Section of UIA is known as the International Council of French Architects.

We hope that all involved in the study space such as politicians, local authorities, mayors, the Department, the Region and relevant associations, property developers, manufacturers, local contractors, and inhabitants will help us to make this XIIth World Forum of Young Architects in France a huge success.

## 1 – THEME

### WORLD FORUM OF YOUNG ARCHITECTS

The City of Flers underwent significant redevelopment after the Second World War when practically all the city centre was demolished then rebuilt.

Principally connected to industrial activity, this development slowed down then but gradually the location of new industries on the outskirts and development of the service industries enabled Flers to remain an important centre in the Normandy countryside.

Between the relocation of industrial activities on the outskirts and the evolution of transport means towards road transportation, the station neighbourhood has been abandoned over time.

At the same time, completely rebuilt during the fifties subsequent to the bombardments of the Second World War, the city centre needs to be rejuvenated.

Accordingly, it is an opportunity for the city to reconquer these urban fragments and to restore them in coherence with the needs of future generations. Although operations have been undertaken over several years to redevelop the city centre, it is still necessary to have an overall vision and to focus on the key points to be developed.

The forum objective is to provide elements that allow the city and the Pays de Flers Conglomeration Community, through the visions of the teams from different countries and by comparing them with those studies already undertaken and those yet to come, to elaborate a strategy, a coherent project that provides a renewed, quality living environment for the inhabitants of Flers.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM: 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015

The first day, the Forum will be dedicated to an International Colloquium on the subject of urban regeneration. It will be the occasion for a series of debates on the rural metropolis confronted with the regeneration of what was a town centre that became a conglomeration, a rural metropolis through the example of Flers and the network of middle-sized rebuilt cities that constitutes the framework of Lower Normandy with the peculiarity to have been entirely or partly rebuilt after the Second World War.

Indeed, if after 70 years the inhabitants of the new city begin to adopt it, to appropriate it in what is today called resilience, how these reconstructed territories that shall be called the new city in opposition to the new town, by the simple fact that it is indeed about the reconstruction and thus the reoccupation of a territory, about an urban fragment, about rehabilitation but also about a reuse of an existing space that included housing as well as businesses and services appropriate within a city centre, how they were the expression of a centre and its urban mix, of which the force would be this conjunction of facilities so as to always to stay in the main stream?

And more so, in spite of all these qualities that we would like to give them, these middle-size cities, whether they underwent a period of reconstruction or not, experience the same phenomena of loss of speed, loss of interest, often in competition with their suburbs and beyond, in what is the outskirts, business parks, commercial zones, leisure parks, residential estates, etc. development facilitated by the use of the private car.

The colloquium will attempt to study how these regions can once again express a centrality, and which one? How to transform the city centre function into that of an urban conglomeration, of a rural metropolis centre? How to adapt to this explosion of functions, to the "new" modes of transportation that depend upon the private car?

The Colloquium will study middle-size cities fulfilling a similar role in Europe, even elsewhere in the world, by comparing how these issues are approached in different countries.

The specific case of reconstructed cities will be dealt with; which peculiarities from the point of view of urban planning, how at the architectural level to adapt the built environment to new standards (accessibility, energy, household size), how to use procedures adapted to the legal status of property (land policy, acquisition, public intervention) different subjects to be developed on the occasion of the World Forum of Young Architects to be held on the subsequent days.

The Colloquium papers will emphasize the assistance to be given to all participants, local authorities, neighbourhood groups to allow them to elaborate their own development project.

This Colloquium will assemble experts and specialists from different French and international authorities such as the UNO and UNESCO, the European Community, etc.... The fruits of this day will contribute to feed the study on the general theme by trying to define what kind of scenario would be the best adapted to the future, to find reliable answers to the often contradictory questions that our society encounters.

## INTERVENTIONS AND SITES

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is intended more particularly for the young architects attending the Forum but colloquium attendees can join the activities on this second day. It will be to develop both the Colloquium on the Flers conglomeration of the previous day but also an introduction to the study to be undertaken by the teams the following 10 days. The day is in two parts: on one hand, a visit of the city, in particular the city centre and the station neighbourhood and, on the other, a presentation of the different studies undertaken on the city. From the analysis of the site and the city, as well as the lessons learnt from the International Colloquium, teams will receive a file concerning the site on which they will have to work. This file will include the essential data of the site in question: documents of current urban planning, site plans, some different approaches...

**Of this rural metropolis, middle-size city, what attractions, what role for its city centre? In this notion of new city, does the reconstruction constitute in itself a particular approach to the solutions that can be applied to the urban regeneration of the city within the city? How elements of the local context, denied in the modernity sought during reconstruction, such as the specificity of the countryside, the presence of the water within the city, they can be reused to become structural, identification elements the City of Flers if not for other cities? Finally, can there be elements transposable to other cities with similar characteristics?**

Can the specific site can be described as a space that leaves the city centre to spread out (uptown) and that "finishes" at the station (downtown).

As for uptown, the city centre; how to revitalize, to redevelop spaces, to renew the centrality functions? How to reinvent blocks and the built environment of the reconstruction, to develop, to appropriate?

Regarding downtown, the station neighbourhood and in particular the station area, what directives as a connection space, as a space of opening, transition between the uptown and downtown, the chateau park?

In brief, what evolution, how to give a new image to the city, to its city centre?

## **PROPOSAL SUBMITTALS**

The submission will comprise four A0 (841 x 1189mm) panels presented vertically.

**Panels shall contain:**

- 1) Site analysis**
- 2) Development master plan**
- 3) Development and facilities proposals on the Forum subject**
- 4) Free expression to illustrate proposal key points**

Proposals to be submitted Thursday, December 17th evening.

The oral presentation to be held before the Jury on Friday, December 18th at 9:00am.

The results and the comments of the Jury to be announced the same day at 6:00pm.

## **2 – EVENT**

### **LOCATION**

Forum will be held at Flers, Department of Orne, France.

Young architects, landscape architects, town planners and economists from the four corners of the world and supervised by international tutors will work in situ.

### **DATES**

7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 including the International Colloquium on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

### **INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**Omar AL KOUWATLI**, Doctor of Architecture and Urban Planning, Lecturer School of Architecture of Damascus, World Union of Young Architects, Middle East Section

**Joao DINIZ**, Architect Urban Planner, World Union of Young Architects, Latin America Section

**Fodé DIOP**, Architect Urban Planner, World Union of Young Architects, Africa Section, President of Ordre des Architectes, Senegal

**José GONZALEZ CLAVERAN**, Architect Urban Planner, Lecturer National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico,

**Istelianna ATANASSOVA**, Architect Urban Planner, Expert with UNO for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), Bulgaria,

**Zygmund KNYSZEWSKI**, Architect Urban Planner, Treasurer World Union of Young Architects, France,

**Alexander KOWALEWSKI**, Architect Urban Planner, Doctor of Economy, Expert UN for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), Poland,

**François ROBLIN**, Architect Urban Planner, President Young Architects World Federation, France.

### **ORGANIZERS**

Young Architects World Federation

International Council of French Architects (CIAF)

### **SPONSORS**

UNESCO

Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes, France

## **PRINCIPLE**

Together with the colloquium, this event is a place of reflection and dialogue for professionals; architects, town planners and landscape architects who together elaborate proposals on urban issues to provide a forward-looking vision for the regeneration of an urban neighbourhood and the transition of a structuring element (station).

It enables architects from different horizons and different cultures to meet and to compare their work methods and to give a new and original approach to the proposed subject through the variety of their origins and cultures.

## **FINANCES**

The budget covers:

- preparation and general organization of meetings (accommodation, management, local transport, materials)
- preparation and distribution of final report in the form of brochures, proposals exhibition.

## **FUNCTION**

As in previous years, during 2 weeks the attendees - architects, landscape architects and town planners less than forty years old as well as tutors and speakers will exchange ideas, information and methodologies about urban planning practice.

Proposals generated from the reports and analyses supplied to the competitors will be submitted to the International Jury to award prizes.

Proposals, the work of the architect, landscape architect and town planner teams will be the object of a presentation and exhibition as well as publication of a brochure to present the different proposals together with comments from the Jury.

## **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

Logistics of the Forum will be assured by:

Young Architects World Federation (FMJA)

Council of Architecture, Town Planning and Environment (CAUE), Orne

International Council of French Architects (CIAF)

Pays de Flers Conglomeration Community (CAPF)

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## **CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

Attendance figures between 20 and 30 attendees.

Selection will be made according to the curriculum and a concise document illustrating the experience of the candidate on the of the competition subject in attachment to the application form.

Deadline for reception of applications is fixed on 30th June 2015 at midnight (French Time).

In compliance with UNESCO standards, attendees are to be architects, town planners and landscape architects less than forty years old.

Applications are opened to under-graduate students.

## PROCEDURES

Teams to be composed of five foreign architects, landscape architects, town planners and economists of which one native French minimum.

Teams to be composed by the organizers.

Programme elements to be issued to attendees on their arrival at the site.

International Colloquium of two days, animated by sustainable development experts and specialists will complete the data (optional).

Projects to be undertaken during the Forum.

International Jury to consist of architects and recognized experts, members of UIA and personalities directly involved in the Forum subject.

Prizes are of symbolic nature.

Results to be presented to local councillors, local authorities and politicians and exhibited at future International Architecture Congresses.

Official languages are French and English.

## TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Housing, meals and local transport are supplied by the organizers.

Travel and visa costs to the site of the Forum are at attendees expense.

## 3 – PROGRAMME

The final programme will be issued to attendees after their arrival.

7 <sup>th</sup> December	Opening ceremony, reception International Colloquium Reception Banquet
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Site visit, group formation, installation and begin work.
9-11 <sup>th</sup> December	Work in groups. Seminars on the Forum subject (optional). Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December evening: City of Domfront presentation on similar project. Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December morning: Visit City of Domfront and brainstorming. Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December afternoon: Work in groups and preliminary submittal in the evening
12-13 <sup>th</sup> December	Weekend excursion: Cultural, recreation and communication activities.
14-17 <sup>th</sup> December	All the groups develop and finalize their work - Proposal submission 17 <sup>th</sup> December evening.
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Oral presentation in front of Jury Jury proposals evaluation - Results announced Banquet and closing ceremony in the evening