UIA BEIJING CHARTER

—The Future of Architecture

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国际建协《北京宪章》

——建筑学的未来

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内 容 简 介

1999 年，国际建协第 20 届世界建筑师大会在北京召开，大会一致通过了由吴良镛教授起草的《北京宪章》。《北京宪章》总结了百年来建筑发展的历程，并在剖析和整合 20 世纪的历史与现实、理论与实践、成就与问题以及各种新思路和新观点的基础上，展望了 21 世纪建筑学的前进方向。本书将《北京宪章》撰写过程中的基础背景资料、思考要点，以及吴良镛教授在大会上的主旨报告等进行汇总，从建筑与环境、建筑与城市、建筑与文化、建筑与技术、建筑教育与职业等方面对宪章进行诠释，并由国际著名建筑理论家亚历山大·楚尼斯教授为本书序，希望有助于读者对建筑学研究的思考。本书刊载了《北京宪章》的中、英、法、西、俄文文本，以及诠释和主旨报告的中、英文本。此书供建筑界的理论研究工作者、设计工作者和高等院校建筑学专业的师生阅读。

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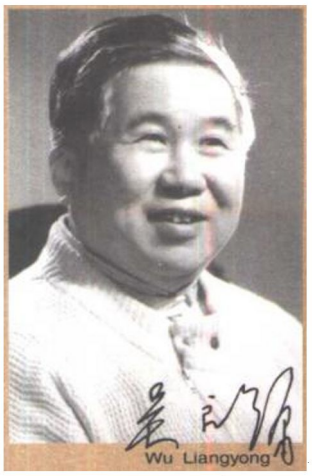

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Born in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, graduated from the Department of Architecture at National Central University in Chongqing in 1944, Professor Wu Liangyong went to the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan in 1948 and received Master Degree of Architecture and Urban Design in 1949. After his return to the motherland at the end of 1950, he has carried out his teaching career at the Department of Architecture Tsinghua University till now.

During his professional career of more than a half-century, Professor Wu has made outstanding achievements in the educational, practical and academic fields of architecture and urban planning. He was nominated Member of Chinese Academia of Science in 1980 and Member of Chinese Academia of Engineering in 1995. As a well-known architectural educator, he was awarded the Jean Tschumi Prize of the UIA in 1996. As an expert architect and planner, he has led or taken part in many significant projects of planning and design since the 1950s, among which the Rehabilitation of the Ju'er Hutong Neigh borhood in the Old City of Beijing was awarded the Gold Medal for Architecture of ARCASIA in 1992, and the World Habitat Award in 1993. As a ceaseless explorer for the theories of architecture and urban planning, he has explicated his ideas in a series of publications, including A Brief History of Ancient Chinese City Planning (in English), Selected Essays on Urban Planning and Design, A General Theory of Architecture, The Old City of Beijing and Its Ju'er Hutong Neighborhood (in both English and Chinese), Towards A New Century: Wu Liangyong's Selected Essays on Urban Studies 1987-96 and Introduction to the Sciences of Human Settlements.

教授，1922年5月7日生于江苏省南京市，1944年毕业于重庆中央大学建筑系，获工学士学位；1948年赴美国匡溪艺术学院建筑与城市设计系学习，1949年获硕士学位；1950年底回国在清华大学建筑系任教至今。

在五十多年的职业生涯中，吴良镛教授在建筑与城市规划的教育、实践、理论等领域做出了杰出贡献，1980年当选中国科学院院士，1995年当选中国工程院院士，并曾多次获得国内外嘉奖。作为著名的建筑教育家，他于1996年被授予国际建协教育/评论奖。作为经验丰富的建筑师和规划师，他参与了天安门广场扩建、国家图书馆新馆等重点工程，主持了中央美术学院校园规划设计、孔子研究院规划设计、北京市菊儿胡同危旧房改建试点工程等重大项目，其中后者获1992年度的亚洲建筑师协会金质奖和世界人居奖。作为不辍耕耘的理论工作者，他先后出版了《中国古代城市史纲》、《城市规划论文集》、《广义建筑学》、《北京旧城与菊儿胡同》、《迎接新世纪的来临》、《建筑学的未来：世纪之交的凝思》、《人居环境科学导论》等著作。

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UIA BEIJING CHARTER, THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURE

Wu Liangyong

Abstract

In 1999, the 20th Congress of the International Union of Architects took place in Beijing, on which the *BEIJING CHARTER*, drafted by Professor Wu Liangyong, was presented and then approved unanimously on the 21st General Assembly of the UIA. Based on the retrospections on the development of architecture in the 20th century, the *BEIJING CHARTER* analyzes in a comprehensive way history and reality, theory and practice, achievement and problem, as well as new ideas, and looks forward to the directions of architectural development in the 21st century. Prefaced by the foreword of Professor Alexander Tzonis, a world-widely known architectural theorist, this book is comprised of the *BEIJING CHARTER*, as well as some referential materials and temporary thoughts during the drafting and Professor Wu's keynote speech for the 20th Congress of the UIA, both of which annotate the *BEIJING CHARTER* from the aspects of architecture and environment, architecture and city, architecture and culture, architecture and technology, architectural education and professionalism. It is hoped that the book will be a kind of help to the readers looking forward to the future development of architecture.

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BEIJING CHARTER

(Presented at the XXth Congress of the UIA, Beijing, June 23-26, 1999 and Adopted by the XXIst General Assembly of the UIA, Beijing, June 27-29, 1999.)

On the eve of the new millennium, we architects from all nations of the world gather in Beijing, an ancient capital of the Orient, for the 20th Congress which celebrates the year of Jubilee for the International Union of Architects.

The present is born of the past, and yet the future rests with the present. We are here to reflect on the past, to account for the present, and ultimately to formulate a conscious plan of action for a better and liveable human habitat of the 21st century.

The world's geographical distances have shrunk, although the regional disparities are growing. Yet this age has endowed all of us with a common mission. It requires us to come to terms with the present, face the challenges, develop a holistic thinking and co-ordinate our efforts.

1 COMING TO TERMS WITH OUR CENTURIES

1.1 The 20th century: unparalleled construction and destruction

The 20th century has seen unprecedented magnificence and progress, and also incomparable calamity and confusion.

The 20th century has enriched the history of architecture in its unique manner: architects have played an admirable role in the reconstruction that followed the two world wars; technical and artistic innovations on a massive scale have introduced fine examples of design to the populous like never before.

But, this is not to deny that much of the built environment is still in a deeply unsatisfactory state. The very survival of humankind is under threat amidst squandering of the world's natural and cultural heritage. In affluent regions, redevelopment was often to become destruction by construction; in the poorer areas, pauperised masses are struggling to build their own cities of tomorrow.

Over the past century, the world has turned into a very different place. Yet one thing

remains the same: we architects are again at a crossroad as a world profession.

1.2 The 21st century: a turning point

The diversity and complexity of the world has created much confusion; yet it is but part of the eternal process of change. The present century has seen remarkable reform and development in politics, economics, technology, and society, and the resurgence of human ideas. In the coming century, the pace of transformation is expected to accelerate, though its direction may be even harder to tell.

In the coming century, the coexistence of globalisation and pluralism will bring to a head the conflicts and the contradictions that characterise our age. On the one hand, modern means of communication have brought into close contact diverse cultures and traditions; global integration of production, finance and technology continues to dominate decision making. On the other hand, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening at an alarming rate; regional strife and financial uncertainties cast a sinister shadow upon the human habitat.

Whilst we should not take on tasks outside our professional remit, it would be both irresponsible and foolish to ignore the torrent of social and cultural change that is redefining the scope of the architectural profession. A conscious reconsideration of the role of 21st century architecture calls for our enthusiasm, strength and courage.

2 THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE

2.1 Interwoven questions

Nature's revenge

The industrial revolution unleashed tremendous human power, yet many a triumph over nature was achieved at a harrowing cost. The past century has seen population explosion, encroachment of farm land and deterioration of water, air and land resources. Environmental crises impinge on the very existence of humankind.

We do not know enough about the ecosystem, yet ecological disasters have revealed its fragile confines. From a historical point of view, we do not own the world that we live in:

we simply have it on loan from our children. In what state shall we hand over town and country to our children? In what way can an architect contribute to the future of human civilisation through planning and design?

Overwhelming urbanisation

To better their lives, people congregate in the city, where science, technology and culture have brought about productivity that had never been foreseen. The 20th century has seen the brightest lights, so far, of metropolitan life. Nevertheless, the century ahead is the true urban era as, for the first time in history, urban dwellers will outnumber those who live in traditional rural ways.

Yet, hardly had the slums been demolished, did the cities see the resurgence of an underclass. Segregation of the rich and the poor, congestion of traffic and land use, and persistence of noise and emissions have worsened in cities large and small. Can our cities survive? We build the cities; yet why do we feel so powerless when we attempt to make any change? In what way can we shape the urban habitat, as it shapes us at the same time? Will the traditional concepts survive in the cities of the next century?

Technology as a double-edged sword

In the past century modern technology increased productivity to a degree never before experienced. New materials, new structures and new equipment have provided unique opportunities for the designers of the 20th century. Modern means of communication have brought the diverse cultures into close contact.

Technology has led mankind to a new crossroad, yet we are still in the process of harnessing its power and potential. Technology modifies the traditional relationships between man and nature, and thus constantly challenges the existing norms of life styles and values. In what way can humankind derive benefits from technology, whilst avoiding the harm of which it is shown to be capable?

Genius loci in default

The culture of architecture comes from a local accumulation of history. It manifests itself among the built forms and in day-to-day living, exerting a voiceless influence on the experience and behaviour of the inhabitants. In a sense, it is the soul of our cities, towns and villages.

However, globalisation of technology has made people more and more separated from their land. Standardised commercial production interrupts the evolution of local built forms. Traditional design techniques are confronted. Local identities fade away. What contribution can an architect make to bring back the soul of cities and towns which characterised them during the past centuries?

2.2 A common theme, a common future

The challenges we face are multifaceted and overwhelming. They are in fact the embodiment of complex social, political, economic and cultural processes at levels both local and global. Our discussion must not stop at the mere manifestation of such processes. Rather, an effective solution only comes from a thorough understanding of the dialectic nature of the forces which are shaping our built environment today.

The search for effective solutions at a global level is supported by our common aspirations for a sustainable future on this planet. Our world is an interdependent world. The future prospects of one nation to a large extent rest on the future of other nations. By the same token, the future of architecture depends on an understanding and assimilation of the achievements of other disciplines and professions. It is this common theme that will bring us together to lay out a common future in the 21st century.

3 TOWARDS AN INTEGRAL ARCHITECTURE

During the past 50 years, the architects of the world have met to debate over a large number of issues. These debates have much furthered our understanding in all branches of architecture. It is therefore appropriate to review the progress so far and redefine the limits, the contents, and the organisation of our discipline and profession.

3.1 The theoretical premises

Over the centuries the role of an architect is constantly modified to suit the needs and requirements of its time. Where traditional methods are shown to be inadequate, new approaches are developed to take their place. Yet without exception, each redefinition pushes the boundary of architecture outwards for a wider coverage, as well as inwards for higher degrees of specialisation in the component parts. The 20th century is perhaps

the most exemplary in this regard.

A wider coverage of its contents and finer degrees of specialisation have empowered the 20th century architect with unprecedented professional opportunities and potential, yet at a personal level, an expanding profession with growing specialisation can seem elephantine. In a sense, the architects' Tower of Babel appears to have fallen: it is increasingly difficult for one architect to grasp the expertise of a fellow colleague; although the body of knowledge has grown collectively, the outlook of any single designer tends to become paradoxically narrow and fragmented. The specialist expertise is brought together through financial ties and managerial skills, rather than a coherent intellectual framework. As a result, the role of an architect continues to be marginalised in the decision making over the human habitat today.

From the point of view of an architect, his or her ability to propose creative design solutions depends critically on the intellectual and professional spheres he or she commands. Narrow and fragmented individual outlooks connot be made to work, however wonderfully the individual designers are managed externally. Nevertheless, any given person cannot and should not attempt to master the whole body of knowledge of our profession. Quo vadis?

Classical Chinese philosophers went to great pains to pinpoint the differences between methodology (alternatively translated as Dao or Tao) which concerns an intellectual framework, and methods (Fa) which deal with specific techniques. It is useful to draw on their wisdom in this matter. Whatever professional talents, expertise, or preferences an architect may have, these techniques can only realise their true value when guided by a larger, intellectual perspective. An architect may work in a specialised area by choice or chance, yet he or she must not lose sight of the profession as a whole and of the vast sphere of knowledge which is potentially at his or her disposal.

Past and contemporary masters have shown how their understanding of the Dao of architecture has helped them to achieve magnificent heights in design and planning. However although such understanding could be regarded as a luxury enjoyed by the masters in the past, it will increasingly become goods of necessity for all architects in the age of information explosion. In the rapidly expanding professional universe, an intellectual orientation that organises the body of knowledge and expertise and relates

architecture to the wider processes that give shape to the built environment, is paramount.

So what does this methodology contain?

3.2 A fusion of architecture, landscape architecture and city planning

The professional identity of an architect in the wider world is focused on the built forms that are ultimately created.

Basically, the general theory of architecture is an integration of architecture, landscape and urban planning with the core of city design. However, the increasing scale and scope of modern development provide architects with great opportunities to deal with architecture, landscape and urban planning as a whole. This tripartite composition enables the designer to search for solutions within a wider sphere.

3.3 Architecture as a process for human habitat

Metabolism is one of the fundamental rules in the development of human settlement. Architecture is the discipline that deals with human settlement, so it should regard the physical objectives of construction as a system of circulation. The life cycle of buildings should be regarded as a fundamental factor of design.

The life cycle of buildings not only includes the construction and running phases, but also includes processes aiming at lower resource costs, less pollution and grey energy consumption, recycling as much as possible, and reformation of environments.

On the aspect of urban settlement, factors such as planning, architectural design, historical preservation, adapted re-use of old buildings, urban rehabilitation, city renewal and reconstruction, utilisation of underground facilities, etc., should be integrated into a dynamic circulation system. This is a system for better architecture in the modern space-times of architecture. It is also an exemplification of the sustainable approach in urban planning and architectural design.