

ENVISIONING CITIES FOR CITIZENS: THE KHARKIV SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANS FOR UKRAINE'S RECONSTRUCTION

- Funding Ukraine's Future

The Kharkiv School of Architecture (KhSA) are looking for funds to train a new cohort of built environment professionals specifically to address Ukraine's current challenges for shelter and housing, and plan for its postwar reconstruction. In this, we act as mediators – gathering, collating and magnifying the voices and aspirations of Ukraine's citizens, advocating on their behalf and proposing innovative solutions for adaptable habitats. We champion sustainable, inclusive, participatory and accessible spaces shaped by communities themselves, and reflective of their diverse needs.

The students of KhSA were displaced from Kharkiv to Lviv midway through the current academic year, as a result of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We are urgently seeking €600,000 to allow these students to complete their studies for 2022/2023.

Given the widespread destruction of Ukraine's human settlements and environment, KhSA sees an urgent requirement to adapt its curriculum to reflect this new context and meet the changing needs of the population. Architecture and urbanism specialists are crucial actors to help plan a path for Ukraine's renaissance.

The **Goal** is to ensure that built environment professionals in Ukraine are already trained and ready to address the needs of people in displacement, people returning to their homes and the specific challenges faced in postwar reconstruction of community and civic spaces.



KHARKIV
SCHOOL of
ARCHITECTURE



● What we aim to achieve

By September 2022, KhSA will:



1. Complete the professional training of 26 students.
2. Develop a new curriculum to address current issues and challenges facing Ukraine's cities and citizens now, and address the needs of its postwar future.
3. Hold an end-of-year exhibition to present and publicise the students' work, the activities of KhSA and stimulate debate and critical thinking around Ukraine's human habitats for the future.
4. Design and disseminate a budget and workplan for academic year 2022/2023, indicating how a roadmap for Ukraine's postwar built environment will be developed.
5. Provide scholarships and monthly stipends to students in need of financial support to meet their basic, daily needs for food, accommodation, rent, medication etc, to allow them to continue their education.
6. Ensure that all staff and students have access to training and information on emergency first aid relevant to situations of conflict, and receive mental health and psychosocial support.



→ What do we need?

Your support. We need financial support to keep the school open, to keep our students in education, and to strengthen our coalition of professionals, citizens and communities to catalyse Ukraine's rebuilding. We also welcome academic, technical and material collaborations and partnerships to achieve our goals and enrich our knowledge.



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Re-building the country should be done while re-thinking, re-positioning, re-forming and re-learning.

In a crisis, education is often one of the first activities that is impacted or dropped in favour of meeting other pressing needs - food, rent, transport, medication. Yet without education, the current generation of students - Ukraine's future - will not be properly equipped with the skills to participate in, advocate for and govern the country. A roadmap for postwar reconstruction needs to be developed now if Ukraine is to capitalise on this painful opportunity.

WILL YOU JOIN US ?

● Who we are: KhSA

The Kharkiv School of Architecture (KhSA) is a private university that offers undergraduate (BA) and graduate (MA) qualifications in architecture and urban planning, the first private school to do so in Ukraine. Founded in 2017 alongside its affiliated NGO "Architectural Education", it was established to provide globally-informed and locally-relevant knowledge on the built environment to students, aiming to help shape Ukraine's cities for the future, at a time when Ukraine's broader educational process was being restructured and its cities in need of rethinking. It uses an internationally-recognised format of studio teaching, seminars and visiting practitioners to provide students with transferrable European qualifications, while engaging with a network of professional supporters and collaborators who bring a rich array of contributions to the discourse around Ukraine's human habitats.

● The situation now

In previous years, KhSA had been financially supported by philanthropic donations and by students' parents. Both of these sources of funding have now been cut off as a result of the ongoing war in Ukraine; individuals and families have found themselves in survival mode, with funds being redirected to support the war effort or just to meet daily needs.

KhSA moved from its permanent location in Kharkiv to a place of safety in Lviv as a result of the war. Its students and tutors are displaced in Lviv or elsewhere, including abroad as refugees. The school and staff are being hosted in unused buildings of the Academy of Art.

● A postwar vision:

why it's important to address Ukraine's reconstruction now

Many of Ukraine's urban, peri-urban and rural areas have been severely damaged. More destruction is expected, with devastating consequences on the lives and livelihoods of its populations. Those most impacted by this crisis will be women and children, disabled people, the elderly, and other groups with intersectional needs and vulnerabilities. These groups, and their diverse needs and concerns, are almost always left behind when plans for reconstruction are put into place.

With the devastation that war brings, it also affords opportunities. Opportunities to renew; opportunities to rebuild; opportunities to address some of the physical, spatial and environmental issues of the past. The silver lining is that there are built environment professionals – architects, urban designers, urban planners, engineers – who are ready to engage with these challenges and rethink Ukraine's cities. This future is sustainable. It is globally-connected, and deeply-rooted locally. It is inclusive and accessible.

KhSA is in a unique position to conduct live action-research into Ukraine's cities, to collate and present the needs of its citizens, and to help frame plans for its postwar future. Starting this process now will enable local authorities, government ministries, construction professionals, key actors, stakeholders and communities themselves to be ready for reconstruction as soon as the time arises, ensuring that the best practices in inclusive and participatory planning – the voices of its people - have been integrated from the start.