

Architects in Support of Sustainable Development Charter 2nd June 2005 Paris

“ARCHITECTS AT THE CENTRE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Due to their overall approach to the city and habitat and because they are an essential link in the construction chain, architects have a central role to play in the design and construction of projects which respond to the sustainable development challenge. Consequently, in partnership with the other industry members, it is for them to propose creative and innovative solutions which take into account the four principles of sustainable architecture: cultural, social, environmental and economic.

Such an approach is simultaneously based on the sustainable development *values* and *practices* of the profession. It is part of the development of a voluntary and negotiated consensus within which each should participate through dialogue, the incitement, distribution and sharing of knowledge whilst favouring innovation, creativity and the enduring suitability of the proposed solutions.

Naturally this approach implies the promotion of good practice which, above all, aims for quality performance through pertinent solutions whilst complying with the requirements of the regulations and standards.

[Our sustainable development values](#)

1. Cultural roots and local development

The architect:

- considers that the existing architectural and urban forms, even quite modest, are not renewable resources which provide essential reference points in our history and collective subconscious.
- oversees the integration of the built environment within its context and epoch.
- favours cultural awareness through the development of projects which respond to the contemporary expectations of citizens, lifestyle evolution and family models.
- contributes to economic and cultural development by making the most of materials and local knowledge.

2. Social integration and solidarity

The architect:

- joins the pursuit for well-being and quality of use, a “dignified comfort” and accessibility for everyone.
- works towards social development through federative projects and a consideration of social codes, work and housing practices.

3. Environmental protection and eco-efficiency

The architect:

- contributes to the search for maximum eco-efficiency in construction in order to reduce the consumption of natural resources, the production of waste and pollutants and all other consequences harmful to man and nature.
- favours the consideration of safety conditions, as well as the ecological and health requirements, for each project in order to limit the risks to users and the environment thus facilitating the compliance with recommendations in respect to their eco-behaviour.
- encourages the use of environmental and energy efficient materials as well as renewable energies in order to reduce global warming.

4. Economic and group performance

The architect:

- undertakes the economic design with a total cost approach from development brief through to construction by integrating the social requirements.
- favours, through a return-on-investment approach, the technical options which reduce running and maintenance costs.
- takes into account the costs and the benefits for the community.

Our sustainable development practice

5. Dialogue and education

The architect:

- is involved with each project by becoming the co-ordinator of all interested parties.
- develops the teaching of sustainable architecture with all those involved in building and development.
- contributes to the educational approach intended to promote criteria which set performances levels significantly superior to those reached by usual methods.

6. Compliance, transparency and governance

The architect:

- favours the health and safety of users and environmental protection within the statutory requirements.
- encourages every proposal which brings about change in the regulations.
- fights against all forms of corruption.

7. Research, innovation and creativity

The architect:

- increases his/her capacity to respond to the cultural, social, environmental and economic challenges by developing his/her research, training, innovation and creative activities.
- anticipates needs through an overall approach by strengthening the cross between knowledge, practice and technique.

8. Long term vision and respect for future generations

The architect:

- evaluates, from the design phase, the flexibility and change-in-use capacity of every building proposal, as well as its adaptation to future technical-economic requirements of society.
- envisages the future of every building both in the short and long-term for future generations in respect to its social utility.
- makes the client aware, from the design phase, of the main natural and technological risks.