

SEIAA IMPACT MANIFESTO

Towards consistency between taught, studied and lived sustainability in architecture schools! Our suggestions for more effective ways to impact the everyday life through investigations in architecture schools are:

> Provide more real-life settings where students get in contact with important stakeholders and where designs and planning processes can be implemented and scaled.

> Widen the traditional knowledge transfer on an emotional, motivational and actional level so that students also gain responsibility, motivation, and agency to act.

> Articulate the roles and train the capabilities of teachers to initiate and deal with co-creative and transformative settings.

> Complement system- and target-knowledge with transformative knowledge to empower students to initiate and implement changes themselves.

> Introduce a code of conduct that ensures consistency between taught and lived sustainability in the context of the architecture university and beyond.

THE COPENHAGEN LESSONS

“The Sustainable Development Goals define a crucial global agenda, which the built environment must contribute to. How we act on this must be bold – even radical, compared with current practice. With “The Copenhagen Lessons”, we present 10 principles for what that means when we construct, plan and develop the built environment. The health of the planet and basic human needs are on the line, we have no time to waste,” stated Natalie Mossin, Congress President.

01. Dignity and agency for all people are fundamental in architecture, there is no beauty in exclusion

02. People at risk of being left behind must be accommodated first when we construct, plan, and develop the built environment.

03. Existing built structures must always be reused first.

04. No new development must erase green fields.

05. Natural ecosystems and food production must be sustained regardless of the built context.

06. No virgin mineral material must be used in construction when reuse is possible.

07. No waste must be produced or left behind in construction.

08. When sourcing materials for construction, local, renewable materials come first.

09. In everything we build, carbon capture must exceed carbon footprint.

10. When developing, planning, and constructing the built environment, every activity must positively impact water ecosystems and clean water supply.

NEXT GENERATION'S VOICES

Opinions, resolutions and statements from some of the workshop participants, the next generation of architects.

This is more than just a passing trend, it is a fundamental principle that advocates for a more sustainable, inclusive, and harmonious future, benefitting all individuals.

Gulnara Boskov, Hasselt University

Although our passion lies in creating imaginative works, only a small portion of our future will involve that. Most of our journey will be consumed by discussions and negotiations to win approval for our ideas. It is essential that we prepare ourselves for this reality.

Hélène Simonis, Hasselt University

To make good, valuable architecture, it is important to make architecture that is accessible for everyone.

The strength and simplicity of good architecture lies in using local materials and involving the residents.

Isa Leemans, Hasselt University

The more places constructed for people in a city, the more people will come out and enjoy themselves and interact with others. This will also help to prevent loneliness.

To achieve a more symbiotic relationship with nature we need to change the speed of our everyday life.

Maria Wenye Jessen Aas, Bergen School of Architecture

It is essential for a sustainable future to consider traditional building methods and to learn from them for sustainable building. What has been proven for centuries in sustainable building does not need to be reinvented.

In the past, architecture students were taught that buildings are the most important thing and that nothing exists in between. Fortunately, this is now considered outdated. Cities that are pedestrian and bicycle friendly with good public transport connections are the way forward.

Everything is part of our built environment, even a stone created by bacteria. We should appreciate, understand and learn from these wonderful mechanisms of nature.

In nature we recover and regenerate. Spending time in nature can even reduce diseases. Unfortunately, its economic and survival importance is not measured in any index like GDP. Nature does well without us, but we do not do well without it!

Mantao Jakobs, University of Liechtenstein

There are already a lot of sustainable projects. We should learn from them, but also from their mistakes. Practice makes perfect, but practice takes time and should provide room for failure.

Let nobody try to greenwash you and stay on an active search to design buildings that have a lower impact on the environment.

Panis Sander, Hasselt University

It is imperative for the next generation of architects to take the lead in reimagining and repurposing existing structures, breathing new life into them with sustainable and functional designs. This requires a shift in our understanding of the architect's role and a willingness to embrace the challenges it presents.

Petter Finsaether, Bergen School of Architecture

It's about listening to the needs of the people, adapting to the circumstances and work with what is already given.

Negativity doesn't get us anywhere. In order to improve, we have to start. And we have to start now. No matter how insignificant, we may think we are. In summary we are a lot, and together, we can do something which is way bigger than anything we can imagine.

Sophie Feichtmair, University of Liechtenstein

Architects need to go into politics! The architect has the unique role of being the facilitator and mediator between many professions, connecting the client, the building industry, the design and art world, the sociopolitical and economic scene.

Stop building, start transforming! All of our square meters are already built.

Tone Firing, Bergen School of Architecture

There is much to be re-learned from vernacular processes around the world that tell us about other ways of experiencing the world.

There's also much to be reminded of by carefully listening to other beings.

Vida Trulsdotter Boogh, Bergen School of Architecture