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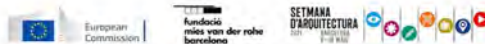
7 May from 10:30 until 13:30

The New European Bauhaus: an open conversation

Presentation, round table and debate



Live streaming:
youtube.com/fundaciomiesvanderrohe



Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona

Partner of the New European Bauhaus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjYmYqVikJo&t=2796s>

Subtitles and translations to and from English, Spanish and Catalan

On May 7, 2021, **Fundació Mies van der Rohe** organised “**The New European Bauhaus: an open conversation**” in the Mies van der Rohe Barcelona Pavilion and online, in the framework of the Barcelona Architecture Week. The Barcelona Pavilion is a cultural manifesto designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich, two of the Bauhaus’ most prominent professors that opened the path to some of the biggest changes in Europe during the first half of the 20th century. **The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award**, follows Mies’ quote “Architecture (culture) as a true symbol of its time”

The event was divided in **three parts**: one with a **European dimension**, one with the Spanish **NEB partners** and a third one with the local **Barcelona partners and those institutions and companies involved in other ways**.



Anna Ramos, director of Fundació Mies van der Rohe, greeted everybody, contextualised the event in the Barcelona Architecture Week and presented Janet Sanz, deputy mayor for urban planning, ecology and mobility of Barcelona; María Ángeles Benítez Salas, European Union representative in Madrid and Ruth Reichstein, Advisor at I.D.E.A., the European Commission Presidential Advisory Board.

Janet Sanz spoke about the essential role of architecture in Barcelona, in the past, present and future, a social role which is necessary to confront the challenges of the city and Europe. The climate, economic and health crisis at present is very critical and cities need to give an answer to it in the European context. This has to be done together with the arts, science, technology, innovation understanding that architecture is culture. Barcelona is working on a new model, a change of model, and **the New European Bauhaus is a great idea to give answers to this new model.**

Barcelona is developing projects on how to make new architecture and how to reuse what exists through energy efficiency, reducing 55 % of emissions, working with urban regeneration and resources to promote these activities. Urban spaces in the city have too many cars and therefore, rethinking urban space is necessary as is being done with the super block project, recovering public space for citizens as a way to solve the economic crisis, a rebalancing of the economy, improving health conditions and giving a future for the city, a perdurable city with culture taking the streets. She encouraged everybody to participate in the New European Bauhaus.

María Ángeles Benítez Salas, European Union representative in Madrid, referred to the Bauhaus as a way to live and think, open to **new ways of thinking using the creative potential of culture**. The original Bauhaus was created during a change of paradigm like the one we are dealing with today. Urgent solutions are necessary, and the innovative and transversality spirit is necessary. We need to fight against climate change and to accelerate changes to ensure sustainability and the continuity of our planet. The **NEB is an open dialogue between science, technology and culture to fight against climate change** from each one of us and our daily lives. To achieve this, interdisciplinarity with different collectives, and transversability, reaching different fields, are both necessary. The NEB is a project of hope to explore how to live better together, combining sustainability and design.

Ruth Reichstein gave the vision of the President on the New European Bauhaus and explained where we are right now and how people can participate in the project. **Hope and Recovery** is what the NEB is about: **to stimulate creativity and give hope beyond the pandemic**. It is also a project of recovery to accelerate the transformation of the built environment, a huge opportunity for the economy. The big two pillars are the **transformation of this built environment and the idea to bring a cultural dimension to the European Green Deal**: sustainability, inclusiveness and aesthetics. She also explained that this moment now is about the design and the next steps will be the delivery and the dissemination and that the NEB Prizes were also soon going to take place. She also presented the High-Level roundtable. the more than 100 official partners that wish to engage with the project, the most mentioned challenges from the organised events and the top 10+1 contributions as well as the results of the NEB conference in Brussels.

The event continued with a video on the “Transformation of the 530 dwellings in Grand Parc Bordeaux, winner of the EU Mies Award 2019”, and later, the second part.



Anna Ramos
Directora Fundació Mies van der Rohe

Marcos Ros
Miembro del Parlamento Europeo

José María Lassalle
Política y economía

Idoia Postigo
Subdirectora general Biltxo Mendizabal 31 - Bilbao

Roberto Gómez de la Iglesia
Director Conexiones improbables - Vitoria-Gasteiz

Clara Montero
Directora cultural Tabakalera - Donostia-San Sebastián

Jesús Bayarri
Torre - Valencia

Miguel Tito
Director La Península Lugo - Valencia

Juan Urquiola y Mónica Sánchez-Robles
Ras de Torra - Calviñes

Mercè Luz
Jefe departamento cultura y ocio Fundación ONCE - Madrid

Rocío Mosquera
Gerente Servicio Gallego de Salud - Santiago de Compostela

Francisco Pinto
Director ETG Arquitectura de Sevilla - Sevilla

Mercè Segú
Directora operativa Art Directors Club al Europe - Barcelona

Isabel Roig
Directora escuelas Barcelona Centre de Disseny - Barcelona

Guillem Camprodon
Chairman of Design Playm - Barcelona

Monica Bonafonte
Directora general FAO - Barcelona

Javier Peña
Director Essava - Barcelona

Nada Tozija
TransitLAB BCN, Center for trash investigation - Barcelona

The second part, which brought together the 16 Spanish partners of the NEB, was introduced by MEP Marcos Ros (NEB friendship group) who highlighted the importance of all the Spanish projects. He said that this is an essential moment in which there is a **transition between the economic recovery, Green Deal, digitalisation, social cohesion as main aims of the EU**, and his believe that architecture can bring together these concepts and improve people's well-being. It's the first time, other than the EU Mies Award, that an ambitious policy is specifically focused on architecture and urbanism. Architecture needs to reach citizenship and make everybody understand that through it we can improve our quality of life. Through the NEB we need that everybody is aware of its benefits and the great participation is already a great example. The combination with different fields will also be absolutely necessary and this design phase is allowing everybody to find the existing possible connections. **Architecture changes life but only good architecture improves it.** Architecture understood as a cultural programme that involves architecture, urbanism and landscape, together with all possible fields, both in urban and rural areas, bring a balance to all European territories.

He was followed by a brief presentation of each one of the partners and a discussion among them. They all considered that **the challenge of the NEB is very stimulating** and that it was also interesting to remember that UN declared 2021 the year of creative economy for a sustainable development, that is, like the NEB states, **creativity as the driving force for innovation.**

Some ideas that came up were the importance of a change in paradigm from the human being as the centre of everything to a new one that understands that nature should be the centre and learn from it; social determinants of health

which have an impact on people's health, and understanding the health system in a broader way in which together with the patient there are also all its influences, those things that have an influence on all of us and that determine our health; the importance of alliances between fields as something absolutely necessary; and finally, that it is crucial to support the young generations, giving them a future which is not easy.

Europe needs to rethink its future understanding its diversity and taking into account different sensitivities and geographical and cultural realities. Northern, central, southern, eastern and western ways of working towards the New European Green Deal are different due to these differences and the Mediterranean and Atlantic legacies of adaptation, complexity, density and outreach are key to develop the European Green Deal that we need.

This second part was followed by the screening of the video "Kleiburg Amsterdam, EU Mies Award 2017 Winner".

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7 de maig de 10:30 a 13:30

La Nova Bauhaus Europea: una conversa oberta

Jornada de presentació, taula rodona i debat

 Retransmissió en directe:
youtube.com/fundaciomiesvanderrohe



Laura Rahola
Representació de la Comissió Europea a Barcelona

Assumpció Puig
Degana del Registre d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC)

Maite Arrondo
Institut Municipal de l'Herència i Revalorització

Mariana Palumbo
Professora Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Vicente Gualliart
Fundació Institut d'Arquitectura i Perspectiva de Ciències i Medi

Salvador Ordóñez
CEO World Wood Future

Mercè Segú
Directora executiva Art Directors (City of Europe)

Isabel Roig
Directora executiva Barcelona Centre de Disseny

Guillem Camprodon
FlatLabBCN/Distributed Design Platform

Monica Bonafonte
Directora general FAD

Javier Peña
Director acadèmic Elsena

Nada Tozija
Co-fundadora TransLab BCN

Taking the presentations by the partners as the departure point, the third panel brought together the local partners in Barcelona and other institutions and companies that also support the NEB in other ways such as the chief architect of the city, the Catalan Association of Architects (COAC), Institut d'Arquitectura Avançada de Catalunya (Iaac), the Polytechnical University of Catalonia (UPC) and World Wood Future.

Laura Rahola, representing the European Union Representation in Barcelona, introduced the panel and thanked everybody's generosity. Barcelona as a dense Mediterranean and complex city has similar challenges to other European cities and asked how we could contribute to the NEB.

Assumpció Puig, dean of the COAC, expressed that the cultural and architectural tradition of Barcelona is immense and that the COAC has shared with the NEB good examples from Catalonia, and thoughts on which they are working related to education and children where **architecture is a transversal discipline that should be introduced from the first years of a child's education experience**. Architecture is culture. COAC participates already with many of the partners and this tradition of entities on architecture and culture in the city is strongly represented in Europe. COAC is very aware of exactly what happens in the whole Catalan territory, understanding projects in cities and also in other territorial realities. She underlined **the importance of the NEB speaking again about beauty which also means mental health and that it is necessary to also look at Europe's border countries from which we can also learn how to design the NEB**.

Xavier Matilla, chief architect of the Barcelona city council, highlighted that **what makes the NEB very attractive is its absolute need** (together with its messages), there is no alternative, both in cities and rural areas, there is a need to transform to have a future. How will we live together in the future, makes us all participants of this project. For the city of Barcelona, being part of the NEB is absolutely necessary taking into account its long history and a commitment. Innovation in housing, the coastal area, public spaces, are projects of the city to learn and develop them as collective projects to reinforce an ecosystem that already exists with professionals, industry, academia, institutions and the will of the city hall to reinforce this ecosystem. **As challenges, there is a need to materialise projects, shape them and make them affordable. There is a need for a cultural change, that changes behaviours.**

Mariana Palumbo, professor at the UPC, stated that there is disruptive change in front of us, a cultural change where architecture has an important role, a change in how we relate to the environment. We need to think about what our daily activities mean for a global society. Education needs to anticipate these challenges and give the tools to work on these challenges. Radical changes on how to shape cities such as the superblocks are necessary in order to reduce CO2 but also the inhabiting of the planet and the pandemic has shown that there are many things that need to be improved.

Vicente Guallart, founder and director of IaaC, explained that the institution was created taking into account the original Bauhaus and that Barcelona needed to be a 0 emission city.

It is good news that the President of Europe has launched this challenge and we also need to be critical on those things associated to the Bauhaus. It was a moment of change in terms of materials and construction, and today we have other challenges. Education, research and entrepreneuring need to be supported and this is what the IaaC is doing. Today's new development has to do with ideas transformed into industrial and commercial projects. Barcelona was important a century ago regarding its urban transformation, also in the 80s and 90s and it has to be so again now.

Salvador Ordóñez, CEO of World Wood Future, said that the forest and not wood is the solution (if there is one), wood is only a material. Forests are a model, and we need to learn to live together with it.

Barcelona will make the NEB a collective project in the context of Europe, working with all its local institutions and existing and new European networks to make this change possible and lead it. Identifying the key topics will be the next step, designing them in open code. A next meeting has been established.