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3<sup>rd</sup> International Scientific Conference

**ARCHITECTURE OF LOCAL CULTURES OF THE BORDERLAND**

**The Sacred – The Profane – The Sacred**

**Conversions and Reconversions of Sacred Architecture and Art XX – XXI cc.**

Warsaw-Białystok, 3.07.2017r.

**arch. Esa Mohamed**

President

of UIA - INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

*and*

**arch. Thomas Vonier**

Secretary General

of UIA - INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

*Dear Mr. President,  
Dear Mr. Secretary General,*

On 21-23 April, 2017 the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Scientific Conference „*Architecture of Local Cultures of the Borderland*” - „*The Sacred–The Profane–The Sacred. Conversions and Reconversions of Sacred Architecture and Art XX – XXI cc*” was held in Warsaw, Białystok and Supraśl.

It was organized by the International Union of Architects UIA Working Programme “Spiritual Places” and the Unit for Architecture of Local Cultures of the Faculty of Architecture of the Białystok Technical University, with the organizational support by the Białystok branch of the Union of Polish Architects, Polish Institute of World Art Studies and the Academy of Supraśl, under the auspices of the Main Board of the Union of Polish Architects SARP and the Polish Academy of Sciences.

This was another edition of the conference series entitled “*Architecture of the Borderlands*”, which previously was held in 2003, 2005 and 2009. They dealt with all the problems of the architecture of the spiritual places and cultural identity, multiculturalism and the exchange of values and ecumenism.

The main aim of the conference was to present, analyse and attempt to evaluate the contemporary problems of devastation, profanation and changes in the use of religious worship objects.

During the conference, 6 plenary sessions and one round-table discussion session and a study tour to worship facilities were organized. There was also a working meeting of the programme members. 42 papers were submitted to the conference, including 22 from abroad - France, Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. In the opinion of all the participants and invited guests, the conference was of a high level and very important in the process of the protection of human spiritual

culture. This was widely reflected in public media, industry magazines and international architectural portals.

All the papers are currently published in a monograph. The results of the conference and the results of the 2014-2017 Programme will be presented at an exhibition and seminar at the forthcoming UIA Congress in Seoul.

During the conference a *"Declaration"* was stated. It was addressed to all architects and institutions asking for immediate action to stop the world's desecration and devastation of the spiritual goods of the human culture and to stop a vicious tendency of depreciation of holiness in the architect's work and culture he contributes.

I would like to ask the Mr. President and the Mr. Secretary-General, as well as the Presidents of the national sections of all UIA Associated Architects to accept this information and acknowledge the results of the conference in the form of the *"Declaration"* and direct it to be published in the UIA magazine and documents as well as send it to the participants of UIA Congress.

We hope that mutual respect for all human spiritual goods will contribute to the neutralization of tensions and enmity between people, leading to recognition of the importance of intercultural and interreligious tolerance and respect.

Yours faithfully,



*Jerzy Uścińowicz, Prof. PhD, DSc Arch.  
Director of the UIA Working Programme "Spiritual Places"*