

ARCHITECTS' BRUSSELS STATEMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Conclusions of the ACE Conference:

Designing for the Future: The Market and Quality of Life

A high quality built environment requires high quality in planning, design, building and management with good, timely cooperation between architects, other professionals, city leaders, administrations and citizens. A long-term vision for the built environment has to recognise the importance of the four pillars that constitute the basic framework for sustainable development.

A. Social pillar

1. A real challenge for all professionals in the construction sector lies in their ability to capture quality and 'beauty' and to translate them into completed projects and measurable values. There is a need to better understand why the market does not fully respond to the desire of citizens for a high quality built environment – and to address these constraints one by one.
2. Good design benefits all citizens. The role of design in achieving greater equity and justice needs to be explored through pilot projects and best practice.

B. Economic pillar

3. The cities of tomorrow can only be deemed successful if they fulfil the genuine needs and responsible desires of people. The true needs of citizens must be anticipated and long-term viable solutions devised to respond to them for which economic aspects are decided on the basis of life cycle costing.
4. Governments have to effectively and urgently assume their responsibilities and must see that it is not acceptable to privatise public policy. This is especially the case in the areas where the market fails to produce good results. In particular, reform of the public procurement process must be devised in which quality outcomes become the main goal over and above lowest cost.

C. Environmental pillar and sustainability

5. Designing for the future is a long-term vision. It must be recognised by all built environment professionals that sustainability is an absolute. A challenge that waits to be faced is the need to retrofit our cities, devising policies and techniques at the scale of the challenge faced that will lead our existing cities to a sustainable future.
6. Governance and decision-making processes that lead to the creation of the built environment must adopt an integrated approach drawing on all fields that affect the quality of the daily lives of all citizens.

D. Cultural pillar

7. Seen within the context of globalisation, cultural quality and diversity provide dynamism, identity and real attractiveness to places resulting in economic, social and environmental benefits. We need to recognise, cherish and promote our European identity.

Architecture has visionary and synthesising power to contribute to the achievement of these statements.

The Architects' Council of Europe

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