

The following manifesto was created by eleven students and two faculty members as part of a workshop held during the Design Culture Day on October 29, 2022. The students that drafted this manifesto were initially tasked with addressing notions of belonging and the need for a dedicated art, architecture, and design library in the Gezairi Building on LAU's Beirut campus. At the time, the 13th floor of the building was still under renovation. It posed itself as a potential library space. However, through the process of drafting the manifesto, it became evident that it was not only a matter of considering the 13th floor as a library space rather, a reconsideration of the entire building and the possibilities of what a library can and perhaps should be.

We believe in empathy, acceptance, and inclusion.

Library / on the 13th

We seek **aesthetic spaces** where we can create, reflect, craft, and construct. We aim to live, work, and learn in comfortable, accessible, and inviting green places **where we can breathe**. We aspire to have open and respectful communal leisure spaces where we are free from judgement and able to express ourselves. We aim to have spaces where we are encouraged to **believe in ourselves**, be independent, safe, grateful, and motivated. We strive to foster ongoing exhibitions, events, and collaborations where we receive recognition. We want places where we can prepare for our careers and **have access** to the equipment, tools and supplies we need. We aim to create multifunctional, multidisciplinary, participatory, and open places. We want spaces that we can call home. **We want spaces where we are valued.**

We aim to **exchange and experience** beyond the walls of our campuses. We seek to be part of a global community. We want to inspire others and to be inspired. We aim to **preserve heritage and culture**. We strive for the betterment of society and the environment. We **aspire to safeguard** vulnerable communities, future generations and all living creatures. We intend to be responsible and efficient as we **build a sense of community** and a better future together through sharing and learning.

We regard **uniqueness, belonging, and knowledge** as essential — seeking spaces where knowledge on art, architecture, and design is nurtured, formulated, and preserved.

[2022]

Ziad Al-Doauk
Manar Al-Mouzayen
Geovana El Badawi
Yara Chelala
Charbel Chidiac
Betoul Darwish
Carla Al Hage
Ahmad El Helwani
Reem Hijazi
Nour Abi Khalil
Dima Kurdi
Melissa Plourde Khoury
Leen Yassine