

## Press Release

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### Announcing the **under-construction** workshop

Saturday 22 October

Architects for Peace invites professionals, tradespeople of the built environment, members of related organisations and their representatives to be part of one-day workshop called "under-construction".

Underconstruction addresses the topic of the prevention of man made and natural disasters and our professional response to these disasters.

"We have borne witness to the effects of natural and man made disasters on the urban environment. Our role in the prevention is as important as the response to these disasters." said Beatriz C. Maturana, President of Architects for Peace.

The workshop will address reconstruction from both a practical and theoretical point of view. The "under-construction workshop" will draw on case studies and discussions to identify ways in which we can engage with other communities or nations, while minimising detrimental effects.

"In many cases it is the acts and omissions of countries like Australia that will either mitigate or increase the frequency and magnitude of these disasters" she added.

The program of speakers, performers and exhibitors brings together a diverse range of professionals, students and activists in the built environment including architects, planners, urban designers, environmentalists, trade unionists, artists, photographers, filmmakers and non-government organisations.

Organisations and individuals include Social Planners (Adelaide), Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Engineers without Borders, Architects without Frontiers, Architects for Peace, CFMEU, Artists and students from the Victorian College of the Arts, RMIT and Melbourne University.

"In the case of war, Australia's role in the unjustified war on Iraq will create an ethical dilemma for those involved in the reconstruction. In the case of disaster, the scale of the Tsunami and the subsequent response compared to that of New Orleans poses fundamental questions about the sharing of technology, investment in public and social infrastructure and the dominance in our professions of responding rather than preventing." added Beatriz.

We once talked about "War on poverty" and now talk about "War on Terror" without seeing a link between poverty, oppression and social unrest or the impact of our way of life on the environment and the lives of others.

Find more information at "what's on": <http://www.architectsforpeace.org/>

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