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# Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

## 1. Paper / Proposal Title:

The Home of Man, - a manifesto commemorating the 75th anniversary of 1st edition of François de Pierrefeu and Le Corbusier "La Maison des Hommes".

## 2. Format:

*Written paper / verbal presentation*

## 3. Author(s) Name:

Peter Bjerrum, Jørgen Hauberg

## 4. University or Company Affiliation:

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation, School of Architecture: [www.kadk.dk](http://www.kadk.dk)

## 5. Abstract (300 words):

Accordingly Le Corbusier, in *Vers un Architecture*, 1922, the question was: "Architecture or revolution"; further elaborated in *The Home of Man*, 1942: "... people live in poor conditions, this is the real, the most profound reason for the battles and upheavals of our time."

The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Metropolis encompasses the major social changes towards 21<sup>st</sup> century neoliberal capitalism, following the slipstream of people's migration from

rural areas to still bigger urban agglomerations. Currently, this goes on with even bigger pace in Africa, Asia and Latin America: urban agglomerations of various scales hold since year 2000 50% of world population estimated at 65% in 2050.

In those emergent regions people still live in poor conditions, and in the US and EU the enhanced living/housing standard throughout the post-war economic growth is deteriorating under the rising inequality of recent crisis.

Today, Le Corbusier's concern is met by new concerns for the local and global milieu, as a conflict between fulfilling people's social requirements and their long-term impact on the environment.

A conflict that can only be solved addressing politically said inequality. This is our century's challenge obtaining social and natural sustainability, let alone preventing further hazards caused by depletion of resources and liability to climate change.

Given the dispersal of previous urbanization, the complex immensity of existing agglomerations cannot be ignored, only be restructured. Accordingly, commemorating *The Home of Man*, our manifesto intend propagating a renewed social pact as a pact with nature, not just early modernism's agenda of light, air and view, but also and even more so the potential of its urban models within the broader perspective of restructuring the build environments at a sustainable density. Being a key issue of sustainability in urban contexts this potential puts modernism back on architecture's agenda, still holding relevance, as for incorporating the 'Home of Man' in a sustainable setting.

## **6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

**Peter Bjerrum** (b. 1942). Diploma in Art of Building, assistant professor (1970), associate professor (1973), Head of Institute for the Art of Building at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture (1976-99).

Artistic research project, MENHIR, *χώρα* and Glass'enClosure carried out at the School of Architecture, created at The National Workshops for Arts and Crafts, and exhibited and published (1995-2004).

The doctoral thesis *Three Tales on Architecture's Founding* elaborated, submitted and defended (2002-2007); multilingual edition (2012).

Head of Studio, PRO2, an experimental learning lab on the construction of space: research on 20<sup>th</sup> century expressionist architecture followed by the exhibition: *EXPRESSION –crystal, cave, fold, cleft* (2000-2003).

Followed by studio research on the urban social construction of space: case studies of Buenos Aires and Brasilia followed by an exhibition of projects and a seminar titled: *Buenos Aires, Brasilia - tracing the European city model* (2003-2006).

Director of Studies for the School of Architecture (2007-2014). Current position: assoc. prof. emeritus, dr.arch.

Recent research is a project titled, *Between Plan Voisin and the Generic City - a comparative study on urban models between the Metropolis and the Mega City, - case study on Buenos Aires (2008 - )*.

**Jørgen Hauberg** (b.1945). Master from RASA 1971, associate professor (1978), Head of Study Department 10 (1999-2002), Vice Dean (2000-12), Head of Institute: Design and Communication (2005-12), Head of Bachelor program: Architecture and Design (2012). Research projects: Architecture and Sustainable Development - to review architecture in the light of sustainable development, a historical analysis.

*Cities and Modes of Productions – an Atlas of Town History. About the Housing Question – Sustainable Building Types.*

*Re-reading Modernism through Le Corbusier. Le Corbusier's use of Color.*

*Research by Design. Planning of New Towns. Reconstruction and Urban Renewal in Copenhagen, historic analysis.*

*Exhibitions: 1:1 Research by Design, (curator), Institute of Design and Communication (curator). Digital Practice, research exhibition, Institute of Design and Communication (curator). Building and Planning Research, contribution to exhibition, Institute of Planning.*