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Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia,
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Contemporary Challenges Associated to Our Built Environment – How Can Europe's Attention to *Baukultur* Help?

THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS: SUPPORT FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OBJECTS, Riga, 31 March 2022



- Starting point: *Baukultur* (concept of building culture) encompasses all activities with spatial impact, from craftsmanship details to large scale urban planning and development of landscapes.
- Method: reflection on the role of culture in the context of built environment, what is quality in building culture, its influence and how it can be measured, public authorities' obligations (professional / policy reflection).
- Result: informal meeting of Ministers of Culture, signatories of the European Cultural Convention CoE and adoption of the Davos Declaration (political discourse and commitment).
- Context: European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, The Swiss Confederation and The World Economic Forum.



International group of experts led by the Federal Office of Culture (spring 2017):

Lars Amréus (SE); Luc-Emile Bouche-Florin (ECTP);
Giuliana De Francesco (IT); Uwe Koch (DE/Europa Nostra);
Reiner Nagel (DE/Bundestiftung Baukultur); Vit Rezac (CZ);
Claudia Schwalfenberg (CH/SIA); Bénédicte Selfslagh
(ICOMOS); Špela Spanžel (SI); Alexandra Warr (UK).



Preamble (extract):

- recognising the crucial contribution that a high-quality built environment makes to achieving a sustainable society, characterised by a high quality of life, cultural diversity, individual and collective well-being, social justice and cohesion, and economic efficiency;
- aware of a trend towards a loss of quality in both the built environment and open landscapes all over Europe, evident in the trivialisation of construction, the lack of design values, including a lack of concern for sustainability, the growth of faceless urban sprawl and irresponsible land use, the deterioration of historic fabric, and the loss of regional traditions and identities;
- emphasising that everyone, irrespective of background, has the right to experience, share and belong to the cultural environment, that the ways in which we live together and evolve as societies are fundamentally cultural, and that shaping our living environment is, above all, a cultural act;

Declarations (extract by chapter):

- The central role of culture in the built environment: holistic, culture-centred approach to the built environment, humanistic view of the way we collectively shape the places we live in and the legacy we leave behind;
- The concept of *Baukultur*: every human activity, the whole built environment as a single entity - existing buildings, monuments and cultural heritage, design and construction of contemporary buildings, infrastructure, public spaces and landscapes – both material realisation and planning processes;
- Vision for a high-quality *Baukultur*: a new, adaptive approach to shaping our built environment - one that is rooted in culture, not only fulfils functional, technical and economic requirements, but also satisfies people's social and psychological needs;
- The benefits for society: improves sense of place, fosters an inclusive and cohesive society, protects the environment, promotes health and biodiversity, adds economic value.

- Towards a high-quality *Baukultur*: the right balance between cultural, social, economic, environmental and technical aspects, in the public interest for the common good - part of the relevant legal instruments, interdisciplinary discourse, multilevel and cross-sectoral cooperation between policy-makers, competent authorities and professionals, participation of civil society.

Commitments:

- mainstreaming and promoting the ideas and principles of high-quality *Baukultur* to all stakeholders, members of government and the general public, particularly young people;
- implementing better policies that embrace the culture-centred concept and integrate its vision as a core policy objective;
- urging public and private stakeholders, to recognise the positive impact on the common good and to acknowledge their responsibility to its implementation, particularly investment;
- convening again to evaluate and discuss the progress made towards achieving a high-quality *Baukultur* for Europe.



Baukultur of small public space

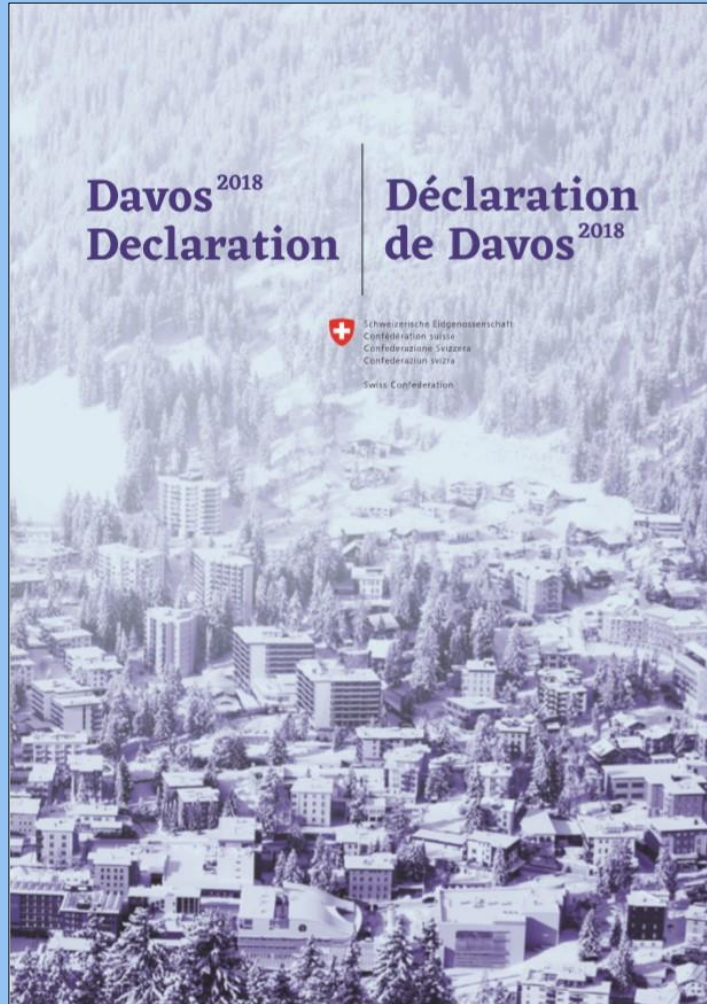
The case of integrated urban renewal of Savsko naselje neighbourhood

prostorij*

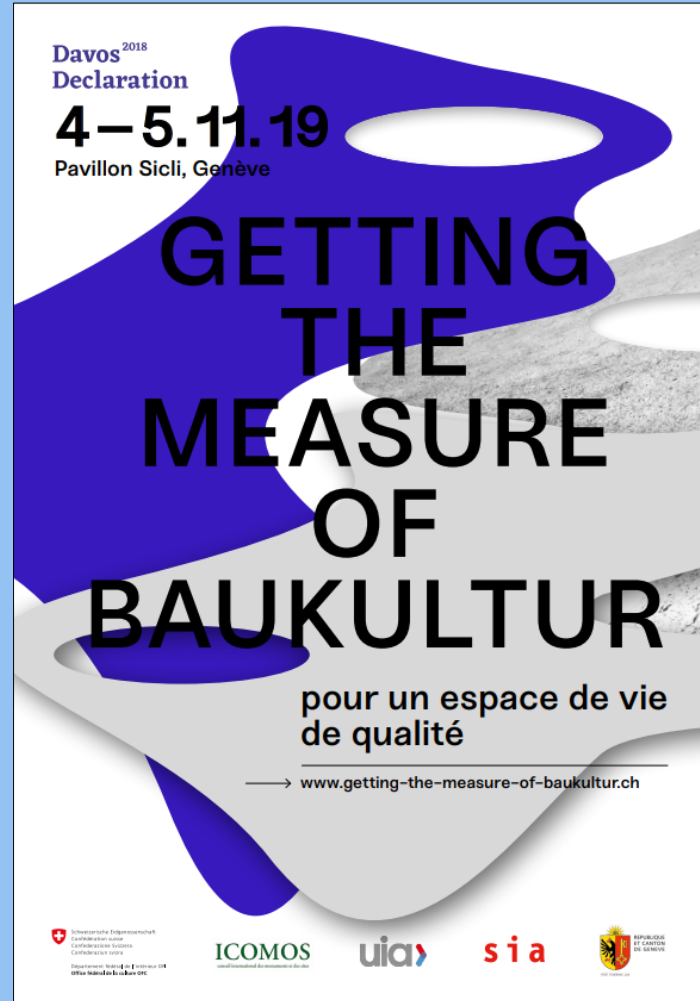


Davos Process:

01.2018: Davos Declaration



11.2019: Conference in Geneva



05.2021: Quality System



The Davos *Baukultur* Quality System editorial team consisted of the following experts:

Lars Amréus, Sweden

Luc-Émile Bouche-Florin, France

Giuliana De Francesco, Italy

Uwe Koch, Germany/Europa Nostra

Reiner Nagel, Germany

Vit Rezac, Czech Republic

Bénédicte Selfslagh, Belgium

Špela Spanžel, Slovenia

Alexandra Warr, United Kingdom

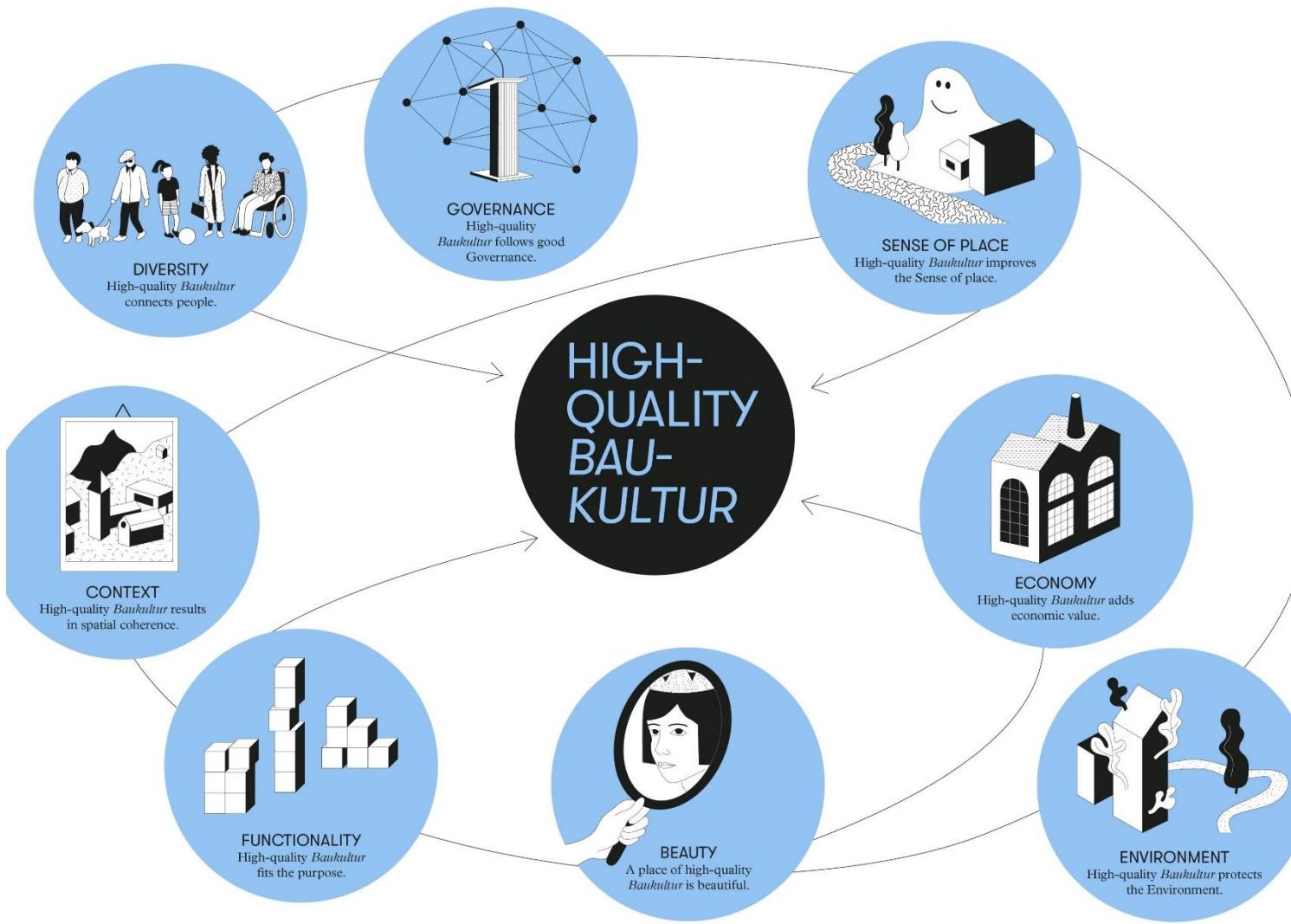
Marie-Laure Lavenir, ICOMOS

Claudia Schwalfenberg, SIA

Lorenz Bräker, UIA

Oliver Martin (chair), Nina Mekacher,

Christina Haas and Brigitte Müller, Federal Office of Culture of Switzerland.



- concept / terminology:

high-quality: the physical space, the quality of the processes and the capacity of the actors involved in the (re)shaping of place,

- objectivity: common denominators, quality values,
- quality assessment: questionnaire,
- target groups: building culture professionals, non-professional target groups, user groups,
- dialogue and exchange: ongoing, inclusive discussions, and professional and societal debate,
- scope: complement existing processes, tools, authorities, legal systems, regulations, etc.

8 Case studies

The Davos *Baukultur* Quality System has been tested in real case studies of different types of places in different countries and was assessed for its applicability two times during its development (July 2020 and October/November 2020).

The feedback of the testing contributed successfully to the improvement and finalisation of the Quality System. The following is a list of the places tested and by whom.

Slovenia, July and November 2020

Co-ordinated and edited by Špela Spanžel

Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (Mateja Kavčič):

- Podsreda, small settlement and its surroundings

Museum of Architecture and Design (Matevž Čelik):

- Planica, Nordic Centre, sports architecture in the Triglav National Park

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Spatial Planning, Construction and Housing Directorate (Jernej Červek):

- Zgornje Jezersko, preservation of a typical settlement in the highlands

Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (Mateja Kavčič, Katarina Odlazek, Irena Potočnik, Boris Deanovič):

- Plečnik's Ljubljana, heritage of Jože Plečnik (1872–1957) enhanced

Aleš Vrhovc (member of the OMC group of Member States' experts on High-quality architecture and built environment for everyone):

- general observations in relation to the new Islamic Religious and Cultural Centre in Ljubljana

Switzerland, October/November 2020

Graser Architekten, Zurich (Jürg Graser, Mike Fingelton, Maïke Hunds, Beda Troxler):

- Biel-Bienne, Tour de la Champagne, housing tower 1968–1970, retrofitting
- Berne, Gewerblich-Industrielle Berufsschule GIBB 1996–1999, new ensemble integrated into heritage context
- Berne, urban development Brünnen, city border
- Fläsch, village, positive rural development
- Burgdorf, castle, 13th century, reuse, conversion of heritage

Tribu architecture (Gaël Cochand), Lausanne, in collaboration with Fondation Culture du Bâti (CUB):

- Geneva, lido, 2019, landscape protection and redevelopment
- Trélex, maison Minergie, 2016, single-family house in single-family-house context
- Bellevaux, apartment buildings 1930s,
- Viaducs de Chillon 1966–1969, integration of infrastructure into listed landscape

Germany, November 2020

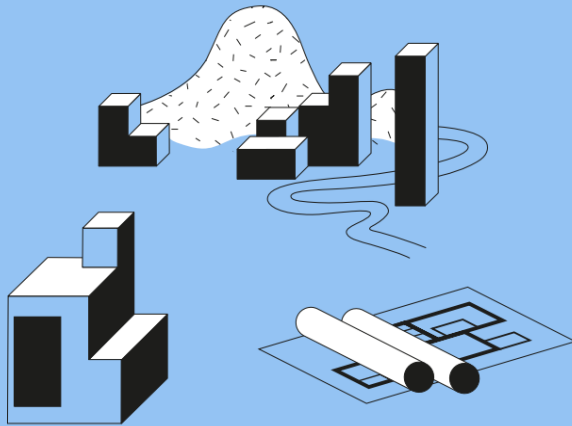
Bezirksamt Mitte von Berlin, Stadtentwicklungsamt, Fachbereich Stadtplanung (André Zschaler):

- Berlin, Karl-Marx-Allee, second Bauabschnitt, pavillions


Davos *Baukultur* Quality System

The Davos *Baukultur* Quality System

Assessment form



Davos²⁰¹⁸
Declaration

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation

The Davos *Baukultur* Quality System

Eight criteria for a high-quality *Baukultur*

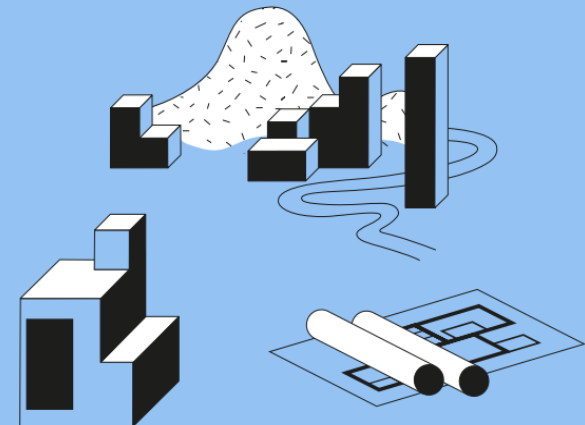


Davos²⁰¹⁸
Declaration


 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

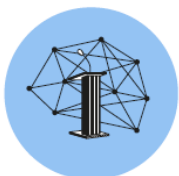
The Davos *Baukultur* Quality System

Eight criteria for a high-quality *Baukultur* – the whole story



Davos²⁰¹⁸
Declaration

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation



The *Baukultur* quality of places is highly influenced by Governance decisions made by the multiple stakeholders of a place over time. Governance not only concerns the different levels of governmental administration but equally governmental agencies, public-private partnerships (PPPs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector as well as the implication of the communities.

Governments, authorities and public agencies should strive to improve legislation and regulation in a *Baukultur*-compatible and conducive way and make the protection, the development and the design of places with a high-quality *Baukultur* a matter of public interest and vibrant debate. *Baukultur* policies, e.g. architectural policies or policies on the preservation and valorisation of built heritage, at national level and by local administrations lead to spaces that are promising for high-quality *Baukultur*. The establishment of quality-oriented procurement procedures like design competitions and developers and owners working exclusively with interdisciplinary teams leads to a deeper understanding of the place and its multiple characteristics and thus to the implementation of high-quality *Baukultur*.

Engagement between administration and the local community is very important to establish a high-quality *Baukultur*. Discursive processes can be strengthened through the Davos *Baukultur* Quality System, which may be used as a helpful mediation and communication tool. A genuine public participation process involves the following steps. First, real information is needed that is easily understood and accessible to all. Second, education or training in the specific issues raised by the participation process is required for the people involved. Third, there has to be real co-decision between all participants on the issues raised. This promotes the identification of communities with their space and strengthens their sense of shared responsibility and caring for their Context.

Taking the criterion of Governance into consideration also means the provision of effective training and education. Professional actors in development, planning, construction and facility management need training, skills and experience. Communities require access to general education in *Baukultur*. Information concerning *Baukultur* has to be easily accessible by all and mediation activities by the government, NGOs and other actors should be actively supported.

High-quality *Baukultur* thrives in the context of transdisciplinarity. Solution-oriented discourse and negotiations between policymakers, authorities, planners and the business community are important, so is multi-level and cross-sectoral cooperation. High-quality *Baukultur* has to be negotiated and debated across all social groups and professional disciplines. Good Governance thus raises awareness, encourages dialogue and fosters cooperation to achieve places with a high-quality *Baukultur*.

Davos Declaration
Article 1

Article 15

Principle

Key questions

“Therefore, culture must be placed at the centre of development policies and its contribution to the pursuit of the common good must be emphasized.”

“High-quality *Baukultur* must form part of the relevant legal instruments.”

High-quality *Baukultur* follows good Governance.

High-quality *Baukultur* promotes quality-oriented and place-specific processes, led by skilled actors working in teams. It facilitates public engagement and contributes to transparent and inclusive participatory governance for decision-making, management and care for the place.

Are all stakeholders familiar with the *Baukultur* concept and concerned with the quality of the place?

Is there guidance for *Baukultur* and its quality through legal regulation, standards, norms and policies, by financial or procedural incentives?

Is there a broad public debate on the quality of the place, for example through design competitions, reviews or other?

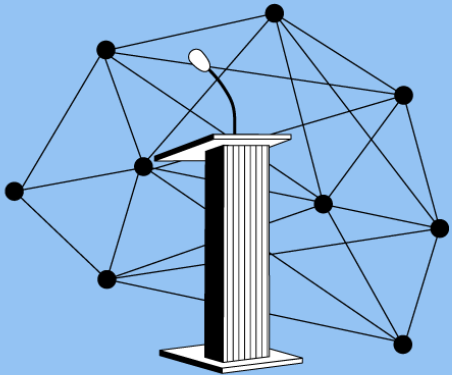
Is the decision-making process about the place participatory, accessible to all people concerned and transparent at all stages?

Do all professional actors and stakeholders involved have the necessary experience, knowledge, skills and expertise for their tasks?

Do professionals work in transdisciplinary teams?

High-quality *Baukultur* follows good Governance

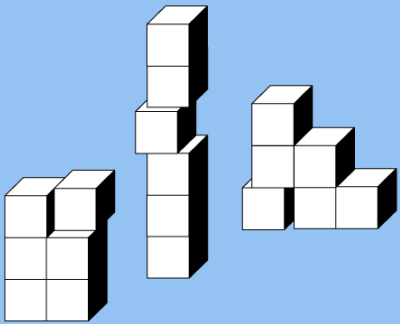
High-quality *Baukultur* promotes quality-oriented and place specific processes, led by skilled actors working in teams.



Governance

High-quality *Baukultur* fits the purpose

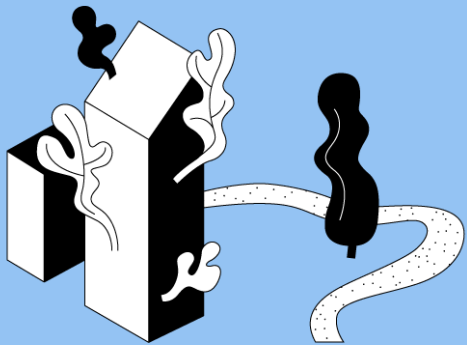
The design and construction methods of high-quality *Baukultur* satisfy the human needs for health, comfort, safety and accessibility.



Functionality

High-quality *Baukultur* protects the Environment

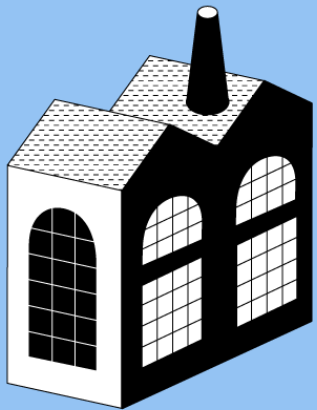
High-quality *Baukultur* contributes to conserving natural resources and biodiversity, mitigating climate change and thus supporting sustainability.



Environment

High-quality *Baukultur* adds economic value

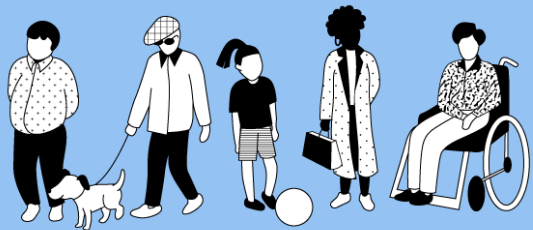
High-quality *Baukultur* prioritises cultural values and long-term investments over short-term economic gain.



Economy

High-quality *Baukultur* connects people

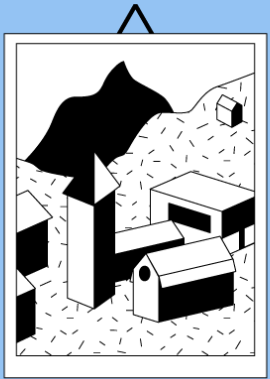
High-quality *Baukultur* reflects and promotes inclusive societies and encourages mixed uses.



Diversity

High-quality *Baukultur* results in spatial coherence

Places of high-quality *Baukultur* refer to their built and natural Context.



Context

High-quality *Baukultur* improves the Sense of place

High-quality *Baukultur* promotes attachment to the place through its strong identity and distinctiveness, thus contributing to fulfilling social, psychological and cultural needs.



Sense of Place

A place of high-quality *Baukultur* is beautiful

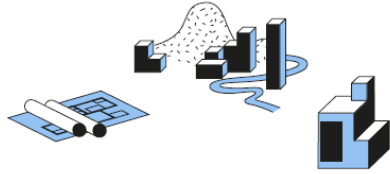
High-quality *Baukultur* takes into account the sensory perception and understanding of the relationship between objects, spaces and people, increasing people's life satisfaction and quality of life.



Beauty

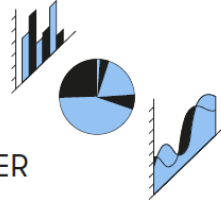
1. CHOOSE YOUR PLACE

Define the scale and the typology of the place you wish to assess. It may be a single building, a neighbourhood, a landscape, a city, etc. It may already exist or be in the planning stage.



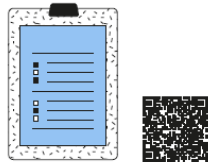
2. GATHER DATA

Collect accessible and existing general information and data on the place. You may research additional data (e.g. conducting surveys) for a more in-depth understanding of the place.



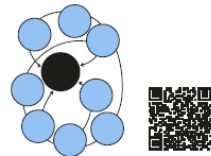
3. ACCESS THE FORM

Use the comprehensive form provided by the Davos *Baukultur* Quality System to assess the *Baukultur* quality of your place.



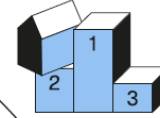
4. DISCOVER THE CRITERIA

Discover the eight quality criteria of the Davos *Baukultur* Quality System. They are distilled from the Davos Declaration, formulate related principles of high-quality *Baukultur* and will structure your assessment.



6. STATE OBSERVATIONS

Express your general observations on how the quality requirements for each criterion are met in text form, based on your answers to the questions. Rank the level of quality for each criterion on the scale in the form.



7. DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Express your concluding statement on how the overall quality requirements for all the criteria are met based on the observations for each criterion. Rank the overall quality of the place on the scale in the form. You may also stress the specific strengths of the place and the potential for improvement.

5. ANSWER QUESTIONS

Answer the questions on each criterion to the best of your knowledge. You may adapt them to the specifics of your place or add questions. Use hard data and indicators for a more in-depth and evidence-based assessment.



Gouvernanz

Funktionalität

Umwelt

Wirtschaft

Vielfalt

Kontext

Genius Loci

Schönheit

Wurde der Kontext des Ortes vor
der Programmierung des Eingriffs
untersucht und
gründlich analysiert?

mehr...

Governanz

Funktionalität

Umwelt

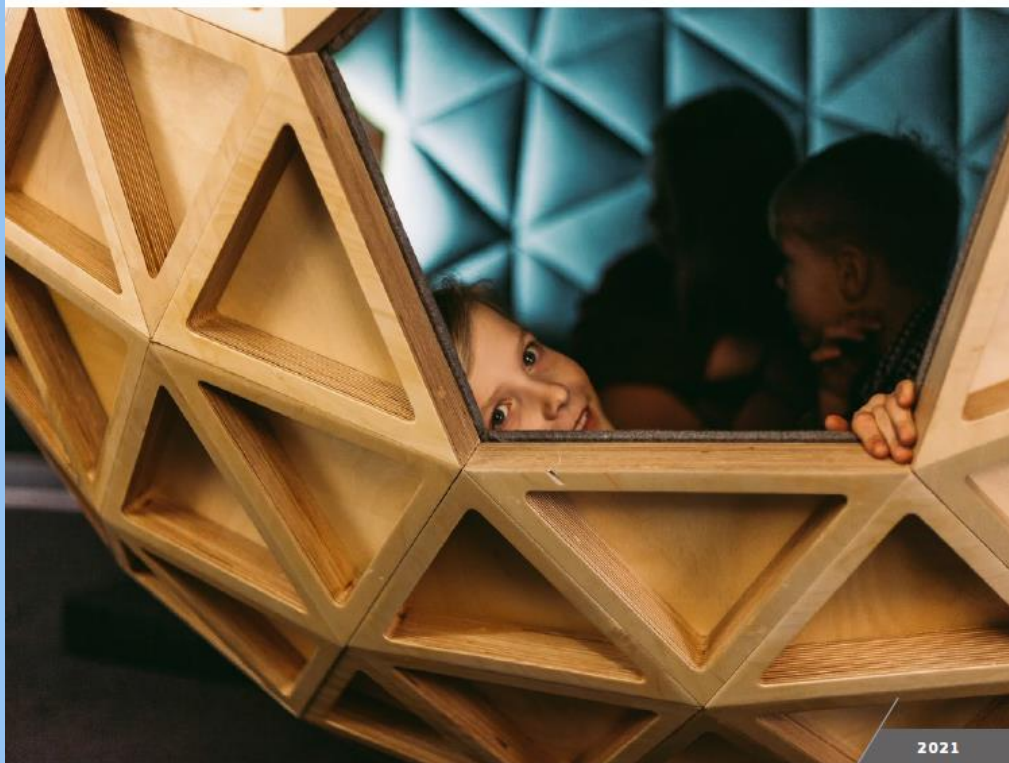
Wirtschaft

Vielfalt

Kontext

Genius Loci

Schönheit



2021

REPORT OF THE EU MEMBER STATE EXPERT GROUP

TOWARDS A SHARED CULTURE OF ARCHITECTURE

INVESTING IN A HIGH-QUALITY LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE

DO YOUR OWN EVALUATION

of how to reach quality goals in architecture and the built environment for everyone

- Are you a decision-maker or a member of an initiative who wants to implement a process that leads to high-quality buildings, public spaces and living environments?
- Are you looking for some guidance to ensure that you have considered all relevant points to ensure the quality of the outcome?

Then this checklist may be a good fit for you. Simply go through the questions on the other page and evaluate the extent to which each aspect has been considered in your intervention. For each criterion, mark on the diagram template the percentage that has been achieved. Fill out one spider diagram (radar chart) per project. The diagram will show how well each aspect has been taken into consideration. A lower value means that the criterion requires further attention, while a higher value means that the criterion has been sufficiently or fully considered.

While it is not necessary to consider all of the questions, going through them will help you to take relevant aspects into account. The questions represent a compact version of the checklist; the full version can be found in the report [Towards a Shared Culture of Architecture – Investing in high-quality living environments for everyone](#).

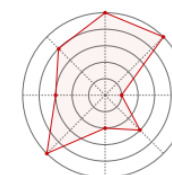
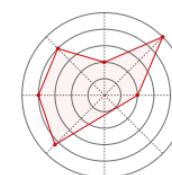
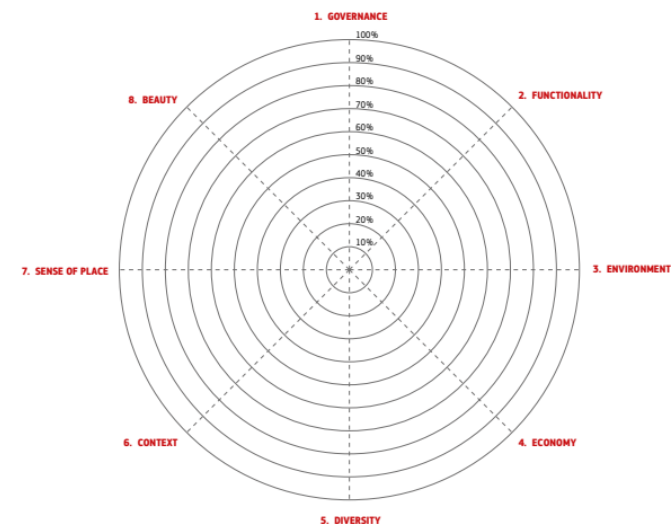


The public sector can demonstrate leadership by implementing a quality-assessment system in investments as part of planning processes – in weighing up investment and location alternatives, in property development and management, public procurement procedures, evaluation of funding proposals, preparing (e.g. spatial planning, design) briefs etc. Answering the quality-assessment questions can improve the sensibility and recognition of places with high-quality *Baukultur* among all societal groups (specialists and non-specialists) and build up knowledge and general awareness about quality issues relating to the built environment.

You can apply this quality-assessment system in many different scenarios and situations. For example, you can use it as a catalogue of quality when evaluating building and planning projects, but also for competitions, design advisory boards or as a guideline for citizens' workshops and in various consultations and debates. You can also use it to self-critically evaluate your own

finished projects or to document the success of planning processes for places. In all of these cases, the potential of the quality-assessment system lies in taking into account and making transparent the complete and balanced consideration of central qualitative issues relating to the built environment.

The assessment methods depend on the available data. Quantitative assessment methods consist of quantitative content analysis (data, structures, sources), standardised interviews, surveys, standardised observation, monitoring, mapping, observations, statistics, counts, estimates, etc. Qualitative assessment methods may include qualitative content analysis, interpretation, value judgements, individual interviews or focus groups, polls, monitoring, mapping, design competitions, etc. Survey and interview results in all of these various forms can support the assessment.



4 When you have filled it in, your spider diagram might look something like these.

This worksheet and its (non-exhaustive) checklist questions are in compliance with both the Davis Baukultur Quality System and the European quality principles for EU-funded interventions with potential impact upon cultural heritage.

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European quality principles for EU-funded interventions with potential impact upon cultural heritage





Brussels, 30 November 2021
(OR. en)

14534/21

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SUSTDEV 172
ENV 942
SOC 709
EMPL 531
RECH 545
EDUC 404

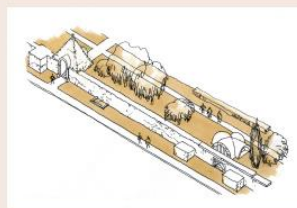
OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	13575/21
Subject:	Council conclusions on on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative, as approved by the Council (Education, Youth, Culture and Sport) at its meeting on 29-30 November 2021.



JOŽE PLEČNIK 150 LET / YEARS



Vir: Vladimir Brezar / MAO, vir: nominacijski dopis.
Drawings: Vladimir Brezar / MAO, source: Nomination Dossier.

CRITERION

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history.

The public space of Ljubljana created by the architect Jože Plečnik in the short period between the two World Wars is an example of a renewed urban space. It is based on a harmonic relationship with the context of the space and its natural possibilities. The town is not built anew, but improved with small- or large-scale interventions. Taking into account individual experiences, users are drawn to connect and identify with the town. The new urban space is not limited to a specific use, but has various functions and the whole is thus imbued with new meanings. The innovative solutions employed, with an eye to the economical use of materials and a respectful attitude to the space, demonstrate an ethical relation towards the environment that continues to endure today.

The attributes of Plečnik's urban interventions consist of: (1) revealing the context of the town, (2) creating a town in human scale, (3) a diversity of meanings and functions, and (4) the economy of the interventions.

DELA JOŽETA PLEČNIKA V LJUBLJANI – URBANO OBLIKOVANJE PO MERI ČLOVEKA

KUSTOSI: ŠPELA SPANŽEL, TOMAŽ ŠTOKA, DR. BOGO ZUPANČIČ
8.2.–8.5.2022 I MAO

THE WORKS OF JOŽE PLEČNIK IN LJUBLJANA – HUMAN CENTRED URBAN DESIGN

CURATORS: ŠPELA SPANŽEL, TOMAŽ ŠTOKA, DR. BOGO ZUPANČIČ
8.2.–8.5.2022 I MAO

DELA JOŽETA PLEČNIKA V LJUBLJANI SO BILA 31. JULIJA 2021 VPISANA NA SEZNAM SVETOVNE KULTURNE IN NARAVNE DEDIŠČINE. Odbor za svetovno dediščino je na svojem 44. zasedanju sledil mnenju Mednarodnega sveta za spomenike in spomeniška območja ICOMOS ter soglasno sprejel odločitev, ki Plečnikovo Ljubljano uvršča med dediščino vsega človeštva. Plečnikovo Ljubljano je prepoznal kot izjemen primer oblikovanja urbanega prostora po meri človeka, v skladu z globoko humano vizijo arhitekta, ki je med obema svetovnima vojnama preoblikoval nekdanje provincialno mesto cesarstva v simbolno narodno prestolnico.

Odbor je pritrdil predlagani argumentaciji izbora javnih prostorov (mestnih trgov, parkov, ulic, promenad, nabrežij in mostov reke Ljubljanice) in javnih ustanov (nacionalna knjižnica, tržnice, pokopališki kompleks in dve cerkvi), ki so občuteno integrirani v obstoječe urbane, kulturne in naravne kontekste, sledijo potrebam prebivalcev in ustvarjajo novo identiteto mesta. Z vpisom je bila potrjena sistematična skrb za Plečnikovo dediščino s strani pristojnih institucij, lastnikov in skupnosti, priporočila odbora glede presoje vplivov sodobnih posegov v spomeniško območje pa bodo vodila za varovanje in upravljanje svetovne dediščine v prihodnje.

Razstava predstavlja proces in končni rezultat nominacije, ki je združila dediščinske in muzejske ustanove, nacionalne in občinske zavode, strokovnjake in poznavalce, lastnike in lokalno skupnost. Obsežno in kompleksno delo, ki ga je opravila interdisciplinarna delovna skupina, je temeljilo na doganjanjih preteklih raziskav in na predstavitvah Plečnikove ustvarjalnosti. Umetitev arhitektovega dela v kontekst Unescove konvencije o svetovni dediščini prinaša dodatno vrednost sodobnemu razumevanju univerzalno prepoznavnih konceptov. Po vpisu se je nacionalna odgovornost glede varovanja Plečnikove dediščine okreplila v zavemo do mednarodne skupnosti, projekt pa je prerasel v trajno obvezo spojitvega varovanja skupne dediščine.

JOŽE PLEČNIK'S WORKS IN LJUBLJANA WERE INSCRIBED ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST ON 31 JULY 2021. At its 44th session, the World Heritage Committee followed the recommendation of the International Council on Monuments and Sites ICOMOS and unanimously adopted the decision to inscribe Plečnik's Ljubljana on the list of properties that are part of heritage of humankind. The Committee recognized Plečnik's Ljubljana as an outstanding example of human-centred urban design in accordance with the profoundly humanistic vision of an architect who transformed a provincial town of the former Empire into a symbolic national capital.

It accepted the rationale for the selected public spaces (city squares, parks, streets, promenades, embankments and bridges across the Ljubljana river) and public institutions (the national library, markets, funerary complex and churches), which have been subtly integrated into the existing urban, cultural, and natural contexts to create a new identity for the city and meet the needs of its residents. The inscription recognised the systematic efforts of competent institutions, owners, and communities to protect Plečnik's heritage, while the Committee's recommendations regarding the heritage impact assessment of contemporary interventions into the heritage site will serve to inform the protection and management of the World Heritage property.

The exhibition presents the process and the final result of the nomination that brought together heritage and museum institutions, national and municipal institutes, experts, owners, and the local community alike. The extensive and complex work performed by the interdisciplinary working group was based on previous research and presentations of Plečnik's creative work. Placed in the context of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention the architect's work brings added value to the contemporary understanding of universally recognized concepts. With the inscription the national responsibility for the protection of Plečnik's heritage grew into a commitment to the international community, while the project evolved into a lasting obligation to protect our common heritage with the respect it deserves.



<https://davosdeclaration2018.ch>

Davos II :

Conference

Baukultur Label ?

Baukultur Forum ?

Second Conference of Ministers of Culture in January 2023 in Davos

A second Conference of European Ministers of Culture under the title “Common good, shared responsibility” will be held at the invitation of Federal Councillor Alain Berset. From 14-16 January 2023, the ministers of culture will discuss with representatives of the private sector how to achieve high-quality Baukultur together for Europe. The Davos Declaration 2018 was approved at the first ministerial conference five years ago.

Thank you!

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