

Creating the Architectural policies document

At the 1st Congress of Croatian Architects in 2004 the Department of Architects of the HKAIG (Croatian Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers) and the Croatian Architects' Association took the initiative for the development and adoption of the document on Architectural policies. The initiative continued at the 2nd Congress of Croatian Architects in 2007. At the 3rd Congress of Croatian Architects "Apolitika 2013" held in 2010, guidelines for establishing Croatian architectural policies were promoted and the work on defining and developing the document began. Recognition of the role of architecture in terms of its cultural, aesthetic and social value led to the signing of the common Statement of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, the Physical Planning Council of the Republic of Croatia, Croatian Chamber of Architects and Croatian Architects' Association. With this Statement they committed to promote and actively participate in activities related to the adoption of the document and this was the beginning of the creation of the national platform.

A preserved natural environment, quality built environment and appropriate landscaping are basic human rights as well as preconditions for economic and social development. A high-quality built environment represents public interest; it is not due to chance, it is created by direct, conscientious and coordinated actions of architectural and relevant professions, with a high social conscience and political will. Finally, the development of the document leads to improvement of the architectural production, and thereby also to the improvement of the overall built environment, which should be viewed as a process.

A society which appreciates and understands the space that surrounds it is of vital importance for achieving a quality built environment. It is therefore necessary to carry out permanent activities for the entire population. The document on Architectural policies exhibiting public interest for the quality of the entire built environment will necessarily become a part of politics as a catalyst of sustainable development, the concern for public space, improvement of design values based on local specifics, health protection, climate and safety.

Through the Guidelines on architectural policy three main objectives were identified at the 3rd Congress of Croatian Architects "Apolitika 2013":

1. Building culture as a precondition for quality of built environment

Building culture is a long-term process of built environment development and our relation towards it, by which we influence the raising of its quality. Raising the level of building culture is the necessary precondition for the concern for the built environment to become a part of everyone's life.

2. Quality of built environment as the foundation for better life of each individual

The life of each individual will be wealthier in attractive, inspirational and functionally designed buildings and spaces that surround them. The built environment should be a stimulating living environment and its high quality represents the foundation for the quality of our lives.

3. Quality architecture as the foundation of national development and progress

Due to its omnipresence architecture influences the entire society. Recognizable and quality architecture has the potential of starting national development and progress and to have a positive influence on a better position for Croatia in the international context.

Continuing with the activities of preparing the document, Minister Branko Bačić has adopted the Decision on the establishment of an interdepartmental Working group in order to create the Proposal of the Architectural policy document. Participating in this group are the representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, the Physical Planning Council of the Republic of Croatia, Croatian Chamber of Architects, Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers, and Croatian Architects' Association. All interested representatives of the professional community should be taking part in order to achieve professional and social consensus about the future development of the built environment and to define objectives, guidelines and implementing measures for its long-term and quality development.

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