

PRESENTATION - IWA COMMITTEE - REGION II MEETING - 10.03.'21

Dear colleagues,

I would like to tell you more about one very new initiative of the UIA.

As it was already announced the new UIA Committee called "International Women in Architecture" has been created about half an year ago. The Committee is composed by the five female Council members - Natali Moussin - Danemark is from Region I, I am representing Region II, Rim Sakkar - Bolivia is from Region III, Pei Ing Tan - Malaysia is from Region IV and Jacinta Kabarungi from Uganda is representing Region V. I am the Chair of this Committee.

Our work is to highlight the role of the women Architects, their leadership and their involvement within the national and international organizations.

The benefit of this female work is for the whole society.

The Committee will endorse the leadership and volunteering initiatives of female architects on international level and enhance their work within the UIA. Our aim is to inspire the next generations and attract new female leaders to the UIA and generally to the international work.

What we did until now?

We already started with the best examples of the eminent Women in UIA. Our remarkable and very appreciated female Past Presidents Sara Topelson and Louise Coxe have been presented in the UIA newsletters and the mass media. You all have seen the special issue of the UIA bulletin dedicated to the 8th of March - we introduced two women from each region. They all do important work for UIA and as the two female Past Presidents could be a very good example for the others and for the next generation. Our region was presented in the special UIA bulletin by the past Vice President Deniz Incedayi and Lisa Siola. We shall continue to promote the international women architects and I am proud to announce that our Region II has many valuable examples to highlight. I can mention Olena Oleynik and Fani Vavili - their presentations will follow soon.

The Committee created an International team composed by correspondents who are also members of the Committee. We already have more than 30 correspondents from all over the world and very soon shall organize a zoom meeting with all of them.

For the Congress in Rio we shall make a special international discussion with the participation of eminent women in architecture and we shall treat some architectural matters that are important for the whole society. Our partner will be the UN Habitat Professionals Forum as well as other important organizations.

We will prepare also a big panel for the UIA exhibition - it will be exposed in Rio, but also will be part of the virtual UIA exhibition.

Of course our Committee is working together with the PPC section for the gender equity, We intervene in this field also, but we are mostly concentrated on the parity between men and women and the female representation in different social activities and in the governing and working bodies of the UIA. We have to say that according to the number of women architects the global female participation in the governing structures is unjustly small.

Of course, we always shall look for the gentle support of our colleagues, because we are really strong when we work together.

Our Committee is planning to create after the Congress in Rio a special UIA triennial award for creative Women Architects who did also considerable international work. Later on we can enrich our aims with many other activities.

Please, note that the other UIA working bodies and Commissions have been well organized for a long time, their teams have been working 4 years together and our Committee has been established only few months ago.

We are very enthusiastic and work hard, but any beginning needs time.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the UIA Council and Bureau members for their support and especially I would like to thank the UIA President for his strong personal endorsement of our Committee. I also would like to thank the UIA secretariat for their contribution to our work.

And I deeply thank you and all Presidents of the UIA member sections who gave us their support and trust. I truly hope that the UIA member-sections from Region II will be very active and will continue to endorse our Committee and we shall organize many common activities in the future.

Thank you for the attention.

Istelianna Atanassova

Dear colleagues and participants in the UIA meeting of Region II,

First of all, I would like to thank again our hosts the Technical Chamber of Greece, the Vice President Nikos Fintikakis and the President of the UIA Greek section Fani Vavili for the wonderfully organized and conducted meeting on the 10th of March 2021.

It was a great pleasure to see again so many friendly faces and remember the time when we were all together without masks and without restrictive measures.

Here attached I am sending few photos made by my phone - the quality is not so good, but nevertheless they could be a souvenir from our meeting.

I would also like to take this opportunity and clarify another matter:

After our meeting, I received some telephone calls and was asked why I did not say anything during the presentation of the candidates for the UIA elections. Therefore, I would like to explain the following:

In some UIA regions our colleagues determine together the 4 nominations for Council members and only one nomination for Vice President. So, for each position there is only one candidate. This has never been the case in our Region II. We have always had more nominations than there were the places. We are famous with our diversity of cultures, habits and lifestyles - this is the charm of our region. Therefore I decided that it was better to remain silent on the 10th of March and wait for the last day for nominations - 25th of March 2021. Let all Member-sections be free to rise a candidacy and take decisions by themselves.

Region II shall have a second meeting on the 12th of May - then I will speak and I will be at your disposal for answering your questions. Please allow me to keep silence for now,

