

MANIFESTO

“ARCHITECTURE IS A HUMAN RIGHT”

Abstract

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Several processes in the history of architecture make us claim “Architecture is a Human Right”: The Industrial revolution produced one of the biggest impacts on urban development and an increasing interest of our profession with social housing in mind (Ancoats, Manchester, 1870s).

The Scandinavian Welfare States created the most equal social system in the world with a clear architectural expression (Hornbaekhaus, Copenhagen, 1923).

The prefabricated Soviet social housing gave shelter to 34 million inhabitants after WW2 (Mikrorayon, Eastern Europe, 1950s and 60s)

The Latin American approach from the 50s with a strong focus in social demands (COPAN, Sao Paulo, 1952-1966)

However, the evolution of our profession, from the social perspective, slowed down during the 80s and 90s (neo-liberal politics). Nevertheless, an architecture of resistance did appear around the world expressed in hundreds of anonymous professionals, who kept the ideals of a humanistic architecture (Friedman in France, Carola in Africa, Lawner and Rojas in Chile).

During the beginning of the 2000s architecture theory showed a rainbow of different theories coexisting in the same territory for first time in our history. One of these visions is empathic with citizens' demand and the urgent and main challenges of our planet: climate transition, humanitarian emergencies (natural disasters or manmade crisis like war or social conflicts), social inequality and Neoliberalism with the global migration as a consequence of all the four matters.

ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE OF HUMANITY

Each thought and each action of human evolution depend on and belong to the collective experience, although if it may crystallize in a single human being. We must accept that this form of knowledge is part of our collective intelligence and therefore belongs to every human being on the planet. Architecture is an intrinsic part of this accumulated knowledge and should be available to all human beings who lives in our world.

100 years ago, BAUHAUS (Weimar April 1st 1919) sets up the multidisciplinary and social reformatory focus for our profession “Architecture is science, art and crafts at the service of society “. 70 years ago, appears the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Paris, December 10th 1948).

Today, in 2019, we are in the position to join these two key human declarations in a new Manifesto **ARCHITECTURE IS A HUMAN RIGHT**

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Paris 13th May 2019
World Award for Sustainable Architecture 2019
CITE, UNESCO & French Cultural Ministry