



IFLA EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Plan(e)Tscape

IFLA Europe Resolution - Budapest, Hungary - October 2024

Landscape is naturally resilient; it adapts to survive. Its resilience, based on its own green, vegetal component, is represented mostly by plants, vegetations and their close association with soils, drainage, geology, landform, fauna, climate and micro-climate even in urban and peri-urban situations. The most effective measures to mitigate or even prevent climate crisis-induced disasters – drought, desertification, heavy precipitation, floods, landslides, and the urban heat island effect – are nature-based solutions, especially vegetation.

Plants represent essential elements of a brighter future contributing to the survival and rejuvenation of our Earth. As genetically coded natural systems for transformation, adaptation, and regeneration, they are the primary instrument of landscape architecture, presenting a wealth of untapped potential.

We the undersigned, as representatives of the National Associations of the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, having considered 'Plan(e)Tscape' as a theme for our General Assembly, in Budapest, Hungary from the 19-20 of October 2024, believe landscape architecture is one of the key professions capable of providing solutions to combat contemporary environmental challenges.

We recognise:

The importance of an ethical and responsible professional response and landscape friendly plant use practice and believe, that the landscape architects wisely contribute to the reduction of the negative effects of climate change and are able to stop, or even to reverse, adverse environmental processes.

Landscape architecture, a profession deeply rooted in nature, can draw attention to plants' multifunctionality, their natural beauty and diverse applications to combat environmental challenges. We are convinced that innovative and conscious plant application can contribute significantly to a sustainable beautiful and healthy vision for our Plan(e)tscape.

Plants are universally accepted emblems of a brighter future and the survival and rejuvenation of our Earth. Plants are genetically coded systems for transformation, adaptation, and regeneration, and they are the primary instrument of landscape architecture, presenting a wealth of untapped potential. Plants are the most efficient tools in the hand of landscape architects to manage environmental disasters, to increase biodiversity, to restore natural habitats, stabilising changes favourably for the quality of life of urban and rural populations; and combating global warming, desertification, ecological destruction or reducing social conflicts, responding to the diverse needs of agriculture, leisure and tourism.

Sharing teaching, research and practice perspectives on past, present and future plant use in professional experiences, discussing innovation capacities and system thinking for plant use in a climate change scenario contributes to the promotion and large-scale recognition of the landscape architecture profession. Theories, discourses, good practices, design ideas, studio works, prototypes, local, regional, and global projects, teaching methods, community involvements, legislations, strategies involving plants are promoters and key factors to turn to nature for salvation through nature-based solutions.

In times of increasing urbanisation, threats of climate change and biodiversity loss, a variety of landscape perspective – such as urban landscapes, historic landscapes, cultural landscapes, agricultural landscapes, social landscapes, ecological landscapes – can be strongly supported by strategic and innovative plant use.

We believe landscape architecture is one of the key professions capable of providing nature-based sustainable solutions for the growing global crisis. Their holistic approach responds to the need for multidisciplinary teams, where landscape architecture can contribute significantly towards to the „code red“ defined by many specialists, highlighting creative, beautiful and inclusive solutions, countering the increasingly prevalent doomsday mood, and outlining an active, forward-looking, and optimistic vision of the future for not only the profession but the entire society.

We believe that, having the plants as central elements, an expanded collaboration between different architectural and natural disciplines is an important prerequisite for a transformative change.

We urge

The European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Directorate General for the Environment, the European Directorate General for Agriculture, the Council of Europe, the New European Bauhaus Collective, IUCN, IFLA Europe member states, monitoring and management bodies of the Ecological Transition-Recovery Funds, and other environmental actors:

- to promote the importance of a 'Governance of Change' in an evolutionary but identity-conscious sense, with Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and the ability to control complex transformations, typical of evolving landscapes that landscape architects govern with competence and experience as an essential element of their professional skills.
- to enhance the importance of strategic, responsible, sustainable, beautiful and future-oriented plant use, to enrich our green areas; as far as the biodiversity is not simply a quantitative feature of a site, to facilitate the re-connections and creation of green corridors between urban green areas and surrounding landscapes.
- to recognise the landscape profession with clarity, to strengthen the relationship between planning, construction and maintenance, so that all actors can actively participate in change management. Just as the design work does not end when the plans are delivered, the construction does not end when the green areas are handed over. There is a need for expert landscape advice to be involved in the entire process;
- to communicate on all platforms and forums that landscape architects can help to tackle the climate change and biodiversity emergency and bring beauty to our environment by mastering complex human-nature relationships;
- to provide an open-source platform as a forum for first degree information about our profession;
- to highlight that only through plant use and landscape architecture the objective of producing healthy, liveable cities can be achieved embracing all of the inhabitants.
- to promote the importance of nature, and the quality of landscape planning, to restore a sustainable balance for an improved quality of life of all species