



## The New European Bauhaus

### *Making the Renovation Wave a Cultural Project*

### STATEMENT

We, the representative European organisations of architects, spatial planners, landscape architects, interior architects, engineers, designers, artists, cultural workers, educators and researchers of the built environment, and more broadly of the cultural and creative sectors enthusiastically welcome the *New European Bauhaus* initiative put forward by the President of the European Commission as part of the Renovation Wave strategy.

With this initiative, the European Commission complements the economic, social and environmental measures of the Renovation Wave strategy with an essential *cultural dimension*. By making the Renovation Wave a *cultural project*, including all stakeholders, and by including *architectural quality* and *design quality* as key principles to steer it, the Commission initiates a fundamental shift. This can be a game-changer in the transition to a more sustainable economy and society and will bring the Green Deal closer to citizens for their well-being.

It opens the door to a more *holistic approach* to our built environment, seeking to enhance, at the same time, economic, social, environmental and cultural values, as well as access to culture and cultural participation. Thus, it builds on the 2018 Davos Declaration *Towards a high-quality Baukultur* and principles included in the New Leipzig Charter and, in its implementation, will help to reach the UN Sustainable Development goals.

In this holistic approach, the *cultural dimension* is central. It goes far beyond aesthetic considerations and is the main driver for *quality planning processes* and *quality projects*, as well as a source of inspiration and innovation for the other pillars of sustainability, given that arts are providers of crucial twenty-first century competencies, such as critical thinking and problem solving.

The holistic thinking and cultural approach that underpin the New European Bauhaus initiative must lie at the heart of the Renovation Wave strategy and inspire all its measures to raise the full potential of the strategy and achieve a 'quality renovation wave', making a difference in people's minds and quality of life, and achieving Europe's climate neutrality objective.

This holistic approach is needed at all spatial scales, whatever the size of the project – from landscape architecture to town planning, neighbourhood development, infrastructure, buildings and interior architecture and design. We very much welcome the ambition of the European Commission to facilitate exchanges across disciplines, as we share the view that it is the best way to spur creativity and innovation. It reflects well how our professions work, every day, on the ground.

Through our respective networks, we are ready to support the development of this initiative, notably by:

- **acting as an information platform**, able to reach a large audience via its member organisations;
- **assisting the implementation of the key principles of the strategy** in the education, as well as the research agendas of schools and institutes;
- **identifying and collecting best practice examples and innovative projects**;
- **enabling contact with renowned professionals and experts**, who would be able to give greater visibility to the initiative;
- **offering a knowledge and expertise hub**, to help the European Commission to further design the initiative and ensure that its process delivers the desired outcomes;
- **facilitating initiatives to upskills** professionals in the targeted sectors;
- **obtaining inputs from public authorities and decision-makers**, with whom we are in regular contact in our daily professional practice at all governance levels;
- **acting as a partner for co-organising consultations, co-creation initiatives, and awareness-raising events** targeting professionals, students and citizens.

We are very much looking forward to collaborating with the European Commission and all stakeholders to make this initiative a success.

**This statement is endorsed by the following pan-European organisations:**



The [Architects' Council of Europe \(ACE\)](#) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level. Its membership consists of 43 Member Organisations, which are the regulatory and professional representative bodies in all EU Member States, UK, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of 562.000 architects from 31 countries in Europe.



The [Architectural Research European Network Association \(ARENA\)](#) is an open, inclusive and comprehensive network for architectural researchers across Europe. Founded in 2013, ARENA at present consists of 38 research centre representatives from 35 institutions in 15 different European countries.



The [Alliance for Solar Mobility \(ASOM\)](#) aims to become the cooperative European platform to establish and foster Solar Mobility. We share a vision of solar powered, eco-positive electric transport, a passion for functional and beautiful products and multi-disciplinary engineering and design. ASOM's members are research institutes, companies, universities and design schools.



[Culture Action Europe \(CAE\)](#) is the major European network of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policymakers. It is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about arts and cultural policy in the EU. As the only intersectoral network, it brings together all practices in culture, from the performing arts to literature, the visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives, to community centres and activist groups. CAE believes in the value and values of culture and its contribution to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.



[Cumulus](#) is the leading global association to serve art and design education and research. It is a forum for partnership and transfer of knowledge and best practices; with more than 340 members in 61 countries around the world and over 50 bilateral institutional partners. In 2021 in Europe Cumulus has 155 university members. Cumulus community represents a committed advocate for the positive role of designers and artists in making a positive change in the world. Cumulus Secretariat is hosted by Aalto University in Finland.



The [European Association for Architectural Education \(EAAE\)](#) is the network for architectural and planning schools in Europe. The purpose of the Associations is to advance the quality of education and research in all areas of the built environment and thus to promote the quality of architecture and urban landscape in Europe. The EAAE promotes the interests of 135 member schools as institutions and academic environments, lobbies for common goals and connects globally.



The [European Council of Engineers Chambers \(ECEC\)](#) is the umbrella organisation of European Engineers Chambers. It represents the professional interest of Chartered Engineers on European level. Its members are national Chambers or other legally established public bodies representing authorized Chartered Engineers. Currently the ECEC represents 16 Chambers and over 300.000 highly qualified European Chartered Engineers who are members in these Chambers.



The [European Council of Interior Architects \(ECIA\)](#) is the representative body for the professional organizations in Interior Architecture and Design. Founded in 1992, ECIA currently represents 17 European Member – National Organizations and through them, the interests of over 14.000 professional Interior Architects/Designers.

Creating our futures

**ECTP-CEU**

European Council of Spatial Planners  
Conseil européen des urbanistes

The [European Council of Spatial Planners \(ECTP\)](#) brings together 28 professional spatial planning associations and institutes from 24 European countries as well as corresponding members. It is an umbrella association providing its members with a common framework to promote the visibility, recognition of the important societal role and practice of planning and urban development in Europe.



[ELIA](#) is a globally connected European network that provides a dynamic platform for exchange and development in higher arts education. It represents 260 member institutions in 48 countries, with over 300.000 students across all art disciplines. By placing emphasis on the value of arts education and artistic research, ELIA is dedicated to enhancing the conditions in which higher arts education can flourish, both nationally and internationally.



[Europa Nostra](#) is the European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage. For over 50 years, we have celebrated, protected and advocated for Europe's natural and cultural heritage. Europa Nostra is today recognised as the largest and most representative heritage network in Europe, with 350 member and associate organisations and over 1,000 individual members from over 40 countries in Europe and beyond. We are forceful advocates of heritage – with its multiple benefits for our economy, society, culture and the environment – towards policy-makers at all levels of governance: local, regional, national and European. We campaign to save Europe's most endangered heritage sites and promote best practices in the heritage field across Europe.

[Future Architecture Platform](#)

The [Future Architecture platform](#) is a well-balanced ecosystem of European cultural players in architecture who perform specific roles within a complex European architecture program. It connects multi-disciplinary emerging talents to high profile institutions like museums, galleries, publishing houses, biennials, and festivals. It provides talented conceptual thinkers and practitioners in architecture with opportunities to speak up - and be seen and heard.



[ICLEI](#) - Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. ICLEI Europe provides its members with a voice on the European and international stage, a platform to connect with peers and tools to drive positive environmental, economic and social change. ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and partners on a broad range of topics.



[IFLA Europe](#) is the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects formed by 34 professional Landscape Architects' Associations with 20.000 landscape architects across Europe. It aims not only to promote the landscape architecture profession, recognising excellence in educational courses and promoting the best practice operations, but also striving to enhance the quality of landscape planning, monitoring and management, provide nature-based solutions in climate change mitigation and adaptation and ensure transformational changes in landscape, urban and rural areas.



[Trans Europe Halles \(TEH\)](#) is a network of grassroots cultural centres with members in 38 European countries. With 131 members, TEH is one of the oldest and most dynamic cultural networks in Europe. We have been at the forefront of repurposing abandoned buildings for arts, culture and activism since 1983. Our three founding pillars are: People, Arts and Buildings.

**This statement was developed with inputs from, and is supported by:**



The [German Academy for Urban and Regional Spatial Planning \(DASL\)](#) aims to support urban and regional spatial planning in theory and practice. The Academy also provides a forum in which people from a wide range of interests across the economy and society can pursue their shared interest in territorial development in discussion with planning professionals.



The [Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects \(SIA\)](#) is Switzerland's leading professional association for construction, technology and environment specialists. With over 16,000 members from the fields of engineering and architecture, the SIA is a highly professional and interdisciplinary network whose central aim is to promote sustainable and high-quality design of the built environment in Switzerland.



The [French FNCAUE](#) brings together the Councils of Architecture, Urbanism and Environment (CAUE). These associative bodies are deployed throughout most of France and carry out missions of public interest. The FNCAUE runs a network of 1,200 professionals (architects, landscape architects, town planners, etc.). The CAUEs advise and support local authorities before any development, construction, town planning or environmental project. They provide free advice to individuals wishing to build or renovate a property.

## Key References Documents

- [2018 Davos Declaration Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe](#)
- [Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- [New Urban Agenda](#)
- [Urban Agenda Platform](#)
- [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Council Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022](#)
- [New Leipzig Charter - The transformative power of cities for the common good](#)
- [ACE key policy positions in the area of sustainability and building performance](#)
- [ACE booklet 20 Architectural Projects Against Climate Change](#)
- [ACE 2019 Innsbruck Declaration Achieving Quality in the Built Environment](#)
- [ACE 2019 Statement Design for a Circular Economy](#)
- [ACE 2018 Leeuwarden Declaration on the Adaptive Re-use of Built Heritage](#)
- [An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [IFLA Europe Exhibition Project](#)
- [IFLA Europe - From Green Infrastructure to Landscape Structures through Scale](#)
- [New European Bauhaus Idea in line with Green Deal Portugal](#)
- [A nature-based future for the Netherlands in 2120](#)
- [2050 - An Energetic Odyssey H+N+S Landscape Architects](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2020 Resolution Footprints on Earth](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2018 Resolution on Climate Challenges](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2016 Resolution on Urban Landscapes](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2014 Resolution Learning from Landscapes](#)
- [European Charter on Participatory Democracy](#)
- [Charter of European Planning](#)
- [ECTP-CEU position paper on The New Leipzig Charter](#)