

## **Postgraduate NEB COFFEE MORNING IN STRATHCLYDE**

### **I SUMMARY REPORT**

**Online Workshop, 12th April 2021**

**Prepared by Dr. Selma Harrington | Architects Council of Europe | The University of Strathclyde**

**Target group:** PhD Researchers and academics from the Department of Architecture at the University of Strathclyde

#### **List of participants:**

Professor Branka Dimitrijević

Saleh Almogrbe

Ammar Mohd Alayudin

Anosh Nadeem Butt

Weiyu Lian

Preeti Pansare

Madhavi Patil

Yaozhong Zhang

Julie Deutschmann

Selma Harrington

#### **Workshop Agenda**

1. Introduction
2. Presentation of the New European Bauhaus Initiative, by Dr. Selma Harrington
3. Q &A
4. Block 1 (3 questions) - Discussion by participants
5. Block 2 (3 questions) - Discussion by participants
6. Block 3 (3 questions) - Discussion by participants
7. Wrap-up, family photo and further steps 1

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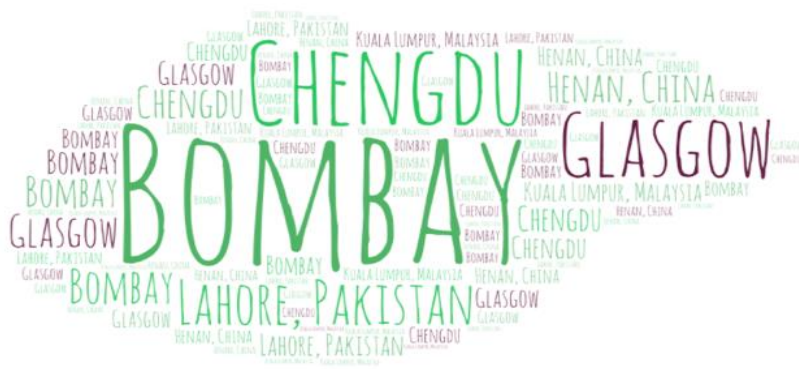
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### Objectives of the workshop:

This workshop aimed to contribute to the development of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative by the European Commission ([https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en)) under the slogan Beautiful, Sustainable, Together. Commencing with the brief presentation of the NEB initiative and process, the workshop discussed the key qualities of INHABITABLE SPACES, OBJECTS AND STRUCTURES, MATERIALS, PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES. Participants have been asked to *think about what makes them happy in a space or place, and why; and, about the obstacles that there may be to achieve that.*

### ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS:



WHAT IS YOUR HOME TOWN?



WHAT IS YOUR MOTHER TONGUE?

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## **FOCUS QUESTIONS:**

### ***BLOCK I***

1. Describe your local spatial experience: urban (metropolis, city, small town), or rural (village, farmstead), or other?
2. What is unique in your local environment ?
3. What is your perception or idea of a European city?

### **BLOCK II**

4. What makes the place beautiful ?
5. What makes the place sustainable ?
6. What makes the place inclusive ?

### **BLOCK III**

7. What would beautiful, sustainable and inclusive places be like?
8. What is the balance between natural and built up environment and what would improve it ?
9. Please share your selection of good examples in each category: INHABITABLE SPACES, OBJECTS AND STRUCTURES, MATERIALS, PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES.

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## **SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS**

**Dr. Selma Harrington | Workshop Leader**

Supported by the Architects Council of Europe<sup>[1]</sup>, the online workshop “NEB Coffee Morning in Strathclyde” was organized at the University of Strathclyde with a group of international PhD Architecture scholars from China, India, Pakistan, Libya, UK and the EU. The participants were asked to share their views on urban experiences, sustainable architecture and built environment, as a contribution to the development of the New European Bauhaus initiative from the perspective of a wider European neighbourhood.

Inspired and adapted from the Danish Design Council’s consultation model, the workshop was conceived as a structured dialogue held via the ZOOM platform, expanding and mirroring a pre-circulated questionnaire. Thus, the participants were engaged in advance via written correspondence and through the online dialogue and interactive tools. As an introductory presentation, an overview of wider EU policy provided a context where culture is seen as a driver of sustainable renovation, supplemented with an illustration of good practice examples of projects from five European countries, which is enclosed in this report.

The first block of questions and discussion reflected on the participants’ local spatial experience, unique local environment, and perceptions of the European city. The respondents emphasised the value of local built heritage, open spaces, public parks, walkability, safety and quality of microclimate. They highlighted the adverse impacts of the rapid growth of regional metropolises affected by pollution, traffic congestion, pressure on older structures in contact with new infrastructure, and, in one case, almost destruction due to conflict. The perceived qualities of European city were identified as attention to built heritage, human scale, pedestrianised zones, identifiable city centre, culture, public transport and amenities, open spaces and parks.

The second block of questions and discussion teased out the definitions of the concepts of beauty, sustainability and inclusivity, as coined in the New European Bauhaus slogan. Thus, beauty is described as a balance between built-up areas and open space; between old and new structures; clean air and low level of noise; a harmonious streetscape with low-rise buildings and a sense of identity; people and friendliness. Sustainability is seen through its social and technical components, as care for people, built and natural environment; adaptability and scalability of design; balanced services to

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citizens and visitors. Inclusivity is understood as clarity of spatial organization, open and safe access to services; user-centric quality provided for diverse groups; openness and multiculturalism.

The discussion on the third block of questions presented visions and views on the balance between the natural and built environment and examples that point to future good practices, measures and materials. That includes recommendations to promote biodegradable materials, community gardens; large parks, playgrounds and sports facilities for all neighbourhoods; walkability, cycling, recycling and reuse; building awareness on sustainability within local authorities and policymakers and among citizens.

The participants put forward several European cities, namely Copenhagen, Vienna, Glasgow, Cardiff, as the examples of balance between the historic built environment and new infrastructure; places that meet current needs of citizens without compromising options for future generations; openness to diversity of points of views and absence of discrimination.

In summary, while potentially lacking a comprehensive knowledge about the European city, the participants' contributions provide valuable insight into the understanding of the contemporary global issues of sustainability from the perspective of European and international neighbourhood.

[\[1\]](#) The Architects Council of Europe is one of the official partners in the New European Bauhaus initiative launched by the EU COM in 2020.

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