



CITIES FOR LIFE: WORLD URBAN FORUM 2014

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Explosive globalisation risks leaving behind not only the world's poor but also its designers, says Alex Warnock-Smith

With over two thirds of the world's population urbanised, and history's greatest disparity between the wealthy and the poor, the theme of UN Habitat's *World Urban Forum 7* (WUF7) was 'Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life'. Set against the UN's post 2015 development agenda, the overwhelming claim made by UN Habitat and the international politicians headlining WUF is that cities are the key vehicle for the future of the planet, the transformation of international relations and the destiny of subsequent generations. Compelling and relevant stuff, but where do architects sit within this high-level international politics and why was no one talking about design?