

SOCIAL HABITAT

WORK PROGRAMME REPORT MAY 2020

PURPOSE AND CHARGE OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Social Habitat Work Programme's purpose is to bring out new housing models, by developing an observatory of social housing for the least fortunate.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the sanitary containment it has imposed in France have revealed issues of different severities on family and social housing. Our work programme, by sharing different experiences of the matter in different countries of the world, reflects on the improvements that can be brought to collective and social habitat.

The SHWP will work on suggesting new references and concepts, or even general standards which indicate sufficient necessary spaces, per adult or child; surfaces – volumes, private outdoor space - shared outdoor space; in order to respond to the essential activities of nutrition, sleep, hygiene, work, culture, leisure, inside one's home.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRODUCTS

Since its reactivation in 2017, the group has been reconstituted and its members have started working on several projects.

The group met at the UIA forum in Bakou, on June 7, 8 and 9, 2019; this forum allowed the display of general information panels and the presentation of several exemplary social housing projects. We were able to establish many contacts with correspondents on five continents. A meeting was held in Paris on October 21, 2019 to advance the reflection on the general question of housing for the poor; in particular, in Middle Eastern countries.

Regular exchanges by email allow us to shape a common reflection on the problems of social housing and the different responses in different countries.

VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Nowadays, it is estimated that 200 million people are homeless, and nearly 2 billion are in a situation of inadequate housing all around the world. In emerging countries, as well as rich democracies there are slums alongside modern neighborhoods. "The right to housing" is as fundamental as the right to food, health and the right to education. In addition to the moral problem, housing is an essential element of social peace and a harmonious society. The Social Habitat Working Group aims to actively participate in a reflection on the urgency of housing for all and must provide tools to respond to it.

The construction of collective social housing, imposes the architect as a social mediator between the private interests of the developer, the operators, and the public interest of the municipality or territory. The architect is the only one capable of providing the relevant responses to the urgency of housing for all, through his training, his knowledge, his techniques, his ability to manage space, his art of synthesis.

Social Habitat values the architect in today's socio-economic world.



ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

The Social Habitat Work Programme consists of 8 members from 6 different countries: Sahar Attia, Egypt
Raphael Balanzo, Spain
Philippe Capelier, France
Rivka Gutman, Israel
Nadav Heipert, Israel
Janice Lee, Hong Kong
Jose Manuel Pedreirinho, Portugal
Jason Tang, Hong Kong

Our group also has contacts with other UIA work programmes, including *Community Architecture: Architecture and Human Rights*.

WORLD CONGRESS PLAN

The coronavirus pandemic interrupted our work preparing for the UIA2021Rio congress, where a stand and a conference room have been reserved with the UIA. The program of interventions and the projects to be exhibited were under preparation. The end of the confinement will allow us to resume our activities. The SHWP aims to actively participate in a reflection on the urgency of housing for all. We aim to create a global brainstorming involving many international countries, and to present our observations and findings at the congress.

The following is one of our panels showing an exemplary social habitat project, built in Toulouse, France.

