

Message to UIA Barcelona

from

ARC•PEACE international architects designers planners for social responsibility

High time to change the core of our professions:

- work for peaceful use of resources
- exercise human rights to housing
- create sustainable environments

Habitat II has proved that architects and planners directly or indirectly curtail life qualities of the many by satisfying the demand of the few. Our professions take active part in the transfer of resources between different sectors and groups both in rich and poor societies. If education neglects the social role of our work, students will lose their professional compass. If the creation of cities and buildings is reduced to the fulfillment of architectural goals, our legitimacy has to be questioned.

ARC•PEACE is aware of the difficulties met by many colleagues when they want to apply "social responsibility" to practice, research or education. Main reasons for this are our dependence on economic interests as well as lack of democracy and just land and housing policies in many countries.

A primary task of UIA - the Union of the "Architects of the World" - is to establish and maintain an ethic code which helps the individual member to preserve integrity and independence built on competence in relation to clients, authorities and the public.

With satisfaction ARC•PEACE has noticed the UIA Habitat II Declaration. We strongly support the ideas and goals expressed. The credibility of UIA depends on if the Declaration will guide the practical work and concrete results of the Barcelona Congress.

Istanbul and Stockholm, June 1996

On behalf of the ARC•PEACE Executive Committee

Sven Thiberg
chairman of ARC•PEACE