

For immediate release

US Architects Join International Architects Declare Movement

The Architectural League
of New York
594 Broadway, Suite 607
New York, NY 10012
212 753 1722
info@archleague.org
archleague.org

Media contact:
Anne Carlisle
Communications Manager
carlisle@archleague.org

Project contact:
Katie Rotman
Manager of Operations
and Special Projects
usarchitectsdeclare@archleague.org

May 27, New York, NY—Today, architects across the United States added their voices to the international Architects Declare movement, calling for urgent action in the design and building sector to address climate change and biodiversity loss. The Architects Declare movement, now active in more than 20 countries, was launched in the United Kingdom in May 2019. Through the power of the collective voice of a wide range of architectural practices, Architects Declare seeks to galvanize the profession and provide a platform for advocacy and for sharing information and strategies for change. Creation of the US component of the movement was catalyzed by The Architectural League, working with a steering committee of practitioners. US Architects Declare will carry out its work through a series of working groups, which are being formed over the next month.

All US architecture firms committed to these principles are invited to sign the Architects Declare manifesto, through the US Architects Declare website: us.architectsdeclare.com.

The US Declaration and current signatories are as follows:

US ARCHITECTS DECLARE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY

The interlinked crises of climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, and societal inequity are the most serious issues of our time. Buildings and construction play a major part, accounting for nearly 40% of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions while also having a significant impact on deforestation, habitat destruction, and species extinction.

Meeting the needs of our society without breaching the earth's ecological boundaries demands a paradigm shift in our behavior in the building sector. Together with our clients and collaborators, we must design buildings, cities, and infrastructures as indivisible components of a larger, constantly regenerating, and self-sustaining system.

The knowledge exists to begin that transformation now, but what has been lacking is collective will. As a sector, we must work together to reshape our approach to architecture and urbanism at the speed and scale the crises demand.

US Architects Declare Climate & Biodiversity Emergency

We commit to:

- **Raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and the urgent need for action among our clients, collaborators, and supply chains. Advocate for the rapid systemic changes required to address the climate and biodiversity crises, as well as the policies, funding priorities, and implementation frameworks that support these changes.**
- **Act to address the disproportionate impact of these crises on disadvantaged communities and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts address the needs of all people. Employ just labor practices, so that people of all backgrounds can participate in decision-making about the future of the designed environment.**
- **Include life cycle costing, whole life carbon modeling and post-occupancy evaluation as part of our basic scope of work, to reduce both embodied and operational resource use. Adopt regenerative design principles.**
- **Upgrade existing buildings for extended use as a less carbon intensive alternative to demolition and new construction whenever there is a viable choice.**
- **Advocate for detailed disclosure of material provenance and environmental impact by extractors, manufacturers, and distributors, to accelerate the shift to low-carbon, non-toxic, and ethically produced materials. Eliminate waste and support a rapid transition to circular economies.**
- **Invest in research and technology development, guided by systems thinking, to further these goals, and share tools, data, and strategies on an open source basis.**
- **Establish climate change mitigation, biodiversity protection, and positive social impact as the key measures of our sector's success. Work to redirect the mentality of the building sector away from maximizing short-term returns toward durable investment for the long term. Set clearly articulated climate mitigation goals for every project and communicate them to our clients. Change the structure of awards programs to make these criteria the basis for recognition in architecture.**

For more information, please contact usarchitectsdeclare@archleague.org.

US Architects Declare Climate & Biodiversity Emergency

US Architects Declare Signatories as of May 27, 2020

Actual Architecture Company	KoningEizenberg Architecture, Inc.	Peterson Rich Office
AGENCY	LA-Más	PORT
Alloy	Lead Pencil Studio	Practice for Architecture and Urbanism PAU
andrew berman architect	Leong Leong	Rice+Lipka Architects
Architecture Research Office	LEVENBETTS	Robert Hutchison Architecture
Atelier Ten	LOT-EK	Rogers Partners Architects + Urban Designers
AW Architects	Louise Braverman Architect	RUR Architecture DPC
Bernheimer Architecture	LTL Architects	SCHAUM/SHIEH
Brooks + Scarpa	Marble Fairbanks Architects	Selldorf Architects
Charles Rose Architects	Marvel Architects	SILO AR+D
Christoff Finio Architecture	MASASTUDIO-Marwan Al-Sayed + Mies Anderson Inc.	SITU
Dake Wells Architecture	MASS Design Group	Slade Architecture
de Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop	MBB Architects	Snow Kreilich Architects
Deborah Berke Partners	MdeAS Architects	Snøhetta
Duvall Decker Architects	MIXdesign	SO-IL
El Dorado	MODU	SsD
Escher GuneWardena Architecture	modus studio	Steven Holl Architects
Francois de Menil Architect, PC	Moorhead & Moorhead	Studio Joseph
Gray Organschi Architecture	Mork-Ulnes Architects	Studio Libeskind
Hargreaves Jones	MOS	studioSUMO
Hariri & Hariri Architecture	MPdL Studio	Susan T Rodriguez Architecture • Design
hMa	murmur	The Living
Inaba Williams	NADAAA	Thomas Phifer and Partners
INC Architecture & Design PLLC	nARCHITECTS, PLLC	Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects Partners
Interboro Partners	Office of Mobile Design	Todd Zwigard Architects
jones, partners: architecture	Onion Flats	Tsao & McKown Architects
JSA	OPA – Ogrydziak Prillinger Architects	WEISS/MANFREDI
Karen Bausman	P-A-T-T-E-R-N-S	WXY architecture + urban design
Kennedy & Violich Architecture	PARA Project	Young Projects
KieranTimberlake	Pei Cobb Freed & Partners	
Kliment Halsband Architects	Perkins Eastman	
KOL/MAC Architecture + Design		

About The Architectural League

The Architectural League of New York nurtures excellence in architecture, design, and urbanism, and stimulates thinking and action on the critical design and building issues of our time. As a vital, independent forum for architecture and its allied disciplines, the League helps create a more beautiful, vibrant, innovative, and sustainable future. For more information, visit archleague.org.