



COPENHAGEN LESSONS

10 Principles to build on

1. Dignity and agency for all people is fundamental in architecture, there is no beauty in exclusion.
2. People at risk of being left behind must be accommodated first when we construct, plan, and develop the built environment.
3. Existing built structures must always be reused first.
4. No new development must erase green fields.
5. Natural ecosystems and food production must be sustained regardless of the build context.
6. No virgin mineral material must be used in construction, when reuse is possible.
7. No waste must be produced or left behind in construction.
8. When sourcing materials for construction, local renewable materials come first.
9. In everything we build, carbon capture must exceed carbon footprint.
10. When developing, planning, and constructing the built environment, every activity must have a positive impact on water ecosystems and clean water supply.

The COPENHAGEN LESSONS were presented at the conclusion of “SUSTAINABLE FUTURES – LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND”, the UIA World Congress of Architects 2023, held in Copenhagen. The COPENHAGEN LESSONS build on the substantive new research and practice developed and brought together in the years up to and during the Congress, exploring architecture’s contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals with Ramboll and Henning Larsen as knowledge partners. The COPENHAGEN LESSONS are formulated with the hope that they can serve as inspirational principles to build on, for a sustainable future.