

# TAG-23

March 10-11-12, 2023

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Draft 220302

The 2023 Traditional Architecture Gathering  
The 2073 Architecture Awards

## ARCHITECTURE THAT ENDURES: "THE 2073 ARCHITECTURE AWARDS"

EST 1000 1015 | CET 1600 1615

**Session Presenters:** Column Mulhern, Craig Hamilton, Duncan Stroik, Hugh Petter, John Simpson, Mark Wilson-Jones, Nir Buras, Pablo Alvarez Funes, Phil Esocoff, Roger Jackson, Roger Jackson, Ruben Hanssen, Milly Main.

### **Session Description:**

Not since the Classical Councils of the early 2000s has a traditional architecture or urbanism event focused on larger projects and the firms most likely to impact the public realm in the long term. The focus of this opening session is devoted to buildings built recently that will look good in 50 years. Following a short presentation of the recent Sydney is Beautiful Competition, the panel will exhibit exemplary work, recognizing that time, use, patina, and weathering that increase attractiveness elevate human well-being and the potential for adaptive reuse.

### **HSW Justification:**

The buildings presented are deliberately designed to endure and reduce climate change by breaking the cycle of throw-away construction. The ultimate holism embedded in the principles of firmness, commodity, and delight yields buildings that typically endear themselves to the public as we live, work, and play in them. The perfect neuro-aesthetic fit for human habitation and use is also the most durable and adaptively reusable.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Understand how to build for the ages, in a sustainable way, and not perpetuating our throw-away construction culture. We will learn what makes these buildings both enduring and endearing to generations of visitors, patrons, and users.
2. Understand how beautiful buildings and spaces are pleasing to the eye and thereby healthier and better for the occupants and building users.
3. Learn the importance of building with noble materials that will last for more than one generation.
4. Understand the impact of enduring buildings on the communities in which they reside. Learn the impact on the urban environment of good architecture – how really good buildings become the catalyst for adjacent development and long-term use and enjoyment.

**Keywords:** resiliency, sustainability, urban health, safety, materiality, wellbeing

## AN ESSENTIAL PORTFOLIO: TOWARDS A RECONSTRUCTIVE & PHILOLOGICAL ARCHITECTURE FOR A BETTER WORLD

EST 1145 1230 | CET 1745 1830

**Session Presenter:** Lucien Steil

Bio

### Session Description:

The challenges we face today include war, disruptions to democracy, pandemic, and climate change. These directly impact the built environment. When contemplating building a better, more equitable, more beautiful and more diverse world, Léon Krier's call to a *moral and ecological task of reconstruction* is crucial, fundamental, and essential. As a teacher and practitioner, Lucien Steil considers the whole body of his work as '*didactic*'. It combines to define best practice as a whole in terms of the architect's particular commitment to the ideals of '*Good Life*' as guiding principles of an ethical, creative and fertile '*Vita Activa*'. He identifies in his talk the balance between the practical and artistic, the intellectual and poetic, the theoretical and pedagogical, insisting that both design and construction have to be equally informed and enhanced with such algorithmic ideals. This session discusses the challenges, the scenarios, and the toolkits for enduring fabric.

### HSW Justification:

40% of all energy use goes to the construction and operations of buildings. And 90% of all buildings extant were built since 1970. Contemporary design and construction -- these buildings we've built -- are direct contributors to global warming. Design and construction today must resolve these issues and meet these challenges effectively. The tools of traditional architecture and urbanism which we have, can help to alleviate these issues. Natural materials are known to provide less harbor for bacteria and viruses than plastics and metals, thereby improving the human condition. The lessons to emerge from the pandemic show the advantages of urbanism, which strengthens the native rhythms of life. We've learned the importance of a return to locally sourced natural materials and low energy-embedded materials such as wood, stone, plaster, patinaed ornamental metals, etc.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the contemporary trend of localism and its implications in architecture and urban design for improved health, safety, and welfare.
2. Understand how people and communities benefit from architecture and planning which expresses their shared history and cultural identity.
3. Understand the environmental benefits of a localized supply and production chain in the building industry. Learn how the materials we use can impact human health.
4. Understand the social benefits of human-oriented design and production of architecture, and the use of skilled building trades in both historic preservation and new construction.

**Keywords:** urbanism, healthy materials, energy usage, embodied energy, local materials, traditional architecture

## THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

EST 1300 1400 | CET 1900 2000

**Session Presenters:** Joseph Jutras and Nadia Everard

### **Session Description:**

A beautiful environment is essential to human wellbeing. Beauty is complex, but it is essential for the architect and designer to understand. An architect equipped with this knowledge can make informed and discretionary choices in selecting appropriate design elements for the best health, safety, and welfare outcomes. Traditional design education focuses on generating designs from the desired experience of the people who make use of the space within the science of human responses as well as historic precedent towards making beautiful architecture.

The multifold environmental, social, cultural, and economic concerns and issues are addressed head on by programs that focus on delivering holistic approaches, concepts, tools, and philosophies. A critical analysis of the current architectural education and pedagogy landscape indicates the necessity to reshape it to more relevant and useful for the 21st century challenges than what standard professional curricula provide.

### **HSW Justification:**

Mankind is living an unprecedented global crisis that should make us think critically about the present and future of Education. In our particular case, we should reflect on the present and future traditional and classical architectural and planning education. The concerns and issues, as we know, are multifold, from the environmental to the social, cultural and the economics. The 21st Century Education and Pedagogy of the world's Schools of Architecture should tackle those concerns and many others.

Leaders in new traditional education, Joseph Jutras (Institute of Traditional Architecture) and Nadia Everard (the co-founder of La Table Ronde de l'Architecture in Belgium) discuss the urban and social equity that traditional architecture and urbanism bring to practitioners and communities. They discuss the role of educators and universities in equipping the next generation of architects to succeed and lead us through the special health, safety, and welfare challenges of our times.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Become acquainted with the current pedagogical landscape of the most progressive hands-on architecture and urbanism programs to learn from them the value of teaching traditional architecture and urbanism over the contemporary curriculum and its liabilities. Learn of the lessons that positively shape the minds of the people who will shape our world.
2. Start a conversation, define a path, and understand the potential impact of the values and principles of classical and traditional urbanism and architecture on 21<sup>st</sup> century education and pedagogy to achieve short-term and long-term advances via "an ideal curriculum for the schools of architecture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century" that clearly addresses climate, social, and environmental needs.

3. Understand the importance of mindful equitable design projects in the urban environment. Learn how to promote equitable access, elevate the human experience, and thereby encourage social interaction. Discuss current trends and contrast with traditional and historical examples.
4. Learn how to safeguard the public by reducing the potential for harm to the occupants, users, and any others affected by a building or site.

**Keywords:** sustainability, green architecture and urbanism, green wash, education, multi-family, urban design, urban planning,

## ORIGINAL GREEN AND ROMAN CONSTRUCTION: STEVE MOUZON AND MATTHEW BRONSKI

EST 1400 1500 | CET 2000 2100

**Session Presenters:** Steve Mouzon (Original Green) and Matthew Bronski (Roman Construction)

### **Session Description:**

Steve Mouzon (The Original Green) and Matthew Bronski (engineer expert on ancient Roman construction materials and methods) discuss the relevance to contemporary design and construction the traditional and sustainable construction methodologies and in architecture.

Architects have to take leadership in promoting sustainable, healthy design. Obviously, training the next generation of architects is directly germane to the public welfare. Architects have to know to specify design standards and materials and systems that at the very least support a healthy environment and individual mental and physical wellbeing. They have to be educated to avoid materials and techniques—however innovative—which are known to damage the environment, are heavy users of energy in their production, and extremely costly in their maintenance. Anything reducing public stress and increasing sustainability on this planet is centrally benefits the public good.

### **HSW Justification:**

A new generation of architects are returning to their material and structural roots for inspiration. The “New Traditionalists” offer fresh perspectives with a primary focus on durability, sustainability, and adaptive reuse. Considered a holistic discipline, architecture is strongly integrated from the urban scale to the details of construction. This community of designers are cosmopolitan and diverse, learning from plurality of local traditions. Attention is paid to the use of local, low-tech, sustainable materials in the development of authentic regional architecture. New Traditional principles offer the promise of innovative architecture which sustains diverse local traditions and reduces our reliance on fossil fuels for increased human wellbeing, safety, and performance. For the first time, the wellbeing of construction workers and tradespersons is being considered as part of the HSW spectrum of responsibilities of architects.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Learn the advantages of using traditional materials and building methods in new construction. Such practices are alive in heritage preservation, and promote environmental health, longevity, adaptability, and supply chain equity.
2. Learn how modern design tools empower more designers and fabricators to create complex traditional and modern designs and enrich our built environment for a humanistic future of construction relying on the building trades and hands-on apprenticeship programs more the mental and social wellbeing of worker and user alike.
3. Learn how the living traditions of local craftsmanship add to the aesthetic fractal characteristics of a building or space, helping reduce stress.
4. Learn how traditional, “low-tech” architectural design solutions elegantly address the climate crisis by reducing pollution and energy waste and using nontoxic healthy materials.

5. Learn how the reduced energy costs and system requirements facilitate the ease of operation and maintenance of such buildings.

#### **Session 23-1-05**

### **21ST CENTURY FABRIC AND URBANISM WITH A FOCUS ON MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS: PHIL ESOCOFF (WASHINGTON DC), JOHN SIMPSON (LONDON), AND RAYMOND LOÏC CHAN (PARIS)**

EST 1515 1645 | CET 2115 2245

**Session Presenters:** Phillip Esocoff; John Simpson; Raymond Loïc Chan

#### **Session Description:**

This session engages equally weighted experts in an open discussion among peers. International architects, they share how they have generated measurable and predictable outcomes in their work. Their shared mission is the making of Good Places, “kalotopias” as opposed to “dystopias”. The best places benefit the public as they interact with the man-made world. The importance of a holistic understanding of the mind, spirit, and physical self is emphasized, as well as the benefits of multidisciplinary collaboration. Phil Esocoff (Washington DC), John Simpson (London) and Raymond Loïc Chan (Paris) discuss and compare the poetics of fabric in the service of community building—making beautiful and meaningful places and spaces.

The New Traditional Urbanism and Architecture based on a craft-economy, backed by long-term, millennial experience, are the only coherent theory and practice of environmental action to this day. They are the only serious countermodel to suburbia and motopia. They are an essential part of a reconstruction project of a human scale democracy, economy and built environment. The many architects and craftsmen who practice them around the world despite their modernist architectural education, against overwhelming peer pressure, against bureaucratic and academic sabotage, are sustained by wide public support and market demand. Architects and planners are faced with an existential choice to either serve a totalitarian dystopia or to plan and build the Common Good.

#### **HSW Justification:**

Good architecture is essential to the wellbeing of people. As the trend of urban resettlement accelerates, the design of sustainable cities is perhaps the most essential focus of ensuring a sustainable future on Earth. For that, a defined set of principles which support human wellbeing and environmental sustainability are proposed in the work presented. Describing achievable and relevant interventions that will result in a reduced reliance on automobiles, improved pedestrian safety and enjoyment, reduced burden on public transit, and socioeconomic diversity within mixed-use neighborhoods, these projects serve as HSW case studies which can be implemented globally.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

1. An investigation of historic urban generators, and the identification of opportunities for improvement.
2. The formula of designing Civitas, or a “true city”, through the measured integration of public space, economic space, and residential space..

3. The importance of density in establishing walkable streets and reduced commute burden, which result in greater health and mental wellbeing in citizens.
4. The importance of diversity in urban planning; mixing typologies and uses in semi-autonomous districts, which results in greater social cohesion, reduced burden on centralized infrastructure, and measurably increased individual, neighborhood, and urban health, safety, and wellbeing.



## THE RE-CREATIONAL DIALOG: TODAY'S CHALLENGING REALITIES THAT MAKE US UNCOMFORTABLE

EST 1015 1115 | CET 1615 1715

**Session Presenter:** Philip Esocoff, FAIA

**Session Description:**

After the heroic beginning of the modernist movement, disregard for human experience and having all its eggs in the technological basket make it analogous to a ship at sea without a rudder. Today we know that recent design promotes anxiety and masks strangeness and “WOW” as progress, while actively working against beauty. On the backdrop of the exigencies of pandemic and global warming, Washington, DC architect Phil Esocoff FAIA re-creates a genuine dialogue to support human community, thriving in life, and human well-being in the built environment. Esocoff presents significant design at the intersection of the construction methodologies and its Height Act in Washington. The use of flat plate post tensioned concrete structural systems that it drives, combined with the allowance to project forward of the front property line will be explained. How to use this allowance in creative ways to enrich the character and quality of the public realm will be explained and illustrated.

**HSW Justification:**

The purpose of this session is to learn from case studies of work from over a 40-year period the impact of zoning codes, structural systems, as well as environmentally responsible HVAC systems employed to reduce energy usage in these buildings. It will describe the establishment of significant rooftop gardens that detain and retain storm water will be explained. And of Session , green roofs with pools and individual vegetable gardens for residents.

This class will delve into the exterior envelopes used and how all these systems were evolved in terms of materials and energy efficiency. It will engage thinking regarding how to improve through design choices the physical, emotional, and social well-being of occupants, users, and any others affected by buildings and sites, safeguarding the occupants, users, and any others affected by a building or site by reducing the potential for harm to them. Promoting equitable access, it will demonstrate how good design elevates human experience, and encourages social interaction, while benefitting the environment through design and materials choices.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Learn about Historic Districts and understand preservation theory and practice. Specifically in the Federally Designated areas of the nation’s capital, overseen by the Commission of Fine Arts, which defines compatibility and oversees building approvals in the context of community and equity.
2. Learn how to better integrate the building systems, material selection, and material assemblies in a developing project.
3. Learn about the evolution of durable and energy efficient masonry cavity wall construction.
4. Learn about modern means and methods for creating rich ornamental elements using cast stone and precast concrete.

**Keywords:** historic districts, building height, flat plate, HVAC, energy recovery, public realm, roof-top garden, green roof, building envelope, masonry cavity wall, ornament, cast stone

## DEEP GREEN – 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WELL-BEING

EST 1115 1315 | CET 1715 1915

**Session Moderator:** Nadia Everard

**Session Presenters:** Alejandro Garcia Hermida, Colum Mulhern, Passiv Haus, Cory Rouillard, and Steve Tilly; Vetter Stone

### **Session Description:**

An international panel of architects, designers, urban planners, and craftspeople who practice around the world discuss their work to promote sustainability, local context, tradition, technology, and trades through their professional practice of design and construction. The ascent of Passiv Haus and New Traditionalism from fringe to establishment is noted, along with the opportunities for adapting many of its principles world-wide. Such efforts have already established a supportive academic and professional context for regional technology, design heritage and skills development. New Traditionalism has established a supportive academic and professional context for the design heritage and skills of all regions, notably Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. Topics will cover the intersection of design and the building arts; the place of craftsmanship in the Machine Age, traditional passive solar adaptations and their usefulness today, the Passiv Haus playbook, and the Christopher Alexander playbook,

### **HSW Justification:**

The perpetuation of a diverse pool of talent and skills is essential to produce buildings and cities which satisfy modern sustainability and energy needs. Unchecked globalization has produced both an environmental and a social crisis. Expanding our reliance on localized economies will increase awareness and accountability for waste and pollution. Applying passive technologies will radically support durability and low energy usage. In addition, training and employing skilled designers and tradespeople will strengthen the social fabric. The New Traditional movement has demonstrated these outcomes in the UK and other European nations, and American health, safety, and welfare practices will benefit greatly from their lessons learned.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1 Understand the advantages of using traditional materials and building methods in new construction. Such practices are alive in heritage preservation, and promote environmental health, longevity, adaptability, and supply chain equity.
- 2 Understand that technologically newer is not necessarily better, and that the Zeitgeist may distract from what is best for the common good. Understand that the traditional method(s) and knowledge bases are rooted not in myth but in centuries of fine observation and diligent practice.
- 3 Understand the importance of craft in building and design; that the holistic human touch gives a richness and beauty that modern materials and machines simply cannot. Learn to appreciate the work of skilled crafts people and learn to design and specify for handmade work and historic and traditional materials.
- 4 Understand that architecture serves the people, and the architect or designer's obligation to the public in terms of equity is as great as their obligation to their clients. Learn that seeing

architecture as a sequence of historic styles alone diminishes its potential to adequately serve its roles in anticipating durability and adaptive reuse.

**Keywords:** craft, hand-made, style, beauty, traditional architecture, urbanism, cultural diversity, durability, health, ecology, resilience

"5-RING ARCHITECTURAL NEUROSCIENCE CIRCUS": NEUROAESTHETIC  
PHENOMENOLOGY; NEUROAESTHETICS AND VAS (VISUAL ATTENTION  
SOFTWARE) THE HAND-EYE-BRAIN NEXUS; ARE CARS IDENTIFIED AS LARGE  
ANIMALS?; AND MEMORY IS LOCATIONAL

EST 1325 1425 | CET 1925 2025

**Session Moderator:** Ann Sussman

**Session Presenter:** Alexandros Lavedas, Nir Buras, Aenne Brielmann, Michael Mehaffy

**Session Description:**

While most architects are oblivious to neuroscience developments, the car companies have been applying the research results for some decades now. This session discusses the latest research on neuroscience and evidence-based design in architecture. Architect and researcher Ann Sussman presents using modern eye-tracking software to analyze the human unconscious response to architectural facades and urban settings. Such software is used effectively by marketers and can be an asset to the architectural profession in designing attractive spaces. Alexandros Lavdas will discuss his ground-breaking research on VAS analysis. Prof. Richard Tylor of the University of Oregon will discuss the implications of the fact that memory is locational. Max Planck Institute researcher Aenne Brielmann will discuss the hand-eye-brain nexus and suggest its applicability in architecture and construction. Architect and author Dr. Nir Buras will bring for the first time in public the new research suggesting that automobiles are neurovisually processed as large animals.

**HSW Justification:**

Good architecture is much more than aluminum extrusions, glass, veneers, stucco, and metals. Making good buildings and great spaces requires a new understanding of how we perceive and evaluate our environment. This has a neuro-cognitive component which we now understand and can explain and track. Designers can know in advance the positive impact their work can have on people as they move through the buildings – what they'll look at and enjoy, what they'll find beautiful and pleasing. People will enjoy the buildings and their health and well-being will be improved. We can purposefully design for beauty, meaning, and richness in architecture—and thereby access an increasingly broad spectrum of health, safety, and welfare benefits therefrom.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Learn how modern eye-tracking research can be an asset to the architectural profession in evaluating design of spaces.
2. Understand how our memory is locational and how we can design spaces and places to enrich our experiences and underpinning urban memory.
3. Understand how cars and vehicles in the modern world are processed by the ancient human mind as large animals; and how designers and urban planners can make the experience of streets and the public domain more meaningful and walkable—and less stressful.
4. Learn how the hand-eye-brain nexus works and its application in architecture, building arts, society, and the construction economy.

**Keywords:** eye-tracking, neuroscience, cars, urbanism, urban planning, human scale, beauty, detail, memory, eye-brain connection

## FABRIC IN MOTION: CREATE STREETS, PORT GRIMAUD, PENN STATION, CAYALA, PLESSIS ROBINSON, AND VAL D'EUROPE

EST 1425 1555 | CET 2025 2155

**Session Moderator:** Maria Sanchez (Cayala)

**Session Presenters:** Robert Kwolek (Create Streets), Damu Radashuar and Cezar Nicolaescu (Rebuild Penn Station), Bernard Durand-Rival (Val D'Europe)

### **Session Description:**

A new generation of architects are returning to their cultural and locational roots for inspiration. The “New Traditionalists” offer fresh perspectives with a primary focus on the human experience in architecture. They consider architecture to be a holistic discipline, strongly integrated from the urban scale to the details of construction. This community of designers are cosmopolitan and diverse, favoring a plurality of local traditions over an “international style”. New Traditional principles offer the promise of innovative architecture which sustains diverse local traditions. It promotes human-scale built environments for increased human wellbeing, safety, and performance.

A panel of international architects, scientists, and artists share how they have generated measurable and predictable outcomes from the shared mission of making Good Places, “kalotopias” which benefit the public who interact with the man-made world, as opposed to “dystopias”. The importance of a holistic understanding of the mind, spirit, and physical self is emphasized, as well as the benefits of multidisciplinary collaboration. Questions from the audience are shared after a live slideshow presentation from each panelist.

Contemporary practitioners discuss the revival of traditional design principles in their respective regions and projects. Drawing from projects and built work, each panelist describes the value of traditional knowledge in the furtherance of human wellbeing, sustainability, and multicultural representation. Questions from the audience are shared after a live slideshow presentation from each panelist.

### **HSW Justification:**

“Are we entering a new era of diversity and tolerance?” After a long reign of homogenizing “International Styles,” respect for local customs and context is gaining ground in the architectural profession,. Approaching design with a site-specific process and knowledge of local resources, climate, and history produces cities and buildings which benefit social and environmental health, public safety, and individual wellbeing.

As Architects, Planners, and Urban Designers, our clients often ask us to solve a problem based on pre conceived opinions, compounded by budget constraints and other pressures, leading us away from exploring more favorable positions that might be staring us in the face. But, on occasion we are successful in assessing the broader context, grabbing our pencils and illustrating designs that carry a special impact.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Good urban design is essential to the wellbeing of people. As the trend of urban resettlement accelerates, the design of sustainable cities is perhaps the most essential focus of ensuring a sustainable future on Earth.

2. Fitting the old and the new requires and encourages community engagement. Learn the contemporary trend of localism and its implications in architecture and urban design for improved health, safety, and welfare.
3. Understand how people and communities benefit from architecture and planning which expresses their shared history and cultural identity. Understand the social benefits of human-oriented design and production of architecture, and the use of skilled building trades in both historic preservation and new construction.
4. A traditional process manages the beauty, feasibility, and social forces that shape cities and fabric, maintaining optionality in design, and simplifying codes to provide great urban robustness. Understand the environmental benefits of a localized supply and production chain. Buildings transcend individual preferences, integrate sustainable modes, and build on the genuine sense of a location. Understand the importance of diversity in urban planning in mixing typologies and uses in fabric for greater social cohesion, reduced burden on centralized infrastructure, and measurably increased individual, neighborhood, and urban health, safety, and wellbeing.

**Keywords:** Urbanism, New Urbanism, Urban planning, Human scale, Collaboration, Digital age

## AI AND THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURE

EST 1600 1650 | CET 2200 2250

**Session Moderator:** Nikos Salingaros

**Session Panel:** Zac Kane, Johan Recen

### Session Description:

A new challenging dilemma has emerged: Architecture by people or by computation machines? This session focuses on a discussion to understand the arguments for both. Do traditional methods matter if modern technology can produce design by way of automation? Is computer-driven and machine made just the same because someone somewhere has to plan it and execute it? Is there a discernable difference? Does one mean more than the other? Is there a cost difference? Do people still know how to do this kind of work? Architects and their projects are now challenged by BIM, chatbots, AI-design programs, and other type of automation. But what is the real challenge in light of science repeatedly pointing to the facts that there is no good urbanism without good architecture, and that traditional forms still make the most holistic buildings and spaces for people? Without negating any technology per se, this session discusses the value and meaning of human-wrought design as opposed to computer-driven machine-made work.

### HSW Justification:

Architecture was long ago called the mother art. While new research shows that traditional architecture is more engaging and that it improves the experience of the building users and visitors. While science proves and demonstrates this, we are still at some distance from bringing our built environment into better alignment with the natural ecosystems of our own bodies and planet. Ultimately, dimming the aura of the term AI and renaming it for what it is—machine automation—brings back the human into design, and urges us to holistically comprehend the timeless hands-on design and construction knowledge and their genuine positive impact on the health, safety, and welfare of people and buildings.

### Learning Objectives:

1. What is intelligence? What is AI? Learn how the latest technologies used to automate architectural design serve the environment, communities, and people?.
2. Understand the limits of machine computation vs. real people designing and making real things.
3. Is machine-made design “just as good” in terms of equity? Is it true that “no one will know the difference”?
4. Identify the opportunities for holistic architectural training available in today’s modern world.

**Keywords:** craft, building arts, AI, machine made, education, training, technology

## LEADING-EDGE ARCHITECTURAL TRAINING: EDUCATIONAL INTENT AND DESIGN RESULTS

EST 1650 1750 | CET 2250 0015

**Session Moderator:** Pablo Alvarez Funes (Classic Planning Academy).

**Session Presenters:** Ruben Hanssen and Flavio Diaz Miron (Utrecht Summer School), Nadia Everard (La Table Ronde de l'Architecture), A.G.Hermida (INTBAU Spain).

### Session Description:

For the world to bring human well-being back to the center of architectural and urban design, it requires an education that does just that – teaching of materials and methods that support this theme and the wielding of architecture and design to improve the human condition. This session will discuss current trends in architectural education and contrast the “usual” education in modernist-based schools, and the education available in the new traditional architecture-based educational programs. We’ll celebrate the latest achievements by a group of outstanding students.

### HSW Justification:

Architects have to take leadership in promoting sustainable healthy design. Obviously, educating the next generation of architects is directly germane to the public welfare. Architects must know to specify design standards and materials and systems that support a healthy environment and individual mental and physical wellbeing. They must be educated to avoid materials and techniques—however innovative—which are known to damage the environment, are heavy users of energy in their production, and are costly in their maintenance. Anything reducing public stress and increasing sustainability on this planet benefits the public good.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the educational opportunities available today and their differences in teaching methods, design philosophies, and projected outcomes.
2. Understand the role of educators and universities in equipping the next generation of architects to succeed and lead us through the special health, safety, and welfare challenges of our era.
3. Identify the value of traditional knowledge in the furtherance of human wellbeing, sustainability, and multicultural representation.
4. Identify and appreciate the good work of current and recent students. See what they know at this early stage of their career and appreciate their education.

**Keywords:** education, teaching, well-being, philosophy, sustainability, architecture, urbanism, design education



## CELEBRATING THE FOUNDERS: FOUNDATIONAL ALGORITHMS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FABRIC

EST 1100 1200 | CET 1700 1800

**Session Moderator:** Nir Buras

**Session Presenters:** Leon Krier, Robert Adam, James Stevens Curl, Andres Duany and Lizz Plater-Zyberk, Richard Cameron, Anne Fairfax, Richard Sammons

### **Session Description:**

The New Traditional movement was initiated by Henry Hope Reed in the US and kept alive by its union with the Institute of Classical Architecture, founded by Donald Rattner, Richard Cameron, Anne Fairfax, and Richard Sammons in New York. In continental Europe and internationally, Leon Krier more than anyone led the traditional architecture and urbanism movement. Robert Adam has led it in the UK; and Prof. James Stevens Curl. Back in the US, Andres Duany and Lizz Plater-Zyberk have been the central figures of the Congress for the New Urbanism, the first US organization to address planning and urbanism from a humanistic perspective. Together, these individuals are among the most notable to have carried the torch promoting the best environments for human well-being since World War II. In a retelling of the deep wisdom they have brought to the practice, this group exemplifies the broader set of principles behind design for surviving climate change and developing environments for the best human well-being and equity.

### **HSW Justification:**

Human well-being does not reside in materials, technology, and design alone. The principles of those who have taught, practiced, and established institutions to service that health, safety and welfare by way of the built environment open the windows to knowledge and practice that are so precious in resolving today's—and tomorrow's--challenges. They have taught us how to improve through design choices the physical, emotional, and social well-being of occupants, users, and others affected by buildings and sites; how to safeguard the public by reducing the potential for harm to the occupants, users, and passersby; to elevate the human experience; and to benefit the environment through design and materials choices.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Learn how the principles of Henry Hope Reed, who saved Grand Central Terminal, contributed to equitable access, elevated the human experience, and thereby promoted to positive social interaction.
2. Learn how the founders of the ICAA promoted techniques and technology that help safeguard the public by reducing the potential for harm to the occupants, users, and others and are best adapted to promoting human well-being.
3. Understand the principles of architects designers, authors, lecturers, theorists, teachers, and founders of New Urbanism Leon Krier, Lizz Plater-Zyberk, and Andres Duany who have led the US and international efforts devoted to improving, through design choices, the physical, emotional, and social well-being of occupants, users, and citizens.
4. Learn from James Stevens Curl, the historian of Modernism, and Robert Adam, the founder of the Traditional Architecture Group at the AIA's UK counterpart, the RIBA, how to better

anticipate the post-occupancy evaluation of projects based on the design principles inherent in them.

**Keywords:** the masters, legacy, contribution, ICAA, CNU, history, design, traditional architecture, knowledge

## YOUNG LEADERSHIP MEETS THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

EST 1200 1300 | CET 1800 1900

**Session Moderator:** Maria Sanchez (Cayala)

**Session Presenters:** Nadia Everard (La Table Ronde de l'Architecture, Belgium), Michael Diamant (Architecture Uprising, Sweden), Ruben Hanssen (Aesthetic City, Netherlands), Milly Main (Street Level, Australia), Alejandro Garcia Hermida (INTBAU Spain).

### **Session Description:**

New and emerging voices are working around the world to foster and continue the vision of a beautiful, sustainable, and equitable built environment. These young practitioners are the people who will take us into the future. A new generation of architects are returning to their cultural roots for inspiration. The “New Traditionalists” offer fresh perspectives with a primary focus on the human experience in architecture. Architecture is considered as a holistic discipline, strongly integrated from the urban scale to the details of construction. This community of designers is cosmopolitan and diverse, favoring a plurality of local traditions over an “international style”. Attention is paid to the use of local, low-tech, sustainable materials in the development of authentic regional architecture.

### **HSW Justification:**

New Traditional principles offer the promise of innovative architecture which sustains diverse local traditions and reduces our reliance on the energy grid and environmentally destructive materials. It promotes human-scale built environments for increased human wellbeing, safety, and performance. This session outlines the principles, processes, and products of their thinking moving forward. It guides towards principles regarding how to better design, construct, and utilize buildings and the built environment; how to approach the project requirements, constraints, and opportunities in order to elevate the human experience, and thereby encourage social interaction aspects of design and buildings; all towards improving through design choices the physical, emotional, and social well-being of occupants, users, and any others affected by buildings and sites; while promoting equitable access; and how to benefit the environment through design and materials choices.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Understand the defense and teaching of beautiful, humane, and durable architecture and its associated crafts. Learn the importance of specialized design programs on urbanism, architecture, and construction.
2. Understand the fundamental principles that make our buildings stand the test of time including the use of strong and resilient building materials and the regulating capacities of the materials composing perimeter walls
3. Learn about, and then learn to avoid construction materials and techniques that are strongly discouraged for reasons of durability, health, ecology, maintenance, sustainability, and their deleterious effects on the human condition.
4. Understand the adaptability of a building's structure and its resistance to the elements. Learn the relevance of solid masonry, and the clever and sustainable use of wood.

**Keywords:** durable architecture, pattern books, curricula, building materials, moisture, facade, ventilation, daylight, flashing, masonry, wood, sustainability, human condition, architectural rebellion.

## WITOLD RYBCZYNSKI ON WHY ORNAMENT MATTERS: LECTURE AND RESPONSE PANEL

EST 1300 1500 | CET 1900 2100

**Session Presenter:** Witold Rybczynski (U Penn)

**Bio:** Witold Rybczynski is an architect and writer. He is the author of 22 books, including *Home, A Clearing in the Distance*, a prize-winning biography of Frederick Law Olmsted, and *How Architecture Works*, which has been translated into Chinese, Korean, Turkish, and Polish. He has been architecture critic for *Wigwag* and *Slate*, and was awarded the Vincent Scully Prize, Cooper-Hewitt's National Design Award, and the Anthony J. Lukas Book Prize. He is the Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor of Urbanism Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania and lives in Philadelphia.

**Session Panel:** Dan Morales, David Andreozzi, Elizabeth McNichols, Matthew Bell, Phil Esocoff, Alexandros Lavdas, Nir Buras

**Session Format:** Live Zoom / Video Panel with slideshow and Discussion

**Session Level:** Intermediate

**Prerequisite Knowledge:** None/Basic knowledge of architectural terminology and history

**Session Date:** 12 March 2023

### Session Description:

While writing his book *The Story of Architecture* (Yale University press, 2023) Prof. Witold Rybczynski recalled that ornament has always had a central role in architecture, whether in the hieroglyphics that decorate the columns of ancient Egyptian temples, or the bas-reliefs over the entrance to Thirty Rock in Rockefeller Center in New York. He found that ornament plays several different functions in a building: Ornamental patterns can modulate blank surfaces and create visual interest; without its gold-ground mosaics, St. Marks Basilica in Venice would be just a big barn.

Trompe-l'oeil: ornament can mimic foliage, lacework, and drapery, which happens in column capitals, medieval linenfold paneling, rope moldings, and wrought ironwork. Ornament can be used to provide actual meaning, sometimes as decorative lettering, sometimes as representational statues and bas-reliefs. The eagle above the central pavilion of the Federal Reserve building in Washington, DC, for example, indicates that this is a government building. Ornament in the form of murals, frescoes, and decorative carvings, introduces a different artistic sensibility into a building: when we visit the Villa Barbaro outside Vicenza, for example, we experience Palladio and Veronese.

Not least, ornamental details are something to look at when you get close to the building—bolt heads, gaskets, and caulking are just not that interesting. These different functions often overlap, and ornament can fulfill one or more functions at a time. Though not a prescriptive lecture, Prof. Rybczynski's talk suggests that ornament is not simply a frill, but that it rather adds important dimensions to a building. The second part of the session will consist of a panel which further bridges the contemporary understanding of ornament with its rich, utilitarian past—and inspirational future.

### HSW Justification:

While seemingly an afterthought or pasted "add-ons," it is suggested that the bolt heads, gaskets, trusses, exposed metal elements and their connections in fact function as a type of latter-day ornament. That raises the question of what ornament in fact contributes to the experience of the built environment. Prof. Rybczynski starts off the conversation with his observations and the panel will dive deeply into how science proves the necessity of experiencing ornament to bring our built environment into better

alignment with the natural ecosystems of our own brains and bodies. Since the experience of art imitates the experience of nature, the closer you look at a building the more you need to see. No longer a peripheral matter, ornament is obviously at the center of the design-experience nexus. In fact, central to the idea of ornament in buildings is the neuroaesthetic requirement to reduce stress by informing passersby of its use, history, narrative, and meaning

Carved depictions, stylizations, or abstractions of foliage, lacework, and drapery, even animals and people; column capitals, representational statues and bas-reliefs, linenfold paneling, rope moldings, and wrought ironwork, to say nothing of decorative lettering; ornamental patterns modulate blank surfaces to create visual interest enhancing the aesthetic experience as in the gold-ground mosaics, of St. Marks Basilica in Venice or elevating it as in the murals by Veronese, Michelangelo, and Tiepolo; enriching as the trompe-l'oeil faux paintings of Pompeii introduce complementary artistic sensibility into the narrative of a buildings and spaces—in a mentally-required neuroaesthetic mechanism.

And while doing all that, ornament adds important dimensions to a building, not least serving with different elements that protect the facade (cornice, moldings, roofing, flashing, etc.), and the principles of natural ventilation and day-lighting to enhance the human experience. In addition to climate resilience, ornament hides connections and protects materials from corrosion and weathering; Finally, the uniquely-human hand-eye-brain relationship may well prove to be both the ultimate reason for the human drive to ornament things, and the cause for the ultimate human enjoyment of it in a sort of bio-sympathetic process similar to what we experience in watching sprouts.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Understand the human neurological response to ornament, and its implications for physical, mental, and social wellbeing.
2. Learn how to decode ornament and translate visual parameters effectively in designs
3. Understand in which programs and contexts ornament can have the greatest benefits to health, safety, and welfare.
4. Learn the documented historic precedent for design and ornament focused on biological beauty in cultures around the world; its common themes and particular differences.

**Keywords:** beauty, organic, ornament, biological sources, well-being, architecture, urbanism, human scale, collaboration, hand work, digital age. Ornament, hand-eye

Photo: Nahlah Ayed