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The Montréal Design Declaration recognises the potential of design to help better achieve global economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives. Drafted by four Working Committees, the Declaration is the outcome of the collaboration and contribution of fourteen international design and non-design organisations, all with a common objective: developing an international action plan for harnessing the power of design to address pressing global challenges.

Adopted and signed at the first Design Summit Meeting - Montréal 2017, the Declaration serves as the foundation for continued international collaboration as well as a global call to action to governments, professional and educational entities, various stakeholders, civil society and to designers themselves. The annexed list of potential Projects, showcases a broad spectrum of efforts that can be undertaken collectively to illustrate, enhance and advance the principles of the Declaration.

Design Summit Meeting Steering Committee

DSM Secretary General Mr. Alain Dufour (Steering Committee Chair)
Chair of the WDSO Board of Directors
Ms. Marie-Claude Parenteau-Lebeuf
ico-D President Mr. David Grossman
IFHP Special Advisor Ms. Regitze Marianne Hess
IFLA World President Ms. Kathryn Moore

Working Committee Members

Architecture Sans Frontières International (ASF-Int)
Bureau of European Design Associations (BEDA)
International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media (Cumulus)
United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)
International Council of Design (ico-D)
International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP)
International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)
International Water Association (IWA)
Interaction Design Association (IxDA)
Service Design Network (SDN)
International Union of Architects (UIA)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
World Urban Parks (WUP)
The Design Summit Meeting (DSM) marks the first international convening of the design community, across a broad spectrum of design disciplines, together with a strong array of international organisations, with cultural, economic, environmental and social perspectives. The design organisations represent hundreds of thousands of designers from around the globe. The international bodies represent governmental, IGO, NGO and private and civil sectors of society worldwide.

Thanking the organisers of the World Design Summit for having convened this meeting, we have come together,

To express a shared view of the crucial role of design and the great responsibilities of designers; and

To affirm the fundamental role of design in creating and shaping the world around us, now and in the future.

We, the undersigned international representatives of professional designers, architects, urban planners, landscape architects and other design-related disciplines,

In the presence of international organizations representing and relating to public, private and civil sectors of society concerned with design and or impacted by design;

Cognizant of the diverse range of contexts, both formal and informal, where design has an impact;

Mindful of the immeasurable value of local and traditional knowledge for appropriate and innovative design solutions;

Sentient of the demand of communities, large or small, local or global, for decent living conditions and which design can help address;

Recognize the need for strategic leadership on design matters at local, regional, national and international levels and with this, the need for governance models, political agendas and policy to take design into account;
Recognize the need for sufficient fiscal and human resources and capacity;

Acknowledge the intrinsic capacity of design to serve as an agent of change and a source of creative transformation;

Acknowledge the fundamental and critical role of design to create a world that is environmentally sustainable, economically viable, socially equitable, and culturally diverse,

And confirm the value of working in a collaborative, holistic and integrated way to foster design of common benefit.

VALUE OF DESIGN

DESIGN IS the application of intent: the process through which we create the material, spatial, visual and experiential environments in a world made ever more malleable by advances in technology and materials, and increasingly vulnerable to the effects of unleashed global development.

Design is a driver of innovation and competition, growth and development, efficiency and prosperity.

Design is an agent for sustainable solutions created for people and supporting the planet on which we rely.

Design expresses culture. Designers have a particularly potent role in making, protecting, nourishing, enhancing and celebrating cultural heritage and diversity in the face of globalization.

Design adds value to technology. Through consideration of human perspective and interface, and by focusing on individual interaction first, design bridges technology with human needs.

Design facilitates change. Design enables all aspects of society, public and private, governmental and non-governmental, civil society and individual citizen, to transition through change (i.e. austerity, demographic changes, shifts in services) to deliver a better quality of life for all citizens.

Design introduces intelligence to cities as a foundation for better communications, improved environments, enhanced quality of life and more prosperous local communities.

Design addresses resiliency and manages risk through comprehensive research, robust methodology, prototyping and consideration of life-cycle consequences.

Design fosters development of SMEs in general and the creative industries in particular.

DESIGNERS ARE professionals, who, by education, outlook and experience, are capable of developing new, interdisciplinary solutions to improve quality of life.

CALL TO ACTION

Recognizing that design leadership is a key to the delivery of sustainable solutions and implementation of design methodologies that contribute to a more sustainable future,

We seek to collaborate with and embrace the language of governments, businesses, NGOs and communities throughout the world,

Calling for:

Design Advocacy: more effective communication of the meaning and value of design and understanding of the design process.

Development of Design Metrics: collection of data and establishment of effective measures to better enable the evaluation of the impact of design, thus demonstrating the strategic value of design within organisations and businesses and in serving the public good.

Development of Design Policies: to be applied at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Development of Design Standards: support of professional design communities, the development of design industry infrastructures and development of standards, codes, covenants, best practices, legal protections and certification programs.
Enhancement of Design Education: support for educational institutions, methods and processes specific to design education, design research and life-long learning and capacity building for designers.

Responsive Design: design that is responsive to the degradation of the physical, social and cultural environment and natural ecosystems and the threats and risks caused by global change, industrialization, rapid urbanization and unfettered consumption, profoundly affecting quality of life and impacting sustainable economic growth.

Responsible Design: recognition, by designers, of the impact resulting from their practice, whereby designers must be conscious of their enormous capacity to be constructive, as well as destructive, in the interventions they make. Designers share in the responsibility of refocusing from human consumption to the enhancement of human life.

Vigilant Design: in a world increasingly impacted by machine learning and artificial intelligence, designers must help ensure that the impact of algorithms and technology are ethical and inclusive of social, cultural and ethnic diversity.

Recognition of Design: by leaders, decision-makers and influencers across all sectors of society, of the value of design, and need to foster and implement design for the greater common good.

We therefore, express our intent:

To work in concert, collectively, in groups and as individual entities, and with additional stakeholders, to establish an ongoing, structured process of collaboration, as manifested here in this Declaration, including future Design Summit Meetings;

To collaborate with other efforts with shared objectives: including the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, Paris Climate Accord and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and others;

To develop a world design agenda, whereby this Declaration is a first invitation to join in common cause to support design;

To collectively initiate projects fostering and advancing the role, responsibility and value of design;

To mandate the Design Summit Meeting Steering Committee, with the active collaboration of Summit Meeting participants, to develop the mechanisms required to ensure continuation of the process initiated by this Declaration, drafted by and for the international design community, to achieve the desired outcomes. The proposed mechanisms will be submitted to the signers of this Declaration for approval;

To influence and support decision making, locally and globally, on policy and resources;

To give design an effective, united voice;

To inspire designers - too long the servants of producers - to better serve humanity as the ambassadors of the end-users: the citizens of the world.

All people deserve to live in a well-designed world.
The projects listed below reflect a broad spectrum of possible collaborative efforts. All promise value. Undertaking any of these projects requires resources, negotiation, coordination and management. A process will be created to determine the projects to be launched, and therewith their sequencing and implementation. Projects will be undertaken by coalitions of interested participants matched with partners and sponsors. Results will be shared and presented at future convenings and events under the umbrella of the Design Summit Meeting.

**Metrics – Making the Case**

Project 1. Develop, collect and circulate indicators, as in metric measures (both quantitative and qualitative), for evaluating design impact (economic, environmental, social and cultural).

Project 2. Develop, collect and circulate case studies demonstrating design impact, utilizing metric measures.

Project 3. Communicate value of design to target audiences through presentation of case studies.

**Creating a Common Language**

Project 4. Develop a comprehensive and inclusive taxonomy of design, architecture, landscape architecture urban design and planning and related disciplines that offers shared definitions that can be understood by designers, government, industry and the public.

Project 5. Conduct a global mapping of national and international design organizations, policies, and regulations; establish a database and clearinghouse accessible by governments, industry and the public.

**Policy and Governments**

Project 6. Collect and examine models of Design Policies (national, regional, local); develop platform, for both physical and virtual exchange, for discussion and dialog with governments; conduct periodic conferences aimed at government officials; establish clearinghouse and database; describe formats for implementation of advanced design methodologies within government, government services, and public procurement.
Project 7. Establish a standing international advisory group, composed of DSM-aligned entities, to serve as a resource for government, industry, business, NGOs and other stakeholders.


**Education and Research**

Project 9. Foster development, recognition, support and funding for design education and research worldwide, recognizing the diversity of circumstances and opportunities due to local social, economic, environmental and cultural contexts.

Project 10. Collect, develop and share new formats, methodologies and curricula for design education and capacity building with enhanced focus on sustainability, degradation of the environment, climate change, impact of globalization on cultural diversity, social responsibility and the need to temper consumption.

Project 11. Establish clearinghouse mechanism for student and faculty exchanges, internships and research projects and opportunities.

Project 12. Promote models of accessible lifelong learning for designers.

**Design Community – Standards**

Project 15. Collect models of effective design community leadership; support formats protecting designs and the rights of designers; share experiences and resources.


Project 17. Adopt and integrate worldwide formats affecting design competitions, public tenders and assurance of design excellence in public service, procurement and construction projects.


Project 19. Establish overarching tools to advise and commission private and public projects. Example: International Landscape Covenant

**Creating a Common Cause**

Project 20. Generate support for a world design agenda through distribution and statements of support for the Montréal Design Declaration.
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Architecture Sans Frontières International (ASF-Int)

Architecture Sans Frontières International (ASF-Int) is an independent network of design not for profit organisations concerned with social justice, the cultural and environmental aspects of architecture and the conservation of the human and physical heritage aspects of the built environment. The purpose of ASF-Int is to enable vulnerable communities access to architectural services, research and educational resources in order to increase their resilience and reduce vulnerability. The network currently has 33 member organisations including representatives in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and America.

www.asfint.org

The Bureau of European Design Associations (BEDA)

BEDA was established in 1969 to ensure permanent liaison between its Members (design promotion centres, professional bodies, trade associations and related design entities) and the authorities of the European Union in order to communicate and promote the value of design and innovation to European culture, economy, environment, society and governance. Today, BEDA boasts 47 members from 27 countries in Europe. Those professional associations represent hundreds of thousands designers in every discipline of work from industrial design and interiors to digital design and branding. For our organisation, design is a creative approach to problem-solving that can be applied across the private and public sectors to drive innovation in products, services, society and even policy-making.

www.beda.org
Founder ten years ago, the COFHUAT Club of the French Confederation for Habitat, town planning, spatial planning and the environment (COFHUAT) brings together officials public and private around topical subjects and involves every time the personalities of all foreground.

The COFHUAT is the French section of the FIHUAT (International Federation for Housing, Town Planning and Territorial Development). COFHUAT participates actively in FIHUAT’s work as a member of its Executive Board.

www.cofhuat.org

Cumulus is the only global association to serve education and research in its disciplines. It is a forum for partnership, friendship and transfer of knowledge and best practices. Cumulus provides its members and partners a wide, flexible, dynamic and diversified forum of exchange, cooperation and innovation. Cumulus promotes and empowers the talent of the next generation of creative and responsible people. Cumulus was founded in 1990 consisting currently of 257 members from 55 countries and being able to reach a minimum of 755,000 students and thousands of academics, staff and other audience. Cumulus is endorsed by UNESCO.

www.cumulusassociation.org
The Design Research Society is an international learned society committed to promoting and developing design research. It is the longest established, multi-disciplinary worldwide society for the design research community. The Design Research Society was founded in the UK in 1966. The purpose of the DRS is to promote the study of, and research into, the process of designing in all its many fields. This means that we have always welcomed members across all disciplines of design.

The specific aims of the DRS are to:
- Recognise design as a creative act common to many disciplines
- Understand research and its relationship with education and practice
- Advance the theory and practice of design

www.designresearchsociety.org

Global Planners Network (GPN)

The Global Planners Network is a plurality of voices with diverse and relevant experience to advocate for effective planning. Member organizations work to advance inclusionary and sustainable planning practice worldwide.
The objectives of the Committee, as outlined in its Tokyo Statutes (2009) and in accordance with the Eger-Xi’an principles (2005), are:

1. Promote world-wide cooperation in identification, increased awareness, study, education and training for protection, preservation, restoration, monitoring and management of cultural landscapes.

2. Collaborate and communicate with and contribute with ICOMOS and IFLA and report to ICOMOS.

3. Collaborate with IUCN in regard to combined works of nature and humanity.


5. Undertake collaborative projects with other ICOMOS International Scientific Committees.
International Council of Design (ico-D)

The International Council of Design (ico-D) is a world body for professional design, representing more than 140 organisations in 55 countries. Founded in 1963, it is a non-profit, non-partisan, member-based network of independent organisations and stakeholders working within the multidisciplinary scope of design. ico-D actively works to promote the value of design practice, thinking, education, research and policy.

www.ico-d.org

International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP)

International Federation for Housing and Planning is a membership based organization devoted to advocating for sustainable cities and communities, with the mantra of social cities and housing for all. This includes serving as an implementation agent of the UN 2030 SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals and NUA: New Urban Agenda. IFHP is a founding member for WDS international Steering Committee. And IFHP is of the firm belief that sustainable design goals are inherent to SDGs.

www.ifhp.org
International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)

A truly global federation, IFLA currently represents 76 national associations from Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia Pacific, and a newly emerging region in the Middle East. Our mission is to create globally sustainable and balanced living environments for the benefit of humanity worldwide.

IFLA officially represents approximately 25,000 landscape architects across the world - the actual number of landscape architects is estimated to be about three times that. We have just been through a significant transformation to create a new, forward thinking and more effective organisation. Our strategic aim is to become more indispensible through the excellent services we provide to our members and through leadership that raises the profile of the profession and increases advocacy via national and international governments and NGO’s.

INDEX: Design to Improve Life (INDEX:)

INDEX: Design to Improve Life is a Danish NPO with global reach. We Inspire, Educate and Engage in designing sustainable solutions to global challenges.

Design to Improve Life Education, Design to Improve Life Investment and our Big Picture initiative, we Inspire, Educate and Engage in designing sustainable solutions to global challenges.

www.designtoimprovelife.dk
Water underpins every aspect of human and environmental existence. The severe water challenges facing the world today require an unprecedented global response. IWA members and staff are situated in 130 countries worldwide, forming the largest international network of water professionals working towards a water wise world.

Innovative, solutions- and service- oriented, we work across a range of areas that contribute to the progression of water management worldwide. Our programmes develop research and projects focused on solutions for water and wastewater management; we organise world-class events that bring the latest science, technology and best practice to the water sector at large; we work to place water on the global political agenda and to influence best practice in regulation and policy making; and we provide services to IWA’s global membership.

**International Water Association (IWA)**

**CORINNE TROMMsdorff**  
Cities of the Future Programme Manager

**ALOK NANDI**  
Vice President

**BRENDA SANDERSON**  
Executive Director

**Interaction Design Association (IxDA)**

The Interaction Design Association (IxDA) is a member-supported organization dedicated to the discipline of interaction design. Since its launch in 2003, IxDA has grown into a global network of more than 100,000 individuals and over 180 local groups, focusing on interaction design issues for the practitioner, no matter their level of experience.

We believe that the human condition is increasingly challenged by poor experiences. IxDA is committed to improving the human condition by advancing the discipline of Interaction Design. To do this, we foster a community of people that choose to come together to support this intention. IxDA relies on individual initiative, contribution, sharing and self-organization as the primary means for us to achieve our goals.

**www.iwa-network.org**

**www.ixda.org**
The SDN was founded in 2004, and provides a platform for resources, communication, and the exchange of knowledge for the world-wide service design community. With 1,000+ paying members, 6,500+ community members, and 35,000+ followers, it is the only organisation of its type for service design. A network of 30+ national and city Chapters facilitate local activities, the SDN Award programme recognises the best in service design each year, and Special Interest Groups focus on specific applications of services design. And each year on June 1, the organisation promotes recognition of service design with the global Service Design Day.

The organisation’s mission is to grow the market for service design and enable opportunities for service design to create better and more human services worldwide.

www.service-design-network.org

Established in 1948, the International Union of Architects (UIA) is the only world organisation of architects, unifying professional bodies from more than 100 national member sections, and representing the world’s architects, now estimated to number more than three million. The UIA adopts and advances policies that support socially responsible architecture and town planning. Under the auspices of UNESCO, the UIA accredits professional architecture programmes in universities, and carries out international professional design competitions. The UIA has two additional permanent commissions, on professional practice and sustainable development, as well as Work Programmes on a range of topics. The UIA holds the World Congress of Architecture every three years, most recently in Seoul, and next in Rio de Janeiro in 2020. The World Congress host city is designated as The World Capital of Architecture for the duration of the Congress.

www.uia-architectes.org
UNESCO is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication. It strengthens the ties between nations and societies, and mobilizes the wider public so that each child and citizen:

- as access to quality education; a basic human right and an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development;
- may grow and live in a cultural environment rich in diversity and dialogue, where heritage serves as a bridge between generations and peoples;
- can fully benefit from scientific advances;
- and can enjoy full freedom of expression; the basis of democracy, development and human dignity.

UNESCO’s messages are of increasing importance today, in a globalized world where interconnections and diversity must serve as opportunities to build peace in the minds of men and women.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

JYOTI HOSAGRAHAR
Director, Division for Creativity

United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

UNEP’s mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

MARTINA OTTO
Head, Cities

www.en.unesco.org

www.unep.org
UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. With the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016 and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its Goal 11 particularly, UN-Habitat is a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, and urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in collaboration with national, subnational and local governments, relevant stakeholders and other United Nations system entities.

World Green Building Council (WorldGBC)

The WorldGBC is a global network of Green Building Councils in over 70 countries which is transforming the places we live, work, play and learn.

We exist because buildings are diverse and beautiful and they must also be sustainable. We believe green buildings can and must be at the centre of our lives. Our changing climate means we must reshape the way we grow and build.

Our mission is to create green buildings for everyone, everywhere - enabling people to thrive both today and tomorrow.

We will achieve this by taking action. We champion local and global leadership. We empower our community to drive change. We are greater than the sum of our parts, and commit to green buildings for everyone, everywhere.
World Urban Parks (WUP)

World Urban Parks is an international organisation representing the vibrant urban parks, open space and recreation sector. At a time when urban growth will see 70 percent of the world’s population living in urban areas by 2050, sharing knowledge and providing a collective voice for all people and organisations engaged in green cities, open space, recreation, health and related activity is vital. Together we want to build healthy, liveable and sustainable communities.

World Urban Parks champions urban park outcomes for city liveability, place-making, conservation and access, and provides strong membership services by connecting, leveraging and supporting diverse memberships across the international urban parks, open space and recreation community and allied sectors. We are a community wanting to make a better world and who are ready to help each other.

www.worldurbanparks.org

Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)

CAP is a major global institution in planning and is playing an increasingly significant role in the worldwide promotion of planning as a fundamental part of governance for sustainable human settlement.

CAP currently represents over 40,000 planners from 27 countries throughout the Commonwealth including African, Asian, Australasian and Caribbean countries. CAP also has a Women in Planning network and a Young Planners network and plays a leading role in developing the planning profession and planners throughout the countries of the Commonwealth.

www.commonwealth-planners.org
The World Urban Campaign (WUC) is an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive urban change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well planned cities. Its goal is to place the Urban Agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is coordinated by UN-Habitat and driven by a large number of committed partners - currently 180 partners and networks - from around the world. The Steering Committee is the World Urban Campaign’s governing body, and is comprised of UN-Habitat’s partner organizations. The Steering Committee is an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and is responsible for establishing the campaign’s goals and objectives, defining the activity strategies and annual work plan and setting the Campaign’s governing procedures. The Steering Committee elects its Chair and Co-Chair every two years. The Steering Committee meets approximately every 6 months in different places of the world.

www.worldurbancampaign.org