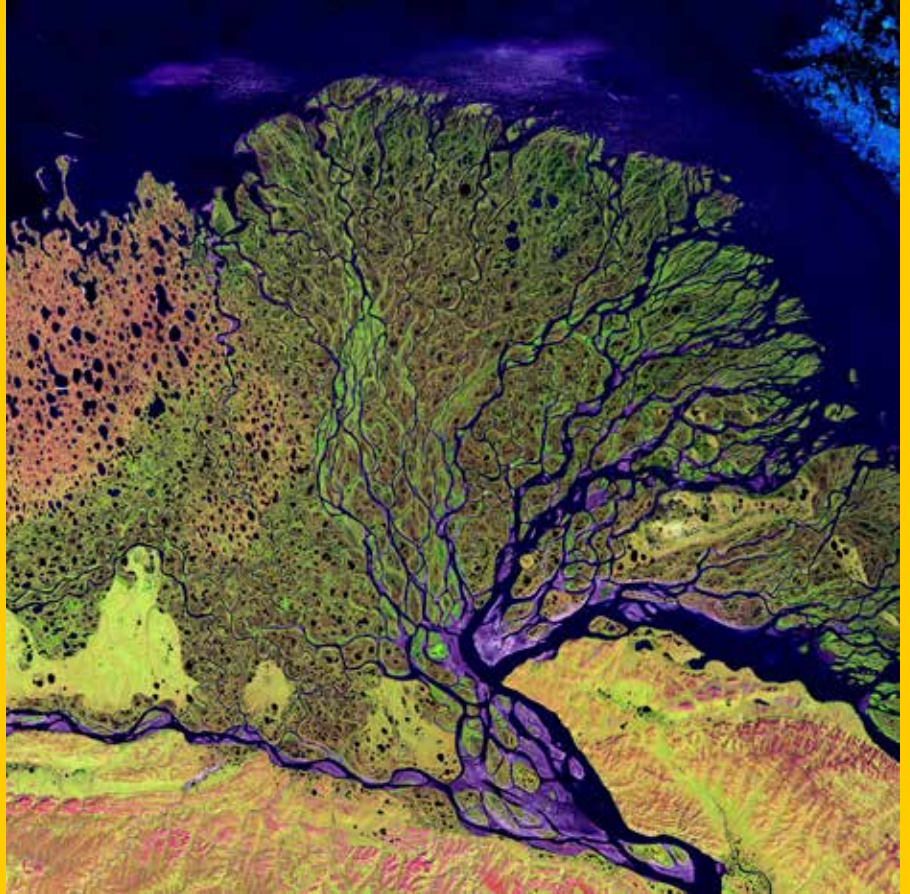


INTERNATIONAL  
MANIFESTO  
RELAY 2023



# How Can Architecture Contribute To Social And Environmental Change?

# INVITATION

Call for manifestos on architecture and sustainable development! We are calling for architects, designers, urbanists and planners from across the planet to create a written or visually composed manifesto addressing the roles and potentialities of architecture and urbanism in the fulfillment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The manifestos will be used for kickstarting debates, grounding further research and inspiring exhibitions leading up to, during and after the 28th UIA World Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, 2023 (UIA/Union Internationale des Architectes).

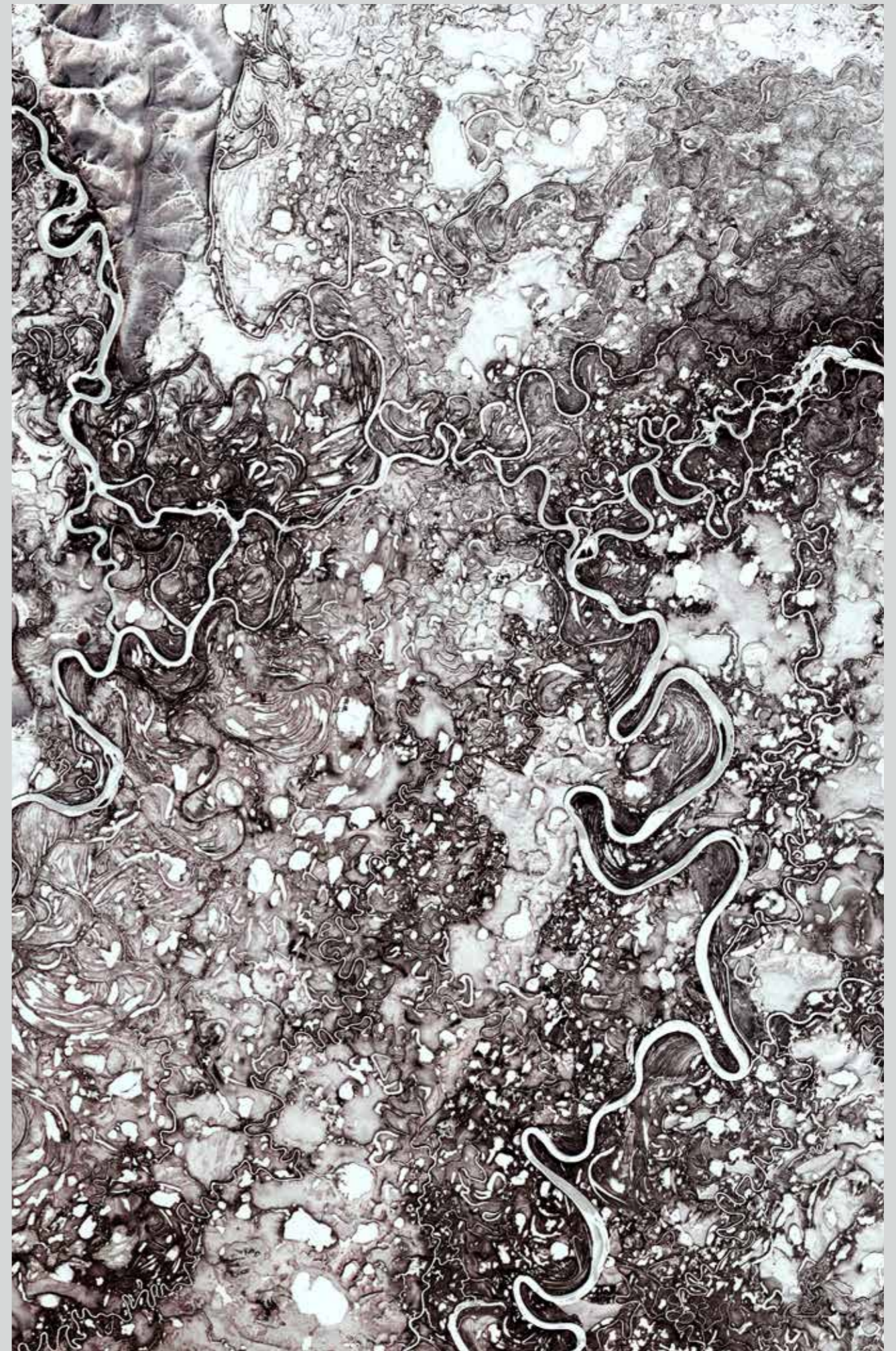
**W**e have reached the limits of our planet and therefore we have no choice but to act now. As architects, we hold both the potential and the responsibility to radically change the way we design and build our physical societies. We hope to use the UIA World Congress in Copenhagen 2023 as a milestone on our common path towards the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

**Natalie Mossin**, President of Congress and Co-Chair of the UIA Commission on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The content of the manifestos will be mirrored by the World Congress' Scientific and Practice Tracks and reflect the Congress' six themes:

1. Design for Climate Adaptation
2. Design for Rethinking Resources
3. Design for Resilient Communities
4. Design for Health
5. Design for Inclusivity
6. Design for Partnerships for Change.  
(More on those further below)

The themes are based on the UN 17 SDGs' overarching mission, which defines Earth as a sophisticatedly interlinked human-environmental system, as described in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report "The Future is Now - Science for Achieving Sustainable Development" by Prof. Katherine Richardson et al.



# THE INTERNATIONAL MANIFESTO RELAY

Humanity and the planet we inhabit are facing multiple crises: eco-system breakdowns, climate changes, continuous and growing social and economic inequalities, health crises, systemic discrimination, shortage of safe and adequate housing, and more.

Architecture and urbanism operate across and in collaboration with a variety of disciplines and sectors to address these challenges. Because the built environment has a fundamental impact on our everyday life conditions, behaviors and imagined futures, architecture and urbanism hold huge potential for promoting and ensuring the development and implementation of socially just and ecologically sustainable practices.

Therefore, departing from the UN 17 SDGs, the UIA World Congress 2023 will explore the important relations between architecture and the complex notion of 'sustainability'.

We are in a decade of urgency and action, and we must use events such as the UIA World Congress 2023 as a forum for change-making on a global stage. The SDGs do not directly address the agency and potentiality of architecture as a contributor to solutions; however, architecture's inherent multi-disciplinarity and engagement across sectors, positions architectural practices as central facilitators and generators for change across many of the UN SDGs. We, therefore, wish to use the UIA World Congress 2023 as a vehicle to collectively explore and formulate a shared vision for how we as architects and across different contexts and agendas are part of the solution.

**Mette Ramsgaard Thomsen** and **Martin Tamke**, the UIA Scientific Committee



Photo: U.S. Geological Survey

Copenhagen Architecture Festival initiated a national Manifesto Relay in Denmark in 2019, which brought together a heterogeneous collection of new visions for architecture's societal role from architects, artists, decision-makers, and entrepreneurs (Manifesto Relay 2019)

Our Manifesto Relay from 2019 was greatly appreciated by professionals engaged with the built environment in Denmark, and produced a range of inspirational, novel and sometimes provoking statements on architecture's obligation to address society's most pressing challenges. To widen the mosaic of voices to a global and multifaceted scale seems like the obvious next step.

**Josephine Michau**, Festival Director, Copenhagen Architecture Festival

The International Manifesto Relay will be widely distributed during the UIA World Congress 2023 and will also inform public debates, exhibitions, articles and other events leading up to and during the congress. Furthermore, the International Manifesto Relay will be permanently accessible as a free-of-charge online resource to be utilized globally by grassroots organizations, professionals, students, deci-

sion-makers and others to inspire their work. The format of the International Manifesto Relay, which accommodates for juxtaposition and plurality, will create a powerful and inspiring synergy between architectural practices and the novel peer-reviewed research carried out by the UIA World Congress Scientific Committee.

The Manifesto Relay and the Scientific Committee share the vision of bringing together different voices with different perspectives from different situations, creating a mosaic and proposing a space where complexity and contradictions can be shared, debated and investigated. We believe this participatory form of communication that reaches across positions, perspectives and geographies is necessary for the ongoing process of collective formulations of architecture's contribution to the fulfillment of the UN SDGs. We really love the expansion of the collective approach of the Manifesto Relay, bridging across industry and research, and we are certain that it will present a powerful call for action.

**Mette Ramsgaard Thomsen** and **Martin Tamke**, the UIA Scientific Committee



[man-i-fes-to | \ ,ma-nə-'fe-(,)stō \ plural manifestos or manifestoes

A written statement declaring publicly the intentions, motives, or views of its issuer. (Merriam-Webster)

# FORMAT & GUIDELINES

The format of each Manifesto can be equally playful or serious, imaginative or pragmatic, if it pursues the objective of challenging perspectives, provoking considerations and generating new insights. The Manifesto Relay exists in parallel with the UIA World Congress Science Track and other congress-related contributions.

Once assembled into a single heterogeneous piece, with one manifesto following another, a diverse, dynamic and holistic reading will take form. Thus, we are very keen on keeping the format as free and open as possible; however, the guidelines below *must* be accepted and applied:

- The manifesto can be written and/or visually composed.
- It must not exceed the size of two A4 pages.
- It has to be uploaded as a pdf.
- If the manifesto contains text, it must be written in English and proofread.
- The manifesto will be published in the same design/layout as it is received.
- The manifesto's author(s) must agree to the terms and conditions described in the submission form.
- Upon submission, the manifesto's author(s) must indicate which of the six congress themes their manifesto addresses (can be more than one).

- Each manifesto will be categorized according to the theme, and each thematic section will be contextualized by introductory texts that synthesize the research and practices contained in a non-academic language.

SUBMISSION LINK AND DEADLINE

12th of April 2022

→ [Submission in PDF format](#)



# BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SIX THEMES

1

## Design for Climate Adaptation:

The built environment exists within a larger, more powerful natural ecosystem. As climate patterns change, so must the role of buildings, settlements, and cities and how they interface with their environment, protecting especially vulnerable residents. 'Design for Climate Adaptation' allows us to mitigate against changing environments and encourage a symbiotic ecology, promoting peaceful and cooperative adaptation of the built environment.

2

## Design for Rethinking Resources:

As we grow more aware of the limits of our planet's resources, shifting from an exploitative to a restorative, regenerative, and circular design ideology becomes necessary. 'Design for Rethinking Resources' means reassessing all aspects of the production and consumption cycles with sustainability in mind.

3

## Design for Resilient Communities:

Sustainable futures are dependent on the thoughtful planning of cities and communities. Rapid urbanization and high-density cities are putting unprecedented pressures on the way we live. 'Design for Resilient Communities' investigates multiple perspectives defining the way we live, including aspects of economy, sociality, and the environment.

4

## Design for Health:

The built environment affects our physical and mental health as humans. With increases in population and unequal infrastructure, considerations of access to healthcare, the spread of diseases and preventable premature mortality are of major concern for sustainable futures. Beyond direct healthcare, taking action to improve basic infrastructures such as developing sewage systems for informal settlements or better building practices for disease prevention, sharply increases public health and well-being. Furthermore, design can promote individual health by shaping mobility and accessibility for all, creating spaces for an active outdoor life and ensuring indoor climate health and comfort.

5

## Design for Inclusivity:

This panel addresses universal design and the shaping of gender-equal environments. Furthermore, it discusses how vulnerable and marginalized groups can be included through the careful consideration of cultural differences and strategies for cultural preservation, how social housing strategies and design of inclusive community buildings can work to cement cohesiveness across communities, how responsible improvement of informal settlements can stimulate social equality, and how innovation can offer new solutions to emergency shelters, refugee housing and post-disaster regeneration.

6

## Design for Partnerships of Change:

Implementing changes requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. 'Design for Partnerships of Change' examines how architecture and the built environment can encourage such partnerships, the agency they embody, and the results they can achieve.

→ Please visit [www.uia2023cph.org](http://www.uia2023cph.org) for further information about the six themes.

## DISSEMINATION

1. Copenhagen Architecture Festival will create a series of public events in real life and online from Autumn 2022 until the Summer of 2023. These events will focus on architecture and sustainable development taking the manifestos and the agenda of the UIA World Congress of Architects 2023 Copenhagen as points of departure.
2. Leading up to and during the UIA World Congress of Architecture 2023 the manifestos will be distributed to presenters, committees and attendees, relevant decision-makers, the international press, and more.
3. In 2023, the manifestos will be published on a digital platform where they can be downloaded for free to democratize and enlarge the debate and stimulate knowledge exchange.

## EDITORIAL TEAM

The incoming manifestos will be revised by Copenhagen Architecture Festival in collaboration with the UIA World Congress Scientific Committee and the UIA World Congress Secretariat.

## CONTACT

If you have any questions related to the call, please send an email to Copenhagen Architecture Festival: → [manifesto@cafx.dk](mailto:manifesto@cafx.dk)

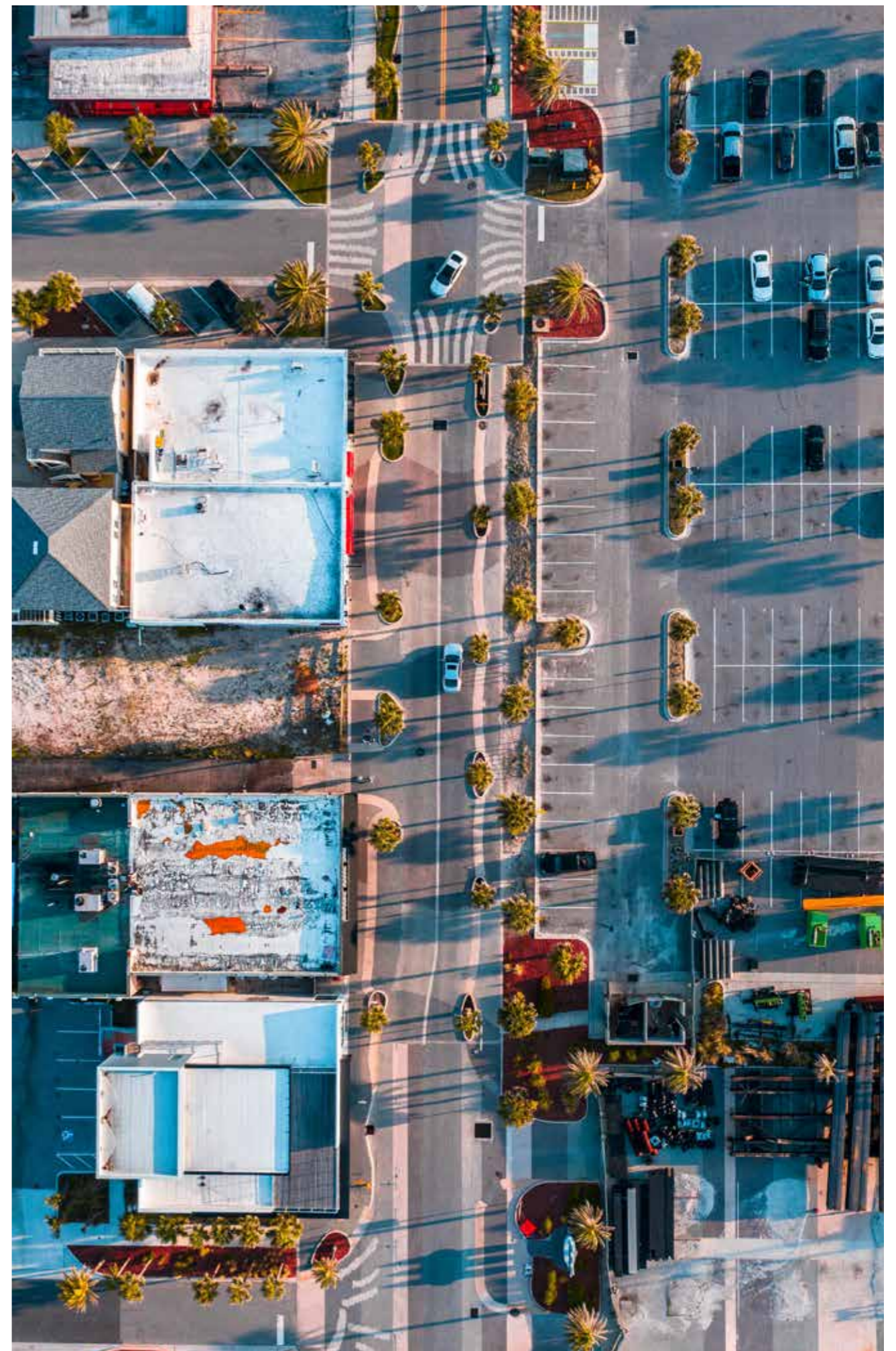


Photo: Lance Asper

# ABOUT

## UIA World Congress 2023 Copenhagen

The UIA World Congresses are triennial key events for professional and cultural exchange among architects that bring together thousands of participants from all around the globe.

Under the overarching title “Sustainable Futures – Leave No One Behind”, the UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen will demonstrate how architecture contributes to the achievement of the UN 17 SDGs and establish new global sustainability practices across all architectural disciplines by 2030.

UIA World Congresses comprise keynote speakers, lectures and seminars, research presentations, exhibitions as well as social and cultural events.

For further information about the 2023 UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen, please visit → [uia2023cph.org](http://uia2023cph.org)

## Copenhagen Architecture Festival

Copenhagen Architecture Festival (CAFx) was established in 2014 and is the largest annual architecture event in Scandinavia. Each year the festival engages the public through debates, lectures, film screenings, guided walks, exhibitions and more, critically exploring the impact architecture has on our lives, and the impact we have on architecture.

CAFx also hosts an annual Summer School that brings together students from across the globe to experimentally investigate the relation between film and architecture, runs a Journal with contributing essays, articles, podcasts and short films, and is involved in a series of different research projects.

For further information about Copenhagen Architecture Festival please visit → [cafx.dk](http://cafx.dk)

We look forward to receiving your contribution to this urgent call for action and collaboration.

Thank you!

# Sincerely,



**Josephine Michau,**  
CEO of Copenhagen  
Architecture Festival



**Annette Blegvad,**  
CEO of UIA World Congress  
CPH 2023