THE UIA CONGRESS A TRIENNIAL
WORLD CELEBRATION OF ARCHITECTURE

Every three years, the UIA world congress brings together thousands of architects and students of architecture from all over the world. The UIA Congresses focus on a theme of current concern to the profession, highlight the issues and activities that of the profession, and can provide while facilitating contacts and exchange among professionals from different cultural backgrounds and nationalities.

The UIA General Assembly has the task of selecting the host country of the Union’s Congresses. This selection occurs six years before the congresses hold, and is based on the proposals submitted by those UIA Member Sections, interested in organizing the event.

THE UIA AWARDS

THE UIA GOLD MEDAL

This unique distinction, international and free of any national or private interest, is the supreme award an architect can receive from his colleagues.

If it is awarded to the architect during his/her lifetime as a tribute to his/her achievements, the contributions made throughout his/her life and career, to mankind society and the promotion of the art of architecture.


THE UIA PRIZES

The UIA prizes are awarded every three years. Each of the four prizes has a specific theme and is dedicated to the memory of the first Presidents of the Union.

Town Planning and territorial development, Sir Patrick Abercrombie Prize.
Technology Applied to Architecture, Auguste Perret Prize.
Architectural Criticism and/or Education, Jean Tschumi Prize.
Improvement in the quality of Human Settlements, Sir Robert Matthew Prize.

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

A GLOBAL NETWORK DEVOTED TO THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

The International Union of Architects was founded in Lausanne (Switzerland) on 28th June 1946, to unite the architects from all over the world regardless of nationality, race, religion or architectural doctrine, and to federate their national organizations.

Initially, the UIA was made up of delegations from 21 States. Today, it represents the key professional organizations of architects in 116 countries and territories, and represents more than 1 300 000 architects worldwide.

Along the time, the UIA has become an accomplished non-governmental organization, an incomparable professional network of architects that reaches all continents.
The aim of the International Union of Architects is to enable architects to confront their ideas and concepts, to share their experiences, to broaden their knowledge, and learn from each other in order to play a better part in the improvement of living conditions and environment.

The main objective of the International Union of Architects is to unite the architects of the world on a democratic basis, to assist in the creation and promotion of professional exchange among architects, to represent architects at international and governmental level, to promote architects’ creative, technical and cultural skills and their services to the public, to defend, in each country, the status and rights of the architect, to ensure the evolution of professional practice according to the requirements of different communities, to promote the development of new technologies, ideas and systems in architectural design, to promote multi-disciplinary exchange, to provide assistance for sustainable development of the built environment, to provide useful assistance to professional architectural organisations in developing countries, to promote architectural education and facilitate exchange among architects, students and teachers of architecture worldwide.

Through its Work Programmes, a broad range of UNESCO projects work on specific themes linked to the different areas of the architect’s intervention. Their publications and seminars promote the architectural community around the world with high quality information to practice their profession.

The UNESCO-UIA Charter, drawn up jointly by UNESCO and the UIA, is the only prize for architecture granted by UNESCO. It is the Union’s supreme legislative body. It consists of delegations from all the Union’s Member Sections and of the Council Members. The UIA General Assembly has held every three years.

The UIA Council consists of the Bureau Members and four representatives from each of the five Regions of the UIA. It meets twice a year.

The UIA Bureau consists of the President, the past President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and the Five Vice Presidents. Each Vice President is responsible for the professional activities in his/her Region. It meets twice a year in between Council Meetings.

The Member Sections The UIA Member Section in a country is the most representative professional organisation of architects in that country. Each Member Section is independent on national level and is, clearly, the UIA, responsible for its relationship with governments, with the other Member Sections and with the Union itself.

Four geographical regions:

- Region I: Western Europe and the Americas
- Region II: Eastern Europe and the Middle East
- Region III: The Americas
- Region IV: Asia and Oceania
- Region V: Africa

In order to face the increasing complexity of the role of the Architect, the UIA, together with UNESCO, creates and promotes the UNESCO-UIA Charter on Architectural Education. This key document sets forth the respective rights and obligations of competitors and promoters. The document is structured in such a way that it sets forth the respective rights and obligations of competitors and promoters. The text includes guidelines for the successful promotion of architectural education and the development of education programs. The document is structured in such a way that it sets forth the respective rights and obligations of competitors and promoters. The text includes guidelines for the successful promotion of architectural education and the development of education programs.