



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF  
Mrs. SUZANNE MUBARAK

BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA (BA)  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS (UIA)  
SOCIETY OF EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTS (SEA)

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
UIA-WPAHR-V  
ON

ARCHITECTURE & HERITAGE AS A PARADIGM  
FOR KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPMENT:  
LESSONS OF THE PAST, NEW INVENTIONS AND  
FUTURE CHALLENGES

2- 4 MARCH 2002 AT  
BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA

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## CONFERENCE AGENDA OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED POLICIES

During the three days of the conference, a quite number of important issues on architecture and heritage were presented and discussed in a communal way. Also, parallel meetings for establishing and continuing future cooperation among the organizing parties as well as with other key bodies were held. At the end of the conference, Dr. *Ismail Serageldin*, Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Conference President, together with the members of the committee of formulating the conference agenda of recommendations and policies: (i) Mrs. *Louise Cox*, UIA Councillor; representing the President of the UIA. (ii) Dr. *Sayed Ettouney*, Professor of Urban Design, Cairo University; representing the Technical Committee of the Conference. (iii) Mr. *Sief Naga*, Secretary General, SEA; representing the Society of Egyptian Architects, and. (iv) Dr. *Hossam Aboufotouh*, Director, UIA-WPAHR-V and the Conference Secretary General, have formulated the following recommendations and policies, which are grouped here below, under specific key terms.

### 1- THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARCHITECTS:

- (a) Today's architects, functioning in the new age of knowledge based society, should be able to master the tools of knowledge management, the processes of change and gain a deep understanding of the heritage that they are adding to or modifying by their work.
- (b) Training of such architects requires a new knowledge-based perspective.
- (c) Education of every one in the realm should emphasize process rather than product.

### 2- THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (a) National urban policies should encourage the excellence of the architectural quality of our cities, as well as encourage the mobilization of their misused architectural heritage, one of the most valuable city resources.
- (b) Conservation policies, regarding heritage and contexts, should respect the complexities and multi-disciplinarity of development and replicate effective endeavors, in order to benefit from old lessons and to avoid pitfalls.
- (c) Contextual awareness of the whole and not parts is essential, covering physical, social, cultural managerial and economic aspects of urban conservation and development.
- (d) Financing and managing urban and architectural conservation should follow effective, efficient and equitable criteria.
- (e) The socio-economic side of intervention should be studied carefully in order to ensure the sustainability and the effectiveness of the process.



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- (f) Local communities should be regarded as an asset and partners in conservation and development.
  - (g) Key-actors and stakeholders must participate in all processes of urban conservation and development.
  - (h) The pyramids plateau is the most important heritage site in the world; the original design concept of the horizon of the three pyramids should be respected in the processes of its site management, conservation and excavation.

### 3- INFORMATION & LEGAL ASPECTS:

- (a) Knowledge, information systems and means should be facilitated, accessed and shared by all parties involved with conservation and protection of heritage in order to secure better use of resources.
- (b) Information concerning the lessons of best practices in urban conservation should be disseminated among countries of region-V (Africa) as well as with the countries of the Mediterranean basin.
- (c) Designation of conservation areas is the most important step in protecting and saving heritage. It should be supported by positive legislation and development control.
- (d) A national or local heritage trust should be established in countries or cities with limited financial resources and that contain valuable architectural heritage that are subject to danger and deterioration.
- (e) Proper reuse of misused monuments, either by the government or through franchise and/or partnership agreements with the private sector will protect the heritage from vandalism, deterioration and will accumulate socio-economic benefits for the whole society.

### 4- CHARACTER, IDENTITY & PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:

- (a) The restoration of architectural heritage must incorporate a range of synchronic variations consistent with different tissues in different areas.
- (b) Architects and designers should always approach conservation contexts or settings with care and modesty -- preserving character and identity (physical and cultural aspects are the corner stone of conservation)
- (c) Architects should regenerate the spirit of their architectural heritage, and must learn from other cultures; they must lead architectural thoughts towards creating contemporary architecture that would continue the past and present architectural spirits into the future.
- (d) Equality of physical accessibility to heritage buildings and contexts is essential.



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## 5- FUTURE COOPERATION AND ACTIVITIES:

- (a) The UIA Work Programme Architecture and Heritage, Region-V should hold annual meetings in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.
- (b) The three organizing parties BA, UIA-WPAHR-V & SEA should continue cooperation and dialogs concerning the highlighted issues on architecture & heritage in relation to the paradigm of knowledge and development and other future issues.
- (c) Cooperation with other international and/or regional organization working in the realm, e.g., Union of Mediterranean Architects, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, UN-Habitat and UNESCO is also essential.
- (d) Establishing a new department within the Bibliotheca Alexandrina for studying and documenting the history of Alexandria.
- (e) Establishing a Documentation and Information Centre of the Mediterranean Architecture DICMAR within the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in cooperation with the Union of Mediterranean Architects, the Society of Egyptian Architects and the National Centre of Documentation of Culture and Heritage.

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