



UNISSON(S) Movement

Towards a Low-Carbon and Organic Architecture

There is a fundamental historical trend at work in society: to end the damages and even the pain that our modern practices cause to the environment.

Global warming and the collapse of biodiversity are proven facts. If the consequences on the disruption of the Earth's systems and the survival of the human species are indisputable, the latest expert reports - the IPCC for climate, the IPBES for biodiversity - nevertheless affirm our ability to limit the effects of this dual disruption. It is through our political choices that we can make the ecological transition a reality, and never have citizens expressed so clearly their desire to live in greater harmony with the living world, to have a society that respects the limits and resources of the planet.

Among the first sectors to generate a negative impact on our environment (emitting 40% of greenhouse gas emissions, destroying and fragmenting ecosystems, and eroding living organisms) is the construction and real estate sector. Simultaneously, this sector is a key player in the life of the city and has begun its transformation both deliberately and by force: through competition, calls for expressions of interest and calls for projects - with the objective of reinventing our cities, expanding the scope of the skills measured and raising the bar.

The solutions are out there: the use of low-carbon materials including bio and geo-sourced equipment, renovation and reuse via the circular economy, control of energy performance and bioclimates, respect and reintroduction of life into projects - all are marks of an evolution in progress. As a major innovation in 2022, France is introducing an Environmental Building Regulation which will meet the first environmental challenge of the time: global warming, by limiting the carbon content of structures.

With these new requirements, our vision has now been extended to include architectural culture.

Is there not a new architectural mentality to emerge in response to the visible environmental dissonance of a building, and its inadequacy to face the challenges of our time? With minimal technical knowledge, we now look with desolation at all new construction with the lowest energy performance, a failed or unambitious bio-climate, a neglected biodiversity, resulting from a "business as usual mentality", with carbon-based processes. Like an insult to intelligence, what will happen to the project that does not call for modularity, low-carbon, renewable energy, or reuse that preserves finite resources and the heritage of previous constructions?

Is this too extreme, is the criticism too violent? Not much more than the climatic and societal upheavals that await us if we do not lead this revolution in construction. It would be madness to continue as we did yesterday, when most of the technical solutions are already known.

However, the concrete results in our cities are still too often disappointing. Unfortunately, some actors, burdened by the weight of habit, continue to ignore scientific knowledge and refuse to integrate technical progress. They mislead the good conscience of citizens and practice deceptive marketing, rather than providing the necessary education.

Fortunately, there is a growing number of virtuous projects, where the search for "improvement" sincerely guides the design despite the need to align functionalities and achieve performance. Although this is true, when the project "ticks all the boxes", the result is rather bland: it lacks meaning.

In other words, of all the positive developments taking place at a rapid pace, we have not yet developed Architecture; an architecture that serves as the basis for the evolution of new challenges faced by the city and a whole new culture to be shared. By integrating sometimes controversial recommendations, analyzing a wealth of data, and consulting with stakeholders from the client to the users, the project manager traces a path and creates a plan, which is undeniably imperfect, but in no way "lukewarm".

It is up to the arts to reveal itself in a new way of thinking and to synthesize constructive solutions for a project, the totality not being simply the summation of the elements but a subtle harmony. Only the architect will be able to give our societies the overall vision necessary to materialize our collective ambition to design and build differently.

Therefore, we are committed to federate, encourage and promote all the players in the sector who are the first to engage themselves in the development of a new architecture. To achieve this, we are taking the decision to list and present concrete experiences, by decoding, with their protagonists, their successes as well as their pitfalls. We wish to encourage debate among specialists and create a dialogue with society as a whole through a tour of the different regions of France, enabling the development of a critical and informed viewpoint among our non-expert fellow citizens. In addition to its roots and its influence in France, our initiative aims to be the representative of a "French school" within the new European Bauhaus promoted with the same political intention of the European Commission.

The challenge is nothing less than to encourage the emergence of a new form of architecture.

We are committed to federate, encourage and promote all the players in the sector who are the first to commit themselves to the only possible path, the one of the creative and cultural translation of a new ecological, social and economic pact for the city: a political choice.

The UNISSON(S) movement therefore brings together architects, landscape architects, project owners, designers, elected officials, schools and all the professions involved in urban planning/development via their companies and organisations.

Together, we hope that this new world of low-carbon and organic architecture will soon take shape in order to respond in a concrete and sensitive way to the powerful demand of society for a new resource-based economy for buildings, cities and living organisms.

UNISSON(S) : RE-UNITE, UNITE... all architects to bring forth a new form of architecture !

UNISSON(S) : RE-UNITE, UNITE...TOGETHER with all architects to bring forth a new form of architecture !

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