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**THE DECLARATION OF MONTREAL: "TOWARD NATIONAL POLICIES FOR ARCHITECTURE"**

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WE, the world community of architects - having specific responsibility for the built environment to ensure, in peace, the freedom, equilibrium and welfare of mankind - assembled in Montreal at the XVIIth Congress of the International Union of Architects, on this day, 2nd June 1990;

**CONSIDER:**

THAT architecture is an expression of culture and reflects the image of a society;

THAT architectural design, the quality of buildings and their integration into the environment, as well as respect for the natural and urban landscape, and our heritage, are of public interest;

THAT Man's need to be adequately housed and to have access to social facilities which are adapted to different ways of life, constitutes a principal objective which must be achieved with due respect for individual rights, traditions and liberties;

THAT architects perceive their intellectual and professional activities as serving the development of local, national and international communities;

**NOTE:**

THAT the gulf between industrialised and developing countries continues to widen, and that this trend cannot be stemmed by the simple transfer of technology which detracts from national cultural values;

THAT global awareness of ecological problems at all levels - whether the urgent need to preserve areas which are essential to the balance of nature, or the elimination of all forms of pollution and destruction which threaten our lives - has already mobilised the political powers on which our survival depends;

THAT the economic pressures which are brought to bear on the architectural commissioning process are such that the cultural values which enable human beings to fulfill themselves are rarely or only superficially taken into account; and that considerable resources are thereby turned away from the priority which should be attributed to social programmes.

THAT while the role of the architect historically and fundamentally lends itself to the integration of cultural, technical, symbolic and economic data on the environment, increasingly this process must obtain a social and democratic consensus.

**RECOMMEND:**

THAT the architects of all national organisations join forces to establish priorities and the possible scope of their action, such that a national architectural policy may be drawn up to be implemented by their respective governments.

THAT such a policy stress national objectives designed to preserve and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment;

THAT this national architectural policy include the following general objectives;

- to value architecture as one of the fundamental constituent elements of society;
- to co-ordinate and channel the numerous decisions on which the production of architecture depends;
- to prepare the architectural community to take up new challenges.
- to recognize the duty of all architects to support and implement socially responsible development and the protection of the natural environment; and
- to recognize that the conversion from a war to a peace economy is a necessary step in accomplishing these objectives

THAT this policy give priority to national problems of over-population and de-population, the conservation of our heritage and the provision of housing for the homeless which would give a new facet to the architect's social involvement.

THAT this national architectural policy attempt to gradually attain (in so far as resources permit) the following specific objectives:

- To upgrade public and private architectural commissioning
- To uphold and promote architectural excellence
- To increase architectural awareness through basic education
- To demonstrate the evolution and diversity of architectural practice
- To establish and reinforce architectural research and education.

THAT the UIA lend its support and expertise to the realisation of these national initiatives throughout the WORLD DECADE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT announced by UNESCO and the UNITED NATIONS.

THAT UNESCO grants its patronage to the development of each national policy and make representations to the governments concerned.