

Dear All,

Attached are the results of the last two Seminars of the WP AfA RIII UIA. The first one of which was held at the International Biennial of Architecture in Buenos Aires as a complementary activity, and the second one at the Society of Architects of Uruguay. In the end, besides the general comments, and upon request of RI, RII and RIV of this WP AfA, four questions were answered, as shown in the following lines:

## QUESTIONS

1.-What should be the policies of Accessibility and Inclusion? And how should we address this issue to all members of our WP, particularly the fact that accessibility solutions are not enough to provide friendly spaces?

2.-Why don't architects design a Responsible Architecture?

3.- Should we promote the idea of space which is not only accessible (what is more or less understood) but of high architectural quality and which can be called rather friendly (warm) than responsible (cold)?

4.-How should quality be measured: by human sensibility rather than fashion oriented features?

-FIRST SEMINAR: "Friendly and Inclusive Architecture". International Biennial of Architecture in Buenos Aires, October 11, 2017. This seminar consists of two parts:

a) First Part: 4 answers

b) Second Part: Comments

a) First Part: Seminar: "Friendly and Inclusive Architecture".

**1.- What should be the policies of Accessibility and Inclusion? And how should we address this issue to all members of our WP, particularly the fact that accessibility solutions are not enough to provide friendly spaces?**

The policies should encompass each reality with a comprehensive insight, and at some point they should generate inclusive spaces, which are also meant to be educative, to educate again, and to continue educating on diversity, exemplary spaces, which can be presented in the media, visible spots according to the human rights.

The policies should generate accessible-born spaces. This involves a general, pragmatic and simple awareness, which can benefit from architectural workshops, in a practical and simple fashion, and in spite of this difficulty, a new debate with design exercises on architecture involving young

students can start. A practical example could be the experience conceived in a house in which a disabled elderly person coexists with the other members of the family.

The policies should generate conscience and education applied to those who are involved in the process of construction of the city and its buildings. Hence, each actor requires a specific training. In a mass production chain, every member should know his or her function.

The last component of the chain, (the worker should be previously educated in the ways of building) the master builder must be knowledgeable of his or her function, and a worker should learn their trade responsibly. Therefore, they need to know how to execute a construction detail understanding how to carry out this work. Streets, squares or parks, public or private space must co-exist necessarily accessible for all.

A horizontal relation should be contemplated, in the respect to diversity, with a political speech towards tolerance, which is an indication that we all should either get reeducated, learn by doing, or plan our doing on daily basis, as nothing is achieved in we simply ignore the problem. Policy-making should be responsible, adapting the regulations to the real social demands, dialogue policies, consensus, visibility of daily problems. Likewise, when talking about disability, we ought to do it by adding it to the domain of emotional disabilities, in which all needs to be equal to our fellow people, when standing in a line before going into a concert or just any other daily task.

## **2.-Why don't architects design a Responsible Architecture?**

Because we need to be educated within the values of tolerance, and in a non-inclusive culture. Individually, we should do so from the stance we all have, in an attempt to give back to society a mutual, indispensable respect. Including the possibility of going back to universities to show in their syllabus all the changes that need to be introduced in education.

Not being the only responsible, our criterion only covers a section of the decisions, in the projects and their constructions, both for building making and for public spaces, or even private ones. Responsibility emerges from inner conscience, not forgetting that we all should learn how to be in someone else's shoes.

Schools, Associations, Federations, Institutes or Societies of Architects are expected to learn how to renovate in the hope of know their positions. Let us all recall that we are not born with a pre-equipped conscience. Because we are conditioned by an education, training. But also an indispensable updating.

There are people who, individually, states that all that is sought is happiness. There are also those who say that we should be socially useful. What is clear is that, in spite of living a deep social transformation from the new technologies (a new industrial revolution, for some), we should be aware of the need to project and build a Responsible Architecture, which involves the disabled.

## **3.- Should we promote the idea of space which is not only accessible (what is more or less understood) but of high architectural quality and which can be called rather friendly (warm) than responsible (cold)?**

Good accessibility goes beyond proper mobility and an adequate chain of accessibility, signposting, or ergonomics. An adequate accessibility implies a social awareness because many do not take it into consideration. Frequently, a politician takes arbitrary criteria, based on uncoordinated regulations, which do not favour accessible itineraries, and without bearing in mind a quality architecture either.

As coordinators, we should design by applying the Human Rights Convention for People with Disability. So we should also be able to raise awareness within empowered groups, educating on values, on mutual coexistence. In practice, good accessibility should not be perceived, but correctly supervised.

Creating accessibility is creating added value. For an architectural product to become high-quality, we ought to provide users with personal autonomy, so that they develop freely in the city and buildings. Besides, we should understand that not only a friendly space should be taken into account, also the surrounding space.

#### **4.-How should quality be measured: by human sensibility rather than fashion oriented features?**

Fashions are ephemeral and they are usually influenced by transculturation. In RIII, we should seek the evolution of our own culture, through the development of our own identity, an inner image, with their own peculiarities. But simultaneously, through the selection of new tendencies, not only from our own history.

Fashions show different human sensibilities based on various contexts, driven by a commercial market, an industry, a publicity, a marketing usually manipulated over economic interests. The challenge lies in the ability of setting the path so that different sensibilities go together, in the same direction. In doing so, induced by multiple sources, we could always stand closer to a better architectural quality, to excellence, on a human scale, to our environment, to stylistics, to functionality, to texture and colour, and to a public use from a diversity perspective.

In the linguistic context, and regarding the Spanish word ‘moda’ (‘fashion’ in English), it has been proposed to replace it by the word ‘tendency’, probably more appropriate. For instance, a minimalist tendency. To end up, we need to remember that on the daily work, the common thing is to give response to the needs of our societies, many times they are based on principles for users that we don’t know, on a man who might have certain behaviours, which is frequently found incongruent between a place located in the north of Argentina, or totally different located in a Suisse canton.

#### **b) Second Part**

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS. Cecilia Leiva and Katia Jadúe, Chile.**

**Professional Schools:** Associations, Federations, Institutes are responsible for a) promoting awareness campaigns for their members, and also for b) promoting the human rights for the available use of the city, “City for All”.

**Work Accessibility:** disabled people can and should possess a condition of equality in the society they belong to, knowing that accessibility chain facilitates their inclusion.

**Accessibility Chain:** to ensure their own path is a pending task, even in developing territories. that's why it is so important to reinforce the coordination among institutions that are involved in the construction, projecting processes, both for the public spaces and for the buildings. There has been some good news on the solutions for public buildings. However, in RIII the relation between public space and transport in our countries is still inefficient.

**Innovation:** in buildings in general, and especially those built spaces in which the number of users is high, we should seek innovative solutions that facilitate emergency evacuation for those people having trouble moving.

**Active Life:** to encourage an active life for those who have a disability, through tolerance, respect and a relation of equality.

**Professional development:** to promote an ethical professional development in those institutions that participate in the construction of the city, which could go beyond the use of regulations.

**Auditing Management:** to move forward in the elaboration of specific efficient auditing and taxing policies.

**Technology:** to promote advanced technologies in terms of accessibility to projects and their constructions.

**Technical Help:** to collaborate in the diffusion of technical assistance for people with disabilities.

**Philosophy:** to raise awareness among the investors, promoters, managers and entrepreneurs, by indicating that accessibility is a social benefit, and it is not all related with economic cost.

**Transversal concept:** the formation of new professionals, sensitive to universal accessibility, which requires a new multidisciplinary outlook.

**Project components:** in any architectural Project, accessibility should be prioritized, as a subject or as a component of design, such as orientation, surrounding areas, structure or facilities, with the aim of making accessible and sustainable projects

**Joint projects:** to facilitate the concept of accessible projects so that it could be treated when associating interests among public and private organizations.

**Attitude:** on our daily life, we should consciously promote our vision on accessibility so that, from this point, we could transform our surrounding.

**SECOND SEMINAR in MONTEVIDEO. Society of Architects of Uruguay. SAU. Oct.13.2017**

## **QUESTIONS**

**1.-What should be the policies of Accessibility and Inclusion? And how should we address this issue to all members of our WP, particularly the fact that accessibility solutions are not enough to provide friendly spaces?**

**2.-Why don't architects design a Responsible Architecture?**

**3.- Should we promote the idea of space which is not only accessible (what is more or less understood) but of high architectural quality and which can be called rather friendly (warm) than responsible (cold)?**

**4.-How should quality be measured: by human sensibility rather than fashion oriented features?**

**-SECOND SEMINAR: "Friendly and Inclusive Architecture".** International Seminar. This seminar consists of two parts:

**a) First Part:** 4 answers

**b) Second Part:** Comments

**a) First Part: Seminar: "Friendly and Inclusive Architecture".**

### **1.- What should be the new policies on Accessibility and Inclusion?**

In the city or any other territory there should be political practices that should be treating a series of issues such as public spaces, buildings, transport, TICs. They should be measurable, by using indicators, and therefore quantifiable at different terms, especially short term, by politicians and users. Social networking sites should be permanent indicators of the advances attested, facilitating then the possibility of incorporating innovative and non-exclusive attitudes.

These policies should have a constant review and a cultural shift in permanent evolution, which can be used to enhance personal autonomy. They should also be comprehensive, and preventive. Continuous education and training should be regarded at the level of the whole society, municipalities, universities, associations, in conjunction with politicians, technicians, NGOs, users in general.

These policies must be clear and of prevention, which can be adapted easily to any situation, and generous to the disabled, with a specific aim. Consequently, they should be objective. Regarding housing, they should bid for convertible housing, which admit little change technically economically. They should also be assessed in time, both the house and the users. between 5 and 10 years, with fully trained technicians for their certification.

## **2.-Why don't architects design Responsible Architecture?**

Due to the lack of social values, adequately contrasted with respect to ethics and dignity and human values. Lack of comprehensive education based on civisms, moral and empathy and assertiveness. Because of the absence of adequate training, in each of the learning levels, pre-school, primary, secondary and university. Since there is reluctance to change by architects, giving more priority to aesthetics, economics, developers' attitudes, over the needs of the people in general. And because of the lack of continuous formation adapted to diversity.

## **3.-Shall we promote the idea that an adequate accessibility is not just limited to the creation of friendly and inclusive spaces but also it is intended to show the excellence of architectural quality as a whole?**

Yes. We all agree on this matter. And they are all in agreement that we should promote this idea at both university training and formation in general.

## **4.-What should be prioritised in architectural quality, human sensibility or fashions?**

Fashions are transitory and they change quickly. Human sensibility is ever-lasting and it changes slowly. Human sensibility should be prioritized by providing an answer of quality. It is known that according to the context, criteria also change, but at times the attitude of a newly-graduated architect tends to be different from the one from an experienced architect. thus, there's a need to a permanent professional updating. Important: we should all know how to find the most adequate strategy in each location at a historical moment.

## **b) Second Part: Comments**

### **RED AUN. Sandra Lemes Lete. Uruguay**

**-Information:** in relation with the experience on accessibility, security and recovery after emergency in Uruguay in which RED AUN is involved, and addressed to people with disability within Sendai framework.

**-Comments:** it has been highlighted the “need to promote the Exchange of experiences of good practices through the Ibero-American Network of Universal Accessibility (AUN)” so that it conforms to the International Convention of the Human Rights of People with Disability. Besides, the need to promote the achievement of the Objectives of Sustainable Development of the development Agenda 2030, especially in its ODS 4, ODS 8, ODS 10, and ODS 11 on education, work, reduction of inequalities and sustainable and inclusive cities.”

**-Objective:** it focuses on “the prevention of new disaster risks, reduction of the existing ones, and increase of resilience among people and the resources to face those upcoming risks. The world strategy, reduction of disasters: DEVELOPING RESILIENT CITIES”. Sendai Framework 2015-2030 for the Reduction of Disaster Risks, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). On the way to reducing the effects of disasters.