

# ARCHITECTURE OF CHALLENGES REBUILDING UKRAINE

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

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***24 February 2022. Russia has attacked Ukraine - the war has begun.***

War destroys the achievements of civilisation, culture, and humanity. Fighting to save one's life and that of one's loved ones, one's home, and finally one's homeland - is the obvious reaction of every human being. One's identity is determined by one belonging to the place where one's lives, one's attachment to the landscape, to the values that grow out of the indigenoussness of the place - to the heritage for which meaning and memory are the basis.

***After the war comes a time of peace.***

Ukraine's post-war reconstruction will encompass all aspects of the living environment: architecture, and infrastructure, at the scale of cities, towns, and villages. This renewal will encompass both vast landscapes and individual places. It will require preparation, cooperation and human solidarity on an international scale.

***How to shape the living environment in the face of war threats?***

The end of war does not mean freedom from all its associated risks. The experience of limited access to basic survival resources, such as water, energy and food, raises the question of how to shape housing developments that guarantee access to these components in the immediate vicinity. Similarly, protecting residents against sudden attacks from places sometimes hundreds of kilometres away, guaranteeing adequately equipped, safe places to stay, is becoming a key issue.

One of the key problems for designers is to respond to the problem of immediate relief in the face of a humanitarian disaster (lack of homes, water, food, energy...), in the context of a long-term perspective since the design and construction of the living environment is always considered at wider urban and landscape scales. How to reconcile the two perspectives, what directions and solutions to adopt to maximise the energy involved in achieving the key short-term goals that can become the foundation for achieving the long-term objectives - the reconstruction of a resilient, regenerative environment.

***What should Ukraine be like after reconstruction?***

***How to shape the living environment in the face of war threats?***

***What should a contemporary living environment look like?***

Time is a determining factor in reconstruction activities from the devastation. However, these activities will concern decades and reach into the next generations. The rational planning of the investments to be made, the use of infrastructure, the use of available materials, including recycled ones, and finding the right answer to both function and form become important reconstruction issues. How do we protect the timeless values of the environment that allow biological life to continue?

The reconstruction of Ukraine is part of a series of activities that represent global challenges. One of the most important is ensuring access to dwindling resources of arable land and water and maintaining biodiversity. Another is the problem of obtaining energy sources that will not adversely affect climate change or cause environmental pollution. This raises the question of modern construction technologies and materials whose production contributes to reducing the carbon footprint. The new living environment should ensure the rational management of retained water, the preservation of ecological corridors and the protection of the most valuable soil layers.

***How can we support a community of people who have left their previous places of residence and whose family roots have been irretrievably lost?***

Each person grew up in specific conditions, in a unique cultural environment. War shatters the social structure, brings the death of family members, and forces one to make difficult and sometimes dramatic decisions about one's and one's loved ones' fate. Finding an appropriate spatial form and function to rebuild social relations is one of the most crucial issues of the post-war era. In addition to the obvious, functional answers to these questions, there is a deeper one, touching on the foundations of human identity, the understanding of the meanings of spatial forms and the cultural code.

***How should the reconstruction of Ukraine proceed?***

The conference aims to bring together the academic community and the cultural, scientific, technical, and economic elites in the context of the war crisis in Ukraine and to discuss together: the protection of the surviving and the reconstruction of the lost architectural heritage, the possibility of creating new living conditions, the importance of architecture in shaping identity and security. This discussion should be in the direction set by the New European Bauhaus's ideas, describing design issues based on the functional regularity of spatial forms, supporting the complexity of the natural environment and creating members of a democratic human community.

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**Warsaw - the Royal Łazienki Museum - Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology**

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