Architecture Policies in Europe

A panorama of the actors, policies and tools promoting high-quality Architecture and Baukultur as the new political ethos in Europe

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Architects' Council of Europe
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"High-Quality architecture and built environment is a driver of economic growth, social cohesion, climate resilience and cultural vibrancy."

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FOREWORD

Ruth Schagemann
ACE President

With the aim of reinforcing the sector's capacity to face common challenges and to promote high-quality architecture and the built environment, the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) collects and disseminates data, knowledge and good practices in relation to design quality, namely by surveying architecture and *Baukultur* policies across the continent.

The ACE study on 'Architectural Policies in Europe' provides an updated panorama of the actors, policies, tools and initiatives promoting high-quality architecture and *Baukultur* as the new political ethos in Europe. The architecture policies are developed and delivered by the public sector in alliance with a wide range of institutions, where the architectural professional organisations are deeply involved and supportive of a better quality of life for everyone.

I would like to acknowledge the collaboration of all the institutions and individuals that contributed to this study. And a special word of thanks to the European Commission Creative Europe framework for the financial support.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Informed by the findings of a pan-European survey on architectural policies, this study provides an overview of the origins and spread of architectural policies across the continent, the institutional actors involved, the different types of policy approaches, the main policy tools with examples of a wide range of initiatives focused on the promotion of design quality. This is followed by an assessment of the impact of European architecture policies in the development of similar policies by the EU Member States, as well as the impact of national/regional architectural policies in processes of urban design governance and its main limitations. The study reveals the positive impact of architectural policies in promoting high-quality architecture and the built environment as a goal of public policies at European, national, regional and local levels.

Europeanization of architectural policy

In the last 30 years there has been a growing recognition of the importance of architectural quality for social and cultural development, wealth creation and economic well-being. To support this goal, a growing number of European countries and regions have been developing architecture and *Baukultur* policies setting high aspirations for the design quality of architecture and the built environment. Reflecting the wide diversity of cultures across the EU, some member states have adopted comprehensive policies setting up a wide range of initiatives while others have approved national legislation addressed to clients and stakeholders or developed policies within a sectoral policy domain. As part of their policies, several countries have implemented new approaches to the governance of urban design. Some established dedicated services to monitor policy execution and enable the delivery of initiatives/actions or created new cultural organizations to disseminate and promote a culture of design quality. Despite their differences, all the approaches share the will to promote well-designed living environments and high-quality places.

Sharing these concerns, the European institutions have also been developing policies and initiatives encouraging the Member States to promote high-quality built environments. This has been reinforced with a pan-European Davos Declaration in 2018 and its subsequent initiatives as well as with the launch of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) in 2020, a transdisciplinary cultural project led by the European Commission, which proclaims architectural quality and design thinking among its guiding principles. Both trends have been animated by a series of European conferences and experts' meetings on architectural and *Baukultur* policies, revealing a high commitment of both European institutions and EU Member States to place design quality as a political goal at the heart of European policymaking.

Looking at the progression of national/regional architectural policies across the EU, it is possible to conclude that an ongoing process of Europeanization is underway where from benchmark each country learns from the other and makes convergence of policies possible. The differences in approaches result from the Member States still differing in many aspects: historical development, political / legal systems, cultural and social backgrounds. Nonetheless, it is possible to identify a growing tendency for the development of formal architectural policies, with the national, regional and local governments assuming a catalytic role.

The European policies are contributing for architectural policies development across Europe as a driver of influence in domestic policy agendas, incentivizing the inclusion of design quality goals in national policy priorities. This is done at level of the policy discourse and by providing design leadership, namely through the NEB wide range of initiatives and network activities (awards, events, projects, funding support, etc). Therefore, the European architecture policies are having a positive impact in encouraging the Member States to promote design quality as a condition to improving the quality of life of European citizens. Additionally, the European policies and initiatives are important for the legitimization of the architectural policies already published and most important to the stimulation of the ones that are currently being developed. Nevertheless, the nature and content of the policies cannot be divorced from the constitutional, administrative and political framework in which they were developed.

National / regional architectural policies

Since the beginning of the 1990s a growing number of European countries have been developing national and regional architecture policies setting place quality as a political goal and promoting well-designed living environments. Currently, 36 administrations in Europe have an official architectural policy at national and/or regional level. This number has been increasing since the beginning of the 1990s and it is expected to continue to grow in the following years, which means that soon Europe will be largely covered by national / regional architecture policies. Additionally, a growing number of local administrations have started to adopt municipal architectural policies promoting high-quality living environments at municipal level.

Most of the national/regional policies take a 'strategic comprehensive policy' approach, in which the design of the built environment is seen as a transversal concern able to generate multiple benefits and values across various fields and defining a set of initiatives and actions, to be deliver with a high number of stakeholders. Some of these policies has an associated budget to support several projects and initiatives on architecture, namely to promote a culture of design and raise public awareness about the importance of a high-quality built environment.

0.1 - European countries/ regions with an official policy, or planning to have one, that outlines Government aspirations on architecture and built environment design. To ensure the proper reading of the map, when a country has a policy at national level, the regional policies are not identified; for the full list see Table 5.1.

Legend:
- Have a policy
- Planning to have
- Not planning to have

A few European countries/regions have adopted a law on architecture, which formalises the principle of the public interest of architecture. Some of them include norms to regulate the architect's profession, obligations for building projects to be signed off by architects, the introduction of design quality principles, requirements making design competitions mandatory for public works, the launch of design awards, etc. Some of the architecture laws also establishes new dedicated institutions:
i) advisory boards / councils on architecture to provide advice to central/regional administration, improve coordination and propose initiatives promoting design quality; and
ii) architectural cultural organizations to deliver a wide range of initiatives to promote design quality and foster a placemaking culture.

Institutional actors

Several European countries have established dedicated services within public administration to monitor architectural policy implementation and enable the delivery of initiatives/actions. Some have appointed a State or City Architect team to pursue the architectural policy goals and action plans or established design commissions to champion design quality across public administration and beyond. In addition, there has been a growing number of cultural institutions across Europe, that have been playing an important role of dissemination and communicating the value of design quality not only to professionals but also to wider audiences, raising awareness and fostering a placemaking culture. In parallel, professional bodies and other non-government are participating in the policies implementation promoting a wide range of initiatives contributing directly and indirectly for the architectural polices goals and aspirations. To improve cross-sectoral policy coordination, several national / regional administrations have established interdepartmental policy platforms or working groups to assist in the co-ordination of initiatives and delivery of actions between built environment bodies.

Instruments and initiatives

As part of their architectural policies, several European countries have implemented new approaches to the governance of design. The European Urban Maestro (UM) project revealed that an increasing number of administrations are developing an increasingly diverse and sophisticated set of approaches to offer clear leadership in this domain. The project revealed also that informal urban design governance tools are being actively and extensively used across Europe, to develop a positive culture within which decision-making on design can occur, and also to assist in the delivery of better-quality projects and places.

Some tools have been widely used and adopted across almost all administrations in Europe (e.g. design awards), whilst others are far more sporadic (e.g. design indicators). These are mostly soft power tools that aim to shape the preferences of stakeholders, influencing their choices and decisions using persuasion rather than coercion. Nonetheless, informal tools should be seen as important means of complementing the formal side of the design governance landscape and greatly extending the means available to state actors to influence how the built environment is shaped. Nevertheless, one of the UM key insights has been that tools of urban design governance work more effectively when used together (Carmona, et al,. 2023).

Impacts of architectural policies

Although design governance contexts across the continent are very diverse, the European policies on architecture seem to be having a positive impact on encouraging member states to promote design quality as a political goal, namely the NEB wide range of initiatives that is being delivered together with a high number of partners to inspire the transformation of European cities. The extent to which such initiatives will impact on the different practices at national, regional and local level is yet to be seen. Nevertheless, the ongoing initiatives reveal an increasingly committed move to place design excellence at the heart of European urban governance.

Looking at the policies implementation progress at state/regional level, despite the differences between them, architectural polices are having substantial impacts on design governance processes, namely improving policy coordination, facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration across and beyond public administrations, and enabling a diversity of initiatives promoting best practices and fostering a placemaking culture. Although more in some areas than in others, their intensity varying according to the amount of resources that are available and to the diversity of initiatives on the ground in each specific case.

One of the main benefits of architecture policies have been the development of a new range of informal tools of urban design governance that did not exist beforehand in some countries, such as new awareness-raising and educational initiatives, as well as the greater use of awards schemes, design review panels, architecture competitions, etc. To do, some administrations have established dedicated departments or supporting new organizations that are responsible for delivering initiatives/actions promoting design quality. This means that architectural policies can only have a positive impact if they are effectively implemented and properly funded, or they will remain simply well-meaning aspirations and will not be able to play a role in design governance in the absence of steady coordination and implementation resources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a pan-European survey on architectural policies, providing an overview of the origins and spread of architectural policies across the continent, main institutional actors involved, the progress of implementation efforts, tools and initiatives promoting design quality, and examining the resulting impact on urban design governance processes. Recognition has been growing in recent decades for the role a high-quality built environment can play in economic growth, social inclusion, climate resilience and cultural dynamism. In order to try and harness this potential, several policy initiatives have been created across Europe with a strong emphasis on a holistic culture-centre approach that highlights the key role of design quality as the basis of 'integrated planning and design processes for every man-made shaping of the bult environment in European cities' (EU, 2020).

In this context, a growing number of European countries and regions have been developing architecture and *Baukultur* policies setting high aspirations for the quality of architecture and the built environment. Reflecting the wide diversity of cultures across the EU, some member states have adopted comprehensive policies setting up a wide range of initiatives while others have approved national legislation addressed to clients and stakeholders or developed policies within a sectoral policy domain. As part of their policies, several countries have implemented new approaches to the governance of design. Some established dedicated services to monitor policy execution and enable the delivery of initiatives/actions or created new cultural organizations to disseminate and promote a culture of design quality. Despite their differences, all the approaches share the will to promote well-designed living environments and high-quality places.

Sharing these concerns, the European institutions have also been developing policies and initiatives encouraging the Member States to promote high-quality built environments. This has been reinforced with a pan-European Davos Declaration "Towards a high-quality *Baukultur* for Europe" in 2018 and its subsequent initiatives as well as with the launch of the New European Bauhaus (NEB)[1] in 2020, a transdisciplinary cultural project led by the European Commission, which proclaims architectural quality and design thinking among its guiding principles. Both trends have been animated by a series of European conferences and experts' meetings on architectural and *Baukultur* policies, revealing a high commitment of both European institutions and Member States to place design quality as a political goal at the heart of European policymaking.

European survey

With the aim of reinforcing the sector's capacity to face common challenges and to promote high-quality architecture, the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)[2] develops a range of activities under the NET-ARCH programme (2022-2024), which receives financial support from the European Commission Creative Europe framework. Among other goals, ACE aims to collect and disseminate data, knowledge, and good practices in relation to design quality, namely by surveying the development of architecture and *Baukultur* policies across Europe.

In 2012, the former European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) promoted a 'Survey on architectural policies in Europe' to map the progress of architecture policies across the continent and assess the impact of the EU Council Resolution on Architectural Quality (2001/C 73/04) and the EU Council Conclusions on Architecture (2008/C 319/05). The survey concluded that the two EU documents have had a positive impact on the development of responding policies at the individual member state level and contributed to a 'Europeanisation' of architecture policy across the continent (Bento 2012: 86).

The findings of the new survey presented in this report comes ten years after the original one and aims to provide an updated panorama on architecture and *Baukultur* policies, with an added interest in implementation efforts and impact on design governance processes – as well as to reveal specific initiatives and actions promoting design quality that may have been generated in the meantime. This stock-taking, which includes an account of main differences and the variety of tools used in different contexts, will ultimately contribute to the formulation of better advice for authorities at the European, national, and local levels.

What is an architectural policy?

An architectural policy can be defined as a public policy promoting the quality of architecture and the built environment, which includes the design of buildings, public spaces, infrastructure and all the elements that constitute the living environment. Considering its broad scope, it cuts across the different policy areas that affect the design quality of the built environment, such as building, urban planning, environment, cultural heritage, public works, among others. This means it comprises the different levels and sectors of the state as well as other stakeholders that intervene in the processes of designing and managing the built environment.

With a global approach on the quality of the built environment, an architectural policy defines the principles, aims and objectives to achieve high-quality living environments, to be subsequently implemented by public institutions and other partners. Whereas building regulations specify minimum standards, an architectural policy sets design quality as a strategic concern across the wide range of sectoral remits covered by the different public policy domains and managed by various public departments. By addressing architecture and the built environment in this holistic way, governments can set high aspirations for the quality of the built environment in such a way that the responsibility of all public authorities (and others) is made explicit.

Why do the names of the policies vary?

“Architecture and design run from the scale of a building detail - such as a door handle - to the building, to the street and even to the scale of a landscape, town or city.” (Ireland, 2022)

Across Europe the specific names of the architecture policies may change according with local preferences, language, and cultural contexts. In general, these polices focus on the quality of the built environment and, in some cases, also include the natural environment and landscape. Because the term *architecture* has different connotations - in its narrow sense it is understood as the ‘design of buildings’, while at its broadest it refers to the ‘design of the built environment’ as a whole - some countries prefer to use other related keywords that reinforce the reference to the totality of human settlements. In this context, some architecture policies are titled differently across the continent but make use of similar concepts; architecture, urban design, *baukultur*, place, placemaking, spatial design or designed environment.

The term *Baukultur* in particular has gained a higher prominence across the continent recently, boosted by the Davos Declaration and subsequent initiatives. Officially translated as “building culture”, *Baukultur* includes all human activities that change the living environment, including not only the conservation of existing building stock but also to current and future transformation of the built environment (Swiss Confederation, 2023). *Baukultur* also refers to the way society deals with is built environment and architecture, as well as the processes and techniques that lead to the quality of places. As such, a high-quality ‘building culture’ will lead to a well-designed living environment. The importance of promoting a high-quality *Baukultur* has been endorsed by a wide range of governments and organizations across Europe.

Besides differences in semantics, policy documents may also differ in nature by means of their scope, or their formal approval. As already stated, most architectural policies have a strategic nature (thus are not legally binding) and may be adopted in different formats according to domestic preferences, including the following: policy, strategy, guidelines, programme, memorandum, etc. However, a few countries have adopted an actual law for architecture, which sets up the same design quality principles, but with a much stronger political height due to its statutory nature. These not only regulate procedures across public policy, such as public procurement, but may also establish new architectural institutions or affect the creation and management of professional organizations.

1. https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en
2. ACE is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level, composed of 47 Member Organisations from 32 countries in Europe: the national regulatory and professional representative bodies of architecture in the EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

1.1 - Diversity of terms / concepts used by architectural policies across Europe
(the distribution of the terms may not correspond to its location)
(image: João Bento).

Urban design governance as a framework of analysis

Urban design governance can be defined as the practices of 'state intervention in the means and processes of designing and managing the built environment in order to shape both processes and outcomes in a defined public interest' (Carmona, 2021). In this context, the governance of urban design operates through the use of tools and the various mechanisms that influence the decision-making of development actors (whether public, private or community) in order that their decisions take on a clear place-based quality dimension. They will range across formal (hard) and informal (soft) powers of the state, in other words, those that are legally binding and sanctioned by law; and those that are non-coercive, discretionary, and optional (ibidem).

While providing a comprehensive approach to the built environment, architectural policies are one of the multiple tools of state intervention in design governance processes and should be perceived and assessed in their wider picture, namely the wider governance system of architecture and urban design within each jurisdiction, being a country, a region or a city. The architectural policies will be examined against this broader understating of state intervention and continuous action, involving not only public actors but also the wide range of stakeholders operating in the urban development processes, including society as a whole (see Carmona, Bento, et al., 2023).

Structure of the report

The present report is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter sets the scene and provides the purpose of this inquiry. The second chapter provides an overview of the European policymaking on architecture and *Baukultur*, covering the EU policy documents and EC initiatives as well as pan-European initiatives and networks. The third chapter describes the research approach and methodology. The fourth chapter looks at the institutional actors responsible for architecture policy implementation. The fifth chapter examines the variety of architectural policies documents across Europe, the different approaches found and progress. The sixth chapter looks at a set of informal tools of urban design governance used across the continent with examples. The seventh chapter discusses the impact of European architectural policies on the development of similar policies across the EU Member States as well as the impact national/regional architectural policies on processes of urban design governance and its limitations. Finally, an eight chapter provides the study conclusions. A list of references is provided at the end.

Besides the survey replies and documentation collected, this report is based on previous research reports on the topic, available sources of information and desk research. Due to time and resource constraints, it has not been possible to present a comprehensive review of all the public policy approaches, institutional actors and tools used across Europe. Nevertheless, the report summarizes and describes the main policy trends and tools currently used with examples to illustrate the range of approaches found.
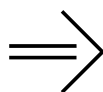
2 EUROPEAN POLICIES

The origins of European architectural policy can be traced back to the beginning of the millennium, based on two pillars: the European Union's (EU) architectural policy documents and the European Commission's (EC) initiatives with the launch of the EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award in 2001 (EC, 2021b). Both were recently reinforced with the pan-European Davos Declaration (2018) and the EC's 'New European Bauhaus' initiative (2020), which constitute the main drivers of an ongoing European political movement focused on high-quality *Baukultur* and living environments for everyone.

ARCHITECTURE POLICIES	ARCHITECTURE INITIATIVES OF THE EC
EU soft policies Coucil resolution on architecture quality (2001) Council conclusions on architecture (2008) Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and the Built Environment (2021) **Pan-European policies** Davos Declaration: Towards a High Quality Baukultur (2018) Davos Baukultur Alliance (2023-...)	Mies Architecture Award (2001-...) EC architecture policy (2009) Member States Expert Group on High Quality Architecture (2020-21; 2023-26) New European Bauhaus: network, design awards, funding programs, festival, etc. (2020-...) Living Spaces peer-learning programme (2023-24)

2.1 - The two pillars of the European architectural policy: EU policies plus pan-European policy; and EC initiatives (image: João Bento).

2.1 European Union (EU) architecture policies

Historically, the first EU policy relating to architecture was the *Council Architects Directive* (85/384/EEC) dating from 1985[3]. However, its scope was restricted to the mutual recognition of diplomas and other formal qualifications in architecture, to guarantee the freedom of movement of architects within the EU and that architects from different Member States had the same level of skills and competencies (Meijer & Visscher, 2005). With a broader scope, in the beginning of the nineties, several European countries started developing and implementing comprehensive architectural policies to promote design excellence and to raise public awareness about the importance of a high-quality architecture and the built environment.

Following these initiatives, in 2001, the EU Council adopted a *Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04)[4], which recognised the value of architecture for improving the quality of the day-to-day environment and the life of European citizens. The EU Resolution was the first policy document on architecture with a global approach at the European level (MCC, 2002). Among others, the Resolution encouraged the Member States to intensify their efforts to improve the knowledge and promotion of architecture quality, as well as to promote design quality by means of exemplary public buildings policies.

In 2007, the European Ministers responsible for Urban Development approved the *Leipzig Charter* of *Sustainable European Cities*. Within the scope of an integrated urban development policy, it mentions that the 'quality of public spaces, urban man-made landscapes and architecture play an important role in the living conditions of urban populations.'

In 2008, the EU Council adopted a second policy directly addressing architecture, the *Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05)[5], which calls on the Member States to make allowance for architecture in all policies and to raise awareness of the 'role of architecture in the creation of a high-quality living environment'. This policy maintained the same holistic approach to architecture but placed a new emphasis on the contribution of culture for sustainable development, in view of 'its impact on the cultural dimension of towns and cities, as well as on the economy, social cohesion and the environment' (EU, 2008).

Since then, several other European and international policy developments followed, such as the *UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and the *Urban Agenda for the EU* (2016)[6]. More recently, the *New Leipzig Charter* (2020)[7] reinforced, among others aspects, the importance of high-quality design and public spaces for the common good, as well as the need to support good urban planning and design to enable compact, socially and economically mixed cities. To achieve this, according to the *New Leipzig Charter*, it is necessary to have a 'holistic understanding of high-quality *Baukultur* as the basis of integrated planning and design processes for every man-made shaping of the built environment in European cities' (EU, 2020).

In this framework, in 2021, following the work of an EU Member States' Experts Group on high quality architecture that ran from 2019-21, and the Davos Declaration (see below), the EU Council adopted a third architectural policy, the '*Council Conclusions on Culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative*'[8], which reinforced the momentum and the European commitment for promoting high-quality living environments. Among others, Member States are urged to:

• follow best practices for conducting architecture, landscape and spatial planning competitions;
• use available financing tools to facilitate the delivery of high-quality standards;
• contribute to creating a holistic understanding and shared culture of high-quality architecture by raising further awareness, e.g., through formal and informal education from an early age;
• enhance policy coherence and coordination for high-quality architecture and built environment;
• set up advisory expert groups such as the "State and City Architect Teams" (EU, 2021).

Although the above-mentioned policy documents have been adopted by the EU Council, they are considered as *soft* policies, as they are not binding for the Member States. Nevertheless, as will be discussed further ahead, the European policies have been contributing to the evolution of a growing number of state, regional and local policies on architecture across Europe.

2.2 European Commission (EC) initiatives on architecture

In parallel with the EU policies, the EC initiatives on architecture started with the launch of the '*EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award*' in 2001. Since then, supported by the EC Creative Europe Programme, the prize is awarded biennially to acknowledge outstanding realized works, highlight best practices, and reward design quality in Europe (Ramos & Blasi, 2020). Historically, the prize had gained the support of the then-European Economic Community, with its first edition held in 1988 as the "Mies van der Rohe Award for European Architecture". In 2000, the Fundació Mies van der Rohe submitted the model of the Mies van der Rohe Award in response to a call for proposals by the EC for the 'European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture' becoming the official architecture prize of the EU in 2001[9].

Following a recommendation of the EU Council Conclusions (2008), the EC decided to adopt its own architecture policy in 2009, setting high-quality aspirations for all its facilities and defining a set of design quality criteria, which should be considered by all stakeholders when implementing the Commission's buildings policy[10], namely the organization of international design competitions for its facilities, such as the new EC Joint Research Centre site, that sets out to be the first EC building entirely based, from its conception, on the NEB conceptual framework.

3. Council Directive 85/384/ EEC of 10 June 1985 on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates, and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services. Replaced by the Directive 2005/36/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council.
4. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2001:073:0006:0007:EN:PDF
5. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:319:0013:0014:EN:PDF
6. https://www.urban-agenda.eu/
7. https://ectp-ceu.eu/the-new-leipzig-charter/
8. https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14534-2021-INIT/en/pdf
9. https://www.miesarch.com/about-the-prize/background
10. https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=C(2009)7032&lang=en

2.2 - The 'Europa Building' that holds the European Council and Council of the EU, based in principles of sustainable architecture, was a result of a pan-European competition, in Brussels, Belgium, designed by Samyn and Partners, opened in 2016 (source: Quentin Olbrechts).

Building on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2019 – 2022 ('Cohesion and well-being'), the EC established an Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Group of Member States' Experts focusing on *High-quality architecture and Built Environment for Everyone*. At the end of 2021, the Member States Experts' group report '*Towards a shared culture of architecture*' was published compiling prevalent trends and best practices and providing a set of six recommendations to promote high-quality places[11]. Awareness raising from an early age, capacity-building and co-creation are also recommended to create a shared culture of quality architecture in Europe.

In 2020, the President of the EC announced the creation of a wide European initiative, the 'New European Bauhaus (NEB)', a cooperative cultural project, which proclaims architectural quality and design thinking among its guiding principles. NEB aims at transforming the *European Green Deal* policy and its *Renovation Wave Strategy* into a new cultural project connected to the built environment together with ideas of sustainability and innovation[12].

With this new European initiative, the EC places innovation and design quality as a political goal that aims to create a design movement that inspires the transformation of European cities and of the built environment based on three main principles: sustainability (environmental sustainability), aesthetics (quality of experience) and inclusion (affordability and accessibility) (Ibidem).

2.3 - Cover of the OMC Group of Member States' Experts report, entitled 'Towards a shared culture of architecture' (source: EC, 2021a).

2.4 - New European Bauhaus
three core inseparable values
(source: EC, 2021a).
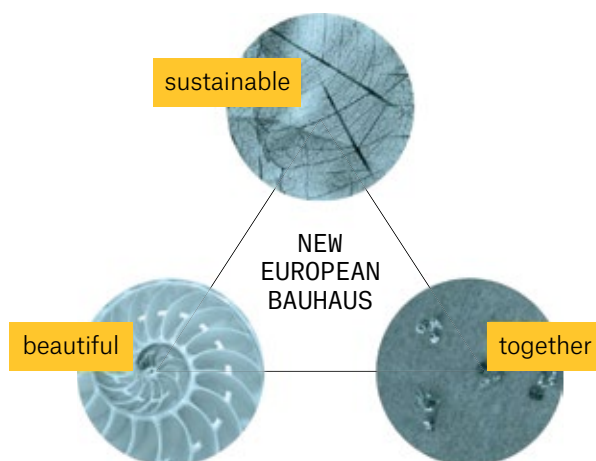
The NEB will be carried out in three phases, called "Co-Design" (2020-21), "Delivery" (2021-23) and "Dissemination" (2023-24). The first phase focused on co-designing the NEB project, where the EC conducted a broad participatory co-creation process including a European call for the NEB Prizes, now in its third edition, which aims to recognize existing achievements[13]. The NEB started its "Delivery" phase at the end of 2021, building and mobilising existing EU programmes to launch a set of dedicated calls for proposals in 2021-2022 (EC, 2021a). The NEB initiative is supported and managed by the EC Joint Research Centre.

According with its progress report presented to the European Parliament (European Commission, 2023), through the mobilisation of the different EU programmes, a series of dedicated calls – adding up to €106.3 million – supported the NEB delivery in 2021 and 2022, funding a wide variety of projects which contribute to its aims, spread across the continent. In order to support the NEB's implementation, the EC established the *NEB Community*, a network of partners that includes NEB official partners; High-Level Round Table members; National Contact Points; NEB prize winners and finalists; the beneficiaries of NEB calls; NEB's friends and members of the EC. The idea is to extend the NEB principles and ideas through a wide network of partners, that can deliver and push for projects and initiatives at different levels across Europe.

Besides the above, the EC has created the *NEB Lab* that pursues a community-building strategy to embrace concrete projects. Whether backed by EU funding or by other initiatives, the purpose is to bring them together for mutual support and learning[14] (EC, 2021a). Among other initiatives, the EC promoted the NEB Festival in June 2022, a three-day event with a variety of exhibitions, conferences and urban walks. The second edition is currently being promoted and scheduled to be held on April 2024, with open calls for proposed activities, projects or satellite events.

To help identifying inspiring projects, places and practices, the NEB Labelling Strategy defined tools to characterize concrete initiatives: the *NEB Compass* that sets out the key characteristics for exemplary NEB projects, to be used as tool to guide decision and project-makers wishing to apply the NEB principles and criteria to their activities; a series of *NEB assessment frameworks* that introduce specific lists of measurable criteria for specific types of projects and outputs, streamlining standards and guidance around the three NEB principles (in development). For an overview of the NEB activities and projects, an interactive dashboard was developed[15].

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11. https://op.europa.eu/pt/publication-detail/-/publication/bd7cba7e-2680-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en
12. https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en
13. https://prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/
14. As an example, the project 'New European Bauhaus goes South' connects six south European counties which join forces to improve education through architecture. For more info: https://www.up.pt/neb-goes-south/
15. NEB Dashboard: https://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/NEB/

NEB Lab launch

Call for Friends

Launch Compass

Co-design phase

Lighthouse
Demonstrators

NEB Prizes 2023

NEB Compass

NEB Communication
SOTEU 2021

Launch NEB
Prizes 2022

NEB Festival
Prizes Ceremony

SOTEU 2022

NEB Calls

NEB EUI ERDF
demonstrators

Report on the co-design | NEB Calls | NEB Calls | NEB Calls

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
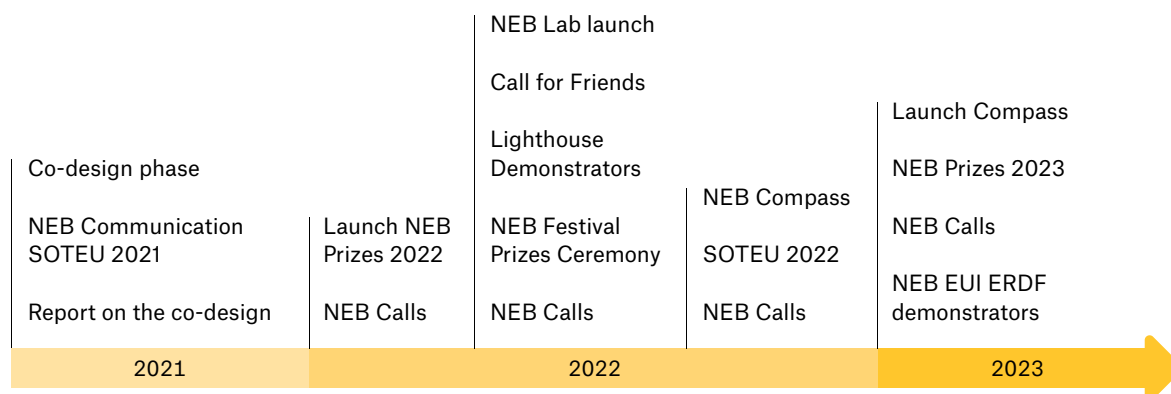
2.5 - Timeline of the of NEB main projects and initialise (source: EC, 2023).

The new EU Work Plan for Culture 2023 – 2026, introduces a continuation of the previous action on 'High-quality living environment for everyone', that defines three possible implementation working methods: through the European Directors for Architectural Policies (EDAP) meetings; promotion of the NEB initiative via post-OMC expert network exchanges, and the possible organisation of a European conference on architectural policies (EU, 2022).

Recently, the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), from the European Commission, launched a peer-learning programme designed for local and regional authorities to learn how to plan and implement high-quality architectural policies and projects, entitled 'Living Spaces. Cities and regions shaping the built environment for everyone'. Running from July 2023 to November 2024, the programme will facilitate exchanges among the EU's cities, regions, Member States and relevant stakeholders on processes and good practices across Europe[16]. Funded by the Creative Europe programme of the EU, Living Spaces is implemented by Eurocities and ACE.

2.3 Pan-European policymaking

Besides the EU policies and initiatives referred above, there are also three pan-European policy-making processes and networks that have been contributing to a reinforced European design policy agenda: the Davos Baukultur Process, the European Conferences for Architectural Policies (ECAP) and the European Directors for Architectural Policies (EDAP) meetings.

2.3.1 Davos Baukultur Process

In the framework of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, held in Switzerland in 2018, a first international conference of Ministers of Culture adopted the pan-European Davos Declaration "Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe"[17]. The Declaration highlights the central role of culture in the built environment and calls for a high-quality building culture (Baukultur) to be considered as a primary political goal, alongside promoting the concept of Baukultur beyond German-speaking countries (the concept includes architecture, heritage, public space, landscape, infrastructure, and a culture process, among other aspects). The Davos Declaration was signed by 33 ministers and other European stakeholders (such as ACE and Europa Nostra, among others), and was endorsed by several other institutions after the initial publication (e.g. Spanish order of Architects).

One year later (2019), an international meeting on *Baukultur* quality criteria was held in Geneva, Switzerland. As an output of that conference, the Swiss Government together with several international partners (e.g. Europa Nostra) published the Davos *Baukultur Quality System* (DBQS) in 2021, a tool aimed to better define the concept of Baukultur and to allow users to make assessments about the quality of places (Swiss Federal Office of Culture, 2021). The DBQS defines eight criteria for encompassing the different dimensions of a high-quality building culture (*Baukultur*)[18]. The DBQS was highly welcomed and endorsed by international organizations, adopted by the EU OMC Expert group and referenced in the EU's third architectural policy.

2.6 - Eight criteria for a high-quality *Baukultur* from the Davos *Baukultur* Quality System (source: adapted from Swiss Federal Office of Culture, Berne 2021).

More recently, in January 2023, in a second European conference of Ministers of Culture on high-quality *Baukultur* - again in the framework of World Economic Forum - the Swiss Federal Office of Culture launched the new 'Davos *Baukultur* Alliance' that brings partners across the public and private sectors and civil society together in pursuit of a better living environment. According to its foundation document (2023), the *Baukultur* Alliance constitutes an informal network of institutional partners interested in engaging with *Baukultur* policies, including: national/agencies for culture, international building, real estate / finance companies, intergovernmental bodies and international non-governmental organizations. The innovation of the new alliance is the attempt to bring on board private sector stakeholders which tend to be absent from the forums of architecture and *Baukultur* policymaking debates, despite their major role in development processes.

16. https://culture.ec.europa.eu/cultural-and-creative-sectors/architecture/living-spaces
17. https://davosdeclaration2018.ch/
18. https://davosdeclaration2018.ch/quality-system/

The aim of the Davos *Baukultur* Alliance is to facilitate communication and cooperation among the partners across Europe and beyond, to contribute to mainstreaming the values and goals of the *Baukultur* movement, along with the NEB activities and other initiatives. A steering committee was set up to drive the alliance and organize meetings and events, in order to encourage public and private actors as well as civil society actors to get involved. In addition, the Davos Alliance activities are conducted in different focus groups to lead discussions and improvements on relevant topics for achieving high-quality places, such as "Affordability & Social Value Creation", "Resilience & Climate Adaptation", "Sustainability & Circularity" and "Rebuilding Ukraine".

2.3.2 European Conferences for Architectural Policies (ECAP)

The first international meeting on architectural policies was promoted under the Dutch Presidency of the EU Council in 1997. The event had the particular feature of gathering governmental agencies, cultural institutions and professional bodies across Europe. Based on this first encounter, a second meeting took place during the Finnish Presidency of the EU Council, in 1999, with the underlying objective of creating a network organization at European level, that lead to the creation of the *European Forum for Architectural Policies* (EFAP).

Since then, the EFAP would meet every six months under the country that holds the EU presidency. As a result of its activities, the EFAP regularly issued policy declarations, conclusions texts and, less often, policy manifests on design-related issues. The EFAP network allowed for policy exchanges between member states and led to the publication of a 'Survey on Architectural Policies in Europe', in 2012, which was the first study at European level on this topic.

In 2013, the EFAP meeting under the Irish Presidency of the EU Council took stock of the implementation of the Council Conclusions on Architecture (2008) and summarized the results on their report (EFAP, 2013). It pointed out two key issues as being central to the future development of architectural policies across Europe, which also emerged from the EFAP survey:

1. Public awareness and political commitment are vital for the successful fostering of good design and spatial quality. There is an urgent need to lift the interest of architecture beyond the sphere of the profession only. It is equally a challenge for NGOs and policymakers to jointly act and create demand for a well-designed living environment by all EU citizens;

2. Research and design initiatives should be strengthened and supported via eligible funding.

A non-profit association under Belgium Law, based in Brussels, was established to support the EFAP network activities in April 2007. However, due to financial constraints, this association was formally dissolved in 2017. Nevertheless, an informal policy network still exists, and the international meetings continue to take place in different locations, now under the title *European Conferences for Architectural Policies* (ECAP), or similar adaptations.

The first ECAP was held in Vienna in 2018, under the Austrian Presidency of the EU, with a strong participation of policy experts from all over Europe. This was followed by a second ECAP held in Bucharest in the first semester of 2019, under the Romanian Presidency of the EU, leading to the signature of joint declaration for the development of the first architectural policy in Romania (although this was not yet achieved). In November 2019, the Finnish EU Presidency also hosted an international architecture conference, held in Helsinki, focused on the educational power of architecture. Due to the pandemic period and its recurrent lockdowns, both Croatian and Portuguese ECAP events were conducted in a hybrid online format.

In October 2021, under the Slovenia EU Presidency, an ECAP ran over a three-day cross-border event in Graz (Austria) and Maribor (Slovenia), under the title: "*Building Europe. Towards a Culture of High-Quality Architecture and Built Environment*". Besides re-establishing networks, the event was an opportunity to showcase best practices and provide material for the final preparation of the most recent EU policy on architecture (2021). In October 2022, the Czech government hosted an ECAP in Prague, with the title "*Conference on Architecture and Building Culture Policies*", gathering around 200 people from 22 European countries. In April 2024, there was na ECAP in Brussels, during the Belgium EU Presidency. The next ECAP is planned for June 2025, during the Polish presidency of the Council of the EU.

Although informal, the ECAP provides a space for socialization between national policy experts and EU officials, thus facilitating the exchange of information on best practices re. architecture and *Baukultur* policies, tools and initiatives across Europe. Nevertheless, it is a fact that there is no formal EFAP association driving an agenda, and that the events have been irregular and dependent of the will of the countries that hold the EU presidency to organize. This gap has been partly replaced by the regular meetings of the European Directors of Architecture Policies, but these are restricted to the governmental pillar, excluding other parties, such as the professional and cultural institutions, from having a voice in the architectural policymaking processes.

2.7 - European Conference on Architectural Policies (ECAP), Prague, Czech Republic, October 2022 (image: Oldrich Drnec).

2.3.3 European Directors of Architecture Policies (EDAP) meetings

Parallel to the ECAP events open to everyone, several meetings of European Directors of Architecture Policies (EDAP) have been held in the last years. In 2017, the French Ministry of Culture promoted a first EDAP meeting to exchange views on architecture policies developments and initiatives. This meeting gathered only public officials and representatives of governmental departments responsible for architecture policy. The format was then repeated in Vienna (2018), Geneva (2019), Brussels (2020), Maribor (2021), Paris (2022) and Prague (2022). The latest EDAP meetings were held in Malmo, in June 2023, during the Swedish EU Presidency, and Granada, in October 2023, during the Spanish Presidency. The next EDAP is planned for April 2024, during the Belgium presidency of the Council of the EU.

The EDAP meetings' motivations were reinforced with the OMC Group of Member States' Experts focusing on *High-quality architecture and Built Environment*, promoted by the EC, that ran from 2019-21, and culminated with the publication of the aforementioned report. Due to being restricted to public officials, the EDAP meetings potentiate governmental peer-to-peer policy learning, sharing best practices and innovative governance experiences, as well as the realization of workshop sessions focused on common challenges. Although there is not an official agenda, the EDAP meetings receive support from the EC, namely in the most recent EU Work Plan for Culture 2023 – 2026, that defines the EDAP meetings as one of the possible implementation working methods for the promotion of high quality architecture at European level.

Focus on quality

The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture 1988
> **EU Mies Award** 2001 + Young Talent Architecture Award **YTAA** 2016

European Forum for Architectural Policies
EFAP 1997-2017, continued since as **ECAP** conferences

Council resolution 2001

Council conclusions 2008

EFAP

| 1988 | 1997 | 2001 | | 2008 |

EFAP Survey 2005
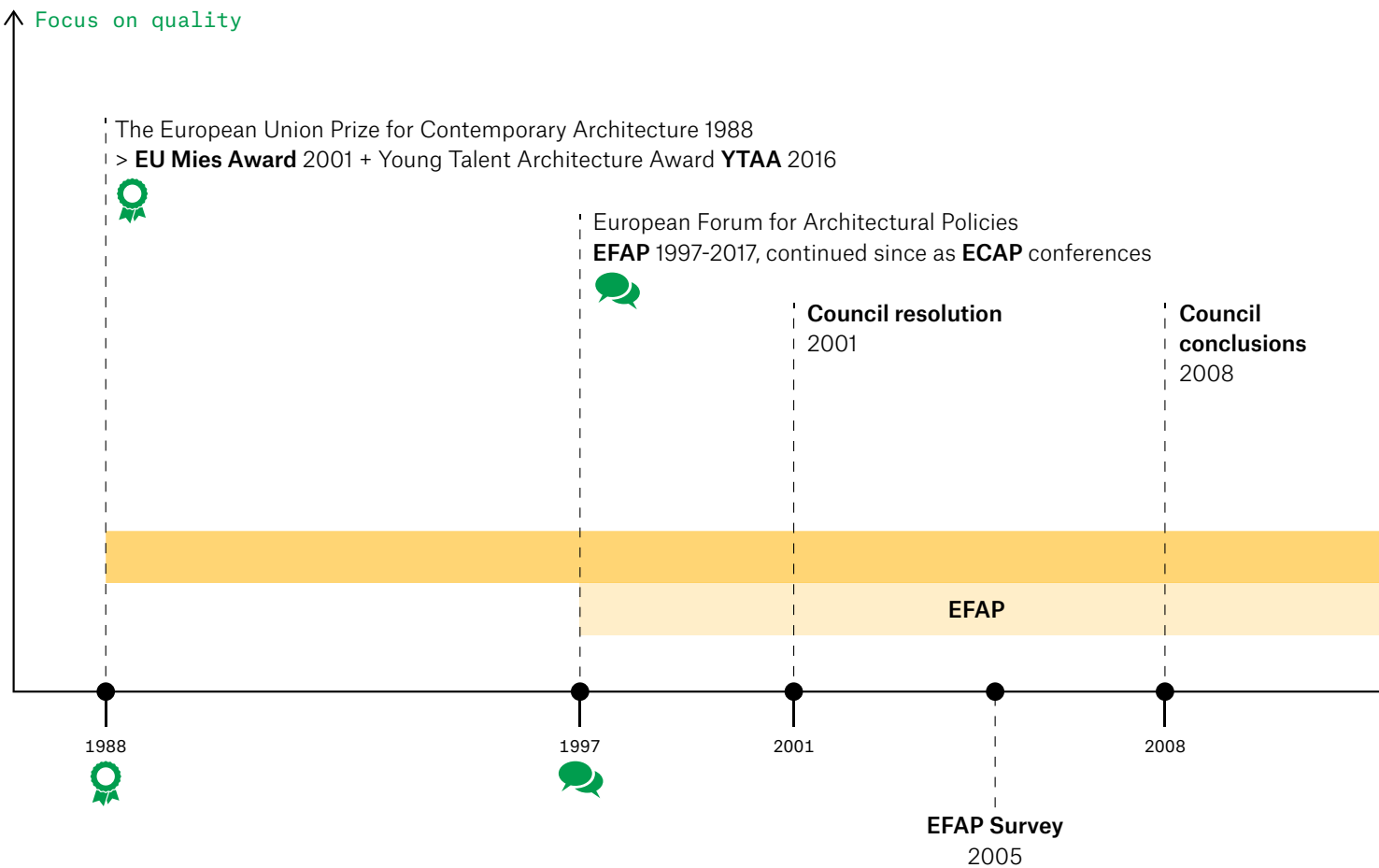
2.8 - Meeting of European Directors of Architecture Policies (EDAP) and NEB Contact Points, Malmo, Sweden, June 2023 (Image: Daniel Engvall, Form/Design Center).

Davos Declaration 2018 > process
Baukultur Quality System 2021

Davos *Baukultur* Alliance 2023

Council work plan for culture 2019-2022 OMC group 2020-2021

New European Bauhaus 2020

New Leipzig Charter 2020

Urban agenda for the EU 2016-2021

Council conclusions 2021

UN Agenda 2030 SDGs 2015

ECAP

Time

EFAP Survey 2012

2015 2016 2018 2019 2020 2021 2023

Urban Maestro 2019-2021

ACE Survey 2022

2.9 - A timeline of Europe-wide initiatives on architecture and place quality (1988-2021) demonstrating the increasing level of concern that these topics are receiving (Source: adapted from EU Member States OMC Experts Group Report, 2021, EC).

3 RESEARCH APPROACH

3.1 Aims

This research aims to provide an updated panorama of architectural policies in Europe and to measure their implementation progress across the continent. The research follows from and expands upon a previous 'Survey on Architectural Policies in Europe', which was carried out in the framework of the author's PhD research at UCL, with the former EFAP in 2012. The survey concluded that the *Council Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04) and the *Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05) have had a positive impact on the development of architectural policies by individual EU Member States since they were formally adopted.

Since then, a wide range of new policy developments occurred both at the European level and at the national ones. As previously described, high-quality architecture and built environment has become a political priority for European institutions, where the European Commission is taking the lead with its ambitious ongoing NEB initiative. Similarly, most EU countries have adopted a formal policy on architecture pursuing the same goals, implementing a diversified set of tools and initiatives fostering a placemaking culture. However, there is no updated overview on architectural policies at European level. In this framework, ten years after the previous survey, ACE decided to commission a new European study on architectural policies to map out government policies on architecture, to measure their implementation, impact and progress across Europe.

The starting point of this research was the planning and conduct of a new European survey on architectural policies to gather information on the development of architecture and *Baukultur* policies across the continent. To be able to compare the results, the present survey maintained the same three lines of inquiry of the previous one. Firstly, the survey sought to identify and describe the existing government structures responsible for architectural policy and the existing liaison and/or co-ordination procedures between the different ministerial departments or absence thereof. The study also researched existing agencies and other stakeholders, which play a role in the formulation, development and implementation of relevant aspects of architectural policies.

Secondly, the survey sought to identify the existence of policy documents on architectural quality - an official publication, law, memorandum, or policy that outlines government aspirations on architecture and the built environment – and, if there was no policy document, whether the government was planning to adopt one in the near future. Besides the policy documents, it sought to collect information on the successes and limitations in implementation and, in particular, whether there was any budget associated with the policy. This would allow to characterize the different policy approaches and which resources are being put in place to support the policy goals.

Finally, the survey also sought to collect information on specific initiatives and actions promoting high-quality architecture and the built environment, addressing the recommendations of the EU Council Resolution (2001) and Conclusions (2008) on architecture. This would allow a better understanding of how the policies are being implemented and assess the impact of architectural policies on urban design governance processes.

3.2 Methodology

The current survey follows a cross-national comparative research approach. In the field of policy analysis this methodology provides the opportunity to compare and contrast the strengths and weakness of different policy approaches and thereby to draw lessons from other countries (Rose 2005: 4). The intention is not to copy policy approaches between quite different jurisdictions, but instead to learn under what circumstances and to what extent programmes deal effectively with specific policy problems, in this case, the quality of architecture and the built environment.

To collect information on architectural policies, a questionnaire was sent to relevant stakeholders across Europe, covering governmental departments and professional bodies at national level and, in some cases, to regional level (Belgium and UK) - where respondents could fill in information about the policy used in their jurisdiction, as well as indicate relevant initiatives. For dissemination purposes, a contact list was gathered, including at least two types of institutions by country:

• National / regional governmental departments responsible for architecture policy;
• National / regional architectural professional bodies (ACE member organizations).

Where architecture policy responsibilities were shared across different ministries / departments, the questionnaire was sent to all relevant governmental department. In some of the countries, one governmental department coordinated the reply in the name of several ministries/agencies.

Timeline

The present study is informed by previous research on architectural policies in Europe, namely the past two EFAP Surveys (2005 and 2012) that reviewed the impact of the EU Council Resolution (2001) and Council Conclusions (2008) on architecture. The research is also informed by an additional European survey on informal tools of urban design governance (2019), carried out in the framework of the Urban Maestro (UM) project (2019-21) (www.urbanmaestro.org).
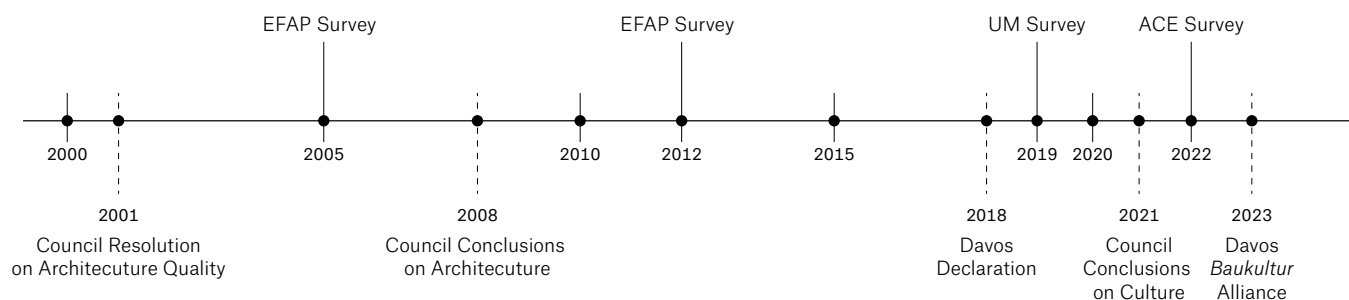
3.1 - Timeline: architecture policy surveys and European policies on architecture

The research work was divided into four phases, spread between 2022 and 2023. The first phase was dedicated to the development of the questionnaire and to gathering contacts of relevant organisations around Europe. The second phase was dedicated to survey dissemination, where a first personalized invitation was sent by email to institutions in May and a second in July 2022. Besides the email invitations, several telephone calls were made, to encourage a wider participation in the survey. The third phase was dedicated to analysis of the replies and the information received, as well the different policy documents collected.

The survey preliminary findings were presented at the European meeting of Directors for Architectural Policies, which took place in Prague (Czech Republic), on October 10th; and in the ACE general Assembly, in Brussels (Belgium), November 25th 2022. As some respondents asked for more time to fill in the questionnaire, it was decided to keep the survey open until the end of the 2022 in order to accommodate delayed replies as part of a fourth and final phase of the work. Finally, the Survey report was developed, reviewed, and finalized during 2023.

Legend:
- EU Member States
- Outside EU countries

Countries shown on map:
- ICELAND
- NORWAY
- SWEDEN
- FINLAND
- ESTONIA
- LATVIA
- LITHUANIA
- DENMARK
- IRELAND
- UNITED KINGDOM
- NETHERLANDS
- BELGIUM
- GERMANY
- POLAND
- CZECH REPUBLIC
- SLOVAKIA
- AUSTRIA
- SWITZERLAND
- HUNGARY
- SLOVENIA
- CROATIA
- SERBIA
- ROMANIA
- BULGARIA
- FRANCE
- ITALY
- SPAIN
- PORTUGAL
- GREECE
- CYPRUS
- MALTA
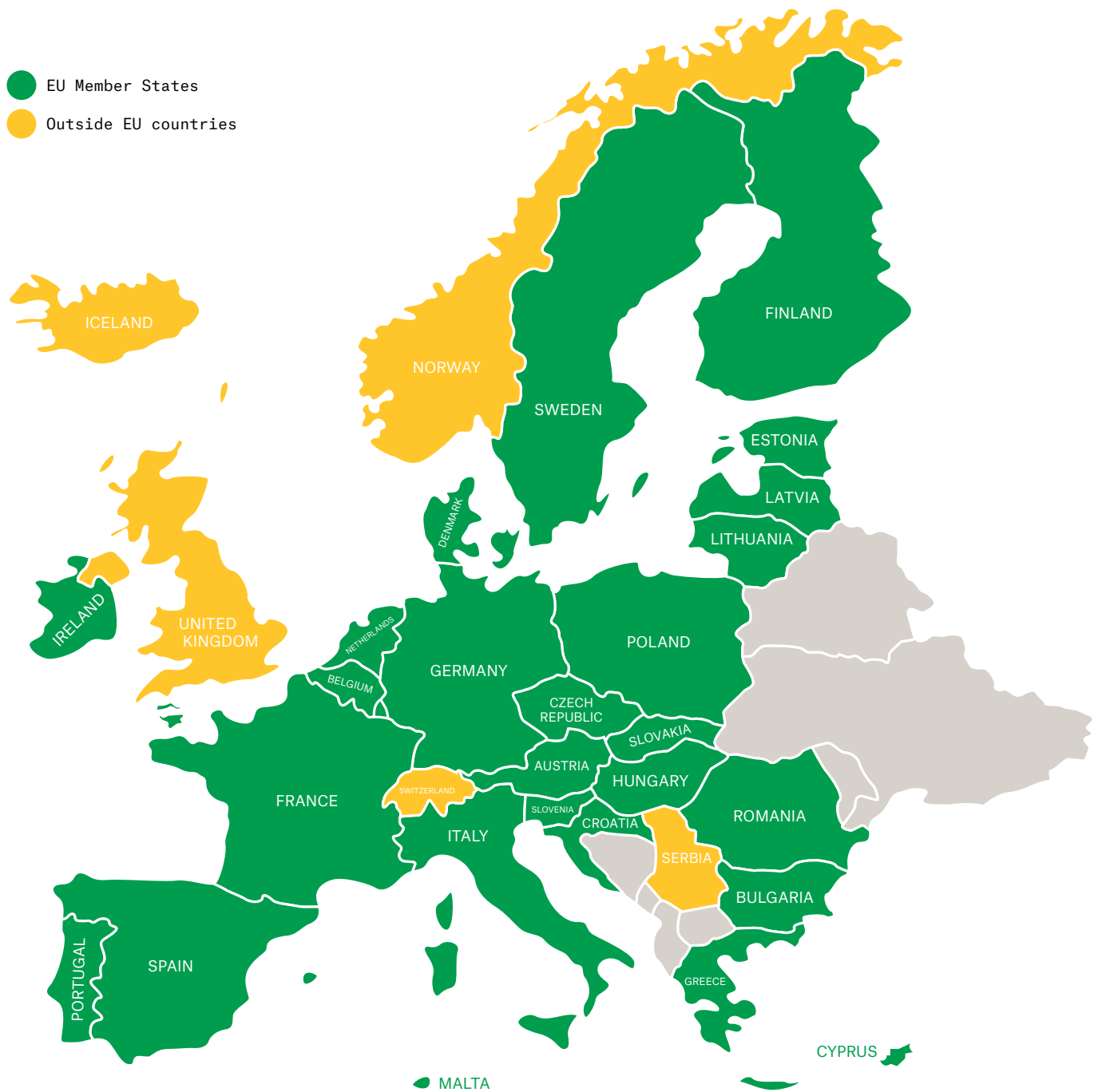
3.2 - Countries invited to participate in the survey and their EU status.

Questionnaire

The structure of the questionnaire and the content of the questions were designed to collect information on architectural policies across Europe based on the questionnaire of the past survey (2012), so it would be possible to draw comparisons between the results of 2012 and 2022. The questionnaire was divided into three parts:

• A first part focused on identifying the main stakeholders across Europe, in order to contribute to mapping the institutional architectural landscape of the different European countries[19];
• A second part was dedicated to collecting national / state / regional policies on architecture. This focussed on any official publication, memorandum or policy that outlined governmental aspirations on the design of the built environment in order to promote high standards in architecture and urban design (urbanism);
• The third part focused on collecting information about specific initiatives and actions implemented in different jurisdictions, by public bodies or other relevant stakeholders, that could be addressing the recommendations of the EU Council Resolution (2001) and the EU Council Conclusions (2008) on architecture[20].

3.3 Scope

The Survey covered 31 European countries: 27 Member States of the European Union and 4 outside EU countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and United Kingdom). In Belgium and in the United Kingdom, their regions have replied separately. At the end of the study, the Union of Architects of Serbia sent information about the new government policy. As a result, the Survey target group increased to a total of 37 administrative structures (see 3.2).

3.4 Limitations

As in most research, the methodology chosen for the survey has some limitations. First, the complex administrative structures across different European states made it difficult to determine whether the questionnaire was sent to the most appropriate respondent. Second, in half of the surveyed administrations, architecture and urban design is a policy domain shared by several departments. With such a wide spectrum of actors, to obtain complete and accurate information on the different states would require more than one respondent per administration, which was not possible to guarantee. Third, a questionnaire with open questions inevitably leads to differences in the diligence with which replies are made. The obvious lack of central knowledge about the activities carried out in some jurisdictions led to some degree of patchiness in the information gathered in some locations.

3.5 Response

From the 72 institutions invited to participate in the survey, 48 replies were received, or a 67% response rate (see the full list of replies in Annex 1). Breaking this number into parts, from the 36 countries / states targeted, the origins of the replies are as follows: 30 replies from governmental departments and 18 from professional organisations. The national / regional governments delivered more comprehensive responses compared with the professional bodies. This reflects the fact that the questionnaire was largely focused on policies and initiatives that are developed by central/regional administration. Nevertheless, a good geographic distribution with coverage from across Europe was achieved (see 3.3).

The next three chapters describe the main findings collected by the survey from the 48 replies received. Following the same structure of the questionnaire, the findings are organized in three chapters: institutional actors (chapter 4); architectural policy documents (chapter 5); and initiatives / actions promoting design quality and fostering a placemaking culture (chapter 6).

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19. Following data privacy regulations, the information on contacts is not included in this report.
20. The survey questionnaire did not cover the recommendations of the EU Council "Conclusions on Culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative", as this policy was adopted at the end of 2021, just some months before the survey.

4 INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS

One of the primary goals of the survey was to identify the governmental departments responsible for each government's policy on architecture across Europe. Within this scope, the survey also aimed to map other relevant actors involved in the policy implementation and delivery of initiatives, as well as inter-departmental committees / platforms. In this context, this chapter is divided in four parts. The first part identifies the governmental departments responsible for architectural policy at national/regional level, including state architects and design commissions (arms-length). A second part looks at cultural organizations promoting architecture and a culture of design. A third part looks at non-governmental organizations, including professional bodies. Finally, a fourth part briefly analyses different types of interdepartmental committees and advisor bodies created to improve coordination and communication across stakeholders.

4.1 Governmental actors

4.1.1 Governmental departments responsible for architectural policy

Although each country/region has its specific governance system and administrative structure, in most states/regions architecture policy is under the responsibility of a specific state department or public organization (e.g., Directorate-General or Institute), which usually operates within a ministry with responsibilities related with the built environment. In other countries / regions the architectural policy is under the responsibility of more than one department that may be under the supervision of different ministries (e.g., culture, environment, or public works), due the transversal nature of architecture and spatial design (see Bento, 2012).

Looking at the survey findings, it is possible to verify that in the 37 administrations surveyed, 20 have a specific public department/division responsible for the architectural policy, whereas in the remaining the policy is a responsibility shared by several departments (4.1).

	Austria	BE Flanders	BE Brussels-Capital	BE Wallonia-Brussels	Bulgaria	Cyprus	Croatia	Czechia	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	UK England	UK Scotland	UK NorthernIreland	UK Wales	Iceland	Norway	Serbia	Switzerland
Yes	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•									•			•	•	•			•	•
No											•			•						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•					•	•		
No information					—										—															—							

Table 1 - Does a specific department/division in charge of architectural policy exist?

In the cases where the responsibility for the architectural policy lies within a specific department (20 administrations), it is possible to observe that the scope and configuration of the public departments is diverse and may include other competences besides architectural policy (e.g. cultural heritage). Based on administrative structure, policy traditions and other contextual factors, it is possible to state that the responsibility for architectural policy is usually under the scope of cultural departments or urban / spatial planning departments (4.2).

Country / Region	Name
Austria	Monument protection, Baukultur and Art Restitution matters
Belgium / Brussels-Capital	Bouwmeester Maitre Architecte
Belgium / Flanders	Vlaams Bouwmeester
Belgium / Wallonia-Brussels	Architectural Unit
Cyprus	Department for Town Plannin and Housing
Croatia	Sustainable spatial development and international cooperation
Czechia	Department of Spatial Planning
Denmark	Department for Arts and Education
Estonia	Arts Department
France	Direction of architecture
Germany	Department for Urban and Spatial Development
Ireland	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Latvia	Cultural Policy Department / Creative Industries Division
Italy	DG for Contemporary Creativity / Contemporary Architecture
Lithuania	Construction and Spatial Planning Policy Group
Spain	General Directorate for Urban Agenda and Architecture
United Kingdom / Northern Ireland	Department for Communities
United Kingdom / Scotland	Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division
United Kingdom / Wales	Planning Directorate
Serbia	Department for Architectural Policy and Construction Products
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Office of Culture (FOC) / Section Baukultur

Table 2 - Name of specific departments in charge of architectural policy.

Although the specific competences may vary, and regardless of whether they are situated on the cultural or on the urban/spatial planning side, the architectural departments usually make use of a combination of formal (regulatory) and informal (non-regulatory) tools to pursue the policy ambitions and goals. These may include enabling design quality across different sectors and levels of the state, delivering initiatives to promote a culture of design, sharing best practices, providing design advice on public development schemes, monitoring legislation and reporting on its efficiency, managing subsidies or financial schemes, evaluating projects, etc (see Box. 1).

The presence of a specific department dedicated to the promotion of architecture quality, does not imply the existence of a formal policy document, as the ones that will be examined in the next section. To provide an example, although Italy does not have a formal policy, the Italian Ministry of Culture has a Department of Contemporary Architecture responsible for the promotion of the quality of architectural and urban planning projects, namely to participate in the development of public works or provide advice on their design, with particular regard to works with an impact on the quality of the historical-artistic and landscape context. Adding to this, the Italian Department is also able to promote initiatives for urban regeneration, develop awareness-raising initiatives, organize training programmes, as well as develop research activities and knowledge enhancement of architecture, in collaboration with universities, regional and local institutions[21].

As will be discussed further ahead, each governance landscape has its own system of norms and administrative organization, where architecture and *Baukultur* as an object of public policy can be more or less present depending on the specific context. The existence of a dedicated department on design quality is a way of enhancing policy coordination and the delivery of public action.

21. Besides the mentioned, the Italian Department also has the competence to declare the important artistic character of contemporary architecture, namely, to admit to economic contributions the architectural works declared to be of an important artistic character. See: https://creativitacontemporanea.beniculturali.it/architettura-contemporanea/

Although some countries have had a dedicated architectural department for more than thirty years (e.g., Spain or France), some of these departments only started to have full responsibility for architecture policy in the last ten / twenty years and some were only recently formed. For example, Flanders (Belgium) appointed the Flemish Government Architect in 1999, Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium) created the Architecture Unit in 2007, and Estonia created the position of Adviser for Architecture in 2007. These new and dedicated architectural divisions are one of the noticeable impacts of the adoption and development of architecture policies by national states across Europe and the recognition of architecture as an object of public policy.

Considering the location of the departments inside the administrative structures, it is possible to verify that, in the countries that have a specific department, the majority are located within the scope of the Ministries for Culture. Nonetheless, in several others the competent bodies operate within the scope of the Ministries for the Environment / Spatial Planning; in few countries, architecture policy falls within the sphere of Housing (Spain) or of Public Works / Infrastructures / Building (Poland) (4.3).

	Austria	BE Brussels-Capital	BE Flanders	BE Wallonia-Brussels	Bulgaria	Cyprus	Croatia	Czechia	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	UK England	UK Scotland	UK NorthernIreland	UK Wales	Iceland	Norway	Serbia	Switzerland
Culture (a)	•		•						•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•				•
Environment (b)		•				•	•	•					•	•						•	•		•		•	•	•								•		
Public Works (c)																					•	•	•		•			•								•	
Other			•																•	•															•		
No information					—									—														—							—		

(a) Also designated as Ministry for Culture, Education and/or Arts.
(b) Also designated as Ministry for Environment and Urban Development and / or Regional Development.
(c) Also designated as Ministry for Infrastructures/Transport and/or Building / Housing.
NOTE: The present table is a generalization. In some cases, it does not correspond exactly to the name of the Ministry.

Table 3 - Ministry responsible for the architectural policy

Like the specific departments, in the administrations in which architectural policy is a responsibility shared by two or more departments, the policy responsibility in most cases is divided between the Ministry for Culture / Arts and the Ministry for the Environment / Spatial Planning. This is explained by the nature of architecture policy that has both a building and cultural dimension, cutting across different policy sectors and levels of the state, being interconnected with other strategic documents with spatial impact, such as spatial development, housing, heritage, etc (4.4).

The wide diversity in the nature and the configuration of the administrative structures results from the Member States still differing in many aspects: historical development, political and legal systems, cultural and social backgrounds. Although in most of the administrations the responsibility for architectural policy is clearly defined, in some administrations architecture is still not recognized as a formal policy *per se* and the departments are not so easy to identify. As already mentioned, the growing number of countries adopting a formal policy on architecture has also been contributing to the designation of public actors within administrations that will be in charge of architecture policy goals.

Box 1 - Directorate-General for Heritage and Architecture (France)

4.1 - Housing scheme whit mix typologies, including 55 social housing, shops and activities, of Arpajon (France). The project was one of the winning projects of the initiative "Commitment Program for the Quality of Tomorrow's Housing", promoted by the Directorate-General for Heritage and Architecture together with the Ministry of Ecological Transition, 2021 (source: Jean & Aline Harari architects)

Operating under the Ministry of Culture, the Directorate-General for Heritage and Architecture (DGHA)[22] is responsible for architecture, heritage, and museum policy in France. To do so, DGHA has a dedicated department in charge of the promotion of architectural and landscape quality.

DGHA is responsible for monitoring the legal texts relating to public contracts and the profession of architect (Law on architecture of 1977) as well as for the dissemination and promotion of architectural culture through a wide range of initiatives, namely by coordinating the actions of decentralized services of architecture and heritage and public institutions (national centre of architecture and twenty architecture schools). It also contributes for de development of training programmes, as well as research on new challenges of the architectural sector.

Besides de above, DGHA supervises the work of a national centre of architecture (*Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine*), and twenty national schools of architecture spread across the country. It also exercises a tutelage over the Order of Architects and operates a statistical observatory on the profession and its economic changes.

The Architecture Directorate and the Housing Department (Ministry of Ecological Transition) are delivering the "Program for the Quality of Tomorrow's Housing". This is a *five-year program* that aims to constitute a pool of around a hundred operations representative of design excellence in terms of design and environmental quality, at controlled costs and at the service of the production of the high-quality housing[23].

22. https://www.culture.gouv.fr/en/Know-us/Organisation-du-ministere/The-Directorate-General-for-Heritage-and-Architecture
23. For more info: https://engages-pour-la-qualite-du-logement-de-demain.archi.fr/

4.1.2 State Architects / Chief Government Architects teams

Some European governments have appointed a 'State Architect' or 'Chief Government Architect' (also known as Bouwmeester) to provide strategic advice to government and design leadership on the promotion of high-quality public buildings, ultimately influencing the quality of the built environment. Leading a small or large team (depending on the context), state architects deliver this mission through a variety of informal design governance tools, including support to public clients/developers, design advice, design competitions, research by design, alliances with other stakeholders and, not less important, advocacy aimed at fostering a place-making culture. In doing so, state architects contribute to the development of a long-term policy vision and advice putting in practice / implementing the government architecture policy.

State/Region	Position	Ministry/Institution	Unit/Office	Staff	Position
Brussels-Capital (BE)	Government Architect	Perspective Brussels	Bouwmeester Maitre Architecte (BMA)	17	Outside (office)
Estonia	State architect	Land and Spatial Development Board	Strategic Spatial Planning Service	-	Inside (department)
Flanders (BE)	Government Architect	Presidency of Ministers	Flemish Government Architect Team	22	Outside (office)
Hungary	Chief Architect	Ministry of the Interior	National Chief Architect's Office	-	Inside (department)
Ireland	State architect	Office of Public Works (OPW)	Architectural Services	90	Inside (department)
Netherlands	Government Architect	Central Government Real Estate Agency (RVB)	Board of Government Advisers	40	Inside (Office)
Scotland	Chief Architect	Built Environment Directorate	Architecture & Place division	8	Inside (division)
Sweden	State Architect	National Board of Housing, Building and Planning	State Architect	2 (25)*	Inside (division)

* The Swedish State architect works with different project leaders according to the state commission.

Table 4 - State Architects (or Chief Government Architects) and their teams in different European administrations (source: Bento, 2022)

Despite being appointed by government, most State Architects have a semi-independent status that allows them to act as (semi-)autonomous experts, inside and outside administration, to promote design quality in the built environment and high-quality public buildings (Carmona, Bento, et al., 2023, p. 272). This hybrid position allows state architects to have a proactive role in design governance processes across public administration (see Bento, 2022).

Although the specific competences and areas of responsibility of a state architect vary according to the national/regional context, they normally have an important role in the implementation and knowledge-building around the designed living environment, connecting actors and assignments at the national level (e.g., education, health, defence, finance, internal affairs, etc.), identifying synergies and creating a basis for collaboration. Some of them provide expert advice on the design quality of public buildings, which involve cooperating with other sectoral departments. In many countries, each ministry has its own public works department responsible for the management and maintenance of their sectoral building stock, while in other countries this service is centralised in major building and property agencies (e.g. Austria, Denmark, Ireland).

Regardless of the distribution of the architecture pie slices, most state departments do not have in-house capacity to prepare the designs and specifications for larger public (as in state-owned) building projects. In this context, the office of the State Architect provides support to public clients, helping with the process of organizing design competitions or selecting architectural firms contracted by the state. In some cases, it may also help with the reviewing and approval of designs prepared by private-sector architects.

The State Architect is also called upon to advise the government on legislation and building regulations that impact the design of the built environment and its associated processes. To support them on this task, some state architects have set up an advisory board with expert knowledge on the field. The state architect also contributes to policy and design advocacy, namely in the definition and development of architecture and built environment policy.

To provide an example, the Netherlands have had a Chief Government Architect since the beginning of the nineteenth century (Netherlands, 2006). Since 2004, due the high number of requests, the Dutch Chief Government Architect is assisted by a Board of Government Advisors (CRa), that consists of the Chief Government Architect and two Chief Government Advisors (a landscape architect and an urban planner). Together with their team they advise the Dutch government on spatial quality and spatial planning, upon request or at its own initiative, monitors the urban integration and design quality of public buildings, harmonizing architecture with urban and rural planning, monument preservation and the use of art works[24].

4.2 - One of the CRa 'Future Atelier' workshops, 2020 (source: College van Rijksadviseurs)

The Dutch Chief Government Architect served as an influence for regions of Belgium, starting with Flanders in 1999, in the creation of their own version of the position under the designation of 'Bouwmeester'. Then in 2009, as referred previously, the position was also introduced in the Brussels-Capital region, followed soon after by Charleroi and by Ghent in 2017 (see Box. 2).

The Irish policy established the position of State Architect in 2009, instead of the previous position of 'principal architect', being responsible for leading and managing the Office's architectural team, with oversight of the architectural input to construction, maintenance of the quality of the fabric of the state's property portfolio and the conservation of heritage properties in state care, as well as being the main Government advisor in relation to architectural matters.

24. For more info: https//www.collegevanrijksadviseurs.nl/

Box 2 - Flemish Government Architect (Belgium)

The Flemish Government Architect (*Vlaams Bouwmeester*) offers high-level expertise and knowledge across the fields of planning, architecture and landscape design in order to support coherent and innovative approaches in Flanders. It seeks to develop a long-term spatial vision, in consultation with the various administrations and external stakeholders, alongside being required to contribute to the preparation and implementation of architectural policy. The goal of this independent body within the government is to deliver a high-quality living environment across Flanders[25].

4.3 - Office of Flemish Government Architect, Brussels - Belgium (source: Vlaams Bouwmeester)

The Flemish Government Architect is an independent position appointed by the Flemish Government. Acting as an independent advisor, the Flemish Government Architect is a bridge-builder who approaches projects from a cross-sectoral perspective and across policy arenas. One of their core tasks is to provide support and guidance to public officials on development projects and to contribute actively to the development of policy, advice and initiatives related to social challenges and their implications and possibilities in terms of high-quality design and construction.

To achieve these goals, the Government Architect has several design tools at their disposal. The Open Call is the most important tool for raising the quality of public buildings in Flanders, helping select designers for public contracts for local councils. The Government Architect also uses a wide range of other tools to promote and supervise spatial quality, such as the Bouwmeester Scan and Pilot projects. The State Architect strives to raise awareness about topical issues, advising methods to overcome the shortcomings present in regulations, and generally acting to champion architectural quality, including providing opportunities for young designers.

The Flemish Government Architect promotes a high-quality built environment and a placemaking culture across the region. Their work has a direct impact on public administration; improving design practices at the regional and local levels, influencing and fostering debate on the quality of new developments in cities and regions; shaping regional planning strategies; testing different approaches for incentivising quality; developing research, and so on.

25. vlaamsbouwmeester.be/

In 2018, the Swedish government appointed its first National Architect, in the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning Agency (*Boverket*), which is responsible for the implementation of the new national architecture policy for Sweden (see Box 9)[26]. More recently, in 2025, the Estonian government appointed its first State Architect, in the Land and Spatial Planning Board.

Across Europe, a State Architect may operate at various levels of public administration. In some countries there are also regional (or provincial) architects that perform similar tasks, as well as at city level, usually known as City Architects - mostly in northern European countries but also in Romania and elsewhere. For example, some Dutch provinces have been appointing (independent) advisers on spatial quality, acting as design champions or increasingly as advisory teams (currently seven provinces)[27]. The provincial spatial quality advisers usually follow the structure of an advisory board, such as the one set up by the Government Architect in 2004.

At European level, the European Commission has its own version of the post - the Commission Chief Architect (*Maître Architecte/Bouwmeester*) - at the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics (Management of Real Estate)[28].

Looking across five European states (Flanders, Ireland, The Netherlands, Scotland and Sweden), Bento (2022) examined the role, the instruments, and the impact of State Architect teams and of similar institutions in fostering spatial quality and a place-making culture. Based on a series of in-depth interviews to main stakeholders, he has concluded that:

• dedicated institutions such as State Architects create the institutional conditions for improved public action on architecture and spatial quality, improving coordination and interaction between different stakeholders;

• such positions provide leadership and strategic advice to government cutting across the wide range of sectorial departments that are involved in urban development and spatial design;

• responsibilities vary from the design and construction of public buildings to the establishment of cross-sector policy frameworks and related advice, to supporting design cultural activities;

• through these means, State and City Architect teams have had a positive impact on design governance processes. The underlying belief being "that, by improving the design process that leads to the public construction, they can also, in turn, improve the overall quality of the built outcome" (Bento, 2022, p. 156).

Although the range of tools at the disposal of State Architects varies, the organisational arrangements put in place for their delivery offer a tangible demonstration of this commitment on design quality (Carmona, Bento, et al., 2023). As with any policy arena, concerns on urban quality will only be addressed if properly resourced and effectively implemented, for example through a state architect team, otherwise high-level policy statements on the value of good design will simply remain as well-meaning aspirations (see section on Impact).

26. Sweden's National Bill for architecture and design (Prop. 2017/18: 110).
27. As of 1 September 2023, the Netherlands also have a regional 'bouwmeester (the National Coordinator of Groningen appointed Eddo Zuidema as regional architect in the earthquake area).
28. See: https://op.europa.eu/en/web/who-is-who/person/-/person/COM_00006A3F7AC3

4.1.3 Design commissions / arms-length organizations

Some countries established dedicated commissions / agencies (arms-length organizations) to promote design quality across public administration and to champion design quality in the built environment. Like State Architects, design commissions are entrusted with the mission of delivering support to other public administrations, cross-stakeholder advocacy, and campaigning for high-quality architectural, urban and public space design. Depending on the context, the structure, type of competences and level of resources may vary – but despite the differences, design commissions proactively offer their support services across public administrations and utilize tools that are largely informal and non-statutory.

To provide an example, the French government established the 'Inter-ministerial Mission for the Quality of Public Buildings'[29] (MIQCP), in 1977. MIQCP's mission of is to promote quality in the public construction sector, which includes any new or maintenance work on buildings, infrastructures, and open spaces under the responsibility of the State or local actors, mainly by bringing together different actors involved in built environment projects[30]. MIQCP works across the whole public sector, bringing together different actors involved in built environment projects, and its specific actions fall under five key themes using a wide range of tools:

i. *Client involvement*, where the main goal is to mobilise all clients and to foster productive relationships with state and local authorities, using its position as an impartial body to mediate where necessary. In this, the MIQCP acts as a consultant, involved in all stages of the development process prior to actually breaking ground as well as in design competitions;

ii. *Contribution to the evolution of procedures*, which refers to general and specific regulatory frameworks. MIQCP advises on the preparation of legislation, engages with professional bodies and acts as a resource centre open to public clients and project consultants;

iii. *Training and increasing awareness*, which includes training courses and consultations open to clients and professional bodies, on themes such as the challenges of maintaining design quality and the training of jury members for competitions;

iv. *Communications*, including undertaking and publishing research, weighing in on current problems, issuing recommendations etc;

v. *Sharing experience on an international level*, by promoting the French experience and participating in discussions on harmonising policy and practices across Europe.

In the UK, every country had its own design commission until the shutdown of the English Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), in 2012. Nevertheless, in the remaining three countries, design commissions still exist to support governments delivering their architecture policies. For example, *Architecture and Design Scotland* (A&DS) was established in 2005 as an independent national champion for good architecture, design and planning in the built environment. A&DS is an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) which delivers exhibitions, events and an education programme for the public as well as advice, resources and support to practitioners in the built environment sector[31].

29. In French: Mission interministérielle pour la qualité des constructions publiques. For more info: www.miqcp.gouv.fr/
30. For more information see: http://www.miqcp.gouv.fr/index.php?lang=en
31. A&DS took over and expanded the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland (RFACS). See: https://www.ads.org.uk/

Box 3 - The Design Commission for Wales (UK)

The Design Commission for Wales (DCFW) is the Welsh design champion and advisory body endowed with the mission of promoting a wider understanding of the importance of good design in the built environment. DCFW provides design advice and support to private and public clients, promotes awareness of design, and campaigns and carries out research on design and design processes in order to produce evidence for design guides, case studies, and so on. DCFW is funded by the Welsh Government.
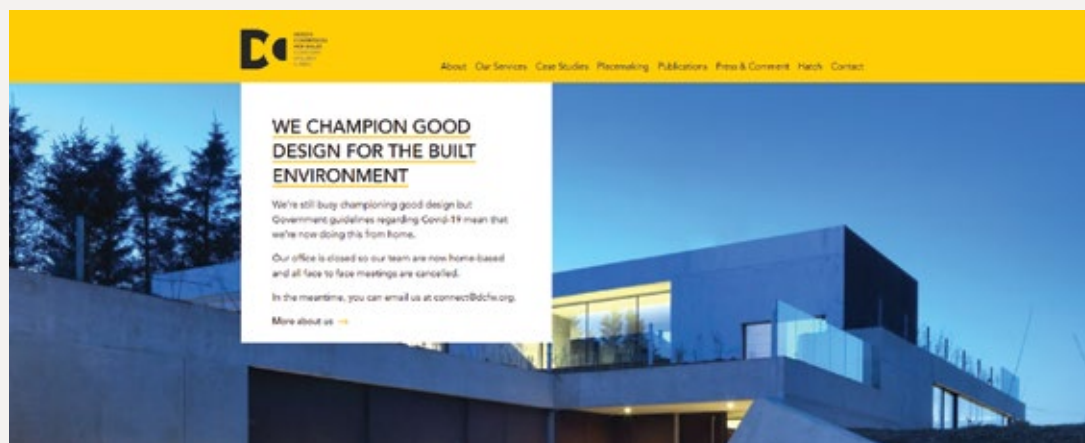
4.4 - Web page of Design Commission for Wales (source: DCFW)

Established by the National Assembly to promote good design across Wales, DCFW has developed a wide range of activities targeting various audiences in four ways: design review, providing training, client support and raising awareness. For the first track, DCFW provides national design review services for early consultation on plans and projects as well as access to independent multi-disciplinary expert input prior to the submission of planning applications. In the second track, DCFW offers specialized training for local authorities, professionals and practitioners, as well as training and accreditation for Building for Life 12 Wales. In the third, DCFW provides design support for commissioned clients by helping and guiding them during the early stages of the brief's development as well as assistance securing the right design team. Finally, for the fourth, DCFW promotes several events, publications and networks to raise awareness, stimulate wider debate, and communicate the benefits of good design.

DCFW also undertakes research focused on understanding the problems and processes associated with design and development, with the resulting material then being integrated into several different types of publications (e.g. training handbooks) in addition to online case studies, which are organized according to several thematic areas, such as public facilities, commercial areas, residential and housing streets, public spaces and infrastructure.

DCFW champions high standards in architecture, landscape and urban design for enhancing the built environment in Wales. In order to do so, it provides design advice to the public and private sector across the country, promotes and campaigns on the benefits of good design to professionals and the general public, and produces a wide range of publications about design and the design process[32].

32. For more info: https://dcfw.org/

4.2 Cultural organizations

Following from architectural policies' aim to promote a placemaking culture, governments have set up or supported the establishment of new cultural institutions solely dedicated to the promotion of architecture and design culture. From the responses to the questionnaire, it is evident that in the last decades, there has been a healthy and significant growth in the number of cultural organizations who are actively engaged in the collection and dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of architectural policy aims. The recognition of the importance of communicating the value of architecture and design quality to wider audiences has led not only governments, but also professional bodies and private companies to financially support the functioning of architectural cultural organizations operating at national, regional and local levels.
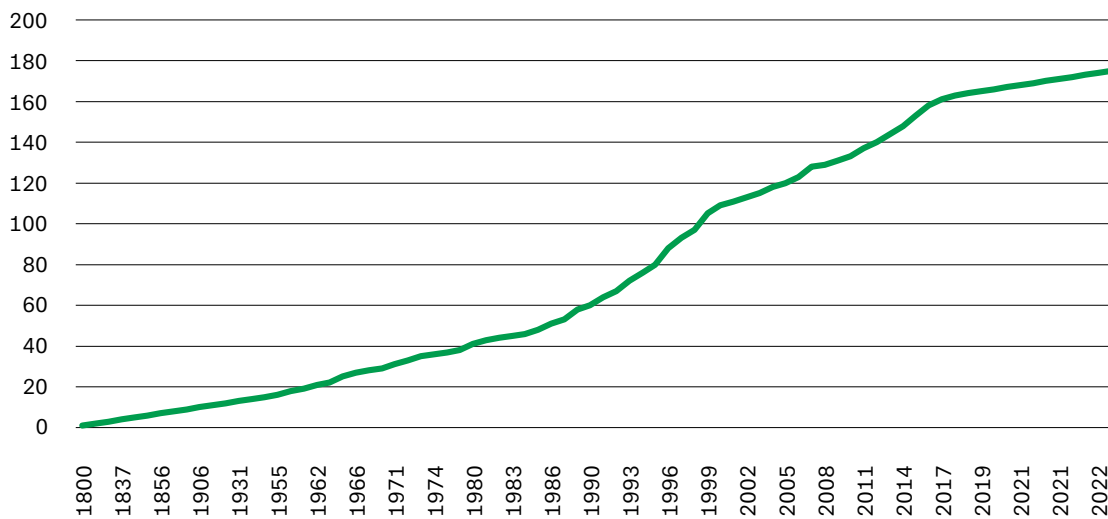
4.5 - Development of the number of architectural cultural organizations in Europe
(source: ACE Survey, 2022; EFAP Survey 2012; Sawyers & Ford, 2003) (image: João Bento)

Despite some architecture museums having had already been established within the first half of the 20th century[33], one of the architectural policies' most visible outputs has been the establishment of dedicated architecture cultural organizations all over Europe (Sawyers & Ford, 2003). In this context, cultural Ministries are exercising considerable and significant influence through their direct patronage of bodies and institutions such as Architectural Museums, Architectural Centres, Architectural Archives, Architectural Foundations, Architectural Associations, Arts Councils and many other similar organizations existing throughout the European Union.

In accordance with administrative context and domestic preference, the nature of architecture cultural institutions varies, where 'architecture museum' or 'architecture centre' are probably the most common (also branded as 'architectural foundation' or 'house of architecture'). These includes those organizations that are fully funded by the public sector, which can be integrated within the public administration apparatus (e.g., museum or a centre) or may have an independent status of some sort (e.g., arm's length organization).

The main objective of architectural cultural organizations is to promote and disseminate knowledge on architecture and the built environment in order to raise awareness and communicate the ideas, processes and results of architecture. Although the structure and remit differ between the different institutions, they develop a wide range of activities and provide information about architecture and urban matters, creating spaces for debate on the future of the built environment. These include programs targeting

different audiences, such as children and younger generations (school workshops, teaching materials, etc.), professional designers (lectures, debates, etc.) and the general public (exhibitions, open houses, TV programmes, etc.). The main aim is to promote a culture of design quality, which will in turn have an impact on the quality of the built environment by raising consumer (clients, buyers, communities) expectations about the quality of design.

In this context, cultural organizations play an important role in delivering government's policy on architecture by promoting and fostering a culture of design through a wide range of tools and initiatives with different formats, such as exhibitions, festivals, debates, films, events, awards, publications, conferences, workshops, projects, among others. All these tools and initiatives are informal in nature, supporting greater awareness on the role and benefits of architecture quality complementing the formal and regulatory side of the governance spectrum.

Despite most of these organizations have an independent status, most of them are government-subsidised bodies, and like others in similar positions, have to navigate the balance of retaining their independence and maintaining a functional link with the administration. Entrusted with a set of public assignments, they usually must submit to the relevant minister their annual activity plans and financial report to renew their funding. For example, the Polish government has established the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning (NIAIU), to disseminate and popularize knowledge regarding architecture and urban planning (e.g., raising awareness activities dedicated to young audiences[34]). As another example, since the nineties that the federal government is supporting the Houses of Architecture in all nine regions of Austria.

All these institutions are delivering awareness-raising activities and contributing to a culture of design, but it would be difficult for them to fulfil their roles without the direct patronage of the central administrations and local authorities. For example, the funding of the *Estonian Museum of Architecture* comes mainly from the Ministry for culture, other sources including earned income (tickets, services) and project-based financing mainly from the Cultural Endowment (an independent state fund). The ratio is roughly: 85% state support (for rent, salaries, other expenses), 8% earned income and 7% from projects (exhibitions, publications, programmes).

As another example, the German Federal Foundation of *Baukultur* that champions the interests of high-quality building design and construction, including raising the topic as an issue of public interest, was instituted by federal law on 2006. Therefore, the Foundation is an advocate and acts as an independent interface that consolidates and expands existing networks[35]. The Foundation's mission is to make the built environment a shared concern, which is why it promotes high-quality building design and construction. In addition, it functions as a platform for promoting public discussion on *Baukultur* through events, joint projects, and publications, and for expanding and strengthening existing networks (Foundation website, consulted in 2022).

In some countries, governments have established multi-stakeholder partnership agreements to finance organizations to deliver a design quality cultural agenda. An interesting example is the Danish Architecture Centre (DAC), that was founded in 1985 thanks to a collaboration between the Danish Ministry for Culture, the Ministry for Economic and Business Affairs and the private *Realdania* foundation. Since then, DAC's core funding is ensured by a public-private partnership between *Realdania* and the Danish state[36]. Based on this pact, the Danish government defines that DAC 'works as principal operator in the co-ordination and implementation of the new inter-ministerial architectural policy' (Denmark, 2007, p. 52) (See Box 4).

33. One of the first museums solely dedicated to safeguard and exhibit architecture and design collections in Europe was the Museum of Finnish Architecture in 1954. For more information: http://www.mfa.fi/
34. For more info: https://niaiu.pl/en/strona-glowna-2/
35. For more info: https://www.bundesstiftung-baukultur.de/
36. DAC used to be installed in an old harbour building called the Gammel Dok, in Copenhagen. Currently, DAC resides in a major new mixed-use building designed by OMA architects, which comprises several different functions among others a café and restaurant, fitness centre, office/meeting spaces and housing.

4.6 - Approximate figure of architectural and design cultural institutions in the different European countries (sources: ACE Survey, 2022; EFAP Survey 2012; JA, 2022; Sawyers & Ford, 2003) (image: João Bento & Igor Chaves)
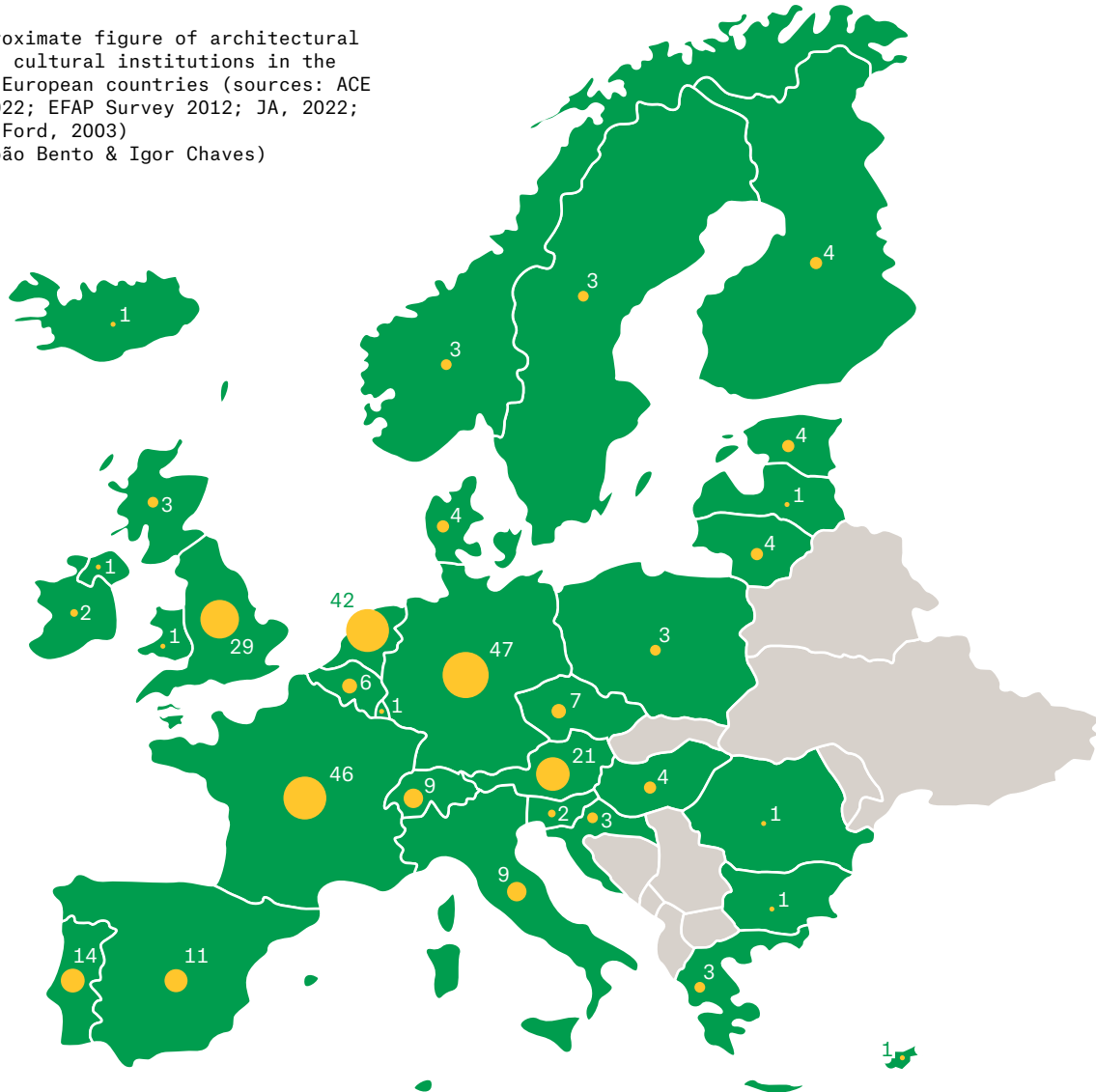
In parallel, non-governmental or private cultural organizations on architecture also pursue a similar mission to the cultural organizations fully financed by state funding. The main difference between the two lies in the legal nature of non-governmental organizations, that are totally independent from government. Although they may receive public funding, most non-governmental or private organizations draw their funding from various sources, including private sponsorship, state subsidies, as well as contributions and donations from partners.

As an example, the Luxembourg Centre for Architecture (LUCA), a non-profit association with mixed funding, has the overall mission 'to educate, raise awareness and encourage the public and decision-makers to take responsibility for increasing the quality of the environment, buildings and town planning in general."

At the international level, there are also several organizations promoting and raising the general public's awareness of architecture and spatial design cross-nationally. As an example, the European House of Architecture, a German-French association with a trinational impact and its area of activity extends over a large area: Alsace (France), Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and the two Swiss cantons of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft.

Box 4 - Danish Architecture Centre

4.7 - Danish Architecture Centre (DAC) is located in a new building with mix uses, the BLOX (Copenhagen, Denmark), designed by OMA, 2018 (source: Rasmus Hjortshøj,)

The Danish Architecture Centre (DAC) is focused on the promotion and dissemination of knowledge about architecture, building and urban development. DAC was founded in 1985 through an agreement between the Danish Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs and the private foundation Realdania. Through an innovative funding model based on a public-private partnership that provides direct grant aid support to its mission, DAC aims to heighten the public's understanding of what quality and innovation in the built environment mean for quality of life by bringing citizens and professionals together to experience and debate the future of cities and more sustainable development.

DAC's aims and legitimacy consist of promoting co-operation across the professional boundaries of the construction and architectural sectors so that the stakeholders are able to work together and contribute to the development of architecture and construction specifically, and better places in general. In this context, DAC promotes and offers a wide range of professional and cultural activities, including exhibitions, seminars, guided city tours, etc. These activities are directed in two tracks: one a broad, citizen-oriented track, the other a professional sector track. For the former, it offers a continuous programme of cultural activities as well as a educational courses and materials aimed at children and young people. In the latter, it offers specialized debates and conferences as well as professional training courses, such as strategic city management or sustainable construction. Nevertheless, it aims to create cross-cutting and agenda-setting projects that appeal to both citizens and professionals. More recently, in 2018, DAC moved into the BLOX, located on the Copenhagen waterfront.

4.3 Professional organizations

All the European countries have a professional organization of architects operating at the national / regional level, that promotes architecture quality in general and represents the interests of its members in particular, gathering more than half million architects across Europe[37].
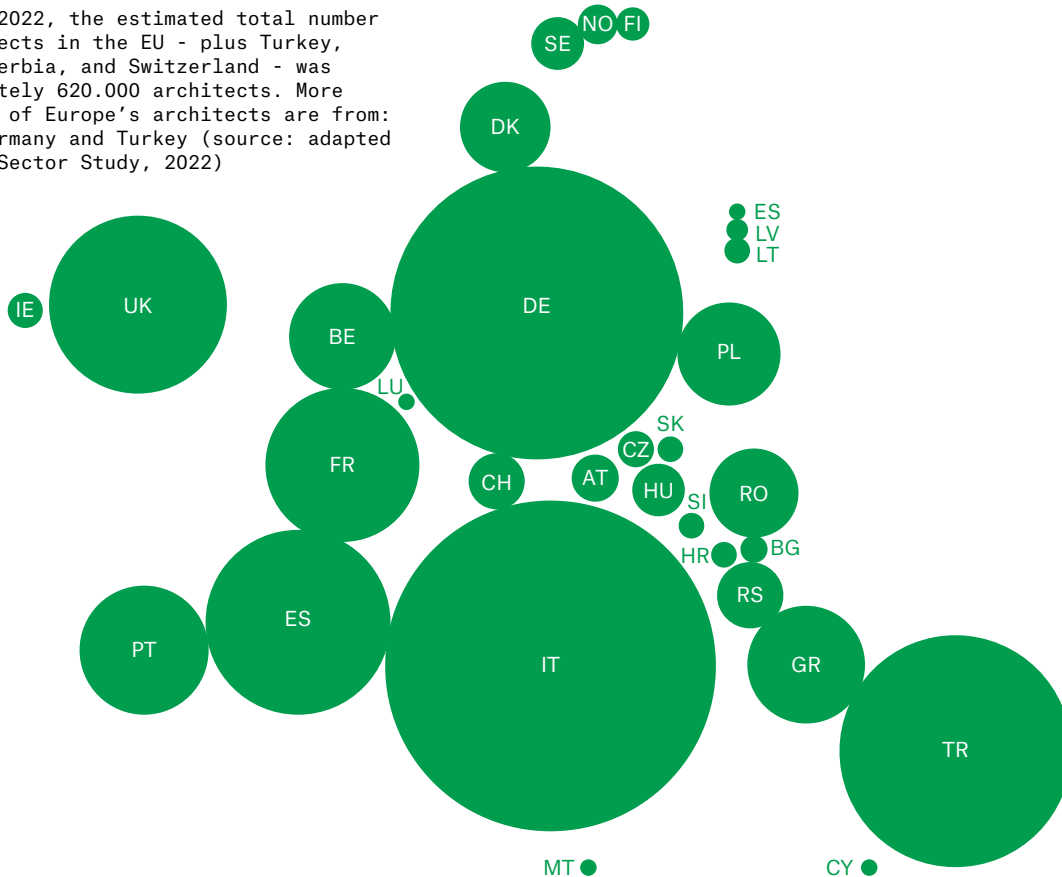
The nature of professional organizations changes from place to place, where some have a delegate power from the state to regulate their professional practice, usually under the name of order or chamber, entrusted with the regulation of architects and other designers (e.g. the obligation of registering the title), having the authority to grant or withdraw the professional title[38]. Some have the Kings entrustment (Royal Institute), while the remaining are just non-profit professional associations restricted to relevant professionals, similar to many others.

In some European countries access is limited to architects while in others it expands to several design and building professionals. For example, in Austria the professional organization includes architects and engineers and in Sweden it includes architects, interior architects, landscape architects and spatial planners. In a more demanding way, some of the states have introduced the obligation for prospective designers to gain a minimum period of professional experience before entering the Register of Architects.

Similar to other professional bodies, architects' organizations develop activities aiming to influence policy making processes, such as participating in legislative consultation processes, meeting with public entities, creating partnership networks and campaigning initiatives, etc.

Most professional organizations also offer a support service for organizing design competitions to public and private clients, or alternatively may appoint members for participating in competitions juries. In addition, professional organizations provide technical support services (e.g. interpretation of legislation) and comprehensive training programs, including professional skill development and lifelong learning for its members.

Professional organizations also actively contribute to a culture of design quality through a range of initiatives, such as publications, expositions, awards and events. Some of these initiatives may be partially supported by public funding. For example, the Romanian Architecture Stamp (Timbrul de Arhitecturã) is a cultural fund dedicated to the promotion of architecture and building culture in Romania. This cultural fund is financed by a fixed percentage of the investment value of the construction taking place across the country, which is collected by local authorities and subsequently delivered to the two Romanian professional organizations of architects, that have different statutes and purpose (only the Order is regulating the profession).

In some other countries, professional organizations participate in architectural policy committees together with public departments, actively contributing to architectural policy development and implementation. For example, in Ireland, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) have been delivering several initiatives and tools supported by the Government's Policy on Architecture, as well as supporting the functioning of the Irish Architecture Foundation.

Besides national organisations, most countries have regional or city branches of professional architect organisations. For example, in Croatia, regional and city professional organizations of architects continuously work with the aim of developing and affirming architecture and urbanism, the culture of space and the protection of the built environment. Like national bodies, in addition to their regular activities, these regional/local organizations promote exhibitions, lectures, panels, seminars, promotions, and professional presentations, participate in the preparation, organization, and implementation of architectural and urban design competitions, etc.

4.4 Non-profit organizations / associations

Besides the cultural and professional organizations that can also be regarded as non-profit associations, there is a wide range of actual non-profit organizations / associations / civil movements with an active role in design governance processes, promoting and campaigning for design quality, nationally and locally, delivering capacity-building activities to different stakeholders. Usually referred to as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), they are typically described as non-profit entities that are independent of government with a social or environmental purpose (Leverty, 2008). NGOs encompass many different types of organizations and may include an association of collective and/or individual members, developing activities according with their mission and providing services for their members (Willetts, 2009).

Although there is an endless range of NGOs of different natures across the continent (e.g. charity, foundation, council, etc), there are several NGOs specifically dedicated to promoting architecture and building culture and delivering architecture policy goals. This is the case of the "*Conseil d'Architecture, d'Urbanisme et de l'Environment* (CAUE), that were established by the French Law on Architecture (1977). In 2017, there were 93 CAUEs across the country providing free design advice and public service missions for the promotion and development of architectural, urban and environmental quality. Constituted as a non-profit association, the CAUE is created at the initiative of local officials and chaired by a locally elected representative[39].

37. According to the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)'s Sector Study 2022, this number is increasing rapidly since the beginning of the millennium. It is estimated that 71% of practices are one-person practices (ACE, 2023).
38. In some countries, there is a specific public body in charge of registering the Architect title (Architect Registration Board), for example the Architects' Register, in the UK, or the Architects Registration Bureau, in The Netherlands.
39. For more info: http://www.fncaue.com/

● Departments with CAUEs   ● Departments without CAUEs

4.9 - In 2023, there were 93 CAUE established, spread across almost all French Departments (source: translated and adapted from FNCAUE, 2023)

The CAUE's mission is to develop information and promote awareness and public participation in the fields of architecture, urban planning and the environment. To do so, they provide free advice to the general public as well as complement authorities' in-house capacities. Besides the activities of promotion and support, they are a consultation and facilitator body between the different actors involved in the production and management of urban and rural space. This means that, apart from being directly involved in various forms of promotional activities to raise awareness about the value of design, CAUE can also enter into partnerships, less formal liaisons, and networks with other organisations that could help to deliver their objectives of raising awareness and capacity building, producing a range of publications and practice guides, among other[40].
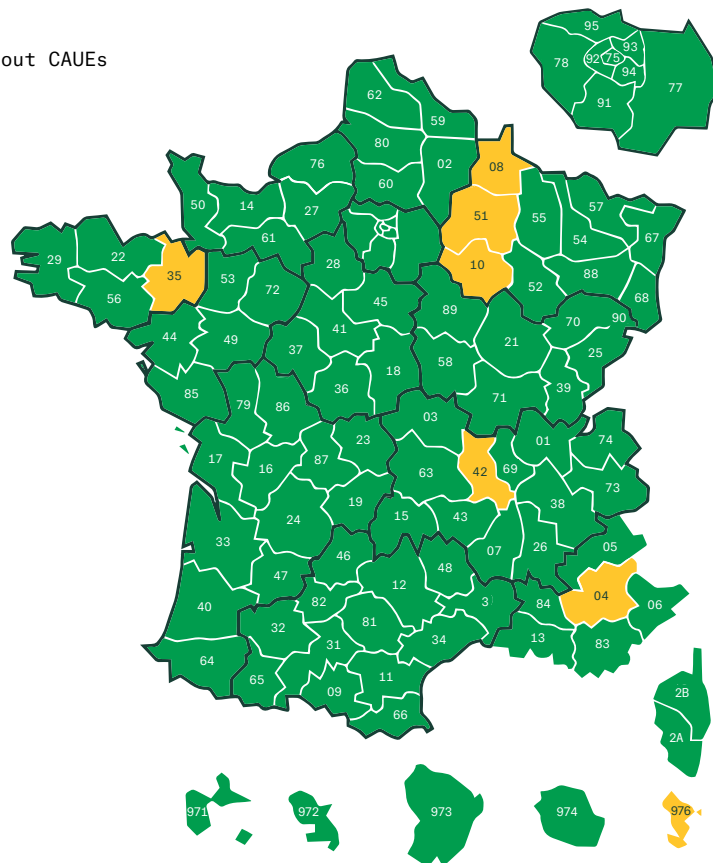
As another example, the Austrian *LandLuft* association advocates for good building culture in rural areas across the country, through a wide range of tools, such as promotion, awards, research and communication. Established in 1999, *Landluft's* target group are local decision-makers, initiatives and committed citizens in rural areas in Austria, contributing to raise awareness and to realise the federal building culture policy objectives[41].

There are also informal policy networks with an active role in promoting place quality and a placemaking culture through events, publications and research activities. For example, in the UK, Place Alliance acts as a civil movement designed to fill a gap in governmental activity and leadership with a campaigning role to better fulfil the core aim of bringing people, evidence and new ways of thinking together as a means to support the case for place quality, and to actively campaign in favour of investing in a high-quality built environment[42].

4.5 Policy committees / advisory boards

Within central/regional administration there are several departments that have a direct influence on design governance processes through a wide range of sectoral policies that impact on the built and spatial environment, such as building, housing, environment, planning, culture heritage, infrastructure, transport, etc. These departments may operate at different levels of government depending on the specific national/regional governance system, based on principles of subsidiarity and working together with municipalities. In this context, one of the main issues that architectural policies have to face with respect to their implementation strategies is how to influence different governmental departments and improve the co-ordination of the wide range of policies that affect the design quality of the built environment.

To improve cross-sectoral coordination across public departments, some administrations have set up dedicated inter-departmental committees / platforms on architecture and spatial quality (or building

culture in Germanic countries) to ensure coordination between the different state sectors, share knowledge and improve communication. For example, the Latvian government established the National Architecture Council in 2009 as a consultative institution to coordinate and promote cooperation between different state institutions and professionals in strategic issues related to the development of architecture and the promotion of a quality cultural environment in Latvia[43].

As a different example, in Sweden, the National State Architect chairs a joint committee for the policy for the living environment. A clear responsibility structure puts the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) in charge of coordinating the work with the designed living environment in the country. The work takes place in close dialogue with various actors: public actors at state, regional and municipal level, business, civil society and science.

Within this framework, the Swedish National State architect chairs the steering board of the architectural policy coordination committee, which is composed of the four key state agencies assigned by the government to implement the policy: Boverket, the National Heritage Board, ArkDes and the Swedish Arts Council. The four agencies have a shared responsibility to increase knowledge on design quality and promote well designed living environments. The steering board meets regularly to report on what the different agencies are developing / planning to develop in the field of architecture and design, as well as to plan and discuss common projects, such as the annual conference on the designed living environment policy, co-organized by the four partners.

With a similar mission, the new Irish Architectural Policy (2022) will be overseen by a high-level group (the Delivery Board) chaired by the Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works (the State Architect) and supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. High-level representative from across other Government Departments, public bodies (including the Arts Council and Heritage Council) and the RIAI of Ireland will constitute the Delivery Board. The Board should meet four times per year and prepare a multi-annual work programme to guide implementation (Ireland, 2022, p. 21) (see 4.9).

As an additional example, in 2017, Portugal created an Architecture and Landscape Monitoring Committee (ALMC), encompassing stakeholders from two Ministries – Environment and Culture – and two professional bodies – the Order of Architects and the Portuguese Association of Landscape Architects — which is in charge of setting the policy action plan, monitoring its execution, developing annual progress and evaluation reports and issuing recommendations as requested. The ALMC promotes and organizes an annual prize and conference on architecture and landscape as well as a series of online forums about related topics[44].

In a different format, the Austrian Parliament agreed on the establishment of an *Advisory Board for Building Culture (Beirat für Baukultur)* as a consulting body of the Federal government, in which all federal ministries as well as representatives of the federal states and other stakeholders could propose measures to improve architecture and building culture in Austria[45]. The advisory board's office was placed at the Federal Ministry for Art, Culture, Public Service and Sport and its first meeting was held in 2009[46]. Meeting at least twice a year, the Advisory Board advises the federal government and proposes measures to improve design and planning processes as well as initiatives to strengthen public awareness on building culture. It is also responsible for the coordination of the Austrian *Building Culture* reports, published every five years.

40. To facilitate access to all of this information, the national federation of CAUE centralizes all the documentation produced by the different CAUE spread around the country, organised in seven thematic sections: architecture, urbanism, environment, heritage, energy, landscape and biodiversity. For more information: www.fncaue.com/dossiers-thematiques/
41. For more information see: www.landluft.at
42. For more information see: placealliance.org.uk/
43. For more information see: https://www.km.gov.lv/lv/arhitekturas-padome
44. For more information: https://pnap.dgterritorio.gov.pt/
45. The Advisory Board has 28 members, including representatives from all federal ministries, the federal real estate company and the federal monuments office, cities and municipalities as well as 10 external experts.
46. The Austrian Advisory Board for Building Culture (Beirat für Baukultur) was set up by a resolution of the National Council, with an ordinance of the Federal Chancellor on October 27, 2008 (Federal Law Gazette II No. 377/2008).
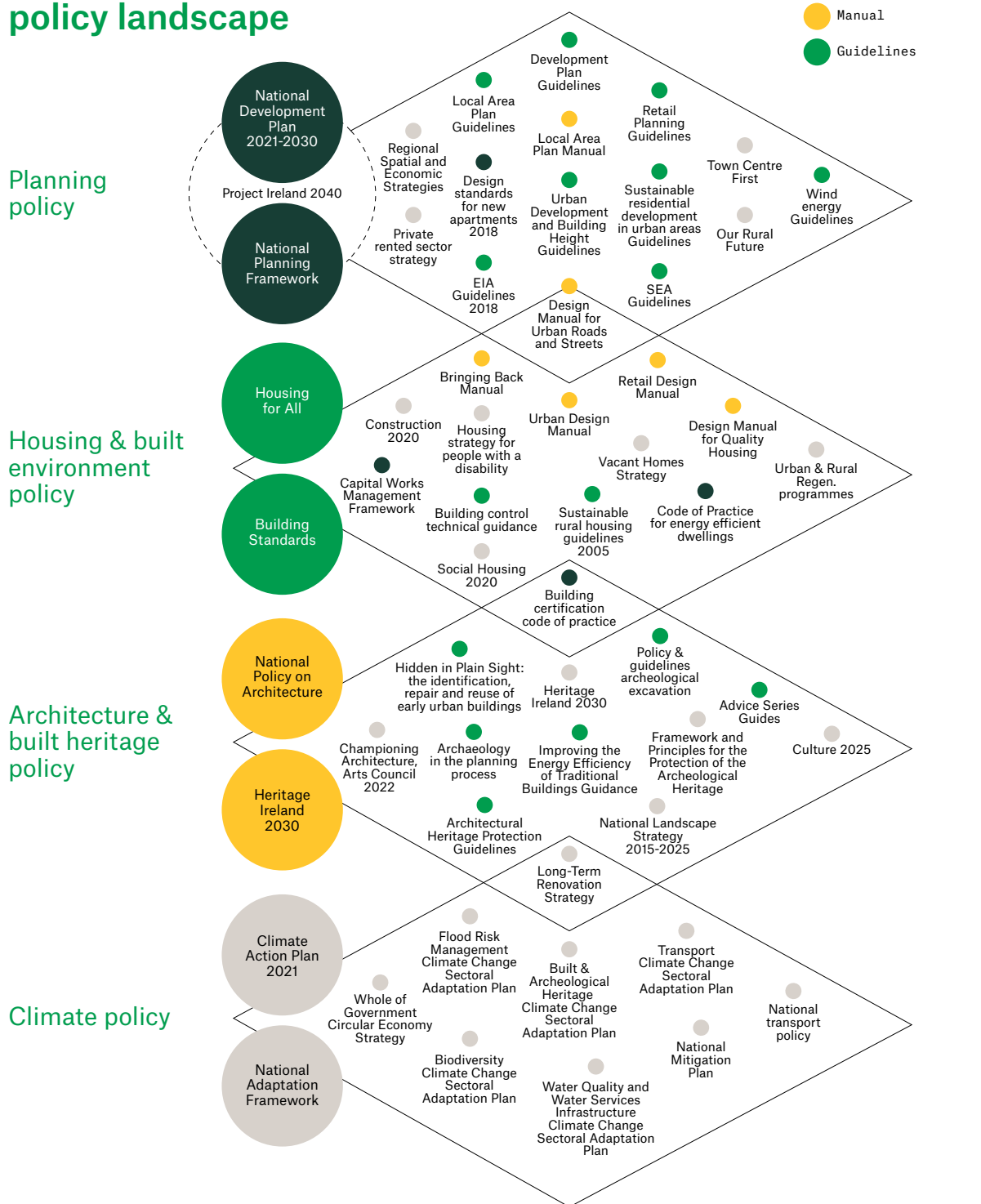
In Switzerland, to improve communication and coordination across the federal agencies and departments, it was set up the *Federal Working Group (AG) Baukultur*. Because *Baukultur* is multifaceted, including different policy areas, such as preservation, planning and building, research and dissemination, support through financial aid and the development of normative foundations, which are all responsibilities located in different departments and offices at the federal level. Therefore, the integrated promotion of high-quality *Baukultur* requires efforts on the part of several federal agencies and cross-departmental cooperation. The federal agencies coordinate their *Baukultur* activities in the interdepartmental *Federal Working Group Baukultur*.

More recently, some European administrations have approved national / regional laws on architecture establishing new advisory boards / councils on architecture quality (see section 5.3).

Although the specific competences vary between the countries, these new advisory boards / councils may provide advice on design quality within public procurement processes and legislation affecting the built environment as well as acting as a platform for exchange of knowledge and communication. While their advice and reports are not binding to public administration, the advisory boards / councils can issue recommendations proactively in different policy areas related to the quality of the built environment. Not being exhaustive, new advisory bodies / councils on architecture established by the recent laws on architecture include the following remits:

• Lithuania (2017) – *'Regional Councils of Architecture'* will examine the areas of architecture, spatial planning, architectural and urban heritage and other issues related to architecture, to provide recommendations and proposals to state and municipal institutions by making decisions relating to architecture, and to assess the quality of architecture;

• Catalonia (2017) – *'Council of Architectural and Urban Quality'* will act as an advisory and consultative body of the administration on matters of architectural quality. Among other tasks, it should propose the criteria and technical content that must be taken into account by public bodies in the contracting of architectural works; carry out monitoring annual reports on the law implementation; propose the Catalonia Awards in Architecture and Built Heritage; propose the contents on architecture in university studies and other levels of the educational system; and promote research and innovation in the field of architectural quality;

• Campania (2020) - *'Regional Observatory for the Quality of Architecture and Urban Planning'* should promote, among other initiatives, research and innovation in architectural quality, a biennial architecture and design award, the diffusion and implementation of competitions, raising awareness initiatives on architectural and urban culture within the region for all levels of the educational system;

• Spain (2022) – *'Council on the Quality of Architecture'* will act as an advisory and consultative body of the central administration, which aims to protect, promote and disseminate the quality of architecture, including by: promoting the drafting or revision of existing legislation on the subject; collecting statistical data for a better understanding of the situation; facilitating the digitalisation of the construction process and driving forward innovative pilot projects, as well as promoting good practices. In matters of public procurement, the Council will: promote the adoption of new standards or modification of current ones to improve the quality of architecture; advise contracting bodies for the estimation of fees for the determination of the tender budgets; and help contracting bodies to develop quality evaluation criteria.

National built environment policy landscape

Legend:
- ⚪ Strategy or policy
- ⚫ Standards
- 🟡 Manual
- 🟢 Guidelines

Planning policy

- National Development Plan 2021-2030
- Project Ireland 2040
- National Planning Framework
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
- Private rented sector strategy
- Development Plan Guidelines
- Local Area Plan Guidelines
- Local Area Plan Manual
- Design standards for new apartments 2018
- Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines
- EIA Guidelines 2018
- Retail Planning Guidelines
- Sustainable residential development in urban areas Guidelines
- SEA Guidelines
- Town Centre First
- Our Rural Future
- Wind energy Guidelines
- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets

Housing & built environment policy

- Housing for All
- Building Standards
- Construction 2020
- Bringing Back Manual
- Housing strategy for people with a disability
- Urban Design Manual
- Retail Design Manual
- Design Manual for Quality Housing
- Vacant Homes Strategy
- Urban & Rural Regen. programmes
- Capital Works Management Framework
- Building control technical guidance
- Sustainable rural housing guidelines 2005
- Code of Practice for energy efficient dwellings
- Social Housing 2020
- Building certification code of practice

Architecture & built heritage policy

- National Policy on Architecture
- Heritage Ireland 2030
- Hidden in Plain Sight: the identification, repair and reuse of early urban buildings
- Heritage Ireland 2030
- Policy & guidelines archeological excavation
- Advice Series Guides
- Championing Architecture, Arts Council 2022
- Archaeology in the planning process
- Improving the Energy Efficiency of Traditional Buildings Guidance
- Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archeological Heritage
- Culture 2025
- Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines
- National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025
- Long-Term Renovation Strategy

Climate policy

- Climate Action Plan 2021
- National Adaptation Framework
- Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan
- Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy
- Built & Archeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan
- Transport Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan
- National transport policy
- Biodiversity Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan
- Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan
- National Mitigation Plan

4.10 - The landscape of Irish built environment policy. The implementation of the Irish architecture policy will be coordinated by a Delivery Board, that will include representatives from the Heritage, Planning and Housing divisions, as well as other Government Departments and public bodies (source: adapted from Ireland, 2003, p. 9)

5 ARCHITECTURAL POLICY DOCUMENTS

It was the second goal of the survey to identify the existence of official policy documents on architecture adopted in the form of a law, a memorandum, a strategy or a policy. To address that goal, this chapter is three-folded. After identifying which national and regional administrations have adopted a policy document and which are planning to do so in the future, the first part examines the different policy approaches, including main features and associated policy budget, and provides a historical overview of policy development across the continent. A second part looks at the administrations that are planning to adopt a policy document at the future. Finally, the third part briefly describes municipal architecture policies.

5.1 Administrations with an architectural policy

In Europe, 36 administrations have adopted an official document outlining government policy on architecture. Breaking this number into parts, 26 are national administrations (18 EU member states and 8 outside countries) and 10 are regional administrations. In addition, 6 administrations mentioned that are planning to develop one in the near future and 2 are not planning to develop one (see Table 5).

Have a policy document		Planning to have	Not planning to have
National	**Regional**		
Austria	AT Carinthia	Cyprus	Bulgaria
Croatia	BE Brussels-Capital	Greece	Slovakia
Czech Republic	BE Wallonia	Italy	
Denmark	BE Flanders	Malta	
Estonia	ES Catalonia	Poland *	
Finland	IT Campania	Romania	
France	FI Häme		
Germany	FI Helsinki-Uusimaa	* Based on the EFAP survey reply of 2012	
Hungary	FI Satakunta		
Ireland	FI Southwest		
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Luxembourg			
Netherlands			
Portugal			
Slovenia			
Spain			
Sweden			
Iceland			
UK England			
UK Northern Ireland			
UK Scotland			
UK Wales			
Norway			
Serbia			
Switzerland			

EU Member States applies to Austria through Sweden; *Outside EU countries* applies to Iceland through Switzerland.

Table 5 - Do you have any official publication outlining government policy on architecture? If you do not have an official publication, are you planning to develop one?

If we look at the geographic distribution of the public administrations that have adopted a policy document, plus the ones that are still developing their first documents, it is possible to observe that in the following years almost all the EU will be covered with policy documents outlining government aspirations on architecture and built environment design.

5.1 - European countries/ regions with an official policy, or planning to have one, that outlines Government aspirations on architecture and built environment design. To ensure good reading of the map, when a country has a policy at national level, the regional policies are not identified; for the full list see Table 5.
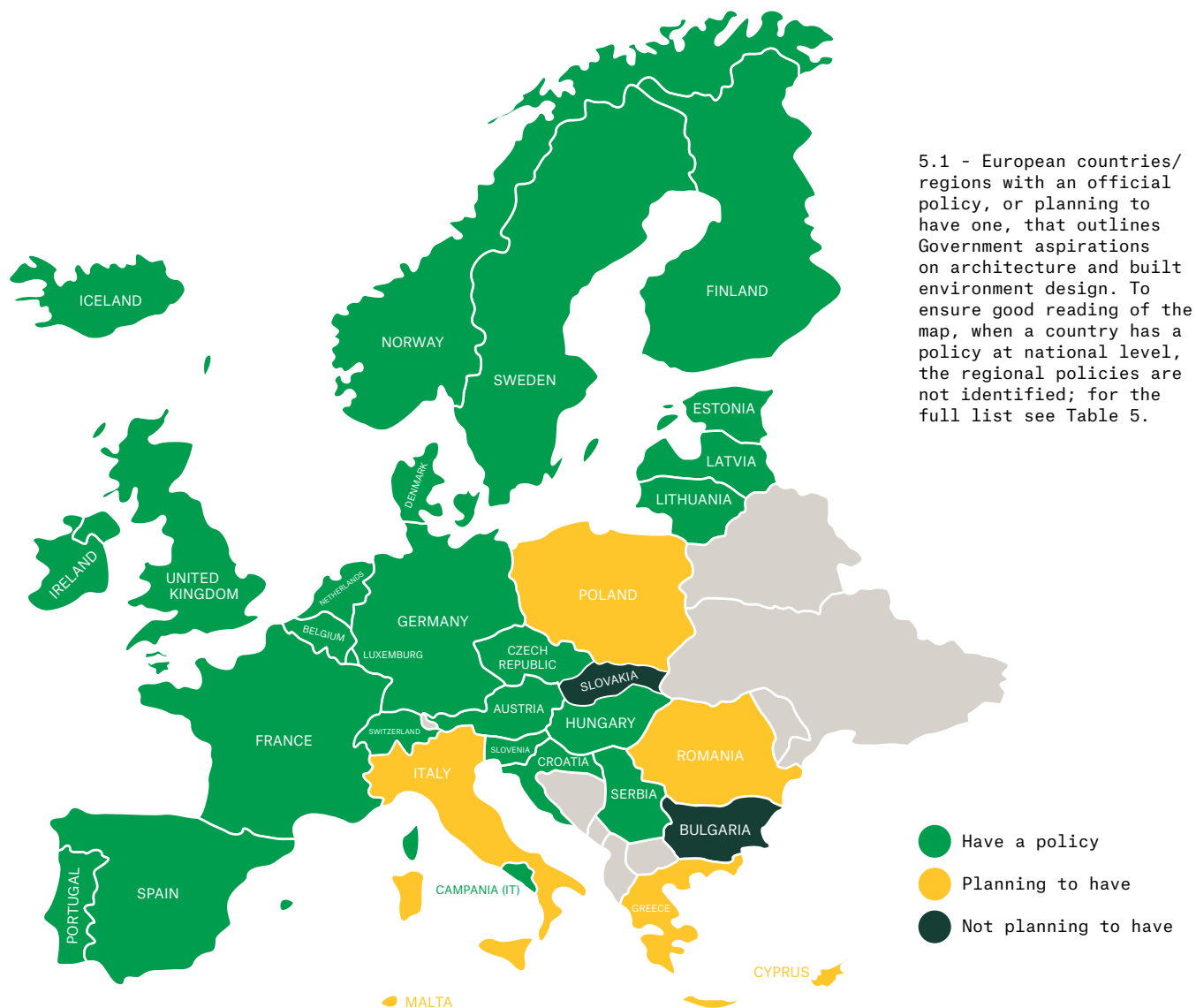
Despite local administration not being part of this research scope, it is worth mentioning that an increasing number of European cities have adopted municipal architectural policies inspired by national / regional policies. With a higher prevalence in the Nordic countries, currently there are approximately 95 cities with a municipal architectural policy document, in some cases adopted over a decade ago (e.g., Bergen, Malmo, Helsinki, Oslo, Stockholm, Vienna) (see Section 5.3).

5.1.1 Policy approaches

After analysing and comparing the policy documents collected by the survey, it was possible to verify that the nature of the documents was not always the same and that their scopes of intervention also vary. The policy documents can be classified into three main types:

1. *Legislation* (France, Lithuania, IT Campanian, ES Catalonia, Spain, Sweden);
2. *Comprehensive/strategic policy* (Austria, AT Carinthia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, FI Häme, FI Helsinki-Uusimaa, FI Satakunta, FI Southwest Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, UK Scotland, UK Northern Ireland, Iceland and Norway);
3. *Sectoral policy* (BE Brussels-Capital, BE Flanders, BE Wallonia-Brussels Federation, UK England, UK Wales)
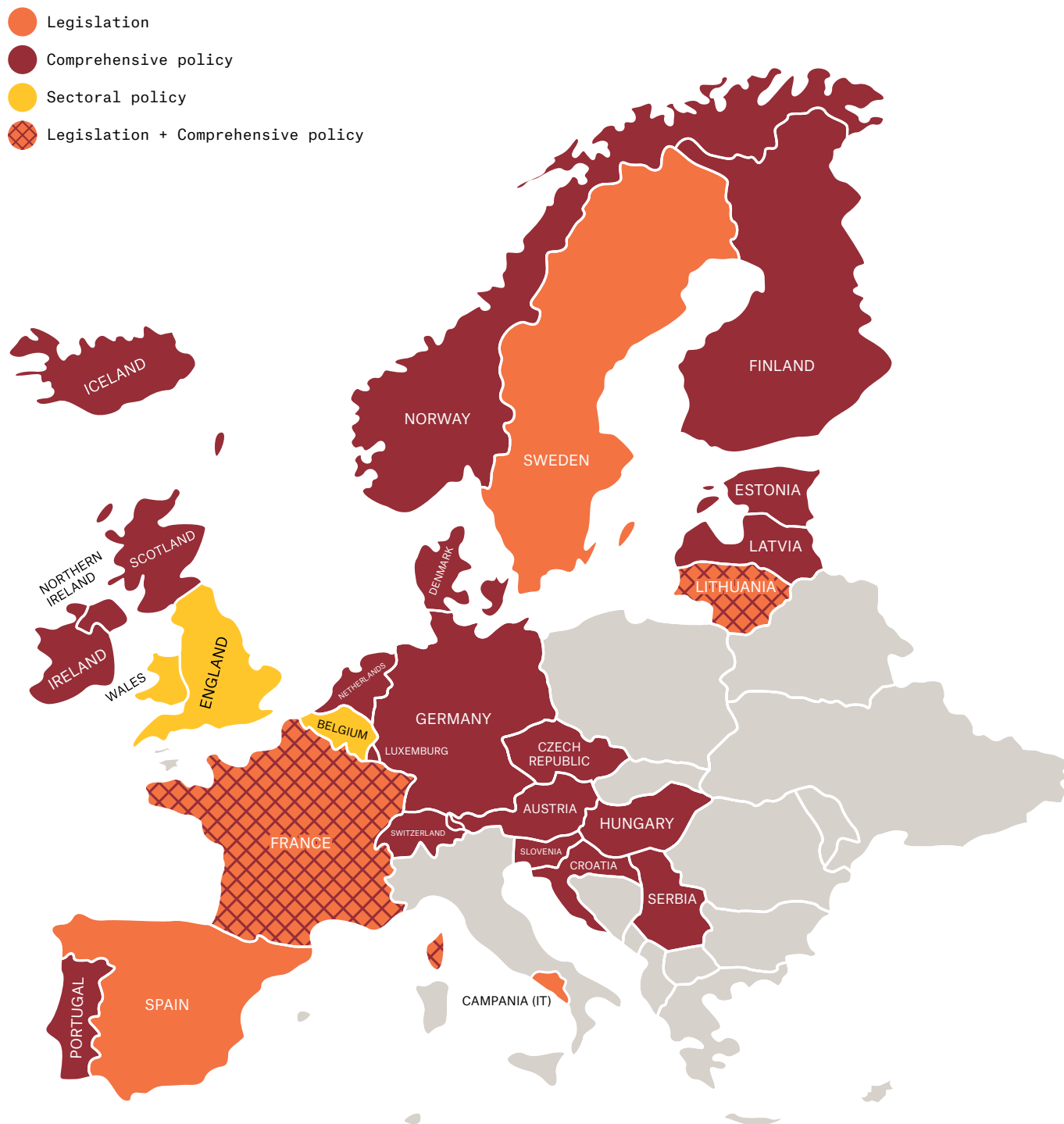
The first type of documents includes architectural policies of a *legislative nature*, which have a binding force and impose a set of principles on government and public administration. In all of these, the policies formalize the principle of public interest of architecture and, depending on the case, they may include norms to regulate the architect's profession. That may include, for example, an obligation for the building projects to be subscribed by architects; design quality principles; design competitions mandatory for public buildings, creation of advisory design boards, setting design awards, etc. Such laws have also been used to established new architecture institutions (see below).

The second type of documents includes architectural policies of a *strategic nature with a comprehensive scope* – this is the type adopted by the majority of countries with a formal policy on architecture. Policies of this type cut across a variety of sectoral policies and involve a wide range of actors in their implementation. Although they do not have binding force, they formalize architecture as an object of public policy in the form of strategy or program and support public authorities in pursuing quality objectives and establishing measures to implement this program; typically a wide range of initiatives and actions aimed at fostering spatial quality and improving design governance processes within a certain period.

The third type includes policies with a *sectoral approach* that consist of official documents outlining governmental policy on architecture with a sectoral dimension. As the name indicates, sectoral policies involve fewer departments and function within the logic of sectoral policy (e.g. urban planning, cultural heritage, public buildings, etc). This third type also includes policy documents that only cover the public institution that developed them. This is the case for the administrations that have a chief government architect or arm's length organization promoting design quality and providing support across governmental departments and beyond, such as the regions of Belgium. In all likelihood there are more countries or regions with similar sectoral policies, but only those included in the list above have mentioned them in the survey.

Analysing the distribution of the three types at the European level, twenty-five countries/regions have opted for the comprehensive policy (type 2), which represents 70% of the administrations with a formal policy, whereas only six have opted for the legislation (type 1) and five for the sectoral approach (type 3). Although most of the administrations have adopted only one of the approaches, France and Lithuania have opted for a mix of two approaches, having both a national law and a strategic comprehensive policy on architecture (see below).

Looking at the geographical distribution of the different types, it is possible to observe that the comprehensive policy (type 2) is well spread across Europe, being adopted by most of the countries / regions (26 administrations). The legislative model (type 1) exists in in a smaller number of administrations but with a substantial territorial scope (almost 40% of the EU territorial area). The sectoral approach (type 3) exists only in part of the UK (England and Wales) and in the regions of Belgium. At the European level, only France and Lithuania have adopted two types: the legislative and comprehensive policies (Map 5.2).

Legislation

Comprehensive policy

Sectoral policy

Legislation + Comprehensive policy

ICELAND

NORWAY

SWEDEN

FINLAND

ESTONIA

LATVIA

LITHUANIA

NORTHERN IRELAND

SCOTLAND

IRELAND

WALES

ENGLAND

DENMARK

NETHERLANDS

GERMANY

BELGIUM

LUXEMBURG

CZECH REPUBLIC

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY

FRANCE

SWITZERLAND

SLOVENIA

CROATIA

SERBIA

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

CAMPANIA (IT)

5.2 - Types of official policy documents that outlines Government aspirations
on architecture and built environment design (Image: João Bento)

Legislative policy documents (Type 1)

In the European panorama, only six administrations have adopted a national or regional law on architecture. Until recently, only France (1977) and Sweden (1998) had an architectural policy approved in the form of legislation. In 2017, the region of Catalonia (Spain) and Lithuania adopted a law on architecture quality for the first time, followed by the region of Campania (Italy) in 2019 and by Spain, in 2022. This recent wave or architectural laws reinforced the ongoing formalization process of architecture as an object of public policy, where other countries have already announced the intention of adopting similar laws[47].
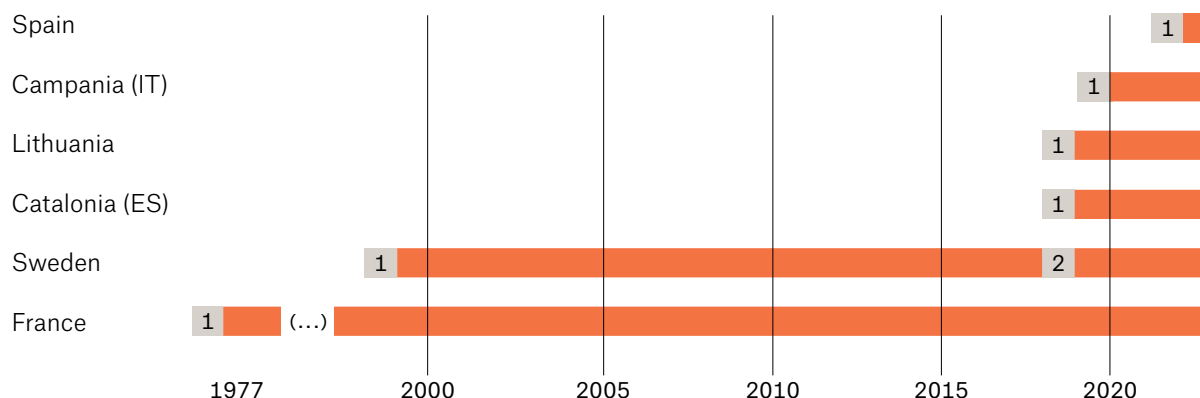
5.3 - Timeline of legislative architecture policy documents (1977-2023)

The various architecture laws start by establishing the general principle of *public interest of architecture* due to its contribution to quality of life and set out broad principles of good design. Although the laws highlight the qualities of successful places, they do not provide prescriptive, 'top down' instruction on detailed design criteria or new regulatory frameworks (e.g. building code). They express aspirations for the built environment, identify good practice and its benefits and highlight the long-term value — in economic, cultural, social and health terms — of designing good places.

Despite the differences among them, the most recent laws focus on design competitions as a powerful tool for achieving high quality places, redefining the rules and procedures to be followed by public clients. Adding to this, they create new dedicated institutions: a national / regional architectural centre for promoting a culture of design quality; and an advisory board / council on architectural quality in charge of monitoring and supervise the policy implementation, provide advice about legislative initiatives and other related matters, propose new initiatives and actions in favour of a better design quality. Due to its specificities, this section investigates each and identifies their main legislative features.

France | 1977

As mentioned earlier, France was the first European country to adopt a national policy on architecture with the approval of the Architectural Law in 1977. Besides proclaiming the public interest of architecture, it established a new intervention framework and the modes to practice it. Although the architect's title was already protected by the creation of the Order of Architects in 1940, the intervention of the architect was not mandatory and the use of architectural services by clients and promoters was very limited (Brandão, 2004). The new law made it mandatory for the architectural project to be signed by an architect for all building permits, with the exception of minor works and small buildings (less than 170 square meters) (Castelo Branco, 2021).

In addition, the French law also specified the different ways the profession can be practiced, according to which only registered architects can use the title - and redefines the organizational structure of the Order of Architects, responsible for the registration and the protection of the title. The law also obliges architectural societies to register in order to engage in the activities required by the profession. Finally, it established a code of professional conduct and disciplinary processes.

Last but not least, the 1977 law established the basis for the CAUE: non-profit organizations that provide design advice, develop educational materials/publications, and promote public awareness and participation in the field of architecture, urban planning, and the environment. Operating at the departmental level, the CAUE offer free design advice to local citizens and public officials, among other tasks, which indirectly contributes to the quality of the built environment. Currently, there are 93 CAUEs spread across all French departments[48] (see Section 4.4).

Beyond the above, due to the higher-level principle of public interest of architecture, the 1977 law led to the creation of several institutions. Two of them play an important role in the French design governance system: the *Inter-Ministry Mission for Quality in Public Construction* (MIQCP) and the *Institut Français d'Architecture* (IFA). The MIQCP is a government architectural agency responsible for raising the general standard of all public architecture through the education and training of those who commission buildings (see Section 4.1.3). Another output of the law was the creation of the IFA, in 1980, which is responsible for the dissemination of architectural knowledge to the wider public. In 2004, IFA merged with two other entities creating a new enlarged architectural centre: the *Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine*[49] (see 4.2).

A second legislative policy with a strong impact on the design quality of public buildings in France was the MOP Act (the acronym MOP comes from the French expression '*Maitrise d'Ouvrage Public*'), published in 1985, which establishes the relations between public clients and private project consultants. Besides establishing public client responsibilities, the MOP established the extent of the mission of project consultants, which includes all preliminary studies, the different design phases during construction works (France, 1985). The MOP law defined that all architectural missions assigned by public bodies had to be complete assignments (Brandão, 2004). The MOP law applied to all contracts signed with public clients for carrying out new buildings, rehabilitation, or reuse works (Biau, 2002).

A major innovation in the French public procurement process, besides the full architectural assignment, was the obligation to conduct architectural design competitions (Punter, 1999). In fact, design competitions have become mandatory for all new public buildings above a predefined threshold since 1980. Because of this rule, design competitions have spread out all over the country, and more than 1000 competitions are held each year, promoted by the national government department to the smallest municipality (Biau, 2002). As mentioned, the implementation of French public design competitions is overseen by MIQCP.
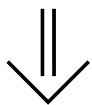
5.4 - The Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine is a French architecture museum and centre offering a range of permanent and temporary expositions, debates, archive, etc, installed in the Palais De Chaillot, in Paris (source: above, Denys Vinson; below, Jim Prunier, Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine)

More recently, the French government decided to develop a national comprehensive policy on architecture, which was formally adopted in 2015. Establishing a strategic plan and setting several goals, the new comprehensive policy reinforced and complemented the referred architecture law, which is still in force, with an action program (see next section).

Sweden | 1998 / 2018

As already mentioned, the Swedish parliament approved a bill on architecture entitled *Forms for the Future - An action plan for Architecture and Design* in 1998. This put forward a number of goals to improve the quality of architecture and introduced aesthetic clauses in the Planning and Building Act, the Roads and Highways Act and the Railway Construction Act. One of the instruments provided for in the Swedish Act is that all state agencies involved in the construction and maintenance of buildings have to develop and report their own measures to improve quality of the built environment in their respective fields of responsibility (Sweden, 1998).

The approval of the Swedish architecture policy coincided with the opening of the new building of the Swedish Museum on Architecture (1998), which was founded in the 1950s. In 2009, the government decided to broaden its scope to include other fields of spatial design, such as urbanism, architecture, landscape design, product design and digital media. In 2013, the government changed its name to '*Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design*' (ArkDes), and specified its mission to be the promotion of the value of architecture and design to improve citizens' quality of life, and to positively raise design quality in Sweden by fostering a culture of design. This was to be achieved through exhibitions, events and debates, educational programmes, collection, and library, etc[50].

In 2017, almost twenty years later, the Council of Ministers adopted a new bill for architecture and design, entitled "Policy for Designed Living Environment". Although adopted in the form of legislation, the Swedish policy tends to be very similar to a comprehensive architecture policy, focused on improving the quality of the built and non-built environment by promoting a culture of design excellence (Sweden, 2018). The new bill adopts an integrated definition of the notion of architecture, perceived as '*designed living environment*' - including architecture, form, design, art, and cultural heritage. It sets high ambitions and promotes the value of design quality "to create a sustainable, equitable and less segregated society with carefully designed living environments" (ibidem). Based on the goals of the first policy, the following six objectives were established:

• sustainability and quality are not made subservient to short-term financial considerations;
• knowledge in the fields of architecture and design is developed and disseminated;
• the public sector acts as a role model;
• aesthetic, artistic, and cultural assets are preserved and developed;
• environments are designed to be accessible for all; and
• cooperation and collaboration are developed both nationally and internationally (Ibid.).

Within this framework, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) was given overall responsibility for policy coordination, implementation monitoring, provision of competence support and promotion of initiatives to public actors at national, regional and local levels. In 2019, Boverket established within its structure the position of a National State Architect to help implement and supervise the policy, to provide design leadership and to promote design excellence throughout public administration (see section 4.1.2)[51].

50. For more info: https://arkdes.se/
51. For example: https://urbanmaestro.org/example/national-architect-of-sweden/

5.5 - Interior space of the Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design (ArkDes) and its Boxen gallery, designed by Dehlin Brattgård architects, as a showcase for experimental new design, and reinstalled collection in 2018, Stockholm (source: Johan Dehlin, ArkDes)

Lithuania | 2017

Although Lithuania had already adopted a comprehensive architectural policy in 2005, the Ministry for Culture adopted a revised policy, entitled '*Guidelines for the Development of Architecture and Design*', in 2015. The policy set the main governmental objectives for architecture and highlighted the role and importance of design quality in a social, educational, economic and cultural context[52]. One of the outputs of this policy was the development of the Lithuanian *Law on Architecture* that was approved in 2017[53]. The aim of the Architecture Law is to define and regulate the design governance process in the field of architecture in order to support and promote high-quality architecture and built environments (Commission & Directorate-General for Education Sport and Culture, 2021, p. 61).

The Lithuanian Architecture Law is broadly divided into four main areas. The first part sets the requirements, conditions, and procedures for the training of architects and their qualifications, including the rights and obligations of architects and the quality requirements applicable to their activity and its results[54]. Within this area, it also defines the qualification requirements and competence (duties and functions) of Chief municipal architects operating in municipalities.

A second part of the law establishes a set of design quality requirements to achieve well designed buildings and spaces. First, that design proposals and urban development concepts must be signed by a certified architect. Second, the obligation of design competitions for the planning or design of buildings

of architectural, urban, state, or public interest (article 13). Although a list of what is considered to be of public interest is provided, the specific works and buildings that must enter a design competition need to be adopted by each local authority. The law also defines ten criteria to be used as reference when assessing design quality (article 11):

1. urban integrity;
2. compliance with the principle of sustainable development;
3. quality of construction and created environment (ergonomics), durability;
4. innovation (use of new technologies, materials, architectural, urban solutions);
5. preservation of immovable cultural heritage;
6. adaptation of the environment to citizens - application of the principles of design for all (universal design), ensuring the mobility of human flows and the accessibility of the projected objects;
7. architectural idea;
8. development of a functional building structure;
9. aesthetics;
10. rationality of decisions, considering the optimality of the ratio of the design price of the building and the project realization price.

A third part defines the desired architectural competences of the government, the municipalities, and the Chamber of Architects. This part of the law also establishes the Regional Councils of Architecture (RCA) to 'examine the areas of architecture, spatial planning, architectural and urban heritage and other issues related to architecture, to provide recommendations and proposals to state and municipal institutions by making decisions relating to architecture, and to assess the quality of architecture' (article 18). Like design advisory boards that exist elsewhere, RCA operate at regional level and are composed of at least 13 members appointed for a three-year period by different institutions.

The Chamber of Architects plays an important role in the implementation of the law. The regulations and composition of the RCA shall be approved by the Chamber of Architects in coordination with the Ministries for Environment and Culture. In addition, the Chamber of Architects should define the harmonization of the rules and procedures of architectural competitions in coordination with the Ministry for Environment (article 13). Finally, it should represent and protect the public interest of architecture in court lawsuits, when necessary.

Catalonia (Spain) | 2017

In June 2017, inspired by the French law described above, the Catalan Parliament approved its Regional Law on Architecture - the first of this kind in Spain - that proclaims architecture as an activity of general interest and the foundation for well-being and social cohesion. It requires that government and public administrations establish actions to foster and promote architectural and urban design quality, and implement measures to promote the proper framework for action in public procurement and also as a benchmark for activities in the private sector (Catalonia, 2017)[55].

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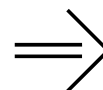
52. There was a previous policy from 2005, approved by Resolution No. 554.
53. Reference: 2017 June 8 No. XIII-425
54. In 2006, the Lithuanian government approved a Law on Architects' Chamber that regulates the establishment, functions, activities, and management of the Architects' Chamber of Lithuania.
55. Catalonia is one of the 17 Spanish autonomous communities. See: https://web.gencat.cat/

Although in the form of legislation[56], the document tends to be similar to a comprehensive policy as it sets out principles and goals – determining the public interest in architecture – as well as measures of dissemination, awareness, and knowledge of architecture. The law firstly establishes the values inherent to architecture that should be used as reference when assessing design quality (Beirak, 2019)[57]. The Catalan law aims to:

• promote the values of architecture and urbanism;
• maintain the existing built heritage and enhance the publics' knowledge of it;
• promote innovation, creativity and quality in architecture, particularly through the use of technology in the construction phase that offers integrated information on buildings;
• promote education about architecture, built heritage and their impact on quality of life;
• promote the role of synthesis and architectural innovation in building and of their potential to encourage sustainable development, energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gases;
• contribute to architecture's potential for economic growth and employment;
• establish mechanisms in administrative procurement for the organisations, bodies and entities that make up Catalonia's public sector, subject to public procurement legislation;
• encourage simultaneous and coordinated participation of all professional disciplines involved in the architectural process, to ensure that quality is a common objective and responsibility;
• safeguard architecture as a discipline which is intrinsically linked to the historical shaping of the landscape, both for its heritage and identity values as well as of environmentally friendly methods of construction.

The first part of the Catalan law establishes several measures for the dissemination of knowledge and awareness-raising initiatives to promote design quality, such as research and debate, publications, dissemination initiatives, teaching, etc. The second part focuses on the promotion of design quality in urban planning policy by furthering municipal ordinances that lay down concrete measures to improve and preserve architectural quality. In addition, it promotes the creation of awards and distinctions for good practices by stakeholders involved in the design process, establishing the 'Award for Architecture and Built Heritage in Catalonia'.

A third part introduces complementary regulations for procurement, establishing as a principle that, in tender processes, quality criteria shall prevail over price. It defines that design public tenders should be in the form of two-round design competitions and makes mandatory the establishment of juries in design tender processes to ensure that the best bid is chosen. A mandate for obligatory disclosure of jury minutes and of the bids presented is also included to ensure transparency (Ibidem).

The law also creates a new structure to oversee these mandates, the *Council of Architectural and Urban Quality of Catalonia*; an advisory and consultative body of the Catalonia administration on design quality (see section 4.5). Among other tasks, the Council should propose the criteria and technical content in terms of design quality that must be taken into account by the competent bodies in the management and contracting of architectural works. In addition, it should carry out annual evaluation reports of the results of the Architectural Law. It also establishes the possibility for municipalities to create similar consultative bodies for architectural and urban quality (Ibid.).

Campania (Italy) | 2019

Although Italy does not have a formal policy at the national level, the Regional Council of Campania approved the 'Law for the promotion of the quality of Architecture' in 2019[58]. It is the first time that an Italian region has adopted a law that promotes the quality, protection and enhancement of modern and contemporary architecture. Regional representatives of the professional associations of architects and engineers, the Departments of Architecture University of Campania and several other stakeholders participated in the drafting of the text of the law. Through this law, the region affirms that the quality of the architectural conception, the inclusion of new building and infrastructural interventions according to criteria of protection, innovation and sustainable valorisation of the natural and historical urban landscape, constitute an identity value and a regional heritage (Campania, 2019).

Some of the aims and goals that are intended to be pursued through this law are as follows:

• the pursuit of the quality of architecture through the promotion of competition procedures, the use of active participatory practices,
• the preparation of reward mechanisms with forms of incentives to support of transformative processes, through the establishment of the List of Virtuous Municipalities;
• the promotion of awareness-raising on contemporary architecture both for new buildings and for architectural restoration, building redevelopment and urban regeneration;
• the promotion of knowledge of architecture and urban planning;
• the promotion and dissemination of training and research in the architectural field;
• encouraging the participation of young designers in competitions and design opportunities.

Among the new institutions, the law establishes the 'Houses of Architecture and Design' in the cities of Campania; the first will be in Naples located in the Palazzo Penne, a building of the regional government. The law also establishes the 'Regional observatory for the quality of architectural and urban planning', operating within the administrative structure responsible for territorial governance. The observatory should prepare a report on the state of architecture in Campania every two years. Among other competences, it has the following objectives:

a) promotes technical research and innovation in the field of architectural quality;
b) proposes initiatives for the knowledge of architectural and urban culture within the region for all levels of the educational system;
c) prepares the regional list of virtuous municipalities for architectural quality;
d) proposes an architecture and design award every two years for activities and interventions carried out in the regional territory;
e) promotes and supports the diffusion of design competitions, their implementation and effectiveness in guaranteeing the creation of quality public or private works, with the task of monitoring and annually evaluating the results obtained and their good outcome;
f) prepares the collection and conservation of documentary materials relating to architecture and urban planning, as well as the archives of architects and urban planners, bodies and companies that have operated in the sector, promoting collaboration with other Italian and European documentation centres pursuing similar aims.

5.6 - The future Campania 'House of Architecture' will be located at the 15th century Penne Palace, which restoration project was presented to the public at the end of 2023, located in the old town of Naples (source: Campania Regional Government)

56. Adopted in the form of Law with the Catalan reference: Ley 12/2017 de la Arquitectura de Cataluña.
57. This include the following: a) The suitability and technical quality of the constructions; b) Improving people's quality of life, ensuring their well-being and comfort; c) The contribution to social cohesion and citizens relationship with artistic and cultural dimension; d) Adaptation to the environment and landscape of urban settlements or open spaces; e) Sustainability in the environmental, economic and social aspects, energy efficiency, etc; f) Beauty and artistic interest.
58. Legge Regionale 19/2019, "Legge per la promozione della qualità dell'architettura".

Spain | 2022

In 2020, inspired by the Catalan Law, the Spanish Ministry for Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda launched a public consultation to inform the legislative development of a future 'Law on Architecture Quality'[59]. In January 2022, the draft Law on Architecture Quality (Ley de Calidad de la Arquitectura) was approved by the Council of Ministers and sent to the National Parliament. In June 2022, it was approved by majority in the National Parliament, with no votes against, thus entering into force in Spain.

The new law establishes the public interest of architecture and introduces a few changes to the legal framework to enhance the architectural quality of public buildings and the built environment, emphasising the cultural dimension of architecture. The law stipulates that "architecture is an asset of public interest because of its contribution to the creation of cultural identity, quality of life, well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, health, its link to the protection of the safety and health of workers, consumers and users, its relevance for mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting to it, as well as its economic importance" (Spain, 2022).

The Spanish law sets a clear mandate for public authorities: architecture being a matter of public interest implies that all public authorities, within the scope of their competences, are required to promote its protection, development and dissemination. The fact that architecture is linked to other matters of public interest, such as health and public safety, quality of life and climate change, significantly strengthens the regulation of architectural services and architects' professional practice (Ibidem). The main goals of the law are: to protect architectural heritage, both historic and contemporary; to foster research, education and training in architecture; to contribute to the achievement of targets on decarbonisation, climate neutrality, circular economy, energy efficiency, use of renewable energy; to promote the application of the principle of quality in public procurement; and to promote architecture social utility to guarantee people's well-being (Ibidem).

To promote and implement architectural quality principles, all phases of the architectural design process are considered in the new law. It stipulates that all policies developed by public authorities in relation to the design, building and planning "shall be inspired by the principle of quality" (Ibidem). To foster the general interest of architecture and promote the application of the principle of quality in public procurement, the law establishes two new bodies: the *Council for Quality in Architecture* and the *House of Architecture*.

The *Council for Quality in Architecture* will act as an advisory and consultative body of the General State Administration. While its reports will not be binding, it will be a platform for the exchange of knowledge, as well as for consultation and advice on matters related to the law. The Council will aim to protect, promote and disseminate the quality of architecture, by promoting the drafting or revision of existing legislation on the subject; collecting statistical data; facilitating the digitalisation of the construction process and driving forward innovative pilot projects, as well as promoting good practices. In matters of public procurement, the Council will promote the adoption of new standards or modification of current ones to improve the quality of architecture, advise contracting bodies for the estimation of fees for the determination of the tender budgets, and help contracting bodies to develop quality evaluation criteria (Ibid.).

Recognizing the importance of disseminating the values of design quality to society in large, the law establishes a new architecture culture centre, entitled the *House of Architecture* and conceived as a museum attached to the Ministry responsible for architecture. The House of Architecture is meant as a tool for cultural diplomacy and has been entrusted with the mission to become a national and international reference point for the promotion of architecture. Among other things, it will seek to disseminate architectural culture; improve the appreciation of architecture; support the participation of citizens; serve as a forum for debate on the role of architecture; collaborate with the educational sector; take inventories, exhibitions, publications, cataloguing of works of interest; support the organisation and dissemination of awards (Ibid.).

5.7 – The new Spanish 'House of Architecture' was inaugurated in December 2023, located in 'La Arquería de Nuevos Ministerios', in Madrid (source: La Casa de la Arquitectura)

Comprehensive/strategic policies (Type 2)

The second and most common type of policy documents across Europe is the comprehensive / strategic policy on architecture. While the legislative approach was adopted by a reduced number of administrations, the comprehensive/strategic policy was adopted by the majority of the European countries/regions (see 5.4). Although policies of this type do not have binding force, they formalize architecture as an object of public policy in the form of strategy or programme, enabling public authorities to pursue quality goals and implementation measures, typically a wide range of initiatives and actions aimed at fostering spatial quality and improving design governance processes.

The first such comprehensive policy was developed by the Netherlands in 1991, as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment. It included a number of measures to promote good architecture focused on the role of the government as a contracting party and in improving the architectural climate. Following this pioneering initiative, several neighbouring countries started adopting similar policy documents on architecture, slowly expanding throughout the continent and influencing the EU institutions to adopt policy guidance on high-quality architecture and built environment (see Section 2.1).

Although each document has its own characteristics, a comprehensive/strategic policy can be described as an official policy of strategic orientation focused on the design quality of the built environment in a holistic or cross-sectorial manner, where the government defines the main goals and objectives to promote high-quality places, which are then implemented by public authorities and other stakeholders (Bento, 2017). Therefore, a comprehensive policy aims to ensure that the design quality is seen as a strategic concern across the wide range of sectoral remits that influence the design governance of the built environment. By addressing the built environment in this holistic way, governments can set high aspirations for design quality – albeit nor legally binding – in such a way that the role and responsibility of the different governmental actors and other public authorities is made explicit (Carmona, 2020).

A comprehensive architectural policy is usually initiated with the creation of an inter-ministerial working group to define the main goals, contents, and extent of the policy. In this process, the working group will look at different policy domains affecting the built environment, such as building regulations, urban development and regeneration, housing policy, planning (zoning) policy, heritage and cultural protection, public health, environmental management, etc. Besides public policy, it will look at the wider system of development and societal challenges (e.g. climate change), to define how an architectural policy can address these issues and improve the quality of the living environment on the long term by a diversified action programme.

59. For more information: https://leyarquitectura.mitma.es/

In some cases, before final approval, the comprehensive/strategic policy is submitted for public discussion, involving formal and informal consultation and audiences to different stakeholders and interested parties. This represents an opportunity to enable different governmental sectors, but the professional sector and the community, to influence policymaking on architecture and the built environment. Afterwards, the architectural policy is submitted for approval by parliament or at ministerial level and is then finally published as an official governmental policy document.

Year	Country / Region	Policy document
1991	Netherlands	Space for Architecture
1992	Norway	Surroundings as Culture: Programme for Aesthetics in Public Environment
1996	Denmark	Architecture 1996
1997	Netherlands	The Architecture of Space
1997	Norway	Aesthetics in Government Building and Constructions
1998	Finland	The Finish Architectural Policy
2001	Netherlands	Shaping the Netherlands
2001	UK Scotland	A Policy on Architecture for Scotland
2002	Estonia	The Architectural Policy of Estonia
2002	Ireland	Action on Architecture: 2002 – 2005
2004	Luxembourg	Pour une Politique architecturale
2005	Lithuania	Architectural Policy Trends in the Republic of Lithuania
2005	Netherlands	Architecture and Belvedere Policy
2006	UK Northern Ireland	Architecture and the Built Environment for Northern Ireland
2006	FI Southwest Finland	A moment's work affects a thousand years
2007	Denmark	Nation of Architecture
2007	Iceland	Icelandic Government Policy on Architecture
2007	UK Scotland	Building our Legay. Statment on Scotland's Architectural policy
2007	FI Häme	Thoughtful will be good. Architecture program in Häme
2008	Netherlands	Culture of Design. 2009-2012
2009	Ireland	Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment
2009	Latvia	Architectural policy Guidelines 2009 – 2015
2009	Norway	Architecture.now
2009	FI Helsinki-Uusimaa	Our common metropolis – Our common apoli
2012	FI Satakunta	Looking far away. Architecture policy of Satakunta
2013	Croatia	ApolitikA – National guidelines for quality and culture of building
2013	Netherlands	Building on the Strength of Design
2013	UK Scotland	Creating Places – A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland
2014	Denmark	Danish Architectural Policy. Putting people first
2014	Iceland	Cultural policy in human structure. The role of Icelandic rulers in architecture
2014	FI Helsinki-Uusimaa	Our shared metropolis. The architecture policy objectives 2014–2020
2015	Hungary	National Architectural Policy
2015	Czech Republic	Architecture and Building Culture Policy
2015	France	Stratégie Nationale pour l'Architecture
2015	Portugal	Política Nacional de Arquitectura e Paisagem
2015	Latvia	Architecture Sector Strategy 2015-2020
2015	Lithuania	Guidelines for the Development of Architecture and Design
2016	Netherlands	Working together on design strength 2017-2020
2017	Austria	Federal Guidelines on Building Culture
2020	Switzerland	Strategie *Baukultur*. Stratégie interdépartementale d'encouragement de la culture du bâti
2021	AT Carinthia	Building Cultural Guidelines of the State of Carinthia
2021	Netherlands	Spatial Design Action Program 2021-2024
2022	Finland	Towards Sustainable Architecture. Finland's Architectural Policy 2022–2035
2022	Ireland	Places for People - the National Policy on Architecture
2022	Latvia	Latvian Architecture Strategy Plan for 2022-2027
2022	Czech Republic	Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic. Update 2022
2023	Serbia	Architecture for Us - National Architectural Strategy of Serbia for 2023-2035
2024	Germany	The German Federal Government's guidelines for *Baukultur*

Table 6 - List of comprehensive architectural policies in Europe (updated from Bento, 2012)

If one compares the different policy documents, it becomes clear that comprehensive/strategic policies are based on the same principles legislative documents are: architecture is matter of public interest and the citizens' right to high-quality built environments. In this framework, all policies present a common discourse that proclaims the value of design quality for improving citizens' quality of life, highlighting that the government has the responsibility for promoting high-quality environments. Some of the polices state that a good living environment is a constitutional right of all citizens and that developing an architectural policy will provide better coherence between sectoral policies leading to better policy efficiency (Bento, 2017).

Looking across the documents, it is possible to observe that the comprehensive policies are based on a broad understanding of architecture, which includes the design of buildings, public spaces and all built elements that compose human settlements. As noted at the start of this report, architecture is an often a vague term and can have very different interpretations according to the context in which it is used. This semantic divide is exacerbated in contexts with a strong professional divide, where architecture is mainly seen as building design. When considering a broad definition, architecture is understood as the design of the built environment, which is a cross-cutting issue affected by several sectors and levels of public policies, like housing and building, urban, environmental and landscape policy.

Over the years and depending on the context, the policies' scope has been expanding and started to include other related concepts that may better convey the inter-disciplinary nature of built environment, such as spatial design in the Netherlands, place-making in Anglo-Saxon countries, designed living environment in Sweden and *Baukultur* in the Germanic states, now widely used with the Davos Declaration (see previous Section).

Country	Initial scope		New concepts	
Netherlands	Architecture and urban design	»	Spatial design	
Austria	Architecture and building culture	=	Baukultur	
Scotland	Architecture and the built environment	+	Place-making	+ more
Sweden	Architecture and design	»	Designed environment	» expanded to
Portugal	Architecture and the built environemnt	»	Architecture and landscape	= equivalent

Table 7 - Expansion of the scope of comprehensive architectural policies (source: João Bento)

Despite the differences in semantics, all policies aim to promote high-quality architecture/built environment, as a way of improving people's well-being, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and sense of identity. However, design quality as an issue of public concern can be considered a complex social problem, as it is rooted in a wide range of causes involving both private and public actors (Cousins, 2009). As such, all comprehensive policies emphasize the importance of the state leading by example and promoting a favourable climate for good design, through the implementation of a diversified policy agenda and initiatives.

Nevertheless, the specific way in which comprehensive/strategic architectural polices intend to achieve their aims is influenced by the context in which they are produced, such as legal and administrative traditions, availability of resources, people involved and the particularities of each period in time. Although the main goals and the range of the policy target areas differ for each policy, it is possible to identify six main policy dimensions: 1) leading by example; 2) sustainability and resilience; 3) creativity and innovation; 4) awareness and knowledge; 5) internationalization; and 6) architectural heritage (Bento, 2017).

5.8 - Conceptual diagram of a comprehensive/strategic architectural policy, where it is possible to organize the main goals in six broad areas of action, compromising different sectors of public administration and involving a variety of nongovernmental actors (image: João Bento)

In general terms, leading by example and awareness-raising target areas have been the backbone of almost all architectural policies. Acknowledging that the state is one of the major clients of the construction industry and one of the largest property owners, it should set an example by promoting good practices as owner, developer and user of public buildings. In addition, awareness-raising initiatives and persuasion campaigns to promote a culture of design quality across public and private stakeholders and general public has been one of the policies' main areas of intervention.

The rise of comprehensive policies on architecture (1991-2001)

Although France was the first European country to adopt a national architectural policy with the parliamentary approval of the architecture law in 1977, the French model was not followed by any other European administration - probably due to its top-down legislative nature. It was only in 1991 that the Dutch government, despite a long tradition in land-use planning and urban design[60], adopted a ground-breaking policy at national level that set high aspirations on architecture and urban design, entitled '*Space for Architecture*'. Signed by two ministries, the Dutch initiative was a pioneering high-level policy in the sense that it adopted a comprehensive approach on architecture and urban design, aiming to raise the design quality of public buildings and the built environment and bridging culture and building policy (Netherlands, 1991).

As with most innovations, this pioneering policy did not just appear out of nowhere. Ten years before, a bottom-up movement of local initiatives started to develop, giving impetus to an overall improvement of the architectural climate in the Netherlands (Ibidem). At the same time, debates were being held regarding the location of the new Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAi)[61] (Ulzen, 2007, p. 171). Officially established in 1988, the NAi was the result of a merger between three existing architectural bodies that used to work in parallel, promoting architectural initiatives with different target groups, which then decided to share resources and infrastructures.

This architectural grassroots movement that occurred throughout the 1980s was also a reflection of the dissatisfaction with the quality of buildings and urban spaces developed in the preceding decades. A huge amount of low-quality housing had been developed during the 1970s, influenced by post-war housing models in which design was not valued by the market (Figueiredo, 2010b). This discontent reinforced the idea that design quality needed to be promoted, both socially and in market terms. Another important factor was the national restructuring of the Dutch cultural policy at the end of the 1980s, which led the then Minister for Culture and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Environment to work together on a joint architectural policy, adopted in 1991[62].

Following a strategic policy approach, the first Dutch architecture policy established two main goals: to promote good practices among public authorities and to create a favourable climate for architecture and urban design (Dings, 2009, p. 133). The former intended to set the example for society at large and for development actors in particular, by developing high-quality public buildings and urban projects (Netherlands, 1991, p. 13) - whereas the latter intended to improve the architectural climate and promote a culture of design. For this purpose, a set of design institutions and a wide range of measures was put in place, supported by an inter-ministerial financial portfolio of several millions of Euros for a four-year period (Bento, 2017).

Since then, the Dutch government has been renewing its architectural policy every four years, to approve its multi-year policy budget, introducing new themes and updating its action plan. Its second policy, entitled '*Architecture of Space*', was adopted in 1996. It significantly expanded its policy scope, introducing the broader concept of 'spatial design' and focusing on the goal of promoting 'spatial quality' as a concept cutting across different disciplinary areas, such as architecture, urban planning, landscape and infrastructural design (Netherlands, 1996). One of its measures was to organize a European meeting on architecture policies, which was held one year later in Rotterdam under the Dutch EU Presidency and would lead to the EFAP network (see previous Section).

60. For a historical overview see: Dings (2009), 'Historic perspective 1900-2010', in 'Design and politics', edit by Henk Ovink & Elien Wierenga, 010 publishers. Rotterdam.
61 .After a design competition and construction, the new building of the NAI would open its doors in 1993.
62. In 1989, Hedy d'Ancona (Minister of Culture) and J.G.M. Alders (Minister for Housing, Planning and Environment) followed up the idea of developing a joint Architectural policy that could politically frame 'The Netherlands Architecture Institute' (NAi) and bring building and culture policy closer by establishing a policy platform between the two ministries.

5.9 - The Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) opened in 1993, following the merge of three architectural cultural organizations some years before, designed by Jo Coenen & Co; now is part of The New Institute (Het Nieuwe Instituut), Rotterdam (source: F.Eveleens).

Following the Dutch example, several other European countries started to develop their own national policies, namely Norway (1992), Ireland (1996), Finland (1996), Sweden (1998) and Scotland (2000). In Ireland, the idea of developing a policy originated from a conference held in Amsterdam in 1992, where board members of the Royal Institute of Architects first took note of the new Dutch policy. Back home, a small team was set up to persuade the Irish government to adopt an architecture policy (Bento, 2017, p. 173). In 1996, a consultation document was finally published that resulted in the adoption of a national policy on architecture, which recognized the importance of design quality for the Irish citizens (Ireland, 1996, p. 69)[63].
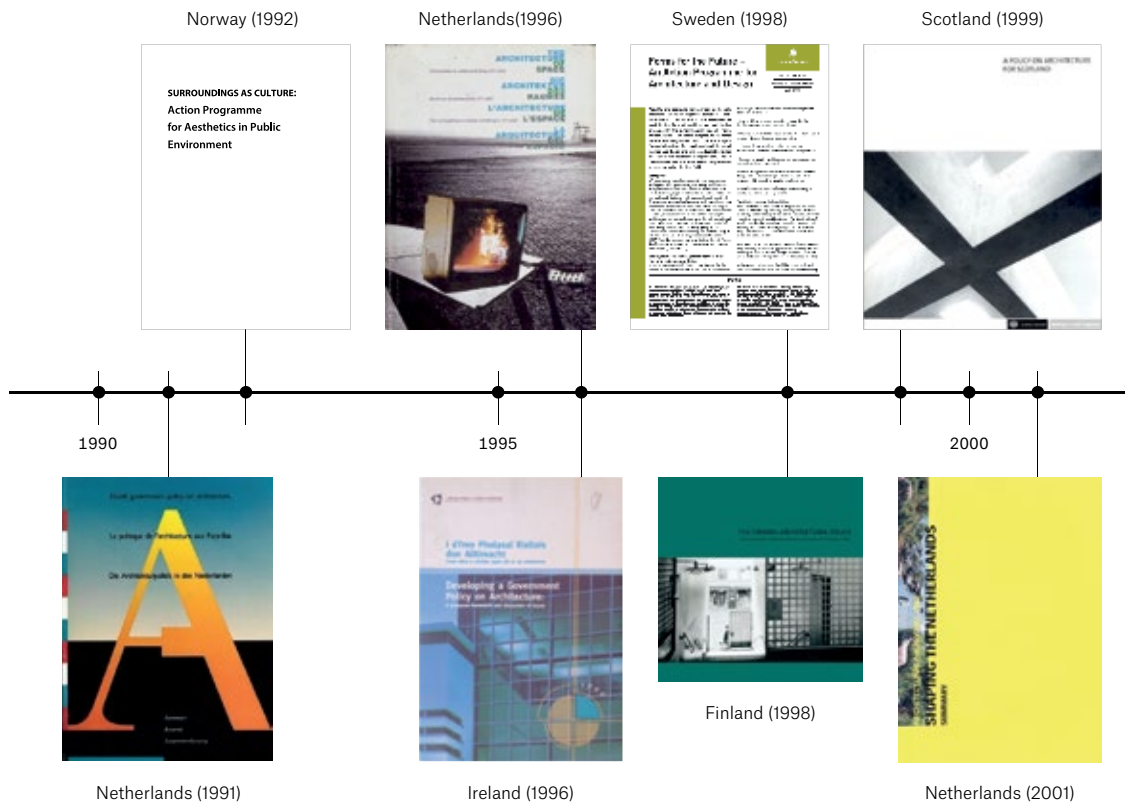
5.10 - The first wave of architecture policies development in Europe (1991-2001)

In Finland, also inspired by the Dutch policy, the policy process began with the appointment of a committee to prepare the first Finnish architectural policy in 1996. After an extensive round of comments on a draft version, the policy was officially adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1998. At the time, the Finnish policy was considered a reference document – being translated in several languages – because of its focus on young generations and on the importance of education for the creation of cultural values for the Finnish society (Finland, 1998).

With a different approach, in 1998, the Flemish government (Belgium) decided to appoint a Chief Government Architect (Bouwmeester) as an independent expert to support public clients and champion design quality across regional and local governments, operating in conjunction with the Flanders Architecture Institute (see section 4.1.2)[64].

Finally, the development of the Scottish policy started in 1997 with the devolution process, where the first Government Programme included the specific initiative: "*to develop the first ever national policy on architecture*' (Scotland, 1999)[65]. In 1999, four months after the Scottish elections, the new Executive published a framework document for public consultation (Scotland, 1999). Under the coordination of the Chief Architect's Office, a series of public meetings was held across Scotland leading to the approval of the first Scottish architecture policy, in 2001.

Looking at the ten-year period since the first Dutch policy (1991), it is possible to note that the first two Dutch policies were highly influential in inspiring other European countries to develop their own national/regional architectural policies. The emergence of architecture as a new policy domain would pass from a national to a supranational concern with the holding of European meetings on the topic, that led to the adoption of the EU *Council Resolution on Architectural Quality* in 2001, as well as the launch of the first edition of '*EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award*' in in the same year (see section 2.1).

The dissemination of architecture policies across Europe

After the first wave of architectural policies and the adoption of the EU *Councill Resolution* in 2001, the number of EU Member States and regions with comprehensive policies increased significantly. In the ten years between 2002 and 2012, Estonia (2002), Luxembourg (2004), Lithuania (2005), Northern Ireland (2006), Denmark (2007) and Latvia (2009) all adopted a comprehensive architecture policy. Following a decentralized governance system, the Finnish regions of Southwest Finland (2006), Helsinki-Uusimaa (2007), Häme (2009) and Satakunta (2012) also adopted their first policies, as did several Finnish (and Danish) cities, revealing that architecture policy was also a concern of regional and local administrations.

In parallel, several other countries that had already adopted a policy decided to revise their architectural policy strategies. Besides the Netherlands, that continued to revise its policy document every four years (2005; 2008, 2012), that list includes Scotland (2007), Norway (2009) and Ireland (2009). They all kept updating and adding new themes, revising aims and proposing new actions plans focused on promoting high-quality built environments.

Following these trends, the EU Council adopted a second policy document, the EU *Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* in 2008, that has been previously mentioned. This new EU policy highlighted the importance of architecture for sustainable development, reinforcing the Europeanization of architecture as an object of public policy and supporting the development of architectural policies by the member states (see section 2.1).

63. It was not until 2000 that an interdepartmental working group was established to define policy proposals and actions and, in 2002, Ireland's new policy on architecture was adopted under the title of Action on Architecture 2002-2005.
64. For more information see: https://www.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/
65. The idea of a design policy in Scotland was in part influenced by several major events: the new Parliament building; the Glasgow year of architecture and the establishment of a national centre for architecture and design, The Lighthouse.

Estonia (2002)   Lithuania (2005)   Denmark (2007)   Latvia (2009)

2000   2005   2010

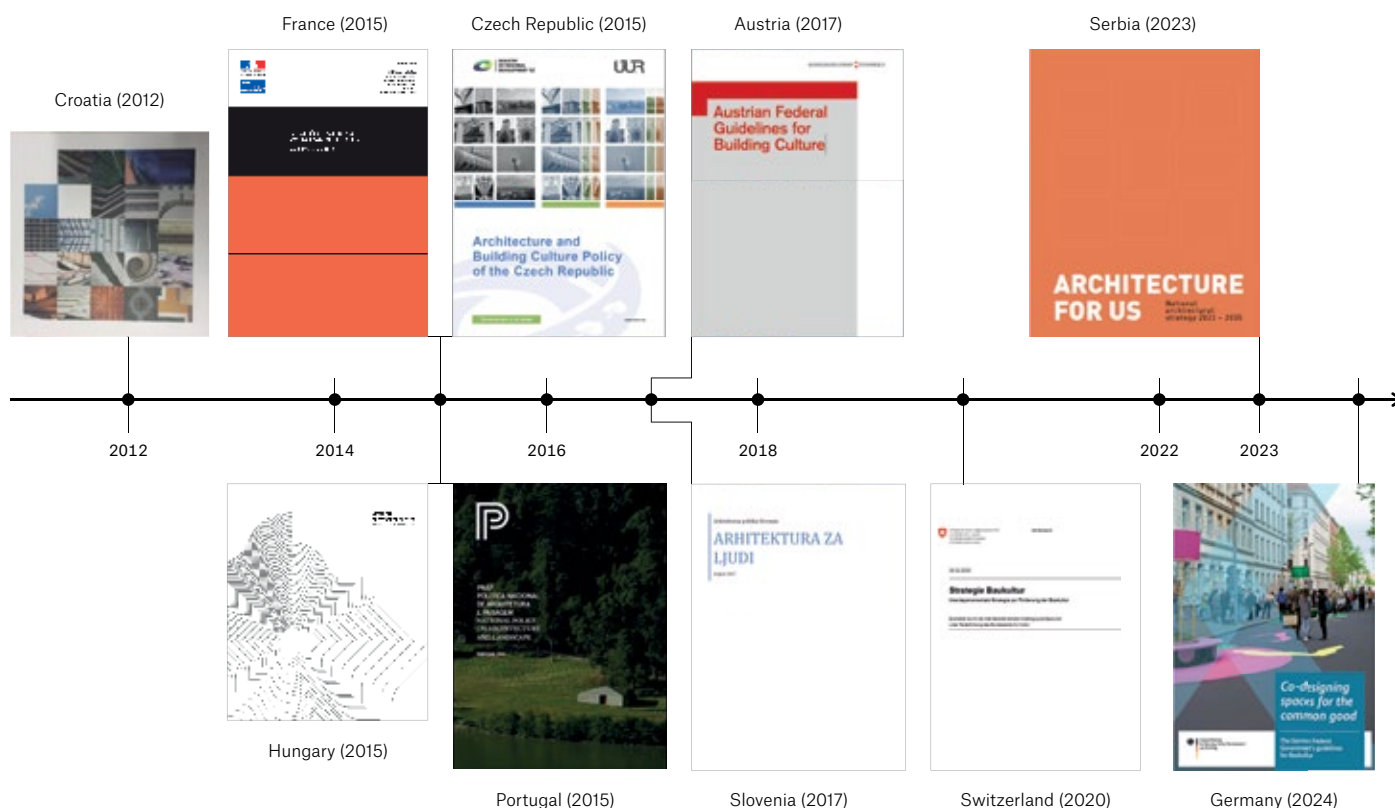Luxembourg (2004)

Northern
Ireland (2006)

Norway (2009)

5.11 - The second wave of national architecture policies development in Europe (2002-2012).

To take stock of the impact of the two European policies on the progress of national/regional policies, the EFAP promoted a Survey on Architectural Policies in Europe, in 2012 (see section 3.1). At the time of the survey, already 18 administrations (including Iceland and Norway) had an official document on architectural policy, while 14 additional administrations mentioned being at different stages of producing one; or being actively considering it.

Analysing the implementation progress of the different policy documents, the survey concluded that: "Looking at the progression of national architectural policies in the EU, like other public policies a process of Europeanization is occurring, where, through benchmarking, each country learns from the other and makes possible for greater convergence between the policies. Nevertheless, the nature and content of the policies cannot be divorced from the constitutional, administrative, and political framework in which the policy was developed". As such, the two EU resolutions seemed to be having a positive impact on encouraging states to promote design quality as precondition for improving their citizens quality of life (Bento 2012: 86).

Reflecting the diversity of administrative traditions across Europe, the survey also revealed that the architecture policies were being produced by different governmental departments according with the specific context, in most cases by the Ministries of Culture or the Environment, and less often the Public Works or Interior. In some administrations, the cross-cutting nature of architecture policy made it difficult to identify who had the responsibility for its development and implementation, as in most countries architectural policy was a shared responsibility (see section 4.1). Thus, one of the outputs of the architectural policies was the establishment of new dedicated institutions (e.g., state architects or architectural institutions) and the development of a wide range initiatives and actions that did not exist before.

Croatia (2012)   France (2015)   Czech Republic (2015)   Austria (2017)   Serbia (2023)

Hungary (2015)

Portugal (2015)   Slovenia (2017)   Switzerland (2020)   Germany (2024)

2012   2014   2016   2018   2022   2023

5.12 - Covers of the first comprehensive policies in European countries between 2012-2025

Since the EFAP survey, the number of administrations with a comprehensive policy continued to increase, where several others European countries also adopted their first policies; namely: Croatia (2012), Hungary (2015), France (2015), Portugal (2015), Czech Republic (2015), Slovenia (2017), Austria (2017), Switzerland (2020), Carinthia (2021), Serbia (2023) and Germany (2024).

Following a previous initiative by the architects' organizations and a working group's proposal, the Croatian government adopted its first policy in 2012. The policy sets high ambitions for the built environment and guidelines for future developments to achieve high architectural quality in Croatia for the period 2013-2020. The Croatian policy defined three main goals: 1) building culture as a precondition for the quality of built space; 2) achieve quality of the built environment as basis for the quality of life of every individual; 3) establish high quality architecture as an incentive for national development and progress (Croatia, 2013)[66].

Despite having a national law on architecture since 1977, after a long preparation and several reports (Castelo Branco, 2021), the French government adopted a first *National Strategy for Architecture* in 2015. This policy document establishes six clear objectives, most of them similar to comprehensive policies of other countries, including an aspiration to raising awareness and develop knowledge on architecture for the general public and all public and private urban stakeholders. These objectives are broken down into 30 concrete measures (France, 2015).

66. The policy is currently being revised for the period 2023-2030.

In the same year (2015), after a long process, Portugal, Czech Republic and Hungary also approved their first policies. In the European panorama, the Portuguese policy is exceptional in combining architecture and landscape policy, aiming at protecting the ecological function of the landscape, improving the quality features of built-up areas, and promoting the identity of place (Portugal, 2015). Two years later (2017), Slovenia and Austria also adopted a national policy for the first time. In 2020, after a broad public consultation period, the Swiss Federal Council formally adopted its first Federal *Baukultur* policy (see below).

More recently, Serbia (2023) also adopted a national policy, entitled "*Architecture for Us - National Architectural Strategy of Serbia for 2023-2035*". The strategic document was drafted by the Unit for Architectural Policy, Sector for Housing and Architectural Policy, Communal Activities, and Energy Efficiency, within the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI), and then proposed to the Serbian Government for adoption.

Baukultur movement

Recently, the Germanic countries have been offering some significant leadership across the continent through promotion of the notion of *Baukultur*, which is a broad concept that can be translated into English as 'building culture', that encompasses any human activity that changes the built environment, at any scale from architectural detailing to spatial planning, referring not just to the built environment itself but also to the processes that create it[67].

Austria
Although Austria had already had a tradition of supporting architecture culture initiatives, in 2000 a bottom-up movement started promoting initiatives about architecture and the built environment, under the concept of *Baukultur* (building culture). The bottom-up movement in Austria comprised of a wide range of professionals, public institutions, and related stakeholders, which led to a parliamentary debate on the topic of architecture policy and building culture (2004), followed by the publication of the first Austrian *Building Culture Report*, in 2006.

One year later (2007), the Austrian Parliament agreed on the establishment of an Advisory Board for Building Culture (*Beirat für Baukultur*) as a consulting body of the Federal government, in which all ministries, representatives of the federal states and other stakeholders could propose measures to improve architecture and building culture in Austria[68]. One of the first measures was to continue the development of a *Baukultur* report at a quinquennial rhythm, where a second report was published in 2011 and a third in 2017.

In 2017, following a proposal of the Advisory Board, the Austrian Council of Ministers adopted its first '*Federal Guidelines on Building Culture*'. The Federal Guidelines highlight that a comprehensive strategy is required at the federal level in order to anchor building culture across all departments at the federal, state and local levels. Including six areas of action and 20 guidelines, the policy aims to promote building culture and create a broader societal awareness of its principles. It particularly aims to appeal to leaders in politics, business, and public administration, including through promoting awareness and public participation, research and the transfer of knowledge and expertise, as well as coordination and cooperation across governmental layers (Austria, 2017).

2006   2011   2017   2021

5.13 - Cover of the four Austrian Building Culture Reports (2006-2021)

In 2021, the Fourth Austrian Building Culture Report proposed the creation of an *Agency for Building Culture*. Among other functions, this would implement a dedicated new funding framework with a focus on stimulating contacts between actors in the existing broad ecology of *Baukultur*-related initiatives and organizations, ultimately to promote a high-quality building culture. The proposed funding would focus on four fields: funding of building culture for cities and communities; research funding; advice and cooperation; and quality development (Austria, 2021).

In the same year, the State of Carinthia adopted its first "*Building Cultural Guidelines*" becoming the only federal state in Austria to have implemented the federal building culture guidelines at the state level in order to take *Baukultur* aims into account in the long term.

Germany

Since 2000, Germany has also been very active in promoting discussions, debates and publications on architecture and building culture under the concept of building culture (*Baukultur*). In 2000, the German Federal Building Ministry launched *The Architecture and Baukultur Initiative* to stimulate and focus public discussion of the quality of planning and building in Germany. The initiative promoted a series of workshops and events addressing *Baukultur* in Germany. Two reports were published, the first in 2001, entitled, *Status Report on Building Culture in Germany. Initial Situation and Recommendations*; and the second in 2005, entitled *2nd Status Report on Building Culture in Germany – Information, arguments, and concepts*[69].

In 2006, the German Federal government approved an Act establishing the Federal Foundation of *Baukultur*[70]. The Foundation is based in Potsdam and works as an independent and active platform for all issues relating to architecture and *Baukultur* (see Section 4.2.3). During a meeting of the EFAP held in Hamburg in April 2007, the federal government launched a third publication, entitled *Baukultur! – Planning and Building in Germany*. In November 2014, the Foundation published its first *Baukultur* biennial report (2014-15), repeating this status reports every two years, highlighting different subject areas of *Baukultur* (City and village, Public spaces, Culture of Conversion, and Infrastructures), the latest of which was published in 2024.

In addition, the Federal Government provides support several initiatives related with this policy area, such as the *International Building Exhibitions* (IBA)[71]. Moreover, the Federal Ministry is conducting research through the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development on matters of *Baukultur*. At the state level, there is also a wide range of *Baukultur* initiatives that is being led by the different state governments (Länder), such as delivering awards, supporting cultural foundations and NGOs, promoting a culture of design competitions, providing subsidies for design advisory boards, among others.

In this framework, in 2019, the German federal government announced its intention to develop a national policy on *Baukultur*, to be submitted for public consultation, based on the Davos Declaration (see section 2.3). In 2022, the German Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building set up a working group and an advisory board for the drafting of the first Federal Guidelines for *Baukultur* in Germany. Two years after, the guidelines "Co-designing spaces for the common good" where adopted by the German Federal Government in 2024. The document includes 8 guidelines to be followed by the several federal departments.

5.14 - Cover of the first German Federal Government's Guidelines "Co-designing spaces for the common good" (2024)

67. This means that baukultur is a holistic concept that includes all aspects of the built environment design involving a wide range of actors and stakeholders, which integrates architecture, civil engineering, urban and regional planning, heritage conservation, landscape architecture, interior design and art for public buildings (Baukultur! Planning and Building in Germany, 2007).
68. The Advisory Board has 28 members, including representatives from all federal ministries, the federal real estate company and the federal monuments office, cities and municipalities as well as 10 external experts.
69. GERMANY, Status Report on Building Culture in Germany. Initial Situation and Recommendations; German Ministry for Transport, Building and Housing, Berlin, 2001.
70. For more information: http://www.bundesstiftung-baukultur.de/
71. For more information: https://urbanmaestro.org/example/international-building-exhibition-iba/

Switzerland

Outside the EU, following two initiatives promoted by the Association of Engineers and Architects (SIA)[72], the Swiss federal government decided to develop its first policy for *Baukultur* in 2015[73]. In 2018, the Federal Office of Culture invited the European ministries of culture for an international conference, which resulted in the Davos Declaration (see section 2.3.1). In 2020, after a broad public consultation period, the Federal Council formally adopted its first Federal *Baukultur* policy, entitled 'Interdepartmental policy for the promotion of *Baukultur*'.

The Swiss *Baukultur* policy places particular importance on the federal government setting the example and promoting a high-quality building culture. The policy connects all design-related operations of different federal offices, defining seven strategic goals and forty-one measures addressing aspects of public engagement, capacity-building, and cooperation (ADD ref, 2020). An interdepartmental working group was set up to improve communication and coordination as well as to cooperate with relevant stakeholders (see 4.5). In 2021, a network exchange platform, *Forum Baukultur*, was established, that gathers representatives of public administration, academia and civil society to discuss objectives and measures to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation.

Architectural policy revisions: a new impetus

Like in the previous decade, in the 2010s several European countries and regions that already had a formal architectural policy decided to review and adopt a second- (or third-) generation policy documents, adding new themes and updating their action programmes. This is the case of The Netherlands (2013, 2016, 2021), Scotland (2013), Denmark (2014, 2025), FI Helsinki-Uusimaa (2014), Latvia (2015, 2022), Czech Republic (2022), Ireland (2022) and Finland (2022).

In the Netherlands, after a period of severe economic recession, a new governmental approach marked a shift in the way architectural policy had been implemented in the last 20 years. Following the publication of five policies, the scope of attention was expanded with the adoption of an *action agenda* towards stimulating spatial design in relation to societal challenges. Adopted since then as an action programme, the sixth policy version (2013-2016) defined a 'compact basic cultural infrastructure' consisting of a single stimulation fund and a single cultural institute. Nevertheless, the goal of excellence in commissioning remained, as well as that of early inclusion of design in the policy processes of national programs and projects. The mission of the Chief Government Architect, which was referred previously (section 4.1.2), was also retained. Signed by two ministries, the eight and most recent Dutch action agenda was adopted in 2021, with the main goal of fostering the use of spatial design to promote high-quality living environments.
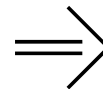
5.15 - Cover of the most recent Dutch architectural policy 'Action programme Spatial Design 2021-24' (source: Netherlands, 2021. English version)

In 2013, Scotland renewed its architectural policy for the third time, producing the document titled '*Creating Places, A policy Statement on Architecture and Place for Scotland*'. The new Scottish policy merged the second architecture policy (2007) with the urban design policy (2002) in a single policy strategy focused on the concept of placemaking, promoting the same issues but with a broader policy agenda. Lithuania also adopted a new policy in 2015, that was followed by the approval of national Law on Architecture in 2017, overlapping the first two policy approaches: legislative and comprehensive/strategic policy (see previous section).

The Danish government also reviewed and adopted a new architectural policy in 2014, focusing on citizen involvement, environmental and social sustainability, and the maintenance of buildings in rural districts. In 2025, the Danish government published a new architecture policy developed in cooperation with an expert group of stakeholders, setting a bold direction for sustainable urban planning, biodiversity, and community-driven design.

Since 2009, there have been 3 comprehensive architectural policies and strategies in Latvia, one after the other: the first, Architectural Policy Guidelines 2009-2015, which served as the basis for the Architectural Strategy of Latvia 2020; the second, the Architecture Sector Strategy 2015-2020. (approved by the Minister for Culture); and the later, the Latvian Architecture Strategy 2022-2027, approved by the Minister for Culture in 2022.

Ireland also revised its architectural policy in 2022, entitled 'Places for People'; outlining ways to promote and embed quality in architecture and the built environment. The new Irish policy aims to boost public engagement with architecture and empower the architectural profession, especially within the public service. It also aims to raise design quality and improve data and research on the built environment (Ireland, 2022). In the same year, the Czech Republic also revised and updated its policy, entitled "*Architecture and Building Culture Policy*".

After a long consultation process and twenty years from its first policy, Finland also revised its architectural policy in 2022, entitled '*Towards Sustainable Architecture*'. With a strategic nature, the new architectural policy (named Apoli) offers a 'comprehensive perspective on the goal-oriented development of Finland's built environment' (Finland, 2022). Led by two ministries, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the aim of the new policy is to strengthen cooperation between different stakeholders in Finland. In this context, *Apoli* does not create new regulations for the design and building sector but defines strategic directions for all parties that have an impact on the built environment, identifies priority challenges and proposes measures to positively influence and steer public and private actors towards specific outcomes in terms of the design of the built environment (ibidem).

Based on a startegic policy approach, a set of initiatives that aims to achieve sustainability objectives though persuasion, negotiation and information are established, including a variety of actions such as campaigning, promotion, research, education, training, information and communication. Apoli also introduces a multidimensional concept - architectural sustainability - which contributes to the ongoing international discussion on how to improve construction quality and increase the appreciation of the built environment as part of culture (Ibidem).

72. See: https://www.sia.ch/de/themen/baukultur/
73. This decision was foreseen on the Swiss Federal policy on the promotion of culture 'Cultural Message 2016-2020', in December 2015: https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20140096
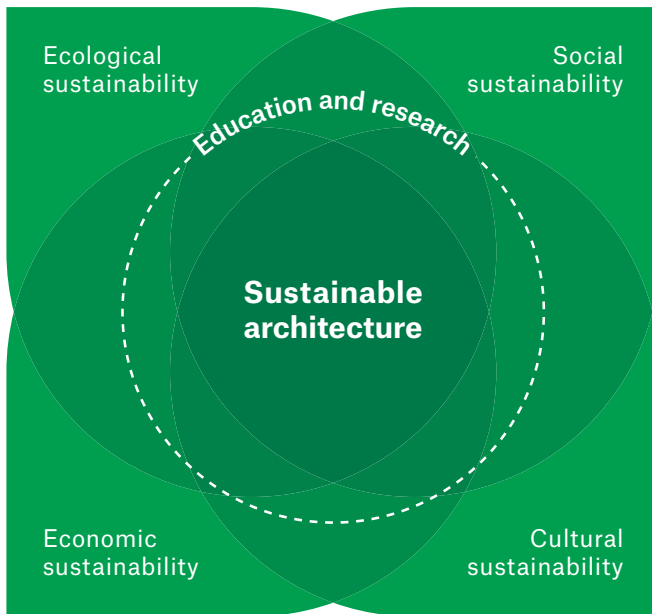
5.16 - Conceptual framework of 'sustainable architecture' of the new Finnish policy (source: adapted from Finland, 2022)

Sectoral policies (Type 3)

The third type consists of official documents outlining governmental policy on architecture and urban design with a sectoral dimension, involving fewer departments and functioning within specific government responsibilities, such as urban planning, cultural heritage, environment, or public buildings. Although other European administrations may also have official architectural policies with a sectoral dimension, only five made explicit reference to them in the survey: England (UK), Wales (UK), Flanders (BE), Brussels-Capital (BE) and Wallonia-Brussels Federation (BE).

England (UK)

Although government guidance on design in England goes back to at least 1966 (for a history of aesthetic control in England, see: Punter, 1986) one of the first attempts to define a national design policy in England began in the early 1990s by John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, with the government discussion paper *Quality in Town and Country* (published in 1994). The initiative intended to raise awareness and promote understanding of the importance of good design and quality in buildings and in the built environment as a whole (England, 1994). One of its main initiatives was the *Urban Design Campaign*, launched in 1995 to encourage a wider debate, particularly at the local level, about urban design and its contribution to enhancing the built environment. It promoted the exchange of ideas, proposals and local experience and thereby drew attention to urban design considerations at an early stage of the development process. Following the work of the Urban Task Force, chaired by the architect Richard Rogers, to devise a national strategy to promote the urban revival of British cities, which concluded with the report '*Towards an Urban Renaissance*' (UTF, 1999), the government decided to set up the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in 1999, a new arm's length organization dedicated to championing, promoting, and advocating for design quality across government and beyond (Macmillan, 2004).

Over its 11 years of operation, CABE made a huge effort to raise the standards of design quality in the built environment, championing and advocating design quality and researching and producing evidence on the value of good design (Carmona et al., 2017). However, in 2011, the Government of the time removed CABE's funding to reduce public spending. As a reaction, several institutions and individuals have come together to form the *Place Alliance*, an organisation promoting better places and quality environments and pressing

2021

2022

5.17 - English National Design Guide (2021) and National Model Design Code (2022).

for political action from the government. This is a loose network of interested parties with a mission to campaign for place quality in England, largely through the production and dissemination of research evidence[74].

In 2018, the English government established a framework setting out national expectations on design. The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that design quality matters and that planning authorities should drive up standards across all forms of development, providing associated national guidance, which includes a *National Design Guide* (2020) and a *National Model Design Code* (2021), to support the use of design codes in the planning system[75]. In 2021, amongst other initiatives, the English Government set up a new *Office for Place* to lead and foster a larger culture change on design.

Wales (UK)

In 2002, the Welsh government reinforced architectural and design concerns in the *Technical Advice Note 12: Design*, which aimed to provide advice on how to promote 'sustainability through good design' as part of the planning process[76]. Since its adoption, TAN 12 has undergone several revisions, the latest in March 2016. More recently, the revised Planning Policy Wales (edition 11) from 2021 highlights the value of good design to achieve better places and defines a set of objectives of good design to be taken in consideration in the planning process.

5.18 - Welsh Technical Advice Note 12: Design
(versions 2009 and 2016)

74. For more information: http://placealliance.org.uk/
75. For more information: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design
76. For more information: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan12/?lang=en

Also in 2002, the Welsh Government established a *Design Commission for Wales* (DCFW), to champion high standards in architecture and urban design and enhance the built environment in Wales. In order to do so, throughout its twenty years of operation, the DCFW provides design advice to the public and private sectors and promotes and campaigns for the benefits of good design across the country. DCFW provides design support for commissioned clients by helping and guiding them during the early stages of the brief's development as well as assistance in securing the right design team and national design review services for early consultation on plans and projects, plus access to independent multi-disciplinary experts. DCFW also offers specialized training for local authorities, professionals, and practitioners (e.g., accreditation for Building for Life 12 Wales)[77]. It also organizes and promotes several events and networks to raise awareness, stimulate wider debate and communicate the benefits of good design. In addition, it produces a wide range of publications and online case studies about design and the design process.
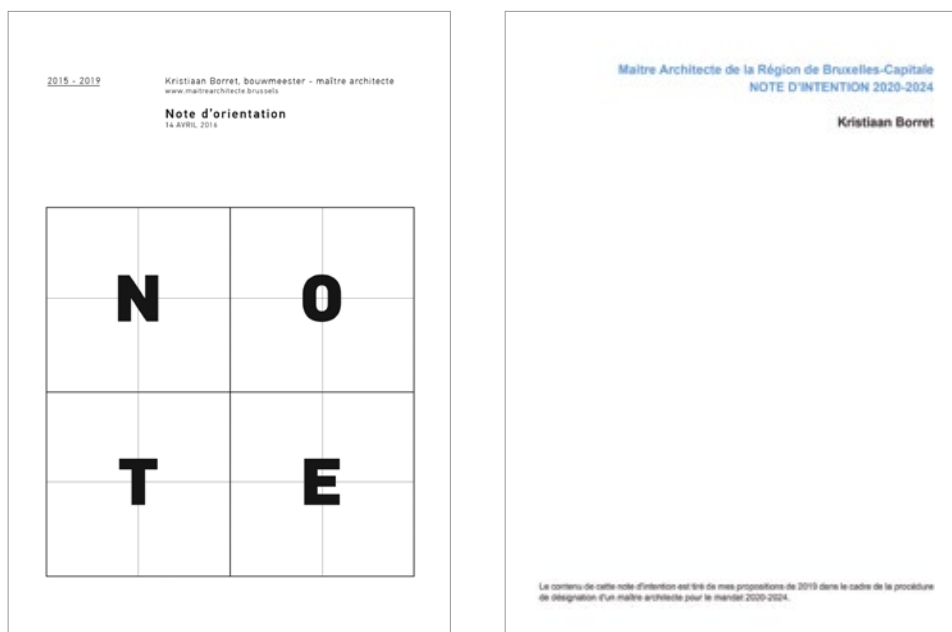
Flanders (Belgium)

Although Flanders does not have a comprehensive/strategic policy document, in 1999, the Flemish Government created the position of Government Architect (Bouwmeester) to provide long-term support to the regional government in preparing and implementing an architectural policy that promotes high-quality architecture and built environments in the region (Schreurs, 2000, p. 63). Within this remit, the Government Architect provides independent advice across Flemish public administration at both regional and local levels. One of the office's core tasks is to provide support and guidance to public officials on development projects and to actively contribute to the development of policy, advice and initiatives related to social challenges and their implications and possibilities in terms of high-quality design and construction (see box 4.2).

In this framework, every four years the Flemish Government Architect presents a policy document to the government for approval, defining their ambition for the region and main lines of work for their mandate. The latest policy document is entitled: 'Ambition memorandum of the Flemish Government Architect 2020-2025: *Creating opportunities for meeting*'.
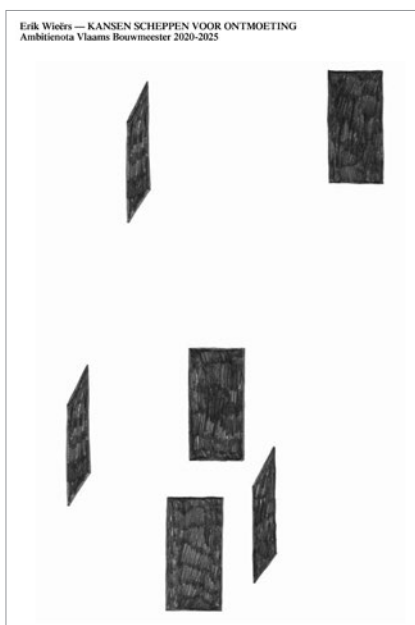
5.19 - The latest two policies of the Flemish Government Architect (2017-20 / 2020-2025)

5.20 - Front cover of the two latest policies of the Government Architect (Bouwmeester) of Brussels-Capital Region (2015-19 / 2020-24)

Brussels-Capital (Belgium)

Like the case of Flanders, the Government of Brussels-Capital Region also created the position of Government Architect (Bouwmeester Maître Architecte – BMA) in 2009. The mission of the Brussels Government Architect is to promote the quality of the built environment, both architecturally and in terms of urban planning / public space design in the region, thus driving forward Brussels' ambitions in urban development. With a small team employed by the region planning authorities, the BMA also acts as an semi-independent position, helping, advising, and encouraging public and private clients to pay attention to design quality, using a variety of informal tools that are explored in the next chapter[78].

The BMA of Brussels-Capital also issues a policy document, the latest is entitled, "*Note d'orientation*", that establishes the key principles for its mandate for 2020-24. Since 2019, the Brussels planning legislation CoBAT (Code Bruxellois de l'Aménagement du Territoire, article 11) establishes officially the position of the Government Architect (*Bouwmeester*) and imposes the need for design review by the BMA for all building permit applications above 5000m².

77. For more information: https://dcfw.org/
78. For more information: http://bma.brussels/

Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium)

Although Wallonia-Brussels Federation does not have a comprehensive architectural policy document, it has been pursuing the same goals through the establishment of dedicated division, the 'Architecture Unit" (Cellule architecture), in 2007. The Architecture Unit aims to promote architectural quality in Wallonia-Brussels articulated through three main objectives:

1. *Guarantee architectural quality in buildings and spaces accessible to the public*. To achieve this, the Architecture Unit has developed a series of standard documents in the form of a practical guide to facilitate the work of local operators (choice of procedure, terms of reference, timeline, organization of the jury, pre-analysis framework for the files, attribution, etc.). It also provides a support service to public clients for the designer designation contracts (assistance with the drafting of programs, identification of constraints, establishment of favourable conditions for the smooth running of teams' competition, communication, etc.) (see 5.16);

2. *Support and develop the integration of works of art in public buildings*;

3. *Promote architecture as a cultural discipline* through a policy of implementation and support for both public and private initiatives involved in the identification, promotion and enhancement of architecture and associated disciplines.

In this framework, the Ministry for Culture adopted a Wallonia-Brussels Federation cultural policy in 2017 under the title "Cultural entrepreneurship and methods of financing culture", where it defined policy recommendations and established the financial framework for the different cultural sectors in the region, including the role of architecture and design as a cultural discipline[79].
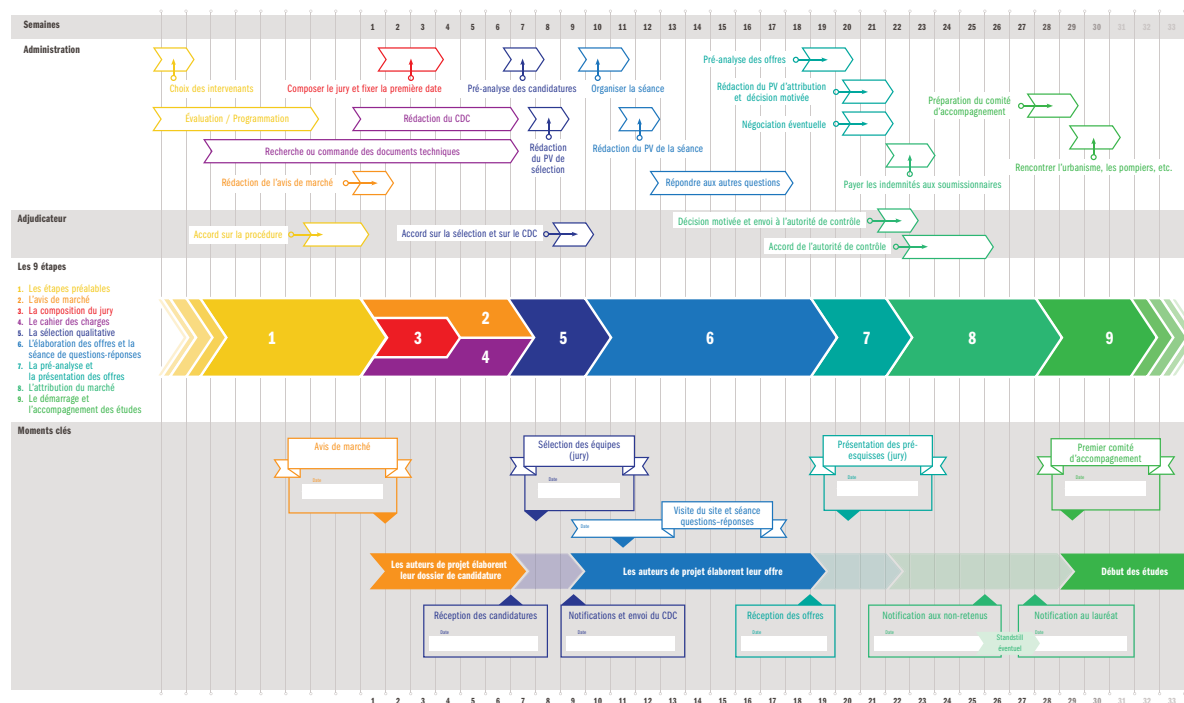
5.21 - Wallonia-Brussels Federation 'Practical Guide to Architectural Contracting'
(fr. Guide Pratique des Marches d'Architecture) is an online tool intended to inform and advise
public contracting (see: marchesdarchitecture.be/; source: Thomas Moor)

More recently, the Ministry for Culture of Wallonia-Bruxelles established the *Cultural Institute of Architecture Wallonia-Brussels* (ICA-WB) in 2019, to create a meeting place and promote architecture in its broadest sense to professionals and wider audiences, including architectural, landscape and urban approaches and projects that promote the construction of a high-quality built environment[80].

Ireland (Arts Council)

After a two-stage consultation process, the Arts Council of Ireland adopted an architecture policy, entitled *Championing Architecture*, setting a strategic action plan to champion architecture culture and promote the benefits of high-quality architecture. Architecture has been a designated artform in Ireland since the first Arts Act 1951, giving the Arts Council a unique statutory responsibility for the development of architecture as an artform. The Arts Council developed a new vision 2021 which compliments the National Policy on Architecture by supporting the creative practice of architects, championing architectural culture and promoting the benefits from high-quality architecture in their everyday lives.

5.22 - The Architectural Policy of the Arts Council of Ireland (2021-25)

The Irish Arts Council has been delivering a funding programme since 2010, under the title '*Engaging with Architecture Scheme*'. The objective of the scheme is to support innovative and high-quality initiatives that specifically aim to enhance and extend the public's experience of and engagement with architecture. The scheme finances cultural projects and initiatives, and is open to individuals, local authorities, and organizations[81].

79. Ministère de la Culture de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles entitled: "Bouger la lignes, Coupole - Entrepreneuriat culturel et modes de financement de la culture", 2017.
80. For more information: https://ica-wb.be/
81. For more info: https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/engaging-with-architecture-scheme/

5.1.2 Policy budget

In terms of budget for architecture policies, only a small number of the countries indicated having an associated annual budget for its architectural policy implementation. One of the reasons for the absence of information is probably the difficulty of producing an annual average for the state's support for architecture, as categorising different sources of funding across policy sectors is not an easy task. In addition, the amount of resources available for policy implementation varies across the countries, where several contextual factors need to be considered to have a complete figure of the real amount of public investment in the promotion of design quality and architecture (e.g. several countries have architectural cultural centres or arms-length design commissions supported by public funding that are not considered in its architectural policy budget, while in other administrations this might be included in the policy budget).
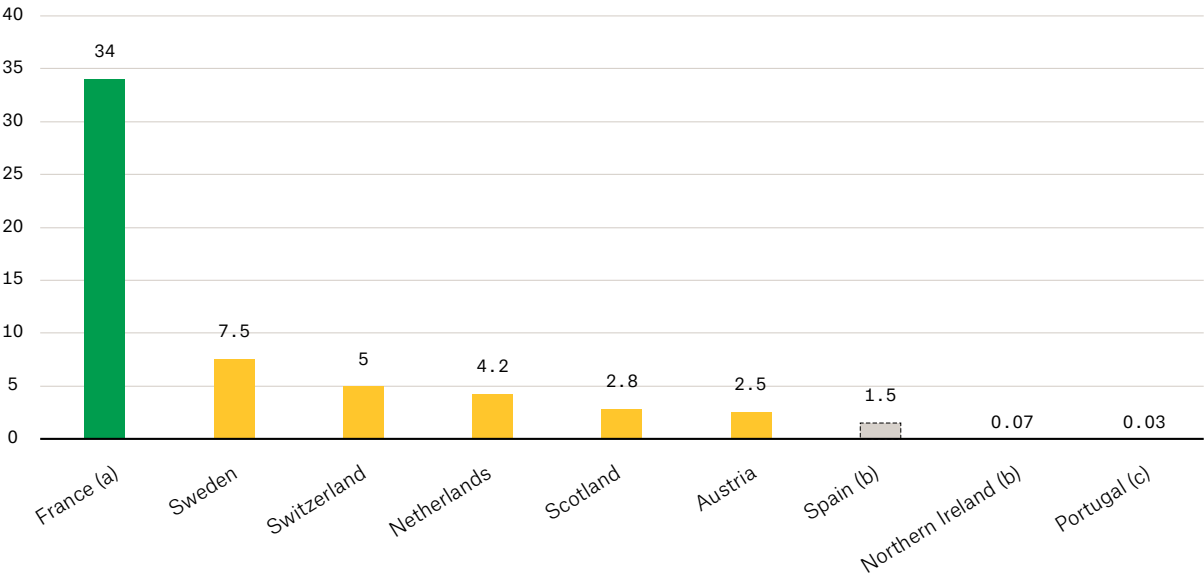
a) Including architecture and heritage sites.
b) Estimated annual budget for architectural and design promotion.
c) Annual budget for a policy educational project (2023-25).

5.23 - Architectural policy annual budget (average) in different European jurisdictions in million Euros (information collected by the ACE Survey in 2022)

Looking at the numbers, the first point to be made is that the French annual budget (34 million Euros) is very high compared with the other countries – that is because it comprises the annual budget for architecture and heritage sites (e.g., architectural promotion and heritage conservation grants), as well as the operational costs of the national cultural centre of architecture and heritage (Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine).

When summarizing funding, including administrative grants to authorities, Sweden presents the highest annual budget for implementing its designed living environment policy (around 7,5 million Euros), that is divided into different assignments to the main national public agencies in charge of the architectural and designed living environment policy:

• *The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning* (Boverket) has since 2018 the governmental assignment to coordinate and to strengthen the work within architecture and designed living environment policy (14,2 million SEK per year); including work with the Council for sustainable cities;

• *The National Centre for Architecture and Design* (ArkDes) has the assignment to pursue the national goals for architecture and design policy and to follow up the policy's impact in the area beyond their assignment to be a museum and to fulfil other obligations related to be an authority (5.6 million Euro annually). ArkDes also receives an additional of 0.4 million Euros annually to provide a research function for designed living environment;

• *Form/Design Center* in Malmö responsible for coordinating south of Sweden (an NGO) was given the assignment to promote and provide a meeting place for architecture, design and arts and crafts, as well as to collaborate with relevant actors in the field (3 million SEK);

• The Swedish government has also decided on specific, and time limited, government assignments within the designed living environment policy, such as financial support for innovative and sustainable community building projects in two northern counties of Sweden[82].

Following Sweden, the Swiss Federal Office of Culture presents the second highest annual budget for implementing its *Baukultur* policy (5 million Euros per year). Stemming from a broad concept, the Swiss *Baukultur* policy budget supports activities of public and non-governmental organisations (association, foundations, etc.) or projects (applied research, awareness rising, educational, participation, etc.) that may contribute to the *Baukultur* policy aims.

With a similar figure, the Netherlands assign an budget of 4.5 million Euros per year to implement the '*Architecture and Spatial Design Action Programme*' provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (MECS) and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (MIKR). The largest share goes to the Stimulus Programme, whith an annual budget of €2.4 million. This is followed by the budget for the Board of Government Advisors of the with €1.2 million per year[83]. There is also €450,000 per year for the Design Agenda and the Design Dialogue, and the remaining funds (€1.3 million) are available for the Interdepartmental Platform, the Spatial Design Guide, strengthening of competences (including the Golden Pyramid Government award) and the supplementary design-based research for the structural application of design within the Government. In connection with the Design Agenda, the Ministries report annually to the House of Representatives on the progress and impact of the Action Programme.

82. Within their assignments the Swedish authorities The National Heritage Board (RAÄ) and Public Art Agency Sweden also contribute to implement the policy for designed living environment. For example:
  - The National Heritage Board (RAÄ), was given three government assignments to implement the policy: Cultural-historical values in the planning and construction process; Building-related public art, Knowledge-raising initiatives, together with The Swedish Arts Council; Building-related public art, Methodological support for cultural-historical valuation, also together with The Swedish Arts Council;
  - Public Art Agency Sweden received three assignments to implement the policy: How visual or design can be integrated when the state builds (reported 2021); Knowledge hub public art (reported 2020); and Public art as a cultural heritage (reported 2019);
  - RAÄ, ArkDes and Public Art Agency Sweden shall annually report on implemented initiatives and results in the work with the implementation of the policy for designed living environment, both within the respective authority and in collaboration with Boverket.
  Other initiatives that can be mentioned are those that the state research council Formas has made, such as for example, Designed living environment health and wellbeing (Gestaltad livsmiljö för hälsa och välbefinnande - Formas) and Artists and researchers take on public spaces and living environments in ten new research projects (Konstnärer och forskare tar sig an offentliga rum och livsmiljöer i tio nya forskningsprojekt - Formas).
83. From this, €480,000 is provided by the MECS and the MIKR, and the remainder is contributed by other departments.

Scotland (UK) comes in fourth place with an allocated annual budget of almost 3 million Euros for implementing its '*Architecture and Place Policy programme*'. Although the budget has varied over time and is split across different initiatives, much of this budget is to support the operations of the arm's length Architect and Design Scotland (A+DS), the Scottish national champion of architecture, urbanism and placemaking (see section 4.1.3).

This is followed by Austria with an annual budget of € 2.5 million, which is divided in two blocks: the budget for *Baukultur* advisory board (€ 300.000,00 per year) and the budget for the Funding for Architecture & Design (€ 2.2 million) to support activities in the field (e.g. subsidies for the Architecture Houses operating in the nine regions across the country).

Although in Finland there is no annual budget associated with the architecture policy, according to the report of the Centre for Cultural Policy Research Cupore (2021), the authors estimate that the architecture sector received just over € 4 million in state funding in 2019, where the largest support goes to the *Architecture Information Centre* (ArchInfo) operations (Jakonen et al., 2021, p. 46). This indicates that the absence of information about the annual architectural policy budget does not mean that there is no public investment in the cultural promotion of architecture and design as in Finland, and similarly in some countries there is already a structured cultural infrastructure in place supporting and promoting architecture quality.
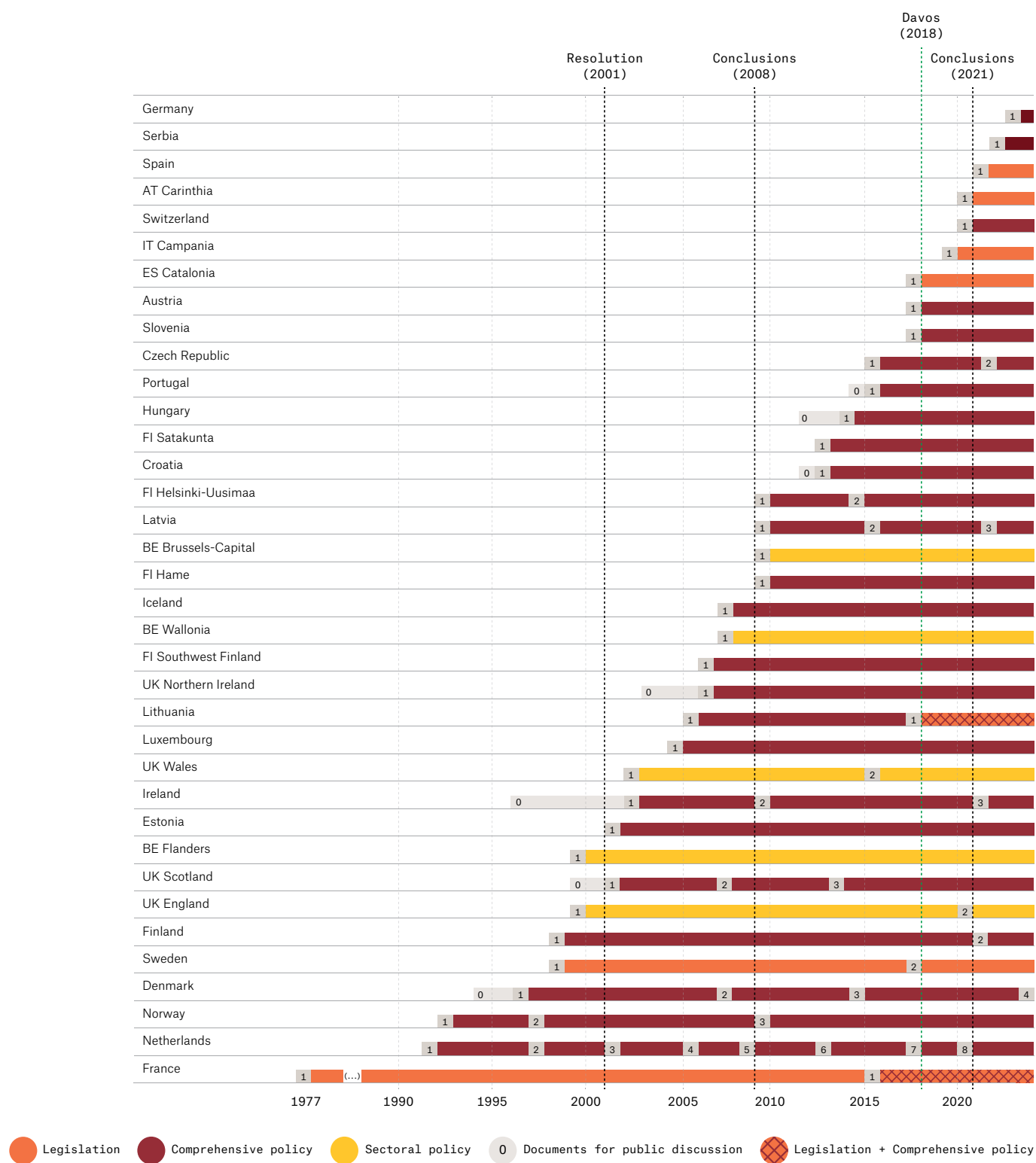
As another example, in Spain, a necessarily fragmented response is employed: within the spirit of the Spanish Law, approximately €50 million per year is allocated to the restoration of architectural heritage and €1.5 million to activities of entities that promote architectural quality[84]. In addition, all the Spanish regions allocate financial resources to architectural heritage. As an example, the Regional Ministry of Culture of the Government of Catalonia allocates about €2.000.000 per year to heritage restoration, where there is also a budget at the regional level for the promotion of contemporary architecture. In addition, the new Spanish Architecture Law creates two new institutions, "The House of Architecture" and "The National Council on High Quality Architecture", their associated budget will be defined soon.

In Northern Ireland (UK), although its architecture and built environment policy also does not have an associated budget, there is an allocated annual budget of around 70.000€ per year to support the Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment (MAG), that supports the policy implementation. MAG has been effective in supporting the policy in a number of areas, such as: providing design reviews; developing an approach to developing plans for high street revival; influencing brief preparation of procurement to provide better outcomes; brokerage of nationally significant projects, etc[85].

In Portugal, although its national architectural policy also does not have an implementation budget, recently a specific budget was allocated to the implementation of a three-year policy program that aims to develop and implement a national education strategy for architecture and landscape focused on young generations and school environments.

5.1.3 Implementation progress

Looking at the empirical data, it is relevant to emphasize that in the last 30 years there has been a remarkable growth on the number of administrations developing a formal policy on architecture at national and regional level. This number has been increasing since the early nineties and is expected to continue to grow in the following years. Despite the differences in approaches, soon Europe will be covered with national/regional policies on architecture.

Davos
(2018)

Resolution
(2001)

Conclusions
(2008)

Conclusions
(2021)

Germany							1
Serbia							1
Spain							1
AT Carinthia							1
Switzerland							1
IT Campania						1	
ES Catalonia						1	
Austria						1	
Slovenia						1	
Czech Republic					1		2
Portugal					0 1		
Hungary					0 1		
FI Satakunta					1		
Croatia					0 1		
FI Helsinki-Uusimaa					1	2	
Latvia					1	2	3
BE Brussels-Capital					1		
FI Hame					1		
Iceland				1			
BE Wallonia				1			
FI Southwest Finland				1			
UK Northern Ireland				0 1			
Lithuania			1			1	
Luxembourg			1				
UK Wales			1		2		
Ireland		0	1	2		3	
Estonia			1				
BE Flanders			1				
UK Scotland		0	1	2	3		
UK England			1			2	
Finland			1			2	
Sweden			1		2		
Denmark		0 1		2	3		4
Norway		1	2	3			
Netherlands		1	2	3 4 5	6	7	8
France	1	(...)			1		

1977 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020

● Legislation ● Comprehensive policy ● Sectoral policy 0 Documents for public discussion ⬢ Legislation + Comprehensive policy

5.24 - Progression of architectural policy documents in Europe (adapted from Bento, 2012)

Although there is no space in this report for a systematic analysis on the policy making process and differences among the policies' development, the following findings can be highlighted:

• *The continuous spread of architectural policies across Europe* – before the adoption of the EU Council Resolution in 2001, only 9 administrations had adopted an architectural policy; after the Resolution (2001) and until the EU Council Conclusions on Architecture (2008), another 10 have adopted an official document. After the adoption of the Council Conclusions (2008), until the Council Conclusions (2021), another 15 have adopted a policy. After the Davos Declaration (2018) until now another two have also joined the group;

• *The predominance of comprehensive/strategic policy* – 26 administrations have adopted a comprehensive/ strategic policy (70%), as only 6 administrations have an architecture law (18%), and 5 a sectoral policy approach (15%);

• *The recent wave of architecture laws* – in the last six years, the number of administrations with a Law on Architecture has tripled; until 2017 only two countries had had an architectural policy in the form of legislation, whereas now there are 6 administrations with one;

• *Administrations with two policy approaches* - despite having a national Law on Architecture since 1977, the French government adopted a National Strategy for Architecture for the first time in 2015. In the case of Lithuania, although it had a comprehensive policy from 2005 and 2015, the government also adopted a National Law on Architecture in 2017;

• *Sectoral approach remains low* – the number of administrations with a sectoral approach remains low (5). Despite the inexistence of a comprehensive policy, the Belgium regions have benefited from a robust system of government architects and dedicated public division (in the case of Wallonia) together with architectural cultural centres, that are implementing and pursuing the same goals;

• *The Baukultur development* - countries that have not yet adopted an architectural policy due to their federal governmental system have also joined the group (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) based on the holistic concept of *Baukultur*;

• *Outside EU, administrations also have adopted comprehensive architectural policies* - Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland; plus Scotland - UK and Northern Ireland - UK);

• Two thirds of the administrations are still in the first generation of their policy documents;

• *One third of administrations have reviewed their policies* – The Netherlands have reviewed their architectural policies every 5 years; Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Ireland, England (UK), Wales (UK), Scotland (UK), Sweden and Norway have reviewed their policy documents but with different time schedules. For example, after more than twenty years, Finland revised its first policy (1998) and adopted a second and revised policy programme focused on sustainable architecture in 2022.

5.2 Administrations planning to develop a policy

In the group of administrations that do not have an official policy document on architecture, seven administrations have mentioned that they are planning to adopt one in the near future: Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Poland and Romania. Nevertheless, this does not mean that it will be a consensual or speedy process. As with all public policies, busy governmental agendas, different perspectives of what the policy objectives should be, electoral cycles, and economic cycles, can all delay the policy process (Bento, 2017). In this group of administrations, Germany is pursuing a building culture (*Baukultur*) approach, similar to Austria and Switzerland, as Italy is pursuing a legislative approach, similar to France and others.

Cyprus

In Cyprus, despite there is no formal policy on architecture at national level, design policies are included in all statutory spatial development plans that are prepared under the Town and Country Planning Law - including Local Plans, Area Schemes, and the Policy Statement for the Countryside. All of these instruments contain policies on architectural quality and include an Annex with *Principles and Guidelines for the Aesthetic Improvement and Upgrading of the Quality of the Built Environment*. Most of these were introduced in the 1990s and significantly developed in the decade after 2010. In addition, a separate national policy on architectural competitions for public buildings has been adopted.

Greece

To complement its national legislation on cultural heritage, building and urban planning legal frameworks, the Greek Ministry of Culture is currently planning to develop a common architectural policy with the Ministry of Environment and the Architects' Association.

Italy

Following a legislative approach, the Italian Council of Ministers approved a bill on Architectural Quality (Legge-Quadro Sulla Qualità Architettonica) in 2008. The bill was sent to the Italian Senate but did not receive approval[86]. In 2018, following other initiatives, the Congress of the National Council of Architects approved a manifesto asking for a Law on Architecture, similar to France and Catalonia. This was followed by a civil movement lead by the MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Arts that promoted the establishment of an Italian Law for Architecture[87]. More recently, in December 2020, the Higher Council for Public Works (CSLP) approved the draft Guidelines for the Quality of Architecture (*Linee guida per la qualità dell'Architettura*) prepared by the Ministry for Cultural Heritage. It is expected that the Guidelines will be formally adopted soon.

Malta

The recently-launched National Culture Policy 2021 (NCP2021) identifies two priorities (out of 8): 'Developing Cultural Infrastructure' and 'Protecting and Safeguarding Cultural Heritage'. Main identified outcomes emanating from these priorities are (I) adopting the concept of *Baukultur* as identified in the Davos Declaration (2018) as policy principles on cultural infrastructure and for all matters relevant to the role of culture in the built environment; and (II) developing a separate Cultural Heritage Policy. NCP 2021 further calls for the establishment of a Standing Committee made up of heritage practitioners, heritage NGOs and representatives of the building industry to foster dialogue on the challenges of achieving a more sustainable and high-quality built environment. Presently, the Action Plans for implementation of the above (including timelines and budgets) are being drawn up.

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86. The 2008 Italian Bill on Architecture established instruments for the promotion of architectural quality, such as competitions, prizes to young professionals, the obligation for the government to allocate 2% of spending on new buildings for the addition of works of art, a three-year plan for architectural quality in public buildings, etc.
87. For more information: http://www.versounaleggeperlarchitettura.it/

Romania
In June 2019, during the 'Future Shapers ECAP' Conference held in Bucharest, the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR) and the Ministry for Regional Development and Public Administration (MDRAP) signed a joint statement to develop a national architecture policy aimed at developing a framework for an open decision-making process, based on quality principles and providing tools that will help raise the quality of the built environment in Romania. For 2024-2025, there is an OAR intention to develop an official policy in partnership with the Ministry of Development, in correlation with the new legislation (Land Planning, Urbanism and Construction Code).

Poland
Although there was a national architectural policy proposal presented to the government by the Chamber of Architects in 2009, no developments occurred on this field. In 2016, the Polish Government established the *National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning* (NAU), to disseminate and popularize knowledge on architecture and urban planning across the country. Acting as a state-owned cultural institution, NAU promotes campaigns, exhibitions, educational and editorial activities, with the aim of raising awareness and promoting a culture of design quality. In 2020, NAU published a manifesto on the importance of an architectural policy, gathering several critical analyses and contributions to the definition and implementation of a national policy on architecture in Poland (Chwaliboga, 2020).
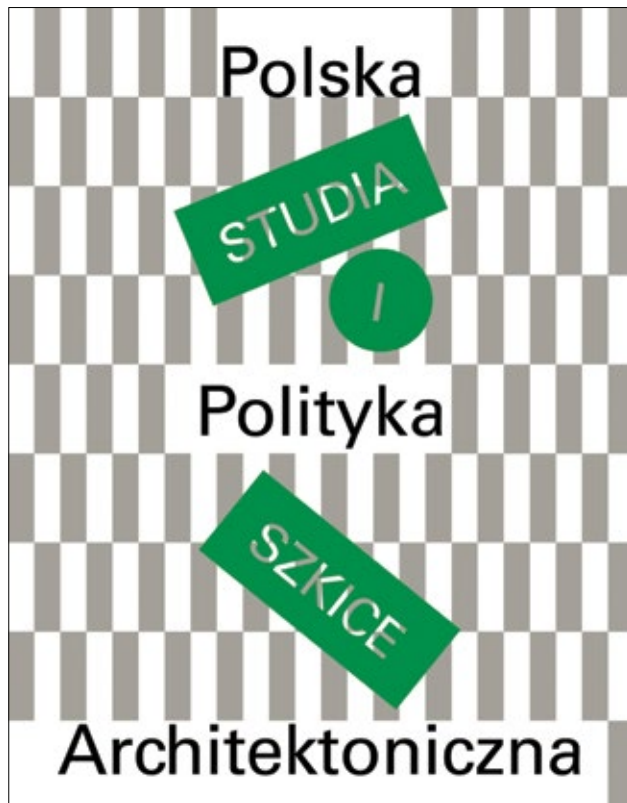
5.25 - Cover of the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning (NAU)'s manifesto on architecture policy (2020)

5.3 Municipal architectural policies

Although the present survey did not cover local administration, it is relevant to highlight that a growing number of European local administrations have already adopted municipal architectural policies promoting high-quality designed living environments. Similar to the national policies, a municipal architecture policy is a forward-looking and comprehensive document that expresses the municipality's long-term goals and strategy with guidelines and goals for architecture and the built environment in the municipality (Nilsson, 2019).
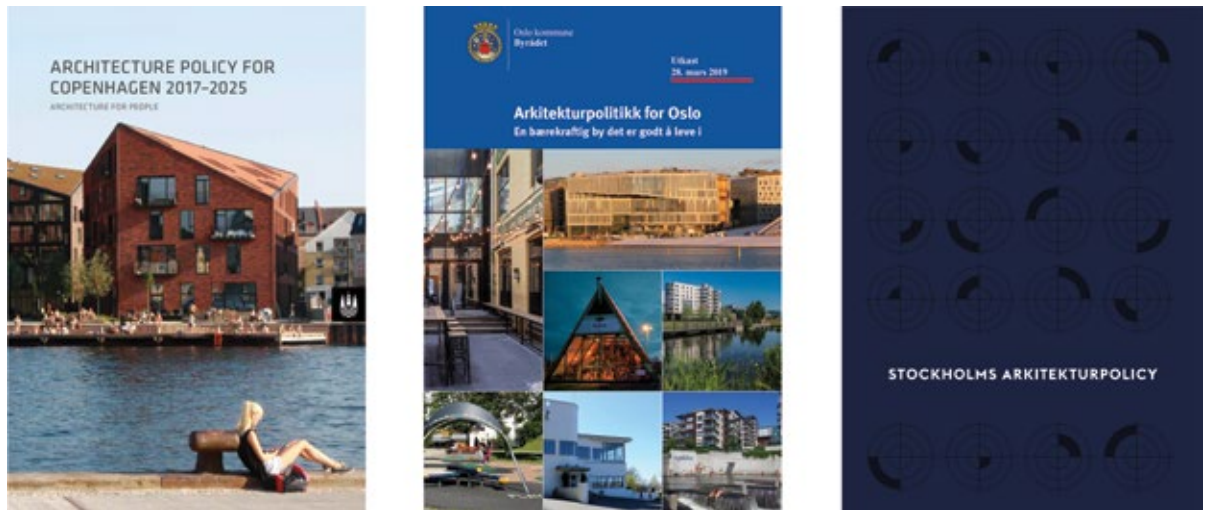

5.26 - Architecture policies of Copenhagen (2017), Oslo (2020) and Stockholm (2021).

In this framework, municipal architecture policies set high aspirations for architecture and the built environment fostering collaboration between different public and private stakeholders at local level. With a strategic (non-regulatory) nature, ideally municipal architectural policies work as an informal tool in terms of guiding/coordinating political decisions related to architecture and urban development. They also work as an enabling tool promoting connections among the many city council departments with building and spatial planning competences, helping to promote coherence and identity - whether on building quality, the renovation of urban spaces, climate adaptation strategies, heritage conservation or road design (Arkitektforeningen, 2020).

To provide an example, in 2013, the City Council of Vienna, under the auspices of the Department of Architecture and Urban Design, developed a *Baukultur* policy in a broad-based process, intended to further raise the quality of planning and realization of urban projects. The local *Baukultur* policy guidelines are supposed to serve as a basis for planning and building projects, promoting high quality of urban planning and further expansion of a comprehensive building culture. In addition, it should inform and guide the City Council in its own construction works, where it should be seen as a role model vis-à-vis private investors. It is argued that the state and city construction projects of Vienna should pursue the basic principles of quality of life, usability, sustainability and participation (Vienna, 2013).

In this context, the following *Baukultur* principles should apply to the city of Vienna:

1. Provide a high-quality built environment for the Viennese population, which offers high quality of life, both in new buildings and in existing buildings;

2. Make building-cultural decisions in such a way that the city becomes socially fairer;

3. To further develop the living city through climate protection as well as through sustainable construction methods and uses;

4. The planning, construction and renovation of all buildings and open spaces are carried out according to quality-oriented and transparent processes including citizen participation;

5. Integrate cooperation partners of the City in quality-oriented *Baukultur* processes;

6. Create quality-oriented conditions and processes for all buildings and open spaces that are being built, renovated or used in Vienna;

7. Promote the vibrant, critical, diverse and innovative scene of building culture mediation;

8. Increase public awareness of the importance of building culture and own responsibility;

9. Promote the public discourse on building culture in its diversity with the mediation of building culture. Essential for this are information and transparency in matters concerning the built environment, and the visualization of the benefits of *Baukultur*;

10. Promote innovation in building culture through education, through research and development, through innovation-oriented procurement and through a "culture of learning" (evaluation of processes, rules and results) (Ibidem).
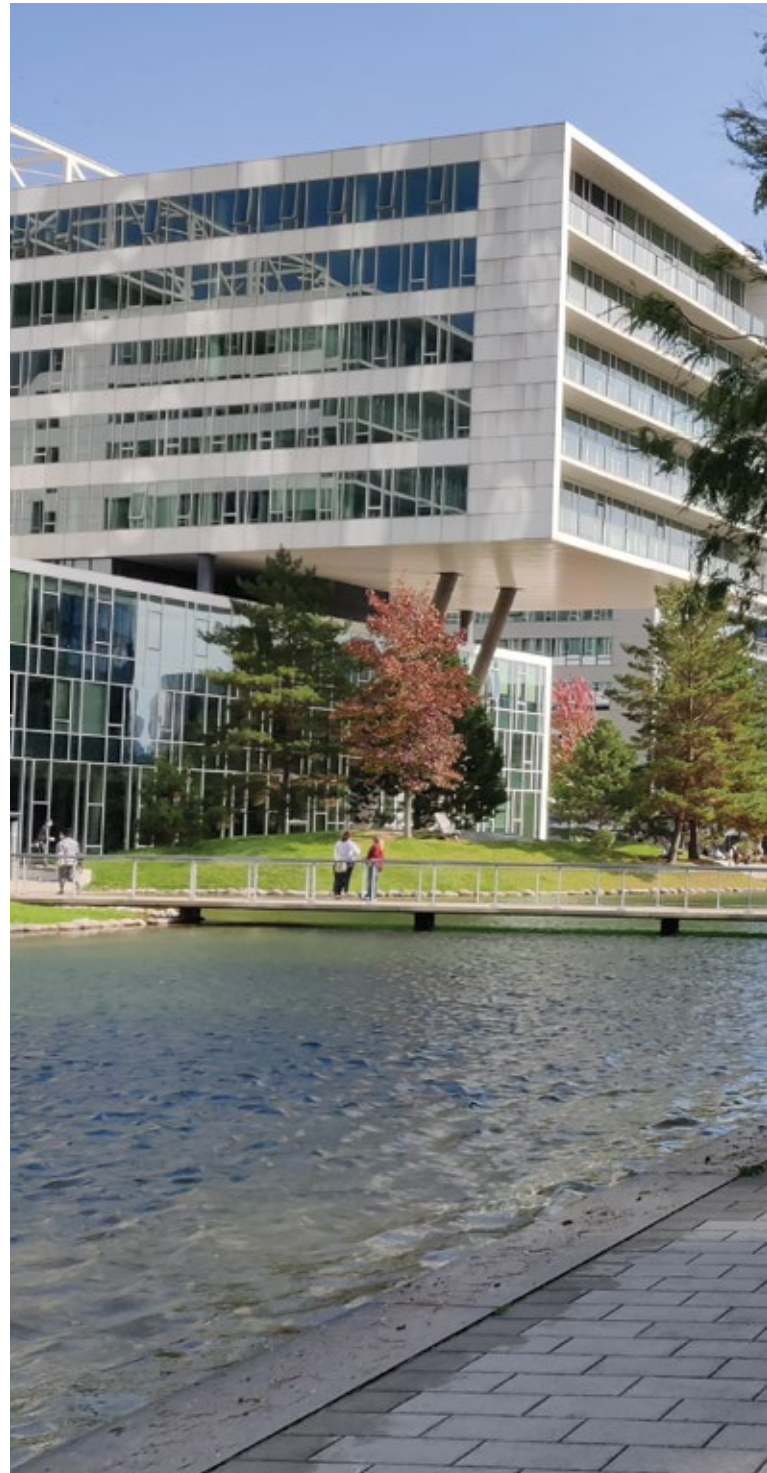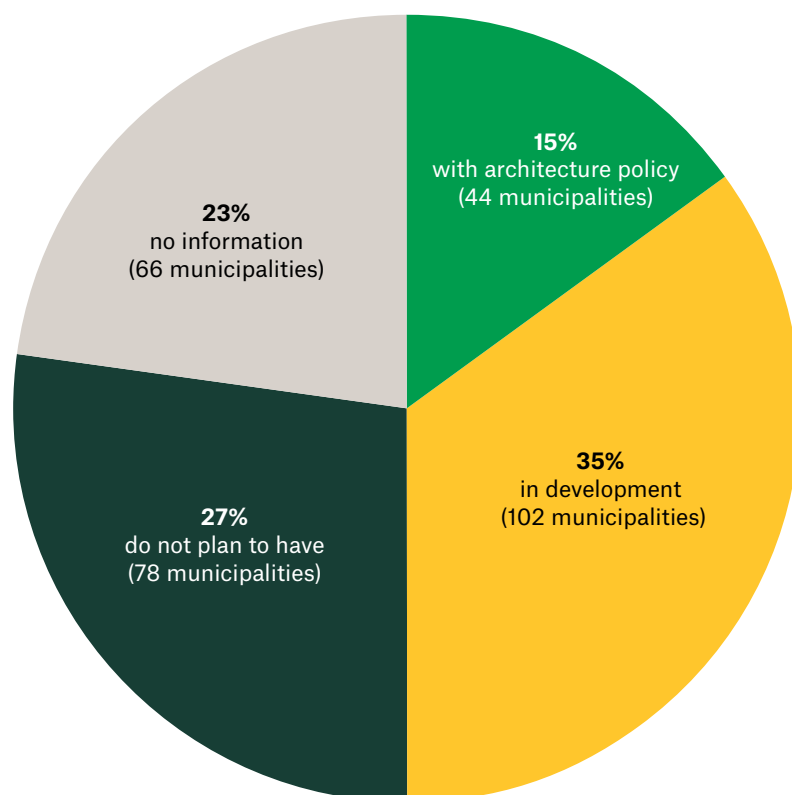
5.27 - Quarter Two is an office and residential area in Vienna, built between 2007 and 2010. After a planning cooperative process led the City Council, the expansion project has been implemented with the use of several architecture and urban design competitions (source: João Bento)
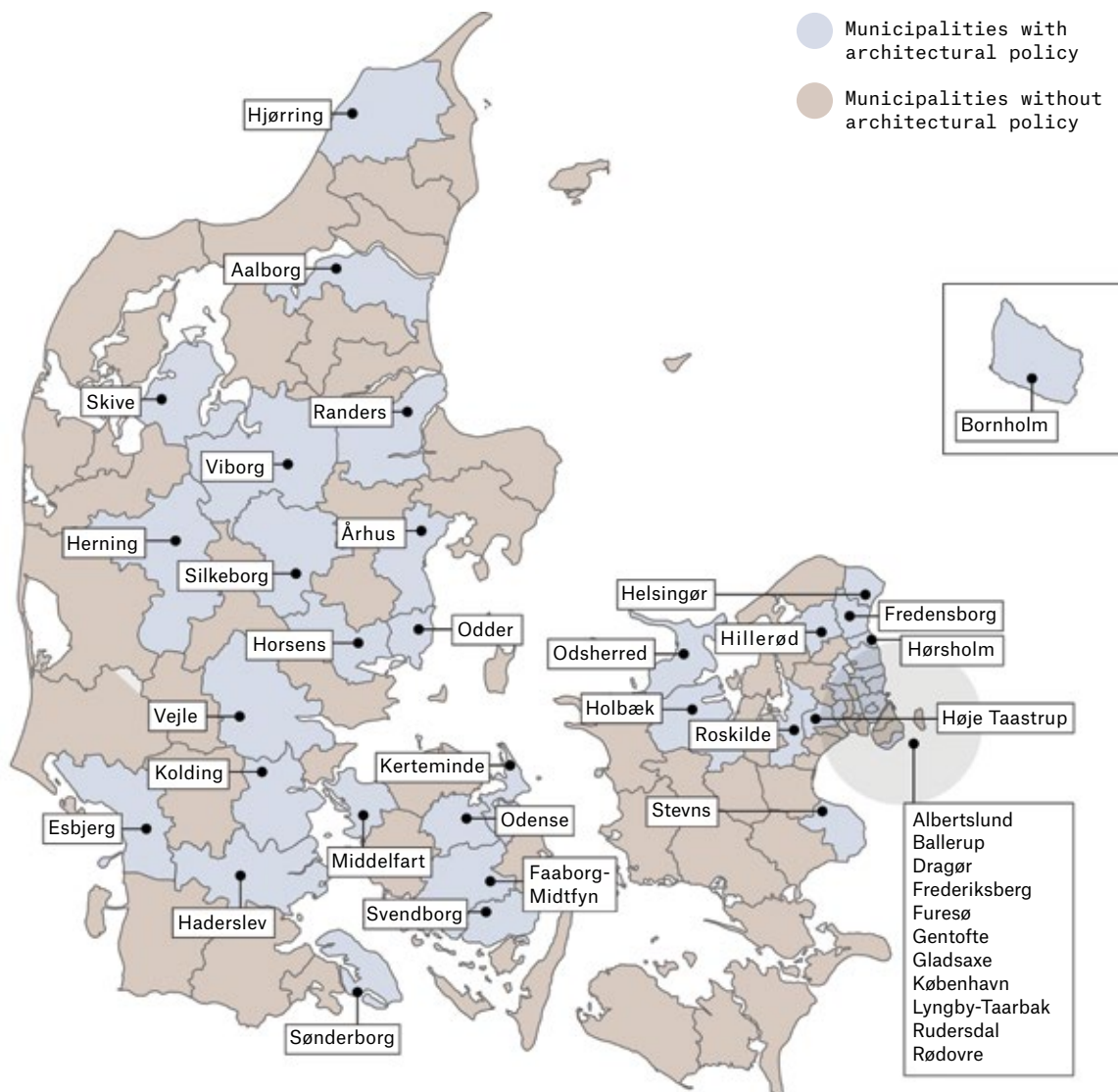
In the Northern European countries, the number of municipalities with an architectural policy has been rising exponentially, facilitated by a well-established decentralized system of government (OECD, 2017). To provide some figures, in Denmark, 41 municipalities - almost half of the country - have adopted an architectural policy and several others are developing their first policy[88] (see 5.28). In Sweden, almost half of the municipalities have or are in the process of developing a policy (in 2022, 44 municipalities already had a policy and 102 had begun developing their first policy)[89]. In Finland, 13 Finnish municipalities also have adopted one, together with 5 regions (Finland, 2022). In Norway, at least the cities of Oslo, Trondheim and Bergen also have a policy.

The scope of municipal architectural policies can move from a more comprehensive approach, setting long-term vision and design quality principles for the built environment, to a more specific approach, setting an action agenda with precise actions and, in some cases, design criteria or indicators to be considered in urban planning processes (Arkitektforeningen, 2020). Despite the differences, they all share an informal approach that does not impose a new regulatory framework but instead defines principles and design goals for urban development, mainly used as a negotiation and persuasion tool by public authorities in different meetings with decision makers and interest parties to guide, encourage and enable better design.

15%
with architecture policy
(44 municipalities)

23%
no information
(66 municipalities)

35%
in development
(102 municipalities)

27%
do not plan to have
(78 municipalities)

5.28 - Swedish municipalities with an architectural policy (44) or developing one (102). This means that in 2022, half of the 290 Swedish municipalities were working with an architecture policy in some form; completed, in progress or planned (source: Sveriges Arkitekter, 2022)
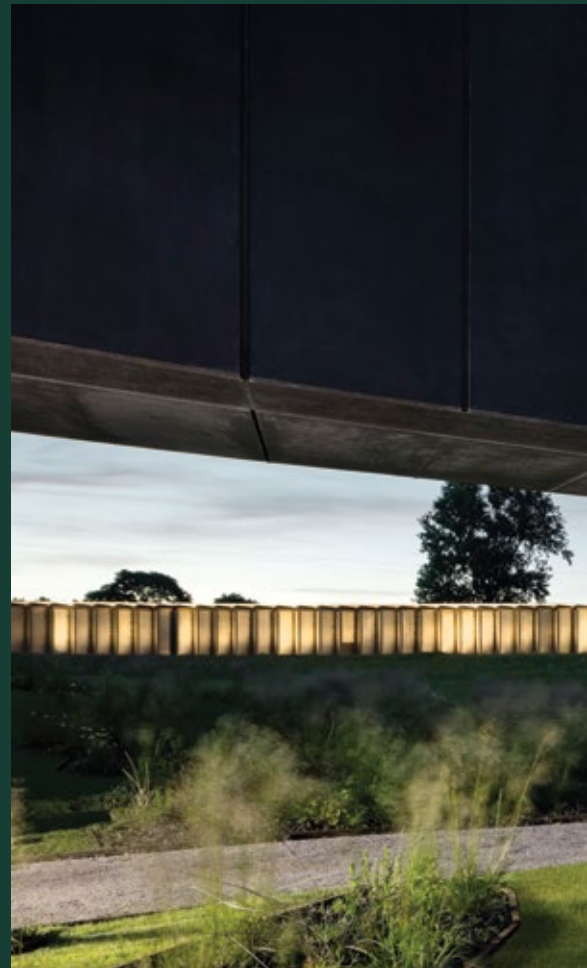
To make sure that the policies are effective and to push for its goals, several municipalities have appointed city architects to take on design leadership and provide strategic advice to local governments, in order to improve the design of public constructions, promote spatial quality and foster a place-making culture. Although the specific tasks of the city architects may vary from municipality to municipality, the main tasks will always include the provision of advice on design matters to politicians and municipality administrations. Besides pushing for policy implementation, they are expected, just like the state architect, to enable, facilitate and provide design advice and to champion design quality across the local administration (Bento, 2022).

Municipalities with architectural policy

Municipalities without architectural policy

Hjørring
Aalborg
Skive
Randers
Viborg
Herning
Silkeborg
Århus
Odder
Horsens
Vejle
Kolding
Kerteminde
Esbjerg
Odense
Middelfart
Faaborg-Midtfyn
Haderslev
Svendborg
Sønderborg

Bornholm

Helsingør
Fredensborg
Hørsholm
Hillerød
Odsherred
Holbæk
Høje Taastrup
Roskilde
Stevns

Albertslund
Ballerup
Dragør
Frederiksberg
Furesø
Gentofte
Gladsaxe
København
Lyngby-Taarbak
Rudersdal
Rødovre

5.29 - Municipalities with architecture policy in Denmark, situation in 2023
(source: adapted from Arkitektforeningen / Danish Association of Architects)

88. https://arkitektforeningen.dk/vi-arbejder-for/arkitekturpolitik/kommuner-med-arkitekturpolitik/
89. https://www.arkitekt.se/nyhet/ny-kartlaggning-av-kommunerna/

6 INSTRUMENTS AND INITIATIVES

The last two groups of questions of the ACE survey were dedicated to collecting information on specific initiatives and actions undertaken by national or regional administrations in support of their governmental policy and/or the objectives of:

• *Council Resolution on Architecture Quality on Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04);

• *Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05).

Unfortunately, only a small number of the 37 administrations surveyed provided information about such initiatives / actions, and the ones that did were too succinct to allow for much interpretation and explanation of the different initiatives / actions implemented. The absence of information provided can nevertheless be justified by the methodology used to collect the information – a questionnaire with open questions – where lack of time, sufficient knowledge about other departments' initiatives of the correspondents can easily lead to several empty replies.

As a result, it is not possible to assume that those administrations do not have any type of initiatives or actions developed just because their correspondents did not send any information. Limitations of time and resources also make it impossible to collect this type of information directly in order to develop a comprehensive review of all initiatives implemented across Europe. Consequently, we unfortunately cannot accurately measure the number of initiatives / actions developed in a comparative perspective to establish a European assessment.

Nevertheless, to illustrate the variety of initiatives undertaken by administrations in support of their governmental policies and/or the Council Resolution and Conclusions objectives, this section describes information about initiatives and actions with examples obtained by the survey replies complemented through desk research and previous research work (see 3.4). To facilitate the analysis of the initiatives / actions, the information was structured using the Urban Maestro's (2021) *European typology of tools for urban design governance* (Carmona, 2021).

The European project Urban Maestro (UM), that ran from 2019 to 2021, mapped and identified innovative informal tools of urban design governance across Europe and beyond. The UM project used different research and learning approaches to capture information about the diverse approaches to urban design governance across Europe (see section 1), proposing a European typology of tools for urban design governance.

The first characteristic of that typology is that it distinguishes tools by whether they are '*formal*' or '*informal*' in nature. The *formal tools* are legally defined as 'required' roles, using the hard powers of the state, such as norms and regulation on building and planning activities, which form the basis for public authorities' decisions. The *informal tools* are 'non-regulatory' and discretionary, therefore optional, drawing on the state's soft powers focused on enhancing the capacity, competence and knowledge of development actors - including, for example, guidelines, training, design competitions, peer review mechanisms, design advisory boards, etc.

A second aspect is that the typology differentiates between *Quality Culture* and *Quality Delivery* tools. The former focus primarily on influencing the broad culture in which the quality of design is prioritised whilst the later concentrate on shaping actual projects and places. In other words, Culture tools seek to establish a positive decision-making environment to prioritise design quality, while *Delivery tools* 'steer those decision-making processes in a more focussed and directive manner, helping to ensure that from intervention to intervention, design quality is delivered' (Ibidem) (See 6.1).
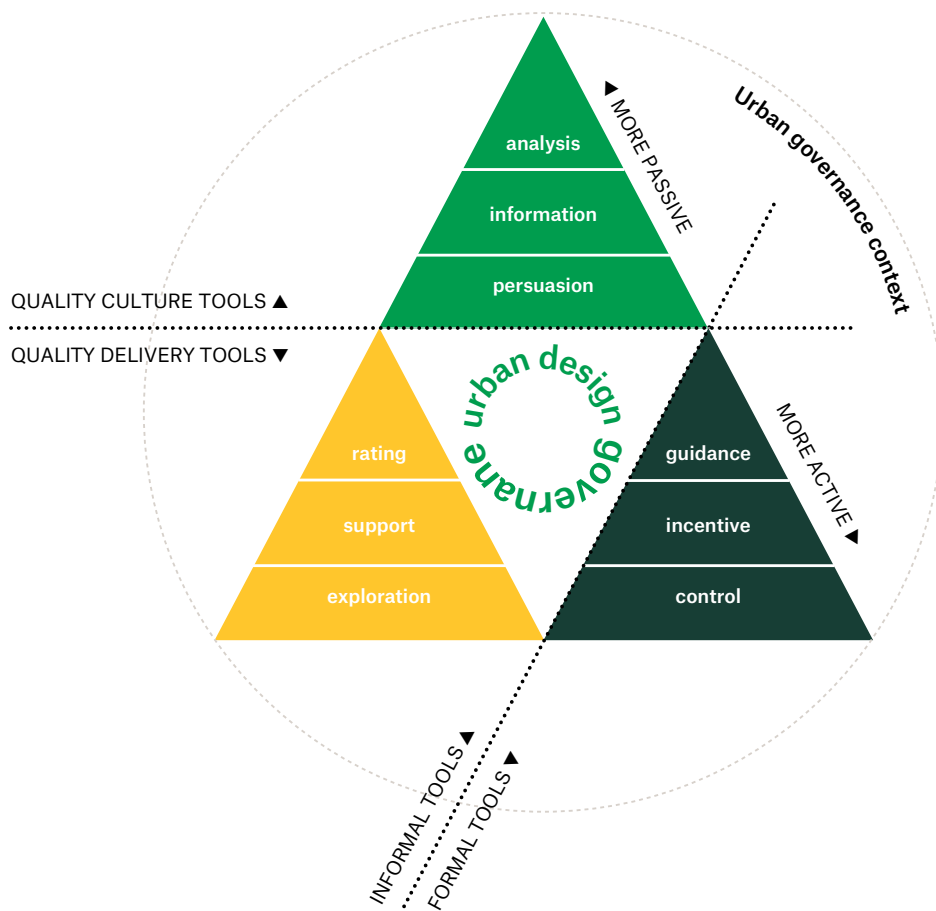
6.1 - European typology of urban design governance tools (source: adapted from Matthew Carmona, 2023)

Following this classification, the UM typology defined three categorisations of tools: i) *informal quality culture tools*, ii) *informal quality delivery tools* and iii) *formal quality delivery tools*. An additional fourth category could be foreseen – *formal quality culture tools* – including, for example, mandatory subjects about the built environment on children's educational curriculums. Nonetheless, this was omitted from the typology as formal educational policy is not considered as being part of the decision-making sphere of built environment policymakers. It should also be noted that, as with all typologies, the categorization of the tools should not be rigidly used - as they are a simplification of complex governance tools and most policy instruments may have a combination of formal and informal components as well as both culture and delivery effects (Ibid).

Looking at the specific recommendations of the aforementioned EU policies on architecture (2001 and 2008) against UM typology, it is possible to observe that the majority of the EU policy recommendations fit into the informal tools category, or in other words, in the state's soft powers focused on enhancing the capacity, competence and knowledge of development actors, promoting a culture of design quality and fostering public authorities and the general public more aware in appreciation of architecture, urban and landscape culture (6.2).
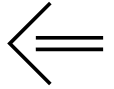
EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES ON ARCHITECTURE	Informal tools						Formal tools		
	Analysis	Information	Persuasion	Rating	Support	Exploration	Guidance	Incentive	Control
Resolution on Architectural Quality in Urban and Rural Environments (2001)									
Hereby encourages the Member States to:									
• intensify their efforts to improve the knowledge and promotion of architectural and urban design, and to make contracting authorities and the general public more aware of and better trained in appreciation of architectural, urban and landscape culture;	●	●	●		●				
• take into account the specific nature of architectural service in the decisions and measures which require it;							●		
• promote architectural quality by means of exemplary public building policies;			●	●	●		●	●	
• foster the exchange of information and experience in the field of architecture.		●	●						
Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development (2008)									
Calls on Member States and the Commission (…), to:									
• make allowance for architecture and its specific features, in particular its cultural aspects, in all relevant policies, especially in research, economic and social cohesion, sustainable development and education policies;	●	●							
• devise for architecture, apart from technical standards, an approach involving overall economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives;					●				
• encourage innovation and experimentation in sustainable development in architecture, urban planning and landscaping, particularly within the framework of European policies or programmes and when commissioning public works;				●	●		●		
• improve knowledge of the architectural sector and its contribution to sustainable development, particularly in terms of statistics;	●								
• raise public awareness of the role of architecture and urban planning in the creation of a high-quality living environment and encourage public involvement in sustainable urban development;		●	●						
• consider the feasibility, in cooperation with professionals and in the light of experience in a number of Member States, of an annual European architecture 'event'.			●						
Calls on Member States to:									
• endeavour to have architecture play an integrating and innovative role in the sustainable development process, beginning with the design stage of architectural, urban planning, landscaping and rehabilitation projects;					●				
• help develop the economic growth and employment potential of architecture, as a creative, cultural industry;								●	
• promote education in architecture and heritage, and in the living environment, in particular through artistic and cultural education;		●	●						
• promote the initial and further training of architects, urban planners and landscapers as regards sustainable development;		●							
• highlight architecture in implementing European Year of Creativity & Innovation (2009);			●						
• where appropriate, apply the open method of coordination for culture.	—								

Table 8 - EU architecture policies recommendation and its implementation tools, following the UM European typology of urban design governance tools.

For the purposes of this report, this chapter will use UM European typology as a useful model for examining the types of tools and initiatives that are addressing the two EU policies' objectives of promoting place quality and raising awareness (for a full report see "Urban Design Governance. Soft Power and the European experience", 2023, available in UCL Press[90]). The chapter is divided in three parts: the first and second parts focus on informal tools and the third part in formal tools.

6.1 Informal quality culture tools

Informal quality culture tools are focused on building a culture of design quality across different stakeholders and society at large. These types of tools seek to establish a positive decision-making environment that prioritises and values design quality, indirectly influencing and shaping the decision-making processes of built environment design. Most European administrations and its architectural policies make use of quality culture tools to promote design quality and foster a culture of place quality in order to promote a societal cultural change and raise standards of design and achieve high quality places (Carmona, et al., 2023).

Within quality culture tools, three forms of tools were identified:

- **Analysis tools** – refers to the research or audit capabilities of public sector or other bodies, that provide new evidence about how the built environment is designed, managed, and transformed, through which processes and with what results.
- **Information tools** – refers to all types of information and knowledge initiatives about the nature of architecture, design practices and the built environment, including the production of best practice guides, case studies libraries or education & training initiatives.
- **Persuasion tools** – refers to proactive awareness raising initiatives, such as design awards or campaigns that make the case for particular design response, and target influence through advocacy or partnerships (Ibidem).

6.1.1 Analysis tools

Analysis is first type of informal culture quality tools. These tools provide us with evidence to better understand how the built environment is shaped, through which processes and with what consequences. In general, analysis tools aspire to produce new knowledge about design processes and the built environment comprising 'creative and systematic work' (OECD, 2015). Most public departments across Europe conduct or commission research on design-related themes via central or local administrations or other external agencies (e.g., faculty or research institutes). Often this research focuses on understanding the effectiveness of policy tools or the state of a given territory (Bento & Carmona, 2020).

Looking at the European experience, the UM project identified three main types of analysis:

- **Research** is focused on understanding design processes or design-based problems. Research is used to build an evidence base that focuses attention on those practices, helps devise solutions including new policy responses, and advocates for those approaches.
- **Monitoring** of initiatives, tools and policy objectives, particularly the measurement of impacts from particular urban design governance tools, both prior to interventions and afterwards to evaluate their impact and to refine approaches.
- **Audits** of the state of the built environment, in order to understand the quality of the designed built environment and the challenges it presents. Such audits vary, from the comprehensive evaluation of whole territories to the measurement of particular local areas / neighbourhoods, to national audits of particular built typologies e.g. housing, schools, infrastructure and so forth (Carmona, Bento, et al., 2023, p. 116).

Research

The first type of analysis tools consists of research projects or activities focused on understanding aspects of the design process or particular design-based problems. Through the collection, organization, and analysis of information about different aspects of design and the design process, research tools build a pool of knowledge that can help improve urban design practice in different areas (urban planning, heritage protection, urban mobility, etc.). Usually, the evidence produced results in publications to inform development actors and the wider public about topics or themes related to design and the built environment. This research work may be carried out internally by the state department itself or commissioned externally, directly or by a public call, to a consultancy company, a research centre, or a university (Ibidem).

Most countries have funding programmes for research projects that include architecture and design issues; providing scholarships for post-graduate students, support for research centres, scientific publications, conferences, etc. Although a big part of architectural research is conducted by universities and research institutes, it is common for state departments to promote or participate in research projects, which may include architectural and planning topics.

Some administrations have included architecture and design research in their architecture policy implementation plans. For example, the new Irish architectural policy (2022) defines the need to establish a national architectural and built environment research service to provide evidence to policy making. This is proposed to be a "permanent, structured and networked research entity for identification, collection, analysis, innovation and forecasting of architectural and built environment design, delivery and performance data and needs, which will support government policies and enable progress to be measured against relevant indicators" (Ireland, 2022, p. 68).

As another example, in Sweden, its architecture policy finances the national architecture centre (ArkDes) a research function for the designed living environment. In this framework, In 2018, ArkDes created a research programme called the ArkDes Fellowship, an annual call offering opportunities to conduct interdisciplinary research in the fields of architecture and design[91]. More recently, it launched the ArkDes Think Tank, a creative hub for research, collaboration and strategic analysis, that is mainly focused on research questions addressing the government's architecture and design policy (Bento, 2022). As another example, this tool is also presented in the Dutch Spatial Design Action Program (2021-2024) that provides funding for research thought its dedicated fund, the Creative Industries Fund NL, aimed at encouraging the use of design power when working on complex spatial assignments.

On the non-governmental sector, the Place Alliance in England provides a good example of an organisation carrying out research projects in different design aspects of the built environment. These analysis initiatives broadly refer to the sorts of background research and evidence gathering (in collaboration with partners) that can be used to facilitate an evidence-based conversation and ultimately influence more informed policy and practice. These outputs and results are presented in an accessible manner to related stakeholders, including to national policymakers, local authorities and professionals, as well as to lay audiences.

Local authorities sometimes also get involved in research activities, some connected to or developed through national or international research projects. For example, a wide range of municipalities participate in the EU URBACT programme, a European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe, facilitating the creation of networks between cities to share knowledge on tools and practices in order to improve urban development policies[92].

6.2 - Two examples of Place Alliance research outputs: 'Design Skills in English Local Authorities', 2017 (left); 'A Housing Design Audit for England', 2020 (right)

Monitoring

Analysis tools of the second type focus on providing evidence for the ongoing policymaking process, to monitor progress towards particular policy objectives or to measure results and outputs of urban design governance tools. In some cases, analysis is carried out a priori as a framework study for the preparation of design policy or specific legislation, providing evidence that helps sustain governmental decisions to change a legal framework or to prepare a new urban design strategy. Evidence gathering is also widely used to assess the impact and monitor the implementation of design-related legislation or sectoral policies on the quality of the built and the un-built space (Carmona, et al., 2023).

This type of analysis is mostly developed by governmental departments to understand the impact of policy or legislation on the design processes and the built environment, or to monitor the degree of implementation of a national or local policy. By measuring the results and outputs it is possible to provide an overview of the progress made towards particular policy objectives and the intended change, which may help stakeholders coordinate better and deliver on common objectives - or to adapt policy action plans whenever needed. Several administrations develop monitoring and assessment reports on the implementation progress of their architecture and built environment policy, as well as monitoring of the impact of certain legislation on the built environment. For example, Czech Ministry of Regional Development develops regular reports to assess the implementation progress of its architectural policy, to measure the level of execution of its policy initiatives and its perceived impacts to provide input for the policy revision.

91. The inaugural ArkDes Call for Fellows was held in 2018, attracted over 200 applications, where three Fellows were selected by an international jury. The last edition was held in 2020, dedicated to the theme, Our Living Environment.
92. URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies. For more information on Urbact programme see: https://urbact.eu/

As another example, the *Flemish Government Architect* (FGA) team usually collects evidence with the purpose of informing public debates on new legislation or policy initiatives. When necessary, the FGA may commission research based on urgent issues stemming from the policy agenda, namely to look at the negative effect of non-urban-design-related legislation on the quality of places or for the assessment of new regulation that affects the built environment. In addition, the FGA team usually develops desk-based research to showcase innovative examples of urban design solutions or to collect information on a given issue for the production of design guidance (e.g., on school infrastructure)[93].

Audits

The third type of analysis tools includes audits of the state of the built environment that aim to evaluate the impact of different types of development or the quality of built environments. These audits can vary from the comprehensive local measurement of buildings or places, to national audits of the design of housing, schools, infrastructure and so forth (Carmona et al., 2016, p. 149). Most governmental institutions develop "State of the Territory Reports", which are performed periodically, covering both built and unbuilt parts of the territory. Like research projects, audits can be conducted both internally within governmental organisations or commissioned externally to a consultancy or specialised institution (Carmona, et al., 2023).

In some countries, this state of the built environment report is mandatory and generally precedes the preparation of spatial planning strategies. For example, in 2017, in preparation for a National Territorial Development Strategy, the Romanian government conducted a "State of Territory Report", examining territorial trends and changes and identifying territorial impacts of funding policies and programmes, especially those with national funding[94]. As another example, in Portugal, every two years, the government presents to the national assembly the "Report on the State of Spatial Planning", the latest from 2022, produced with the collaboration of a wide range of entities and with contributions from a public discussion process.

As another example, the Germanic-speaking countries have been developing national audits in a regular basis with a greater focus on the quality of the built environment. The referred biennial *Baukultur* reports, that were initiated in 2014, that are discussed in the parliament (See Box 5) usually focused on a certain issue connected with the built environment (e.g. public space)[95]. Although with a different time frame, *Baukultur* reports are also developed in Austria.

For a city-scale example, developed every four years, the 'State of the Territory Report' of Zagreb presents a comprehensive picture of the state of the territory and possible directions for development[96]. The Report also provides an analysis of the current situation, outlines problems and spatial development alternatives, resulting in proposals and recommendations for action.

93. For more information see: www.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/
94. For more info: www.mdrap.ro/dezvoltare-teritoriala/-6997
95. For more info: www.bundesstiftung-baukultur.de/
96. For more info: https://urbanmaestro.org/example/state-of-the-territory-report/

Box 5 - Biennial *Baukultur* Reports (Germany)

The biennial *Baukultur* Reports are coordinated by the Federal Foundation of *Baukultur*, on behalf of the German federal government[97]. The biennial report is the *Baukultur* Foundation's most important medium and, as an official status report on planning and construction in Germany, also a political instrument. The report links the positions of the *Baukultur* Foundation with project examples from the *Baukultur* workshops and arguments from expert discussions. The report also includes statistical data as well as the results of a municipal survey on planning practices and a population survey on the housing and the living environment. Together with results of research conducted by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development, the collected findings lead to concrete recommendations for action for all actors involved in planning and construction.

The political and social path of the Baukultur Report 2014/15

Source: Federal Foundation of Baukultur 2016
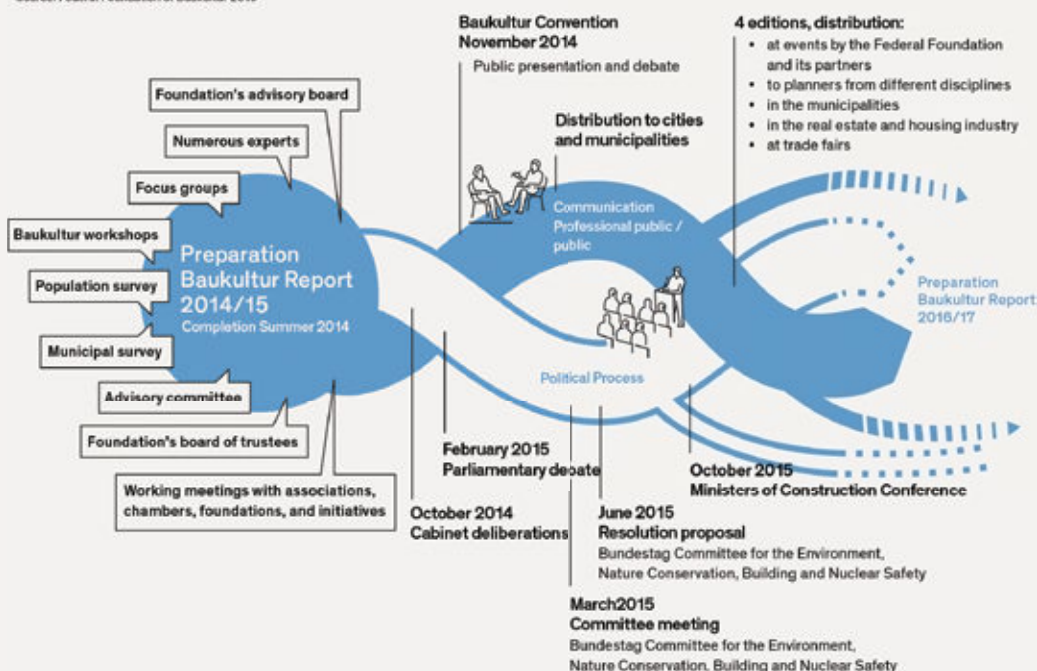
6.3 - The overall process of the preparation of the *Baukultur* report 2014/15 (source: Federal Foundation of *Baukultur* 2016)

The Federal Foundation of *Baukultur* is one of the few institutions in Germany that is entitled to submit a report to the Federal Cabinet and the Federal Parliament. Thanks to this right of submittal, the *Baukultur* Reports are dealt with by the Federal Cabinet and referred to the Bundestag and the Bundesrat. The *Baukultur* Report is created with the involvement of numerous specialists, experts, associations, an advisory group, and the Foundation's own expert bodies. The Foundation's own population survey and poll of municipalities form a basis for the report, which is coupled with recommendations for action.

97. For more info: www.bundesstiftung-baukultur.de/

6.1.2 Information tools

The second type of informal 'culture quality tools' is information, which act to disseminate knowledge about the nature of good (or poor) design practices and processes, as well as related development practices, and why it matters. They help to raise design awareness and understanding amongst stakeholders on best practices and processes. These include a range of tools and initiatives, from detached and passive learning tools to more hands-on and active training tools involving the direct engagement of participants (Ibidem).

Two main types of information tools were identified through the UM project:

• **Knowledge sharing tools**, which encompass all types of practice guides and manuals, case studies and online resources of different sorts.

• **Active learning** involves the direct engagement of participants in a structured learning exercise. These involve basic and / or specialist training around aspects of the design of the built environment.

Knowledge sharing

The first type of information tools is focused on sharing knowledge with stakeholders, including detached and passive learning tools, such as publications and practice guides (e.g., how to conduct a design competition) and the compilation of best practice case studies libraries.

Practice guides and manuals are typically produced to disseminate the accumulated wisdom of particular groups or the insights garnered from research, and can be directed at filling gaps in knowledge, educating key players, offering specific technical information, disseminating evidence, or sometimes, simply setting out a particular policy proposition. Often the advice is generic rather than specific to a particular place or project, covering a very wide range of topics encompassing all aspects of architecture, urban design, heritage, landscape and sustainability, as well as a range of design process issues such as how to conduct a design competition. The format and content of practice guides and manuals are adapted to the target audience, ranging from public officials, developers, designers, clients to the general public, often taking the form of glossy eye-catching publications, which are then proactively circulated and distributed as parts of campaigns and events (Carmona et al., 2016, p. 160).

Most architectural policies include the development of a wide range of publications, manuals, and guide. This can be developed directly by governmental departments or commissioned to other semi-public or private institutions that will produce these types of tools. For example, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) develops a wide range of guidance for the municipalities in the country. Among other things, a guide to architectural strategies (also known as municipal architectural policies) has been produced as well as guidance for school environments, healthcare environments and support for design qualities in public procurement. Guidance on the connection between the Planning and Building Act and the designed living environment has also been produced[98].

Arms-length organisations dedicated to architecture promotion usually produce a wide range of practice guides and other publications to disseminate information about good design and/or because of its activities. As an in interesting example, the *Architecture and Design Scotland* (A&DS) developed the 'Inspiring Learning Spaces Toolkit' to create a practical toolkit to make more of spaces for learning. The toolkit focuses discussion on targeting the key issues that will enhance the learners experience through spatial change and incremental management, all supported by leadership across the school community[99].

As another example, the Welsh Government (UK) commissioned to the Design Commission for Wales (DCfW) a comprehensive practice guidance on placemaking underpinned by good design processes, following a nationwide 'Placemaking Partnership' of committed organisations and individuals contributing to a community of practice across sectors and local authorities as well as other bodies and private sector practice[100].
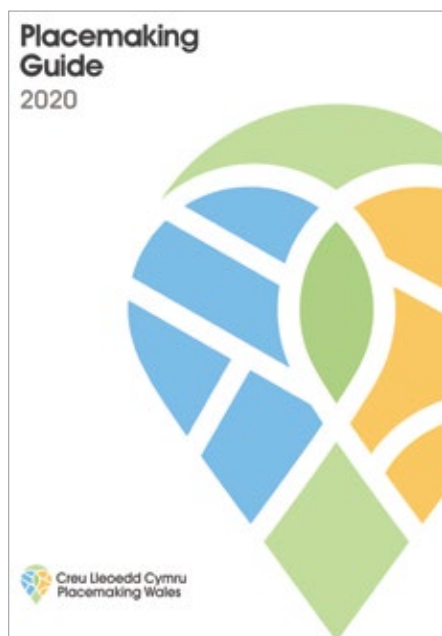
6.4 - Practice guidance 'Placemaking Guide',
2020 (source: Design Commission for Wales)
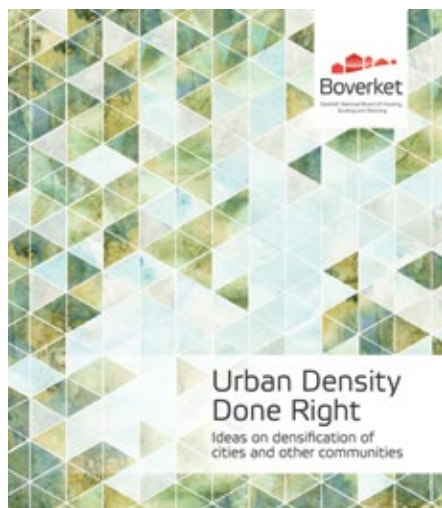
6.5 - 'Urban Density Done Right' publication
with best practise examples, 2017
(source: Bokervet - National Board of
Housing, Building and Planning, Sweden)[102]

At the local level, municipalities also regularly publish guides and manuals. One example is the "Public Space Design Manual", from the Prague Institute of Planning and Development, which is one of the tools for fulfilling the city's strategy in designing and managing quality public spaces[101]. Collectively, information tools are perhaps the most widely used of the informal tools and are increasingly being delivered by more sophisticated online and interactive means.

Case studies of successful examples of architecture, urban design, landscape and so on can be used to inform and inspire development actors and even the general public, either through their collection into a library of exemplary cases or by publishing best practice examples. While still passive, case studies are more directive in the sense that they identify specific 'best practice', and therefore go a stage further than the general principles contained in practice guides. According with the UM project, about half of governmental departments publish case studies of successful examples to inspire, challenge and encourage decision makers.

Most architecture policies also include the development of these type of publications, that are usually produced by governmental departments. As an example, the Architecture Unit (Cellule architecture) of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation of Belgium also has a proactive publication role, with several collections promoting good design and exemplary projects in Wallonia-Brussels, such as, the "Inventories" collection (Yearbook of French Belgian architecture); the "Vision, architecture publique" collection (Visionary public architecture); or the "Modern and contemporary architecture guide" collection[103].

Arms-length organizations also produce a wide range of best practices examples and other publications regularly to disseminate information about good design. By a way of example, A&DS has a digital case study library to provide examples of high-quality developments across a range of developments types, providing access to a variety of resources, including images, case studies and videos. For example, the 'Housing typology case studies' illustrate where architects and urban designers have reconciled functions of the individual house that are integral to placemaking across seven different typologies (e.g. housing formed around courtyards, into clusters, or otherwise composed as groups).

98. For more info see: https://www.boverket.se/sv/samhallsplanering/arkitektur-och-gestaltad-livsmiljo/arbetssatt/
99. The toolkit is designed to enable self-initiated projects at the level of classrooms and learning spaces within and across existing schools. It is also designed to support collaborative discussion about outcomes and priorities to inform new build, refurbishment and major change projects at the briefing stage. For more info: www.ads.org.uk/inspiring-learning-spaces-toolkit/
100. For more info: https://dcfw.org/placemaking/
101. https://urbanmaestro.org/example/prague-public-space-design-manual/
102. For more info: https://www.boverket.se/globalassets/publikationer/dokument/2017/urban-density-done-right.pdf
103. See full catalogue online: https://cellule.archi/diffusion-promotion/publications

Dedicated web portals have been appearing across Europe to publish information about architecture, urban design, heritage, and so on. Some countries have developed online architecture and urban design databases to disseminate information on high-quality projects and to promote them nationally and even internationally. Although the format and structure of these databases varies, usually they have different search options (e.g. per themes, location, year or authorship) to enable users to find specific projects and obtain detailed information about them.

To provide one example, the Finnish Architecture Navigator is a curated database of Finnish architecture, administered by *Archinfo Finland*, a national centre for architecture. This database is constantly updated with new architects and projects, with the aim that the service will include all key works and architects of Finnish architecture, throughout the times up until today. The curated themes present different perspectives to the social, typological or other topical aspects of Finnish architecture[104] (6.7).
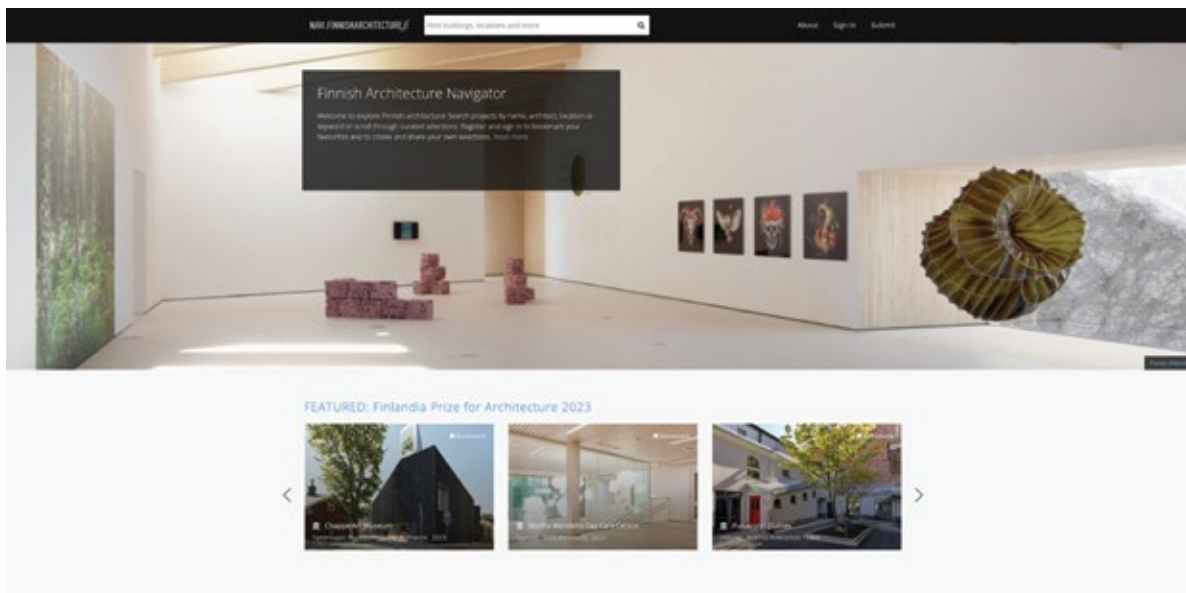
6.6 - Homepage of the 'Finnish Architecture Navigator' database (accessed: January 2023)

Active learning

Information tools also include active training tools, such as educational activities offering basic and / or specialist training around aspects of the design of the built environment and its importance to design professionals, contracting authorities, regulators, and others.

• *basic training* encompasses educational programmes focused on laypersons or young people in order that they can become active and participant citizens in city decision-making processes.

• *specialist training* tools are focused on improving the capacity of professional stakeholders to deliver better-designed buildings and spaces, from technical training (e.g. designing cycling facilities), to process issues (e.g. dealing with the planning system), to forward-looking trends such as how to achieve greener design (Carmona, et al., 2023).

<u>Basic training</u> encompasses educational programmes are focused on laypersons or young people and are usually short and introductory in nature. This type of initiative involves the preparation and provision of teaching materials and the organisation of events. These may be delivered directly by the institutions responsible, or indirectly, where resources are made available for others to use, for example educational resources for school pupils that focus on built environment issues, such as monuments, placemaking, citizenship, design and construction, housing, among others.

Most architectural policies include initiatives focused on educational programmes. An area of growth seems to be the reaching out to schools in order to get children to engage with the built environment, its impact and quality. Interestingly, most governments tend to delegate this type of tools to cultural institutions or non-governmental bodies. For example, every year, thousands of pupils and teachers take part in activities for schools at Sweden's National Centre for Architecture and Design (ArkDes), that prepares comprehensive school programmes covering a range of subjects, allowing pupils to participate in topics from housing to colour and form in architecture.

As another example, in Finland, the School of Architecture for Children and Youth (Arkki) is an enterprise that offers a variety of architectural courses to young people. It has run projects together with museums and architecture clubs and having worked in close collaboration with national board of education to create educational curricula for schools. It was set up deliberately to promote educational activities to this audience years before the national architectural policy was published. The activities of Arkki has resulted in a wide range of new architectural resources and educational materials (Fröbe, 2020). As part of the Finnish architectural policy, *Archinfo* was established to extend this work in a more institutional funding (see section 5.1.2).

6.7 - Basic educational training activity 'To Be Like an Architect', 2022 National Institute of Architecture and Town Planning (NIAU), Poland (source: NIAU)

104. For more information: https://finnisharchitecture.fi/

Several professional bodies also develop educational activities related with architecture and the built environment. For example, the *Freethinking Education Project SPP* of the Latvian Association of Architects was launched in 2009 to introduce children and school youth to the art of built environment and to raise awareness about architecture and urban environment for future adults[105].

Specialist training focuses on improving the capacity of professional stakeholders to deliver better design and are often technical or process-oriented in nature. The most conventional way of delivering specialist training tools is through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes within architecture and urban design fields, that range in level from introductory to in-depth and advanced. These may be delivered directly by the suppliers of the training using internal staff, or alternatively by invited experts and typically incur a cost for the participants. Often these charges are one-off charges relating to a particular training session, but occasionally individual or corporate subscriptions are levied for a programme of events, a model used by Urban Design London (Ibidem).

6.8 - One of UDL training sessions (source: Urban Design London)

CPD programmes and related tools tend to be less used by architectural policies as almost all professional organizations offers different types of training activities for its members, such as the 'academies' of the German Chambers of Architects. Nevertheless, ad hoc events, such as conferences, symposiums or congresses around particular themes are also common, organised, for example, by governmental organisations to disseminate new policy initiatives or legislative frameworks; as well as by professional organizations and networks to facilitate learning, networking and exchange amongst members. For example, one of the regular initiative of several administrations, such as the Portuguese National Architecture and Landscape Policy, is the organization of annual conferences about architecture, urban and landscape policy.

105. www.skolniekspetniekspilsetnieks.lv

Box 6 - Shaping Space educational resource (Ireland)

Shaping Space is an educational resource designed to help primary and secondary school teachers to encourage young people to consider and explore a wide range of social, environmental, technical and aesthetic issues related to architecture and the built environment.

Shaping Space was developed by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI), with the support of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht[106].

6.9 - School class environment using the Shaping Space resource (source: RIAI)

Shaping Space is an educational resource on the built environment comprised of almost 300 pages of lesson plans, worksheets, projects and homework assignments structured around three modules: My Home; Neighbourhood, Village, Town, and City; and Buildings through History. Shaping Space was designed so that a teacher with no prior design knowledge can easily use its different modules by simply downloading the desired worksheets or projects according to the purpose at hand.

The Shaping Space programme can be adjusted to suit the needs of individual schools and students, and its format ensures that any school can include a single module or a year-long course within the academic year. Shaping Space is designed for fifteen to sixteen-year olds, but it can also be used for young children or for older students. It also encourages collaboration between teachers from different disciplines, such as teachers of history, geography, art or construction, mathematics, science, languages and literature, social, the environment, and so on.

106. For more info: https://www.riai.ie/careers-in-architecture/resources-for-teachers/shaping-space

6.1.3 Persuasion tools

Persuasion is the third type of the informal *culture quality* tools. Persuasion tools actively make the case for particular design responses in a proactive manner. Instead of waiting for organisations and individuals to seek out knowledge (for example in research or guidance), these tools take the knowledge to them physically or through the media; seeking to package key messages in a manner that engages attention and persuades (Carmona, et al., 2023).

Although approaches vary across the continent, the majority of governmental institutions and pseudo/non-governmental organizations often use persuasion tools to promote good design and build up a cultural climate that values design quality. These tools aim to promote design by delivering a series of awareness raising initiatives focused on particular audiences and direct advocacy to influence legislation and policy.

Two main types of persuasion tools were identified through the UM project:

• **Promulgation tools** (or awareness raising) such as design awards schemes or structured campaigns focused on raising awareness and changing perceptions and practices.

• **Influencing tools** aim to reach key decision-makers by taking the messages to them that design quality matters and is worthy of policy attention, investment, and of prioritising within public and private organisations, including developers (Ibidem).

Promulgation tools (or awareness raising tools)

The first type of persuasion tools is focused on raising awareness and changing perceptions and practices in key ways, and can be separated into three categories:

• *architecture and design awards* to foster an awareness and culture of best practice in architecture and urban design.

• *structured campaigns* focused on changing perceptions and practices about the benefits of design quality for achieving a higher quality of life.

• *events and festivals* to celebrate a pre-existent culture (Ibid.).

Architecture and design awards vary across Europe, from high-profile international prizes to local awards. They are focused on rewarding excellence in the design and/or development processes linked with completed schemes and in so doing raise the profile of design quality and set new benchmarks for practice while also raising the profile of organisations that establish them (Ibid.). Most architecture policies support the use of design awards as a way of raising awareness of specific target groups (e.g. public clients) and the general public (See Box 7).

Across Europe, there is a huge variety of design awards promoted by state, regional and local governments, arms-length and non-governmental institutions (e.g., professional bodies, architecture centres, non-profit associations, etc.) and even by private firms. Their focus ranges from a specific typology, such as housing or commercial schemes, to professional achievement awards (for individuals or companies), to specific themes (e.g. sustainable construction) or approaches (e.g. use of brick, wood or other material), to awards for particular groups such as young designers, and for good design processes including commissioning practices (Ibid.).

Box 7 - Public Procurement Award | Prix MOP (Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Belgium)

The Wallonia-Brussels Federation Public Procurement award (fr. *Prix de la Maîtrise d'Ouvrage Publique* - Prix MOP) is a state prize awarded biennially for excellence in commissioning work in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and infrastructure. This award intends to enhance good practices in the public procurement of design, through the exemplary process implemented and/or consistency of the approach taken by the public contracting authority. Initiated in 2011, this biennial award for the best public procurement of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation is now in its 5th edition.

The Prix MOP is promoted by the Architecture Unit of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation with the support of the Order of Architects (French-speaking and German-speaking council), the Belgian architectural magazine A+, the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia, the Association of the City and Communes of the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Association of Regional Directors and Municipal Engineers.

6.10 - The 'Folklore Museum' in Mouscron was the winner of the Wallonia-Brussels' Public Project Procurement Award 2020, designed by V+ Architecture, Wallonia (source: Dedry Maxence)

The biennial call is open to the submission of applications that are made by either the project owner or the designer, if they have received the agreement of the contracting authority. A jury then nominates the laureates for processes that clearly stand out from the others in accordance with established quality criteria. The award includes several categories distinguishing different types of architectural projects typically encountered by public procurement. Nevertheless, a category may have several winners while others might only select a single winner.

The Prix MOP is a state award that recognizes good practices in procurement processes, drawing attention to the role of public principals and the importance of setting an example, with the aspiration that the award will motivate policymakers and officials across administrations. In this context, the award seeks to highlight and encourage best practices and to promote them among other contracting authorities, thereby developing a culture of audacious public procurement and fostering a culture of design quality in the region[107].

107. For more info: https://cellule.archi/fr/marches/prix-de-la-maitrise-douvrage-publique/

6.11 - Inner swimming pool at the Paracelsus Bath, winner of the State Prize for Architecture and Sustainability, in Salzburg, Austria, designed by Berger+Parkkinen, 2021 (source: BMK/Kurt Hoerbst)

Awarded on a regular cycle, often annually or biennially, most architecture and design awards are explicitly promoted as part of wider awareness raising campaigns, the goal being to reward best practice and innovation, but more importantly to raise the profile of design and to stimulate better practice within the sector (Biddulph et al., 2006).

For example, the Spanish Ministry of Public Works promotes the 'National Architecture Prize' since 1930, with the purpose of recognizing the contribution of a natural person or entity to the enrichment of the social, technological, and sustainable aspects of architecture or urbanism. In a similar way, the French Ministry of Culture awards two national prizes for architecture:

• for young professionals under 35, AJAP prize (for "Albums des jeunes architectes et paysagistes") aiming to identify the talents of tomorrow; it is organised every two years by the Ministry of Culture, and rewards about twenty particularly talented architects and landscape architects under the age of thirty-five. Selected by a jury chaired by two personalities from the world of architecture and landscape design, the winners stand out by the quality of their projects, the relevance of their architectural, urban and landscape proposals as well as their professional approach. They benefit from a promotional campaign in France and abroad and from introductions to public and private developers who support young professionals (since 2002, nearly 170 young practices have won the AJAP competition);

• for recognized professionals, le "Grand prix national de l'architecture (GPNA)", Awarded by the Ministry of Culture every two years, the GPNA rewards an architect, or a team of architects, for their life work. The award is an opportunity to recognise and promote exemplary architectural practice. The Ministry thus confirms the place of architecture within the culture and design industries and highlights the action undertaken in favour of architects, design also architectural and urban research (the design process and projects of each Grand Prix are exhibited at the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine);

In some countries, architectural awards are delivered by professional organizations with financial support of government. For example, the Latvian Architecture Award (LAA) is a national award that highlights outstanding achievements in Latvian architecture and promotes public awareness of architecture. LAA is organized and delivered by the Latvian Association of Architects and financed by the Ministry of Culture. The works presented at the LAA reflect on current Latvian architectural environment, major trends and processes.

Campaigns aim to raise awareness about aspects of design quality amongst those involved in commissioning and delivering buildings and developments, as well as end users and the general public. The intention is to change patterns of decision-making and raise demand for better design with initiatives that range across three types of campaign: generic but often high-profile campaigns aimed at generally raising standards; specific campaigns featuring focussed messaging on clearly defined development types or problems; and campaigns related to particular government policies or programmes.

Although campaigns are mostly used by arms-length or non-governmental organizations, they are also used by State Architects to promote design thinking to help address societal challenges (e.g. housing) or to raise public awareness. For example, the ongoing program "A New Building Culture" of the Dutch Board of Government Advisors (CRa) that aims to stimulate biobased and nature-inclusive construction in The Netherlands, supported by several ministries and the Central Government Real Estate Agency and State Forestry Agency[108].

Events and festivals celebrate a pre-existing design culture, whether based on heritage or contemporary design, and aim to influence stakeholders and the general public to pay attention to architecture and urban design or change its perception about a specific topic related with the built environment. These activities may be promoted simultaneously, in sequence or both, and can involve a wide range of stakeholders, going from government, non-governmental organizations professional bodies, cultural institutions and private companies.

6.12 - The 11º edition of the Biennale of Young Greek Architects, in Thessaloniki (Greece), 2023 (source: EIA / Department of Architectural Engineering AUTH[109])

108. Supported by the Ministries of the Interior, Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Education, Culture and Science, the Central Government Real Estate Agency: https://www.collegevanrijksadviseurs.nl/projecten/nieuwe-bouwcultuur
109. For more info: https://eia.gr/biennale/

Looking across Europe, there is a wide variety of events and festivals promoted at the international, national and local level. Some of these initiatives involve a complex organizational structure with a high number of partners and a multitude of resources, such as a national or international type-event (e.g. biennale / Triennale architectural event, etc). These major events tend to use a mix of cultural quality tools, programming and launching exhibitions, publications and events, showcasing the best examples of architectural and urban projects. Nevertheless, as will be discussed further ahead, governmental departments usually establish partnerships with other actors to undertake this type of persuasion activities.

As an example, initiated in 2019, the Italian government launched the "Architecture Festival", a cultural initiative of the Italian Minister of Culture that aims to promote awareness among the general public of the role and importance of contemporary architecture for the citizens' quality of life, and to achieve a more sustainable society[110]. In its second edition, the Italian festival is coordinated and funded by the government but is implemented by several partners, including public and private institutions, cultural institutions, and foundations with a wide range of initiatives across the country. This implementation model reflected a growing tendency to turn to partnership agreements among public, semi-public and civil society organisations to deliver key policy aims.

6.13 - Banner of the public announcement of the second edition of the Italian Architecture Festival, 2023 (source: *Direzione Generale Creatività Contemporanea*)

As another example, the French "National Days of Architecture" is a national event aiming to raise awareness and stimulate architectural and urban design knowledge among professionals and the general public[111]. Now in its eight edition, this national event lasts for three days including a diverse programme with more than 1,000 free events across the country; such as meetings and debates, visits to architectural offices, visits to buildings and sites, urban walks, exhibitions, films, educational workshops, etc. As another example, the Austrian biennial festival "Architekturtage" offers since 2002 a broad range of *Baukultur* programmes throughout the whole country.

Several administrations and cities also have architectural events that last for one or more days, such as the Open House or similar events[112]. For example, in Spain there are 26 "architecture weeks", where Barcelona and Madrid stand out for their great difference in quantity and quality. In the last edition in Barcelona, 221 activities were carried out; in Madrid, 152. Regarding the Open House, in Barcelona 76,300 people attended and in Madrid, 50,000 people (see Box 8).

110. For more info: /
111. Journées Nationales de l'Architecture. For more info: https://journeesarchitecture.culture.gouv.fr/
112. Open House is a annual festival at city scale, now spread around the world. See: https://www.openhouseworldwide.org/

Box 8 - Engaging the community: Architecture Weeks (Spain)

The 'Architecture Week' is an annual event promoted across Spain by professional organizations of architects and great number of public and private partners, dedicated to the promotion of architecture and urbanism, including a diverse array of cultural initiatives and activities, such as debates, exhibitions, architectural and urban planning itineraries, lectures, and other open events.

6.14 - The annual Madrid Architecture Week involves a wide range of organisations and partners to deliver a wide programme of activities and events, including the Caixa forum cultural centre by Herzog & de Meuron, Madrid (Spain) (source: Rubén P. Bescós)

The geographical scope of each Architecture Week is diverse and usually follows the territorial scope of the organizing entity. In most cases the Architecture Weeks are organizes at the scale of the Spanish Autonomous Community, but there are also similar events at the Provincial level. Initiated in 1996, the event included 26 territories in the edition of 2022 (Navarro, 2022).

The Architecture Weeks usually takes place during the first week of October coinciding with the World Architecture Day of UIA, encompassing a diversified programme of events and activities in different institutions, including exhibitions, conferences, seminars and training courses. With new itineraries every year, one of the highlights of the event is the opening of buildings of recognized architectural value comprised of guided tours for young and old people.

The Architecture Week includes parallel activities, such as, bestowing design awards that recognize the quality of recent architecture, good professional practices and exemplary initiatives that have contributed to the dissemination of architecture; non-specialist training courses; and the promotion of children's activities about architecture and heritage in different residential areas with the help of local neighbourhood associations. The Barcelona and Madrid Architecture Week stands out by their full and complex programme of activities (Ibidem)[113].

The Architecture Weeks are an excellent representative example of an integrated event dedicated to promoting design quality. Similar to other architectural and cultural events across Europe, the Architecture Weeks aims to raise awareness of the importance of high-quality built environments. Its strength lies in the range of tools and cultural initiatives it uses, from events, to awards, to educational initiatives aimed at a diversity of audiences from professionals to children. In doing so, it brings architecture closer to the general public.

113. For more info: https://www.semanaarquitecturamadrid.com/

Influencing tools

Influencing tools aim to reach key decision-makers by taking the messages to them that design quality matters and is worthy of policy attention, investment, and of prioritising within public and private organisations, including developers. These tools include:

• Direct advocacy, from focused lobbying to larger meetings and events;

• Alliance building, through encouraging partnerships across key actor groups or government departments in order to promote common practices that suitably prioritise and facilitate design quality (Ibid.).

Proactive inter-governmental or cross-stakeholder advocacy and partnership working around the delivery of design quality is a notable feature where some governments established dedicated institutions or have appointed a state architect or similar body to act as design champion across the public sector. Usually, these are pseudo-governmental institutions with a non-profit nature with an independent status. According to their statutory mission, although the size, structure and available resources of these organizations varies across Europe, they implement several tools, where advocating for good design is usually one of its core tasks to shape policies and programmes or just to spread best practice (see 4.2).

For example, in 2019, the Swedish government appointed a national architect whose task is to lead and coordinate the work within the designed living environment at national level and also internally. The Swedish National Architect has an important role in the implementation and knowledge building around the designed living environment, to connect actors and assignments at the national level, see synergies and create a basis for collaboration (see Box 9). As a similar example, the Flemish Government appointed a Government Architect in 1999 to provide support and promote design quality across the public sector, as well as to enhance reflection and extend its impact working in collaboration with different stakeholders (see 4.1.2).

In other countries, governments have set up dedicated commissions / agencies (arms-length organizations) to promote design quality across public administration and to champion design quality in the built environment. Like State Architects, design commissions are entrusted with the mission of delivering support to other public administrations, cross-stakeholder advocacy, and campaigning for high-quality architectural, urban and public space design. Depending on the context, the structure, type of competences and level of resources may vary – but despite the differences, design commissions proactively offer their support services across public administrations and utilize tools that are largely informal and non-statutory (see 4.1.3).

Many cities and larger municipalities have also appointed a city architect (or similar post) who, alongside other activities, are active in building a placemaking culture through giving talks and interviews, promoting events, and hosting awards schemes. For example, the City Architect of Riga is explicitly tasked with providing design leadership, cross-stakeholder advocacy and cultivating the conditions under which place-making is prioritised. Alongside other tasks the office maintains cross-professional engagement about ideas and projects that are significant to the community alongside popularising the best achievements in Latvian architecture. Some cities have also established their own architecture and urban information centres, which are very proactive at pushing for a diverse agenda of promotion and awareness.

Box 9 - National Architect of Sweden

The National Architect's mission is to lead and coordinate the implementation of Swedish architectural policy at the national level, both within the National Board of Housing, but also for other public authorities across the country. Among other tasks, the National Architect provides design support to local and regional authorities to foster spatial quality and contribute to the long-term development of sustainable cities in Sweden. The first Swedish National Architect works at the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning since 2018[114].

6.15 - Conference of Helena Bjarnegard, current Swedish State Architect, about her role and the importance of architecture policy for society, Copenhagen 2023 (source: João Bento)

The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) is responsible for the implementation of the national 'Policy on Architecture and Designed Living Environment'. Within this framework, Boverket decided to appoint a National State Architect to provide design leadership and highlight the role of architecture in society in order to promote design quality throughout the country. The National Architect is subordinated to Boverket's Director General. Although it is a recently created position, among other things, the National Architect should coordinate and provide support to public actors at the national, regional and local levels in matters of architecture, design and sustainability in their planning work.

Since the role was first created in 2019, the National Architect has gathered comments and requests from the state authorities, which are specifically designated in the architecture policy, to be able to provide support with guidance, tools, good project examples, inspiration and arguments for high quality architecture. The National Architect also chairs the Sustainable Cities Council established in 2017, which works to implement the government's policy for sustainable urban development and to contribute to the long-term development of sustainable cities in Sweden.

The appointment of a National Architect is a practical way for national governments to provide design leadership and strategic advice across all the different sectors and administrative levels, as well as to contribute to policy and design advocacy. The holder is charged with implementing public policy on architecture and design and with maintaining any form of national momentum focused on improving the quality of the built environment.

114. For more information: https://www.boverket.se/en/start/

6.2 Informal quality delivery tools

The informal quality delivery tools steer decision-making processes in a more focused manner, helping to ensure that design quality is delivered in specific interventions in the built environment. This means '*delivery tools*' move beyond the previous '*culture tools*' because they are more interventionalist in the design process: instead of focussing on the broader culture within which decisions on design are made, they focus on particular projects, places or processes with potential to shape actual outcomes (Carmona, et al., 2023).

Within quality delivery tools, UM identified three forms of tools:

• **Rating tools** – allow judgments to be made about the quality of design in a systematic and structured manner, usually by parties such as professionals or community groups that are external to, and therefore independent from, the particular design process being evaluated.

• **Support tools** – are more directive within the design process itself as they involve directly assisting or enabling design / development teams with particular projects, or with the commissioning of projects or the preparation of design guidance and other tools. They potentially encompass a range of financial means that can be used to encourage better design outcomes by providing financial support to key initiatives or delivery organisations or through the raising or transferring of funding focussed on delivering better design.

• **Exploration tools** – engage directly in the design process through mechanisms that investigate, test out and involve the community in particular design approaches. They are hands-on but exploratory in nature, either utilising temporary interventions or inputting into larger project or place-shaping processes (Ibidem).

6.2.1 Rating tools

Rating tools are the first of the quality delivery tools. These tools allow judgments to be made about the quality of design in a systematic and structured manner, usually by parties (e.g. other professionals or community groups) external to, and therefore independent from, the particular design process being evaluated (Carmona et al., 2017, p. 199). This includes *formative* evaluation tools, such as indicators or informal design review process which evaluate projects; and *summative* evaluation tools, such as certification schemes or design competitions which allow design proposals to be evaluated prior to their development. While indicators and informal design review processes tend to be of 'traditional use' in certain countries (e.g. UK), they are of exceptional use in other countries. In several administrations (e.g. Belgium, France and Switzerland), design competitions are of recurring use to promote the quality of public buildings.

One of the architectural policies main objectives is leading by example (also referred to 'setting the example'), namely by promoting high quality public buildings and construction works (see 5.1.1). Within this remit, most policies endorse and support the use of architecture and design competitions to raise standards and achieve the best solution for a defined urban problem. Design competitions are one of the prominent tools of the new laws on architecture, therefore they can also be considered a formal quality tool if they are set mandatory for public buildings, over a certain threshold (e.g. France) or for buildings of public interest (e.g. Lithuania).

Formative evaluation

The first type of rating tools are formative evaluation tools. This type encompasses *indicator (measurement)* tools and *informal design review* (not conducted as part of a formal regulatory process), the results from which can feed directly into the generation and refinement of design solutions for development proposals (Carmona, Bento, et al., 2023)

Indicator tools seek to measure and represent aspects of performance – in this case design quality – in a manner that can be easily shared and understood. Examples such as the 'Design Quality Indicator' (developed by the Construction Industry Council in the UK) establish a structure against which evaluation of design quality can be made, with ratings against the separate criteria made by experts or through structured conversations with stakeholders (https://www.dqi.org.uk). In this way they are developmental tools, designed to diagnose qualities, pass judgements and encourage collaboration.

Within *formative evaluation*, as an example, the Scottish Place Standard tool is a simple framework developed a couple of years ago to structure conversations about place and about its physical elements as well as the social aspects. The Place Standard is an indirect output of the Scottish architectural and place policy. It includes 14 questions on the physical aspects of a place (buildings, open spaces, transport) as well as the social aspects (for example, whether people feel they have a say in decision-making); each question is then rated on a scale from 1-7. Launched in 2015, Place Standard is currently being applied in several European countries.
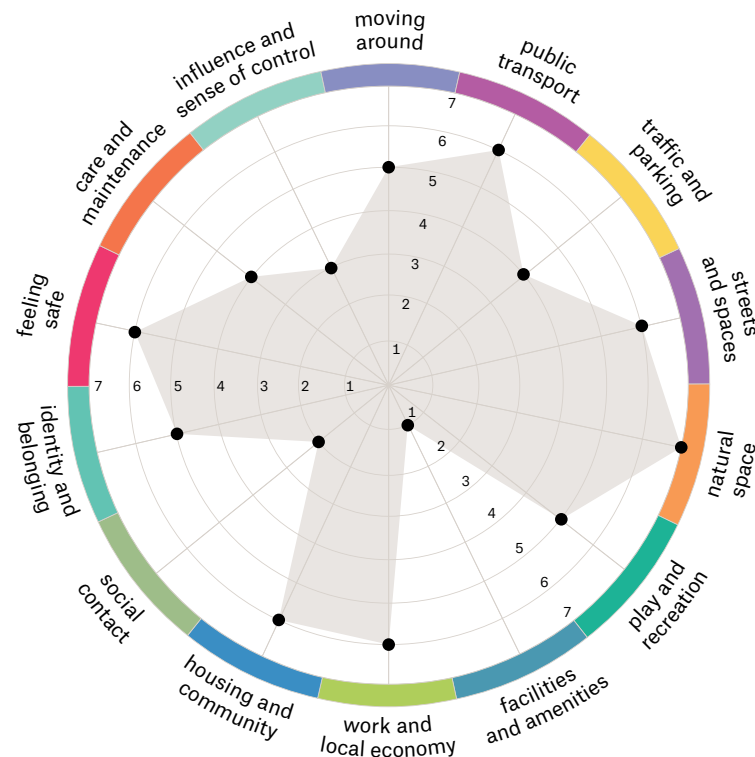
6.16 - Example of Place Standard final spider diagram. The tool was developed by Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS), together with NHS Health Scotland and the Planning & Architecture Department of the Scottish Government (source: www.placestandard.scot)

Nevertheless, according with the UM research, these type of indicator or certification tools do not seem to be widely used in Europe at the urban design scale, although the small number of examples the UM survey revealed are well developed. They have the potential to provide an assessment of the quality of buildings or places in a systematic and objective manner, although also run the risk of oversimplifying complex sets of qualities. The use of expert design review panels or design advisory boards in different forms are far more widespread and growing (Ibidem).

Design review amounts to a peer review process for evaluating the design quality of proposed projects. Going by various names – quality review, place review, design surgeries, aesthetic control, design advisory boards, design commissions, building committees, project meetings, quality chambers, and spatial quality teams – the common thread is evaluation by an independent panel of experts unconnected to the schemes under review (ibid.).

In this framework, the immediate function of design review is to improve the design quality of individual development schemes by challenging development teams and offering constructive advice from a breadth and depth of experience that may not be available to the project team or within the municipality, including in more specialist areas such as inclusion, heritage or sustainability. Design review should be seen as an improvement tool, focused on adding value to developments by helping to broaden discussions about projects, not least about the larger context within which developments happen. Design review is also one of the tools used by State Architects and City Chief Architects to promote design quality (Eisinger & Reuther, 2007, p. 254).

 Design review seems to be a rapidly growing practice in Europe. In German speaking countries, for example, design advisory boards now act as intermediaries between the interests of owners and the general public in many larger towns and cities, including in Innsbruck where the design advisory board assesses the quality of projects submitted against specified criteria and offers advice to the city council which they have the discretion to follow, or not. Typically panels are appointed by municipalities and consist of independent design and related professionals who conduct their work for the public sector and without charge to those being reviewed.

In England, commercial and not-for-profit organisations also provide design review services (alongside public sector panels), competing in an open market both at national and local level to run panels for local authorities and to conduct reviews that carry a charge. The charge is typically paid by developers either to the provider of the review service or directly to the local authority that requested the review. This marketisation of urban design governance is unique in Europe, and, against early expectations, has resulted in a greater take up of design review across England (Carmona 2018).


6.17 - Example of a meeting session of the Design Advisory Board (*baukollegium*) of the Berlin Senate Building Department, Germany (source: Lidia Tirri)

Box 10 - Dutch Spatial Quality Teams (Netherlands)

Spatial Quality Teams (Q-teams) provide advice about enhancing the spatial quality of buildings, streets, neighbourhoods, cities, landscapes and regions. Q-teams do not design projects but rather use various design governance tools to stimulate and preserve spatial quality. Spatial Quality Teams are set up by local, provincial or national authorities.
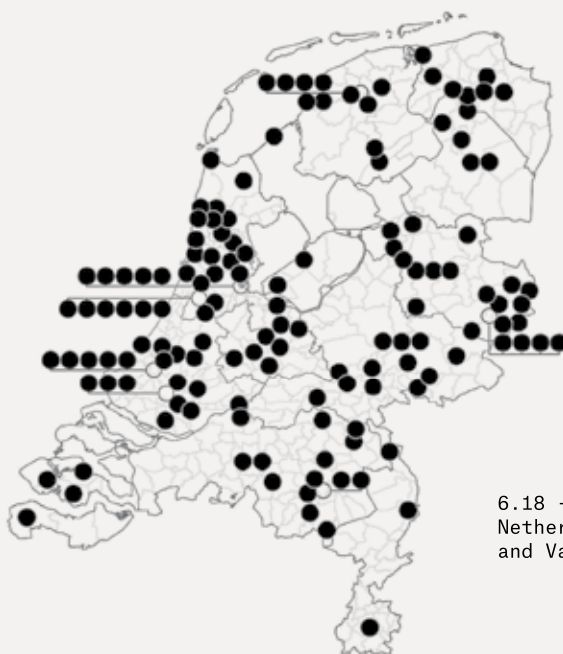
6.18 - Map of q-teams in the Netherlands (source: Van Assen and Van Campen 2014)

Q-teams are multidisciplinary teams of experts that provide independent advice on spatial developments and spatial policy. Assen et al (2020) defined two types of Q-teams: specific and generic. A specific Q-team operates within the framework of a specific planning or developmental area, within the physical boundaries of the spatial assignment, such as an urban development zone or an infrastructural or landscape development. Within this area, the team guides and assesses individual projects on their contribution to the quality of the whole and may last only for the duration of the assignment. A generic Q-team operates within given administrative boundaries (a municipality, a province or even a region) and has no defined end date. Within this framework, the Q-team has a more proactive role as it can bring up topics for discussion, and stimulate, investigate, supervise, assess and evaluate. This means that generic Q-teams are more proactive, have a longer-term duration and provide an advisory role between the spatial vision established for an area and the diverse planned and spontaneous initiatives of private and public actors (Assen & Campen, 2020).

Spatial Quality Teams provide knowledge and design capacity to the local, provincial or regional authority through formal and informal advisory practices developed by multidisciplinary teams of experts, intervening in the early stages of planning and design processes. Although some of the Q-teams focus on the design review functions of specific urban development plans, several Q-teams are charged with a more proactive role promoting and enabling spatial quality within a defined jurisdiction.

Summative evaluation

Summative evaluation tools are the second type of rating tools and include design competitions and certification schemes, which tend to evaluate schemes that are further advanced and (in the case of certification) perhaps even completed (Carmona, et al., 2023).

Architectural design competitions (ADC) are centrally concerned with encouraging better design solutions to defined urban problems, including encouraging innovation in design, through pitting design / development teams against each other. ADC are widely acknowledged as a successful instrument to stimulate architects and urban designers' creativity and identify both the most appropriate design solution and/or the most suitable design team to lead challenging urban transformation processes. Organizing a design contest may also come with a series of indirect benefits such as creating awareness about a particular site or issue; raising a city's or the commissioning party's reputation; stimulating community cohesion and ownership; supporting the emergence of young talents; or activating a policy debate on architecture and urban design (Carmona, et al., 2023).

ADC come in many shapes (open, limited, invited) and sizes (local, national, international), across two fundamental types: conceptual (ideas only) and project (relating to a tangible building project) (Lehrer 2011). Regardless of the type of approach, competitions focus on raising design standards through a competitive process contributing to the improvement of the city's housing stock and have been an important tool for promoting urban regeneration processes of periphery and disused areas (Katsakou, 2013). Usually, ADC involve a jury that assesses the different designs from an independent point of view.

Many competitions are one-off exercises, for example the 2019 Dutch 'Panorama Lokaal' competition, a two-phase design ideas competition focused on residential neighbourhoods on the outskirts of cities and intended to attract multidisciplinary teams interested in working with local coalitions of municipalities, housing associations and other relevant parties.

6.19 - One of 'Panorama Local' session with local coalitions
(source: College van Rijksadviseurs - CRa)

Among the *summative* evaluation tools, design competitions are widely used but intermittently throughout Europe at both the state level and local governments. Regardless of the type of approach, competitions focus on raising design standards through a competitive process which is rarely mandated, although there are exceptions to this. Long-standing French national legislation, for example, mandates a design competition for public buildings over a specified contract value (in 2020 €144,000 for state contracts and €221.00 for local authorities) while a 2017 Architecture Law in Lithuania places an obligation on public authorities to organise architectural competitions for structures that are important in terms of state and public interest, or as regards their architectural or urban impact (see 5.1.1).

6.20 - The public space renewal project and library 'The Krook' was selected by a design competition promoted by the Flemish Government Architect, Open Call 18 project 01, completed in 2017, designed by Coussee & Goris architecten, RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta arquitectes (source: Tim Van De Velde)

An interesting example of design competition related to tangible building projects is the Open Call procedure from the Flemish Government Architect (Belgium). Created in 2000, the Open Call has been operating for almost 20 years and more than 700 projects have used the approach (Liefooghe & van den Driessche, 2019). The Open Call is free of charge for all public and semi-public organizations, including regional public services, city and municipal authorities, as well as housing agencies, non-profit organizations, etc[115].

In Germany and Austria, several cities are using concept tendering procedures, which is an alternative means for municipalities to sell (or rather lease over the long-term) land that is in their direct sphere of influence (typically public land). Instead of using either a direct award, wherein conditions must be agreed upon with the buyer, or a bidding process, wherein price is the deciding factor, concept tendering brings to the fore the qualities and aspects of design/place by making them a key decision-making factor, equal to or even more important than price (Temel, 2019)[116].

115. For a full list of projects see: https://www.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/en/instruments/open-call
116. For more information see: https://urbanmaestro.org/example/konzeptvergabe/

Certification schemes are awarded to projects to denote that they have reached a particular quality threshold. As such they move a step further towards formalisation as they combine evaluation with an 'official' stamp of approval, although they do not proffer any formal consent or warrant. They are instead a verified benchmark or standard of quality, for example, for energy efficiency. Well know schemes, internationally, include 'BREEAM' (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) or 'LEED' (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), each with their own criteria, evaluation frameworks, assessment panels and certification processes. These processes are often conduced after projects are completed but can also occur on the basis of submitted drawings. Certification is increasingly being utilised across Europe, for example in Latvia and Slovenia where LEED and BREEAM are common, and in the Nordic countries where the 'Nordic Swan' ecolabel is gaining traction, including for built environment products. In Germany, there is the German Sustainable Building Council (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen - DGNB) that certifies buildings worldwide.

6.2.2 Support tools

The second type of informal 'quality delivery tools' is support, which is an approach more directive within the design process itself as it involves directly or indirectly assisting design / development teams and/or public sector actors with particular projects or urban design governance processes. They enable the public sector to shape the decision-making environment of organisations with a remit to directly influence or actually shape design outcomes, and to influence the fundamental choices about development early in the development process. In this way, governments can extend their reach to strategic delivery partners and to local actors in a manner that would otherwise be impossible. They can be direct, providing hands-on assistance, or indirect, for example through providing funding for others, but ultimately aim to influence processes and outcomes of design for the better. They do this through filling skills, capacity, and funding gaps in order to contribute to the larger urban design governance goals of the assisting organisation (Carmona, et al., 2023).

Based on these differentiation, two main types of support tools were identified:

• *Funding* to key delivery organisations (e.g. arms-length agencies or centres with a design remit) or programme grants tied to the delivery of defined quality / quality culture objectives;

• *Enabling tools* that include the provision of hands-on professional enabling or advice.

Funding

Funding takes the form of direct financial support to delivery organisations, although this might also involve in-kind support, for example through the secondment of staff or the temporary loan of capacity to organisations. This sort of support can be used to fund either the core costs of delivery organisations, such as arms-length agencies or architecture centres so that they can organise and conduct a programme of urban design governance, or to cover the ring-fenced costs of delivering particular defined initiatives tied to defined quality objectives. These forms of support are indirect because the funding body is not delivering the programme being funded, but is instead supporting it financially and thereby handing over responsibility for others to deliver.

Most architecture policies, at the least the ones with an associated annual budget, provide direct financial support to delivery dedicated organizations, such as design commissions, architecture centres and museums. This financial support is essential for their operations, which in turn deliver a public service activity developing a programme of initiatives and actions promoting a culture of design quality (see 4.2). Nevertheless, in several countries, this financial support might also exist event if it is not directly connected to the architecture policy implementation framework (see 5.12). In both cases, the state is explicitly supporting the dissemination of information and awareness raising initiatives to fosters a placemaking and design culture environment.

Two types of funding were identified: *strategic grants* and *programme grants* (Ibidem).

Strategic grants (grant-in-aid) are provided to a wide range of organisations offering different urban design governance services. The growing recognition of the importance of urban quality across Europe has, for example, led governments to set up and / or support arms-length agencies and centres with a design remit dedicated to driving the design quality agenda nationally, regionally or at the city level. Examples include the German Federal Foundation of *Baukultur* or the Paris Centre for Architecture and Urbanism, funded by the city. The financial support is itself a tool – what Hood's (1983) referred to as the application of state 'treasure' to a problem, in this case the delivery of better governance of design – that enables these bodies to operate and in turn to develop their own suite of tools to influence design quality.

As an example, the *Flanders Architecture Institute* (VAi) is dedicated to architectural promotion and responsible for delivering the cultural dimension of the Flemish architectural policy, through exhibitions and other activities that are aimed at making a general public aware of architecture and urban design[117]. Funded by the Flemish government, VAI was entrusted with the management of the Flanders Architecture Archives, which was being taken care by regional and provincial authorities across Flanders. Since 2002, VAI is also responsible by the publication of the Architectural Yearbooks, which intends to highlight architecture achievements and to inform a broader public about it (5.21)[118].

6.21 - Flanders Architecture Institute (VAI), Belgium (source: VAI)

Some countries have made public-private partnership agreements to finance dedicated cultural organizations to deliver part of their architectural policy programmes. For example, the Danish Architecture Center is a not-for-profit commercial foundation with a financial basis in the partnership between the philanthropic foundation Realdania and the state as represented by the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens. The partnership provides an annual public subsidy of a total of 2,5 million Euro, which is used for a wide range of public service activities, adding 7,5 million Euro from Realdania. Against this backdrop, the Danish Architecture Center generates additional revenue of just over 6 million Euro annually through user fees, fundraising, project sales and concrete cooperation projects with business and public actors as well as conference, café and design shop activity[119].

117. The Flemish government establish the Flanders Architecture Institute the international arts centre 'deSingel' in 2001.
118. For more info see https://www.vai.be/en/
119. Information from: https://dac.dk/presse/danmarks-stoerste-public-service-partnerskab/ (consulted 2023/10)

Source	€ million / annual
Realdania	7,4
Ministry of Culture	0,75
Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs	1
Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens	0,5
Public aid packages (COVID-19)	1,2
TOTAL	**10,85**

Table 9 - Annual grants contribution (in million Euros) to DAC's operations at the end of 2021. DAC has entered into new four-year Framework Agreement (2022-2025), which ensures DAC's fixed grants from the Partnership consisting of the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens and the Realdania Association (source: DAC annual report 2021).

Another interesting example of financial support by partnership is the Houses of Architecture in Austria, where each federal province has created its own centre of architecture, that receives funding from federal, state and local administration[120]. At the beginning of the 1990s, a funding scheme for architecture and design was introduced by the Austrian federal government to ensure the continuity of the Houses of Architecture by covering part of their operation costs. Depending on the federal state, the remaining funding is supplemented by financial support from federal states and / or municipalities, membership fees and private sponsors[121].

6.22 - Based in Vienna Museumsquartier (MQ), Architecture Centre of Vienna (Architekturzentrum Wien – AzW) is dedicated to showcase and explore how architecture and urban development shape the daily lives of Austrian citizens. AzW was founded in 1993 by the state and City of Vienna (source: João Bento)

120. Although the Austrian Society for Architecture was set up in the sixties, the first House of Architecture was created in Graz/Steiermark in 1988, followed by the Architecture Centre Vienna (Az W - Architekturzentrum Wien) in 1993.
121. In 1996, the nine Houses of Architecture, along with the Austrian Society for Architecture founded an Umbrella Organisation, The Austrian Architectural Foundation, which is a common public platform for Austrian architectural initiatives. Along with statutory professional associations, educational faculties and independent architectural initiatives, it constitutes an important third pillar for upholding the Austrian building culture.

Box 11 - Subsidies for architectural and urban competitions (Czech Republic)

A Czech national subsidy programme for supporting architectural and urban competitions for the local procurement of design services of public buildings, public spaces and planning documents, through subsidizing half the costs associated with competition prizes (up to €15,000 per competition). This program aims to promote more frequent use of design competitions by municipalities, which would in turn foster higher quality architectural and urban works.

This subsidy is coordinated by the Czech Ministry of Regional Development.

6.23 - Realized projects based on competitions in Czech Republic, with a division into regions, between 1993-2019 (source: Tomas Zdvihal CBA ERA)
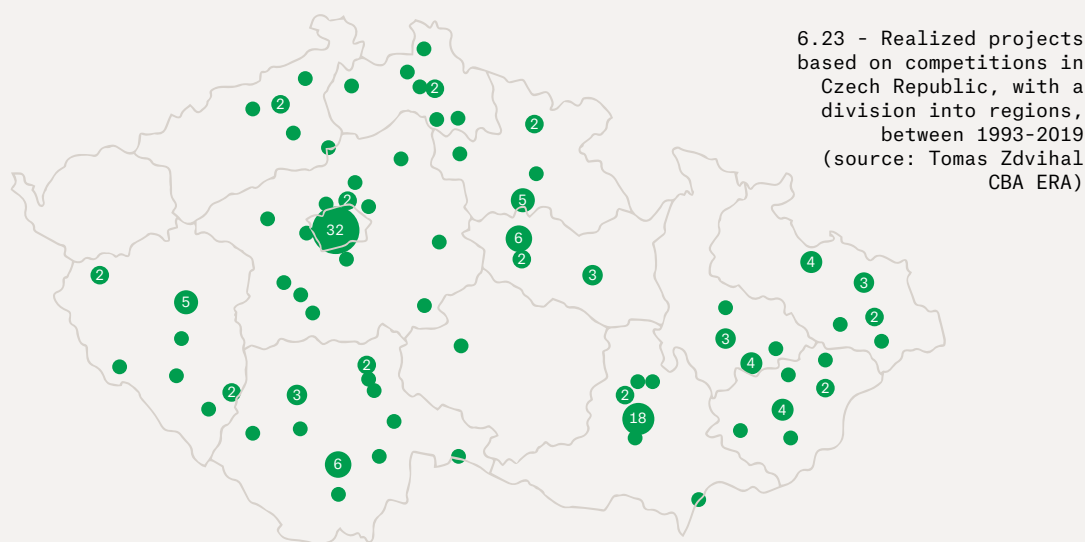
The subsidy program aims to promote the use of design competitions by local authorities in the Czech Republic in the search for future contractors for major projects. By subsidizing part of the costs associated with competition prizes and rewards, which form most of the costs of architectural and urban competitions, would lead to the more frequent use of competitions, which may include the design of public buildings, public spaces or spatial planning documents. Within a five-year period (2018-2023), the ministry planned to launch a call for applications annually. Based on the analysis of the competitions conducted in the previous years, namely the number and types of competitions, the amounts paid out for prizes and rewards, as well as the organizers' structure and the number of participants in the competition, the program's conditions have been redefined so that the funds spent will not be concentrated on a select few municipalities, but rather throughout the country. This means that the selection process favours municipalities that have not yet benefited from the programme. At the same time, it also favours smaller municipalities and areas with significant historical values, where the quality of the newly incorporated architecture needs to be particularly taken into consideration.

Although design competitions are considered one of the best tools for improving design quality, they are rarely used in most European countries. This Czech subsidy program for design competitions encourages the use of design competitions by local authorities through a financial support, which in turn will have a direct impact on the quality of public projects[122].

122. For more info: https://mmr.gov.cz/cs/narodni-dotace/podpora-uzemniho-planovani-a-architektonickych-u/architektonicke-a-urbanisticke-souteze

Programme (and procurement) grants represent funding that is ring-fenced and time-limited for closely defined purposes, usually as a means to direct the efforts of delivery organisations to specific defined policy objectives or initiatives. For example, the Architecture Unit of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation manages a specific budget to subsidise others to organise exhibitions, publications, seminars, conferences, debates, documentaries and so forth, that raise the profile of architecture quality. Another interesting example is the Czech subsidies for design competitions, that support architectural and urban design competitions for the local procurement of design services of public buildings, public spaces and planning documents, through subsidizing half the costs associated with competition prizes (see Box 10).

Enabling tools

Enabling amounts to the provision of hands-on professional assistance or advice to design / development teams on particular projects, or when commissioning projects or preparing pieces of urban design guidance, policy or other tools, such as design competitions. This type of tools is hands-on and direct as it involves directly working with development actors engaging in the delivery of particular development projects or place making strategies. A wide range of organisations provide enabling support to public and private clients, support that varies depending on the remit and resources of those organisations. It may include assistance on all strategic, management, operational and technical aspects of developments, from financial arrangements, to bidding processes, recruitment, drafting briefs and giving presentations, to mentoring and monitoring design work and local urban design governance activities (Carmona, et al., 2023).

As referred in the previous section, across Europe, some states have been appointing a 'State Architect' to provide support to public actors (see previous section). At a lower level, these approaches are echoed in municipalities who have appointed a city architect (and team) tasked with providing proactive advocacy and the direct enabling of good design, such as the examples of Budapest (Hungary), Copenhagen (Denmark) or Warsaw (Poland).

This role is also played by non-governmental bodies, such as the French Councils for Architecture, Urbanism and the Environment (CAUE), which among other tools, provide free design advice and support to local councils and citizens (see previous Section).

6.24 - Budapest City Architect TÉR_KÖZ programme public space interventions (source: Budapest City)

6.2.3 Exploration tools

Exploration is the final type of informal quality delivery tool. These approaches engage directly in the design process through mechanisms that investigate, test out and involve the community in particular design approaches. They are hands on but exploratory in nature, either utilising temporary interventions or inputting into larger projects or place-shaping processes. Being exploratory in nature, they are also flexible and often innovative in the methodologies they employ. By actively involving third parties in the design process, they aspire to broaden and enrich the design / development process, influencing key decision-making relating to projects and places, often well in advance of regulatory processes or development interest (Carmona, et al., 2023).

According with the UM findings, exploration tools can be classified in two main types depending on whether the focus of the tool is public or professional:

• **Proactive engagement tools**, such as design led community participation or co-governance agreements;

• **Professional investigation tools**, such as research by design and testing and on-site experimentation.

Proactive engagement tools

Proactive engagement tools involve stakeholders and the community in particular projects or places, typically seeking their input, either prior to development or to encourage citizen input into the long-term management of urban assets. Proactive engagement tools may be divided in two types: Design-led community participation and Co-governance agreements (Ibidem).

Design-led community participation encompasses a diverse range of tools designed to involve communities directly in decision-making on the future of the built environment. By actively involving communities it is hoped to empower them while delivering better outcomes (more suited to local needs), encouraging positive communication between stakeholders, and avoiding negative reactions to subsequent development propositions. Across the continent such processes are common but far from universal, encompassing forms of engagement ranging from the actual co-design of projects to various forms of action planning or design workshops / charrettes (Ibid.).

Across Europe several local authorities have been promoting different forms of participatory processes for co-designing the uses of urban areas and public spaces with local communities, through design workshops, design charrettes, debates, etc. For example, the local development company SAMOA[123], which is responsible for managing and delivering the urban regeneration strategy of the Island of Nantes (France), has been promoting several design-led community participation activities as a way to include the concerns of future residents in its development and housing schemes.

Long established are the Germany's International Building Exhibitions developed as living labs for planning and architecture. Recently, this model has extended to other countries, including Austria, Netherlands and Switzerland (see Box 12).

123. Société d'Aménagement de la Métropole Ouest Atlantique.

Box 12 - IBA International Building Exhibitions (Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland)

Originally, International Building Exhibitions (IBAs) were conceived as a way of showcasing architectural achievements. The format, now more than 100 years old, has however expanded beyond its country of origin (Germany). Its fundamental character changed over time, the architectural and urban exhibition has shifted towards the promotion of integrated approaches to urban development. IBAs are area-specific, time-limited programs, usually taking place over a period of 7 to 10 years. They often address several themes highlighting experimental projects and approaches to architecture and urban development, whereas initiative range from housing prototypes and public space interventions to engagement models, alternative educational initiatives, and more schemes to be planned and implemented.

The IBAs are set up by the city councils and the states (land).

6.25 - Projekt B³
Gadamerplatz, IBA
Heidelberg, Germany
(source: Thilo Ross)

The IBAs seek to provide a vision for urban development future. It, therefore, needs to offer more than the format of building exhibitions. Visitors can participate in the process of researching and developing urban concepts, and like an 'Urban lab', IBAs focus on an entire area of the city within a given period. This means that today's building exhibitions become 'workshops' spanning over several years, and which focus on social, economic and cultural matters. Each IBA exhibition contains several significant and forward-looking ecological concepts, aiming to inspire others and demonstrate innovation. They represent opportunities to explore models for new urban approaches and to gradually optimise the featured projects, all of which must go through an approval process. One of the main advantages of IBAs is their ability to overcome institutional barriers and establish practical cooperation on specific projects with a wide range of different players.

The IBAs are based on a non-formal process that aims to enhance horizontal and vertical cooperation through shared work on projects. Using an IBA format can strengthen planning perspectives and help overcome systemic barriers in the formal planning processes. IBAs have included the ambitious projects, which took place in Berlin (1979-1987) and Emscher Park (1989-1999), and more recent in Hamburg (2006-2013), Basel (2010-2020), Parkstad (2013-2021), Heidelberg (2012-2022), Vienna (2016-2022), and Thüringen (2012-2023), alongside currently ongoing process in Stuttgart until 2027[124]. There´s plans for a IBA Ukraine.

124. For more info: https://www.internationale-bauausstellungen.de/

6.26 - One example of the Nantes citizens vote, France (source: Régis Routier, Ville de Nantes)

Co-governance agreements between local authorities and citizens for improving their surroundings or manging vacant and underused spaces and buildings are increasingly used and bring communities to the coalface as players in how places are actually shaped. While there is often a formal agreement (pact) underpinning such arrangements, there are also extended informal processes of collaboration between, for example local councils, housing associations and residents, sharing management responsibilities (Ibid.). An interesting example, is the BIP/ZP program in Lisbon (Portugal) (see Box 13).

Professional investigation

Professional investigation tools investigate particular design challenges in order to identify and perhaps test out innovative solutions. Two types of professional investigation tools were identified.

Research by design is used to explore design alternatives for key projects, places or problems. The tool encompasses a critical inquiry through design that may include speculative design, data collection and manipulation, visioning possible realities and alternatives, and even the physical construction of exemplar projects. Such approaches use the power of design to help stakeholders understand possibilities and therefore to inspire more informed discussions about the future potential of place. Across Europe, research by design is used by the public sector, notably city architects, to explore design alternatives in complex urban areas and for major development schemes before developers come forward with their own proposals (Carmona, et al., 2023).

On-site experimentation has become increasingly popular over recent decades, often encompassing forms of temporary (tactical) urbanism in which interventions are made as a means to try out new arrangements, encourage engagement, or simply experiment with ideas over days, weeks or sometimes years. It can also involve the construction of exemplar projects, both for experimental purposes and to set standards for others to follow. Finally, at a larger scale, 'urban labs' bring together a wide range of development actors to experiment with new forms of development / management using a variety of tools including design workshops, public debates, artistic installations, social media engagement, and so on (Bulkeley et al 2019).

Regarding on-site experimentation, an interesting example was the Grand Voizins project, which encompasses the temporary occupation of a former hospital in Paris, considered to be one of the most successful examples of temporary occupation across Europe[125].

125. For more info see: https://urbanmaestro.org/example/les-grands-voisins/

Box 13 - Lisbon's BIP/ZIP Programme (Portugal)

The BIP/ZIP programme supports small-scale, community-driven projects in Lisbon's deprived neighbourhoods, allowing bottom-up experimentation in the form of co-governance models, design solutions and cultural initiatives (http://bipzip.cm-lisboa.pt/). The programme is managed by Lisbon City Council.

Since 2011, the programme has aimed at implementing small, local interventions that promote the well-being of the whole community. These often focus on the city's Priority Intervention Zones with responses designed to address defined social and urban challenges (4.30) and ranging from physical interventions, to new used for public space to schemes designed to animate local citizens and get them engaged in their areas.

6.27 - One example of BIP/ZIP Program in sensitive urban areas (source: Nelson D'Aires)

The programme is flexible in terms of partnerships and themes, with the promotion of citizenship, skills and entrepreneurship, inclusion, rehabilitation, and the improvement of life in neighbourhoods as key objectives. Its philosophy is based on the establishment of local partnerships, together with the parish and local associations, communities and non-governmental organisations, contributing to the strengthening of social and territorial cohesion in the city.

BIP/ZIP has a strong participatory dimension, including participatory budgeting. A public tender is opened annually, with a maximum of €50,000 per project, all evaluated by an independent jury. Projects are deliberately small and quickly implemented, with a timespan of one year allowed for each project so that residents will see tangible results without getting bogged down in complex bureaucracy or decision-making.

6.3 Formal quality delivery tools

Within the typology of urban design governance tools, the "formal quality delivery tools' steer those decision-making processes in a more focussed manner, helping to ensure that design quality is delivered in specific interventions in the built environment. While there is no hard and fast division between formal and informal tools in urban design governance, formal tools tend to include a range of more conventional instruments. They include development / zoning plans, design standards, state subsidies and investment, construction permits, development consent regimes, urban development charges, and so forth (Carmona, et al., 2023). Carmona (2017) has classified formal tools in three types:

Guidance tools encompass a wide range of tools that, in different ways, formally set out operational design parameters to direct the design of development. Some are generic relating to large areas such as whole municipalities and some area-based or site-specific, often tied to particular projects or programmes. Some are highly prescriptive such as design standards, design coding, or parameter plans, while others are performance-based and therefore subject to a good degree of interpretation, notably design policy or flexible design / development frameworks. Nevertheless, Carmona (2017, p. 7) emphasizes that design guidance does not encompass fixed legally binding design requirements, as the ones found in zoning, because this would imply a characteristic of enforceability that guidance does not possess.

Guidance tends to be greatly used in contexts of discretionary planning traditions. For example, England has recently adopted a *National Design Guide* (2020), that sets out the characteristics of well-designed places and demonstrates what good design means in practice, and a *National Model Design Code* (2021), to support the use of design codes in the planning system.

Incentive tools can be more or less interventionalist, depending on whether they involve the state directly inputting public resources to encourage better outcomes, for example through subsidy or direct investment in infrastructure, or whether they are indirect and focused on rewarding defined 'good behaviour' with enhanced development rights. These include development bonuses, notably permission to build higher or denser, or to forms of process management, perhaps related to a streamlined route through a consent regime if certain rules are followed. Some forms of incentive focus on encouraging specific outcomes, others are process-oriented, aiming to steer design-led development processes. Because they involve finance – either the giving of finance by the state or its receipt and re-investment in the public realm – typically these tools are regulated and therefore lie within the formal side of the urban design governance toolbox.

Within this category, it is possible to include public actions involving macro-level public investment in the provision of public and collective goods through direct provision (Tiesdell & Adams, 2011, p. 18). The investment in public goods by the state (e.g. construction of a new bridge or new transport infrastructure) has the potential to promote development, which will raise the value of adjacent lands and properties that are close to the investment. It may also include high quality investments in public spaces for the regeneration of urban areas. In this context, in financial terms, investment provision can have a catalyst effect on a poorly connected or depressed area. This can also include different financial mechanisms used in development (Carmona, et al., 2023).

Control tools are based alternatively on fixed legal frameworks with unquestioning administrative decision making or the discretionary interpretation of policy. They encompass both development and construction related regulation and pre- and post-development decision-making (including that related to enforcement). They can be differentiated by to whom the benefit of the decision primarily accrues, for example whether a contribution from the developer to the state (public gets something such as a developer contribution or infrastructure adoption), or an authorisation given from the state to the applicant (the applicant gets something, typically a development consent or warranty that the work has reached a defined standard).

Over the past century, the design and layout of the built environment, as with most products of modern life, has become increasingly regulated (Ben-Joseph & Szold, 2005). As Imrie & Street (Imrie and Street 2011b, p. 4) note: 'there is no part of the design and development of the built environment that is untouched by the plethora of rules, regulations, standards, and governance practices, relating to building form and performance'[126]. In this sense, the public sector has a strong influence on the design of the built environment and its different components, from building scale to urban form, through a 'series of overlapping regulatory regimes' (Carmona, 2011, p. 58). These can go from general development controls (e.g. planning systems, historic preservation, environmental protection) to specific controls over the design of a development (e.g. design policies, design review, building regulations) (Tiesdell & Adams, 2011).

However, if formal urban design governance instruments work well at preventing the worst forms of development, they are often less successful at stimulating the best (Ben-Joseph, 2005). Part of the problem may be that the sorts of tools predominantly used to guide the design of development are often limited in their scope and technical in their application. They are frequently not generated out of any place-based vision that has been designed for a particular locality or project. Consequently, design quality in a holistic sense, and how quality is defined, may not be fully articulated (Carmona, et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, an efficient legal building and planning framework is essential to structuring and managing the physical environment as a basis for protecting the public interest and cultural heritage (Commission & Directorate-General for Education Sport and Culture, 2021). Although legislation and regulation provide general guidelines and minimum standards for designers and development actors, to assure that the developments comply with minimum quality requirements, they need to be flexible enough to allow for innovation and contribute to the development of sustainable and high-quality places (Ben-Joseph, 2005).

Most of the architecture policies are strategic policy documents with a national or regional scope, setting high aspirations for the built environment, not legally binding. Within the urban design governance panorama, their toolkit is essentially informal and focused on enhancing the capacity, competence, and knowledge of development actors, promoting a culture of design quality and fostering public authorities and the general public more aware in appreciation of architecture and urban culture. These were explored in in the two previous sections.

The recent architecture laws (Catalonia, Lithuania, Campania and Spain) are a novelty from the last study, as until recently this type of approach was restricted only to France and Sweden, which specific characteristics were described in chapter 5. Across all of them, there is the common feature of proclaiming architecture quality as a matter of public interest and as an essential element for sustainable urban development. Nevertheless, they do not provide new regulatory frameworks (e.g. building code). Instead, they express aspirations for the built environment and highlight the benefits and the long-term value — in economic, cultural, social and health terms — of designing good places. Adopting a formal policy on the value of design quality in the form of legislation sets a strong policy statement and raises the public sector responsibility as role model and provider of services of general interest.

The new architecture laws also define a set of high-level quality principles that should be taken into consideration in public procurement procedures, that tend to use the lowest price as the only award criterion for public contracts. In fact, the low-quality culture of public procurement has been one of the areas more difficult to address by the architectural policies. Despite each context has its own governance system, quality principles may be introduced in the public procurement without restricting too much the design capacity for innovation. This can also be assured in sectoral legislation, such as the new French Law on Climate and Resilience (see Box 14).

The new architecture laws also intend to disseminate the use of design competitions as a powerful tool for achieving high quality places, redefining the rules and procedures to be followed by public clients (see 6.2.1). Acknowledging that the state is one of the major clients of the construction industry and one of the largest property owners, the methods and criteria used by public bodies are usually adopted as a model by the private sector. As such, the state, whether by central government or by local authorities, should set an example by promoting good practices as owner, developer and user of public buildings. Nevertheless, except for France and Lithuania, the use of architecture competitions is not made mandatory for public buildings in the new laws.

Based on the architecture law of 1977, since de 80s that French national legislation mandates a design competition for public buildings over a specified contract value (in 2020, €144,000 for state contracts and €221.00 for local authorities – Biau et al. 2020). The new Architecture Law of Lithuania (2017) also places an obligation on public authorities to organise architectural competitions for structures that are important in terms of state and public interest, or as regards their architectural or urban impact. For this, a list of what is considered to be of public interest must be defined by each local authority, or in other words, the specific works and buildings that must enter a design competition need to be adopted by each local authority.

Among the novelties, as point out in chapter 4, the most recent laws also establish new advisory boards / councils on architecture quality, to provide policy coordination, recommendations and proposals to state and municipal institutions as well as to assess design quality of public projects. Two of them, the Campania and the Spanish law, also establish new dedicated cultural organizations for the promotion of architecture and building culture focused on raising public awareness and spread knowledge about the design and processes of the built environment.

126. In 2000, the proliferation of spatial regulations was such that some authors suggested that designers no longer needed to design anything as this was being done for them through the application of the rules, regulations, and standards relating to the form and performance of buildings and the built environment (Imrie & Street, 2011, p.4).

Box 14 - Law on Climate and Resilience (France)

The main objective of the French Law on Climate and Resilience of 22 August 2021 is to accelerate the ecological transition of French society. It contains numerous measures relating to the living environment. These concern housing and the fight against soil artificialisation through the gradual eradication of the worst performing buildings, the introduction of financial aid for renovation work and the halving of the rate of concrete development by 2030[127].

6.28 - Banner of the presentation of the French 'Bill on Climate and Resilience' to the Council of Ministers, 2021 (source: press kit, David Grandmougin)

By 2026, a key measure in the text will put an end to the use of price as the sole criterion of choice by the purchaser for the award of a public contract. To determine the most economically advantageous tender, public purchasers will henceforth have to base their decisions:

• either on the single criterion of cost determined according to an overall approach which may be based on life-cycle costs and which takes into account the environmental characteristics of the offer;
• or on a number of criteria including price or cost, or at least one of them taking into account the environmental characteristics of the offer, which may also include qualitative or social aspects.

Therefore, the price of the service can no longer be used as the sole criterion for the award of public contracts. Whatever the nature of the public contract, including architectural services, the decision to award a contract will have to be based on a set of economic, technical and, above all, environmental criteria. This innovative legislative measure will allow public clients who so wish to give priority to quality criteria over price. This law also provides for environmental measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the building sector, including:

• the obligation to install photovoltaic panels or green roofs during the construction, extension or major renovation of all commercial, industrial or craft buildings over 500 m2;
• a ban on renting out energy slums (F and G energy performance certificates) by 2028 (from 2025 for G labels) and then on E-rated housing by 2034;
• a ban on landlords increasing the rent of housing considered to be energy slums, i.e. class F and G housing, from 2023.

127. French Law on Climate and Resilience: https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-climat-resilience

7 IMPACT OF ARCHITECTURAL POLICIES

This chapter examines the impact of European and national architectural policies. A first section will analyse the EU policies' impact on the development of architectural policies by the Member States and their specific contribution to the ongoing Europeanization processes. A second section will explore the impacts of architectural policies on processes of urban design governance. A third and final section will discuss the main limitations of architectural policies, revealing red lines and the long-term impact of most of its tools.

Firstly, a preliminary note: until now, there has been no systematic attempt of evaluating the impact of architectural policies at the European scale - except for a few European surveys, this being one of them. Despite several administrations having developed evaluation reports of policy implementation progress (e.g., Croatia, Czech Republic, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland, Sweden), these are focused at the national level and do not consider the wider European scale. Therefore, due to the complexity of the task as well as the wide diversity of administrative and governance systems across Europe, this chapter should be regarded as a first exercise into looking across different policies and practices, in order to extract insights on the impact of architecture policies on processes of urban design governance.

7.1 EU architecture policies' impact

One of the main goals of the former Survey was to assess the impact of the EU Council Resolution (2001) and Council Conclusions on Architecture (2008) in the development of architectural policies by individual Member States. At the time of the Survey, substantial progresses had already been achieved in terms of architectural polices' adoption across the continent. In this context, the Survey (2012:86) concluded that the two EU policies on architecture were "having a positive impact in encouraging the Member States to promote architectural quality as a condition to improving the quality of life of European citizens". Additionally, it was noted (Ibidem) that the two EU polices were "important to the legitimization of the architectural policies already published and most important to the stimulation of the ones that are currently being developed".

Since 2012, several international policy developments have occurred (see section 2) – most significantly the adoption of new pan-European policies, namely the Davos Declaration (2018) and a third EU architectural policy (2021), the '*Council Conclusions on Culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative*'. As the former ones, these two European policies are not mandatory for the Member States and are considered 'soft polices' in the European policymaking processes. Besides the policies, the EC has been intensifying its efforts on the promotion of architectural quality, both with the EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture and with the realization of international design competitions for its own buildings and infrastructures (see 7.2).

Currently, there is a European-wide consensus that design quality contributes to the common good and that the quality of public space and the built environment makes a difference for social inclusion, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability (Ibelings, 2015). In this context, in the auspices of the OMC member states experts working group on high-quality architecture and the built environment, the EC launched the NEB initiative, a transdisciplinary project which aims to inspire a movement to facilitate and steer the transformation of the European society, connecting public and private stakeholders based on a decentralized approach.

Although the impact extent on local level of this wide European initiative is still to be seen, looking at the architectural policy implementation progress across Europe, it is relevant to emphasize that, in the last 30 years, there has been a remarkable growth in the number of countries that have adopted a formal policy on architecture. This number has been increasing since the early 1990s and is expected to continue to grow in the following years, confirming the spread tendency observed in the previous study and leading to the development of a wide range of tools and initiatives promoting design quality across the continent (section 6).

Before the EU Council Resolution (2001), only 8 European administrations had adopted a formal architecture policy. After the Council Resolution (2001) and until the Conclusions on Architecture (2008), another 10 administrations had adopted an official policy, doubling the number of states. After the adoption of the Council Conclusions (2008) until the most recent Council Conclusions (2021), another 16 administrations adopted an official document on architectural policy. Since then, Germany, Spain and Serbia have also joined the group, bringing the total to 36 administrations with a formal policy on architecture at national/regional level.
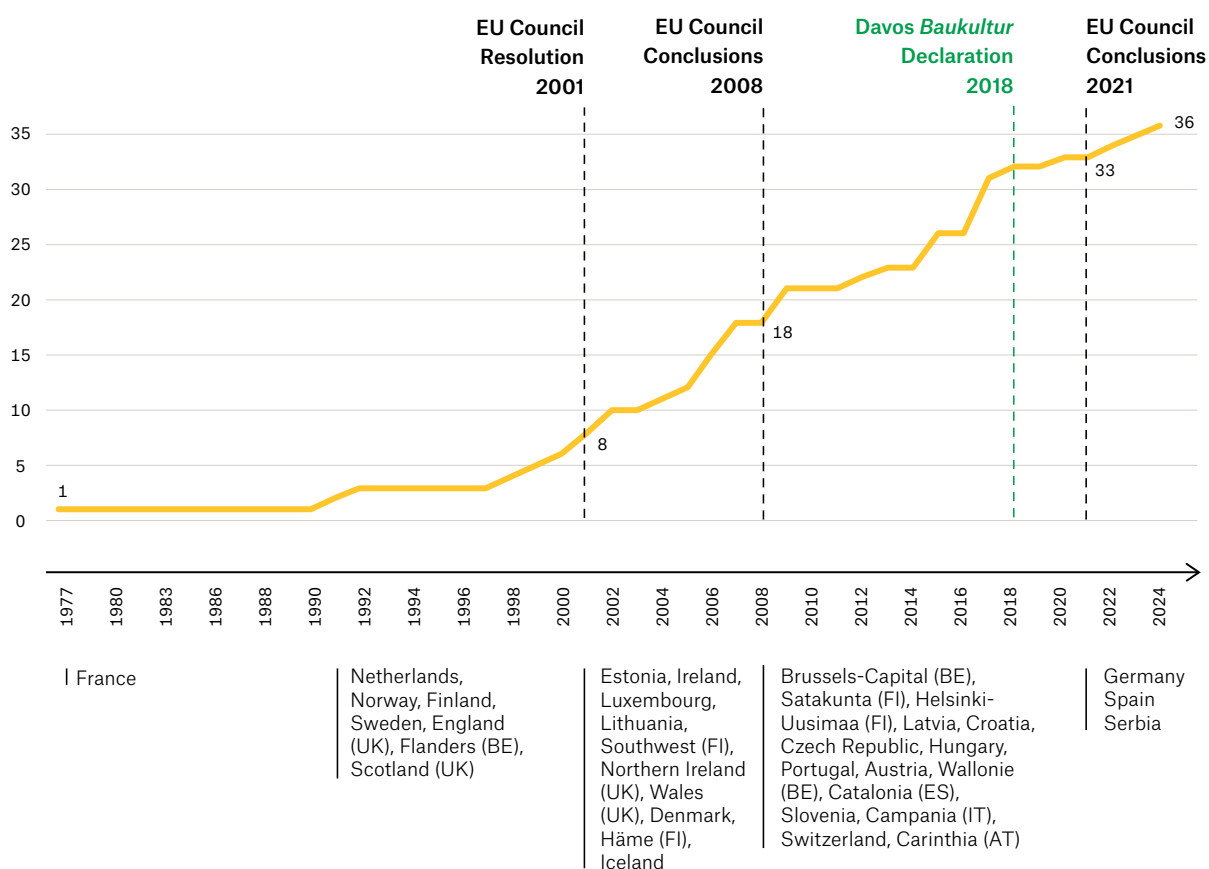
7.1 - Number of the administrations with an architectural policy; below the administrations that adopted an architectural policy after the EU policies (2001, 2008 and 2021) (source: João Bento)

Like other public policies, the European architectural policies have been contributing to, and positively influencing, the ongoing Europeanization process of architecture and *Baukultur* as an object of public policy. This is notice by the adoption of architectural policies at different levels of government. Besides the national level, the policies are being adopted at *regional level* - at least four Finnish regions, Catalonia (Spain), Campania (Italy), Carinthia (AT) and, although with a sectoral approach, the regions of Belgium with the efforts of government architects and, in the case of Wallonia-Brussels federation, a dedicated division. Adding to this, several Dutch provinces and German states are also implementing a wide diversity of initiatives on *Baukultur*; and at the *local level*, although localized in certain parts of Europe, it is also possible to observe a high number of cities adopting municipal architectural policies (see 5.3).

7.2 - The winning project of an international design competition of the EC Joint Research Centre site, that sets out to be the first EC building entirely based, from its conception, on the NEB conceptual framework, in Seville, Spain, 2022, designed by BIG architects (render source: Play-Time)

In this context, European policies have been an important driver of influence in several policy developments, leading to the incorporation of design quality goals and concerns in the frameworks of domestic discourse, political structures and public policies (Radaelli 2003, p. 30). Evidence of this influence has been the explicit reference of EU policies in several Member States policies. For example, the Catalonia Law (2017) cites that 'its objectives have their basic foundation in the position expressed by the EU Council Resolution (2001)'. The new Spanish Law (2022) on architecture quality also makes a direct reference to the Davos Declaration, EU policies and EC working group on architecture (2019-2021). In this framework, the pan-European architectural policies (the three EU Council policies and Davos Declaration) are important landmarks in reinforcing the importance of architectural policy for the Member States, galvanising and supporting the development of their individual national policies.

Across Europe, the quality of the built environment is being increasingly prioritized, leading to the development of a wide range of tools and initiatives promoting a culture of design and fostering design quality across public and private sectors. The number and range of specific initiatives are remarkable, as briefly described in the previous chapter. Although it is not possible to fully review and provide a quantitative assessment of the impact of the EU policies on the development of specific initiatives and actions, the European policies are providing both policy foundation and incentivization for such developments within the Member States.

All these initiatives are working to achieve the objectives of the European architectural policies, particularly in improving the knowledge and promotion of architecture / urban design among the general public and also in fostering the exchange of information and experience in the field of architecture. Some excellent initiatives promoting a culture of design, such as national days of architecture and similar festivals and events, are being developed in some administrations - all of which could be more widely disseminated throughout the Member States.

Across Europe, there are also excellent programmes addressing the European policies' objectives aiming to promote capacity and skills of contracting authorities, such as support services to public clients by design commissions and/or state architects (e.g. organizing design competitions). Also, specific funding to key delivery organisations promoting initiatives focused on development actors and the general public are worthy of note (e.g., arms-length agencies and cultural centres). For those administrations at the early stages of developing action plans and initiatives in support of their architectural policies, all these innovative tools and initiatives already being implemented elsewhere could be a valuable resource, at the local level.

European architecture policies are aimed at raising public sector awareness and promoting greater recognition of architecture in the EC and national policies, particularly in fostering political commitment for promoting good architectural and spatial quality. Considering that, and looking at the progress of architecture policies and initiatives, it is possible to conclude that the EU architecture policies and initiatives are having a positive impact in placing high-quality architecture and the built environment as a goal of public policies and catalysing a shift in practices at European, national, regional and local levels.

The lack of dedicated funding in support of the implementation of such policies in most member states should be acknowledged, but could, nevertheless, be supplemented by specific EU funding for the promotion of high-quality architecture and the built environment - for example, through the NEB initiative framework. In this way, besides the Open Method of Coordination proposed by the EC, the EU architecture policy agenda setting could be more fully integrated into national / regional governments policies - if properly resourced and boosted by specific funding, promoting its effective implementation by the Member States towards more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities and communities.

7.3 - The first 'New European Bauhaus' Festival was held in Brussels, Belgium, in June 2022 (source: Politecnico di Milano)

7.2 National / regional architectural policies impact

Although the previous two chapters offer a diverse palette of architectural policies and tools across Europe, in terms of implementation and impacts there are substantial differences between the countries / regions. This derives mostly from the level of support and resources available (time, personal, financial, organizational) in each context, which lead to different grades of implementation achievement among the administrations. Inevitably, these restrictions will directly impact on-the-ground results and the policy's effectiveness in reaching its aims. The implementation process can be defined as "the process of preparing an organization for an organizational change and the actual implementation and embedding of that change" (Rooimans, Theye & Koop, 2003). In this view, implementation must be seen as an incremental process that it is not assessed only by visible outputs but also by an ongoing process of (social/cultural) change that needs to be considered before drawing any conclusions on the effectiveness of policies.

Furthermore, the evaluation of policy impact is hindered by the multiple causes of the problem that policies intend to solve, i.e., the quality of places, which can be considered as a "wicked" problem due to its complex nature. Therefore, some of the policy outputs, such as the number of existent tools and initiatives before and after the policy, are more tangible and possible to be measured; while others, such as the degree of mindset change of the different development actors, are more intangible and less trackable. Although the full evaluation of the policies' impact would require an in-depth analysis of how the policies influence the complex system of rules, norms and practices and of the way they influence development actors' choices in processes of built environment design, this research would not be complete without a discussion of the impact of architecture policies in processes of urban design governance.

As noted in the introduction, urban design governance can be defined as the practices of 'state intervention in the means and processes of designing and managing the built environment in order to shape both processes and outcomes in a defined public interest' (Carmona, 2021). In this context, urban design governance operates through the use of tools and various mechanisms that influence the decision-making of development actors (whether public, private or community) in order that their decisions take on a clear place-based quality dimension. They will range across formal (hard) and informal (soft) powers of the state - in other words, those that are legally binding and sanctioned by law; and those that are non-coercive, discretionary and optional (ibidem). Nevertheless, the nature and content of the policies cannot be divorced from the constitutional, administrative and political framework in which the policy was developed.

While setting high-quality aspirations for the built environment, architectural policies are one of the multiple tools of state intervention in design governance processes and should be perceived and assessed in their broader picture, namely the wider urban design governance system within each jurisdiction - whether a country, a region or a city (Carmona, Bento, et al., 2023). Examining the architectural policies' impact against this broader view of state intervention and continuous action involves not only public actors but also the wide range of stakeholders operating in the urban development processes.

In this context, looking across the different architectural policies across Europe, it is possible to identify several dimensions of impact, some more tangible than others, which will be briefly reviewed below, informed by the survey replies and previous research[128].

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128. Considering the complexity of the subject, this section is also informed by a PhD research (Bento, 2017) that focused on the role of national architectural policies of three cases studies (The Netherlands, Scotland and Ireland), to provide empirical data (e.g. interviews) that would not be possible to collect only by an European wide survey (questionnaire).

7.4 - International conference on architectural policies promoted by the Croatian Institute for Spatial Development of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, where the draft of the new Croatian architectural policy was presented, Zagreb, December 2023 (source: João Bento)

Agenda setting and policy priorities

One of the positive impacts of architecture policies is their capacity to place design quality goals on the political agenda at the national / regional level. This occurs in the preparatory meetings and public consultations hearings that lead to political decisions, but also in the several meetings and events throughout the policy's lifetime. After approval, architectural policies set policy priorities for state action, where public departments will be assigned with the responsibility of coordinating the implementation of an action programme towards design quality goals, involving the employment of resources for its effective delivery. All the tangible outputs of the policy, including the different meetings and initiatives developed by the institutional actors involved, will also contribute to influence the various stakeholders, setting high aspirations for the built environment as a strategic concern. In subsequent revisions, the policy formulation and decision-making process also place architecture quality in the political agenda, fostering dialogue and compromise with main stakeholders around quality objectives.

Policy responsibility

The adoption of a formal policy on this domain leads to a clearer definition of responsibility on architecture and built environment policy across public administration. Typically, before the development of the policy, architecture quality was not recognized as a goal of public policy per se, which resulted on a diffusion of responsibility among the range of public departments with sectoral remits covered by the different 'systems' of urban design governance (see Carmona et al., 2023). As the Swedish (2022) reply noted about the successes of its policy: "*A clear responsibility structure where the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) is tasked with leading and coordinating the work with the designed living environment in the country.*" This means that in most cases, governments assigned one or several public departments with responsibilities for the policy coordination and implementation. In some cases, new institutional actors are also established for the policy delivery, such as design commissions or state architects (see below). By addressing architecture and the built environment as a goal of public policy, governments set high aspirations for the quality of the built environment in such a way that the responsibility of all public authorities (and others) is made explicit.

New institutional actors

A visible dimension of the impact of architectural policies is the establishment of new institutional actors in charge of championing architecture and the built environment. Across Europe, there are many successful examples, ranging from the traditional public department to an arms-length agency (e.g. design commission) or semi-independent institution, for how to coordinate, monitor and lead implementation action plans tied to their architectural policies. To move from policy aspirations into action, some administrations have appointed a state architect team to promote design excellence across public sector and foster a place-making culture. State architect teams or similar units are playing an important role in persuading other public departments to comply with design goals and raise the quality of their developments. In this way, state architects assure an important role of leadership and coordination, with the mission of monitoring architectural policy delivery by different stakeholders, building partnerships and network dissemination.

Besides governmental actors, according to Sawyers & Ford (2003), one of the architectural policies' most visible outputs has been the establishment of architecture cultural organizations all over Europe. Despite some architecture museums having had already been established in the first half of the 20th century[129], Ministries of Culture are exercising considerable and significant influence through their direct patronage of bodies and institutions - such as architectural museums, centres, foundations, associations, and many other similar organizations existing throughout the continent. These include those organizations that are fully-funded by the public sector, which can be integrated within the public administration apparatus (e.g., museum or a centre) or may have an independent status of some sort (see 4.2).

Despite the differences in legal and administrative systems, several administrations have been making significant progress by establishing new dedicated institutions to ensure continuity of actions, promote a culture of design and foster a placemaking culture, maximizing impacts on design governance processes and, in the long run, on the quality of places.

7.5 - Vitrines installation 'Architecture builds bridges' (2020) at the city centre of Tournai (Wallonia) promoted by the new Cultural Institute of Architecture Wallonia-Brussels (ICA), which was established by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and several partners in 2019 (source: Mara De Sario)

7.6 - Example of design competition promoted by the Flemish Government Architect, Saint Ursula Primary School - FGA Open Call 04 project 08, completed in 2009, designed by Architects Tom Thys and Adinda Van Geystelen, in Laken, Belgium (source: Jan Kempenaers)

Better public buildings

Although there is no available information at the pan-European scale, in some administrations, one of the positive impacts of architectural policies has been the improvement of public buildings. For example, in the Netherlands, according to an evaluation report of the first twenty years of the Dutch architectural policy, there had been a positive influence in the overall quality of public buildings and construction works. The role of the Dutch Government Architect and their team in influencing the different departments to raise their standards was highlighted. Furthermore, the architectural cultural infrastructure put in place by the policy has improved the "conditions for thinking about and discussing the realization of spatial quality"; adding that it facilitated "greater public interest with increased public support for the opinion and decision process" (Ibidem). The same positive view on the results of the first twenty years of the Dutch architectural policies is also shared by academics (Cousins, 2009; Dings, 2009; Figueiredo, 2010; Stegmeijer et al., 2012).

In another example, Hans Ibelings (2009, p. 17) argues that the current policy implemented in Flanders (Belgium) has been successful and is starting to show concrete results. One of those is the high-quality public buildings that received commission support by the Flemish Government Architect (FGA). According to the information on its website, since it was established, the FGA has launched 46 Open Calls, the last in July 2023, which in total comprise more than 731 projects. From this number, more than 300 projects were or are being realized, around 200 were cancelled, and the remaining are still in the making, running from small schools, to medium size public offices to urban planning frameworks.

129. One of the first museums solely dedicated to safeguard and exhibit architecture and design collections in Europe was the Museum of Finnish Architecture in 1954. For more information: http://www.mfa.fi/

According to Liefooghe (interview, 2020), FGA support task also had an indirect positive impact on the way public clients deliver public commissioning. In fact, the Open Call also provides a capacity-building activity for all participants, mostly for the principals that represent public clients. The different stages of the Open Call procedure function as intensive workshops for the principals, enhancing skills, competence and knowledge. Another indirect impact has been an enormous impact on Flemish building culture and the public awareness of the government responsibility in improving the quality of the built environment. In part, this has been the result of the FGA continued persuasion activities, such as attribution of awards, interviews, lectures and debates across Flanders.

Although these impacts can be diffuse over time, the architectural policies also enable and provide legitimacy to public departments to persuade other stakeholders across different sectors and levels of the administration of the importance of prioritizing design quality, and to achieve higher standards. For example, the Irish State Architect (2015: interview) mentioned that having an architectural policy has helped him in several inter-governmental meetings to persuade other agencies to raise the design quality of their projects. According to the Irish State Architect, the architectural policy provides him with a reinforced authority to demand better buildings from other departments, which otherwise would not feel obliged to receive advice from someone outside their organization.

7.7 - The new building of Department of Finance was coordinated by OPW Architectural Services, lead by the Irish State Architect, in Dublin, Ireland (2009); Design: Grafton Architects / OPW Architectural Services; (source: DG - Denis Gilber)

Improvement of interdepartmental coordination

Another positive impact of national architectural policies that emerges from the survey is the improvement of inter-ministerial/departmental coordination and communication on design quality and built environment policy, or in other words, the encouragement of organisations 'to act holistically and work in a joined-up fashion with others to achieve a quality place rather than think and act in silos to suit their own professional interests' (Adams & Tiesdell, 2013). As a result of architectural policies, as mentioned above, several administrations have developed mechanisms of transversal collaboration between different state departments, with the objective of placing design quality as a corporate aim, sharing information and coordinating sectoral policies and so forth. To do so, several countries have established an inter-departmental policy platform or working group to assist in the coordination of initiatives and delivery of actions between built environment bodies. These platforms meet regularly to debate the progress in architectural policy and monitor action agendas. The recent laws on architecture also established similar councils with a wide remit of competences to monitor the architectural policy implementation and improve coordination among different governmental departments and agencies (see 4.5).

In addition, most architectural policies assigned specific departments to implement actions plans. As the Swedish reply (2022) noted: "The policy pointed out four authorities as extra important for working with the entire breadth of the policy area. (...) Ongoing collaborations contribute to raising knowledge and understanding that architecture, form, design, art and cultural environment must be managed together and strengthen and enrich each other when our common living environments are designed. Together, the authorities carry out various activities with the aim of increasing knowledge about the designed living environment."

New networks and partnerships

The architectural policies also facilitated the development of networks and cooperation between stakeholders, based on the assumption that the state will achieve better results by persuading others and by creating incentives, instead of issuing orders in an 'authoritarian way'. Considering the complex system of actors involved in the design of the built environment, the development of these policies provided opportunities to reconcile different interests on design and to establish compromises among stakeholders in order to achieve better places. In addition, most administrations do not have the resources and financial capacity to implement their architecture policies actions plans alone, which means they have to build partnerships and share competencies with other actors - for example, by establishing new dedicated cultural institutions (e.g. Danish Architecture Centre) or developing specific tools (e.g. Scottish place standard).

As mentioned, some administrations set up architectural policy platforms that include public departments and non-governmental actors, such as the Austrian *Baukultur Advisory Council* or the Portuguese *Architecture and Landscape Policy Committee*, which facilitate dialogue and compromise between different stakeholders as well as joint initiatives and projects. According to survey replies, the cross-sectoral meetings are important to develop bridges and stimulate connections between different government departments with responsibilities in built environment issues (e.g., planning, heritage, public works and education).

The more active administrations have been fostering thematic networks for knowledge sharing and cooperation. For example, since 2020, the Swedish *Boverket* has been running an academy network around Designed Living Environment, which includes twelve Swedish universities and colleges with links to architecture, cultural preservation and art. Twice a year, *Boverket* also conducts a dialogue meeting between the national architect, the country's county architects, county antiquaries and city architects in order to highlight important challenges and exchange experiences about the work with the designed living environment.

Another dimension of the impact of architectural policies is the wider collaborative processes leading to the adoption and implementation of the policies themselves. Since the beginning of the 1990s a conceptual shift from 'government to governance' has been taking place, where public policy goals can no longer be achieved without the collaboration of a wide network of public and private actors (Pierre & Peters, 2000). In this context, the formulation of architectural policies is usually preceded by a process of participation and negotiation between policy actors, including public and private stakeholders (such as periods of public consultation) animated by round tables and debates to improve the policy formulation and integrate as many different views as possible.

Higher number of tools and initiatives

One of the main benefits of architecture policies has been the development of a new range of informal tools of urban design governance, that did not exist beforehand in some countries. As referred, some administrations have established dedicated public departments or arms-length organisations that are responsible for delivering initiatives/actions promoting design quality across public sector and beyond. This includes informal quality cultural tools, such as new awareness-raising and educational initiatives, guidance and best practices materials, new dedicated portals, awards, festivals and events, etc.; as well as the greater use of informal delivery tools, such as design review panels, architecture competitions, financial support to institutions and programs, exploration tools, etc. These were summed up in the previous chapter.

Across Europe there has also been a growing number of architectural cultural organizations delivering architectural policy goals, supported, totally or partly, by public grants. Operating at different levels, cultural institutions are having a very positive impact in dynamizing a culture of design quality, both to design professionals and wider audiences including young generations, making use of informal quality culture tools such as research, publications, educational activities, awareness raising, events and festivals, awards, etc. and sporadic use of delivery quality tools.

7.8 - LocHal Tilburg, conversion of industrial building into a library and cultural institution, in Tilburg, The Netherlands, designed by Civic Architects (source: Stijn Bollaert)

The impact of informal quality tools on the perception of different development actors on the value of design quality is not easy to assess, as this involves processes of cultural change and needs to be seen as a long-term goal. Nevertheless, informal tools are important to build a culture of design quality and enhance the capacity of stakeholders, complementing formal quality tools, that may establish minimum standards for the built environment but do not have the potential to raise ambitions leading to the high-quality places. The intensity of impact varies according to the number of resources available and the diversity of initiatives on the ground in each specific case. As seen in section 5.1.2, several administrators were able to allocate an annual budget to the policy actions plans, which allows for a greater use of tools and initiatives. However, the allocation of resources has been a major difficulty in some countries, as will be discussed below.

7.3 The limitations of architectural policies

Despite the progress achieved in the last decades, architectural policies present some limitations on their capability to influence, due to challenges inherent to the urban design governance system in each domestic context. Although architectural policies aspire to high-quality environments for everyone, urban design quality should be considered as a complex social problem; as it is dependent on a wide range of actors involved in the production, maintenance, and renovation of urban spaces. This means that the search for high-quality places is a long-term goal that, besides the adoption of architectural policy, needs effective policy implementation, continuous leadership, collaboration of various stakeholders, and societal awareness of the value of design. Against this background, this section will address some of the limitations and barriers of architectural policies.

Implementation involves a minimum level of resources

One of the major limitations of architectural polices is in regards to the implementation deficit of initiatives and actions in several administrations. After an architectural policy has been adopted it is necessary to translate the goals and objectives into an operating program, allocating administrative and financial resources, delineating procedures, etc (Howlett et al., 2009, p. 160), or in other words: 'translating policy into actions' (Anderson 2000). Although several European administrations have been making very significant efforts in implementing such action programs, this has not been possible in several other administrations, due to internal constraints such as lack of political support or allocation of resources. Architectural policies can only have a positive impact if they are effectively implemented and properly funded, otherwise they will remain simply well-meaning aspirations and will not be able to play a role in design governance in the absence of steady coordination and effective implementation.

As was seen in the previous section, architectural policies' action programs involve a range of informal quality tools, such as analysis, information, persuasion activities, design competitions, etc. To put in place similar tools and initiatives involves a minimum level of financial and human resources that will bring benefits for urban design governance processes. Nevertheless, looking across recent experiences, there are relatively inexpensive initiatives that can be delivered without representing a burden for public expenditure (e.g., information material, training or educational programmes, best practices awards, etc).

Public procurement Versus quality objectives

The public sector is a complex and multi-level organization, and it is extremely difficult to mobilize and persuade the wide array of departments and public agencies to raise their design standards against the culture of the lowest price. This situation is aggravated in times of recession or financial crisis that tend to return regularly to western-European contexts, during which design quality aims lose importance against higher priorities and political agendas. As noted in a public consultation report: 'There is a complete and cynical disconnection between the political rhetoric on the value of design and place-making, and the reality of procurement.' (Paul Stallan, Stallan-Brand Architects, 2013)

The quote reveals a paradox between high-level policy statements on the value of design quality and the procurement practices of most public authorities and agencies. Although the Ministries for Culture have important competences in promoting architectural quality, protecting architectural heritage and supporting the arts and creativity, namely through the direct patronage of bodies and institutions, they present some limitations regarding their capacity to influence the policy of other relevant departments; such as spatial planning, public works, or transports. As O'Doherty (2005) notes: 'the limited influence of many cultural ministers was noted in terms of ensuring that architectural quality and the specific nature of architectural services as a cultural activity are taken into consideration (...) and to make contracting authorities more aware of and better trained in the appreciation of architectural, urban and landscape culture'.

This is particularly relevant in the cases where the cultural departments are responsible for the architectural and *Baukultur* policy. As such, their sphere of influence in procurement operational areas of other departments may be limited or even non-existent, particularly when cross-sectoral communication mechanisms are not yet operational or are not fully developed (ibidem). In the case of urban planning, the same difficulties also apply, as their operationalization occurs mostly at the local level, within local authorities.

7.9 - The new Frederiksbjerg high school, in Aarhus, Denmark, Designed by
Henning Larsen Architects, 2016 (source: Hufton + Crow)

Despite each context having its own governance system, there are certain quality criteria that may be introduced in public procurement without restricting too much the design capacity for innovation (see for example, the new Catalonia and Spanish Law in Section 5). For example, the new French Law on Climate and Resilience (Box 14) has introduced a key measure to put an end to the use of price as the sole criterion of choice by the purchaser for the award of a public contract. After the adaptation period, until 2026, the price of the service can no longer be used as the sole criterion for the award of public contracts in France.

Inter-sectoral barriers and the need for better co-ordination

One of the main barriers that architectural policies have to face with regard to their implementation strategies is how to influence different state departments and improve the co-ordination of the wide range of policies that affect the built environment. As the policy scope increased to higher spatial scales (e.g., urban planning, infrastructure and landscape design), the number of supporting departments that need to be involved also increased. In addition, architectural polices proclaim that the state should present itself as an exemplary client, committed to quality in every aspect of building procurement and property development. However, public administration is a complex and multi-level organization. Consequently, to achieve their aims, architectural policies have to be able to persuade a constellation of public managers and principals, who have their own agendas and priorities, to give more priority to design quality and not the lowest price.

Looking at the survey replies, one of the ways of addressing this has been to create an inter-departmental platform and to set up the position of a state architect. As seen earlier, the creation of an inter-departmental working group may get different state actors involved in the policy formulation, to monitor the policy progress and improve inter-departmental co-ordination. As a complement, State Architect teams undertake roles of enhanced influence, providing design support services to other public departments and clients to ensure that design quality is a priority and not seen as an optional extra. A long-term goal: the need to create a virtuous circle of production

There is a permanent tension between the policy goals and the building and planning reality because, under market conditions, design quality is most often regarded as 'superficial' and not seen as safe investment. The building industry, estate promoters and urban developers are mostly guided by commercial interests and market considerations, which do not take a longer-term view. The problem is complex, as most decisions related to the built environment are carried out by development actors 'far removed from their impact on the ground' (Carmona et al. 2003). As noted in workshop report: 'How do you get the policy to relate to people on the ground (...) the average housebuilder / developer would not comply with the policy recommendations. Its lack of statutory powers diminished its effectiveness.' (BEFS workshop, 2013)

The above quote points out the difficulty of the policy tools in introducing positive changes in the development process in the short term. For this reason, exhortations of the public benefits of good design will have a limited impact in a climate in which financial value and return are the main drivers for private sector investment (Ibidem).

Nevertheless, using only formal tools (regulation and control) is not enough to influence the development process in achieving better places. It is also necessary to raise awareness and motivate the producers (investors, developers, designers), as well as to promote an informed and educated demand (clients and consumers), to be able to create a virtuous circle of production. This can be achieved by financial incentives, such as development bonuses in return for using design competitions or higher investment in sustainable solutions (see (Carmona, Gabrieli, et al., 2023). As such, if architectural policies are to have a positive impact on development processes, the question of effectiveness within market and development process is one of the crucial issues that architectural policies need to address and better convene in the future.

7.10 - Malmö Live - the new cultural centre in Malmö, with high quality building and public space designed by Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects, in Universitetsholmen in Malmö, 2015 (source: Adam Mörk)

Policy reorientation in a period of austerity

The prosperous times of the 1990s, which lay down the fertile ground for the birth of the first generation of architectural policies, are over. Besides the economic turn, the social and political context has also changed. Considering the new scenario, architectural policies have been facing great challenges. One of the effects of the last financial crisis was a strong reduction on the budget of architectural policies, leading to a recalibration of their tools. For example, the Dutch cultural budget suffered a 25% reduction, which led to a restructuring of architectural policy tools, with a new discourse about the economic value of design with a stronger focus on cultural industries, product innovation and internationalization. This means that, in a time of crisis and austerity, architectural policies need to reinvent themselves or they will face the risk of losing their position as a policy. Issues like lack of housing, shrinking cities and vacancy have entered the agenda, and architectural policies should take advantage of design thinking to propose new ways of improving social conditions in a holistic manner with fewer resources.

Bridging with local authorities

In several administrations, there is a trend of design deficit in local authorities that are losing their design skills or are too small for having in-house design professionals. As noted in the Swedish (2022) reply: "smaller municipalities, in particular, often lack important skills in the area, such as planners, architects, landscape architects and building antiquarians. Municipalities need, among other things, knowledge support and access to arenas for dialogue and exchange of experience."

Although some of the architectural policies contained an explicit reference to this phenomenon, the central state has been unable to reverse this trend. Some of the policies introduced the wish to appoint city and county architects in each county, to act as design champions. The aim was to strengthen design processes at the local authority level, so as to better co-ordinate the design and planning processes, guaranteeing design skills at all stages of the planning process as a way to encourage good design quality. However, most municipalities are not able to financially support these positions due to budget cuts, which means that design deficit continues to be a current challenge in most medium- and small-scale local authorities.

7.11 - 'Living together' residential and commercial building in the center of Nagold, Germany, designed by Schwille Architects in collaboration with Bonasera Architects, 2020 (source: Dirk Wilhelmy)

8 CONCLUSIONS

This research takes a deep dive into public policies and initiatives focused on promoting high-quality architecture and built environment. It specifically examines the relationships between European and national policies, main institutional actors, policy tools, and initiatives to raise public awareness and promote a culture of design quality. Ultimately, the conclusion is that, over the last thirty years, architecture policy has evolved from an emerging trend into a widely recognized public policy, that slowly permeates the different urban design governance systems across Europe, catalysing a shift in practices at the European, national, regional, and local levels.

This final chapter intends to provide overall conclusions on the role, progress, and impact of architectural policies across Europe. This chapter is divided in accordance with the empirical data analysed through this report. A first part looks at the contribution of EU policies to the ongoing Europeanization of architecture policy. A second part examines the progress of national/regional architecture policies across Europe and the main approaches found. A third part looks at the main institutional actors involved in policy implementation. A fourth part focuses on the value of informal urban design governance tools in promoting better places. A fifth part looks at the impact of European policies across the continent and the impact of national architectural policies on urban design governance processes. Finally, the last part identifies some insights for further research.

Europeanization of architectural policy

In the last 30 years there has been a growing recognition of the importance of architectural quality for social and cultural development, wealth creation and economic well-being. In support of such goals, a growing number of European countries and regions have been developing architecture and *Baukultur* policies which set high aspirations for the design quality of architecture and the built environment. Reflecting the wide diversity of cultures across the EU, some member states have adopted comprehensive policies, setting up a wide range of initiatives; while others have approved national legislation concerning clients and stakeholders or developed policies within a sectoral policy domain. As part of their policies, several countries have implemented new approaches to the governance of design. Some established dedicated services to monitor policy execution and enable the delivery of initiatives/ actions or created new cultural organizations to disseminate and promote a culture of design quality. Despite their differences, all the approaches share the will to promote well-designed living environments and high-quality places.

Sharing these concerns, European institutions have also been developing policies and initiatives encouraging the Member States to promote high-quality built environments. This has been reinforced with a pan-European Davos Declaration in 2018 and its subsequent initiatives, as well as with the launch of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) in 2020, a transdisciplinary cultural project led by the European Commission which proclaims architectural quality and design thinking among its guiding principles. Both trends have been animated by a series of European conferences and experts' meetings on architectural and *Baukultur* policies, revealing a high commitment of both European institutions and Member States to place design quality as a political goal at the heart of European policymaking.

Looking at the progression of national/regional architectural policies across the EU, it is possible to conclude that an ongoing process of Europeanization is underway; with countries learning from one another and making the convergence of policies possible. The differences in approaches result from the Member States still differing in many aspects: historical development, political / legal systems, cultural and social backgrounds. Nonetheless, it is possible to identify a growing tendency for the development of formal architectural policies, with the national, regional and local governments assuming a catalytic role.

European-level policies are contributing to the development of architectural policies across Europe as a driver of influence in domestic policy agendas, incentivizing the inclusion of design quality goals in national policy priorities. This is done at level of policy discourse and by providing design leadership, namely through the NEB wide range of initiatives and network activities (awards, events, projects, funding support, etc). Therefore, the European architecture policies are having a positive impact in encouraging the Member States to promote design quality as a contributing factor in improving the quality of life of European citizens. Additionally, the European policies and initiatives are important for the legitimization of the architectural policies already published and, most importantly, to the stimulation of the ones that are currently being developed. Nevertheless, the nature and content of the policies cannot be divorced from the constitutional, administrative and political framework in which they were developed.

National / regional architectural policies

Since the beginning of the 1990s, a growing number of European countries have been developing national and regional architecture policies setting place quality as a political goal and promoting well-designed living environments. In general, these policies focus on the quality of the built environment and, in some cases, also include the natural environment and landscape. Reflecting the diversity of cultures across Europe, the names of the architectural policies change according to domestic preferences. More recently, the term *Baukultur* in particular has gained a higher prominence across the continent, boosted by the Davos Declaration and subsequent initiatives.

Currently, 36 administrations in Europe have an official architectural policy at the national or regional level. In the last three decades this number has been increasing and it is expected to continue to grow in the following years, which means that soon Europe will be largely covered by national / regional architecture policies. Furthermore, particularly in the Nordic countries, an increasing number of local administrations have started to adopt municipal architectural policies, following the same principles and aspirations to achieve high-quality living environments.

Most of the national/regional policies take a 'strategic comprehensive policy' approach, in which the design of the built environment is seen as a transversal concern able to generate multiple benefits and values across various fields. With a global approach on the quality of the built environment, a comprehensive architectural policy defines the principles, aims and objectives to achieve high-quality living environments as well as a set of initiatives and actions to be delivered by public institutions and a high number of stakeholders. By addressing architecture and the built environment in this holistic way, governments can set high aspirations for the quality of the built environment in such a way that the responsibility of all public authorities (and others) is made explicit (Carmona, et. al, 2023).

A few European countries/regions have adopted a law on architecture, which formalises the principle of the public interest of architecture. Some of them include norms to regulate the architect's profession, obligations for building projects to be signed off by architects, the introduction of design quality principles, requirements making design competitions mandatory for public works, the launch of design awards, etc. Architecture-related laws may also establish new institutions: i) advisory boards / councils on architecture to provide advice to central/regional administration, improve coordination and propose initiatives promoting design quality, as well as ii) architectural cultural organizations to deliver a wide range of initiatives to promote design quality and foster a placemaking culture.

Some of the national/regional architectural policies has an associated budget to support projects and initiatives to promote a culture of design and raise public awareness about the importance of a high-quality built environment. This reveals a strong political commitment for the promotion of spatial quality assuring the continuity and delivery of its action plans.

Institutional actors

Several European countries have established dedicated services within public administration to monitor architectural policy implementation and enable the delivery of initiatives/actions. Some have appointed a State or City Architect team to pursue the architectural policy goals and action plans or established design commissions to champion design quality across public administration and beyond. Furthermore, there have been a growing number of cultural institutions across Europe, which play an important role in disseminating and communicating the value of design quality to wider audiences, raising awareness and promoting a placemaking culture. In parallel, professional bodies and other non-government organizations are participating in policy implementation by promoting a wide range of initiatives, contributing directly and indirectly to the architectural polices' goals and aspirations.

To improve cross-sectoral policy coordination, several national and regional administrations have established interdepartmental policy platforms or working groups; these assist in the co-ordination of initiatives and delivery of actions between built environment bodies and help them deal with the wide range of policies that affect the design quality of the built environment. These interdepartmental policy platforms may operate at different levels depending on the specific national/regional governance system, based on principles of subsidiarity and working together with municipalities.

Instruments and initiatives

As part of their architectural policies, several European countries have implemented new instruments and approaches to the governance of urban design. The European Urban Maestro (UM) project revealed that an increasing number of administrations are developing an increasingly diverse and sophisticated set of approaches to offer clear leadership in this domain. Complementing traditional regulatory approaches, the project also revealed that informal urban design governance tools are being actively and extensively used across Europe, to develop a positive culture within which decision-making on design can occur, and also to assist in the delivery of better-quality projects and places.

Some tools have been widely used and adopted across almost all administrations in Europe (e.g. design awards), whilst others are far more sporadic (e.g. design indicators). These are mostly soft power tools that aim to shape the preferences of stakeholders, influencing their choices and decisions using persuasion rather than coercion. Nonetheless, informal tools should be seen as important means of complementing the formal side of the design governance landscape and greatly extending the means available to state actors to influence how the built environment is shaped. One of the UM key insights has been that tools of urban design governance work more effectively when used together (Carmona, et al,. 2023).

Impacts of architectural policies

Although design governance contexts across the continent are very diverse, the European policies on architecture seem to be having a positive impact on encouraging member states to promote design quality as a political goal, namely the NEB wide range of initiatives that is being delivered together with a high number of partners to inspire the transformation of European cities. The extent to which such initiatives will impact on the different practices at national, regional and local level is yet to be seen. Nevertheless, the ongoing initiatives reveal an increasingly committed move to place design excellence at the heart of European urban governance.

Looking at the policies' implementation progress at state/regional level, despite the differences between them, architectural polices are having substantial impacts on design governance processes: improving policy coordination, facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration across and beyond public administrations, and enabling a diversity of initiatives promoting best practices and fostering a placemaking culture. Unsurprisingly, the intensity varying according to the resources available and the diversity of on-the-ground initiatives feasible in each specific case.

One of the main benefits of architecture policies has been the development of a new range of informal tools of urban design governance that did not exist beforehand in some countries, such as new awareness-raising and educational initiatives, as well as the greater use of awards schemes, design review panels, architecture competitions, etc. Some administrations have established dedicated departments or supportive new organizations that are responsible for delivering initiatives/actions promoting design quality. This means that architectural policies can only have a positive impact if they are effectively implemented and properly funded. Otherwise, in the absence of steady coordination and implementation resources, they remain little more than well-meaning aspirations and will likely not be able to play a role in design governance.

Further research

Although the ACE survey allowed us to learn about the potential of architectural policies and positive spillovers, there is little evidence within academic literature on the role and impact of architecture policies at different European contexts. As such, the knowledge gap is considerable. A future research agenda should take stock of the limitations identified throughout this research and place its future emphasis on a better understanding of place-specific mechanisms, and on the extent to which socio-cultural contextual factors influence architectural policy implementation and the different types of policy tools and initiatives used. More knowledge on the dynamics of urban design governance and its multiple stakeholders will enable and inform the design of policies that aim to steer it, namely at national, regional, and local levels.

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Governmental departments	
Austria	Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport
Belgium - Brussels	Government Architect Brussels Capital Region (*Bouwmeester Maitre Architecte*)
Belgium - Wallonie	Ministry Wallonia-Brussels Fédération	Architecture Unit (*Cellule architecture*)
Cyprus	Minister of Interior	Department of Town Planning and Housing
Croatia	Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets
Czech Republic	Ministry of Regional Development	Spatial Planning Department
Denmark	The Agency for Culture and Palaces	Department for Cultural Heritage
Finland	Ministry of Education and Culture
France	Ministry of Culture	Directorate-General for Heritage and Architecture
Germany	Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building
Greece	Ministry of Culture and Sports
Ireland	Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage
Italy	Ministry of Culture	Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity
Latvia	Ministry of Culture	Department of Cultural Policy
Lithuania	Ministry of Environment	Construction and Spatial Planning Policy Group
Luxembourg	Ministry of Culture	Département de la création et de la promotion artistiques
Malta	Ministry for National Heritage, Arts and Local Government	Restoration Directorate
Netherlands	Ministry of Education, Culture and Science */ College van Rijksadviseurs*
Poland	National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning
Portugal	Ministry of Territorial Cohesion	Directorate-General for Territory
Slovakia	Ministry of Culture
Slovenia	Ministry of Culture	Cultural Heritage Directorate
Spain	Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda	General Directorate for Urban Agenda and Architecture
Sweden	Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket)
Norway	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Office of Culture (FOC)	Section Baukultur
Scotland (UK)	Directorate for Local Government and Housing	Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division
Northern Ireland (UK)	Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture & the Built Environment (MAG)
Wales (UK)	Climate Change and Rural Affairs	Planning Directorate

Professional organizations	
Belgium - Flanders	Order of Architects - Flemish Council
Cyprus	Cyprus Architects Association
Croatia	Croatian Chamber of Architects
Czech Republic	Czech Chamber of Architects
Denmark	Danish Association of Architects / Danish Association of Architectural Firms
Estonia	Estonian Association of Architects
Finland	Association of Architects Offices in Finland
France	Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes
Germany	Federal Chamber of German Architects
Lithuania	Architects Association of Lithuania
Malta	Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers - Kamra tal-Periti
Portugal	Portuguese Order of Architects
Poland	Polish Chamber of Architects
Romania	Romanian Order of Architects
Spain	Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España
Sweden	Swedish Association of Architects
Switzerland	Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects / Swiss Conference of Architects
England (UK)	Royal Institute of British Architects

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