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The Speakers' Line-up

Keynote Speaker

Peter Cachola Schmal

Architect, Director of the German Architecture Museum (DAM), Curator of the German Pavilion at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia



Peter Cachola Schmal, born 1960, is a trained architect, curator, architectural publicist and director of the Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) in Frankfurt.

He was chosen as this year's curator of the German pavilion at the International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia.

Being half German, half Philippino himself, he addressed the immigration issue with the show called "Making Heimat. Germany, Arrival Country".

Session I: Housing and Society

Natalia Rogaczewska

Chief Advisor & Head of European Affairs, BL Denmark - the Federation of Social Housing in Denmark



Natalia Rogaczewska is Chief Advisor & Head of European Affairs at BL, the Federation of Social Housing in Denmark, and holds a Master of European Business and Law. In 2007, she was appointed to the Danish Government State Aid Board and in 2009, she became responsible for preparing the Danish Presidency of the Council in 2012 in the Danish Ministry of Business and Growth. Apart from engaging in national policy development, she has had special focus on the European Semester, bringing that experience into her position as Vice Chair for Housing Europe's Committee on Finance, Economy and Internal Market. Denmark has a strong tradition for social housing that is sustainable from an economic, environmental and social angle. This approach manifests itself in socio-economic benefits for society in a broader context.



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Stuart Ropke

Group Chief Executive, Community Housing Cymru, Wales



Stuart Ropke is the Chief Executive of Community Housing Cymru (CHC), the representative body for housing associations in Wales. Prior to joining CHC in October 2014, Stuart worked for the National Housing Federation for almost 10 years, latterly as Assistant Director of Policy and Research.

Anders Lago

Chair of the board, HSB – Swedish Cooperative Housing Association



Anders Lago is chair of the board of HSB, Sweden's largest cooperative housing association. HSB develops, builds and manages housing for over one million people, all over Sweden. Prior to his position as chair of HSB, Mr Lago was mayor of Södertälje, a town south of Stockholm, where he had a profound engagement in issues regarding migration and the labour market.

Francis Deplace

General Manager, DELPHIS – French Private Social Housing Association



Francis Deplace, born in 1956, PhD in Philosophy and M.B.A., is since 1995 general manager of DELPHIS, a research and development association grouping 24 French private social housing companies managing more than 250.000 dwellings all over France. Since 2005, DELPHIS has promoted and stimulated the C.S.R. reporting in the European social housing sector. With the support of the "Union Social pour l'Habitat" and the "Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations", starting in 2010, DELPHIS has developed a method to measure the social and local value of the activities led by the social landlords on their territories.



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Yves-Laurent Sapoval

Senior Advisor for the Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes, France



Yves-Laurent Sapoval is Senior Advisor for the Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes in France.

After working as an Architect for ten years, selected for the state body of civil architects and city planners and joined housing departments in the national state administration of districts in Ile de France region. Advisor and deputy chief of staff for ministers in charge of housing, and urban development he became in 2006 “Délégué interministériel à la ville” and head of the national administration in charge of deprived areas. After 2009 he was successively responsible for developing sustainable urban development in the Union for the Mediterranean and working on major urban projects in the “Grand Paris” area.

Pecha Kucha I: Emerging Responses to Housing Needs

Juha Kaakinen

Chief Executive Officer, Y-Foundation



Juha Kaakinen is Chief Executive Officer of Y-Foundation, the biggest Finnish NGO acquiring flats from the private market for homeless people and providing social housing. From 2008 – 2012, he worked for the Finnish Ministry of the Environment as Programme Leader of the National Programme to reduce long-term homelessness 2008-2012. He is a member of the Administrative Council of FEANTSA.

He has written over 50 research papers, articles and evaluation reports on social services, employment projects and policies as well as homelessness issues.



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Bea Varnai

Project Manager, UrbaMonde-France



Bea Varnai is passionate about community-driven processes shaping contemporary city-making: community-led housing models, cooperative financing strategies, innovative partnerships in area development and civic participation and cooperation. Her personal and professional background has provided her with valuable insights into innovative, sustainable and inclusive habitat solutions across Europe and Latin America. Bea Varnai holds an MA in International Development (Graduate Institute Geneva) and coordinates the European Community-led Housing Platform on behalf of the non-profit organisation urbaMonde-France.

Marc Uhry

Coordinator European Affairs, Fondation Abbé Pierre, France



Marc Uhry is the Coordinator for European Affairs at Fondation Abbé Pierre, a French charity focused on housing rights and housing exclusion. He has been working for 20 years on housing as an activist, a social worker, a researcher, a lobbyist, a money maker... - exploring all types of piracy to improve housing rights, at local, national and European level.

Gabriel Sibille

Architect & Urbanist, EST Métropole Habitat



Gabriel Sibille is engaged on urban projects that seek to insert social and affordable housing in the heart of the city. With the GIE Est Habitat they are working in Lyon city on new and unusual ways to acquire land properties. The team also works on innovative development projects to rehabilitate brownfield site and large housing developments from the second part of the 20th century.



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Joanna Charlton

Communications Manager, Shepherds Bush Housing Group



Joanna Charlton has been Shepherds Bush Housing Group's (SBHG) group communications manager since 2008. Prior to this she was communications manager for Transport for London. Joanna is responsible for developing and managing SBHG's corporate communication strategy and maximizing public awareness about SBHG's work.

She has visited a number of housing organizations in Europe to share ideas and best practice. Joanna forges and maintains strong external and internal communication links and acts as a source of communications expertise.

Pecha Kucha II: Cities for All in Times of Crisis

Maria Stratigaki

Vice Mayor for Social Solidarity, Welfare and Equality, Athens



Maria Stratigaki is the Vice Mayor of Athens for Social Solidarity, Welfare & Equality since September 2014. Moreover, she is Associate Professor at the Department of Social Policy of Panteion University teaching on gender, social policy and gender equality policies. She served as the Secretary General for Gender Equality at the Hellenic Ministry of Interior (2009-2012). From 1991 to 1999, she worked at the European Commission's Unit on equal opportunities between women and men (DG EMPL). Furthermore, during her professional career she has also been the General Director of the Research Centre of Gender Equality- KETHI (1999-2002) and the Centre for Gender Studies of Panteion University (2007-2009).



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Javier Buron Cuadrado

Manager of Housing in the Barcelona City Council



Javier Buron Cuadrado is Manager of Housing in the Barcelona City Council. He has been partner at Urbania ZH Gestion, a company dedicated to the provision of management services, consultancy and training to public sector entities, cooperatives and social economy, with the aim of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public, cooperative and non-profit services. Until 2009 he has been the Vice Counsellor of Housing after serving as Director for Planning and Operative Housing Processes at the Basque Government. Former member of Izquierda Unida political party and Ezker Batua served as

advisor at National Parliament and the Basque Parliament.

Michaela Kauer

Director of the Liaison Office of the City of Vienna, Brussels



Michaela Kauer, born 1966 in Vienna, has more than 20 years work experience with the City of Vienna, where she occupied different posts and managed some major organisational change processes. Since 2009, she is the director of the Liaison Office of the City of Vienna in Brussels. She is an expert on public services and urban policy. Her academic background is in international public management; she regularly publishes, gives lectures and is a teacher in European Public Management at Professional Business School Burgenland.

Vladimir Šokman

Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the City Council of Tartu, Estonia



Vladimir Šokman is Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the City Council of Tartu. He has extensive experience in the local authorities of the second largest Estonian city, having been Deputy Mayor from 2001 to 2011. Prior to his time in the Municipality he had been for 18 years the Head of the Tartu Vocational School.

Pasquale Talerico

Kalkbreite Cooperative, Zurich



Pasquale Talerico is an architect and a founding member of the cooperative “Kalkbreite” in Zurich. On behalf of the cooperative, he has worked on project management and currently also resides in the building in Zurich.

Founded in 2007, the cooperative planned its building in a participatory process in close cooperation with the city of Zurich and its public transport provider. Having built a residential and commercial building above a tram depot, the cooperative also attracted attention for providing affordable housing in an expensive city with a saturated housing market. Fostering social mix, communal living as well as low energy consumption are essential for the cooperative.

Session II: Building, Construction and Finance**Andrea Colantonio**

Urban & Regional Development Economist, European Investment Bank (EIB)



Andrea Colantonio is a senior economist at the European Investment Bank, responsible for the financing of urban and regional development projects. Prior to this, Andrea was at the London School of Economics, leading projects for major European cities on integrated urban development and institutional governance, sustainability policy, planning and evaluation methods.

He holds a PhD in Economic Geography and is the main author of *Transforming Urban Economies: Policy Lessons from European and Asian Cities* (2013); *Urban Regeneration and Social Sustainability: Best Practice from European Cities* (2010); and *Urban Tourism and Development in the Socialist State: Havana during the Special Period* (2006).

Elena Szolgayová

Director General, DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Slovakia



Elena Szolgayová, an architect and urban planner with long-standing research experience, has been advising state and municipal housing policy makers since the early 1990s. In 1999 she joined the state administration. She has been involved in numerous UNECE and EU activities targeted at housing and urban development. Since 2013 she acts as Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and since 2015 as a member of the Preparatory Bureau for the Habitat III conference.

Doris Andoni

Executive Director of National Housing Agency, Albania



Doris Andoni studied architecture and urban planning and had several specializations and trainings in the field of housing, urban planning and project management. She worked as architect for several years and consultant in different international funded projects. Between 2012 and 2014, she worked as senior housing expert for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Housing and Land Management Unit in Geneva. Currently, she is the Executive Director of National Housing Agency, a state owned enterprise that is responsible for developing and implementing social programmes for housing.

Christian Lieberknecht

Vice-President GdW, the Federal Union of German Housing and Real Estate Associations



Dr. Christian Lieberknecht, born in 1963, is the Vice-President of Housing Europe and the Managing Director of the GdW, the Federal Union of German Housing and Real Estate Associations. Since 2003, he is a member of the board and responsible for advocacy, coordination of policy consultancy, national as well as international policy issues.



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Johanna Ode

Head of International Affairs, SABO Sweden – Swedish Association of Public Housing Companies



Johanna Ode is Head of International Affairs at SABO (the Swedish Association of Public Housing Companies). In her position, she is covering and lobbying the EU institutions. In 2014, she was elected Chair for Housing Europe's Committee on Energy, Construction and Standardisation. She is also member of the board of Housing Nordic. Previously she worked as a civil servant with the Swedish Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Sustainable Development. Her educational background includes a Master's degree in Political Science and Government and EU-studies.

Session III: Urban development and Social Inclusion

Blase Lambert

Chief Officer, Confederation of Co-operative Housing



Blase Lambert has been a leading player in the UK co-operative housing sector for the last 19 years and is currently the Chief Officer of the Confederation of Co-operative Housing (CCH).

Blase Lambert led the development of the CCH / NHF Code of Governance for Housing Co-operatives, Accreditation Frameworks, Centre of Excellence training programme and leads the CCH support and advice service. Blase Lambert is a Board member of Co-operative Housing International and the Co-operative Housing Finance Society.



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Dermot Sellars

Policy and Communications Manager with Co-operative Housing Ireland



Dermot Sellars is Policy and Communications Manager with Co-operative Housing Ireland, the national federation representing and developing co-operative housing in Ireland since 1973.

He represents the federation in a number of national and international forums and is a member of the National Homeless Consultative Committee. He previously worked with Dublin City Council and in the UK with the Homes and Communities Agency and with English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency.

Samir Kulenovic

Technical Programme Manager, Regional Housing Programme of the Council of Europe Development Bank, Directorate General for Loans and Social Development



Samir Kulenovic is a civil engineer with over 20 years of experience in implementation of social infrastructure projects. He has worked with international engineering consulting companies and multilateral institutions on the projects based in Europe, USA, and Asia.

Samir approaches projects in a holistic way, focusing on sustainability and policy measures that ensure social return of investments. Currently, he works for the Council of Europe Development Bank as Technical Programme Manager for a housing programme for refugees and displaced persons in the Western Balkans.

Samir has a master's degree from Cornell University (USA) and is registered Chartered Engineer in Ireland and the USA.

Luigi Cuna

Evaluator, Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)



Luigi Cuna is an economist with extensive experience in international development operations and in the evaluation of social and economic development programmes. He has worked with several multilateral development organizations, including international financial institutions, covering a range of countries and various sectors.

Currently employed at the Council of Europe Development Bank, over last five years, Luigi Cuna has been leading a cycle of independent evaluations dealing with housing operations targeting selected vulnerable groups in Europe (migrants, Roma and refugees). He has a PhD from the University of Bologna.



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Sven Bergenstråhle

President, International Union of Tenants



Sven Bergenstråhle is president of the International Union of Tenants (IUT) since 2010 and a consultant with his own firm. Before, he worked for the Swedish Union of Tenants with research and studies on rent setting, housing policy, housing and welfare, IT in housing, housing for young and elderly as the main areas. He has also run studies on the needs and attitudes towards housing qualities and different tenures in the Institution of Sociology, University of Gothenburg and on the residential and office space from a user perspective within the Council for Building Quality. Earlier he had been working for the National Statistics Authority in Sweden and the Institution of Sociology in the University of Stockholm.

Raquel Cortés Herrera

Deputy Head of Unit in Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission



Raquel Cortés Herrera is a lawyer working for the European Commission since 2003. She is currently Deputy Head of Unit in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and she worked previously in the Secretariat-General (2009-2016) and in DG Competition (2003-2009).

Before joining the Commission, she worked four years as assistant professor of International Public Law, International Economic Law and European Union Law at the Balearic Islands University (Mallorca, Spain). She is fluent in Catalan, Spanish, English and French and has basic knowledge of Italian and German.