

Manifesto for the Just City

A guide

Throughout history, people have used manifestos to express their desire for POSITIVE CHANGE. Manifestos are short documents that aim to convey a group's or organisation's ideas, values and objectives. Political parties have [manifestos](#), artistic movements have [manifestos](#), but architects and urbanists have produced quite a few manifestos as well. [The Charter of Athens](#) (1933) is a long and detailed manifesto about Modernist principles in architecture and urbanisation. In 2003, a [New Charter of Athens](#) was published, focusing on Spatial Planning as “vital for the delivery of Sustainable Development”.

Modernism in architecture and urban design was a very important movement that contributed to improve the quality of life of millions of people around the world by proposing new, organised, green and healthy cities. It had a decisive role in housing provision in Europe, the Americas and parts of Asia and Africa after the Great War, for instance. But Modernism had its fair share of problems. Maybe the main problem is that Modernism implicitly saw architects and urban designers as “all-knowing”, almost super-men (and the majority of architects were indeed men by then!) who had a universal “answer” to the problem of urban development. This creates the problem of “single perspective”. (Please note this is a rough generalisation: Modernism had very different “flavours” in different countries. If you want to know more about the critique to modernism, please read this [article](#). It has some good references).

What is most alarming is the fact that many schools around the world continue to educate their students in that tradition. This makes us believe we need a complete revolution in architectural and planning education. We need architects, urban planners, sociologists, environmental engineers, landscape designers, urban geographers and others who can work in multidisciplinary teams and in partnership with citizens, who are sensitive to the needs of our planet and who can play new roles bridging city planning, citizens and communities.

Today we know that we must include very different points of view in the conversation, in order to cater for the needs of very diverse groups of people living in our cities. We must promote citizen participation not only to achieve better cities, but also to achieve better democracies. We also have a duty to speak for the most vulnerable, whose voices are never heard in city planning and design. If you wish to know more about this view, you can read this [paper](#) or this [book](#) (We know books are expensive, but we are almost sure you can find this one at the library in your school).

One important document that is being updated right now is the [Leipzig Charter](#), a European manifesto for sustainable and fair urbanisation that emphasises participation, democracy and shared vision-building. Another important document is the [New Green Deal](#). Of course, it was AOC ([Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#)) and Senator Ed Markey, two very progressive American politicians, who came up with this idea. Here we give you a link to the [European Green Deal](#), which is inspired and informed by its American counterpart. The UK has some especially good initiatives in this area as well.

The world has changed, and we are now experiencing a shock to most of our natural and human systems (health, the climate, the economy, democracy, inequality). What would a modern manifesto about sustainable and inclusive urbanisation look like today?

Please write a 1000-word manifesto laying-out your ideas about urbanisation in the 21st century.

Here are a few tips!

A short guide on how to write a manifesto

1. A manifesto is a statement of a group's values and objectives, but its main function is to inspire people to promote positive change. Thus, the language needs to be motivating and inspiring.
2. Be concise and use clear language. Avoid long, complicated sentences.
3. Set out briefly what are the main challenges at hand.
4. Set out your vision for a new, innovative, desirable and feasible future. What needs to happen? And who needs to act? This is called "vision-making". To be sure, only condemning the injustices we have today, although very important, is not enough: a manifesto must lay out a path to a desirable future.
5. What are the main values that move you? Are these values shared by others? Why should they share your values and your vision? Maybe you could spell out the values that guide your manifesto.
6. Remember, a manifesto is also a call for action. **What should people do?**
7. Finish in style. This is the moment to leave a mark and to create a sentence that summarises your ideas.
8. Illustrate your manifesto. Although this is not mandatory, images may help reinforce your message.
9. Here is a resource to help you write your manifesto by the [Atlantic](#).

How to submit your manifesto

1. DEADLINE: 16 December 2020 24:00 (CET)
2. Send **PDF and DOC** versions of your manifesto to r.c.rocco@tudelft.nl and A.VanderWatt@student.tudelft.nl
3. The cover page should contain the title of the manifesto, the names of the members of the group, their affiliation (school), city and country where their

school is located, course they are following and email addresses of all members of the group.

4. This cover page will not be published, so you can have a “real cover” with illustrations or whatever you wish to have on the cover. Of course, these things are not included in the word count.
5. In case you have images (drawings, photos, maps, etc.), think about using captions to explain what the image means and, most importantly, indicate the source and the author. If you are the author, indicate own authorship. If you are not the author, add an email or letter from the author giving you permission to use the image.
6. Don't forget to pay extra attention to issues of authorship and avoid any plagiarism. Plagiarised texts will be automatically excluded. It is great to use the ideas of those who inspire us, and you should absolutely do so, but don't forget to mention who the author is and the source. (At TU Delft, we love the [APA citation system](#)).
7. There are no rules about fonts, font size, colour of the background and so forth.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Good luck!