INTRODUCTION

Dear ASF-Int Members

According to the email sent to all members on the 10th March, the board reported that in the 7th March board meeting held in Warsaw was decided to postpone the 2020 ASF-Int General Assembly to September. The hosting organization ASF Poland has since then constantly tried without success to establish a new date according to the venue space owners and other involved entities, but most of them have sent their workers home because of the world pandemic situation. This means that so far we can't present any options of dates to schedule this year assembly.

In the meanwhile, and since ASF-Int has members all over the world, it seems very difficult for us to predict with exactitude the organization's next moves in what concerns displacement for a General Assembly meeting where all members can be present as desirable. In these days of incertitude we can take advantage of this delay to prepare our next meeting in a more participative way inviting all members to contribute to the next General Assembly by sharing not only what their organizations' needs from ASF-Int, but also on how member organizations can contribute on behalf of the strengthening of the ASF-Int network.

Please analyze carefully the minutes of the Board Meeting n°72 and let us know your thoughts and questions about the ASF-Int activities this last period so that next time we all meet we can have great achievements for ASF-Int and for all member organizations. Its important to make the best out of this period and face it as an opportunity for all members (and even candidates for the next board) to realize how their skills may be applied within the ASF-Int structure with focus on specific tasks that could benefit from our members support and, most of all, to have all members closely involved in ASF-Int, which is fundamental and the main goal of ASF-Int existence.

Looking forward to receive your contributions and to see you all soon in Warsaw.

NEW ASF ORGANIZATION IN MADAGASCAR

A group of architects, engineers and entrepreneurs from Madagascar have announced to start a new ASF chapter in Madagascar. The group has collaborated with ASF Belgium on various projects in the past, such as the creation of an architecture school in Antananarivo. Now they decided it is time take the next step and established ASF-Madagascar.

Madagascar will be the third African member of the International Network. Like many other countries, Madagascar faces huge challenges in urban planning and construction. With only a few dozen registered architects across the entire country, the challenge of shaping the country's future living environment is urgent. The new organization is now formalized and registered according to local laws, and will start working soon.

Members of ASF-Madagascar will present their new ASF initiative in the next General Assembly in Poland.
In the journey to achieve their goals Dandora Hiphop City (DHC) and ASF-SE entered into a partnership in May 2019 for a possible collaboration to assist in the transformation of the space and bring knowledge in architectural thinking, urban planning and placemaking from Kenya and Sweden. Between June-November 2019 a pre-study was conducted that act as a base for the transformation of the organisation as well as the space; through Hiphop Architecture.

Hiphop Architecture explores hiphop culture as a catalyst to introduce underrepresented youth to architecture, urban planning and design. This style of design seemed applicable as a design language because it encompassed the elements of the inner city of Dandora and identifies the strong potential of the area in creating a design language that would be true to the people and their culture. Dandora is where Kenyan Hiphop was born.

By using the skills of concept of hiphop and rhymes, the voices and ideas of the people can be transformed into architecture and design that is a direct reflection of the identity of the area and the organization. This is also a way of using participatory methods and engage the community in a more long-term process. Through the collaboration ideas are being brought forward on how to improve the space of DHC and the area around it. This ticks one of the greatest boxes that hinge on Hiphop Architecture; giving voice to the voiceless, the young, the poor and the underprivileged.

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