CODE RED!

In 2002, a year after the tragic attack on 9.11 and the destruction of the Twin Towers in Lower Manhattan, I convened a group of architects, engineers, landscape architects, urban planners, and urban designers under the banner of the DPTF, the Disaster Preparedness Task Force. Nine years later, with additional man-made and natural disasters racking up a dramatic and accelerating record of additional disasters, the AIA New York Chapter founded, with myself as co-founder and co-Chair, the Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee, the DfRR. Now, ten years after that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued its 2021 report and Antonio Gutierrez, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, has declared our global environmental predicament to be CODE RED. We have seen this coming for at least a generation. Al Gore’s 2006 much screened movie, An Inconvenient Truth, serves as a milestone informing of us the impending outcomes of no action, and that was already 15 years ago.

As His Excellency Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair of the CSU Advisory Board noted on September 22, 2021: “The latest report of the United Nations Panel on Climate Change makes a very clear case, as never before, that Climate Change is upon us. The time for action is NOW. The world can no longer afford to do too little too late. This is an existential challenge that cannot be met without integrating real sustainability into all aspects of urban growth and development worldwide. Policy-makers at the global, national and local levels must join hands with urban planners, designers and architects to meet the challenge of turning the nexus between these two fundamental phenomena into a positive force for arresting and, eventually, reversing climate change.”

Today, twenty years after 9.11, achieving sustainable urbanization is a different matter than it was in 2001...
Message from The Editor

Ludivine Cornille
Director of Programs and Editor of CSU NEWS

While 2021 is ending, CSU just concluded its first successful series of 10 Lectures on Green Cities, bringing us for this final month to Singapore. This Sixth Edition of CSU NEWS also marks the launch of CSU Book Talks, and showcases innovative urban ideas from Belfast, Nairobi and Cluj-Napoca, emphasizing women leadership in protecting and shaping our planet.

CSU is currently planning its 2022 programmes and a next Lecture Series, amongst diverse activities. I invite you to read CSU President’s message “CODE RED”, which quotes the United Nations Secretary General’s declaration about our global environmental predicament after the COP26. Mr. Lance Jay Brown expresses CSU global initiatives and events for the upcoming year, strengthening our partnerships with UN-Habitat and AIA, along with key organizations, municipalities and leaders with whom we continuously collaborate for the critical role of sustainable urbanization and resilient design to build a healthier and greener future for all.

I look forward to another year of collaboration with correspondents all over the world who provide, through this newsletter, innovative ideas on how their cities and communities can achieve the SDGs and implement the New Urban Agenda.

On behalf of CSU, I wish you a beautiful end of the year and a happy holiday season.

Articles

Why Women are Important to Save the Planet
Aliye P. Celik, PhD, Chair CSU Board

As we all know, to reduce climate change, achieving sustainable urbanization, albeit a gargantuan task is very important in this century. We acknowledge the urban challenges of climate change, movement of people, conflicts and pandemics as they have a profound impact on the living conditions in cities which have historically operated as engines of growth and development... [read more]

For Now: Getting Good Intentions Off the Ground Through Meanwhile Intervention
Dean Black, Guest Contributor, Belfast, Ireland

As the world continues to open up and set our ‘new normal’ in motion, our collective ‘post-pandemic’ spirit is one characterised by hope yet caution. COVID-19 remains, as does the make-shib assemblage of face masks, hand sanitisers, plastic screens, zoom meetings, and working-from-home paraphernalia, that came along with it.... [read more]
**Cluj Where? In the Middle of Transylvania!**

*Oana Buzatu, Guest Contributor, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Yes, it is a real place. And it is filled with people that embrace the importance of learning and collaboration in their journey. Cluj, is actually Cluj-Napoca. The city drags the ancient roman name Napoca along with the Germanic one Cluj, meaning narrow. The city’s name is a verbal display of the mix of cultures and backgrounds that we -the residents- think is relevant to help others figure us out from afar.... *(read more)*

**The Safari Green Building Index**

*George Arabbu, Guest Contributor, Nairobi, Kenya*

In its 2021 Annual Convention the Architectural Association of Kenya, AAK, launched the region's first sustainable building rating tool. The Safari Green Building Index, SGBI has been 10 years in the making. The event’s theme “The Built Environment and Climate Action: An Impactful Way forward” sought to bring to fore the urgency of action-based solutions going forward.... *(read more)*

---

**CSU News**

*UN-Habitat Executive Director meets with President and Chair of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization* *(read here)*

*A Tribute to Robert Geddes’ Career by Aliye P. Celik, Chair CSU Board* *(read here)*

---

**Book Talks**

"The URBAN FIX," A review by Harrison Fraker.

"MINDING THE CITY," A review by Doug Kelbaugh.

[Read Here](#)

---

**CSU Publications**

*Post-Pandemic Cities* *(purchase here)*

*Sustainable Urbanization at the UN, for Architects and other Design*
Professionals
(purchase here)

Gateway Portals to the City: Infrastructure for Sustainable Urbanization
(purchase here)

Public Spaces for Sustainable Urbanization
(purchase here)

Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants: Challenges for Sustainable Urbanization
(purchase here)

The Future of Cities: An Integrated Approach to Urban Challenges
(purchase here)

We support

Our Partners

AIA New York
UN-HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE