

USF

Town Planners without Borders
Urbanistes Sans Frontières

Activity Report



2008

USF Urbanistes Sans Frontières

Activity Report 2008



Edito

On behalf of the USF Board of Directors, It is my pleasure to present to you this report summarising the activities that USF undertook in 2008.

We have carried out several interventions in the countries where we have started to schedule action plans. We have also contacted new countries which in return have approached USF to seek our cooperation.

Our main area of intervention involves informal districts, commonly called "slums". We have based our approach on the identification of problems and the raising of awareness at the earliest stages concerning urban sustainable development.

We have concurrently developed our network of competences and our reflexions by organising debates and conferences as part of our workshops as well as a part of the activities of the International UCER Club (to Urbanise and Construct Ethically and Responsibly).

We have elaborated studies, documents and worksheets to introduce environment-friendly construction and development methods. We have also coordinated Open House Days and took part in international fairs and meetings based on Sustainable Development.

Thanks to the trust and support of our partners and the mobilisation of our members, supporters and volunteers, our NGO has become a front-rank organisation specialised in the field of town planning and urban sustainable development.

For more information about our activities, please download the Report 2008.

Maggie Cazal
President-Founder of USF

Intervention in Armenia



Since its first encounters with Armenia in 2006, USF has multiplied its contacts with the local authorities in order to organise in 2009 an international symposium about: “Town planning and Development Tools”.

USF team endeavoured to identify Yerevan’s specific urban issues in order to set the stage for a constructive debate at the 2009 symposium. The diagnosis established by USF reveals that the fast urbanisation of Yerevan since the Armenian Republic’s independence, in 1991, affects in particular:

- Privatisation of the major subsidised housing units
- Land and property speculation
- Disappearance of social diversity within the city centre
- Urban sprawl
- Reduction of public transport services
- Urban chaos and proliferation of construction sites all over the city and especially within the city centre



USF led a reflexion as well concerning the new 2005 Yerevan’s Master Plan in order to suggest legal and institutional elements as well as new development tools.



Besides, the other cities of the Armenian province suffer from the lack of developing tools, financial and technical means, particularly concerning urban rehabilitation, protection of architectural heritage and natural environment.

Given that particular context and in order to study these questions, USF prepared the symposium programme in partnership with the Armenian Town Planning Ministry and Yerevan’s City Council with the contribution of Yerevan’s State University of Architecture and Construction as well as the Union of Armenia’s Architects.



Concurrently with the symposium presentation, USF led several reflexions with the Armenian local authorities of Yerevan, Gumri, Spitak, and Garni ...etc.

Armenia suffered a major earthquake in 1988. The marks of such disaster are still visible in Gumri and Spitak, the cities which were the more violently hit by the earthquake. USF started as well preliminary reflexions to suggest complete reconstruction projects for the stricken districts.

Intervention in Syria

Following the Cooperation Agreement signed between USF and the Municipality of Aleppo on April 16th, 2007, USF carried out numerous studies. Several USF delegations visited Aleppo in 2008 where they met the City Mayor as well as the City Council.

In 2008, USF produced a comparative study of slums - also called informal districts - located in cities with similar issues. USF contributed as well to the elaboration of Aleppo's local Agenda 21.

This document represents the City's action plan by 2015. The Agenda is directed by Aleppo's City Council and the Ministry of Environment and Local Administration. It is endorsed by the European Union, Europe Aid and MED as part of the MAM programme "Municipal Administration Modernisation".

USF took part in the diagnosis phase and suggested some orientations in the following fields:

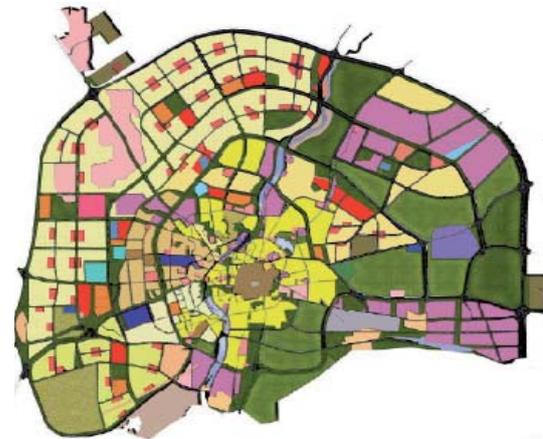
- Social development,
- Economic development,
- Informal districts,
- Waste management,
- Water and rivers management,
- Air pollution,
- Safeguard of the heritage.

The comparative study on slums is entitled "Resorption of informal districts in Arabic towns". Three cases are presented: Alexandria (Egypt), Tunis (Tunisia) and Sala (Morocco).

This study shows the actions carried out as part of:

- The planning Strategy of Alexandria
- The Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tunis
- The "City Without Slum" programme of Morocco

This study was first presented in July 2008 to the Aleppo City Council team in order to widen the vision of their City Development Strategy. Aleppo's City Council started implementing this strategy in partnership with Cities Alliance and scheduled the first symposium on the said project for 2009. USF committed to bring its contribution to elaborate this programme with its teams of experts and trainees.



Intervention in Latin America



In Venezuela

Since the end of the year 2007, USF has multiplied its contacts with Venezuela, especially with town planning and architecture professionals as well as with the National Housing Council in order to implement a cooperation programme concerning mainly the slums, "Barrios" of Caracas.

These districts are built for most part on lands over hills unfit for construction. USF will undertake its actions in cooperation with the collaboration of local associations and organisations.

The first intervention areas will be:

- Status report of the Barrios
- Report on the implemented policies
- Assessment of the town planning and regional development documents

This first step will be subsequently followed by various studies about:

- Specific orientations concerning regional planning and urban development documents
- Advice in the field of city social development
- Suggestion of urban sustainable development standards
- Assistance in the field of flood and landslide risks' prevention

In Argentina

USF is at its first stage of getting in contact, in order to intervene in the development and planning of Rosario, 3rd Argentinean city. This city is located in a strategic area in the Northern part of the country and keeps attracting migrants coming from the North as well as from other neighbouring countries. The newcomers can find a makeshift shelter in the "Villas Miserias", the Argentinean slums. USF will take part to the town planning of Rosario with a Northern regional development approach.

Intervention in Africa

In Burkina Faso

The first USF diagnosis concerning Burkina's major urban problems raise the following points:

- The lack of Regional Planning tools
- The Peri-urban areas are prone to anarchic uses, without any official documents
- The Pattern Planning through housing procedure results into the urban sprawl of cities
- The lack of "access rate" of urban services
- The lack of statistical data for an efficient study on urban economy
- The absence of a global social housing policy: self-construction and real estate companies are the only "housing actors"

USF has begun the organisation of a conference in Ouagadougou with the main actors: local elected representatives, technical services, experts in town planning and urban development.

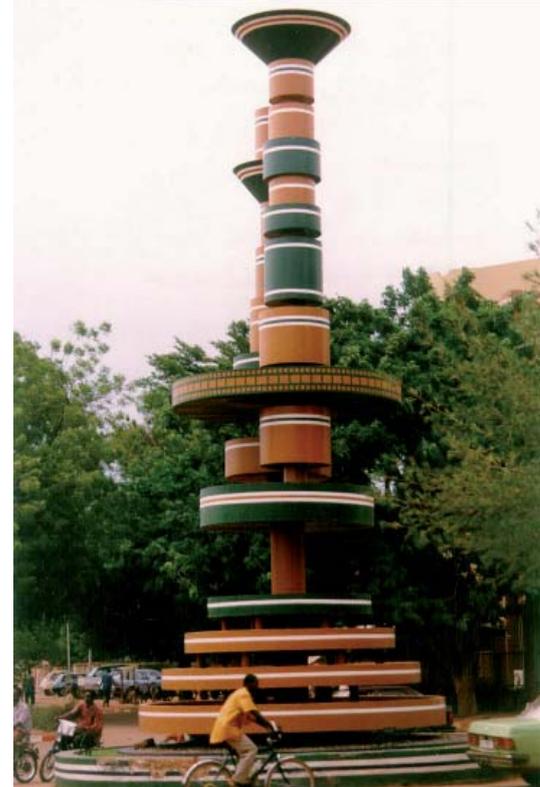
The Conference program, held in Ouagadougou, will focus on the following key:

- Growth and Urban development
- Planning documents
- Position of the Grand Ouaga Master Plan
- Uncontrolled housing & treatments
- Problematic of urban transportation
- Stakes of city centre dynamics

In Senegal

USF has started being actively involved in the implementation of an Urban Observatory for Senegal's cities and their sustainable development. Such project concerning the creation of a collective reflection tool was initiated and coordinated by the USF representative.

A meeting will be setup in Dakar with French and Senegalese's partners in order to study and evaluate the administrative and technical organisation form of this observatory.



USF Workshops

USF set up numerous meetings open to the general public as part of its workshops. Such public meetings primarily consist of seminars focusing on various themes then followed by debates. These seminars were lead by professionals and experts, being either USF members or partners. The conference titles are given hereafter:

Strategic Planning

Victor Said, Architect and Town Planner at Ile-de-France Region Institute of Development and Town planning (IAU-IDF).

Commercial Development & Town Planning

Michel Pazoumian, President of the company "BERENICE pour la ville et le commerce" and the company EURELIA (International Section of BERENICE), CEO of PROCOS (Federation of 210 specialised shops).

Aleppo's Informal Districts

Maggie Cazal, Architect DPLG and Doctor in Town planning. Director of the CAZAL Architecture Town planning Environment Firm. Founder of USF.

Sustainable Development and Local Governance

Magali Vergnet, Sustainable Development Engineer, Agent of Paris Municipality. Author of the book "Sustainable City: Instructions for Use", Territorial Editions, 2007.

Institution, Planning and Mobility in Africa

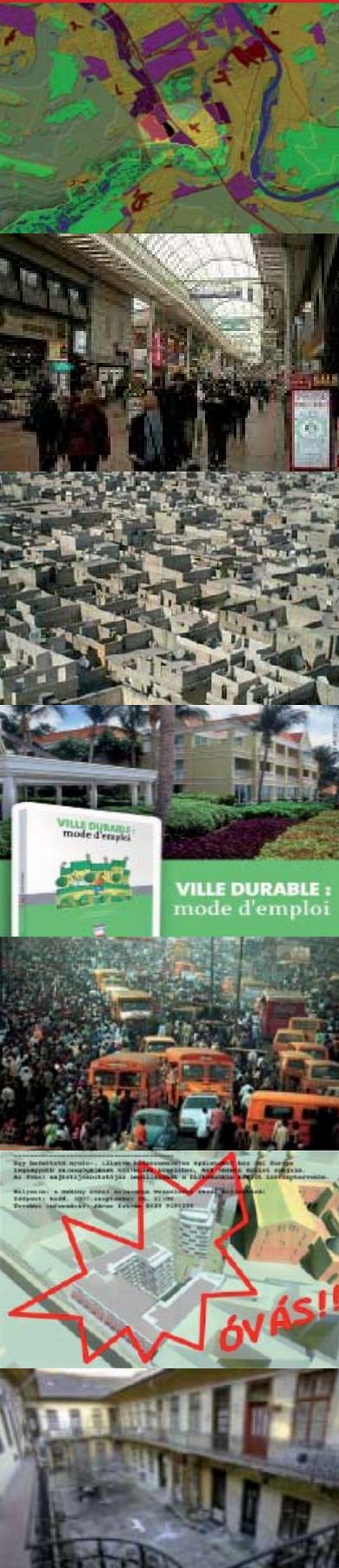
Michel Prouzet, Barrister, International Consultant in 31 countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Far East and Africa.

The urban evolution of Budapest's Jewish district

Anna Perczel, Architect and Town Planner – USF representative in Budapest – Member of the Hungarian NGO OVAS – Author of the book "Unprotected Heritage – Jewish District's Residential buildings".

Heritage and Urban Revitalisation

Michel Polge, Architect and Chief State Town Planner at the French Ministry– Deputy Director of the programme "combating housing insalubrities" - Author of the report about the Global Heritage zoning of Budapest.



USF Workshops

Several institutions actively took part in USF Workshop meetings: The City of Paris, the Paris City Town Planning Office (APUR), the Ile-de-France Regional Institute of Development and Town planning (IAU-IDF), the Hungarian Institute of Paris, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Paris section.

Urban Issues in Caracas

Pedro José Garcia Sanchez, Urban sociologist and anthropologist - Senior lecturer - jointly in charge of the Urban Sociology curriculum at the Sociology Section of the University Paris X Nanterre.

Colour in the City

Larissa Noury, Architect, Landscape designer, Colour artist and Plastic Arts Designer, Doctor in Arts and Architecture – Author of the book “Colour in the City”, Le Moniteur Editions, 2008.

The safeguarded districts of Paris

Christiane Blancot, Architect, In charge of the architects team at Paris City Town Planning Office (APUR).

The Planning of a World Global Metropolis: The case of the Ile de France Regional Master Plan (SDRIF).

Vincent Fouchier, Doctor in Town Planning, Associate Chief Executive, Delegate to the Master Plan (SDRIF) at Ile-de-France Region Institute of Development and Town planning (IAU-IDF).

Regional Geopolitics and Development

Raymond Kevorkian, Doctor in Contemporaneous History, Research-Director at the French Institute of Geopolitics, University of Paris-VIII.

Evolution of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia

Alain Daronian, Architecte DPLG, Founder-Member of UAFAC Union of Armenian and French Architects & Conceptors.

Cooperation Program with Armenia

Maggie Casal, Architecte DPLG and Doctor in Town Planning. Director of the CAZAL Architecture Town Planning Environment Firm, Founder of USF.



The UCER Club



The International UCER Club (to Urbanise and Construct Ethically and Responsibly) was created by the USF President-Founder. The club brings together building projects and town planning representatives to discuss about the Sustainable Development challenges. The club also organises meetings on ecological responsibility.

to Urbanise and Construct Ethically and Responsibly

Under the patronage of the UCER club, USF hosted on October 15th, 2008 a dinner reception followed by a debate on the theme: "The environmental quality in town planning and building projects". This event was held in collaboration with the City Council of Paris and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME).

The Director of Town Planning Department at the Municipality of Paris presented the "Paris Climate Policy". The ADEME representative in charge of the energy centre of the Ile-de-France region presented the ADEME orientations as part of the French law "Grenelle de l'Environnement". At the end of the reception, the debates were summarised by Emmanuel Caille, journalist and director of French magazine "d'Architectures".

More than 50 professionals took part to this reception: architects, town planners, lawyers, company chief executives of the construction industry and representatives of well recognised institutions in terms of environment and governance.

The following companies took part to the meeting: BECHU Architecture agency, FRANC Architect agency, AFEX, AND Promotion, Akléa law firm, ARCHITECTURE STUDIO, ARTE CHARPENTIER Architecture agency, Bâti property consulting, Bouygues Bâtiment, C A Z A L Architecture Town Planning Environment, CERQUAL, Colour-Space-Culture (CEC Association), Elyo Suez, Esportec Eco-industrial, Essonne development, EURELIA, Eurosic, Eurostudio, EUROVIA (Jean Lefèbvre's company), Land and Building Surveyors' Association, Brémond Group, Financière Duval Group, GTM Bâtiment ADIM IDF (Vinci Construction), IAU-Ile de France (Planning and Development Institute), Lainé Delau (Vinci Construction), Municipality of Sceaux, OGIC, OPTIBAT Architecture Ltd, Savin Martinet Associates, Schneider Electric BDPS – Energy Performance, SEMABA.

This reception interventions are published on www.usf-f.org



The Salon «Bâtir Ecologique»

Thanks to its Council and Awareness Initiative in Environment & Sustainable Development, USF presented his concept and his orientations at the Salon “Batir Ecologique” on November 28, 29 and 30 2008, through its corporate stand at Paris’ “La Grande Halle of La Villette”.

USF stand at the Salon “Batir Ecologique” “to build ecologically”

USF’s team presented posters describing the Earth’s five big climates classified by the temperature and humidity: tropical climate, dry climate, warm temperate climate, cold temperate climate and cold climate. Other posters offered a detailed description of the seven specific climates of the Southern Hemisphere.

During this exhibition USF showcased his ecological housing concept. Said concept was named “VIO: Ventilation-Isolation-Orientation”. To sum it up: natural ventilation must bear in mind topographical requirements, obstacles and prevailing winds. Efficient and natural thermal insulation depends of the buildings’ shapes as well as which kind of construction materials were used. The buildings’ orientation depends as well of the openings/windows ideal positioning according to the Sun’s course.

USF presented also Notice displays pointing choices about construction materials according to:

- The ecological impact by carbon assessment
- Climate and ecological impact
- The nature and its use

On the other displays, USF presented its recommendations concerning the conception of building for warm climates, especially focusing on natural ventilation. Such climate embodies the Southern climates: Equatorial warm climate, dry tropical warm climate, humid tropical warm climate, monsoon tropical warm climate, altitude warm climate, Mediterranean climate and desert climate.

On Sunday November 30 2008 at 3:00pm, the President-Founder of USF was invited as a key speaker in the meeting « the Eco-construction as global cultural initiative ».



The Board of USF

The Board of USF in 2008:

Maggie Cazal

Doctor in Town planning. Architect DPLG. International consultant. Director of the CAZAL Architecture Town planning Environment Firm. Founder of USF.

Claude Chaline

Geographer. Professor emeritus at the University Paris XII. Founder of the Research Laboratory LEDALOR renamed CRETEIL at the Town planning Institute of Paris (IUP).

Jocelyne Dubois-Maury

Lawyer. University professor. Director of the Town planning Institute of Paris (IUP) and CRETEIL (Research Centre on Space, Transport, Environment and Local Institutions).

Lydie Gazarian

Retired Diplomat of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Former French Ambassador. Graduate of the Institute of Political Studies of Paris and the School of Eastern Modern Languages.

Victor Hargreaves

Doctor in territorial marketing. Senior lecturer at Science-Po.

Bernard Haumont

Sociologist. University professor at the Paris-Val de Seine School of Architecture. Director of the urban organisations laboratory: Spaces, Societies, Temporalities.

Benjamin Lagrange

Banker. Finance and urban development operations manager.

Pierre Merlin

Professor emeritus at the University Paris I (Pantheon-Sorbonne). President of the Sorbonne Institute of Development and Town Planning.

Larissa Noury

Doctor in Arts and Architecture, Architect-Landscape designer, Plastic Arts Designer. Founder of "Colour-Space-Culture" association.

Rachel RODRIGUES-MALTA

Doctor in Town planning. Professor at the Institute of geography, University of Provence. Researcher at Mediterranean House of Human Science (Aix-en-Provence).

Results

Actions carried out by Urbanistes Sans Frontières (USF) in 2008 are the results of increasing efforts led by its directors, representatives and volunteers, all fully involved in the NGO's daily activities.

USF was able to operate thanks to the philanthropy of its generous members and donors.

The 2008 Financial Report highlights the distribution of expenses sustained by USF as follows:

- Events & Projects:	68%
- Trips & Missions:	20%
- Operating:	8%
- Communication:	4%

Events & Projects clearly makes up the majority of USF expenses in 2008 because of its Awareness Programs related to Ecological Construction and Urban Planning.

USF Representatives

USF Representatives in 2008:

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