

WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY 2020 – Monday, 5 October

Architecture for a better life

"Urban design and architecture are key to a better quality of life for all". UIA 2020

On 5 October, on the occasion of World Architecture Day, architects from all over the world will be proclaiming the value of architecture and the quality of the built environment in improving people's well-being and environmental balance, and reaffirming our commitment to a mission that guides and defines our profession.

The coronavirus pandemic, which has caused us to spend more time in our homes, has *reshaped social habits and spaces and, once again, revealed worldwide that crises affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations disproportionately**. This situation reminds us of the importance of a good built environment and good architecture in protecting our health and improving our living conditions.

And not just now as a result of the Covid19 crisis. Once we have overcome the pandemic and geared the response to the economic crisis that arises from it, it will still be necessary to address the social and climatic challenges that progressively degrade our quality of life. These pre-pandemic challenges require the rapid transformation of our cities, buildings and homes. Most of them were built based on lifestyles that are no longer ours, consuming natural resources that we now know are limited and that we can therefore not squander, and updating them to help build a better future will be an urgent collective challenge in the coming years and a top priority in the work of architects.

On other occasions, World Architecture Day has promoted social gatherings by holding events, debates and visits to buildings that contribute to the knowledge and appreciation of a collective heritage handed down by previous generations that we must protect and improve for those to follow. This year, in which the pandemic makes such activities difficult, we propose that each of us, responsible and capable, to a greater or lesser extent, of promoting the improvement of our environment, should consider ourselves the drivers of change and of the improvement of the quality of our built environment based on the difficult and challenging experience that this pandemic has afforded us all.

On World Architecture Day, as architects we reaffirm our commitment to society and our determination to help improve its welfare and environmental balance, with the modernisation of the sector and our country, promoting rehabilitation, urban renewal and access to housing. This requires a regulatory and economic framework with decent and suitable professional conditions that allow us to contribute to our highest capacity for Architecture to guarantee the well-being, health and safety of all people by improving the quality of the built environment.

Lluís Comerón Graupera
President, CSCAE

[* Extract from the UIA declaration for World Architecture Day 2020](#)