



XXIX UIA General Assembly
Copenhagen (Denmark): 6 – 9 July 2023

Item 8.1.1.on the agenda

ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION COMMISSION – ACTIVITY REPORT

Co-Directors: Marilys R. Nepomechie (United States) and Ashraf Salama (Egypt/United Kingdom)

1. UNESCO-UIA VALIDATION OF SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMMES

The work and activities of the UNESCO-UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education involved several activities that included meetings to review expressions of interest, initial submissions for validation, and expressions of interest to renew validation.

Efforts in this area included the following activities:

- 1.1. Series of meetings involving the Education Commission co-directors (Marilys Nepomechie and Ashraf Salama) and RIBA UNESCO-UIA Validation Manager (Jenny Russell) throughout 2022-2023 to:
 - Examine submissions and expressions of interest from schools/programmes of architecture.
 - Plan and decide on visiting panels to these schools. This includes programs in Egypt, Hungary, Tunis, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.
- 1.2. A meeting in November 2022 involving the Education Commission co-directors, RIBA UNESCO-UIA Validation Manager, UNESCO delegate, and the validation task group to review validation reports.
- 1.3. A meeting in February 2023 in Paris to discuss and fully approve validation reports.
- 1.4. Follow up and correspondence (March – June 2023) regarding revalidation of ESTAB, Barcelona, Spain and expressions of interest from schools and programmes in Egypt, Romania, and Tunis.
- 1.5. Ongoing UIA Education Commission participation in Canberra Accord meetings (Marilys Nepomechie), carried out in UNESCO-UIA's role as Provisional Signatory. This includes:
 - Participation in Task Force reviewing and making recommendations regarding Multinational Signatories to the Accord.
 - Work toward transitioning from Provisional to Full Signatory, which is in progress, pending identifying a panel visit that involves a representative from the Canberra Accord.
 - A meeting of the UIA Secretary General (Pei Ing Tan), and the Education Commission Co-Directors Marilys Nepomechie and Ashraf Salama, to expedite the process of moving to Full Signatory status.

Key Achievement:

Our work has resulted in the approvals of the following reports:

- The BSc (Hons) in Architecture Systems Engineering at MSA University (Egypt) is recommended for CANDIDACY for a period of 2 years until March 2024 (Panel Visit, March 2022)
- The Bachelor of Architecture at Ajman University (United Arab Emirates) is recommended for FULL UNCONDITIONAL VALIDATION for 5 years until March 2027 (Panel Visit, March 2022)
- The BSc and MSc in Architecture at the University of Pécs (Hungary) is recommended for CANDIDACY for a period of 2 years until September 2024 (Panel Visit, September 2022)
- The Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering at Cairo University (Egypt) is recommended for FULL UNCONDITIONAL VALIDATION for 5 years until October 2027 (Panel Visit, 7-10 Nov 2022).
- The BA and MSc in Architecture at MSFAU | Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in Istanbul, Turkey: Virtual re-validation visit (12-15 Dec 2022).
- Both Cairo University and Mimar Sinan University visit reports were successfully submitted to the Commission and Validation Council which were approved during 6th February 2023 meeting.
- An ELIGIBILITY Review was successfully completed for the Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering at Future University, Egypt. The program is recommended for a Preliminary Visit in Fall/Winter, 2023.



- An ELIGIBILITY Review is currently underway for the professional Architecture program at the Technical University of CLUJ-NAPCOCA, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Romania. This is the first of several Romanian programs to be reviewed.

2. UNESCO-UIA GUIDING DOCUMENTS : UNESCO-UIA CHARTER FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION AND UNESCO-UIA PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR VALIDATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES AND SYSTEMS

The UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education was developed and presented in 1996 at the UIA Barcelona Congress. It has been subjected to periodic updates since then. The latest update was undertaken in 2017. Considering recent developments, including the emerging emphasis on health and wellbeing, responding to the COVID pandemic and associated conditions, climate change and action, and the publication of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, it was necessary to undertake a new update involving the Education Commission/ VCAE Membership.

It is noted that the updates of the Charter must be reflected in the Procedures Manual. Both were discussed and finalised during the meeting of February 6, 2023. Discussions on amendments to the Manual involved the perspectives and observations of the Validation System Manager (RIBA Representative) and also reflected new operations procedures implemented in response to the COVID pandemic.

Efforts in this area included the following activities:

- 2.1 Two meetings conducted via Zoom on 11th November (Lead: Ashraf Salama) and 2nd December 2022 (Lead: Marilyns Nepomechie) to discuss important updates of the Charter and to integrate emerging issues that reflect the role of architectural education in shaping the future of sustainable built environments.
- 2.2 Updates were communicated to the membership of the commission and were made available for further necessary input in advance of the 6th February 2023 hybrid meeting in Paris and online. This involved detailed discussions which have resulted in a full draft version (Lead: Marilyns Nepomechie).
- 2.3 Further correspondence with RIBA UNESCO-UIA Validation Manager to provide input which was followed by circulating the final draft to the Education Commission membership for both the Charter and the Validation Procedures Manual (Lead: Marilyns Nepomechie).

Key Achievement:

- The updates reflect timely and pressing issues that form the basis of architectural education in the 21st century. These include integration of aspects relevant to Trans-disciplinarity, Sustainable Development Goals, Health, Safety and Wellbeing, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Updates of the UNESCO-UIA Charter of Architectural Education were drafted and discussed at the February 2023 meeting.
- Final reviews of the Charter have been made during May/June 2023 for submission and approval by the UIA Council during the UIA Congress in Copenhagen in July 2023.
- Updates of the UNESCO-UIA Validation System Procedures Manual were discussed during the February meeting in Paris and final reviews are being made during May/June 2023 for submission and approval by the UIA Council during the UIA Congress in Copenhagen in July 2023. These include updates to reflect edits to the Charter, as well as updates to reflect new operations procedures for virtual program reviews adopted during the COVID pandemic.

3. UIA AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION – SECOND EDITION (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT GOALS) – INTER-COMMISSION JOINT PROJECT

The UIA Award for Innovation in Architectural Education was established in 2019 to celebrate the multifaceted nature of innovation across the boundaries of cultures and geographies. It also seeks to promote inspiring pedagogical practices that contribute to the creation of sustainable environments.



Colleges, schools, departments or programmes of architecture worldwide were invited to submit academic programmes and courses demonstrating *Excellence in Pedagogical Practice* and *Excellence in Addressing Sustainable Development Goals*. Following the success of the inaugural edition, whose results were presented in UIA World Congress in RIO in 2021, this edition was organised jointly by the UIA Architectural Education Commission and the UIA Sustainable Development Goals Commission, with a clear focus on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Efforts in this area included the following activities:

- 3.1 Establishing a technical committee Ashraf M. Salama, Award Curator; Observers (non-voting) technical committee members: Marilys Nepomechie, Iman Gawad, and Cid Blanco.
- 3.2 Series of meetings were conducted during the period between April 2022 and September 2022 involving the co-directors of Education Commission, the co-directors of Sustainable Development Goals Commission and the membership of the two commissions. Meetings explored the nature, focus, and theme of the award, to identify the criteria, and identify the jury members.
- 3.3 Selected meetings conducted in June and July 2022 involved the co-directors of UIA ICC-(International Competition Commission) to discuss aspects of copyright and intellectual property, and the final announcement of the award.
- 3.4 Follow up on correspondence, responses to interested participants, and development of FAQ (January 2023).
- 3.5 Communication with Jury members conveying the rules of the competition and the assessment criteria and protocols (February-April 2023).
- 3.6 Conducting the Jury sessions on 14th April 2023 which involved Deniz Incedayi (Turkey), Martha Thorne (United States/Spain); Howaida Al-Harithy (Lebanon/Saudi Arabia); Michael J. Crosbie (United States); Hermie Delpont (South Africa); Efthalia-Thaleia Grigoriadou (Greece). The jury was joined by the curator and the technical committee.

Key Achievement:

- The UIA Award for Innovation in Architectural Education, jointly organized by the UIA Education Commission and the Sustainable Development Goals Commission was launched in September 2022.
- The deadline for submission of projects was 30 January 2023. Examination of eligibility of entries will take place from 1 to 15 February while the evaluation of entries and online jury meetings will be from 20 February to 20 March 2023, and the jury meeting was conducted on 14th April 2023.
- Jury reports were developed by the curator (Ashraf M. Salama) in consultation with jury members (for 16 shortlisted and eligible entries). Four entries were identified as awardees from Sweden, Turkey, China, and Egypt in addition to one Honourable Mention from China. Awards were announced on 22nd April 2023.
- The jury was pleased with the level and quality of most shortlisted entries which successfully address gaps between architecture and other disciplines, architects and communities, thinking and making, the intellectual and the vocational, the university campus and its wider context. Collectively, they demonstrate various approaches that a) challenge misconceptions in dealing with sustainable architecture and urbanism only in physical terms and b) encounter traditional conceptions about pedagogical practices in architecture. They brilliantly provide effective articulations towards a future sustainable built environment. [Further information can be found here >>](#)

4. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, REPRESENTATION AND COLLABORATION WITH UIA WORKING BODIES

The Education Commission has led and contributed to the following activities:

- June 2023: Representing the UIA Education Commission in the international Atlas of Hope Conference, part of the 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale focused on urban sustainability (Marilys Nepomechie)
- Spring 2023: Ongoing work coordinating joint exhibitions and presentations for the 2023 UIA World Congress in Copenhagen with the Professional Practice Commission, and the Sustainable Development Goals Commission (Details below).
- April/May 2023: Contribution to the UIA Triennale Prizes: Jury for the Jean Tschumi Prize for Architectural Education and Criticism (Ashraf Salama).



- Winter and Spring 2023 and Spring and Fall 2022: Representing UNESCO-UIA in the Canberra Accord for Architecture Education in virtual meetings and task forces during Winter, Spring and Fall, 2022 (Marilyn Nepomechie).
- March 2022: Chairing and moderating the Great Green Wall Initiative Webinar in March 2022 (Ashraf Salama) <https://www.uia-architectes.org/en/news/webinar-great-green-wall/> in launching the UIA Great Green Wall single stage student ideas competition in September 2022.
- September 2022: Representing the Education Commission and Validation Council and reporting on its activities in two UIA Council Meetings (Marilyn Nepomechie) which took place in Madrid, May 2022 and Copenhagen September 2022.
- June and September 2022: Two Webinars, acting as profile raising activities, with Heads of Schools of Architecture in Africa (Region V) and Eastern Europe/Middle East (Region II) have been conducted in June and September 2022 as part of the Education Commission activities to promote the UNEASCO-UIA Validation System and the UIA Award for Innovation in Architectural Education. These meetings were supported by Istelianna Atanassova (VP, region II) and Tokunbo Omisore (VP, region V), and attended by Marilyn Nepomechie and Ashraf Salama.
- October 2022: Contribution to the Webinar of UIA Award for Innovation in Architectural Education (October 2022) <https://www.uia-architectes.org/en/news/webinar-award-for-innovation-in-architectural-education-sdgs/>, jointly organised by Sustainable Development Goals and Education Commissions (Ashraf Salama), highlighting the success of the inaugural award and outlining the second edition of the award.

5. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS : ARCHITECT'S COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND EAAE – EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

- April 2023: Ashraf Salama, Co-Director of the UIA Architectural Education Commission was invited as a main keynote speaker for joint conference, organised by The Architects' Council of Europe on upskilling strategies and training, in conjunction with the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE). The conference took place on 20 April 2023 at the *Faculté d'Architecture La Cambre Horta, Brussels* (Belgium), examined the importance of equipping architects with the necessary skills to contribute to sustainable and digital development. It also offered emphasis on the promotion of the New European Bauhaus initiative through reskilling, innovation, and community initiatives.
- March 2022: Marilyn Nepomechie, Co-Director of the UIA Architectural Education Commission, was invited to serve as Co-Chair and Host of the 2022 ARCC-EAAE International Research Conference in Miami, co-sponsored by the *Architecture Research Centres Consortium (ARCC)*, the *European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE)* and the *Education Commission of the International Union of Architects (UIA)*. Titled *Resilient City: Physical, Social and Economic Perspectives*, the conference attracted interest from over 300 participants representing 29 nations. It focused on five (5) key themes: Climate (including global sustainability and design frameworks for coastal cities); the role of Technology in addressing resilience challenges in the creation of the built environment; the urgent need to address challenges of Equity (including the creation of inclusive urban landscapes and addressing global migrations); the challenges of Public Health (including implications for public space and human-centred design) and the role of Doctoral Education in Architectural Research. Her role as Host and Co-Chair of the conference included delivering the host address, presentations, opening exhibitions, and contributing to the published conference Proceedings.



6. CONTRIBUTION TO AND PRESENCE AT THE UIA WORLD CONGRESS, COPENHAGEN, JULY 2023

The Commission Co-Directors are finalising the contribution of the Education Commission and Validation Council to the UIA World Congress (at the time of writing this report). Activities aligning with the work of the commission and the focus of the conference include:

Architectural Education for a Sustainable Future: A special session hosted by the education commission involves seven speakers and includes two parts. The first part of the session includes presentation by the co-hosts on Shaping the Future of Architectural Education and the role of the UNESCO-UIA Charter and Validation System in shaping that future. It highlights the key criteria for validation, presents key updates on the UNESCO-UIA Charter and Validation System Manual, outlines current efforts of schools, and presents future aspirations of the UIA Education Commission and Council. Focusing on the UNESCO-UIA Validation Process & Experience, the session involves directors of programs representing a selection of schools currently validated by UNESCO-UIA from Hungary, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates). It will also involve the UIA System Manager, and Q/A for programs interested in pursuing validation. The second part debates views on current efforts in Integrating Sustainable Development Goals into Architectural Pedagogy both in the global north and the global south. Moderated by the co-hosts, talks by the guest keynote speaker, Jana Revedin, will outline potential responses to the climate crisis and how these can be integrated into architectural pedagogy in support of the ideals and principles that enable effective pedagogical practices.

Educating African Architects for a Sustainable Future: A contribution to a session organized by the UIA VP Region V - Tokunbu Omisore, on the challenges and opportunities of architectural education in Africa. The session includes 8 speakers with contributions from UIA Education Commission Co-Directors, architects and educators from Nigeria and South Africa, and the president of the ACSA-Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture in the United States.

Joint Exhibition and Programming with the Sustainable Development Goals and Professional Practice Commissions. In the interest of sustainable practices, the part of the exhibition specific to the Education Commission is intended to be fully digital. Education Commission materials will be on screen including summaries of the UNESCO-UIA Charter and Manual, and the results of both the Inaugural and Second Editions of the UIA Award for Innovation in Architectural Education.