



International Federation
of Interior Architects/Designers

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MID-BOARD TERM REPORT MESSAGE FROM SEBASTIANO RANERI IFI PRESIDENT, 2015-2017

26 January 2017



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2015-2017

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*Co-Opted
Board Member*
Nadine Bitar

Dear Friend,

At the turn of this new year, I write to share IFI news and to take this opportunity to send my personal good wishes for a fantastic year ahead.

2016 was a year of many shifts across ideologies, disciplines, and nations. We saw movement around long held relationships and partnerships, as well as across boundaries and borders; action which promises to impact 2017 (and our long-term future), making this upcoming time a dynamic period of change and transformation.

At IFI, the ExCom, Executive Board, Secretariat and I have been busy reviewing and strategizing, and now into 2017, we look forward to a nimble mobility to help build and further uplift Interior Architecture / Design. This, while we continue to understand the next steps and future of the profession, our collective opportunities and professional possibilities.

As you may recall from the 2015 General Assembly in Gwangju, this Executive Board set forward with consideration for expanded communications, greater community engagement and, at IFI's world level of professional responsibility, to make steps toward the UN Alliance. To this end, I hope that you will have noticed the increase in communications, as well as a clarity of IFI brand positioning, a strength which is needed to accomplish the rest. Early in 2017, we will be launching a new and interactive IFI website. This is being designed to allow easy access into IFI and our on-going programs and initiatives. With a special members-only section, the site will provide at-a-touch connectivity to each other, the entire IFI community, as well as with IFI.

For a more localized and feet-on-the-ground connection, we are launching the IFI Regional Ambassadors Program. Please look out for this and share your suggestions and recommendations for candidates as and when needed.

During the past months, we have focused heavily on delineating and strategizing the building of IFI infrastructure for this ease of access, greater, faster and more meaningful engagement with you, our members and the general world community, as well as the laying of strong foundations for the IFI permanent secretariat, close to the UN. To this end, in 2016, we conducted strategic meetings with groups of our regional members. We also started a stronger outreach and dialogue with regional Interiors bodies (ECIA, APSDA, the Latin American region) with whom we aspire to build stronger collegial relationships.

In this spirit of expanding our own knowledge, networks and professional capacity, we will launch the new and vital 2017 IFI Congress in conjunction with the IFI General Assembly. This is set to take place in Lagos 9-12 November 2017. We will also relaunch the **IFI World Interiors for the Next Generation – IFI WING** student competition. And, of course, we hope that you will, as always, and ever more fully, participate in the 2017 IFI World Interiors Day – IFI WID. The 2017 theme for **WID** is **INTERIOR DESIGN FOR GENERATIONS**.

In our work of advocacy/policy at the world level, I am proud to share that in 2016 we added six new and significant cities to the **IFI Interiors Declaration Adoptions** roster – Guadalajara, Mexico; Izmir, Turkey; Bayamon, Puerto Rico; Shanghai and Dalian in China; along with Adelaide in Australia. We also added three new translations - in Arabic, Filipino and Italian - of the Interiors Declaration. Now well established, with this important Interiors recognition program at the city government level, we are beginning to review smart ways to build networks for these cities to meaningfully connect, while we work with each member association to support your individual legislative and professional recognition initiatives. For our maximum success with this, we ask that you help us help you. Please connect with the secretariat and let's have the necessary individual conversations which will further this complex yet most important goal forward in your nation. Please share your thoughts and suggestions.

I am proud to also share that for the remainder of this term, we have co-opted Nadine Bitar. A well-respected and qualified design professional, residing in Dubai, Ms. Bitar joins this board team with the specific duty as the Board's liaison for the **IFI CONGRESS 2017** planning. As a distinguished thought leader and advocate for design sustainability and innovation, Ms. Bitar brings a special strength and expertise. We are excited to build a unique and meaningful congress for Interiors and for you.

Lastly, I wish to reiterate that this is an **IFI GENERAL ASSEMBLY** year. It is when we seek new officers for the IFI Executive Board, much greater participation from each of you and your presence at the Congress and General Assembly in Lagos this November. We know this will be a very special event, which you will not want to miss.

As IFI is the only organizationally structured and fully mandated world voice for Interior Architecture / Design, it remains your voice at the world stage. IFI can only deliver success if you become active and committed to supporting the ever-expanding reach of our noble profession. The IFI Secretariat and Board are determined to reach out as much as possible. Please don't be shy to share your ideas and collaborative possibilities so that, together, we can grasp greater heights for Interior Architecture / Design in 2017.

Sincerely,



Sebastiano Raneri
IFI President, 2015-2017