

# new narratives

Given the exciting and fluid political scene after the EU referendum, maybe it is now time for new narratives and new possibilities.

If you believe that there are problems inherent in architectural education and practice, or if you think that the problems exist outside the profession, then we want to present you (architects, designers, urbanists, etc) with a challenge to help reinvigorate the possibilities for change.

Below we list 10 objectives that could be the basis of a fightback against the contemporary malaise in design and architectural discourse as well as the social framework. Anyone who can support 5 out of 10 of the following critical statements (pledges), should consider the possibility of working together to formulate a New Narrative.

## **We contend that architecture:**

**1. ... is not politics**

Architecture is not community activism or social policy: Stop proscribing behaviour.

**2. ... requires open debate from all shades of opinion**

An architect's politics, attitude and tone are irrelevant; is their architecture any good?

**3. ... is not about evidence or consensus**

Architecture is not a scientific data set; designs should be challengeable

**4. ... is not about positive discrimination**

Opportunities should be merited, not arising from gender, race or other special pleading

**5. ... needs challenging, knowledge-based education**

Universities' core role is to educate students, not patronise, indoctrinate or pass them regardless

**6. ... should encourage not restrict design imagination**

Architecture should think the unthinkable; there should be no proscription on ideas

**7. ... requires greater global exchange**

Less localism and critical regionalism; more immigration, mobility and experimentation

**8. ... needs more critique**

Formulate critical opinions that go beyond received wisdom, sycophancy and contempt

**9. ... will not save the planet**

Stop portraying human activity as harmful, the environment as sacrosanct and creativity as potentially destructive

**10. ... needs more engagement**

We need something new. Take a stand

Send support (or constructive criticism) to: [futurecitiesproject@gmail.com](mailto:futurecitiesproject@gmail.com)