

café

Toward an Architecture Policy for Canada

2019-2020

CANADIAN ARCHITECTURE FORUMS ON EDUCATION
FORUMS CANADIENS D'ARCHITECTURE SUR L'ÉDUCATION

PURPOSE & PRIORITIES

ABOUT CAFÉ

The Canadian Architecture Forums on Education are part of a year-long outreach project to discuss and debate the role of architectural education and research in shaping Canada's future.

The knowledge and ideas mobilized through these forums will inform the development of an architecture policy for Canada. The forums enable students, educators and academic researchers to play meaningful roles in shaping the policy's priorities, ambition and depth of vision.

This CAFÉ initiative is led by the Canadian Council of University Schools of Architecture (CCUSA), representing all CACB-accredited architecture programs in Canada, with the support of a Connection Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The national architecture policy initiative – to which these CAFÉs contribute – is jointly led by the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities (CALA), the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), and CCUSA.

Five forums are planned at five schools of architecture across Canada during the 2019-2020 academic year.

WHAT IS AN ARCHITECTURE POLICY

A national architecture policy is an aspirational document. Whereas a building code sets minimum standards, an architecture policy sets forth ambitious goals and calls to action with compelling arguments, images, quotes and case studies. It shows how well-designed settings can enhance social, cultural and environmental well-being, and provides guidance to politicians, professionals and the public on how to achieve more sustainable, equitable and engaging communities. An architecture policy empowers people to pursue positive change and sustainable growth. It would inform public debate, influence legislation and inspire Canadians to create more meaningful and resilient cities and rural development in view of climate change, rapid urbanization, vulnerable lands, threatened heritage and other 21st century challenges.

CAFÉ CAUSE

The Canadian Architecture Forums on Education will bring vigour, rigour and long-term relevance to the process of creating an architecture policy for Canada. Meaningful involvement of the academic sector is crucial to ensuring that any future policy is informed by current research, robust with fresh ideas and relevant for future generations of architects.

For more information on the **café** initiative – including a detailed schedule; call for manifestos; other ways to participate and further resources – visit the website: www.architecturecanada.ca

QUOTES QUESTIONS PROVOCATIONS PURPOSE & PRIORITIES

Words are not enough.

– Justice Murray Sinclair

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Ottawa, June 2015

To orient CAFÉ conversations, participants are encouraged to provide feedback on four themes – **PLACE, PEOPLE, PROSPERITY & POTENTIAL** – and the following general **QUESTIONS**:

- When considering the future of architecture in its broadest sense – as impacting society and the planet – what is most concerning? what is most exciting?
- How might an architecture policy help address these concerns and opportunities?
- If Canada develops a policy, what should be its priorities? its calls to action? its scope?
- What examples best demonstrate architecture's role and value for society?
- What strategies would improve public understanding of architecture's value and potential?
- How do we inspire future generations of citizen architects?
- Other comments?