

Architecture and Climate Struggle

What needs to change so that architecture can contribute to addressing the climate and environmental breakdown? The task ahead is immense, nevertheless here are ten points from where to start.

1. Contest capitalism and its colonial, racist and patriarchal structures. Even if it is a small material, structural or typological decision, if it is not anti-capitalist in nature, then it is not contributing to addressing the root causes of the global climate and environmental breakdown.
2. Recognise architecture's contribution to the colonial and racial machines of capitalist expansion – and their genocidal and ecocidal impacts. This is crucial so that we can plan the future otherwise, but also to engage in necessary acts of repair.
3. Develop forms of environmental impact assessment that are holistic (beyond the tick-box exercises of BREEAM or LEED), that go beyond the building envelope and the site, and that consider the affected surrounding environment in its ecological and social qualities. Terms such as structural violence, indirect violence, slow violence, field causality, remote causality, among others, should become a staple in architecture schools, so as to update the conceptual apparatus upon which notions of environmental impact currently rest upon.
4. Implement an environmental ethics code to address architecture's too frequent participation in environmentally damaging forms of urban and territorial development.
5. Engage the immediate reconfiguration of pedagogic institutions along the lines of:
 - 5.1 Placing climate and the environment at the centre of all aspects of the curriculum, from design to construction methods;
 - 5.2 Decolonising curriculums to include references and methodologies beyond the western, white and male canon;
 - 5.3 Support students and staff (academic and non-academic) in their struggles against the physical and mental exploitation that has become a staple of contemporary learning environments;
 - 5.4 Foreground voices from the frontlines of ecological struggles while recognising the legitimacy of the knowledges produced in struggle;
 - 5.5 Develop research in collaboration with non-academics, with the marginalized, with all those that are most immediately impacted by environmental and climate violence.
6. Contribute to every discussion addressing the root causes of the climate and environmental breakdown, such as:
 - 6.1 Green new deals (in particular those that link transformations in modes of transportation and production with global labour and anti-extractivist struggles, such as the Red Deal or *Pacto Ecosocial del Sur*);
 - 6.2 Energy transition; decarbonisation; de-growth; post-development; 'keep it in the ground';
 - 6.3 Abolition of the carceral industrial complex, considering how police forces across the world function as *de-facto* protectors of capitalist/extractive structures;
 - 6.4 Every discussion on anti-capitalist, -extractive, -colonial, -racist and -patriarchal struggles (these are the main root causes of our predicament).
7. Support indigenous and peasant peoples across the world in their struggles against the expansion of extractive frontiers, namely:
 - 7.1 Supporting decolonisation struggles and the global 'take back the land' movement against colonial and settler colonial states;
 - 7.2 Supporting every struggle against using land for extractivist purposes including mining, agribusiness, plantation monocultures and real estate;
 - 7.3 Support European agricultural communities against the EU's race to the bottom for green transition minerals (ongoing in Portugal or Serbia);
8. Consider socio-environmental concepts emerging from recent environmental jurisprudence, such as 'rights of nature', 'human rights of nature', 'rights of mother earth', '*buen vivir*', 'biocultural rights', 'rights of future generations', among others, and they might impact the practice of architecture.

9. Use the tools and methods of architecture to support climate justice, environmental, ecological, and at large any other struggle that directly or indirectly impacts on how we coexist on and with the earth (such as those mentioned above).

10. Refuse the limitation of architecture's scope and ambitions to the provision of a service. To address the environmental and climate breakdown, architecture needs to rediscover its social, critical and political relevance.

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