

La Casa de la Arquitectura hosts a meeting with the curators of the UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 Barcelona

The event, with a marked academic character, has served to expose the main elements of *'Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition'*, the winning proposal of the unprecedented competition called for this purpose.

The meeting has been supplemented with a conversation between experts on "Architecture Congresses and their impact on society", moderated by the president of the Conference of Architecture Schools of Spain.

The Secretary of State for Housing and Urban Agenda also participated in the event, as well as representatives of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Barcelona's City Council, the president of CSCAE and the dean of COAC.

Madrid, January 26, 2023

The winning curatorial proposal for the World Congress of Architects of the International Union of Architects (UIA) to be held in Barcelona in 2026, *'Becoming. Architectures for a planet in transition'*, has also arrived at *La Casa de la Arquitectura* this Wednesday, January 24. It was in a meeting with the curators of this choral project - the architects Pau Bajet, Mariona Benedito, Maria Giramé, Tomeu Ramis, Pau Sarquella, Carmen Torres and José Zabala -, which was closed by an interesting conversation between experts on "Architecture Congresses and their impact on society."

In her opening remarks, the president of the Higher Council of the Orders of Architects of Spain (CSCAE), **Marta Vall-Ilossera Ferran**, highlighted the success of holding the Meeting with the curatorial team in *La Casa de la Arquitectura*: "I can't think of a better setting than this space open to society, which shows the richness and diversity of Spanish architectural heritage and makes visible the values of Architecture and its connection to people's quality of life." And then she added, regarding the UIA World Congress in Barcelona in 2026: "It will allow us to bring up a necessary process of reflection on Architecture Congresses, in order to make them useful in identifying the challenges of Architecture and society at all times, and opening them to the citizenship, so that everyone can participate in them."

Next, the dean of the Architects' Association of Catalonia (COAC), **Guillem Costa Calsamiglia**, stressed that "the curatorial team is committed to innovating and updating the formats and dynamics of congresses", an issue that, as he explained, has been possible thanks to "an unprecedented competition at the UIA, which was very rigorous all the while being of very high quality, with a jury of great international prestige." Costa also highlighted that the selected winning team "will lead a congress with a true impact on society, providing a space for reflection and innovation that will transcend the limits of our profession."

The Chief Architect of Barcelona's City Council, **Maria Buhigas**, said: "The city of Barcelona and the City Council, in particular, have accompanied this process since the candidacy and will continue to do so until the end. With the selection of the team in charge of curating the UIA Congress 2026, an important turning point has taken place, one of concretion and the beginnings of work. We are especially happy to host the UIA Congress in Barcelona for the second time, which also means extra pressure, in terms of expectations, which we are sure that together we will be able to fulfill."

The technical coordinator of the General Directorate of Regional Planning, Urban Planning and Architecture of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Beth Tuà,

Lastly, the Secretary of State for Housing and Urban Agenda, David Lucas, highlighted **XXXXXX**

Immediately afterwards, the curators reeled off the proposal with which they begin their work for the World Congress, a project that arises from research based on architectural praxis and whose main leitmotif is *time*, understood as a vector of change and transformation, and from this transversal axis six other subtopics are outlined.

STATEMENTS FROM THE CURATORIAL TEAM'S PRESENTATION

The impact of Architecture Congresses on society

Along with the exhibition of the curator's winning proposal, the meeting also served to analyze the impact of Architecture Congresses on society. Moderated by the president of the Conference of Schools of Architecture of Spain, Manuel Blanco, the conversation included the secretary general of Urban Agenda, Housing and Architecture, Iñiqui Carnicero; the vice president of the UIA, Teresa Táboas; the director of the Arquia Foundation, Sol Candela, and the renowned architect Queralt Garriga.

STATEMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT FROM THE DEBATE

A competition to rethink formats

In addition to giving conceptual form to the congress, the competition, promoted by the Higher Council of the Orders of Architects of Spain (CSCAE), together with the Architects' Association of Catalonia (COAC), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda (MIVAU), the Department of Territory of the Generalitat of Catalonia and the Barcelona City Council, also wanted to rethink and update formats and topics regarding architecture congresses.

The jury of the competition was made up of architectural professionals of recognized international prestige (Ángela García de Paredes, Bet Capdeferro, Carme Pigem, José María Sánchez, Josep Bohigas, Josep Ferrando, Josep Lluís Mateo, María Hurtado de Mendoza, Philip Ursprung and Zaida Muxí) and a representative of each organizing institution (the secretary general of Urban Agenda, Housing and Architecture of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda, Iñiqui Carnicero; the Director General of Territorial Planning, Urban Planning and Architecture of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Agustí Serra; the architect Mónica Rivera, representing the chief architect of the Barcelona City Council, Maria Buhigas; the president of the CSCAE, Marta Vall-Ilossera, and the dean of the COAC, Guillem Costa Calsamiglia). The organizing administrations, in addition to providing their institutional support, finance – in equal parts – the celebration of this World Congress of Architects, which has been recognized as an event of exceptional public interest in the General State Budget Law for 2023.