

TERRA2016 Draft Recommendations

General

- Empower local communities to be the drivers of placed-based decision-making
- Encourage professionals to serve as links between local and global communities to advance earthen architecture
- Prioritise risk preparedness, prevention, and climate change adaptation towards increased resilience
- Enhance the social, cultural, and ethnographic dimensions of earthen architecture in addition to the physical aspects
- Adapt earth building technologies to new socio-economic realities and evolving production conditions
- Look beyond individual buildings to understand earthen architecture as an integral aspect of cultural landscapes
- Promote and facilitate multidisciplinary networking and collaboration

Policy

- Appeal to decision-makers to resolve legal and political challenges to earthen architecture construction and protection
- Preserve and support the intangible values associated with earthen architecture and its building traditions through protection instruments
- Promote the use and conservation of earthen architecture through urban planning tools and legal instruments

Research

- Expand reflection on and consideration of the development and implementation of inventories to improve effectiveness and minimize replication of efforts
- Develop more communication- and topic-specific meetings to develop specific avenues of research
- Create stronger bridges between engineering/hard sciences and human/social sciences

- Address research through a broader lens to foster interaction between researchers and practitioners, including those in the private sector
- Develop new metrics to assess the environmental performance of earthen architecture and ensure its sustainability
- Connect laboratory analysis to simple field tests to streamline application and adaptation
- Build better connections in research between traditional/historic materials and new earthen materials
- Encourage and support research on bio-based materials
- Foster publication of earthen architecture research and studies in peer-reviewed journals to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration and learning

Projects

- Design and implement demonstration projects to highlight the potential of earthen structure compliance with safety standards and building code requirements
- Develop demonstration projects, guiding principles, methodological approaches and technical guides to promote the realisation of affordable housing programmes at scale based on local building cultures
- Sustain socio-economic contexts that support the survival and adaptation of earthen building traditions

Knowledge Transfer

- Encourage hands-on experience at different levels of responsibility (design, building and training)
- Encourage engagement and exchange between formal and informal learning at all levels of education
- Develop training by capitalising on existing teaching and assessment tools
- Demonstrate through technical training the business opportunities that the earth construction sector presents
- Facilitate inclusion of technical training related to earthen architecture within universities and other centers of learning
- Use media coverage of competitions to increase recognition of earthen architecture
- Host earthen architecture festivals and events to increase visibility

- Educate children about the opportunities that earth presents for sustainable building practices
- Foster the transfer of knowledge, shared experiences, and a tradition of teaching through on-site training that mixes generations

Institutional Engagement

- Urge international institutions to reinforce and engage in regional and local efforts to enhance education, prevent loss of heritage, transfer knowledge, and leverage policy making to promote the use of earth
- Seek UNESCO's commitment to extend the WHEAP (World Heritage Earthen Architectural Programme) to maximise its strong impact on all regions of the world
- Encourage better coordination of earthen architecture issues within the UN organisations dealing with similar subjects in the framework of Sustainable development goals (Agenda 2030)
- Revive partnerships and synergies among institutions (UN Habitat, UNHCR, IFRC, UNEP, UNDP, ILO, ICCROM , ICOMOS, GCI, WMF, ...) and other bodies to facilitate the development of robust information on earthen architecture
- Develop professional level education programmes on earthen architecture conservation
- Focus more attention on World Heritage sites in Danger through the engagement of the international community and governments
- Promote earthen architecture to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable populations, to provide housing for all and achieve sustainable urbanisation
- Communicate the relevant outcomes of the TERRA2016 World Congress at the Habitat3 conference and with the New Urban Agenda
- Convey the relevant outcomes of the TERRA2016 World Congress at COP22 and at forthcoming international events that relate to immovable cultural heritage, housing, and urban development

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