



THE CONSORTIUM FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THEIR

INAUGURAL AWARDS GALA

March 20, 2019 | The Century Association
from 6 PM - 9 PM | 7 West 43 Street, New York City

- WELCOME -

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, DPACSA
President, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization

- KEYNOTE ADDRESS -

Maimunah Mohd Sharif
UN Under-Secretary-General
Executive Director, UN Habitat

- HONORING -

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Robert L. Geddes, FAIA
Dean Emeritus School of Architecture
Princeton University

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh
Chairman, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization

PARTNER AWARD
Dianne Davis
Founding President
International Council for Caring Communities

CHAMPION AWARD
Jonathan Marvel, FAIA, LEED
Marvel Architects, New York

GLOBALIST AWARD
Jeffrey D. Sachs
University Professor and Director
Center for Sustainable Development
Columbia University

RSVP and ticketing information on next page.





www.consortiumforsustainableurbanization.org

Press Release

2019 CSU Inaugural Awards Gala New York City, 20 March 2019, The Century Association

The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU) is hosting its first Gala Award celebration to honor the work of five eminent personalities whose actions have influenced how we plan, design and manage our cities:

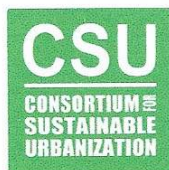
- Robert L. Geddes, Dean Emeritus School of Architecture of Princeton University
- Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization
- Dianne Davis, Founding President of the International Caring Communities
- Jonathan Marvel, Principal of Marvel Architects New York
- Jeffrey D. Sachs, University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development of Columbia University

All award citations can be found at the bottom of this press release.

With the support of CSU long-time partners UN-Habitat, and the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter, the award ceremony will include an opening presentation by Maimunah Mohd Sharif, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat and introduced by Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, President of CSU, with the attendance of renowned design professionals in New York, governments, UN representatives, NGOs and academics.

CSU is a New York based non-for-profit organization, accredited by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its purpose is to advocate for responsible and enlightened planning and design. Since 2008, CSU has actively participated in building bridges between the design community, the general public and the United Nations to foster exchange of best practices and innovations on sustainable urbanization.

Through successful conferences at the UN Headquarters, UN-Habitat World Urban Forums, Habitat III, and the Center for Architecture of New York, CSU has established greater synergies between leading partners in urbanization, providing unique opportunities for high-level UN representatives, national and local governments, architects, engineers, urban planners, the private sector, foundations, academia and civil society to interact on pressing issues related to sustainable cities, such as: the role of urban design and planning, migration, climate change, digital technology, infrastructure, health and equity among others.



www.consortiumforsustainableurbanization.org

Based on the proceedings of these conferences, CSU publishes books that provide strategic inputs and solutions in the development of effective urban policies that respect our environment and the quality of life for all. An integrated holistic approach across all sectors is an essential prerequisite for the cities of tomorrow.

CSU has been actively engaged in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York in 2015 and the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito in 2015. CSU remains instrumental in providing key recommendations and ideas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 *"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"* and to implement the New Urban Agenda, as well as the Paris Agreement.

UN-Habitat, in the introduction to the 2017 *UN Conference on Gateway Portals*, acknowledged CSU's contribution:

"At this moment, talking about the New Urban Agenda is very convenient because there is a lot to be discussed in relation to the worldwide process of urbanization...The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization has been integral for us at UN-Habitat to open up the doors of the United Nations and allow civil society to populate these halls and these rooms in a new manner, which provides a very refreshing input."

The Gala Award celebration will provide a momentum for CSU to congratulate and recognize the engagement and collaboration of its partners and allied organizations in promoting a better understanding of the role of sustainable urbanization and resilient design in the planning of our cities.

For more information contact:

Lance Jay Brown, President, CSU lbrown147@aol.com 646 898 7083

Aliye P. Celik, Vice President, CSU aliyepcelik@gmail.com 646 369 2270



www.consortiumforsustainableurbanization.org

Award Citations:

We honor HE Dr. **Talal Abu-Ghazaleh** for his strong partnership with UN Habitat and his leadership and support of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, his creativity and innovations in the information, communication technology, his universally recognized initiative in the protection of intellectual property rights. His vision on internet and its role in shaping the cities and create smart cities resulted in his being the founder of the Global Alliance for Information Communication Technologies and Network 11 and will continue to guide future partnerships.

We honor **Robert Geddes** for his contribution to architecture and the education of generations of architects. He is the epitome of an architect who practiced what he preached. He believes that architecture is about finding a fit between function and cultural expression. He was a pioneer in architectural education, in connecting the AIA with the U.N. and in humanizing modern architecture. He has never wavered in his conviction that design is important to improving the quality of life for all.

We honor **Dianne Davis** for her tireless advocacy for the inclusion of older citizens as fully integrated and productive members of society. As founder and president of ICCA (International Council of Caring Communities) she has had a profound and lasting impact on the UN community and in getting the younger generation engaged in the problems and opportunities of an aging population. Her Windsor Consultations provide a forum for important topical issues. Her contributions have and will continue to make a difference.

We honor **Jonathan Marvel** for his extraordinary and continuous efforts from the post-9/11 and the post-Sandy contexts in New York to his especially exemplary commitment to improving life in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. His projects raise the standard of living while giving hope to the many. We commend his work, his clear voice, and his invaluable contributions towards a more sustainable and resilient future, and for the creative and important work of Marvel Architects as architects, urban designers, and humanitarians in the design of our built environment.

Report on CSU 2019 Inaugural Awards Gala, Century Association, New York, March 20, 2019

Lighting up a darkened world on the International Day of Happiness

By Bill Millard for csu.global

Bright lights are sometimes easiest to see when they appear amid extreme, almost impenetrable dimness. As Princeton School of Architecture dean emeritus Robert L. Geddes, FAIA, noted on receiving the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization's Lifetime Achievement Award, we are currently living in what historians have termed an "[Age of Fracture](#)," a bleak period when many of the concepts underlying social coherence and progress in the United States have become fragmented. Yet the urgency of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN-Habitat) has not faded, and the efforts of progressive urbanists to advance the SDGs have not ceased in the face of shortsighted, divisive, and frankly fraudulent phenomena in the political sphere. The sense of purpose celebrated at the 2019 gala for the CSU, cited by president Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, DPACSA in his introductory address and reinforced up through the concluding remarks by past president founding board member James McCullar, FAIA, appears all the more powerful when seen against the contrast of what Dean Geddes described as "the darkness of our times."

Recognizing achievements by leading architects, philanthropists, scholars, and urbanists, the CSU Gala drew attention to past and current progress toward a world that can accommodate both rapid urbanization and a habitable, resilient environment. Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, who chairs both the Honorary Council of the CSU and his own eponymous organization (now taking the name [TAG Global](#)), served as both a speaker and an honoree, first introducing H.E. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, then receiving the President's Award for his work in global professional services, education, and intellectual-property protection. Ms. Sharif, speaking remotely from Nairobi, saluted all awardees along with CSU co-founder Aliye P. Celik, PhD. Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh suggested strategies for organizations to become fully and substantively global, called attention to his daughter Jumana's project to increase accountability and reduce character assassination on the Internet, and noted, "We need accounting standards for sustainability, because what you cannot measure, you cannot manage; there is no measurement of sustainability in the world"; he is marshaling his own expertise with multiple international standards organizations to develop such metrics.

UN-Habitat's New York Office director Christopher Williams, subbing for Ms. Sharif as keynoter, emphasized the timeliness of global efforts, observing that "the vast majority of people outside of this room are suddenly realizing that urban development and sustainable development is absolutely the most important focus [for] the international community and local communities." With the urban proportion of the world's population rising from about 30% to the 68-70% range by the year 2050, he continued, "the big issues of our day... will be won or lost in cities." The 17 SDGs, he said, are "as relevant in New York City as they are in any other city around the world," a set of goals that can unite American Midwesterners and members of developing nations alike in realizing mitigation strategies and energy-wise urban design. They "bring the global South and the global North together.... I think there's no greater antidote to the level of populism and xenophobia that we're seeing around the world than that shared sense of purpose."

Introduced by Dr. Celik as "an inspiration for generations of architects" to advance both function and cultural expression, [Dean Geddes](#) stressed the collaboration at the heart of the profession, recalling his own work on a collaborative thesis at Harvard and as a teacher of Architecture 101, the foundational course based on the "Civil Architecture" lectures originally developed by Joseph Henry in the 1820s, the first architecture course in any American college. His own "three professional lives" as architect, urbanist, and teacher have drawn on the inherent breadth and interdisciplinarity established by the diverse scholars who preceded him, including logician/art historian Allan Marquand and George Rowley, a specialist in the art and architecture of China as well as Europe. Geddes traced the evolution of the department and the course, focusing on the integration of buildings and landscape as a broad, decidedly "un-fractured" approach to the whole built environment.

Robert Geddes comments after receiving CSU Award (March 20, 2019)

Thanks to you, Lance, and thanks to you, Aliye, for this splendid Award and this happy event.

There are smiles inside this beautiful building. But, outside, for most people, these are dark times. We are living in "The Age of Fracture," according to historian Dan Rodgers.

It was not always this way. My recollections of previous UN Habitat events in New York include our "Conference on Cities in North America" in preparation for UN Habitat II Istanbul (1996), and the follow-up events of a civic partnership, "Crosstown 116" with its cheerful title, "Bringing Habitat II Home, from Istanbul to Harlem."

Ever since my HGSD collaborative thesis in 1950, I have simultaneously led three professional lives: architect, urbanist, and academic. As an architect and urbanist, my work is available on my website, especially Liberty State Park and the Philadelphia Center City Plan.

As a teacher, Architecture 101 has been my pride and joy. It was first taught the 1820's by Joseph Henry, a scientist, first director of the Smithsonian. Then, it was taught by Alan Marquand, a philosopher of logic at Johns Hopkins who was recruited by Princeton's president, John McCosh, to create a new field of study, Art History. Later, it was taught as cultural study by George Rowley, a brilliant historian of both European Renaissance and Chinese art.

Then, in 1965, in Princeton's new School of Architecture, a new Architecture 101 was launched: "Introduction to the Man-made Environment." It sought the integration of buildings, landscapes and cities, an environment that was not fractured.