

Young Architects World Federation *La Fédération mondiale des Jeunes Architectes (FMJA)* in association with the International council of French Architects (CIAF) have for over 15 years regularly organized the Young Architects Forums

Forum Presentation

1) Who are we?



The Young Architects World Federation (FMJA) is a French association founded in 1996. It contributes to implementing actions in favour of young architects. It provides a platform to co-ordinate, promote, stimulate and strengthen actions initiated by its members or by the bodies accredited to the Association, in particular, to organize international forums for young architects.



The International council of French Architectes (CIAF) is the official representative of France within international architectural associations, in particular the International Union of Architects (UIA). It actively participates in the work of international work groups and, on the strength of its experience and networks, regularly organizes workshops for young architects and architecture students.

Accordingly, it is quite natural that these two associations collaborate to organize events and actions for architecture students and young architects.

2) What is a Forum?

The Forums are study and dialogue opportunities for young professionals; architects, town planners and landscape architects who develop proposals together.

They enable architects from different horizons and cultures to meet, to compare their work methods and to bring a new and original approach to a real issue identified by a public sector client from a municipality, city, agglomeration, group of adjoining municipalities or from a region.

The number of attendees varies according to the scale of the project. Participants are organized in teams of 5 architects of which at least 1 architect is native to the country where the Forum is held.

The working languages are French and English.

The Forums are organized in the summer months during 2 weeks.

The Forums are organized by the FMJA and CIAF in partnership with the professional organizations of the host country. A close collaboration with the client before the event defines a theme pertinent to the Forum and identifies all the necessary skills for its success.

On the strength of its networks, the FMJA and CIAF teams, allocated to organize the Forum, can engage the expertise of speakers and architects to animate the Forum.

A 2-day conference precedes the Forum. It assembles attendees, local representatives and international specialists chosen for their expertise. This event is open to the public and local inhabitants are urged to participate.

At the conclusion of the conference, each architect receives a data-pack that includes all the reports and analyses that were indispensable to treat the issue.

3) Who can participate in a Forum?

Architects, town planners and landscape architects less than forty years old from member countries of the International Union of Architects, which represents 124 countries, are entitled to participate in the Forums that are also open to final year architecture students.

Subsequent to a call to the professional organizations and schools of architecture of the 124 member countries, the selection of delegates is made. It is based upon the candidate's curriculum and his/her experience in regard to the Forum theme. The selection is also carried out to ensure, within the teams, a broad representation of cultures to guarantee the richness and originality of proposals.

4) Who animates the Forums?

The FMJA has at its disposition an international network of practicing architects and teachers to animate the Forums. The number of speakers depends on the number of delegates; there is at least 1 leader per team, each team consists of 5 architects.

Depending on the specific issue of the Forum, the FMJA also engage international and national experts to intervene during the Forum.

All these contributions are voluntary and bear witness to their personal commitment.

Moreover, the CIAF and FMJA dispose of their own logistic team experienced in the organization of Forums.

5) The last event:

Font-Romeu Forum, 20-31 July 2009

The Forum client was the City of Font-Romeu that asked the CIAF to organize a Forum and Architecture Week in Font-Romeu. The Forum theme was "Mountain Eco-Station" and, in particular, the development of a return track to the city centre from high altitude ski runs. 25 young architect participated.

Jean-Louis Demelin, Mayor of Font-Romeu addressing the delegates at the conclusion of the Forum:
"I thank you for your tremendous implication in this crucial study for the future of Font-Romeu. Difficult to give a preference to one of these different projects. All had good reason to win the vote. All contained brilliant ideas which we shall study during the development of the project".

Questioned later about the subsequent outcome of the Forum, Mr Jean-Louis Demelin stated: *"The City Council widely consulted the local population by exhibiting all the projects during 6 months, in order to consult not only residents but also summer and winter season tourists. This permanent exhibition enabled people to understand the philosophy of the project and especially enabled local representatives to support this project with the administration that had previously opposed to such a*

project. It should be recalled that the project is located within a classified site and the solutions proposed by the Forum, in particular, convinced the Ministry of Environment that gave its approval in principle. The municipality is at the development stage of a precise plan of the return track, with all the consequences of the urbanization that will encroach upon the classified site. The ideas of the Forum helped to propose alternative solutions; the creation of a retention basin not only for tourism (artificial snow) but also for agricultural purposes. The municipality, that drew ideas from all the Forum proposals, decided to develop a station without cars. It created a Sustainable Development Department (with job creation). The organization of travel without cars (horse drawn carriages, sledges, etc.) is one of the major preoccupations of this Department. Still with sustainable development in mind, the municipality created a public domain land use and local advertising regulations. It works on the inclusion of the return track project within the sustainable development plan of the local town planning plan and the creation of an eco-district scheme. The 1970s objective to make skiers come into the town centre has finally entered the construction phase. It goes without saying that it will be carried out stage by stage given the lack of experience of the municipality on the subject. The municipality has to take into account the requirements and aspirations of "new tourists" who ask for a return to nature, to the values of the land in summer and to the mountain in winter, to ski.

In conclusion the Young Architects Forum was an extraordinary means to put on track our Eco-Station Project, in phase with the regional park charter which stresses the values of sustainable development within our territory".

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