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Time

to

Act

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Manifesto
for the

European

Elections

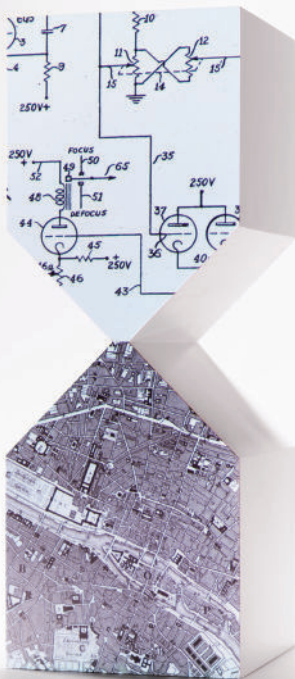
2024

Time
to Act:

for high-quality
architecture
and living
environment
for all



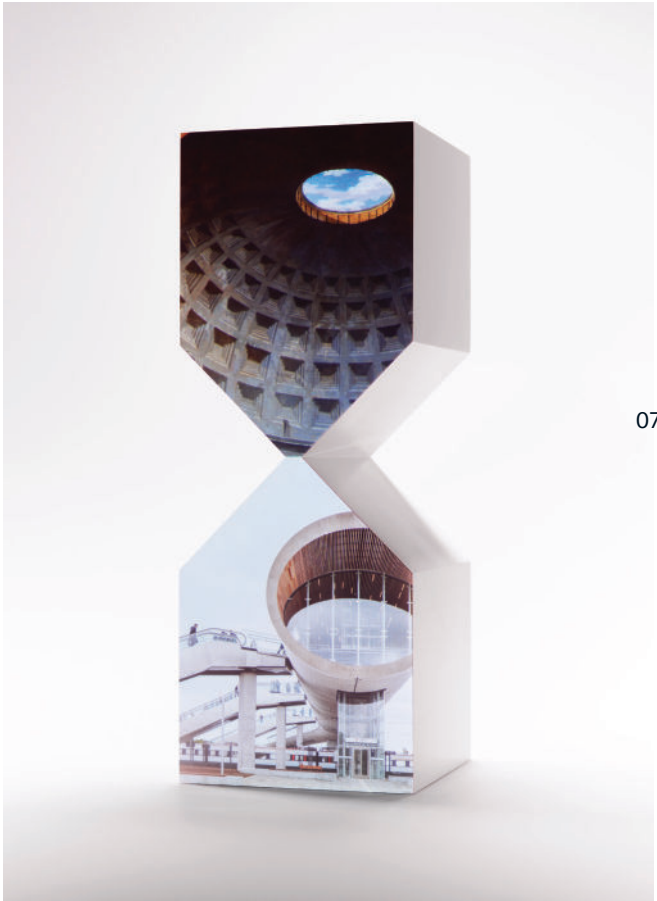
Sustainable architecture is a growing trend with 46% of architects “frequently” designing low-energy buildings in 2022.



European architects spend an average of 20 hours per year undertaking Continuing Professional Development.



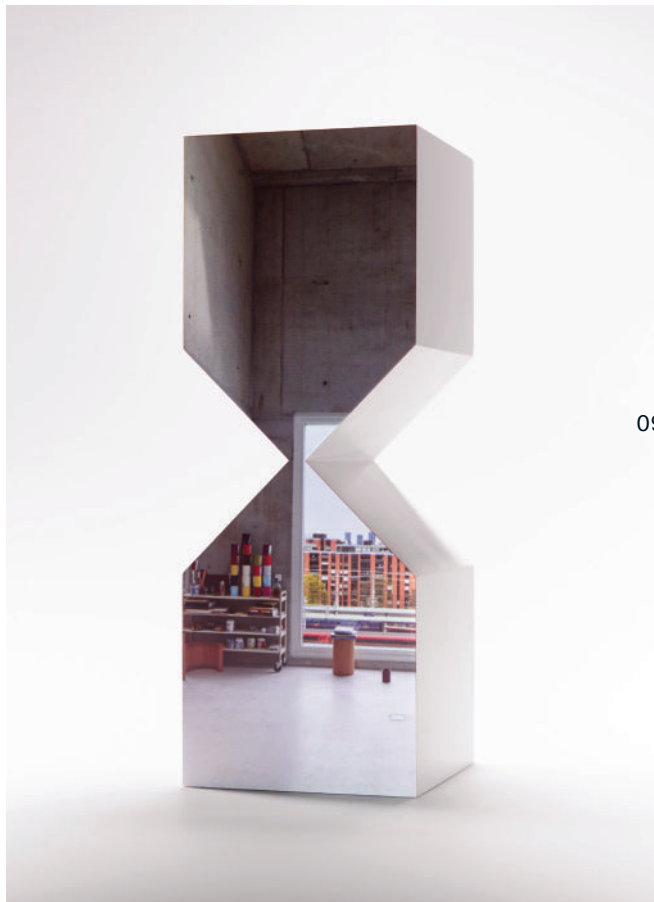
19% of architects “seriously considered”
working in another country.



7% of architects worked in another European country in 2022.



Architects contribute €21 billion to Europe's economy.



92% of the practices in Europe have only 1-5 staff.



Architects export 3% of their work internationally.



One third of European architects declare that they did not make bids to OJEU because of insufficient turnover.



The construction sector is responsible for over 35% of the EU's total waste generation.



Buildings in the EU are responsible for 40% of our energy consumption and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions.



Circa 75% of the EU building stock was built before 1990 and is energy inefficient.



Currently, only about 1% of the building stock is renovated each year.



89% of architectural practices are involved in designing private housing, making this the most important sector for architects.



Since 2020, the contribution of architects' private practices to Europe's economy has risen by 24%.



10% of architects in Europe offer a Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE) to find out whether the building performs in the way it was designed by the architect.



On average at EU level, 24% of architects use Building Information Modelling (BIM) tools and nearly half of them use 3D modelling tools.

Our Mission.

Our mission is to achieve high-quality architecture and living environments for all.

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The way we inhabit our planet is undoubtedly a driver of the unfolding climate and biodiversity crisis. The living environment we have created, and the way we manage it, consumes vast quantities of land, raw materials and fossil fuel energies – and generates significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and waste.

On the other hand, all too often in our cities, we are witnessing a loss of quality in our built environment, evident in the trivialisation of construction, the lack of design values and the deterioration of historic fabric.

We must act now, change the way our living environment is designed, built, maintained, renovated, managed and regulated. We need to adopt an attitude that favours the common

good and quality of life and puts people and nature at the core of all spatial and urban developments. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of these challenges at all governance levels.

The European Union, Member States and cities have embarked on a radical transformation of our built environment to make it less energy and resource-intensive, more resilient to climate change and more inclusive.

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Architects are agents of change. They have the necessary skill set to help local communities to re-imagine their living environments. In collaboration with the other stakeholders of the construction sector, they contribute to this paradigm shift, for more beautiful, sustainable and inclusive living environments.

Ruth Schagemann

ACE President

Promoting high-quality architecture and living environment for all

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In order to achieve this mission and create a shared culture of architecture, the Architects' Council of Europe advocates for the following actions to be taken:

Advance the highest standards in education and ensure the up-skilling of professionals

Establish a SME-friendly regulatory framework and support innovation in the sector

Favour architectural and planning solutions in the built environment

Promoting high-quality architecture and living environment for all

High-quality architecture and living environment create social, economic, environmental and cultural values and have a fundamental impact on people's everyday lives. They should therefore be considered as a matter of public interest.

CHALLENGE

How to achieve high-quality in the built environment?

SOLUTIONS

- 24 Recognise the value of Architecture as a key lever for a high-quality built environment, quality and affordable housing, as well as equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the built environment;
- Ensure that the values of the New European Bauhaus permeate new EU legislation and maximise synergies with the Davos *Baukultur* process.

CHALLENGE

How to support the work of European architects and promote high quality outcomes?

SOLUTION

Develop a Planning Services Directive to promote and disseminate the quality of planning services as an asset for the public interest.

AIM ↓

To create a shared culture of architecture and support investment in high-quality living environment for all

Action: **Advance the highest standards in education and ensure the up-skilling of professionals**

ACE advocates for maintaining the highest standards in education and the up-skilling of professionals in order to empower architects to meet challenges of our time.

CHALLENGE

How to increase the mobility of architects in the EU and support the export of their services?

DATA

In 2022, 21% of architects were educated in another country, and another 19% have seriously considered working in another country. Source: ACE Sector Study

SOLUTIONS

Incorporate in the Professional Qualifications Directive the international standard made up of a combined total of seven years of full-time education at university level and professional practice experience, or equivalent;

Continue to support the mobility of students and (young) professionals and resolve the problems of mixed qualifications;

Enhance the international mobility of architects and in particular assist SMEs by providing for the strict application of the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) to ensure reciprocal access to markets.

CHALLENGE

How to ensure the up-skilling of professionals?

DATA

24% of European architects use Building Information Modelling (BIM) tools and nearly half of them use 3D modelling tools. Source: ACE Sector Study

SOLUTION

Recognise the importance of Continuing Professional Development for the up-skilling of the profession and stop considering it as a regulatory restriction to the mobility of professionals in Europe.

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AIM ↓

To empower architects to meet the challenges of our time, including the digital and green transitions

Action: **Establish a SME-friendly regulatory framework and support innovation in the sector**

The vast majority of European architectural offices are micro-enterprises. Complex regulatory frameworks hinder their practice and reduce their capacity for innovation.

CHALLENGE

How to improve access to public procurement and encourage quality-based selection procedures?

DATA

28 *About one third of European architects declare that they did not make bids to OJEU bids because of insufficient turnover or insufficient past experience. Source: ACE Sector Study*

SOLUTION

Improve the EU Public Procurement Directive to provide better access for SME's and new entrants, favour quality and innovative approaches including Design Competitions, and provide a separate chapter on intellectual services;

CHALLENGE

How to reduce the administrative burden on architects' offices?

DATA

European architectural offices are micro-enterprises: 62% of them are one-man businesses, and 92% have 5 or fewer staff. Source: ACE Sector Study

SOLUTION

Support the aims of the SME Relief package to reduce bureaucracy and expand to include other SMEs friendly measures.

29**CHALLENGE**

How to support innovation in architecture and design?

DATA

Too few architectural practices are involved in research and innovation projects.

SOLUTION

Establish research funding streams, in particular small starter funds, to encourage architecture practices to explore design value and impact and apply research knowledge in live building projects.

AIM ↓

To help architects to remain competitive and innovative

Action: **Favour architectural and planning solutions in the built environment**

In the face of the climate and biodiversity crisis, urgent actions must be taken, including in the construction and buildings sector. Architectural and planning solutions can help to face the most pressing challenges of our time.

CHALLENGE

How to reduce the energy and resource consumption in the buildings and construction sector?

DATA

30 *The built environment is responsible for 36% of global energy-related carbon emissions, and for around 40% of the EU energy consumption. In the EU, the construction sector accounts for about half of all our extracted materials and generates about one third of all waste. Source: European Commission*

SOLUTION

Tackle the whole life environmental impacts of the built environment and encourage the application of circular economy principles in the construction sector.

CHALLENGE

How to boost renovation in the EU, to save energy and deliver healthier and more comfortable buildings for citizens?

DATA

75% of the EU building stock was built before 1990 and is energy inefficient. Source: European Commission

SOLUTIONS

Prioritise the renovation, transformation and re-use of existing buildings over demolition and new build; while taking into account socio-economic impacts.

Deliver energy retrofit along with functional and aesthetic upgrades of buildings and neighbourhoods to optimise the impacts of energy efficiency measures and improve the well-being of occupants.

CHALLENGE

How to adapt our living spaces to the new climatic conditions and restore biodiversity?

31

DATA

Europe is warming twice as fast as other continents, with extreme weather causing excess deaths and economic disruption. Source: World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

SOLUTION

Favour passive and nature-based solutions as well as traditional ecological knowledge.

AIM ↓

To decarbonise the EU building stock and tackle the global climate and biodiversity emergencies



What you can do as a European Architect:

Have your say

Use your vote

**What you can do as a Member of the
European Parliament (MEP):**

Take action

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Time
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**The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)
comprises 52 Member Organisations in
36 countries representing 620,000
architects.**

Its objectives are to:

Promote the importance and value of Architecture;

Support a living environment of the highest quality;

Safeguard the highest standards of education
& practice;

Foster cross-border practice of Architecture,
within the EU and beyond;

Act as the single voice for architects in Europe.

**ACE is available to work with the European
institutions to provide research, knowledge
and expertise.**

Concept and Design:
redandgrey.ie

Photography:
roskavanagh.com

Print:
Booxs.nl



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OUR AIMS ↓

To create a shared culture of architecture and support investment in high-quality living environment for all



To empower architects to meet the challenges of our time, including the digital and green transitions



To help architects to remain competitive and innovative



To decarbonise the EU building stock and tackle the global climate and biodiversity emergencies