



United Nations

**HABITAT III**  
SIDE EVENT REPORT

<b>Submitted by Lead Organization</b>	
<b>Name of the lead organization</b>	The American Institute of Architects
<b>City and country where the lead organization is based</b>	Washington, DC, United States of America
<b>Title of the event</b>	Building Better Environments: Design, Health & Resilience
<b>Date</b>	10/20/2016
<b>Room number</b>	R14
<b>List of partner organizations</b>	100 Resilient Cities New York, New York, United States of America
<b>Number of attendees</b>	More than 101
<b>Percentage of women participating</b>	41-50%



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#### Background information on the event (themes, issues, context).

Eighty percent of one's health is attributed to the physical environment, and design plays an important role. The built environment provides places for people to live, work, learn and gather, yet has direct and indirect impacts on communities, ecosystems, and the natural resources they depend upon. This panel discussion organized by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) will focus on how design practices are evolving to respond to shocks and stresses to foster thriving urban spaces. The speakers will demonstrate that careful consideration of how the design of built environments can have a positive impact on human health and security, the environment, and resilience. Every community faces its own set of unique challenges--one faces rising sea levels and skyrocketing housing costs, while another addresses job loss and vacant properties. Architects and other design professionals are uniquely positioned to develop innovative approaches to improve upon these scenarios as they are: ☒ System thinkers who blend environmental science, building science, and social science. ☒ Facilitators who engage occupants, jurisdictions, and communities in participatory design processes. ☒ Project leaders who are able to absorb the magnitude of the challenges and prioritize issues to guide decision-making. ☒ Public servants concerned with the obligation to protect the health, safety and well-being of the public. ☒ Visionaries who can communicate and innovate possibilities for a better future. The panel of architecture and urban design experts discussed the challenges they have faced in planning, development and policy implementation that improves the urban built-environment. They emphasized resilience, as architects have a responsibility to design environments that can adapt to and recover from social, economic and environmental conditions. They discussed how, despite these challenges, they have implemented successful designs and strategies.



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<p><b>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architects have to work in process and product.</li> <li>• Landon Bone Baker Architects believes that housing is a fundamental right.</li> <li>• Multipurpose spaces often do not meet any needs, let alone the multiple purposes.</li> <li>• There needs to be a voice of architects at the table but also the voice of marginalized peoples.</li> <li>• Architects need to be able to influence influencers.</li> <li>• Architects need a client group; problems cannot be solved from the top down.</li> <li>• Why is it important for architects to venture outside of traditional practice?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o There is a whole other world out there than just a client group, but the community. In the role of Chief Resilience Officer you spend time influencing the influencers more so than in traditional practice. Architects have the training to do more than strictly architecture.</li> <li>o In architecture school, you learn unique ways to problem solve. I got extremely tired of getting bad requests for proposals. Architects know that projects can achieve more than what is outlined in these proposals—like economic development or cultural impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The New Urban Agenda should be the Common Urban Agenda. Emphasizing “new” suggests that the “old” is             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Architects have to keep pushing the issues. As architects we have to push for sustainability and processes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Firms need to push to create better products, and it their job to do so.</li> <li>• If you are going to bring parties of people to the table and make promises then it results need to manifest, which is why excellence in design matters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architects and architecture firms need to push to create better products, and it their job to do so.</li> <li>• Architects have to work in process and product.</li> <li>• There needs to be a voice of architects at the table but also the voice of marginalized peoples.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.</b></p>	<p>Ms. Jamie Blosser USA Santa Fe Art Institute Executive Director</p>
<p><b>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.</b></p>	<p>Ms. Mary Kell USA The City of Tulsa Chief Resilience Officer</p>
<p><b>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.</b></p>	<p>Ms. Catherine Baker USA Landon Bone Baker Architects Principal</p>
<p><b>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.</b></p>	<p>Mr. Russell Davidson USA The American Institute of Architects 2016 AIA President</p>



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**Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?**

We plan to continue engagement on the New Urban Agenda by involving our 88,000 members in discussions of organization policy that will promote solutions to the challenges of urbanization. We will also be holding educational sessions on the New Urban Agenda at our annual convention which attracts approximately 20,000 attendees. We will also continue our relationship with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and plan to develop deeper ties with the United Nations. And on December 8, 2016, the AIA Board of Directors passed a resolution of support for the New Urban Agenda to continue our engagement in the implementation of the ideals espoused in the document.