UIA II region meeting and International Convention of Architecture in Budapest

The UIA II region meeting took place in Budapest, Hungary on 5th of March 2020. It was hosted by the Association of Hungarian Architects (AHA) in its headquarter in Ötpacsirta street. The main topics of the meeting were: presentations and consultations on the past year programs/architectural events, preparing for the UIA congress in Rio de Janeiro and discussion of amendments to the UIA statutes.

The participants were welcomed by András Krizsán (AHA President), Bence Balog (Prime Minister’s Office), Thomas Vonier (UIA President), Nikos Fintikakis (UIA Vice-President Region II.) Serban Tiganas (UIA Secretary General) and via mail Lorenz Bräker (UIA Vice-President Region I.)

In the first part of the meeting the participants were presented the detailed summaries of different members recent activities and programs, including but not limited to the detailed regional summary of the past 3 years of Region II by Nikos Fintikakis and the presentation of the recent&current competitions and related challenges by Jerzy Grochulski, Co-director of UIA International Competitions Commission.

In the next section of the meeting events, tasks and challenges were discussed which have basic influence on the future of the UIA. The chairman of these discussion was László Mikó from AHA. The first and very challenging topic was the reforms of the UIA structure. László Mikó highlighted that it is very important for every member to consult this initiative with its home organisation to form its own opinion. This should be the first step in order to discuss such modifications. The next important event in the UIA life will be the elections at RIO UIA congress. The meeting was special because it had the presence of the current
At the closing part of the meeting the presidents of international (BAUA, V4, UMAR) and REGII member associations made their short, but very informative and exciting presentations. Beside the numerous and successful projects presented, the participants stated that the challenges and tasks are similar and the cooperation must continue in the future as well.

At the end of the day the participants visited the old Town Hall of Buda, in the old Castle district. The guide through the recently revitalized Hungarian architectural prize winner historic building was the lead architect of the project, Levente Szabó.

On the next day, 6th of March 2020 the International Convention of Architecture took place in the conference centre, situated inside the recently finished national stadium of Hungary.

- adviser: Martha Thorne, Dean of IE School of Architecture and Design and executive director of the Pritzker Prize.
- chair: András Krizsán president of AHA.
The central theme was the healing architecture. “The idea of health and the city or the connection between wellness and the built environment is really a timely subject and many people are approaching this subject form many interesting viewpoints.” – said Martha Thorne. In May in the “Architects Declare” we read: “we are committing to strengthen our working practices to create architecture and urbanism that has a more positive impact on the world around us.” We are investigating this positive impact, on cities, on neighbourhoods, and on people.

The convention was opened with the welcome speeches of Krizsán András (AHA president) and Thomas Vonier (UIA president), Nikos Fintikakis (UIA Vice-President Region II.) and Zsolt Füleky (Deputy State Secretar). More than 900 participants had attended the exciting and instructive lectures presented by acknowledged architects:  
- Martha Thorne (IE School of Architecture and Design, Madrid)  
- Lekshmy Parameswaran and László Herczeg (The Care Lab, Barcelona)  
- Erik Frandsen (Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects, Copenhagen)  
- Nicola Scaranaro (Foster + Partners, London)  
- Antonio Ortiz (Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos, Sevilla)  
- Patrick Lüth (Snohetta, Innsbruck)

The closing program of the convention was a tour in the new Puskas Arena, guided by the Hungarian designers.

After the official program of the convention the lecturers and the UIA representatives were invited to a private dinner party organised by AHA. The intense two days were closed with a very good atmosphere and pleasant, friendly time spent together.

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