



Organizado por Casa Africa

Ciudades Africanas: Reto urbanístico y social

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The Africa Union of Architects CPD Workshop

BEYOND HOUSING

14th-16th June 2012, Libreville, Gabon



Within the defined Vision, the Africa Union of Architects has launched the first CPD (Continual Professional Development) for all the professionals of the built environment, with the topic : “Beyond Housing” : Housing for the mass.

This AUA CPD, launched with the assistance of the RIBA is one of the two important achievements of the MoU signed with the RIBA and the UIA (under Gaetan Siew’s Presidency). The other achievement, the AUACC, adopts the UIA/UNESCO guidelines on Competitions.

This first CPD edition’s objective is federating studies and implementation tools, as well as generating specific solutions for the improvement of our built and life environment in Africa.

The approach has been defining a platform that will be moving throughout the five regions of Africa, make the Center Region the first one, in Gabon.

This program, held in Libreville from the 14th to the 16th of June 2012, has allowed the creation of a platform of work with prestigious partners, as can be UN-Habitat.

This CPD concluded indeed on defining the specific paradigms regarding Africa’s conditions (economical – urban – social) and way of life, as well as its specific needs, defining also a specific approach on the mass Housing question. The conclusion also defines the priorities and progressive actions needed in this sense, **and creates synergies with other policies developed,** and especially, those developed by UN-Habitat.

The outcomes of this first edition has open perspectives and define the theme of the next CPD meeting and studies, that will hold in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in December 2012, engaging the next step of this dynamic in the West region of Africa on the topic of “Transforming the human settlements”.

Principle 1 : a sustainability definition integrating the criteria of the cultural capital

Sustainability definition of AUA :

- Economical **capital** :
economical prosperity
- **social capital** : social balance
- Environmental **capital** :
ecological issues
- **cultural capital** :
identity/traditions/sacred
- Human **capital** : human
development



Ressources

Value

= Whitout Culture there is no sustainability

Principle 2 : a sustainability definition integrating the criteria of human capital

Human capital



- ✓ Rights > Governance
- ✓ Dialogue > Participation as a complete citizen & Consideration
- ✓ Man Value : Empowerment = economical & social development + building capacities (education)

« The knowledge of oneself is the knowledge of
« *La connaissance de soi-même est la*
an individual who's value is uncompleted. Man
connaissance immédiate d'un être dont la valeur
will be missing the Value, he needs to be worth
est inachevée. Il manque à l'homme la valeur, il lui
more, worth as a person, which means to have
faut valoir davantage, valoir en tant que
the subjective experience of happiness. Man
personne, ce qui signifie avoir l'expérience
suffering doesn't come from the deprivation of
subjective du bonheur. Il a été déjà dit que la
being, but from the deprivation of Value. His
souffrance de l'homme ne découle pas de la
biggest aspiration will be the conquest of the
privation d'être, mais de la privation de la valeur.
value in order to worth as a person.
Sa plus grande aspiration sera la conquête de la
Vera Rudge Werneck – Valeur et Culture (1999), Philosophy of
valeur pour qu'il vaille en tant que personne. »
Values

Principle 3 : Culture as a way to define oneself – giving a meaning

Paul Ricoeur : « **The power to be Oneself**».

Passage from a personal identity, to a conscience / awareness of oneself.

Meaning : giving a meaning to that identity, giving attention to it, to the empowerment we want from it.



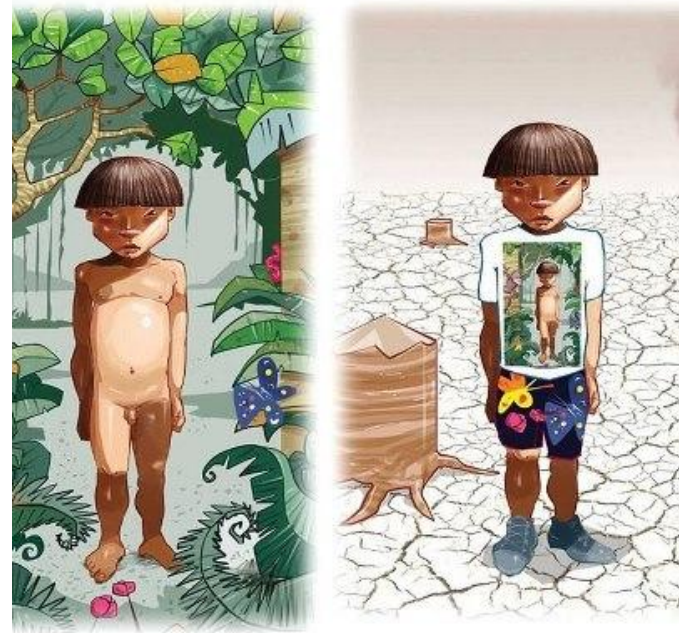
Principle 4 : Specific paradigmas to ‘think’ Africa’s urban solutions

News paradigmas to be taken in account when thinking an african urban strategy (a truly)

Paradigma 1 : Time

Paradigma 2 : Public Space as an expression of African socialization tradition

Paradigma 3 : ‘Territory of life’



Architecture / urban Forms



built environment, Man's space

What meaning are we looking for ?



Architecture / urban Forms



built environment, Man's space

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What meaning are we looking for ?





PRESENTATION

C'est dans ce sens, que le travail se définit aujourd'hui au sein de l'Union des Architectes d'Afrique :

Quelques principes de base de notre lecture du continent :

- perte profonde de son identité suite à la colonisation

- Ce qu'elle a gardé de la colonisation : langue, rapport privilégié à des pays avant-gardistes et développés pour développer des vagues d'expertise, qui ont les mêmes diplômes et les mêmes compétences qu'en France ou ailleurs en Europe. Ceci lui permet aujourd'hui :
 - ✓ De communiquer à travers des langues vives (dites vives), ouvertes et ouvrant des portes à l'international, pour transmettre œuvres, et autres diffusions et faire connaître l'art dans le monde

 - ✓ Mettre en place une sorte de diaspora, d'expertise locale, ayant les mêmes compétences qu'en Europe, mais qui ne sera jamais mieux située que d'autres pour trouver les meilleures voies à explorer pour remettre de la culture locale dans la vie africaine : une culture non seulement de folklore et graphique, mais surtout une culture qui porte en elle ses valeurs



PRESENTATION

Du point de vue architectural : c'est une question centrale car, même à l'heure d'appliquer les technologies, certaines formes, dimensions, type d'habitable ne s'adaptent pas à l'implémentation de cette technologie. Le retour aux formes internationales, standardisées facilitent, donnent une image de technologie, donc d'identité 'moderne', connectés à la vague contemporaine.

Quelle nécessité de donner une image 'moderne' dans un pays où les routes ne sont pas maintenues pour recevoir un camion de marchandises de construction qui ne peut pas arriver à bon port sans casse ?

La culture n'est pas que dans l'image, mais elle est dans le vécu, et dans le vécu d'une majorité critique





PRESENTATION

Between the AUA objectives :

Show off talents & skills of the local expertise :

- Value-creation : of Africa Man & Woman capacity, creativity and will
- Sensitization : education, inspiring a belief in herself : citizenship responsibility + social rôle :
 - Sustainability
 - Local materials
 - Urban Forms
 - respect of traditional way of living the space
- Diffuse and democratize the « best practices »
- **without respecting our past, no possible future : Culture, and cultural values**

