



Architecture in Transition: from Heritage to Urban Futures

7-15 May 2025

Palazzo Zorzi, Venice

I. CONCEPT NOTE

As new eras usher in profound and complex challenges, particularly regarding the social and functional degradation of many human settlements, the need for visionary architectural responses becomes increasingly critical in shaping the qualitative development of the built environment in a rapidly changing world.

The competition *The Future of the Profession - Empowering the Next Generation in Participatory Urban Design* offers young architects an opportunity to contribute with their vision for enhancing the experience of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The result of this competition provides a valuable platform for dialogue on the evolving priorities of architecture and the architectural profession.

Taking this opportunity, the UIA will organise a series of events at *Palazzo Zorzi* – the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in Venice, under the theme *Architecture in Transition: from Heritage to Urban Futures*.

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II. DRAFT PROGRAMME

7 May 2025

1. *The Future of the Profession: Empowering the Next Generation in Participatory Urban Design* **Opening of the Exhibition and Awards Ceremony**

The winners of the International single stage open ideas competition for young architects will be announced at an awards ceremony on the 7 May and their work will be displayed in an exhibition held from 8 to 15 May at *Palazzo Zorzi* – the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in Venice.

Run-of-show

17:30	Arrival
18:00 - 18:30	Opening Speeches Magdalena Landry, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau (5') Regina Gonthier, President of the UIA (5') Alessandra Ferrari, Vice-President of the CNAPPC (5') Roberto Beraldo, OAPPC Venezia President (5') Lilia Cannarella, CNAPPC and UIA Council Member and Professional Advisor to the Competition (5')
18:30 - 19:00	Award Ceremony (Jury Citations and 2' speech from the winners)
19:00 - 20:00	Aperitif
20:00	Closing

(Carla Lima Vieira, Facilitator)

8 May 2025

2. *The Future of the Profession: Empowering the Next Generation in Participatory Urban Design* – Roundtable

The roundtable *The Future of the Profession - Empowering the Next Generation in Participatory Urban Design* will further discuss how context-sensitive and site-specific architectural strategies and solutions address local challenges while contributing meaningfully to our shared cultural heritage.

Run-of-show

10:00	Arrival
10:30 - 11:30	Roundtable
10:30	Opening speech UIA President (5')
10:35	Roundtable (50') Magdalena Landry, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau and Juror Cristóbal Tirado, President of the Jury Giacomo Ardesio, Juror



Amath Luca Diatta, 1st Prize winner
Bui Minh Chau, 2nd Prize winner
Davide Contran, 3rd Prize winner
Francesco Rambelli, 4th Prize winner
Emanuel Carlos Polito on behalf of AAtlas, 5th Prize winner

11:25 Closing (5')

(Carla Lima Vieira, Facilitator)

3. **Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition**

In July 2021, the XXXIII UIA General Assembly elected Barcelona (Spain) to host the 2026 UIA World Congress of Architects.

A two-stage international competition was launched to select the General Commissioners of the Barcelona Congress. The winning team has developed the theme “Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition”, which will analyse the capacity of architecture to transform reality in time.

The theme will branch into six lines of research, curated by both the commissioners and an extensive and international group of invited collaborators; their conclusions will be presented throughout the Congress:

- Becoming beyond-human
- Becoming attuned
- Becoming embodied
- Becoming interdependent
- Becoming hyper-conscious
- Becoming circular

Run-of-show: UIA Congress Presentation (11:30 – 12:15)

11:30 – 12:15 Iñiqui Carnicero, Ministerio de Vivienda y Agenda Urbana, Secretario General de Agenda Urbana, Vivienda y Arquitectura, Spain (10')
Víctor Puga, Generalitat de Catalunya, Secretario de Territorio, Urbanismo y Agenda Urbana (5')
Maria Buhigas, Ayuntamiento de Barcelona Arquitecta en Cap (5')
Marta Vall-Llosera, CSCAE President (4')
Regina Gonthier, UIA President (3')
Fuensanta Nieto, President Scientific Advisor Committee (4')
Pau Bajet and Carmen Torres, Becoming Curatorial Team 1 (14')

(Carla Lima Vieira, Facilitator)

4. **Barcelona: World Capital of Architecture 2026**

The UNESCO-UIA World Capital of Architecture label is recognised globally and is an acknowledgment that the city has always encouraged an approach to architectural production with values and efforts that are advocated by UNESCO and the UIA.

Every three years, UNESCO designates the host cities of the UIA’s World Congresses as World Capitals of Architecture.



The city of Barcelona has been officially designated as World Capital of Architecture for 2026 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay. The designation was made on the recommendation of the Joint UNESCO-UIA Committee for the World Capital of Architecture that is presided by Architect Dominique Perrault.

“We are pleased to see the baton of the World Capital of Architecture title pass onto Barcelona for 2026. Barcelona will continue to elaborate on Copenhagen’s accomplishments – by conveying the way in which architecture and culture can respond to today’s challenges for the global public good and future generations,” said Audrey Azoulay.

In cooperation with the Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE) and the Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Cataluña (COAC), the Municipality of Barcelona will facilitate a comprehensive programme of events, exhibitions, activities and ventures that clearly demonstrate and emphasise the value and importance of the contribution of architecture and urban design for the sustainable development of the City of Barcelona.

Run-of-show: WCA Barcelona Presentation (12:15 – 12:40)

12:15	Magdalena Landry, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau (5’) Regina Gonthier, UIA President (5’) Maria Buhigas, Ayuntamiento de Barcelona Arquitecta en Cap (15’)
12:40	Closing
12:45 - 14:00	Light Lunch

“Architecture in Transition: from Heritage to Urban Futures” is organised by the UIA and will be followed by “Everything is heritage - The Great Adaptation”, a roundtable with the participation of Farrokh Derakhshani, Pierre-Antoine Gatier, Bjarke Ingels, Dominique Perrault, Benedetta Tagliabue, etc (14:00 – 16:00).

“Everything is heritage - The Great Adaptation” is organised by Martin Duplantier Architectes.