

# Building Europe.

## Conference

Towards a Culture of High-Quality Architecture and Built Environment for Everyone

Auf dem Weg zu einer Architektur und Baukultur hoher Qualität für alle

H kulturei kakovostne arhitekture in grajenega okolja za vse

Graz–Maribor  
6–8 October 2021

buildingeurope.org

We, the participants of the conference “Building Europe. Towards a Culture of High-Quality Architecture and Built Environment” that gathered around 300 people from 22 European countries over the three-day event in Graz and Maribor between 6 to 8 of October, wish to convey the following messages:

- We wish to highlight the process - rather than focus on a single event, particular policy document or initiative, that have all mutually contributed to a discourse - highlighting the cultural, social and ecological role of architecture and built environment that complements the economic, functional and technical aspects. Therefore, we call for the openness, flexibility and continuation of this discourse for the future at various levels, with a large array of stakeholders and within different domains. In practice, this means that we extend an appeal to continue devoting attention to the culture of architecture and built environment within relevant European bodies that also support national activities.
- We express earnest appreciation of expert work conducted in the framework of the EU member states’ expert group (OMC group) and around the Davos Declaration on high-quality Baukultur, as well as insist on making references to several relevant policies that include issues connected to our built environment for common good. We recognise the New European Bauhaus as an important impetus for the implementation of the European Green

Deal with culture and heritage, creativity and technical innovation, already inspiring tangible projects on the ground, with a potential to grow into a movement. However, we shall also rely on the existing good practices and examples at the national, European level and beyond, as well as existing networks and directions for architectural policies, that allow exchange, convey experience and allow long-lasting partnerships beyond particular professional groups or a specific programme.

- The prime aim of all our activities is the well-being of all citizens and consequently, a greener and just Europe for all which demands a holistic, cultural and people-centred approach, that includes different disciplines, professions and sufficient time for strategic deliberations, exchange and co-operation with the communities long before the decision-making process is concluded. Furthermore, our firm belief that the results are visible in our cities, towns and villages, both urban and rural spaces, areas in between them and landscapes, means the local and regional authorities should be seen as strong partners. Similarly, we insist on respectful consideration of historic buildings and sustainable settlement patterns that complement contemporary architecture and landscape and thus contribute to shared European values.
- Finally, the conference identified several current issues, that can be combined to create affordable living conditions for all, from the transformation of our living environments, re-definition of our dwellings, profound care for our cities and rural areas, mobility with multifaceted business, personal and professional opportunities, to the role of architecture in addressing these challenges. The list is non-exhaustive, and we look forward to intensifying our reflections and exchanges and exploring issues that are relevant and urgent for particular environments and communities - all for the benefit of creating a better life for the citizens of Europe and beyond.