

**COMPETITION OPENING EVENT**

**INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION**

**Renewable energy sources and bioclimatic architecture for shells,  
to shelter people affected by natural disasters**

**Competition Opening Event**

**Minutes**

**NATIONAL EVENT for the Announcement of the  
INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION  
Under the Theme: “RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES &  
BIOCLIMATIC SHELS TO SHELTER PEOPLE AFFECTED BY  
NATURAL DISASTERS”**

**Organised by:  
TECHNICAL CHAMBER OF GREECE  
UIA-ARES WORK PROGRAMME**

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**SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

**17.30-18.00** Venues - coffee

**Panel for all the Seminar's Parts;**

**Kremalis Kostas**, Technical Chamber of Greece Executive Committee.

**Batsou Vivi**, Ex. Member of the Executive Committee of the Technical Chamber of Greece.

**Siola Lisa**, President of UIA Greek Section, UIA Council Member.

**Fintikakis Nikos**, architect, Director of UIA-ARES Programme.

**PART 1**

**Natural Disaster's Management:**

**The Initiative for an International Architectural, Competition.**

**18.00-18.10**

**Alavanos Yiannis**, President of the Technical Chamber of Greece

**18.10-18.20**

**Ius Giancarlo**, President of UIA, Region I, Italy.

**18.20-18.30**

**Sgoutas Vassillis**, Ex. President of UIA

**18.30-18.40**

**Galanopoulos Dimitris**, Dr. Of Geophysics,  
General Secretary of Civil Protection

**18.40-18.50**

**Georgakopoulos Panayotis**, President of the  
Greek Association of Architects

**18.50-19.00**

**Siola Lisa**, President of UIA Greek Section, UIA  
Council Member

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**PART 2**

**Renewable Energy Sources and Bioclimatic Architecture**

- 19.00-19.15**      **Tochtermann Wolf**, Director of UIA Work Program of Competitions, Germany: “International Competitions for Architects and the role of UIA”.
- 19.15-19.30**      **Fintikakis Nikos**, architect, Director of UIA WP-ARES Programme: “Renewable Energy Sources in Architecture and the role of International UIA/WP “ARES”
- 19.30-19.50**      **Karavasili Margarita**, Architect d.p.l.g.–planner, head of the Technical Committee.  
“Sustainable sheltering people affected by natural disasters, through the use of Renewable Energy Sources & Bioclimatic Architecture”
- 19.50-20.15**      **Break**

**PART 3**

**Challengers and Expected Benefits**

- 20.15-20.30**      **Hegger Manfred**, Co-Director of UIA WP on Sustainable Architecture (Region I), Germany: “Urgent interventions to manage the impact of natural disasters in a sustainable way”.
- 20.30-20.45**      **Belavilas Nikos**, professor of the National Technical University of Athens – “Architecture and Renewable Energy Sources”.

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**20.45-21.0**            **Gazetas Yiorgos**, professor of the National Technical University of Athens and President of “ETAM”: “Natural Disasters and immediate sheltering of affected people”.

**PART 4**

21.00-21.30            Discussion – Conclusions

**Organizing & Scientific Committee for the Competition:**

<b>Vagelatou Olympia,</b>	General Secretary of ETAM.
<b>Georgakopoulos Panayiotis,</b>	President of the Greek Association of Architects.
<b>Gazetas Yiorgos,</b>	Professor of the National Technical University of Athens and President of “ETAM”.
<b>Dagli Korina,</b>	Technical Chamber of Greece Architect’s Scientific Committee.
<b>Kremalis Kostas,</b>	Technical Chamber of Greece Executive Committee.
<b>Batsou Vivi,</b>	Member of the Executive Committee of the TCG
<b>Belavilas Nikos,</b>	Professor of the National Technical University of Athens
<b>Polyzos Yiannis,</b>	Vice-Rector of the National Technical University of Athens
<b>Santamouris Matthaïos,</b>	Professor of National Capodistrian University of Athens
<b>Siola Lisa,</b>	President of UIA Greek Section, UIA Council Member
<b>Fintikakis Nikos,</b>	Director of UIA “ARES” Work

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Programme. General Responsible  
for the competition.

**Technical Committee**

**Karavasili Margarita,**

Architect d.p.l.g. – planner, ex.  
General Inspector for the  
Environment, Directorate of  
Housing Planning, Ministry for the  
Environment, Physical Planning &  
Public Works, head of the  
Technical Committee, ensuring the  
link with the Organizing &  
Scientific Committee.

**Kremali Terpsi,**

Architect & Landscape architect

**Ktoridis Aris,**

Member of the Technical Chamber  
of Greece Data Base Working  
Group.

**Pipinis Kyriakos,**

Architect, member of UIA Greek  
National Section.

**Secretary:**

Direction of European Affairs and International Relations TCG

Barbara Savvidi

210-3291366

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### SPEECHES

#### **Mr. KREMALIS**

On behalf of the Managing Committee of the Technical Chamber in Greece, I have the honour and pleasure to welcome you to today's meeting.

It is a great honour to have with us Mr. Alavanos, the Technical Chamber's President, as well as Mr Ius Giancarlo, who is the Chairman of region 1 of the International Union of Architects, Mr Tochtermann Wolf, the UIA Program's Director for the International Competitions, and Mr Hegger Manfred, who is UIA's Program for viable Architecture co-Director.

Today's event is not intended only for information purposes. It is an important day for the Technical Chamber of Greece because an international competition is announced under the theme "Bioclimatic architecture and renewable energy resources in the service of people affected by natural disasters".

The meeting is divided into two parts. In-between there will be a break. I believe that all speakers will respect their time limits and everything will run smoothly. We apologise for the delay but it was beyond our power, due to the rallies which stopped traffic for quite a while.

And we will start with a welcome address by the Technical Chamber's President, who is requested to come to the podium.

#### **Mr ALAVANOS:**

I completely agree with Kostas Kremalis, on the fact that for all of us working in the Technical Chamber a gathering like this is a most pleasant occasion, as we announce a very important International Architectural Competition. I would like to say that we feel particularly close with UIA purposes and keep up with its actions, its structure, its subject matter, the way it deals with the important people and scientists whom it turns to advantage.

And of course it is our country's honour to have distinguished people at UIA's higher ranks, people whom we highly value in Greece, like Vasilis Sgoutas, twice its President and his colleagues in the Committee, Lisa Siola and Nikos Fintikakis.

We take comfort in the fact that in an environment which we do not find particularly friendly, that of the international Organisations and the Engineers, the positions UIA adopts on education, general

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education and job practise are similar to ours. I would say that at some points they even broaden our way of thinking.

Last Friday, five days ago, our delegation who was in Lebanon in order to sign a collaboration memorandum with Lebanon's Engineers and their association, well, felt uncomfortable because they were treated with suspicion by their colleagues in Lebanon. Firstly, because they may have thought that we proceed slowly and our thought was to utilise possible restitution Programs to restore the extended damages in Lebanon.

And secondly, they contrasted us with their own action, making a 24hour follow-up of the war's consequences and collaborated with the local groups, wherever there were considerable damages, they offered directions and worked together with the government services and Organisations, with UIA representatives from many countries.

Because in the war in Lebanon, as you remember, we had to be very cautious like in a surgical operation.

It is a term I borrowed from the Press; it is not mine. They destroyed all the bridges in Lebanon, all the major highways and many technical works.

UIA is involved with architecture taking very important actions in the natural disaster field as well. Thus, we are really glad for our cooperation with UIA's section which deals with architecture and soft energy forms issues. Now, why does the Technical Chamber announce this competition? Because it is closely linked with at least three issues that for many years the Technical Chamber has followed closely, participated in and has experience at; namely the issues of the environment, disasters, climatic disasters, the consequences of greenhouse effect, issues on which we have the biggest exhibition and conference every two years in the Balkans; it is HELECO. This conference-presupposing a series of events and researches a priori-focuses on environmental destructions.

The second issue is Energy, on which the Technical Chamber represents Greece at the International Energy Agency. And I think that in the last years we made a very considerable contribution to the issue of the energy balance, energy saving and mainly the problems, energy problems afflicting poor and developing countries of the world, problems caused by restrictions posed by consuming societies.

And of course the third issue which is connected to our competition and constitutes a TCE's basic work, is architecture itself. On this, I will refer to two examples. The first is that we have a Building Regulation, an official one, which is not applied, because

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another one is imposed by few, very few frauds in Greece, yet practically legitimised by the state.

And the particular state, in order to deal with it, proposes new restrictions on the free expression of architecture, to which we totally oppose.

And the second is that during the Pre-Announcement of the International Competition in Naples, on October 2nd, which is the Day dedicated internationally to Architecture, a professor at the National Technical University, in one of her speeches, made reference to thousand homeless people in Athens, children wandering in the streets, homeless immigrants, abused women and children who cannot find a place to live and escape the hideous living conditions in Athens, where owner-occupancy rates are very high and residential wealth is very important.

These figures, however, are low compared to the consequences of natural disasters, on a global scale, where it is estimated that 200 million people on a yearly basis have been coping with problems in the last two decades due to the natural disasters. Between 1971 and 1995, 318 thousand people got killed and 81 million became homeless solely due to the floods.

The problem of dealing with natural disasters is a very serious universal issue and the United Nations' intervention is of vital importance. The section on human settlements, giving guidelines for decent, appropriate and viable housing is particularly significant. In other words, there should exist materials ensuring a minimum quality level in modes of construction, they should have construction durability, enough sun, airing, covering the basic needs of electricity, heating system, water supply and drains; they should also be near some public transport network, social infrastructures, schools, hospitals and be of a reasonable size according to the number of people living in them.

The United Nations have two rationales. One is that of dealing with direct measures and the other with long term measures to be taken, in order to restore housing for the population afflicted by the consequences of the natural disasters.

The Competition announced by the Technical Chamber in collaboration with UIA is inscribed in the context of the former rationale, wishing to sensitise governments, citizens, scientists, engineers all over the world on the intervention issue too, and immediate intervention after disasters, readiness for intervention and on the issue of utilising the bioclimatic architecture and renewable energy resources.



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We believe that through the Competition, innovative solutions will arise, the capacity and know-how to handle the housing issues will be upgraded, people's participation will be extended, and there will be collaboration between public and private Local Administration bodies and non-governmental Organisations and ways of utilising new financing resources and new technologies in the Information Society domains.

So, we address all architects, not just from Greece, but also from all over the world, all architects, to participate in this competition and we address all scientists who will collaborate with them. The issues to address are such calling for scientists' collaboration.

I would like to thank our Organising Committee, which has worked very hard, and the International Architecture Competitions' Technical Committee, in charge of which is Mrs Karavasili.

And I am sure in 2008 in Torino, where the International Competition's awards will be granted, we will have very interesting propositions and solutions.

Thank you very much.

### **Mr KREMALIS:**

We thank the TCE's President. And I would like to ask Mr Giancarlo Ius, the Chairman of UIA's Region 1, to take the floor.

### **Mr. IUS GIANCARLO:**

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I am very glad to be here as Vice-president of Region I of UIA, to underline what it is importance we give to these initiatives as Union of Architects.

We think that all what concerns environment, solidarity is something that it is in the field of action of UIA, but before going into the matter, I would like to thank first of all Lisa Siola, who's doing a wonderful work inside the Council of UIA, from Region II, Nikos for this initiative, that is really wonderful, the team with Manfred Hegger, which will speak latter, and they are doing very good job inside the problems of assistant ability on one side and renewable energy on the other side.

As you like we specify Nikos, I follow your indications strictly, then here is Wolf Tochtermann who is the Director of our Competition Commission, who's really doing something expellant, because we are trying to improve the use UIA rules, that are rules of competitions

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signed in argument with UNESCO and I have to say something about our past President Vasilis Sgoutas. He has been -he is still now- an image of UIA. I have to thank him of all that he has done in I think 30 years of presence in UIA and I ask you to give him applause.

Thank you for following me in this demonstration of solidarity and thanks to what Mr. Sgoutas has done, Vasilis has done in this year for UIA.

Well, in a world where globalization is the key word of economics, is very complicated for us to stay outside of it. We are architects and, of course, we are involved in economics process.

But I think that we have a different approach of economics. We have to be virtual; we have to find out a different way of been global in the world.

And the way I think is the way of solidarity, globalizing the solidarity, and doing this in a different system.

Economics is quick; they measure the globalization with numbers. Today they do something, tomorrow they want the result. We are working with people for people. We can't do that. We need time, we need time, and because globalizing the solidarity we have to make possible a process, where, for example cultural diversity is one of the more important matters.

The respect of environment is the other one. And the action you are going to take here is in a way on one side in a way on the other side. So I think you are really in the right road.

So, from what I said I think that is quite simple to find the right connection with what we are doing. I think that ARES, working group of UIA, has done also other good things, because we are now involved -may I say it officially- in a program of Europe called "Sunrise" and with the work of Nikos we got also this big opportunity and we got also resources, financiers, to do it, which is something very important, because we are always fighting with this problem.

By the way, I am also the Chairman of the Financial Committee in the UIA and this is one the troubles of the Union, we have to do a lot of work to change the system of getting funds. This is one of the ways, going outside our world, don't wait the telephone rings for calling you, but use the telephone and call other people in our ideas, in our projects, in our actions.

This is the demonstration that if we are active, if we are positive, if we think that future can be better also with the involvement and with the help of architects, we can do a lot. We can really do a lot.

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What you were saying just before about Lebanon Agreement is really something fantastic, I have no words. They had yesterday a war, they are still involved in a bad situation and we are there as Greek architects to talk with them, to try to find ways to collaborate with them.

I think that this in the field of solidarity and human consideration is something that is really to be underlined and copied and diffused because we think that people have to copy these initiatives, this is a good field of competitions in the sense that we have to find all these possibilities to grow our presence as architects in the world.

Few words about competition, Wolf will be more involved in this title, but some words.

I think that that UIA competition is also a good way to be present in society. We have a long story about UIA competitions. Many of the most important buildings in the world are of the last years after the World War, were built through a competition of UIA. Sidney Opera House, Library of Alexandria, La Grande Arche at Paris etc., we have a long list; we should improve the use of the competition with UIA, competition and prizes, to promote the good architecture. It's a way where architects will compete and the result is the promotion of the good architecture.

What we have to do in the future is to improve this, leaving a bit the approach of controlling competitions and try to put to in place many competitions, as much as possible and in a different field. Here we have a different field. It is not the big building, is at an action of solidarity, and is an action where also the cultural diversity will be taken care.

Well, I could speak for a long time about this matter, but I think that the specialists have to have the floor to do it.

Thank you very much for inviting me. It is really a fantastic opportunity to be with you and take UIA in Greece. Thank you.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you very much. It is very important that the Competition has the sense of solidarity. I would please like to call Mr Vasilis Sgoutas, to come to the podium and address the audience.

**Mr SGOUTAS:**

Good evening.

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It is a great pleasure to be here in front of such a special audience. The Technical Chamber of Greece has a long tradition in supporting UIA events and especially competitions. The presence here of the Chairman Mr Giannis Alavanos and the present Managing Committee's representative, Mr Kostas Kremalis and the former Managing Committee's representative Mrs Vivi Batsou, something which shows continuity, is setting the scene and confirms the fact.

The Technical Chamber believes in the UIA's role and mission which is even more obvious from the overall actions of UIA's Greek section whose President is Mrs Lisa Siola.

During UIA's 60-year-history, competitions have been, together with the Congresses, the corner-stone of UIA's activities.

Approximately 10 years ago, there was a shift in the competitions field. The focus was no longer on buildings, like the Sydney Opera House mentioned earlier, but shifted more towards new architects as well. These were competitions whose candidates were new architects and undergraduate students. In fact, it was then when for the first time, parallel competitions were held for architects and students separately, with the same subject.

This had visible results. More than anything else, it dragged UIA out of its isolation, for example the isolation of the past, and brought it much closer to young people and to the place where architecture is born; the Universities.

Of course, all these, would not matter if the competitions' subjects were not contemporary and if new perspectives did not come up concerning architects' and architecture's contribution to serious global problems. The interesting thing about the competition presented today is that it has a twofold purpose: the survival of human-beings as well as the planet's survival.

In order to understand the importance of this competition, we should remember that the natural disasters are not only the big, sudden disasters, like a tsunami or an earthquake. The climatic changes taking place, silently but steadily, create a different kind of environmental refugees. This term has existed since 1940. Just think of the forced population movements in Africa where as we know, the Sahara desert grows bigger each year about 1 kilometer and we also forecast the population movements in the future, due to the consequences of the ice melting.

The UN estimate the environmental refugees will rise at 50 million in five years and 150 million by the end of the century.

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Hopefully, the ideas arising from this competition on dealing with natural disasters will possibly be implemented, for all the reasons mentioned above and generally to combat poverty; In other words to improve people's living conditions that only Dante in his Inferno could describe accurately.

And in this way a circle will close in the sense that eight years ago, a very successful UIA competition was held entitled "Architecture and poverty" which awarded many Greek candidates with distinctions.

Dear colleagues, it is a great pleasure indeed to see here, among us, distinguished and widely known UIA members; Giancarlo Ius and Wolf Tochtermann. It is a token of the importance they attach to this Meeting; indeed it is important and ... unusual I would say.

Public competitions announcements are not usually accompanied by an in-depth analysis of their field, like it will be the case today. And so, I believe that we start with the most favorable conditions.

Nikos Fintikakis and his team really deserve warm congratulations, because they put forth new messages in the renewable energy resources field and in something else which is equally important. It is the need for collaborating with other UIA working groups, with similar subject-matters. And the presence here of Manfred Hegger, who is in charge of the sustainable development team, confirms this fact.

I will conclude by making reference to an event which will take place in Venice, at the end of this month, namely the RIBA Congress. The participants of the Congress are invited to answer the following question; can we prove that architects are in a position to make the difference? We can prove that they can make the difference in the way we live and deal with the problems in the cities and the environment.

I believe the competition that starts today, has the potential to give some answers to this question. I wish good luck to the Meeting that will follow and I am confident this competition will rise to our expectations.

Thank you.

### **Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you. I will ask now Mr Yiorgos Nikolaou, the Vice president of the Greek Architects Association, to come to the podium. The Greek Architects Association participates via its representative in

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the International Competition's Organizing Committee; it participates actively and helps a great deal in this effort.

**Mr NIKOLAOU:**

Thank you. Good evening. I would also like to welcome our foreign friends and congratulate the Committee for all the work it has done so far. I also had the chance to observe closely the Organizing Committee's work.

I am here, because the Chairman could not be here today apparently because something came up, therefore I am completely unprepared. We all realize the importance of the Competition. There is no need to go into details. I would just like to wish good luck and all the best.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you Mr Nikolaou. I would like Mr Dimitris Galanopoulos, Doctor of Geophysics who is representative of Citizens Protection General Secretariat to take the floor.

**Mr GALANOPOULOS:**

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. On behalf of Mr Panagiotis Furlas, General Secretary of Citizens Protection General Secretariat, I would like to thank the President of Greece's Technical Chamber and the Organizing Committee, for the invitation addressed to the Citizens Protection General Secretary to be present, in today's Meeting organized by the TCG, in collaboration with the International Architects Union and SADAS PEA.

I would also like to transmit the warmest greetings and most cordial wishes on behalf of the Citizens Protection General Secretary Mr Panagiotis Furlas and convey his best wishes, for a successful outcome of today's Meeting. The Meeting deals with the renewable energy resources use in bioclimatic architecture, the protection infrastructures and immediate recovery of natural disasters victims.

The Citizens Protection General Secretariat constitutes the institutional Instrument, whose purpose is researching, designing, organizing and coordinating the action for prevention, readiness, handling and providing information on the issues of natural, technological and other big disasters.

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The Citizens Protection General Secretariat is responsible for coordinating the work and actions of dealing with disasters, and for coordinating the restitution work for the damages. In the above projects and actions context, the Citizens Protection General Secretariat is interested in encouraging and promoting new methods and technologies, which contribute to a better and effective dealing with the various disasters consequences.

Our country, due to its special earth tectonic and climatic conditions, it has a wide range of energy resources, which are known as renewable energy resources. For example, wind, solar, geothermal energy, of low, medium and high enthalpy (heat content).

The Citizens Protection General Secretariat wishes that the mounting of the International Architects Competition, with the subject ‘Bioclimatic Architecture and renewable energy resources in the service of victims from big disasters’, will contribute positively to facing the different natural disasters’ consequences.

Thank you very much.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you Mr Galanopoulos. And now I will ask Mrs Lisa Siola, to address the audience.

**Mrs SIOLA:**

Dear friends and distinguished guests, in my capacity as the Greek UIA Section Director, and as a UIA Council member, I would also like to greet today’s Meeting, by emphasizing some of the aspects concerning this international organization, as well as the role of the Technical Chamber’s participation in it.

Firstly, I would like to inform you of my personal view on the significance of the participation in this international organization. As we all know, developments worldwide and the effects thereof on globalization tend to regard the profession of Engineers and Architects, as a simple commercial act.

UIA has mobilized all its potential in defending the education and profession of architects, in the light of its social and cultural value. Thus, I believe that the participation and activation in its entourage, can offer an effective reinforcement and support of the values offered by this profession in each country’s society and history.

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The International Union of Architects was founded in 1948 in Lausanne,- do not worry, I am not going to tell you the whole UIA history- with the purpose to unite architects from all over the world, irrespective of religion, architecture opinions or anything else. And 22 countries signed its foundation.

Today, the UIA members are more than 100 national sections representing the profession internationally, at the international Organizations, like UNESCO, the World Trade Organization. In general, it is the official interlocutor of all international organizations, representing the Architects.

The Greek UIA section and the Technical Chamber, participate from the first moment of its foundation. Greek representatives participated in the first congress in Lausanne. Vasilis Kassaridas and Kostas Kitsikis represented the Technical Chamber in that first congress.

Since then, we have had a constant participation, with the TCG support, so that we can achieve distinguished positions the ultimate one being, as it has already been stressed, the election of Mr Vasilis Sgoutas as the UIA President.

Of course, we are also involved in multifaceted activities through the programs and the actions, which is why we are classified I think as one of the most active UIA national sections.

Now, I would like to share with you some thoughts on the architecture competition. The natural disasters are a global phenomenon, which transcends geographical barriers spreading across all geographical longitudes and latitudes and all countries, rich or poor.

The impact surely differs, depending on the phenomenon's intensity and a country's financial situation. However, nowadays, this is not absolutely certain and exactly proportional. A case in point is the tragedy caused in New Orleans, in a country which could or can deal with a natural disaster and its impacts in a more immediate way.

As a representative of UIA's Greek section, I am convinced that this architecture competition will contribute to mobilizing the global architects community to find technical solutions able to help deal with large scale calamities, for instance to guarantee immediate housing for natural disasters' victims, until these people can have a permanent living environment again; in other words, to have a human point of reference, in which they will temporarily shelter the memory of all the human losses and the individual and social life framework destroyed.



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In today's society of information dissemination and of the global effort to distribute the roles among states and nations, we are not justified to pretend ignorance or indifference. I believe with this architecture competition, we contribute to global mobilization on mitigating natural disasters' impact on life and collective people's memory. Good luck.

Thank you very much.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

We thank UIA Greek section's Chairman. And I would like to invite Mr Tochtermann Wolf, the UIA Director of the "Work Program of Competitions", to present the issue "International Competitions for Architects and the role of UIA". Please Mr Tochtermann.

**Mr. TOCHTERMANN WOLF:**

Ladies and gentleman, dear colleagues and dear friends, let me say first of all how happy I am to be here in Athens and to be with you tonight. On behalf of the International Union of Architects I particularly thank the Technical Chamber of Greece for the invitation and the colleagues from the UIA Work Program on architecture renewable sources for launching an international competition on renewable energy sources and bioclimatic architecture for shelters to shelt people affected by natural disasters; it is a very long title.

This initiative is unique and welcome, most welcome, and the competition we are launching tonight is significantly different from those, UIA is not negotiating and approving normally.

Most of the competitions, national or international, concern a building, a group of buildings or an urban plan. More or less prestigious and UIA program, I am responsible for, clearly shows this reality.

Shelter is really a subject for a competition; shelter is not prestigious. Not in the case of natural or manmade disasters, or in consideration of those who live in precarious situations in all parts of the world and I would like to expand the idea of disasters to the reality and many urban settings.

I am talking about the 1 billion people who live in squatter settlements in "bastiz", "favelas", "barrios", "quechuacontos", "bindonville" in many countries of the developing world, but also in industrialized countries.

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Emergency sustainable development, as well as disaster relief should become a major concern of our profession in the years to come.

During Ecolocrium, a seminar I attended in Washington D.C. earlier this year, on the development of validation and accreditation systems for architects, that is my other hat in UIA, somebody mentioned the fact that the world population has by now reached the figure of 6 billion people and at these are all potential clients for the architects and urban planners.

Such a statement is of course completely unrealistic, when we see that even in industrialized countries only about 30 to 40% of the built volume are designed by architects.

In countries like Morocco this figure goes down to less than 5%. Cities of 250.000, 350.000, 500.000 are currently been built by poor people.

Yes, we want to increase our social commitment, we want to be preoccupied by the urban poor and by those who are victims of disasters.

We have seen the last two years natural disasters of an almost unprecedented violence and we have seen wars which have left hundreds of thousands of shelterless and homeless people.

I am happy and proud for having been associated with this important competition, which certainly show the inventiveness of architects, we will show hopefully, and in emergency situations.

May I recall here that UIA competitions such as the architect as enabler or architecture and poverty, which was launched by our friend Vasilis Sgoutas, it seems to me in line with the project we are launching here today.

UIA competition program, which in fact started in its early years of existence, is certainly among the successful activities of the International Union of Architects.

Our work is based on an international recommendation adopted by the general conference of UNESCO in the '50s, concerning a set of regulations for international competitions in architecture and urban planning.

We still closely follow the spirit of these regulations and have helped many promoters promote parts of the world to define their program and to formulate the rules of their international competitions.

Transparency, anonymity and a correct follow-up are among the salient points of our work. We pay full attention to the composition of a competent and internationally well balanced jury.

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Thus, many significant buildings and urban developments are the result of UIA approved competitions, Sidney Opera House and Alexandria Library have already been mentioned, as well as the Astralat de France in Paris, not yet built, but following a competition of this year or last year, the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the Presidence Palace, the Council Building for the European Union also in Brussels, the Nam June Paik Museum in Korea, which have been approved already and are in the way, and currently been promoted the National Library in Prague, a New Administrative Capital in Korea and so on.

Competitions are important events for our profession, and many colleagues have started their professional career with a successful participation in a national or international competition.

Competition showed better than any other manifestation the current thinking and possibilities intellectual as well as technical of the profession. And I hope that by next year we will see for this competition new ideas concerning provision of shelter for those who are in desperate situations.

Thank you again for the initiative of this competition and for your commitment in this particular field.

Thank you very much.

### **Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you Mr Tochtermann. Thank you very much. And now, Mr Fintikakis, the Director of a UIA Working Programme, titled ARES will take the floor to present ARES role and activities.

Please Mr Fintikakis.

### **Mr FINTIKAKIS:**

In 2002, the idea of creating this International Work Programme "ARES" was put forward, with the support of Greece's Technical Chamber and the International Union of Architects.

The thinking behind this effort was that the future built environment's form has to be based on a responsible approach to nature and on the sustainable energy potential use, the sun, the air, the water or the earth, the four elements that were the decoding of the pre-Socratic philosophers' theory, made by Aristotle.

Architecture's role as a responsible profession is to interpret this observation. For the above reasons, we reckoned that the

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International Union of Architects, which is the most recognizable International Architects' Organization, ought to play a leading role in achieving a solar, wind and bioclimatic architecture. And an essential step towards this direction was the establishment of a new international working group.

Greece has indeed one of the most suitable climatic conditions and cultural bedrock accordingly; hence the emergence and evolution of this idea. And that is why I want to thank so much the Technical Chamber of Greece for supporting all this effort, UIA's Greek section for supporting it too with its Director Mrs Lisa Siola, and Mr Vasilis Sgoutas, who as UIA's Director has warmly supported this idea and the working group's creation, the Managing Committee's members who are here today, Mrs Vivi Batsou and Mr Kremalis.

Of course, I would also like to thank the new UIA's Presiding panel, also members in the Jury, Mr Giancarlo Ius, who is Chairman of UIA's Region 1, Mr Wolf Tochtermann who is the UIA Competition's Program Director and my friend Manfred Hegger who is involved in the broader role of viable architecture.

Finally, I honestly thank you, John Alavanos, for all this work you are doing and for helping us so much. I know that this is part of your ideology and culture.

The thematic units included in the International working group's program, are related to the renewable energy resources incorporation in the built, urban environment. A second unit is education and training for Architects and Engineers of all fields.

For this reason, the last three years, again with the TCG's, UIA's and the National Technical University of Athens help, a very big exhibition was held in Istanbul, during the last Congress, illustrating the way of teaching bioclimatic architecture and renewable energy resources in the universities of the world. We had approximately fifty participations from Universities of all over the world.

Finally, this working group's principal role is to communicate information on renewable energy resources, laws and regulations-being rather promoted on a European level but not advanced on an international level -, by means of this international architect competition.

we think that will really raise awareness to number of European Architects, and also from the Third World, America and Australia, to share with us their experiences precisely about this crucial issue; when after a natural disaster there is no electricity or water supply, nor are the basic living conditions met, what could Architects possibly

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think of to draw these from the immediate environment and offer them affordably, fast and effectively to big natural disasters victims.

Finally, I want to inform you that all the International working group's activities in the last four years can be accessed on the Technical Chamber's Public Relations website, as well on the UIA website. On the website you can have all the necessary information on your participation in the working group's actions and in the competition in general.

Mrs Karavasili- whom I thank very much- will take on form here, and will explain to you more about the competition, for as a Technical Committee member has truly offered all her experience as Director and basically, in charge of the environmental issues at the Ministry of Public Works in the last years, in this competition's creation and running.

This competition will last 2 years. The first includes the competition's process and the entries submission. You will find it on the site which will be uploaded on the Technical Chamber and the International Union of Architects' websites from November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In 2007 the awards will be announced in Athens and in 2008, in Torino.

To wrap up, I would like to announce, as it happens in all international competitions, the International Jury members, who are the following: Farrando Jordi, UIA's General Secretary, Giancarlo Ius, UIA's Region 1 Chairman and is present today, Wolf Tochtermann, the competitions Program Director and his experience in the final selection will be very valuable, Manfred Hegger, co-Director of the viable development Program and with great experience on the renewable energy resources, Mrs Patcount Patricia from Canada, Professor at the Architecture Faculty in Canada, with long experience in renewable energy resources issues, Mr Mutisu, Architect from Kenya,- we have made sure that the Jury members come from all over the world- former UIA member, and the colleague from Turkey, Komout Emine, who has indeed offered a lot in the natural disasters field.

As far as Greece is concerned, members of the Committee will be Lisa Siola, Nikos Belavilas, who represents and is Professor at the NTUA and is among the keen supporters of the environmental protection and renewable energy resources, Panagiotis Georgakopoulos, Architects Association Chairman and me, as the Greek and International Work Section Chairman.

Thank you for your attention. Mrs Karavasili will now give us data.

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**Mrs SIOLA:**

Please Mrs Karavasili... Before Mrs Karavasili takes the floor to complete the first part, Mr Giancarlo Ius, will make a short announcement on the Torino issue I think.

**Mr. IUS GIANCARLO:**

Yes, I would like to make an invitation to you, next July 2008; we are going to have the Congress of UIA in Torino, so I really would like to invite you to participate to this UIA Congress, each three years we do it. Last time was in Istanbul, next time is Torino in Italy. I would really like to see you all participating in this event that for architects of the world is the moment to meet and to discuss about the life of architects, about architectural.

This time we think we have a good team for the subject of the congress, I think is really important, is transmitting architectural. Not in the way only of transmitting through the reviews and magazines of the sector, but like democratic action transmit the architecture to all citizens, hoping that everybody that can participate in the debate. Meet me please in Torino, 29<sup>th</sup> of June- 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2008.

Thank you very much.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

I will now call Mrs Margarita Karavasili, Architect and Urban planner, in charge of, as you may have heard, the Technical Committee, to expand on the subject “Viable housing for population hit by natural disasters, through the renewable energy resources use and bioclimatic architecture”; I personally want to thank her myself for all the work she has done and still does.

Please.

**Mrs KARAVASILI:**

I would like to thank all of you and particularly Mr Yiannis Alavanos, President of the Technical Chamber of Greece, for supporting this important initiative.

Thanks also to Mr. Fintikakis, who has believed that I could serve this International Architectural Competition, giving me the honour and the opportunity to take part in the preparation of this

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competition on a theme concerning Bioclimatic Architecture in which I deeply believe, support and fight for many years.

I am the responsible person of the competition Technical Committee, which comprises four specialist in the subject, Mr. Kyriakos Pipinis, Architect, Mrs. Terpsi Kremali, Architect and Landscape Architect and Mr. Aris Ktoridis, web-site administrator, whom I would like to thank for the assistance and support; from the beginning we work intensively all together hoping in developing and managing as well as possible this extremely interesting competition, due to the particularities of the theme, to give the opportunity to architects all over the world to propose new, innovative ideas for sustainable architecture to shelter people affected by natural disasters.

My current speech is actually an effort to explain - to put it right – basic elements on the major challenges of our time, related with climate change and natural disasters, as also on the competition theme.

Besides solidarity, architecture needs vision and faith as well. Therefore, to depart from the vision, I believe that having faith in a modern architectural ideal can open our eyes for a collective memory. And precisely this memory can lead to a journey to the past, which we need to spotlight remarkable works bequeathed by men and lead us to the origins of bioclimatic architecture, which is good architecture.

We need to meet with rightness, prudence, logic, inspiration, imagination and wisdom, which characterise traditional settlements, traditional architecture and the works of anonymous people when they constructed buildings to house their families under the necessary warmth and comfort.

My presentation is based on three axes: An introductory one to demonstrate the existing link between the current serious environmental problems, as climatic change, with natural disasters happened more and more frequently and causing serious damage to economy, society and environment; a second axe to address natural disaster's consequences on human lives and natural ecosystems; and finally a third axe to explain how the International Architectural Competition is linked to the above-mentioned issues.

Of course, many important elements have already been stressed by other speakers and especially by Mr Sgoutas he has particularly truly pictured the competition's purposes related to the fact that we live in times where we are all affected by climatic changes impacts, such as natural disasters.

This fact, that it was just a theory which has been questioned by many for years, it is now unfortunately confirmed by researches and

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evidences and by the frequency and wildness of natural disasters; the latter are intensified more and more, and become more sudden and even affect countries that were not used to such disasters in the past.

We are now more than well aware of the increased conventional energy's production and consumption responsibility in Climate Change, due to greenhouse gas emissions. We are also more than well aware of the fact that we need to reduce energy production and consumption as well, not only in industry and transport but also in the building sector, which need energy for heating, cooling, hot water use production and electrical installations. Energy consumption, contributes to carbon dioxide production, which is the principal cause of the greenhouse effect phenomenon.

Natural disasters affect directly or indirectly all of us through the cost recovery which is undertaken by society; as natural disasters for most of us happen only through television, we are being more and more habituated to frightening images of spectacular disasters, human lives loss and misery, unconceivable for people in the past. The most recent examples are the incredible disasters due to El Niño phenomenon, to "Katrina", and more recently to "tsunami"...

Such "charming" names given to describe such extremely dramatic situations...

These situations, due to natural disasters, together with other environmental impacts related also to the climate change, such as depopulation, desertification, deforestation – where more and more areas are deserted - drought, shortage of water, etc, forcing populations to move, create a wholly new evidence, since the human losses increase.

We should add of course the increased financial cost by rehabilitation of damages caused to the environment and to society - human properties and lives – that affect directly the international economic system. And we should point out that as a result, the biggest insurance Organisations in the world are those who invest nowadays in saving our climate and planet, exactly because of the financial burden of compensations they are faced with.

The last two decades we know that more than 200 million people suffer from the impact of unusual phenomena every year; due to natural disasters, some lose their lives and many more get injured, lose their properties or become homeless. And we all realise even from our TV screen, the psychological condition of these populations who are usually poor, and how much they need relief, a house that will make them feel safe and calm after the disasters' shock.



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In fact, if we take into account that by 2025 half of the population will live in dangerous zones, zones already specified by scientists that they will face terrible storms and very extreme weather conditions, we realise the magnitude of the problem. Populations become homeless and unprotected, scared, often injured and waiting for help.

Fortunately the International Community supports them. Solidarity is present, as well as the vision, the cohesion and humanity organisations voluntarism. Many NGOs rush to help. These positive actions give us hope to keep alive our “dream” for a better future.

However, we are conscious that the situation is expected to get worse, especially in the south hemisphere areas which are faced to more crucial problems.

The challenges and dilemmas are many, and so are the questions, given the fact that we are faced with the 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges for sustainable development, in spite of the fact that the International Community collaborates to find viable solutions and there is a great co-ordination of efforts. We ought to deal with and bridge the gap between immediate, fast and effective handling of natural disasters results, with the development of viable sheltering solutions conducting towards sustainability. Action which is often not easy to do; it is put on hold and there is no interest, due to the urgent need to hurry and find solutions quickly than to proceed in innovations.

These contradictories guide efforts to find ways providing to citizens, governmental or non-governmental organisations, which act voluntarily, and to local governments with specific guidelines, specifications and best practices which could easily be implemented each time that natural disaster issue arises. in order to understand better possibilities offered by innovative architecture and technology.

These are the dilemma and the challenges to which this particular competition has to respond.

Give answers on how we can act immediately, giving viable solutions not to the detriment of the environment, and spread a universal message; a message of architecture’s possibility as art and science to offer good life conditions not only to the wealthy with their villas and impressive mansions, but also the majority of people, who are poor.

Many programs have been proposed and are now at the international community’s disposal; the international community envisages to reconciling these two facts we mentioned earlier. It is very active but it all depends exclusively on participation, communication, information and all groups involved participation-

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responding also to the main sustainable development issues. Surely you realise how important this participation, collaboration and solidarity is, especially in emergency situations.

United Nations Organisation Habitat a leading is played a major role in natural disasters prevention, and care for immediate victims' rehabilitation, by applying the Habitat Agenda principles, which is a text of politics and strategy, co-signed by all governments of the world, on a global scale.

Habitat Agenda for human settlements promises healthy, safe, equal, viable settlements and houses for all.

United Nations Organisation, Habitat section has also a very essential role inside the United Nations Program for managing natural disasters risk. A very important program with numerous actions and examples already applied in cases when such natural disasters took place and there needed to be rehabilitation. Best practices examples have been used, especially, in the case of Katrina hurricane, where there were some really good housing examples in sustainable settlements.

Habitat Agenda and the last decade's trends on the sustainable housing of populations involve a new integrated approach and another way of thinking. To shelter affected people does not respond only to people's need for safety, equal conditions of living, sufficiency and suitable housing, but also, to providing environmental efficiency and quality of life.

A shelter, in our time, has to be an efficient construction that can guarantee a comfortable way of living under any weather conditions, by making rational use and saving of natural resources.

The integration of bioclimatic architectural principles in any project could offer the best answers; using a sustainable architecture design and a sustainable construction following natural laws and nature's economy, and, when possible, integrating in the shell efficient solar systems and clean innovative techniques widely spread in many parts of the world, is lying on equality, solidarity, fellowship, human dignity, appreciation and co-operation.

Using sustainability approach on materials, construction durability, use of solar energy and airing in basic infrastructures – water supply, drains, heating, electricity and light – even in case of emergency to shelter people affected by natural disasters, could fulfil acceptable quality life conditions and environmental protection.

Integrating sustainability issues also in planning respecting the site topography, landscape and natural resources and taking into

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consideration of the appropriate area size in relation to number of its inhabitants and spaces could create sustainable human settlements.

In addition, these viable solutions should have a reasonable price, since it fulfils all the above. So that architecture becomes a consumption product available for the big masses and not only to some privileged people.

We should demonstrate that high quality and performance sustainable architecture is able to be used also by the upper classes to cover their needs and expenses.

The United Nations Organisation and especially the Human Settlements Section (Habitat Program), has already designed programs, innovations in housing solutions, putting great emphasis on prefabrication, in other words easy ways to make this rehabilitation possible; a temporary rehabilitation of natural disasters victims.

Secondly, it has already set programs for dealing with urban planning, i.e. starting from the house nucleus and then moving to the community, to neighbourhood, to district and to urban planning segment, establishing infrastructure works needed to help survive a whole population. Here we talk about tremendously big numbers afflicted by natural disasters.

Habitat Agenda, the international trends and especially this competition focus on showing that renewable energy is for the poor as well. Bioclimatic architecture, good architecture, should be for everyone and not for the few.

So, from theory to action humanity is experimenting with sustainable housing as the aim. Most of the times the occasion are these emergencies whereby the opportunity for accommodating big population groups is given.

At this point we could mention an example to enrich the presentation; photovoltaic-roofed houses have been already constructed for populations hit by Katrina. These are small houses, completely energy autonomous, using in other words solar energy for providing light and hot water.

Instead of miserable camps – slums – of past improvised tents or lodgings used to shelter affected people, which most of the times, were unsuitable for winter and summer and impossible for people to live in and be cured now, new ideas come, still in their early days, not well co-ordinated so far, offering necessary viable life conditions.

Vis-à-vis this competition, let us dream and hope that concerning the already existing ideas and the ones to come, we will be able to make good use of them and communicate them to the global

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community and particularly to the architects who need to be aware of the modern challenges.

Thus, the International competition in question, with the long but concise title,- includes a major challenge, an important theme that in my opinion can sensitize not only new architects, but also experienced ones, professionals who have a long standing experience. It is a great challenge working for humans, for solidarity and architecture itself, which needs to be upgraded and transmitted to everyone.

Well, this competition organised by the Technical Chamber of Greece, the International Union of Architects, and ARES Working Programme under this important competition theme, will respond to new challenges resulting by natural disasters impacts on the environment and people, and to challenges arising by the need to implement viable measures to combat climatic change, through increased energy efficiency.

Achieving energy efficiency, even in a very small building, making it energy autonomous and so in a whole neighbourhood or a city, if we had the time to look at some figures, we could avoid tons and tons of carbon dioxide and at the same time, save important quantity of conventional fuels used. So we could understand even better how important it is for the planet and for our life and the environmental protection, to provide sustainable shelters, energy autonomous housing units, as much as they can be autonomous of course, depending on its location.

Bioclimatic concept in building design in the last two decades has had various names: sustainable architecture, green architecture, ecological architecture. It brings back old good ideas of urban ecology or of ecology in general, and has indeed revolutionised building design and construction in the majority of European and developed world countries.

And what is for? Because the first and most fundamental measure to resolve the universal environmental crisis itself and the climate is the decrease of the increased energy consumption. That is the only means to fight climatic changes and secure the environmental protection.

This ecological or sustainable approach has been legislated in many countries and is enshrined in regulations. In Greece these regulations are under way. Shortly, the new EU Directives on Building's Energy Efficiency shall be in effect.

However, green buildings have not come out of nowhere. They are a continuation of good architecture and elements massively used in

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the past to built traditional shells and settlements. In Greece we were lucky to have a very rich tradition in bioclimatic traditional architecture, so we have an enormous experience coming from the past. They satisfy to a great extent their users needs, minimize the impacts on the environment, and protect the inhabitant's health and the natural ecosystems. And they generally comply with the sustainability demands.

It is therefore essential and this is what the Competition wants to highlight; to inform and disseminate information concerning the new rules and conditions for the architect's profession in all the countries of the world and the possibilities offered by innovative clean technologies and by the good Architecture itself to save natural resources and limit CO2 emissions. Very often, due to speed and profit, we tend to forget or underestimate these elements.

The challenge of offering a safe temporary house, with efficient insulation, effectiveness and energy autonomy is, in our time, the only solution to develop a more effective and immediate natural disaster's risk management and that is exactly a major problem on a global scale.

Regarding the choice of Technical Chamber of Greece to propose and support this initiative, and touch upon a subject much more important and serious than ever, as TCG President has already explained it, I personally believe that this is the time for Technical Chamber to make more efforts transmitting the message resulting of the competition theme and of participants propositions and expanding proposals towards the international community.

New architects are not sufficiently informed and this should change. International Community should start doing some self-examination and exchange views and experiences on these issues. On the natural disasters issue, which is if you like, a fertile ground, unfortunately- we all wish there were not any natural disasters - nonetheless, they do exist and we have to cope with them.

This competition apart from sensitizing, it also promotes the role of bioclimatic architecture, not only of contemporary buildings but also of temporary shell units, that should be constructed quickly in conditions better than in the past and installed to accommodate people in need and those who have suddenly lost everything.

The solutions proposed by the architects all over the world, can and should be utilized by the international Community.

Let us say now a few words about Competition Regulation. As you know the judgment will be made by an important International Jury, already announced by Mr. Nikos Fintikakis. The competition is supported by an organizer who takes the initiative and supposedly

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obeys the regulations fixed, following the general framework of UNESCO regulations and have been accepted in unanimity by the International Union of Architects. It really conforms to guarantee and protect the anonymity, to enhance exchange of experience and international dialogue on the theme, as also to guarantee the evaluation of possibly many entries coming to the competition.

Therefore, the Competition Regulation will be accessible through the competition web-site by the 1<sup>st</sup> November, which is the competition official opening day.

The principal competition dates can be also found in the leaflet distributed to you as also in the competition web-site. The duration of the competition is 2 years (until 2008). From that point onwards, in 2008, we will have the events on information, dissemination, awards exhibition and the events that will take place on behalf of the International Union of Architects and here in Greece as well.

I would like to thank you for your attention. And if you need later on, at the end, any additional information on the competition specifications, I will be glad to help you.

Thank you very much.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you Mrs Margarita Karavasili. I believe it was a very interesting presentation and speech. I focus on one of the criteria she set. In my opinion, it is extremely important how fast we can respond to creating these constructions whose purpose will be to accommodate the natural disasters victims. Thus, it is very important.

In addition, it is a true challenge and we hope everyone will start asking questions and think. A short break could be useful for this. We will take a short break and in 10 minutes we will return to our seats please.

10 - Minute break

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Mr Manfred, UIA's WP Chairman on "Sustainable Architecture" will present the issue "Urgent interventions to manage the impact of natural disasters in a sustainable way".

Mr Manfred, please.

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**Mr. HEGGER MANFRED:**

Let me first of all thank you very much for the invitation and for the possibility to speak to you. As architects we usually speak with pictures, photographs, projects, and I thought I'd do the same here, but I found out very soon that it is not possible to react with pictures and that makes this competition so interesting, because we have to think extremely new in terms of getting pictures, getting the right immetry to what the subject and the possible results of the competition is.

So, first of all, my respect and my congratulations to issue the International Competition on such an important issue, not yet mainstream at all in a competition; so it's a completely new round.

When I finalized my statement I looked from my hotel window directly at the Acropolis, a wonderful view, thank you for the careful choice of this hotel and its location.

The Acropolis at first sight stands for the exact opposite of urgent intervention, it's thoughtfully planned, impressive in location and scale, it has survived thousands of years and disasters, less naturals than warfare, and it is capitally architecture, as we call it, Architecture with a capital A.

One might say it's not exactly habitable any more, but certainly it is sustainable in many ways.

One the other hand, the competition subject, need for quick reaction for unseen foreseen events, no time for careful planning, case oriented. At sometimes the impression even is, it's not planned, it's unplanned, it's no planning and it's a short of modeling throw when you have these occasions.

The subject of the competition questions this approach fortunately, so it does not question that natural disasters happen and that occurrence and location can not be foreseen, also not that scope.

We can not escape natural disasters, they do happen and they tend to happen more and more and even more fearfully with manmade climate change as we heard before.

As an architect and as a member of a jury I usually try to put myself into the role of a participator and I have done this also with this competition and when you start, you first start with a few hypotheses on this.

And the first hypothesis I would have on this competition is a proactive planning approach to natural disasters may allow for quicker reaction and a much better fit to the situation.

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In fact we know a lot of about types of natural disasters; we know much about most endangered zones, especially with regard to earthquakes, to volcanoes and to floods and we have most detailed climatic data on these regions.

We know about personal and social needs, about very specific cultural backgrounds of the people living there, but the aid usually is unspecific. It is food, blankets, tents.

And I think there is no, with the competition is a great chance to escape this standard solution, which is no solution in the end, especially for some specific regions.

Architects and their knowledge and imagination can help to provide better, more specific aid and planning, for different situations, without alienating people from cultural backgrounds.

A second hypothesis would be -I am only guessing of course and it is my hypothesis- first aid installations usually last much longer than expected. We have history of long life improvisation and shelters.

We all know of refugees' camps meant to be short life but lasting for years or decades even. Tents maybe ideal for some climatic regions, they are certainly not for others. We have heard about tent cities crippling self initiative and outbreak action. I am sure that this competition will not only present bioclimatic new ideas and options, but also shelter suitable for extension, for self help, for own initiative and collaboration, which will be racially available in urgencies.

And I think it should be also sheltered to identify with and to adopt long term.

As Siola Lisa said, the bridge between emergency relief and sustainable development needs to be closed. Only in rare cases and for some societies I think the short-term shelter approach is really the thing which is applicable...and remountable this could be or easily to be integrated into natural material circles.

In other cases long-term help is needed but it needs to react quickly. Long-term effects, short-term help, long-term usability and expendability.

And another hypothesis of me would be, if more and more natural disasters are the result of unsustainable global development, the aid should address sustainability, as a major means for long-term stability, and this can be put forward by appropriate sustainable aid best.

One could also put it in another way, disruption and catastrophe is disasters, but as any breaking point in life there is a chance to start



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from scratch and to start in a sustainable way, especially in these situations.

What can sustainability means in the conditions of natural disasters and help for natural disasters? Usually when we talk about sustainability we put the action under three headings:

- Ecological aspects
- Economic aspects
- Social cultural aspects.

The arguments may as well appear under different headings, but ecological would be that we carefully watch nature and natural physical surroundings before changing them, and influencing them, regarding possible negative outcomes short-term and long-term, that we should choose for help appropriate locations for aid, allowing rebuilding on new allocation.

Sometimes rebuilding cities may be appropriate, sometimes rebuilding is not because the location is endangered. Anyway, so we need new allocations.

We also might choose appropriate shelter materials allowing self-help underling bioclimatic conditions and extendibility.

Economically sustainability with regard to aid may regard the long-term cost of aid of a long life of shelter. The long life of shelter as we heard in many cases is applicable because we don't foresee the long life and maybe in some occasions the shelter it may be used for different situations, one after the other.

One central issue of this competition is the use of renewable energies sources. And the use of renewable energies sources means that we can introduce sustainable energy supply making use of sustainable technologies and these technologies may help the people needing aid in the long run to lead the sustainable life and even to find jobs and to create new jobs.

And also to enable self help to encourage independence from aid in the long run.

Social culturally aid ought to take to regard culture and religion needs, like privacy, like social life and the social infrastructure needed.

It has also special aspects, cultural aspects follows or determine certain settlement patterns. Social closeness and social distance may be different in different cultures and need to regard this as well as in creating new patterns for aid.

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And we, of course, as architects we would not only like to avoid new essence to the built environment and the visual immetry, but make better living environments and better architecture for the long run.

So, the result would be to make shelters into homes, and to make camps into cities and to improve living conditions as a benefit and a chance of a disaster.

Short-term help with long-term effects, I look forward for the results of this competition. I promise you now interesting, pragmatic as well as forward-looking approaches that will help both, work programs, architecture or renewable energy sources and sustainable architecture of the future and for the affected, our clients in a way, to make it part of their lives and not alienate them.

Thank you very much.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you very much. I now invite Mr Nikos Belavilas, City-planning Lecturer of the National Technical University of Athens, to elaborate on “Architecture and Renewable Energy Resources”.

**Mr BELAVILAS:**

As I am not an expert in bioclimatic architecture, but my specialty is the city and the environment, and due to the previous presentations, I do not intend to talk about bioclimatic architecture since I assume you know better than me.

I will talk about a series of issues concerning environment as a value and to what extent they can be inscribed in the context of an International Architecture Competition, like this one.

Before that, I want to tell you the National Technical University of Athens is willing to- and this is the Rectorate’s view too- support this competition. The Architecture Faculty is represented by two of its members. We are ten colleagues, together with Yiannis Polizos, who is also a member of the Jury, and for some years now, we have introduced the notions of the environment in our teaching at the Faculty and we hope to expand this even more.

I will give you a very tangible example, more than common every summer here in Greece and the rest of the Mediterranean: forest fires. If you watch the news, when a nice forest gets burnt, the first thing to be mentioned will be the human losses, the second will be about the property and the third, about the forest.

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So, personal property which costs some hundred thousand euros and can be restored and regained through an insurance program or a public subsidy comes first, whereas forest value that cannot be reproduced most of the times comes second.

To take a different category, that of cultural monuments, we can draw parallelisms; Enlightenment regarded them as values, e.g. an ancient temple or a Byzantine monument at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in our country, but it took a century to establish them as untouchable values.

Thus, nowadays, for the cultural monuments we can say that even if there is a war, even if mankind manifests its most cruel face, the Buddha Statue cannot be destroyed by the Talibans, or Athens' Parthenon. They carry a cultural value, a priority as great as human conflict itself.

So we seek the way to elevate environmental value to similar levels. We seek the way- and I believe Mrs Margarita Karavasili explained it very satisfactorily- to be able through the procedure of human crisis management, to talk about these subtle nuances such as bioclimatic architecture, energy politics, environmental protection and use of environmentally friendly materials.

Unfortunately in our country we have exactly the opposite experience...the extremely opposite situation. So we are used to environmentally unfriendly materials, energy wasting during crisis cases like in earthquakes we have experienced two or three times the last years, big city disasters hit by earthquakes and historical richness loss, to link it with the previous issue, like the cases in Aegio, Zante and Corfu.

And I reckon that especially for Greece it will be a valuable experience to start viewing crisis management on environmental terms. In my opinion, if we make it, with UIA's help, if the Greek team manages to interact and be impregnated - and I think we are doing just fine- with this new perception, perhaps in a few decades, the environment here and on a global scale, will constitute an irreplaceable value, even under conditions of crisis.

Thank you very much.

### **Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you Mr Belavilas. Well, today we have managed to be even ahead of schedule so, everything is possible in Greece.

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I would like Professor Mr Yiorgos Gazetas of the National Technical University of Greece, who is also the Greek Antiseismic Engineering Section's Chairman, operating under the TCG's auspices, to develop the issue "Natural disasters and immediate relief of the afflicted populations".

**Mr GAZETAS:**

You must be wondering what a Civil Engineer has to say about this. Well, not much. I am not going to tire you with technological issues. In fact, I think that my contribution to this very good effort will be small. However, I must tell you that during these two weeks that Mr Fintikakis suggested I said something I confess I was astonished by the data already available.

What will I show you today? Just some examples, not of disasters in general, but only of earthquake disasters, so that you get an idea of some figures concerning the immediate relief, housing and energy needs, related to the earthquake.

Let us start with only a few examples. I am not going to say anything else. I will start with some earthquakes you might remember; they are all recent. Firstly, the earthquake called BUZZ, in India. I do not know if you remember, but six years have passed since then, January 2001. It was a big earthquake in an area with no such precedent, something natural though; it happens all the time.

And you can see for yourselves, I do not even need to tell you the story. Numerous buildings were destroyed, which meant great housing needs immediately after the quake and it was winter time on top of it. Electricity was not restored until many weeks later. Fourteen villages, as it was stated, were left without electricity for a month. And a village in India means ten or twenty thousand people at least; a huge population suffering.

Certainly, in such a place it would be very interesting to have an innovative solution, like the ones expected by your competition; a quick, energy autonomous and not costly solution.

Another earthquake, very recent, you may have heard of it...it was in Bam. Many historians...There was a sort of castle, an ancient city, 2.000 years old. It appears that such a big earthquake had not occurred before. All the constructions of that 120 thousand- people town, rather small for Iran, were extremely vulnerable. And apart from the huge human losses, 75 thousand people became homeless.

Practically, this town was destroyed. It was tragic, the housing problem and of course electricity and other supplies as well. Usually,

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in such big disasters, all these are connected. Electricity does not exist nor does the infrastructure. So the autonomy of the unit you have been talking about is astonishing.

I confess I had not realised it that much when you started your effort and informed me... Because I did not do anything special, I simply collected and simplified the data.

Surely you remember this earthquake just about a year ago in Kashmir. It was very unfortunate, the time when it happened because the International Community was in a way exhausted by the aid to the tsunami victims, so these people were left with no help at all. I assume you watched it on television.

The housing needs were enormous; actually maybe I should say tents because the people would even be satisfied with them under the horrible circumstances. The number of dead was possibly much bigger after the quakes, due to the cold because winter was very close. Therefore, these needs cannot be underestimated at all.

The need for electricity and other supplies need not be mentioned. Due to the numerous landslides, there was not even public transport. Only with helicopters these people could get some help. I think that especially in this quake, any solution even a mediocre one, of the level required by the competition would be of extreme importance. What can I say? I imagine you understand the numbers.

Of course you know about the quake in Turkey, in Nikomedeia in '99. I will not say anything else, just that apart from the great number of dead, a significant number of people were left homeless; 500 thousand approximately. In other words, it was not in an isolated place like Kashmir, but even so, the needs are not easily covered in conventional ways. And so it happened.

Of course people still live in tents. They are in a better situation than in '99, but the comment of the interlocutor before the previous one, that these temporary constructions sometimes last temporarily...many decades to come, is true and it happens without exceptions.

Let us leave the developing areas and go to Kobe, at Japan's heart, - and in fact, Japan's financial heart, the first port of the country, - here the quake was...it really caused biblical disasters. I will only focus on these numbers.

If you have a basic knowledge of how fast Japan works... for instance, after this terrible disaster the next day at the public offices, only 60% of the employees showed up, unfortunately. Since almost everyone had one loss in their family, these numbers are huge. And an

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even more important number; three years after the quake, while the bridges, tunnels and ports, had been upgraded, people still stayed in makeshift settlements.

Here, I would like to stop. Well, this problem does not affect only underdeveloped countries- it is more tragic there of course- but also developed ones.

I do not need to say anything else, because I think you know better than I do. I will stop here. I simply gave you a glimpse of the figures, to see that you really have a very important task to carry out. And I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to say these few things. Thank you.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Thank you Mr Gazeta. We have reached the end of the presentations. Now, you take the floor. You can make any questions you want or if someone wants to make any comment... Does anybody want to ask something? Please.

**Mrs MANDSIOU:**

Good evening. I am Lena Mandsiou, an architect. I would like to ask how this competition, focused on bioclimatic architecture, does it correlate with locality? As you know bioclimatic architecture has a direct connection to the specific site and location where it is done. Is there such a correlation?

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Mr Fintikakis please, you are the expert.

**Mr FINTIKAKIS:**

This is the competition's purpose; consideration of the local climatic conditions, local materials use and local conditions in general which will be used according to the way each architect will propose and according to the area he wants to test.

It is a free competition. It is not about a specific area or type of disaster. It is about different climates, whether in the Arctic or the Equator. So, locality includes trans-locality in the notion of competition vis-à-vis the issue of diversity which is in fact spreading of conditions all over the world.

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But as you heard in the previous speech by Mr Gazetas, everywhere we need electricity and water, whether we are in the Arctic or the Equator. Every architect, depending on the issue and the area he will choose.

In the case of this competition participants have the freedom to situate their projects in a site and location of their choice.

It is a competition of ideas, which can be further developed in the International Committee, the various governments and organisations which will create this type of camps, use these ideas to ensure shelters that will be possible in the Equatorial, or the Arctic.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Mr Vasilis Sgoutas would like to add something.

**Mr SGOUTAS:**

I want to stress two things. One is the key-word of today's meeting, said by Margarita Karavasili; it is "affordable". In other words, she said "viable solutions, but financially affordable". So, if that does not come out as the competition's message then, we have failed, we have not done anything. And I believe that we need to focus there.

The other thing is the word "hypocrisy", which was not said by anyone but we are all worried about it; we live in a developed country, everyone here does so and we are big hypocrites. Meaning that we speak nicely at meetings, lectures etc yet in reality, we do not really do anything.

What I mean is, how could anybody go to somebody in Africa and tell him "Do not cut the forest because it is bad for the planet", when we ourselves, in our countries have destroyed all forests? And we come to the utmost hypocrisy, the Kyoto Protocol where we all know that even the participating nations with a point system,- it is really a point system- can buy out pollution, let us say it in a very simple and blunt way.

And I think that as Architects and in the framework of this competition, we have the duty to be the first ones to show, like I said, that we can find affordable solutions, not only viable, and second, applicable ones.

And I want to propose something. I want to propose- when the competition is over- that a Committee sees the various awards, which are applicable, - I refer to the simple, economical and affordable- and

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try to find financing,- I propose this to the Committee here- so that even one can be realised. But we should be sure it can be reproduced many times.

And for me, it would be even better, in spite of what Manfred Hegger said, that we stay in the same place many times, if we could find some that could be carried from one place to another.

Anyway, I propose it here to the Committee. Thank you.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

We thank you. Please.

**Mr THEODOROPOULOS:**

Hello. I am Theodoropoulos Petros. I am not an Architect but a Mechanical Engineer and I was really interested in this Meeting and competition as I could collaborate.

Regarding the economic side, we have to be sure that the electricity needs to be covered in the particular...shell, let us say, house, will be the absolutely necessary. This means energy saving. And I reckon that a victim from a disaster would care only for light, television or a radio. So, we do not ask for great energy amount.

And secondly, a question on the costing issue. Should the candidate make a pre-costing account or is it the Committee's responsibility? Thank you very much.

**Mr FINTIKAKIS:**

Not all international architecture competitions include the notion of costing. But certainly...therefore there is no pre-costing issue. What you said though is correct, that someone should think of the energy supply not in the sense of exploiting, but the minimum possible energy to cover the basic needs.

**Mr KREMALIS:**

Someone else? Any questions? Well then, we can say we have finished. We are faced with a challenge. Every competition is a challenge.

Finally, I would like to say that in the context of this competition, an interdisciplinary approach was not put forward but it



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becomes obvious that it is required. In the Technical Chamber we have a system where Engineers scientists collaborate.

And I will end with a wish; that Greek Architects participate actively. They are skilled, capable and always with innovative ideas. Thus, I wish good luck.

Thank you very much for your interest and participation.

**END OF MEETING**

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