Newsletter





INTRODUCTION NEWSLETTER N°19 SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear ASF Int Members

We hope this Newsletter finds you all in good health and that it helps to keep us all connected, in these extraordinary times of guarantine and insulation.

We are living in confusing times aggravated with a worldwide disruption by the coronavirus pandemic, spreading truly "sans frontières". The borderless network of ASF-Int in this context makes sense; to always keep confident in the importance of human solidarity. It means that we continue to "cooperate for fair sustainable initiatives in active collaboration with disadvantaged people or communities" at local and global levels, as stated in the ASF-Int Hasselt Chart.

This Newsletter N°19 presents a cross-section of the variety of the work of the ASF-Int members, -how we think and act, with presentations from a development project in Kenya, reflections on ecology and education, disaster response in Lebanon, presentation of new member organisations and of the ongoing work to collect projects and update the ASF portfolio, an inportant tool to communicate and promote the outcome of the work of our members. Other active channels for communication are for example the ASF Instagram, Facebook and website. We invite all members to follow our media and to participate in an active dialog, by sharing their stories with our global network.

Unfortunatly the higlight of the year, the physical ASF-International General Assembly, this year planned in Polland, had to be postponed due to the coronavirus. As the situation in many parts of the world is still critical, the Board has decided to conduct an online General Assembly on 3rd October 2020. We hope that this virtual event will still gather us all together and enable for good discussions, sharing, networking and future plans. More info with links to the online event are sent to member contacts in a separate mail.

ASF Int would like to thank ASF Poland for their excellent work in planning the GA, their flexibility and for their support, a.o. with the ASF portofolio and in the making of this Newsletter.

We hope that we will be able to meet soon but until then are looking forward to strenghten our border-less network, in our GA online meeting in October!





INHABITED LANDSCAPE, A KEY FOR EDUCATION IN ECOLOGY

To increase a large ecological awareness, it seems helpful to include the landscape question inside the environment approach.

Because the modern society gives priority to rational data values rather than sensitive experience, we, as architects, landscapers, urbanists, have the responsibility to promote the importance of the cultural knowledge in a word dominated by scientifically and technological thoughts.

Because landscape is the matrix of the human societies, signs of subtle and fragile arrangements between nature and culture and common roots from the first age of our history.

Because vernacular, empiricism, popular culture, traditional way of living, congruence between needs and solutions ... are resources, values, practices and capacities we need to build an ecological world.

Nobody lives in a package of data!

Living is neither reducible as a function nor configurable as a rational process. It's a personal, social and cultural work in process, fundamental to become a sovereign subject, essential to being socialized and fertile to take over its own relationship to the world.

If today the major ecological focus concerns environment preservation, the cultural contribution is a required passage to success. Even more, we can claim the impossibility of any ecological project if both of them, environment and landscape, are not taken as the same intensity.

We have to learn how learning from the landscape Giuseppe Penone

Landscape is an anthropologic book, its reading needs a few of skills blending teaching and personal exploration: education to gain fundamental knowledge and exducation to develop attentivity to the affordances of our cultural environment.

Marcel Ruchon/ASF France



www.asfint.org

Participatory Planning and Design of The Humane School in Kenya.

The Humane School (THS) is a rural school near Kitale in Western Kenya, in need of new and better adapted premises in order to continue to provide cheap and relevant education to 200 children from local peasant families. ASF Sweden contributes to the project through architectural, managerial and fina cial support in designing, planning and building new school buildings with regard to social, ecological and economic sustainability. At its own scale, this project addresses several inter-related SDGs such as: Inclusiv



and Equitable Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Reduce Inequality within and among Countries, and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDGs 4,5,6,12 and 10).

In 2018, a member of ASF Sweden conducted a participatory preliminary study to understand the local organization's pedagogical principles, vision, methodologies and sustainability strategies. During 2018-2019, support organizations raised enough money to buy a plot where the school can be developed without fear of eviction. In early 2020, an architect student at Lund University, Sweden, submitted her diploma project, on a design proposal for THS based on research from her study trip to Kenya where she focused on the use of local materials, techniques and workforce, involving the locals in the design process through interactive workshops and meetings. A local architect will adapt this proposal to the technical and administrative Kenyan requirements. Meanwhile, a young civil engineer submitted a report on Water and Sanitation Systems including useful recommendations.



Links:

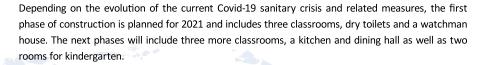
Project description on ASF Sweden webpage (in swedish):

www.arkitekterutangranser.se/vart-arbete-2/-vart-arbete/the-humane-school

Local organisation webpage:

www.thehumaneschool.org/

Personal blog of Sabine, member of ASF-Sweden (with tales of the preliminary study trip and proceedings of participatory workshops): sabinelepere.wixsite.com/traveling-is-caring



To learn more about this project or if you wish to support us in any way, don't hesitate to contact us! Contact person: Sabine Lepere (sabine.lepere@arkitekterutangranser.se)



NEW ASF INT MEMBER: ASF-HELVETIA

Last year ASF-Helvetia was established in Nyon in Switzerland, to substitute ASF-Suisse that had been almost inactive. The new association was admitted a membership at the ASF-Int General Assembly 2019 in Sema rang.

At the moment the ASF-Helvetia group includes about 10 persons, mostly architects, led by the board: Maria, Jean-Marie, José-Luis and François



We have several projects ongoing: in Marocco, in Romania and in Columbia. Of hese, the first is yet underway. Thanks to Mikael's contacts, responsible for the Swiss association INTERACTION, a collaboration has been established with SAM GLOBAL, another Swiss association, who wants to build a school for teachers in N'Djamena, Tchad.

The project is under development, the construction is planned to start next year, with a total budget of 523.000 euros.

Contacts have been established with other philanthropic societies, like Terre des Hommes and La Chaîne du Bonheur, who are in need of architects, -and that gives hope for new projects in the future.



The work on creating the new ASF Int Portfolio 2010-2020 is currently ongoing and will soon be displayed on the ASF-Int website. The new edition, will include a timeline showing the growth of ASF Int since its establishment, short descriptions of each active member organization and presentations of examples of their projects with photos and information about the a.o. building technology and sponsors.

It's a perfect occasion to show the results of the hard work and spread knowledge of the ASF organizations. ASF-Portfolio is used by ASF-Int members while presenting at various conferences and seminars, and is regularly displayed in printed format at various exhibitions. We invite all members to submit their projects, in the on-line form, (see link below and in previous mails), by the end of September 2020.

The portfolio is not only a source of knowledge and attestation of achievements but will as well help when establishing contacts with possible new sponsors, -which is necessary to continue our work and to support vulnerable societies in need.

Link to the template in the previous mail and here below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Hh4xsl3tsqHp4qqPJQaWQBV5-mMZ-

nXJHzLhAFej3Hyg/viewform?edit requested=true&fbclid=lwAR04rVkk43xeFkPPYHxalGbKGWk-2AMj35ExtvDitCo3tk-aD-QQ I-ZsHQ

images:

- 1. Serra leone, Masanga Dwellings, Arkitekter Utan Gränser, 2. Uganda cultual centre, OW Sarp- ASF Poland,
- 3. Kantora Arts Village, asf Portugal, 4. Prague, workshop, ABH Czech Republic













The devastating explosions that hit Beirut on August 4th, caused extensive suffering to the people of the city, killed and injured numerous people and left many homeless. The explosion destroyed major parts of the city and the livelihood of many of its inhabitants. Like the rest of the world, the ASF community is deeply shocked and feels with the people affected by this terrible tragedy. Beyond efforts to respond to immediate needs, the global community now must work on best ways to support the long-term reconstruction of the city and help Lebanon recover from this disaster.

The role of architects in the reconstruction work will be very important. ASF Int is investigating how our network can best support in this enormous task, now and in the future. ASF Quebec has already activated its resources (see more below).

In Lebanon an active group of local architects, university professors and other professionals are planning the establishment of a new ASF Lebanon and to join our ASF Int community. We will be happy to welcome new colleges to our borderless network and to support the work ahead. Local contact person in Lebanon; architect Zaid Moutran (zaid.moutran@gmail.com).





LEBANON, ASFQ IS PREPARING TO INTERVENE

After the industrial disaster that devastated Beirut on Tuesday August 4th, Architecture sans frontières Québec (ASFQ) and the President of its Board of Governors, Christian Samman, express their solidarity and insist that architecture should play a major role in rebuilding the capital.

Broadcast around the world, the blast brought us into the heart of a country already stricken by an extreme economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. For Christian Samman, Architect, President of ASFQ, and originally from Lebanon, the situation had reached an unprecedented threshold even before the explosion. As the country is now on the brink of a humanitarian crisis and total bankruptcy, it will need help more than ever over the next few months.

All ASFQ employees and board members unite to express their sympathy for the Lebanese people and their diaspora of nearly 150,000 people in Quebec. Close to 300,000 people are now homeless and depend on the solidarity of relatives, compatriots, and foreign aid. Hundreds of heritage buildings are in danger of disappearing.

The ASFQ team is currently studying what would be the most relevant contribution it can make and is seeking to establish links with reliable organizations in Lebanon. According to Christian Samman: "Lebanon has an architectural ecosystem of great quality. Our role will be to facilitate initiatives useful for the future of Beirut and its population". The support to be defined in the coming weeks could focus on small human-scale projects, assisting in the procurement of materials, or sending volunteer experts to the field. Priority will be given to the promotion of health, education, housing, and other needs of the most vulnerable residents of the city.

ASFQ is launching a donation campaign. All funds raised will go directly to support the reconstruction of the capital.

> DONATE TOO! <

The link for donations : https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/51143

