To: UIA Member Section Presidents, UIA Commissions and Work Programmes  
cc: UIA Bureau and Council members

Subject: UIA COVID-19 Information Hub  
9 April 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We are all witnessing the havoc that the current COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking on humanity. While most countries are in various degrees of lockdown, the uncertainty of the success in curtailing the spread of the virus may see us requiring continued action and support well beyond 2020. There is an urgent need for action in addressing the requirements of our communities, to the best of our abilities.

The UIA represents the architects of the world. As such, we have a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise in the design and provision of space, structures, and services, for our communities. Some will also have existing relationships with their local and government leaders, in which such expertise will be of value to their countries. Others will have research experience in the provision of emergency or temporary shelters, healthcare facilities, isolation rooms and clean rooms. There will also be those well versed in adaptive reuse. Furthermore, our Commissions and Work Programmes can address some of the needs of the current crisis.

The UIA is organising a UIA COVID-19 Information Hub to compile material on the efforts and expertise of the world’s architects, including emergency healthcare facilities, policy initiatives and practice, legal and financial measures relevant to architects around the world. Its aim is to be a resource centre to facilitate support and guidance, related to the essence and specifics of the various ‘shelter’ types that are needed in this time of crisis. It will also be a repository of information helpful to all countries, both now and beyond, for future readiness.

We are aware that many architects are working to assist their own countries at this time. We are also aware of the difficulties being experienced by architects and practices globally. Some of these difficulties relate to projects on site, and others relate to the maintenance of one’s practice during the shutdown.

The UIA COVID-19 Information Hub will be made available on the UIA website in the coming days. In this regard, we ask you to send us your input in the following areas: housing, health facilities, temporary structures, field kitchens and ablutions, isolation and partition, triage, materials and finishes, ventilation, building services and waste disposal in a crisis; adaptive reuse where appropriate, safety and security, legal guidance in contracts and practice, funding relief models, etc. There will also be the need for the consideration of specific care facilities for the aged, persons with special needs, and those requiring care.

The UIA welcomes your contribution at this crucial time and looks forward to receiving them on: uia@uiarchitectes.org. We will send you regular updates on our various communication platforms. Please look after your loved ones and colleagues around the world, and keep well.

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Kevin Bingham, UIA Council member  
UIA COVID-19 Information Hub