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**ALEJANDRO ARAVENA**
Curator of the Biennale Architettura 2016, Chile

How might the issue of security impact the future of architecture as a discipline?

**JONATHAN LEDGARD**
Director Future Africa Initiative at EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland

What are the risks and challenges of using a technology developed for warfare when applied for humanitarian purposes?

**MILINDA PATHIRAJA**
Robust Architecture Workshop, Sri Lanka

How could military knowhow be re-oriented to positively impact the cause of sustainability?

**ROBERT MARDINI**
Regional Director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Middle East

How can a sustainable future for populations plagued by war and violence be ensured?

Moderated by Rolf Soiron, Chairman of the LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction, Switzerland

Reporting from the Front: Sustainability vs. Security on Friday, November 25, 17:00 at La Biennale di Venezia, Teatro Piccolo Arsenale (adjacent to the main entrance of the Arsenale exhibition area). The panel discussion is followed by drinks and snacks. Free entry, more information at: www.lafargeholcim-foundation.org/biennale-panel
Based on his experience in curating the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2016 in Venice, the Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena inspired the LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction to organize a debate on sustainability and security. Framed as one of this year Architecture Biennale’s discussions, the event will foreground topics that were raised in the context of the exhibition “Reporting from the Front” and expose them to “real life reports” from the forefront of architecture and related disciplines.

Growing security concerns, specifically pertaining to the world supply chain and global flows of construction materials as well as the devastating effects of wars on livelihoods and the built environment, add to the complexity and variety of challenges to which architecture must respond. Is security a challenge to the logistics of sustainable construction? What is at stake in securing the future of the building industry, and will the ever-growing threat of terrorism and war ultimately herald a decline in the degree of openness of architecture to all?

Alejandro Aravena, sought answers in “his” Architecture Biennale, emphasizing that only the final step of architectural work concerns giving form to places that we inhabit. But long before this last step, many battles must be won in order to improve the quality of the built environment and, by extension, the quality of people’s lives. How might the issue of security impact the future of architecture as a discipline?

Jonathan Ledgard, a longtime foreign correspondent for The Economist and Director of the Future Africa Initiative at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), scrutinizes the effects of advanced technologies in emerging economies. He currently leads a team to develop and build the first Droneports in Africa, deploying flying robots for the delivery of emergency and commercial supplies in regions lacking adequate transportation infrastructure. What are the benefits, risks, and challenges of using a technology originally developed for warfare when applied for humanitarian purposes?

Milinda Pathiraja, architect and global prize winner of the LafargeHolcim Awards, managed to reframe the mechanisms of warfare and turn them from a destructive to constructive force in cultural rebuilding. Replacing guns with tools to build a library in Sri Lanka, he and his team from Robust Architecture Workshop provided soldiers with a new set of skills, retraining them for life in a post-conflict society and creating an army of builders for the benefit of the population. How could military know-how be re-oriented to positively impact the cause of sustainability?

Robert Mardini, engineer and regional Director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), leads humanitarian operations across the Middle East to help people caught up in war. Crossing frontlines, negotiating with all sides, supporting temporary human settlements, helping communities rebuild their homes and livelihoods, and rehabilitating infrastructure to restore basic services are key ICRC activities in areas hard-hit by war. How can people be protected in fragile and conflict affected environments and which steps must be taken to ensure a sustainable future for populations plagued by war and violence?

Rolf Soiron, Chairman of the LafargeHolcim Foundation and Member of the ICRC, will moderate the public panel discussion on November 25, 2016 starting at 17:00 at la Biennale di Venezia, Teatro Piccolo Arsenale adjacent to the main entrance of the Arsenale exhibition area.

**Reporting from the Front: Sustainability vs. Security**

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