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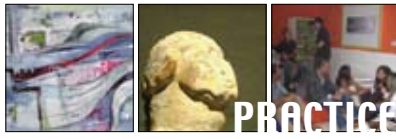
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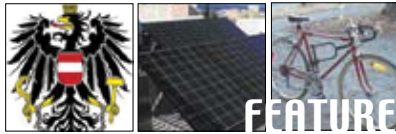
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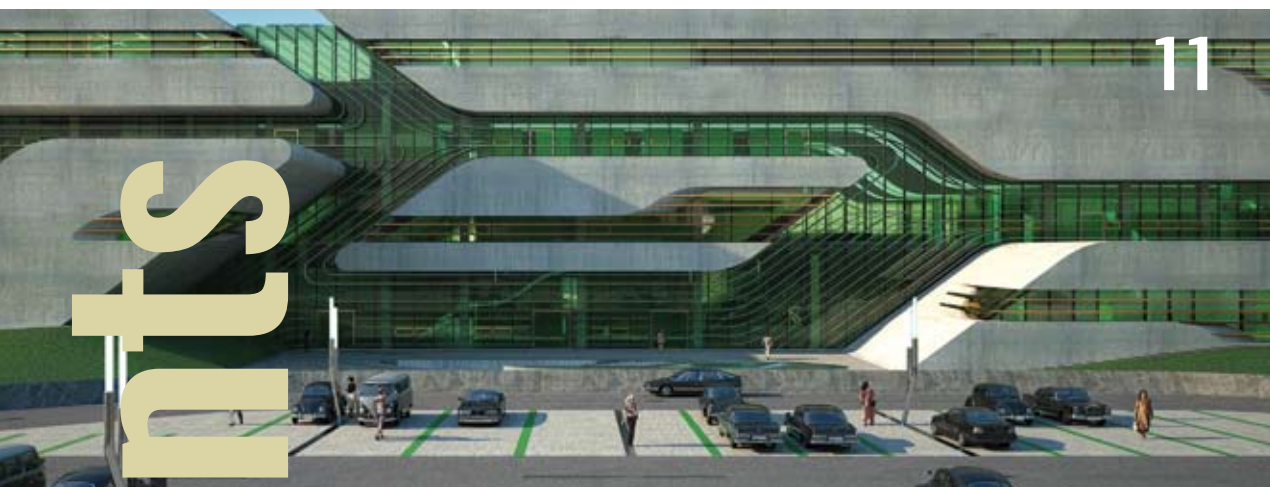


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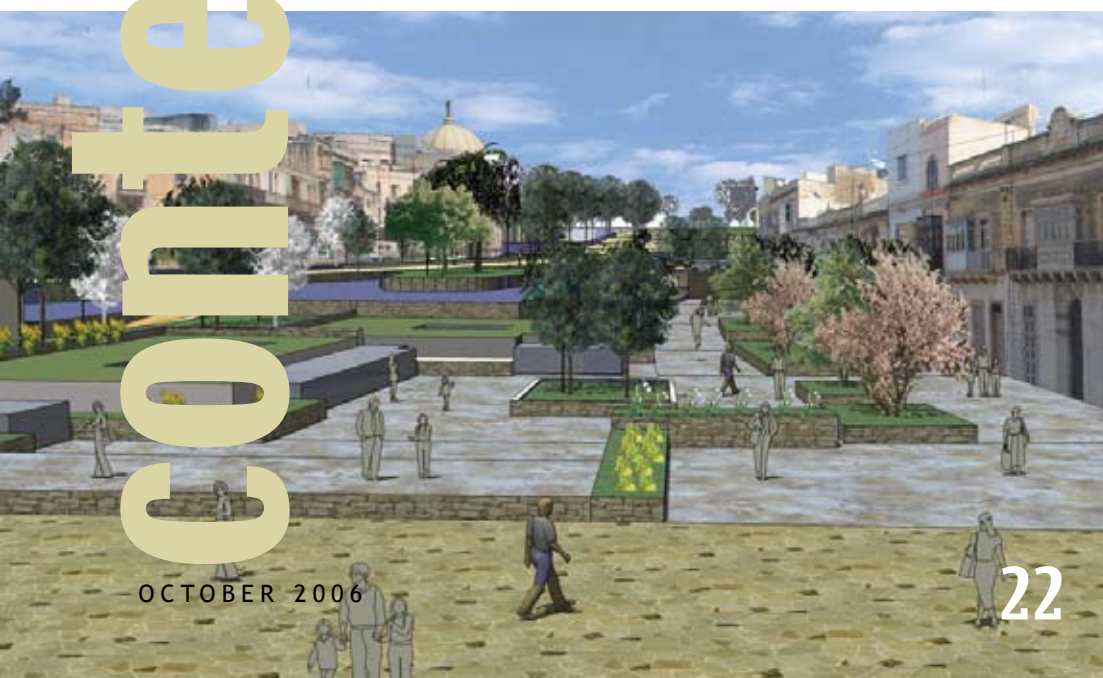
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OCTOBER 2006

"Today everyone is more conscious of the environment, and it is the perit who has to achieve the balance between progress and the preservation of the environment."

Francis Zammit Dimech

When will it be time for architecture?

The role of a professional organisation like that of the KTP is a multiple one; primarily though it may be generally summarised in two areas which are not necessarily directly related – political and cultural. Political, of course, in the wider sense of the word. The KTP, irrespective of the resources at its disposal, is required to be reactive to new legislation and policies, to monitor the terms of professional practice within a rapidly changing work environment and to continue to develop its international networks for the benefit of its members and the community. Today, the latter include the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) and UMAR, the Union of Mediterranean Architects, in addition to the traditional roles within the UIA, the International Union of Architects and the CAA, the relevant body within the Commonwealth. Even this is a reflection of the times we live in.

The KTP also sets its targets on an annual and bi-annual basis; maybe it is time, seeing the extent of its task, to work on a longer term plan, though this is often jeopardised by the inevitable fickleness of its structures which remain, at least in great part, dependent on services being provided on a voluntary basis. It is also inevitable that these targets are summed up and assessed towards the end of the year, when its annual general meeting is held and the direction and composition of council is changed.

For some time now the KTP has also worked consistently on raising the profile of the profession, not only with its members, but also, and probably more importantly, with the general public. It is with this aim in mind that the KTP has, in a determined fashion but also with a mixed degree of success, embarked on the organisation of, shall we say, a cultural programme. The implications of this are also wide-ranging, in the sense that they are intended to create an increase in awareness of the quality of our lives and the impact of our built and, frequently, also of our unbuilt, environment on such quality of life.

While the KTP is leading a team of collaborators in the drafting of a national policy on architecture, which has received wide support but little publicity, and that is the direct fruit of the KTP's participation in the Forum for Architectural Policies, it has achieved experience and credibility through the organisation of a series of events,

with the commendable support of new partners of the KTP coming mainly from those involved in the construction sector and the media.

The past few weeks have been particularly active in this regard. The successful organisation of the Architecture Nights series has been hugely successful, both in terms of the quality of the presentations and the participation levels. It was indeed heartening to see so many architects, students and members of the general public attending the events. Time for Architecture has also taken place with a wide range of activities being held. Now in its second year, T4A looks like it will become a permanent fixture in the cultural calendar in Malta. That is, so long as the events remain of interest to at least part of the general public and our members retain their organisational skills and energies. These events are also frequently coloured by disappointments, most notably this year, with the last minute postponement of the key event, the presentation by Reinier de Graaf of OMA, on the Image of Europe.

This year's events were originally intended to deal with the relationship between architecture and the local media. We were particularly intrigued by the perception by the media of architecture and the way it is often compounded with planning, environmental and development issues, but very rarely with the quality of the buildings we live and work in. There can be little doubt about the vastly urbanised nature of the Maltese landscape, coinciding with a time when, as is being widely reported, for the first time in History, more people will be living in cities than ever before. In this respect, the presentation by PricewaterhouseCoopers in the T4A programme will be of special interest.

It is noteworthy to state that the press conference launching the event happened despite notable absentees...the press; only reporters from Super One Television appeared (late), together with the statutory representative from the DOI. There is certainly an increase in genuine interest, but this is still localised. The strategy must remain this: convincing that Architecture deserves a stable seat on the national agenda and that it should serve as the scope of a permanent constructive debate.

David Felice
Editor



To support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community

The Council of the Kamra Tal-Periti for the year 2006 consists of David Pace (President), David Felice (Vice-President), Keith Cole (Secretary), Alfred Briffa (Treasurer) and Council members Rossignaud, Alberto Miceli Farrugia, Danica Mifsud and Antoine Zammit

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Cover: Logo of Time for Architecture 2006

See page 6 for details.

The term of the current Council of the Kamra tal-Periti is coming to a close, and an AGM and elections will be held later this year. This summer has been one of intense work by the members of the Council on a number of matters.



Members of the KTP Council met with a delegation from the Malta Labour Party led by Dr Alfred Sant

MALTA LABOUR PARTY

The Council of the Kamra tal-Periti met with Dr Alfred Sant on the 30th of August in order to discuss the Malta Labour Party's document regarding its vision for the public sector. The Kamra expressed its satisfaction at the publication of this document, which contains a number of proposals and suggestions aimed at improving the public sector.

In particular, the Kamra commented on four items that are of particular interest to it and its members, namely MEPA, Public Procurement, Public Private Partnerships and the relationship with the EU and its structures. In the case of MEPA, the Kamra praised the change process underway within the Authority, but advised that any change should not be just cosmetic; rather it should result in an effective and qualitative change. It also emphasised that this change process should identify those sectors where the MEPA requires more resources, and government should be ready to back MEPA financially in order to help it perform its obligations at law, as in the case of enforcement.

With regard to public procurement, the Council mentioned among other things the importance that when public sector tenders are issued to engage the services of a perit, the fee structure is based on the principles of Tariff K.

In the case of public private partnerships, the Kamra expressed its concern that due to the nature of such arrangements it is not feasible to enter into such partnerships for small-scale projects. Rather these agreements should be reserved for large-scale projects, and the perit should be involved from the outset in order to ensure that the project's economic, social, environmental and cultural goals are achieved.

The relationship with the EU was also discussed, and here the Council mentioned that since it is obliged to give its

feedback to government on the various aspects which affect the industry and the profession, it should be given the opportunity to participate in European-level fora on these matters. It also mentioned the importance that new legislation is implemented following in-depth studies on the local situation, and not hurriedly for the sole sake of implementing these regulations in order to conform to EU requirements.

In the meantime, the Malta Labour Party has forwarded to the KTP a document on its vision with respect to self-employed persons.

GENERAL SERVICES BOARD

Perit Alan Saliba has accepted to represent the Kamra tal-Periti on the General Services Board. He replaces Perit Joe Genovese who passed away earlier this year. The General Services Board is appointed by the Minister on a yearly basis and is set up in terms of Article 44 Section 10 of the Department of Health Constitution Ordinance (Cap 94). The function of the Board is to determine public health issues referred to it in terms of the Code of Police Laws Chapter 10.

DOCOMOMO MALTA

The Provisional Maltese DOCOMOMO Working Party was constituted last August with the main task of creating the National Chapter of this Institution. Last year, during the Time for Architecture events, Prof Denis Sharp of DOCOMOMO UK had presented a lecture on the Modern Movement. He was approached with the idea that Malta should form part of this Institution.

Consequently a working party was set up, composed of Claude Borg, Malcolm Borg, Richard England, David Felice, Tony fenech Vella, Kevin Fsadni, William Lewis, Alberto Miceli Farrugia, David Mallia, David Pace, Conrad Thake, Jevon Vella and Antoine Zammit. The committee drafted a declaration of principles for the Provisional Working Party and a two-year work plan covering the period 2006 – 2008. These were presented to DOCOMOMO International as part of the requirements for Malta's candidacy to form part of this organisation. In fact, at a meeting in Ankara at the end of September, Malta was formally accepted as a member and inducted in the International Council.

DOCOMOMO stands for Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement. It includes 49 working parties throughout the world and more than 2000 members.



Prof. Juanito Camilleri

UNIVERSITY RECTOR

A delegation from the KTP led by President David Pace met with the new University Rector, Prof. Juanito Camilleri on the 4th September. Apart from serving as a courtesy visit to convey the Kamra's wishes for his term of office, the President briefed the Rector on the latest developments in relation to the existing Qualifications Directive and its replacement by the new

Qualifications Directive in October 2007. The President explained that as a result, Malta, together with all the member states that joined the EU in 2004 shall have to re-notify their recognised schools(s) of architecture, even if nothing has changed in their content or structure, providing the opportunity for any other member state to challenge the compliance of the course with the Directive.

This could have disastrous consequences should Malta's course fail the test as it would mean that Malta would be the only member state without a recognised school of architecture, denying the free movement for our graduates and professionals that others around the EU (and ourselves to date) enjoy. It was crucial therefore for the faculty to ensure that it could stand up to close scrutiny should this challenge occur.

On his part the Rector expressed his full support in favour of the KTP's proposal and suggested immediate discussions within the Faculty followed by regular meetings with the KTP. Speaking on his vision for the University, Prof. Camilleri stated that it was his intention to introduce greater flexibility within faculties, combined with a closer working relationship with industry, professional and commercial organisations to ensure that the University could produce graduates capable of satisfying the country's needs in various fields. With respect to the Architecture Faculty he noted that it only offered one degree, and that possibly it could be reorganised to offer more to cover various aspects of the architectural, civil/structural engineering and construction fields.

In conclusion the Rector asked the KTP to work as closely as possible with the Faculty. In fact, following internal discussion and the drafting of an initial document, regular meetings are expected to commence in October in order to carry out a comprehensive review of the course.

EVENTS

This summer the Kamra tal-Periti has been busy organising a series of events for its members and the public at large. The season kicked off with Architecture Nights 06, a series of lectures by different foreign and local architects on the theme "Identity of Place." For the second year running, the KTP also organised Time for Architecture, a series of events organised to mark World Architecture Day. For information on both these events refer to pages 6 and 7.

VALUATIONS

A number of certificates of participation in the Valuations CPD held last year have still not been collected from the KTP's office. Those participants who have not collected their certificate are requested to do so at their earliest convenience.

EMAIL

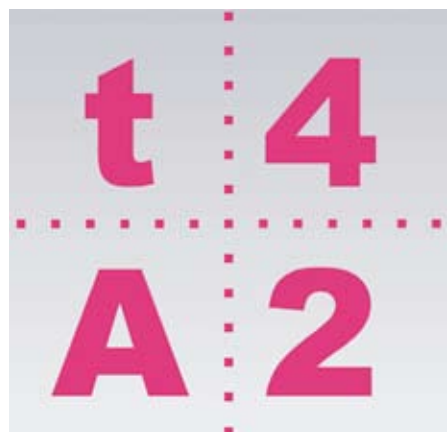
The KTP often sends out important announcements via e-mail. If you do not receive these messages, please submit your e-mail address to the KTP office by contacting the office secretary as per the details below.

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- kamratelperiti@nextgen.net.mt (KTP office secretary; Mr. Anthony Cassar)

The KTP office secretary, Mr. Anthony Cassar, is available at the KTP office every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1000 – 1200hrs.



Following on the success of last year's events, the Kamra tal-Periti in collaboration with Sacés has this year organised Time for Architecture 2006, a series of events held to mark World Architecture Day. The organising committee worked hard all summer to prepare a program of events for this year's celebration.

WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY

World Architecture Day is celebrated on the first Monday of October each year. This celebration was initiated by the Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA), of which Malta is a member country. On the same day, the United Nations celebrates World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future



of the human habitat.

The theme for this year's World Architecture Day and World Habitat Day, which were celebrated on the 2nd October, was "Cities, magnets of hope". This theme, chosen by the United Nations, is intended to remind us all that the world is witnessing the greatest migration of people into towns and cities in its history. In 1950, one-third of the world's people lived in cities. Just 50 years later, this rose to one-half and will continue to grow to two-thirds, or 6 billion people, by 2050. Cities are now home to half of humankind.

As the world becomes increasingly urban, it is essential that policy-makers understand the power of the city as a catalyst for national development. Cities have to be able to provide inclusive living conditions for all their residents. Rich or poor, everyone has a right to the city, to a decent living environment, to clean water, sanitation, transport, electricity and other services. How we manage this is arguably one of the greatest challenges facing humanity.

TIME FOR ARCHITECTURE 2006

The main aims of Time for Architecture are to promote "good architecture", to increase the awareness of the work of Maltese architects and architectural firms among the general public, and to serve as a meeting point for the current and future members of the Kamra and others.

The theme for this year's Time for Architecture centred on the element of the city as a focal point of society, and aimed to delve into aspects of architectural quality in the development of a better quality of life for the inhabitants of the city. Furthermore the theme focused on the role of the media in the public's perception of quality in architecture and our built environment. Once again, these events were held under the patronage of the Ministry for Tourism and Culture.

The events were launched on Friday 29th September with a Press Conference presided by Minister Francis Zammit Dimech. In a press release, the Minister stated that the dictionary definition of a city is of

a large locality, or a place inhabited by a large number of people, or an area given the title of city by a

king or queen. He went on to say that in Malta, besides having cities with high populations, we are also lucky to have cities that were given their name by Grand Masters of the Order. We also have cities that are surrounded by fortifications that have served in the past to provide safety to their people during times of invasion. Minister Zammit Dimech reminded those present that during the last 50 years, Maltese periti were involved in the planning of all local infrastructural projects, industrial estates, hotels and thousands of residential units, and are responsible for all the good, and not so good, architecture of our islands. Periti, he said, are synonymous with progress and therefore have a great responsibility towards society. Today everyone is more conscious of the environment, and it is the perit who has to achieve the balance between progress and the preservation of the environment.

Whilst thanking the KTP and Sacés for the effort put into the organisation of these events, the Minister concluded that just as in the past our cities gave hope to their people against invasion by the enemy, our cities today are centres of history, culture and art which attract both Maltese and foreigners who are interested in exploring further our roots and the progress experienced by the country.

THE EVENTS

As part of this year's events, Sacés organised their annual exhibition of works by students. This exhibition is an excellent opportunity for the students to exhibit their work and to receive feedback from the public. This exhibition was held at the Auberge d'Italie, and it is hoped that this will become the annual venue for this event. As part of the Time for Architecture events, Sacés will also



Minister Zammit Dimech (right) discussing the events during the opening of Time for Architecture. Left to right: Perit Danica Mifsud, Chairperson of the KTP Communications Standing Committee; Brendon Muscat, President of Sacés; Perit Tony Fenech Vella, member of KTP Council

organise their annual workshop. More details on this will be published in the next issue of tA. Thanks here go to the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, in particular to Perit Joe Falzon and Prof Denis Delucca, for their support of these events.



One of the drawings exhibited at Designs

At the time of going to print, none of the events had actually taken place, though by the time this article is being read the events would have all been over. This year's events included a wide range of activities, from a workshop for children to films to a boat trip and a number of others. More details on these events will be published in the next issue of tA.

Time for Architecture 2006 was sponsored by the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Media Today, Modern Elegance, HSBC, Attard & Co, Steel Structures, PwC, Auntielucy, Papier Plus, Kinetix, MEPA, and the Ministry for Urban Development and Roads. The organising committee takes this opportunity to thank all these for their support.

architecture nights

The Architecture Nights series are a new initiative being organised by the Kamra tal-Periti. The theme for these sessions is "Identity of Place." The various speakers will discuss the manner in which their projects have created a 'sense of place' and have given soulless, disjointed and physically fragmented places a new 'identity'. They will also discuss how their buildings have become strong focal points and have given a new identity to the surrounding spaces as well as an identity to the users of the buildings themselves and the urban public realm. The main aim of Architecture Nights is to expose the public to examples of good successful design and contextually conscious projects in terms of environmental benefits, social promotion and inclusion and economic regeneration.

BDP

These events kicked off on Saturday, August 26, with a presentation by two senior architects and urban designers from Building Design Partnership, a leading and major award-winning London-based architectural firm boasting over 300 architectural awards to date (refer to website www.bdp.co.uk). Building Design Partnership is an inter-disciplinary firm of professionals in building design, embracing architecture, civil, structural and building services engineering, town planning and urbanism, landscape architecture, interior, product and graphic design, lighting design and acoustics. The firm provided some of



the best examples of holistic, integrated and contextual design projects through their representatives Kevin Radford and Gergana Draganova. Both qualified in architecture and in urban design, the two speakers have worked on projects in London, China, Portugal, Ireland, The Netherlands, Bulgaria and the current celebrated Waterfront City in Melbourne, Australia, which was presented in detail on the night, together with the La Seyne Sur Mer project in Toulon, France and Hampden Gurney School in London.

LLEWELYN DAVIES YEANG

The second talk took place on Saturday 16th September and featured Belgian architect Riet Eeckhout from Llewelyn Davies Yeang, London (www.ldavies.com). Riet Eeckhout is an architect with a curriculum of work investigating aspects of urban densification and bioclimatic design. She worked for several architectural companies in Europe including Malta, where she worked with Architecture Project for three years on a number of projects including master planning and design of the Valletta Waterfront regeneration project.

She then moved to Malaysia, South East Asia where she worked as a Design Director for Dr. Ken Yeang (as part of T. R. Hamzah & Yeang Sdn. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) on the design and conceptualisation of bioclimatic skyscrapers, other large-scale developments and master plans. She was responsible for a number of projects in Malaysia (including, among others, the Malaysia Design and Technology Centre in Cyberjaya and the TA 2 35-storey Residential Tower in Kuala Lumpur), together with large-scale residential towers and mixed-use projects in Paris, Kuwait City, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mexico City, Portland (USA), Qingdao (China), Mumbai (India) and

Adelaide and Sydney in Australia.

Recently Riet moved to London as one of the principle design architects to join Ken Yeang in his new London office, Llewelyn Davies Yeang (LDY). Her current projects at LDY include a number of competition submissions (the new Nanotechnology Institute at University of Oxford, UK and Ulster Hospital Competition in Belfast, Northern Ireland), master planning for Canning Town & Customs House Regeneration in London and Lakeside/West Thurrock in Essex, as well as a major shopping centre in Geneva and the redevelopment of Great Ormond Street Hospital in London.

Much of Riet's work forms part of a research and critical framework of peer review within the invitational program at the University of Melbourne (RMIT) Australia, led by Leon van Schaik, investigating architectural design modes and methodology. She is also currently a sessional tutor in the Interior Architecture Course Canterbury University College of creative arts, Canterbury, UK.

RICHARD ENGLAND

The third talk in the series will take place on the 21st October. This time the speaker will be Prof Richard England (www.richardengland.com). England was born in Malta and graduated in Architecture at the University of Malta. He continued his studies in Italy at the Milan Polytechnic and also worked as a student-architect in the studio of the Italian architect-designer Gio Ponti. He is also a poet, sculptor, photographer and artist. He is the author of several books on both art and architecture, and books have been written on his work by Charles Kneivitt, Chris Abel and Maurizio Vitta.

Richard England holds professorships at various universities in the U.S.A, U.K. and Europe. He is an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an Academician at the International Academy of Architecture and an Officer of The Order of Merit of the Government of Malta. His buildings and designs have earned him numerous International prizes and Awards. Among his best-known buildings in Malta are the Church of St Joseph at Manikata, the Central Bank of Malta Annexe, the Millennium Chapel and the St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity in Valletta. Richard England has

worked in the capacity of Architectural Consultant to governmental and private institutions in Yugoslavia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Italy, Argentina, Poland, Bulgaria, the Ex-Soviet Union, Kazakhstan and his native Malta. This talk, as all the others in the series, will take place at Vault 17 at the Valletta Waterfront.

BENNETTS ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

The fourth and last talk for this year will take place on the 4th November, with Simon Erridge director of Bennetts Associates Architects of London (www.bennettsassociates.com). Bennetts Associates, with offices in London and Edinburgh, is widely acknowledged as one of the leading firms of architects in the UK and it presently holds both major UK awards for architectural excellence - Architect of the Year (the Building Design Awards) and Architectural Practice of the Year (Building Awards). In the last year the firm has also won the Building of the Year (British Construction Industry Awards), the Prime Minister's Best Public Building Award and its 11th prestigious RIBA Award. The range of projects undertaken by Bennetts Associates is unusually broad and includes theatres, university buildings, headquarters offices, hotels, transport infrastructure, housing and leisure. This diversity is reflected in the size of projects, from multi-million pound urban regeneration to small-scale buildings in rural settings. Notable projects include the new Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, the RIBA award winning Hampstead Theatre in London and the Jubilee Library in Brighton, short-listed for the 2005 Stirling Prize.

Simon Erridge joined the firm in 1991 after graduating from the University of Bath where he won the Basil Spence Prize and the Aukett Award. Since joining, Simon's involvement has reflected the diversity of projects undertaken by the practice. These include office buildings, an award-winning manufacturing building, historic and listed building conversions, stations for Crossrail and most recently arts buildings. Simon was project architect on the Hampstead Theatre and is currently leading the redevelopment of the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon.



STUDENTS' EXHIBITION

A group of fourth year students from the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering of the University of Malta organised an exhibition of their works. This eight day long exhibition was held at Vault 17 at the Valletta Waterfront. This event was a good opportunity for these students to show their work to the public.

CALIFORNIA AIA AWARDS 2006

This summer the American Institute of Architects California Council (AIACC) announced the 2006 recipients of its annual design awards program. Five honour awards were given to California architects, for projects at home and overseas.



Student housing at the University of California, Berkeley, designed by EHD Architecture. Photo Kevin Matthews

One of the local projects is a residence hall complex for the University of California, Berkeley, designed by Esherrick, Homsey, Dodge, & Davis (EHDD) Architecture. Another award went to the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, by design architect Koning Eizenberg Architecture and Perkins Eastman as architect of record. A third award-winning project is the Art Centre College of Design's South Campus in Pasadena, designed by Daly Genik, a downtown satellite campus for the internationally recognised design school. A fourth award went to the design of a new space for Britain's fast-growing ad agency Mother London, designed by California firm Clive Wilkinson Architects. The fifth project to receive an AIACC honour award is the University of California, Merced Central Plant by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

CULTURE COURSES

Din L-Art Helwa will be holding a series of short courses at its offices at 133, Melita Street, Valletta. The first course, Revisiting Malta's Neolithic Temples

led by Reuben Grima was held on the 4th October. The second will be led by Denis De Lucca who will be giving the lecture Understanding Baroque Architecture. Alaine Apap Bologna will talk on Maltese silver on November 8 and Anton Grech will discuss modern art on November 15. The final course, Restoring Old Buildings, will be led by Joanna Spiteri Staines on December 19.

Those interested are to register via Din L-Art Helwa on 2122 5952. Sessions cost Lm8 each including a coffee break. Places are limited to 25 persons per session with a minimum of six participants.

A CITY WITHIN A CITY

Foster and Partners have recently been commissioned to design 'a city within a city' in south-east Milan. The massive 1,200,000sqm site was left following the closure of the Montedison factory and the Redaelli steel mills. Social life



at Milano Giulia will revolve around the 600m long pedestrian promenade, lined with shops and services. The project will also contain schools, halls of residences, a church, healthcare services, a congress centre, a sports centre and a proposed 7 star hotel (80,780sqm). It is thought that the 'city within a city' will accommodate between 50 and 60 thousand citizens. Accommodation will range from two-room flats to large apartments and lofts. All the accommodation will be equipped with the most up to date and modern technology.

GHERKIN FOR SALE

Questions over the affordability of so-called 'iconic architecture' are set to emerge over the next few days following news that the 'erotic gherkin' is up for sale. The owner of 30 St Mary Axe, insurance giant Swiss Re, has put Norman Foster's famous building on the market for approximately £600m. While wildly successful in architectural terms, it has not been a shining beacon of profitable property investment. Until just 12 months ago, 22 of the building's 40 floors had not been let. The problem of letting the building's office space is not going to make the sale easy and it remains to be seen if it will beat the £527 million paid for Plantation Place when British Land recently sold it.

GOLDEN LION

Richard Rogers has been awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime achievement by the Board of La Biennale di Venezia for the 10th International Architecture Exhibition (10th September – 19th November 2006). Rogers has a distinguished career and is responsible for some of the most iconic buildings of the last twenty five years



including the Centre Pompidou in Paris (with Renzo Piano) and Lloyd's of London. His career has been driven by a passion

for cities as an architect, urbanist, adviser and author, promoting the importance of architecture in making cities more sustainable and equitable in the context of a rapidly urbanising world.

Rogers is honoured to have won this award and said: "I'm passionate about cities. They are the most complex of artefacts and many are in great need of revitalisation. I am, therefore, extremely delighted to learn that I will be receiving the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement award for my work on cities at this year's Venice Biennale. A lifetime is a long time - but in terms of the work I'd still like to do, I'm already beginning to think it's not long enough." Rogers was presented with the award at an event at the Venice Biennale on Sunday 10 September. All the other prizes of the 10th International Architecture Exhibition - Golden Lion for the best National Participation, Golden Lion for the best City, Golden Lion for the best the Urban Project, Special Award for a School of Architecture, Leoni di Pietra and Premio di Architettura Portus - will be awarded during an official ceremony on November 8th at the Teatro alle Tese, Arsenale

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Luciano Mule Stagno has been named as the new Chief Executive Officer of Heritage Malta, the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage. Dr. Mule Stagno will be succeeding Ms Antoinette Caruana.

ART VS ARCHITECTURE

IM Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre has been so successful that it has become a destination in its own right, clogging up the ticketing process for art lovers wishing to see the gallery's other 300,000 exhibits. Of the three entrances to Paris's major tourist attraction, the pyramid hall attracts two-thirds of the 7.5 million visitors. IM Pei has been recalled to find a solution to the problem which has been exacerbated by the opening scene of the cult book/film the Da Vinci Code which is set in the entrance hall. The £48 million rebuilding programme is scheduled for 2009-12.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The prestigious regattas of the 32nd

America's Cup will be held in Valencia, Spain, in 2007. Both the city and the region are taking advantage of this opportunity to develop ambitious urban planning projects, notably along the waterfront, intended to favour exchange between the city and the sea.



Consorcio Valencia 2007, a public organisation that unites national, regional and municipal authorities, is launching an international ideas competition to plan a part of the facilities related to the America's Cup and the area around them. The site covers a total area of approximately 1.35 million sqm within Valencia's inner docks and annex spaces, plus a water surface of around 0.56 million sqm. The area is to be called Valencia del Mar – Marina Real Juan Carlos I.

This international competition was approved by the International Union of Architects, and is open to architects around the world. The official launch date was 1 October 2006, and registrations will be open until 31 October 2006. For further information visit www.valencia2007.com

LONDON BIENNALE

Though known globally for its vast historic architecture, London is striving for contemporary credentials. In the city's recent architecture biennale, part of the UK-wide celebration called "Architecture Week," organisers brought the changing city fabric to world attention.

Unconventional landmarks have risen all over London; but what kind of skyline do Londoners want? what does the city need to make it "better"? who should have the final say? These issues were tackled dur-



London plaza, with the new City Hall far left by Norman Foster. Photo London Architecture Biennale

ing the London Architecture Biennale in a vast array of talks, walks, installations, films, and even bike tours. British MP Boris Johnson was invited to chair one of the discussions. He soundly damned modern planning regulations, calling them "pastiche classicism." Similar topics were debated at the Tate Modern, where five high-profile industry players tackled the subject of 1960s architecture: icon or eyesore? The debate measured the merits of pulling down unattractive buildings. Along the biennale's "World's Longest Architecture Exhibition", three miles dotted with small booths and installations, various groups tackled the issues of the day, each from its own perspective. Save Britain's Heritage also brought a few startling statistics to light - in the first six months of 1975, permission was given to demolish no fewer than 182 listed (registered historic) buildings in Europe, and listed buildings are still being torn down. A large part of the biennale encouraged public interaction. In a bid to make London "nicer," a Big London Brainstorm was set up, taking ideas for city improvement from locally based architects.

AM NAI PRIZE 2006



Basketbar, Utrecht by NL Architects, Winners of the AM NAI Prize 2004. Photo Hans van Leeuwen

The Jury of the AM NAI Prize 2006 nominated the following buildings for the Best Building by a Young Architect: the CONO Cheese Factory in West-Beemster by Bastiaan Jongerius architecten b.v., De Plussenburgh in IJsselmonde by Arons & Gelauff architecten, Brughuis in Middelburg by BAR (Joost Glissenaar/Klaas van der Molen), interior of WORM in Rotterdam by 2012 Architecten (Cesare Peeren / Jan Jongert) and KAPKAR/TAW-BW-5860 in Vught by Frank Havermans. The winner will be announced in November.

A total of 75 young architects submitted a building they designed in the AM NAI Prize competition. "The jury was impressed by the continued strength of

Dutch architecture, though it noticed that economic conditions had led to a greater precision and pragmatism in the designs. In general, the architects concentrated either on exterior effect or interior composition, achieving startling effects with an economy of means." The Prize is an initiative of the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) and the chief sponsor of the prize, AM, a real estate development company specialising in residential estates, town centres, office complexes, business parks, and shopping centres. The prize money consists of an award of EUR 1,000 for a nomination and EUR 10,000 for the winning design. The winning design will moreover be added to the NAI Collection. To be eligible for entry for the AM NAI Prize 2006, the building must have been completed in 2004 or 2005. The architect of the building must be no more than forty years old in the year of project completion.

ASSEMBLY BY ROGERS

The Welsh National Assembly was founded in 1987 following a referendum, and



National Assembly for Wales. Photo Welsh Assembly Government

allows the Senedd (parliament or senate) the powers of home rule. This important organisation needed a world-class building to portray its identity and to encourage local pride and interest in politics. Designed by Richard Rogers, the building comprises a red-cedar soffit undulating through the building and out toward the harbour. The use of natural materials such as wood and local slate is one of the reasons why the building is being heralded as a pioneering example of sustainability. It may also be one of the most important and controversial projects of Roger's career.

TORRE AGBAR

The Torre Agbar, a new tall building from Ateliers Jean Nouvel, in collaboration with b720 Arquitectura, Garcia-Ventosa Arquitecto, and Leopoldo Rodes Arquitecto, thrusts into Barcelona's skyline from the Placa de las Glories, a gritty district that Barcelona's planners have



designated "the next big thing," a new centre of commercial activity. The Torre Agbar, writes Nouvel, "is not a tower. It is not a skyscraper in the American sense of the expression: it is a unique growth in the middle of this rather calm city." What makes it unique are its scintillating surface and radical structure. "The surface of this construction evokes the water," Nouvel says, "smooth and continuous, but also vibrating and transparent because it manifests itself in coloured depths — uncertain, luminous, and nuanced." The building houses the new headquarters of Aguas de Barcelona (Agbar), the municipal water company. (Source: Architecture Week)

CULTURAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE

The executive co-ordinator of the Cottonera, Valletta and Mdina Rehabilitation Projects, Ray Bondin, recently chaired a two-day conference on the cultural heritage of Militello and Sicily. Various representatives from Italian universities and of the super-intendancies addressed the seminar. Militello was one of eight cities recognised as world heritage sites by Unesco following a report submitted by Dr Bondin. The city is known for its Norman and Baroque architecture.

RIBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN VENICE

On 27 & 28 October, the Royal Institute of British Architects will hold its 2006 annual conference within the framework of the Venice Architecture Biennial, on the theme Social City-Architecture and Change. The conference will seek to determine if it is really true that good urban design can improve living conditions for inhabitants, promote good health, and reduce crime, as it is so often

stated. Prestigious speakers including Lord Foster, as well as experts on social change, biodiversity, and sustainability, will share their thoughts on this essential question. In addition to the conference there will be a comprehensive programme of special architectural tours, that cover all the best buildings of Venice itself – old and new – and many of the finest buildings in the wider Veneto region.

WORLD'S LARGEST CIVILIAN TUNNEL TO CLOSE

The Sonnenberg Tunnel, considered to be the largest civilian shelter in the world, is due to be converted into a motorway tunnel. Around 1,550m long, it is already an important section of the Basle to Lugano motorway which carries up to 50,000 vehicles per day. Reduced threat-levels in terms of war, plus logistical and engineering problems have played a large part in the closure of the tunnel, with Swiss authorities now turning their attention to the threat of natural disaster.

In 1963, Swiss Federal Law called for the provision of civil shelters to protect the population in the event of war or disaster because of an adequate amount of shelters for the people of Lucerne. The Sonnenberg Tunnel was built to accommodate up to 20,000 people and appeared to be an ideal solution to the problem – even though it was only able to hold one-third of the city's population. The construction of the \$32.5 million shelter was subsidised through the construction of a motorway at the same time as the civilian shelter.

The Sonnenberg Tunnel was designed to accommodate 10,000 people in two tunnels, with a seven-storey cavern in between the two tunnels containing a command-post, emergency hospital with operating theatre, a radio studio and various multipurpose rooms. Civilians were to be held in the protected sections of the two main tunnels. The tunnels were divided into blocks, each designed to hold 64 people. A small bed was provided for each occupant and minimum conditions for survival were met through electrical, sanitary and ventilation systems. The doors of the Sonnenberg are 1.5m thick and weigh 350 tonnes - designed to withstand a one-megaton nuclear explosion within a one kilometre radius. However, the sheer size of the tunnel led to engineering and organisational problems, especially with the entrance doors failing to shut during a test exercise in 1987. The Swiss authorities also failed to look at the practicality of maintaining a shelter containing 20,000 people in

confined spaces - nowadays the largest shelters only hold between 2,000 and 3,000 people.

Financial reasons and the reduced threat of conventional, nuclear or chemical attacks meant that the problems with the Sonnenberg Tunnel were not rectified. Eventually authorities in Lucerne decided to disengage the two main tunnels and rebuild the existing construction, turning it into a motorway tunnel. At the site of the seven-storey cavern a shelter for 2,000 people will remain. Even with the closure of the Sonnenberg Tunnel, there will still be 270,000 shelters in Switzerland to provide shelter for 95 per cent of its population.

RIBA STIRLING PRIZE



The RIBA Stirling Prize is given for the RIBA Building of the Year. It is run in association with The Architects' Journal and is presented to the architects of the

building which has been the most significant for the evolution of architecture in the past year. The prize is named after the great British architect Sir James Stirling (1926-1992).

The shortlisted buildings are visited in September by the RIBA Stirling Prize jury, who reconvene on the afternoon of the RIBA Stirling Prize Dinner to make their final decision. The shortlist for the 2006 RIBA Stirling Prize includes the Barajas Airport by Richard Rogers Partnership; the Brick House by Caruso St John Architects; Evelina Children's Hospital by Hopkins Architects; Idea Store Whitechapel by Adjaye/Associates; the National Assembly for Wales by Richard Rogers Partnership; and the Phaeno Science Center by Zaha Hadid Architects.

The Prize will be announced live on Channel 4 at the RIBA Stirling Prize Dinner on Saturday 14 October at the newly refurbished Roundhouse, Chalk Farm Road, London.

TAD-DEJR CATACOMBS

Heritage Malta and Din I-Art Helwa have strongly condemned the recent break-in at the Abbazia tad-Dejr catacombs. A spokesperson for Heritage Malta said vandals broke into the Abbazia tad-Dejr Catacombs, sprayed black graffiti and left

rubbish behind. Luckily, the graffiti was sprayed on concrete bricks that are part of the access gate and not on the site itself, so little damage was caused to its archaeological heritage.

The break-in was discovered by Heritage Malta conservation scientists who are currently carrying out a survey of the catacombs that will result in a conservation project being drawn up. The incident occurred recently and is being investigated by the police. Initial conservation work is currently being carried out at this site, part of a collaboration agreement between Heritage Malta and Din I-Art Helwa to restore these catacombs and make them accessible to the public. Vandals gained access to Hypogeum 1 by removing bricks from the right-hand-side of the entrance gate. Black paint was sprayed directly on the bricks and balloons, tape and other rubbish were left on the ground, including the spray can used. The gate to Hypogeum 5, which is usually locked, was found open with the padlock missing.

The Kamra tal-Periti strongly deplores this act of vandalism on our heritage.

WORLD DAY OF ARCHITECTURE 2006

On 2 October 2006, the UIA and UN-Habitat celebrated together Cities, Magnets of Hope on the occasion of World Habitat Day and the World Day of Architecture. In choosing this theme, the United Nations hopes to alert policymakers to the power of cities to serve as catalysts for national development and challenge them to offer all inhabitants, both rich and poor, the right to the city and to a decent and harmonious environment. This goal increasingly requires the participation of architects, as we advance toward 2050 when it is predicted that half of the world's population will live in cities.

The official, joint celebration of World Habitat Day and the World Day of Architecture took place in Naples, in the presence of Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and Gaetan Siew, UIA President. Several UIA Member Sections also organised national celebrations of architecture and habitat on this occasion. These Sections included Malta, Georgia, Hungary, Portugal, and the Philippines.

EFAP

"Celebrating the Everyday – Aspects of Architectural Policies" is the title of

the European Forum for Architectural Policies conference to be held in Helsinki between the 19th and 21st October 2006. The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture will organise this event as part of the Finnish programme of the 2006 EU Presidency in co-operation with various domestic and European stakeholders, in connection with the EFAP. It will take place in two architecturally interesting venues: the Finlandia Hall by Alvar Aalto and a modern High Tech Centre in an old industrial waterfront area.

The programme will focus on the role and potential of architecture in the creation and maintenance of high-quality environments as a central part of our economic, cultural and social life. It will include some internationally renowned keynote speakers, one of them being the Speaker (President) of the Finnish Parliament Mr. Paavo Lipponen whose government (he was the Prime Minister at the time) initiated the Finnish Architectural Policy Programme in 1998. The two-day event will end with a joint keynote lecture with the conference "Coup de Dés" by the Mies van der Rohe Foundation. Perit David Felice will be representing the Architects' Council of Europe during this event.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Heritage Malta has decided to extend the current opening hours of the National Museum of Archaeology in Republic Street, Valletta till 31 October. As part of a pilot project introduced by the national agency in early August, the opening hours



at the National Museum of Archaeology were extended till 7pm from Monday to Sunday. During August, more than 1000 people visited the National Museum of Archaeology between 4.30 and 7pm.

Following this encouraging response, Heritage Malta has decided to extend this scheme till the end of October to provide visitors to the capital the possibility of visiting one of Malta's most important museums after 5pm. The National Museum of Archaeology houses some of the most important artefacts of Malta's prehistory including the Sleeping Lady.

ZAHA HADID – PIERRES VIVES

The "Pierres Vives building" of the Department of Hérault in Montpellier, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects is due to start construction on site at the end of this year. The building is a unique combination of three civic institutions – the archives, the library and the sports department - within a single envelope. Given the contained programs, the spectacular design is inspired by the idea of a 'tree of knowledge' as an organisational



diagram. The archive is located at the solid base of the trunk, followed by the slightly more porous library, with the sports department and its offices on top where the trunk bifurcates and becomes much lighter. These various parts of this administrative hub share several functions at the heart of the building, with auditorium and meeting rooms combining in a huge cantilever canopy above the main entrance. The branches projecting off the main trunk on ground floor, articulate the entrances into the various institutions. All the public entrances are located on the western side of the building; whilst the service entrances for staff and loading bays are on the eastern side. In this way the tree-trunk analogy is exploited to organise and articulate the complexity of the overall building. Client: Département de l'Hérault Client representative:

Hérault Aménagement
Architectural design: Zaha Hadid
Project architect: Stephane Hof

CULTURAL VISITS

The Ministry for Tourism and Culture is organising a series of thematic cultural visits, running between October 22, 2006 and 6 May, 2007, for a total of eight events. The program is as follows: 22 October – the second world war 26 November – the Towers of the Knights 17 December – traditional cribs 28 January – traditional Maltese crafts 25 February – historic Maltese residences 25 March – small churches 22 April – Gozo 6 May – Grand Harbour cruise

Environment Watch

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Between the 2nd and 7th October the Environment Commission of the Archdiocese of Malta celebrated Environment Week. A number of events were organised, including a photographic exhibition, the launch of the book "The Environment: One home...of one family...of one Father", a mass on the occasion of the feast of St Francis and a national conference on Christian Environmental Education.

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR AT MEPA

Martin Seychell has taken up the post of Environment Director at the Malta Environment and Planning Authority earlier this month, relinquishing his position as director of foodstuffs, chemicals and cosmetics at the Malta Standards Authority. A chemistry graduate, Mr Seychell has extensive expertise in the legislation of chemicals standards, EU directives, and the classification and labelling of dangerous substances. Mr Seychell, 42, has been involved on numerous decision-making levels within the EU, and has been on boards related to food safety and pesticides. He will be filling a post which has been vacant since 2003. Mr Seychell will now be in charge of the Authority's Nature Protection Unit, the Pollution and Prevention Control Unit and the Resource Management Unit. The Kamra tal-Periti congratulate Mr Seychell on his appointment.

GREEN PROCUREMENT

Earlier this month Government published a draft plan of action with respect to green public procurement, indicating its commitment that the public sector be more environmentally conscious in its operation. This plan of action is the result of a working group which included the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Ministry for Finance, the MEPA, the Contracts Department and the Malta Standards Authority, and whose task was to propose methods by which, as from 2007, the public sector would

implement green procurement measures in particular with respect to the procurement of products and services. In order to implement this plan, the Contracts Department will set up a section that would provide training for public officials responsible for the issuing of Government contracts, in order to guarantee more environmental consciousness in the purchasing of products and services, and to ensure that tenders are evaluated according to these same criteria.

Locally the public sector is the largest consumer of products and services, totalling nearly LM50 million in the past year. The document, which was launched during a conference titled "Greening the Economy – A case for Sustainability", is open for public consultation and comments are to be sent to the Director General Contracts, Floriana, by the 15th November 2006.

OCCUPATIONAL NOISE

According to the World Health Organisation, noise-induced hearing loss is the most prevalent irreversible industrial disease. Noise is in effect a hazard that most people encounter everywhere, including at their places of work. Regrettably it is rarely given due consideration, mainly because the effects are not immediately evident and might take a long time to manifest themselves. Hearing loss may not only prevent someone from working to their full potential; it can also destroy their social life and isolate them from the community around them.

With this in mind, and following a campaign on occupational noise during the course of 2005, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority has now issued a guidance document specifically on occupational noise. The aim of this guidance is to explain in a simple and easily-comprehensible manner the concept of noise, and the health effects of exposure to high levels of noise while at the same time helping duty holders achieve compliance with their legal obligations in protecting workers' health and safety while at work. Copies of this guidance document are available against a Lm2 fee and can be collected from the OHSa premises in Pieta or by ordering a copy on email ohsa.communications@gov.mt.

TOP HOUSING DESIGN AWARDS

Two social housing schemes have received the gold standard from Building for Life (www.buildingforlife.org). Angell Town in Brixton, London, and Selwyn Street in Oldham have demonstrated the highest standards of architecture and all round sustainability to take the top awards. Built in the 1970s, Angell Town was a fortress of poorly constructed concrete blocks connected by high-level bridges, with garages dominating the ground level. Nearly 600 units have now either been refurbished or newly built. The most recently completed project on the estate, Boatamah Walk, is rated Eco-Homes excellent. It integrates solar power, rain water harvesting and water conservation. Environmentally friendly paints and floor finishes were used.

Selwyn Street is the first housing development under the Oldham Rochdale Pathfinder programme, which requires large families to be accommodated in small tight-knit sites. The scheme incorporates 18 new units within terraced housing - including a seven-bed, 11 person house. Ninety per cent of hot water in summer will be provided by high levels of insulation, wind turbines and solar water heating panels. Annual energy bills for residents are likely to be £400 below the national average.

FOOTSTEPS

British engineers are attempting to harvest energy from the footsteps and vibrations of city-dwellers, and say they could have a working prototype by Christmas. Facility Architects, the British firm leading the project, has commissioned engineering lecturer Jim Gilbert to devise the system necessary to convert footfalls into electricity. He is presently using hydraulic powered heel-strike generators, which could be installed into the floors of busy public places such as city centres or subway platforms.

It is claimed that the power-capture from 20,000 people during a rush hour could power a large building's lights for a day. "It will allow lights and power to be created where previously it was too expensive or difficult to dig up the transport infrastructure to wire them into the main grid supply," said Claire Price of Facility Architects. "(This could) potentially save billions of pounds in building works." (Source: ICE)

Aspects of the Architectural Profession in the Common European Expanse

An International Conference entitled "Aspects of the Architectural Profession in the Common European Expanse" was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on the 22 September 2006. During this Conference, a Resolution was passed regarding various aspects of architectural quality, sustainability and cultural heritage among others. In passing this Resolution, a number of previously published resolutions and statements were borne in mind.

FOUNDATIONS OF THE VILNIUS RESOLUTION

As a preamble to the Vilnius Resolution, a number of points are listed that highlight various other resolutions and recommendations that were taken into account and that form the foundations of the Vilnius Resolution.

Among these, it is mentioned that in its Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environment, adopted by the European Council on 12 February 2001 (2001/C 73/04), the Architects' Council of Europe had reaffirmed "that architecture, the quality of buildings, the way in which they blend in with their surroundings, respect for the natural and urban environment and the collective and individual cultural heritage are matters of public concern." In such resolution the Council had called on the Commission "to ensure that architectural quality and the specific nature of architectural service are taken into consideration in all its policies, measures and programmes" and "to seek, in consultation with the Member States and in accordance with the rules governing the Structural Funds, ways and means of ensuring in the application of those funds a wider consideration of architectural quality and the conservation

of cultural heritage."

These principles outlined above have now been reflected in the Community Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion Policy for the period 2007-2013 in which it is recognised that architecture is an element that positively contributes to increasing the attractiveness of Cities and Regions, and thus to growth and jobs.

Furthermore, in June of last year, the European Forum for Architectural Policies had presented recommendations to the 25 EU Ministers of Culture, in which it was proposed notably "that in each member State the inter-ministerial coordination and implementation responsibility in the area of architectural quality and overall quality of the built environment of citizens should be clearly identified and entrusted, either to the Minister of Culture or, depending on the internal organisation, to the most competent authorities in these States, at National or Regional level."

In addition, a further recommendation took into account the challenges of the Regulations for the implementation of the future generation of the EU Structural Funds (2007-2013) – in parallel, National and Regional Authorities of the Member States should take into account the same challenges when working out the National strategic reference frameworks that will serve to determine the modalities for the use of the EU Structural Funds in each member State.

The Bristol Accord on Sustainable Communities was adopted in December 2005. Here the EU Ministers in charge of Urban Policies and Territorial Cohesion identified the phrase "Well designed and built: featuring quality built and natural environment" as one out of eight characteristics of a sustainable community. The Vilnius Resolution stresses that the quality and sustainability of the urban environment is an acute concern throughout Europe and in particular in the Member States that recently joined the European Union and in Accession States. It also welcomed the fact that many Member States of the EU have already adopted

Architectural Policies or are in the process of doing so, including the Baltic Countries and in particular Lithuania, whereby this country is also on the verge of adopting important legislation that will facilitate the organisation of the architectural profession in that country to ensure adequate protection of the public interest and consumers.

THE VILNIUS RESOLUTION

Taking into consideration all the above, the Vilnius Resolution reaffirms that architecture contributes to ensuring quality and sustainability in the built environment and to producing a harmonious development in the European Union, and hence is a matter of public interest. It notes, in particular, the necessity to ensure a creative management of the cultural heritage, notably architectural heritage, having regard to the affirmed goals of Community cohesion policy.

The Resolution further concurs with the European Forum for Architectural Policies on the need to put emphasis on the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity and national heritage for past and future generations, on the reinforcement of European identity, and on raising the awareness of all European citizens that they belong to a community of values, as well as increasing their willingness to build a common future together. Moreover, it encourages the further development of Architectural Policies, also at Regional and Municipal level, and their effective implementation.

With respect to the new generation of the Structural Funds, which includes important changes and emphasises the participation of the Member States that recently joined the European Union and Accession States, the Resolution stresses that these Funds will be implemented as early as the beginning of 2007. This will mean that important amounts of money will flow into these Countries and the Resolution stresses that the issues identified within it are to be adequately reflected in National

Implementation Reference Frameworks and Operational Programmes, in particular in respect of eligibility criteria. The Resolution further emphasises that these Member States are faced with the necessity to address acute challenges and are at the crossroads of both the urgent need to take care of the maintenance of the existing building stock and heritage, and to take the right decisions to ensure a sustainable development for the future generations, particularly to avoid short term choices and actions that do not preserve the future. These Countries also have a special responsibility in taking leadership in the European Union and showing the way forward in adopting courageous and innovative solutions to address these issues when launching urban regeneration schemes while responding to the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda and Gothenburg Objectives.

With regard to the issue of procurement procedures, and in particular in public procurement, the Resolution emphasises the need to ensure that such procedures effectively include adequate, quality-based and sustainability selection criteria, notably through the use of architectural design competitions.

The Resolution also addresses Architectural Professional Organisations in the EU Member States with special regard to the "New" Member States, and urges them to actively promote a permanent and structured dialogue between them, and government and local authorities, to raise their awareness and appreciation of the added value of architectural quality in relation to cohesion policy and cultural richness. It also emphasises the need for reinforced exchange, cooperation and coordination of activities within relevant frameworks and networks, at regional, inter-regional and European level, in particular through the Architects' Council of Europe as the representative Body of the architects' professional organisations. Finally, it calls on relevant government authorities to give reinforced attention and to bring adequate support to facilitate this process.

Over the past few months the SACES committee has kept itself busy working on a number of projects. Amongst a host of smaller activities, the main ones have been Sand Sculptures, the new student common room at the Faculty and of course, preparations for our annual workshop to be held in October. The first of these activities, Sand Sculptures, involved around 50 students, many of whom came from other faculties, who attended the event held at Ghadira Bay in August. The event generated much interest as many curious onlookers joined to admire the works and choose the eventual winner. The day was rounded off with a BBQ and beach party in the evening.

On the interior, the walls were sanded down to remove the deteriorating paint and where necessary, the surface was arranged using cement. Parts of some walls were previously covered with particularly unattractive brown tiles – these were carefully cov-



ered using plastic sheeting and wood. Exterior works were also required, namely re-pointing of the walls and repairing certain portions of the roof.

On the 29th September, another SACES project was inaugurated: the creation of a common room within the Faculty. This is a project started by the previous committee at the end of September '05 and which the members of this current committee have invested a large chunk of their summer in. The room, part of which was originally used as a gun post during the war, was received by SACES in particularly poor condition. Rain water entering from various points during storms caused the walls and ceiling to deteriorate,



made paint applied in previous years flake off and occasionally resulted in flooding. The room's previous user had often referred to it as "the dungeon".

On receiving the room SACES immediately proceeded to tackle the most pressing problems.

Once the basic works were complete we were able to focus on how we wanted the interior to look. Appropriate paints were applied to the walls; windows, wood and any furniture we tried to save, re-invent with some other use or design ourselves. SACES has also spent a considerable amount of money on furniture that could not be constructed manually such as a sofa, coffee table, etc. While we have all spent time working in the room, special praise must be reserved for Chris Zammit for the effort he has put into helping SACES realise this project.

Over the summer too, there have been the preparations for the 6th SACES Workshop to be held from the 13th to the 15th of October and for the Designs exhibition which will take place between the 29th September and the 15th October at the Auberge d'Italie. Both these events are part of the program of Time for Architecture 2006, which Sacés is participating in this year too, with specific input on the design of all promotional material.

Giancarlo Torpiano

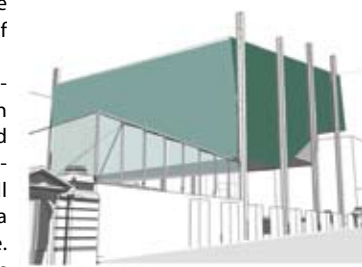
A Temporary Structure for the Royal Opera House Site

The re-development of the most controversial site on the island was in itself a tough enough brief, however, the difference from previous approaches, and what made the project really interesting, was that the development had to be demountable. The concept was inspired by the temporary structures that are erected, about once a year, in the adjacent square, to accommodate popular performances. Could this rather ugly structure, that regularly inhabits, and blocks, the entrance to Valletta, be given dignity and elegance?

Today the site is an unsightly car park and an obstruction, or rather a 'round about', to a large number of people who enter the capital city and who make their way to Zachary Street. People simply walk around this heritage-packed site without even noticing, or realising, the large architectural potential that it has in its present state.

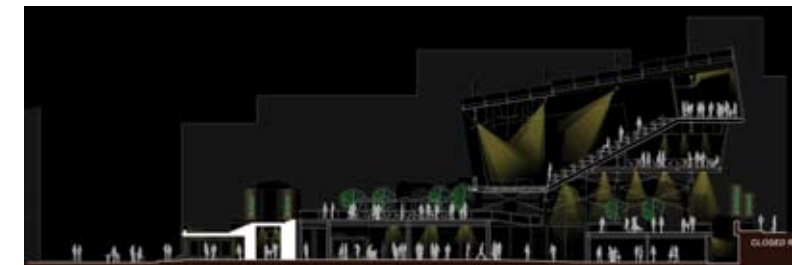
The proposed development was required to respect the existing remains, and was to have a life span of around five to ten years, with the intention of serving as a possible pilot project for the actual re-development of this site. This meant that a sensible choice of uses and activities had to be incorporated, and the building had to be as flexible as possible so as to attract the largest number of uses possible.

The proposed development includes an open and a covered piazza, an information centre, a small restaurant, and a performance space. All these activities



would enjoy magical views of Valletta. The spaces required for each activity overlap one another; this makes the building flexible, and highlights the fact that the building is constantly changing.

The proposed project incorporates the ruins within the design, and offers the opportunity to appreciate the greatness of the building that once existed. The whole intervention is receded by 3m from these ruins. This means that to enter the new building, it is necessary to cross a small bridge to enter the new development. The bridge acts as a journey from the past to today. The site is not all built-up, so that the last remaining evidence of the previous building can be exploited.



The development works on four different levels. Level One is the level of Republic Street. This space is proposed to be utilised as an information centre, accessed through the ruins at street level - which today are used as shops. The centre would give tourists and locals alike basic information about our country's heritage, and would highlight the many places of interest, varying from heritage to entertainment. Level Two consists mainly of two open spaces. The front and back piazza are linked via a lightweight bridge. The piazzas are detached so as to provide a window onto the information centre. The front piazza is at the upper ruin level, and is accessed from the impressive existing staircase, enjoying views of Palazzo Ferreria. The second piazza, which is slightly lower, is roofed over, and is accessed through the existing arcade at the intersection

with Zachary Street. The reason for the difference in level between the piazzas is in fact due to the points of access determined by the existing remains. This intimate space enjoys views of St. Johns Co. Cathedral

and of the magnificent Victory Square and its surroundings. Level Three accommodates a small restaurant situated right above the second piazza, enjoying the same views, but from a higher and more interesting perspective. Level Four consists of the performance space. This is not a specialised space but one which can be used for a number of performances, be it dance, music or theatre. This space is elevated over part of the front piazza, and over the second piazza. The objective behind the elevation of this space was so that views from the levels below would not be obstructed. What makes this performance space particular is the fact that it has an openable, telescopic, roof and a removable side. This means that this space can also be

used as an open air theatre. The removable side is the one overlooking the front piazza, so that this piazza could be transformed into a stage, using Valletta as its backdrop.

The proposed structure is constructed of bolted steel elements, so it is fully demountable. Concrete is only used for the column bases are pinned.

The biggest challenge was the design of the telescopic roof which spans approximately 18m. The most efficient solution was to opt for a series of arches. It was established that each arch needed to be about 350mm deep. The roof was split into three panels, with one fixed and two moveable panels. Each panel measured approx. 18m in width by 10m in length, and is constructed of five arches, spaced at 2.5m intervals. Since the roof panels had to stack up, one under the other, this meant that only the first panel could have tied arches, while the second and fixed panel required untied arches. This also meant that it was necessary to provide a higher resistance to lateral load, in order to keep them from opening up. A robust space truss was designed to withstand the abutment required by these arches. The depth of the space truss was designed in such a way as to make it easier for the panels to run on.

The space truss is supported on four frames which are tied just below and above the arches, so as to avoid the columns from opening up. The frames were designed of circular hollow sections for the columns and castellated beams spanning across the area. The castellated beams support the theatre floor and restaurant, a floor made up of a series of primary and secondary beams, and steel deck flooring, all of which would be bolted on site. The four frames were braced in the longitudinal direction, while the first and last frames were braced in the transverse direction.

Gaston Camilleri
Thesis Project 2005-06

Waste Management

By Dr Ing Christopher Ciantar

Covering a surface area of 315.36 square kilometres, Malta is regarded as one of the smallest countries within the International System. Given the size of the island, land is probably the scarcest resource in Malta. This, however, did not prevent a population increase, and the resulting population density is in the region of 1,200 persons per square kilometre. Furthermore, Malta also enjoys a significant tourism industry with significant implications on space use too.



WASTE

Given the constraints and factors mentioned above, the dumping of large volumes of waste, as a primary method of disposal, is ultimately unsustainable. This means that, while there will be a need for landfilling of some kind, a sustainable system for the treatment of waste needs to incorporate facilities either for recovering or for pre-treating waste. This will help to minimise the volume of waste to be landfilled thereby reducing its pollution potential. Excavation, construction and demolition waste constitute the major fraction of the

solid waste generated in Malta. Between 1997 and 2002, Maghtab alone received approximately 6 million tonnes of this type of waste. Over this six-year period the amount of such waste increased steadily with an average increase of 13% annually.

Since 2004, most of the two million tonnes per year of inert waste (including inert material from excavation) from the construction industry is being used to rehabilitate disused quarries. This constitutes a form of land reclamation, which is of great significance due to the shortage of land that the islands have.

However, due to the huge amount of inert waste that is generated annually it is estimated that the disposal capacity in the disused quarries will expire within the next few years.

The core principle of sustainable development lies in the ecological efficiency of material and is in line with the concepts of recycling and returning valuable raw material to good use. In addition to avoiding waste production, high priority must be given to recovery.

Waste management includes a three tiered process including waste prevention, recovery of unavoidable waste

and finally the optimisation of final disposal. In the case of Malta, greater efforts are needed in the sector of prevention, reuse or recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, comprehensive treatment options, as well as in the establishment of final disposal possibilities. Malta also needs to invest heavily in more infrastructure in order to be compliant with the targets stipulated in the EU Council Directives and also in order to fulfil the obligations that were agreed to during the Accession process.

TWINNING PROGRAM

With this in mind, an EU Twinning Project between the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Austrian Federal Environment Agency is currently underway. The project is entitled "Assistance to explore long-term projects to manage specific waste streams in a more sustainable manner." The main aim of this project is to promote long-term sustainable waste treatment facilities in the Maltese Islands for C&D waste and for municipal solid waste, including waste similar to MSW and some commercial waste. In order to achieve an optimum outcome, the project seeks to ensure a long-term sustainable waste strategy for specific waste streams including inert and non-inert waste as well as to ensure that all the waste is being managed according to national and international standards. Furthermore, the project is also geared towards designing waste facilities to reduce the land uptake for waste disposal. Ultimately, the project will seek to draw a detailed feasibility analysis on areas of waste-to-energy and C&D waste.

Consequently, this Twinning project is divided into three main components, each dealing with a specific subject. In

turn, these components are then further subdivided into activity areas that are designed to achieve the project objectives.

The first component of this project deals with the formulation of long-term strategies for the management of C&D waste. The work entails the formation of a technical task force, made up of a set of Austrian experts and different Maltese stakeholders (e.g. the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, WasteServ, MEPA, University of Malta, BICC, and others). This technical working group will have to elaborate a strategy for the long-term possibilities of reuse and recycling of C&D waste. The work will entail, inter alia,

- Discussions on the legal and technical standards for waste prevention, recycling and disposal of C&D waste in Europe (resp. Austria) with particular reference to the Maltese situation;
- Discussion of the quality criteria for the reuse of secondary building material (including technical guidelines for the handling of such material) and for the disposal of C&D waste;
- Discussion of recycling possibilities

and their applicability in Malta and also discussion on the financial, economic and environmental implications of the recycling possibilities;

- Development of a catalogue containing documentation on reuse and disposal for C&D waste in Malta.

The project schedule also includes various visits to selected sites across Malta with the aim of acquainting the Austrian experts with the Maltese current situation regarding C&D waste treatment. Furthermore, the Twinning project foresees a number of study visits to Austria, where selected Maltese counterparts will acquire a first hand experience in the management of C&D waste.

Another component of the project focuses on the renewable energy that



can be derived from waste. A technical working group will be set up to elaborate a long-term strategy for the selection of an appropriate waste-to-energy technology for non-inert non-hazardous waste, including residual waste, generated from municipal solid waste in Malta.

The final component of the Project deals with the formulation of a detailed information campaign. This campaign seeks to formulate two strategies for the dissemination of information, namely, possibilities for the reuse of C&D waste as well as options of waste to energy technologies. Information needs for specialists and the general public will be identified and key messages designed and formulated to meet the needs of these specific target groups.

The project leaders include Dr Ing Christopher Ciantar from the Environment

Policy and Initiatives Directorate on the national side and Ms Elizabeth Schachermayer from the Austrian Environment Agency on the Austrian side. The Resident Twinning Assistant is Mr Hans-Joerg Zerz who is the Head of the Division for Waste Collection within the Department 48 (Waste Management, Street Cleaning and Vehicle Fleet) of the City of Vienna, Austria.

The project, valued at 675,000 Euros, commenced on August 1st 2006 and will be completed in 18 months.

**Twinning Project
MR05-IB-EN-01
Assistance to
explore Long Term
projects to manage
Specific Waste
Streams in a more
suitable Manner.**

2005 National
Transition Facility
Programme
Twinning Project
between the Ministry
for Rural Affairs and
the Environment
of Malta and the
Austrian Federal
Environment Agency



PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRICITY GENERATION

By David Zammit

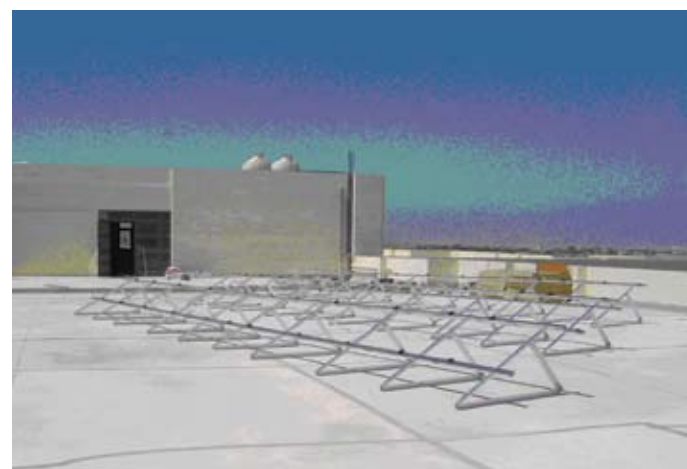
The photovoltaic (PV) effect was discovered in 1839. Nineteen-year-old Edmund Becquerel, a French experimental physicist, discovered the photovoltaic effect while experimenting with an electrolytic cell made up of two metal electrodes. In 1954, 4.5% efficient silicon solar cells were reported; this was raised to 6% only a few months later. In 1963 Japan installed a 242-W PV array on a lighthouse, the world's largest array at that time. We are now in an age where multicrystalline PV panels have reached an efficiency of 16% and PV plants which generate megawatts (MW) of electricity are installed in 'PV Farms', Germany being the world leader in PV installations.

Malta – 2006

The market is starting to stir; the government and a few individuals have or had installed PV systems ranging from 0.5kW to the 6.84 kW installation at the San Benedittu College in Kirkop.

High oil prices throughout the world have pushed the price of electricity to record highs; Malta is no exception to this. The government has introduced the electricity surcharge and utility bills have inevitably soared. Generating electricity through PV is now being seen as feasible by certain individuals and commercial organisations, as payback for the initial investment has gone down to between 8 to 12 years. Action to install PV throughout the world is also being driven by the Kyoto Protocol and within the European Union through Directive 2001/77 EC. The Kyoto Protocol is committed to reducing climate change through the reduction of harmful emissions while the EU Directive seeks to actively promote the use of renewable energy to:

1. Comply with the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol.
2. Reach the indicative target of



12% of all electricity generated by the Member States by 2010, to be produced from renewable energy sources (RES).

3. Ensure a cleaner environment for EU citizens.

This Directive has been transposed into legislation in Malta by Legal Notice 186 of 2004. Malta's contribution towards reaching EU targets is by generating 5% of all electricity consumed by 2010 by renewable energy sources. It seems unlikely that we will achieve this target unless an ambitious and intelligent plan by the government is set into action. We can look at what other member states are doing to achieve their targets, Germany being the perfect example. The largest barrier to the introduction of PV in the world has been the higher cost of generating clean electricity through RES when compared to traditional fuel-oil power stations. Fundamentally the cost of generating electricity through burning fuel-oil does not take into account the full cost of transmitting electricity and does not factor the environmental and subsequent health costs. The EU Directive addresses this barrier directly, encouraging Member

States to directly promote and create incentives for the PV installations. Successful countries have taken this initiative and managed to create new RES markets which generate a significant amount of clean electricity, and equally important, generate employment for thousands of people. The strategies used by other member states are:

1. A 'feed-in tariff' which gives a long term incentive to the installation of a PV system. (A feed-in tariff is the rate paid by electricity companies to purchase PV generated electricity; this can be double the rate of what a customer pays to buy electricity from, for example, Enemalta).

2. A government grant which would go towards financing part of the capital outlay to purchase the system.

3. Reducing or eliminating the bureaucracy required to avail of such incentives and to obtain permissions in installing or connecting these systems.

Malta is progressing well towards encouraging the uptake of PV systems, on both the financial and regulatory levels, as outlined below.



Financial

- The Ministry of Finance will refund the amount of Lm500 on the first kW installed and Lm250 on subsequent kW installed to a maximum of 3.7kW for domestic installations.

- The Enemalta Corporation has waived the Lm25 charge to connect the PV system to the grid and reduced the Lm45, 3 phase meter charge to Lm25.

- A system of 'net metering' has been introduced. The net metering system is simply a system where the excess electricity generated by a PV system will be sent to Enemalta. These units will then be deducted (netted) from the electricity bills of its consumers and customers are billed on any excess electricity consumed from Enemalta.

Regulatory

- The Malta Environment and Planning Authority has published the Policy and Design Guidance 2005. Part 13 deals directly with energy and infrastructure. It is worth mentioning the involvement of the Kamra tal-Periti in the consultation process of this document since 2001.

- The Malta Resource Authority requires a notification for systems smaller than 3.7kWp and an application for larger systems.

- Enemalta Corporation requires an application for PV systems to connect to the grid. The full text referring to the installation of PV

systems on a building within the Development Control Policy and Design Guidance 2005 is of particular interest to architects: "The Malta Environment and Planning Authority will encourage the provision of photovoltaic solar modules:

- (1) Within the curtilage of build-



ings – provided they would not have a significant visual impact;

(2) On the roofs of buildings provided that the requirements of policy 13.5 relating to services on roof structures are adhered to.

(3) Within the fabric of a building - the Authority will have regard to:

(a) The overall visual impact of the installation on the building;

(b) The relationship of the installation with the overall design of the building and the extent to which it has been satisfactorily integrated into that design;

(c) The overall visual impact of the installation on the site and its surroundings;

(d) The orientation of the building and associated requirements on PV systems;

(e) The materials proposed to be used and will generally grant permission provided that the installation does not have an adverse impact on the appearance of the building or of the area."

There is a functioning PV market which has taken off in other countries and this will eventually happen in Malta. It is advantageous for architects

to have a basic understanding of what a PV system is and more importantly, any considerations which will ensure that the installation and performance of a PV system will not be compromised due to a lack of understanding.

2. Provision should be made for a 20mm conduit from the roof to the main electricity distribution board.

3. PV systems are designed by PV installers to perform well within the parameters of the local climate. Architects should use the services of PV installers who can demonstrate the efficiency of their systems through data from local installations.

DAVID ZAMMIT is the Financial Director of Solar Solutions Ltd. With a background of more than 20 years in the accounting sector and a strong environmental awareness, he has been instrumental in forming Solar Solutions Ltd which gives him the satisfaction of being pro-active on environmental issues while running a fully fledged business. Solar Solutions Ltd is an organisation formed with the objective of introducing renewable energy sources in Malta. The company specialises in the design, supply and installation of systems for generating electricity (photovoltaic), wind energy, solar thermal water heating and solar pool heating. For further information visit www.solarmalta.com

1. PV panels are installed to face due south. Any space that is available on the roof should be used by placing water tanks, air conditioning units and any other amenities to the north of the property's roof.

2. Provision should be made for a 20mm conduit from the roof to the main electricity distribution board.

3. PV systems are designed by PV installers to perform well within the parameters of the local climate. Architects should use the services of PV installers who can demonstrate the efficiency of their systems through data from local installations.

"Real Estate Markets Potential in the Emerging European Markets - A Valuation Methodology"



The European Group of Valuers' Associations

Property development has long been considered a preferred investment in the Maltese Islands. However with the price of local Real Estate having hiked over the recent years, investors are considering overseas ventures. Indeed, a local hotel company has expanded into a chain of hotels in various countries.

The Kamra tal-Periti is organising a conference to highlight the additional risks pertinent to overseas developments in these European emerging markets with Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania being considered in particular. The proceedings of this conference will be looked upon as guidelines to be delved into by future developers.

The speakers at this conference are the following:

- Mr. John Hockey will be the keynote speaker. He is a valuer, recommended by The European Group of Valuers TEGoVA, who has a vast experience in various European offices, with a hands-on involvement in new build and regeneration projects, coordinating the activities of developers, investors, banks and advisors. TEGoVA is a European non profit making association composed of 43 valuers' associations from 27 countries representing about 100.000 valuers in Europe.

- Charles Massa, a banker from Bank of Valletta, who heads one of the corporate lending teams, specialising in property developments. His talk will be entitled "A Banking perspective to financing property development abroad."

- Lawyer Godfrey Farrgia who has experience in the legal aspects of property dealings in Bulgaria.

- A representative from an Audit firm will finally deal with taxation matters.

This conference will take place on Thursday 19th October in the afternoon, at the Corinthia Palace Hotel in Attard. The conference is open to all, as various sectors of Maltese Society hold an interest in Property Investment.

For further information on TEGoVA visit www.tegova.org

Roads Programme for 2006 - 2008

On Friday 11th August 2006 the Malta Transport Authority (ADT) organised a conference on the Roads Programme for 2006-2008. The main aim was to inform the local councils and contractors about the works programme. Perit William Lewis attended this conference on behalf of the Kamra tal-Periti and sent in this report.

After an introduction by the chairman Mr. Joe Gerada, Perit Mario Ellul explained the programme for the arterial and distributor roads. Hal-Far road (phase 3) and Aviation Avenue, Luqa are under construction and progress is well advanced. Construction on the St. Paul's Bypass has commenced. Apart from these, the road between Victoria and San Lawrenz is also being constructed in Gozo.

Five other arterial roads are planned and construction will commence in 2007. Triq il-Kunsill ta' l-Ewropa in Luqa, with a length of 1km, is expected to cost around 6 million euros, and tenders for this will be issued towards the end of 2006.

The sea passenger terminal road is to be divided into 2 phases - the 1st phase will be of a length of 900m near the sea passenger terminal itself, tenders for which will be issued towards the end of 2006, and the second phase is the construction of an underpass to connect with Triq Diċembru Tlettax. The tenders for the second phase will be issued in mid 2007. The total cost of this project is of around 6 million euros.

Another project is Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa which has a length of 2.6km and this stretch of road is to include a bicycle lane.



be issued towards the end of 2006. Finally the Mikiel Anton Vassalli Bridge is to be replaced and in this case the contractor has already been chosen and works will soon commence.

Perit David Vassallo explained the process and the difficulties met to construct a new residential road. He explained that Malta and Gozo are divided into 5 districts, each being assigned an architect responsible in that district. Up to now 60 tenders have been issued in 2006.

The conference was concluded by Minister Jesmond Mugliett, who explained that the main issues that are still worrying him in the construction of arterial roads are the traffic Management and the total mobilisation by the contractor. He pointed out that there are contractors that are still completing the works on time and sometimes even in shorter periods. ADT is emphasising a lot on the quality of the work even though the road works are being delivered in a shorter time. The minister showed the intention to organise a conference, which will focus more on the arterial roads, some time in October.

Regarding residential roads, the minister mentioned that since 2003 there were 379 roads that were constructed, that is an average of 126 roads yearly. For the years 2006-2008, 450 roads were identified. The estimated cost is of approximately Lm8 million for 55km of road. To be able to reach this target ADT is discussing with the Federation of Industry to commence a period contract with the contractors. This will eliminate bureaucracy, have fixed prices, eliminate undercutting, control work and if work is not finished on time the contractor will not be given further work.

To conclude the minister stated that between 2004 and 2006, Lm20 million were spent from the local budget, Lm15

million from the Italian Protocol and Lm12 million from the European Union. This amounts to an average of Lm15 million yearly. With this money 28km of arterial road and 25km of residential roads were constructed.

ADT Introduces Cycle Lanes

The Malta Transport Authority, through its Traffic Management Unit, has embarked on a major project that aims to provide safe cycle lanes across the island, where the road width permits. The first cycle lanes have been introduced along the Coast Road from the Swieqi Traffic Light Junction to the St Paul's Bay Traffic Light Junction.



The Malta Transport Authority will, over the coming months, in line with the Transport White Paper, be promoting sustainable transport modes and is committing itself to encouraging a modal shift to public transport use, cycling and walking. Unfortunately, only 0.3% of all trips are carried out by bicycle in Malta. Sustainable forms of transport, such as



cycling offer not only economic benefits but, more importantly environmental and health benefits.

The principle objectives of the introduction of the cycle lanes are to maintain and increase cycling as a mode of transport, to increase the safety of cycling on the road network, and to provide the necessary infrastructure to support cycling. These objectives are set out in the context of wider sustainable transportation goals, which include, car dependence in towns and promotion of public transport use. The Traffic Lights Junction at St Paul's Bay will be re-designed to cater for cyclists in a bid to ensure their safety. For safety purposes, the section at the junction designated for cyclists will be marked in green. The main design principles adopted for the cycle routes are based on standard transportation planning criteria which include:

Coherence: the cycling infrastructure is consistent in quality and continuous within the constraints of the existing road widths and road design;

Directness: routes are based on existing cycling desire-lines;

Attractiveness: routes have good street lighting and integrate with the surrounding areas;

Safety: designs are such to reduce risk to cyclists and road users.

Although the design and the implementation of the cycle lanes cater to ensure safety of cyclists, however, it is important that cyclists wear the appropriate gear and have their bicycles equipped as necessary: wearing of cycling helmet, cycle gloves and reflective clothing especially when cycling at night, and equipping bicycles with reflectors.

At the planning stage of the design for the cycle lanes, the Traffic Management Unit was in

continuous liaison with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment and with the Malta Cycling Federation.

There are many benefits associated with cycling:

Heart Health - Exercise improves the functioning of the heart and blood vessels while decreasing the risk of heart disease;

Improved Blood Chemistry - Exercise has been shown to increase HDL (good cholesterol) and reduce the amount of triglycerides in the blood;

Lower Blood Pressure - Blood pressure readings of 140 over 90 or greater are considered hypertensive. Research clearly shows that regular exercise alone, without any other lifestyle changes, lowers blood pressure;

Stronger Bones - Cycling can help prevent osteoporosis and the risk of broken bones that comes with aging;

Reduced Chance of Diabetes - Cycling and, of course, any other form of regular exercise may reduce the chance of diabetes as exercise improves insulin metabolism.

Road Safety Initiative

Earlier this year, Minister for Urban Development and Roads, Jesmond Mugliett, launched an initiative of the Malta Transport Authority (ADT) which aims to increase road safety for all types of road users in Malta. The initiative entitled 'Safety First' is made up of a series of public relations campaigns targeting specific road users. 'Safety First' is being financed by the income from speed camera fines and private sponsorship for each campaign.

Speaking during the launch of 'Safety First', Minister Jesmond Mugliett said that though Malta had and still has the lowest rate of deaths caused by traffic accidents amongst the 25 members of the European Union, a cursory look at some recent statistics clearly shows that this rate can be lowered further with a little bit of effort.

"The death rate in Malta was of around 33 for every million people in 2004. This is by far the lowest rate in the European Union. However there is always room for improvement - not for the sake of hav-



ing a better statistic but because every death occurring along our roads is a tragedy that takes the life of a victim and shatters the lives of his or her loved ones. Every death on our roads can be avoided, and this is the aim of this initiative," said Minister Mugliett.

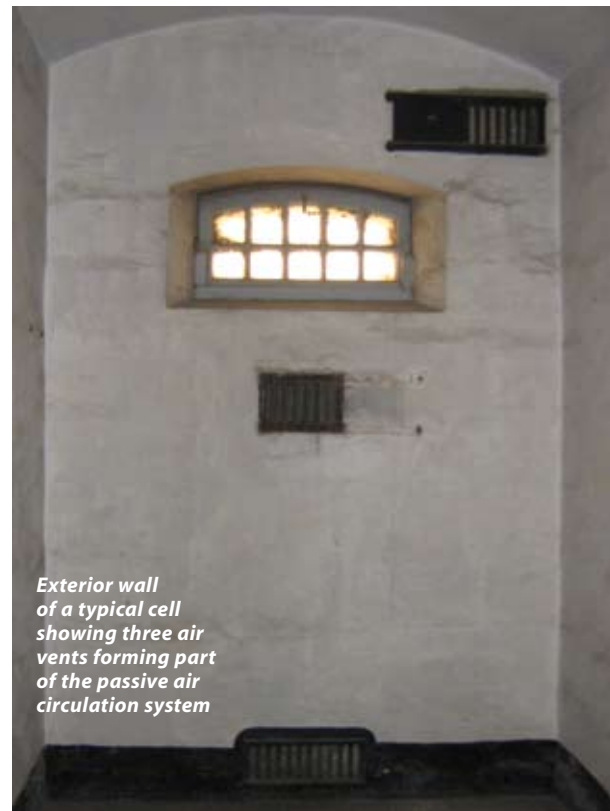
Considerable work has been carried out in past years on the improvement of the roads infrastructure of the Maltese islands with the construction of new roads and the reconstruction of kilometres of roads in line with standards that put road safety at the top in their list of priorities. Minister Mugliett also mentioned other measures such as the introduction of speed cameras in specific road stretches which have helped in reducing or virtually eliminating traffic accidents caused by speeding. "Though these are not popular with the public, it is evident that traffic accidents in notorious black spots such as the bend at the end of the Mrie_ el bypass decreased drastically following the installation of speed cameras," added Minister Mugliett.

The Minister for Urban Development and Roads also revealed that the percentage that the ADT receives from speed camera fines is being entirely invested in the 'Safety First' initiative. He also said that the European Union is giving ever-greater importance to this sector

so much so that road safety was the main subject chosen by the Austrian Presidency for an informal meeting of Ministers of Transport that took place earlier this year.

"In the year 2000 the European Union had agreed to set the target of reducing the death rate on roads by half in ten years. Today, this policy has matured so much that in the last meeting the 25 countries agreed to launch a pan-European information campaign which will have driving under the influence of alcohol or when excessively tired as the subject," the Minister said.

The first public campaign that was launched aims to increase rear seat belt use and the use of child safety devices in the rear since a recent study revealed that though front seat belt use is relatively high at 97%, the use of rear seat belts is very low with just 26% of adults and 15% of children using them. This campaign is subdivided in four parts involving the participation of several stakeholders in the sector such as local warden agencies, the police corps and enforcement officers of the Authority. The campaign will then focus on: Drivers- Speed reduction, drink & drug driving; Pedestrians- Promotion of underpasses; Cyclists- Introduction of cycle paths and racks; Prospective Drivers- educational talks.



Exterior wall of a typical cell showing three air vents forming part of the passive air circulation system

History

Soon after Malta officially became part of the British Empire, large-scale constitutional changes were carried out by the new administration. One revolutionary measure was the complete overhaul of the judiciary system, which necessitated a reform in prison discipline. With this came the necessity of furnishing the colony with a state-of-the-art civil correctional facility, located outside the conurbation of Valletta and the Three Cities. After much deliberation a site on the outskirts of Casal Paola known as Corradino was selected and in 1849 the new civil Prisons were opened to welcome its first inmates(1).

On the large spot of land in Grand Harbour known as Corradino Heights another penitentiary institute was built, not long after the civil one was completed. Ever since the times of the Knights of St. John, this area was seen as dangerous as it posed a defence problem for Valletta, Floriana and Senglea. With social housing becoming a pressing issue, the British administration suggested many plans to occupy the lofty peninsula by creating a new city there, thus fortifying it. At the Public Works Department archives one finds a number of artistic master plans showing grid-iron patterned road and block systems, most done by the architect Giuseppe

In Britain the Industrial Revolution prompted the construction of mass urban projects ranging from housing schemes to institutional facilities amongst which were the dreaded workhouses and penitentiaries. These buildings are stolid structures, devoid of any sympathetic features intentionally designed to do away with the human element and scale. The nation-wide scale of these projects meant that standardisation was the order of the day. In America, John Haviland's Eastern Penitentiary built in 1823-35 at Philadelphia was designed as a model prison (5). The

Bonavia. These were however destined to remain confined to the drawing board.

A rift between the civil government which lobbied for the new town, and the military authorities who objected to it, resulted in the latter gaining the upper hand. Between 1862 and 1867, a naval prison was erected. In 1870 the land and building were swapped in a tripartite agreement between the civil government, the Royal Navy and the Army, and both ended up in the hands of the latter. From then on it became known as the Corradino Military Prison (2). Its presence also ensured that no civil buildings could be erected in its vicinity (3). As a consequence of this Corradino Heights (an area of approximately one square kilometre) effectively became British service property. In 1880 this was confirmed with the erection of an entrenchment wall extending from Ghajn Dwieli tunnel to Ras Hanžir (4).

The Neoclassical movement in architecture sought to revive the pure grammar found in the crumbling ruins of ancient Rome and Greece. The years preceding the French Revolution saw the rise of a style meant to instigate authority, sobriety and power. The main exponents of this style were É. L. Boullée (1728-99) and C. N. Ledoux (1736-1806) who amongst other works produced the famous toll-houses in France, buildings made up of pure volumes and sleek lines.

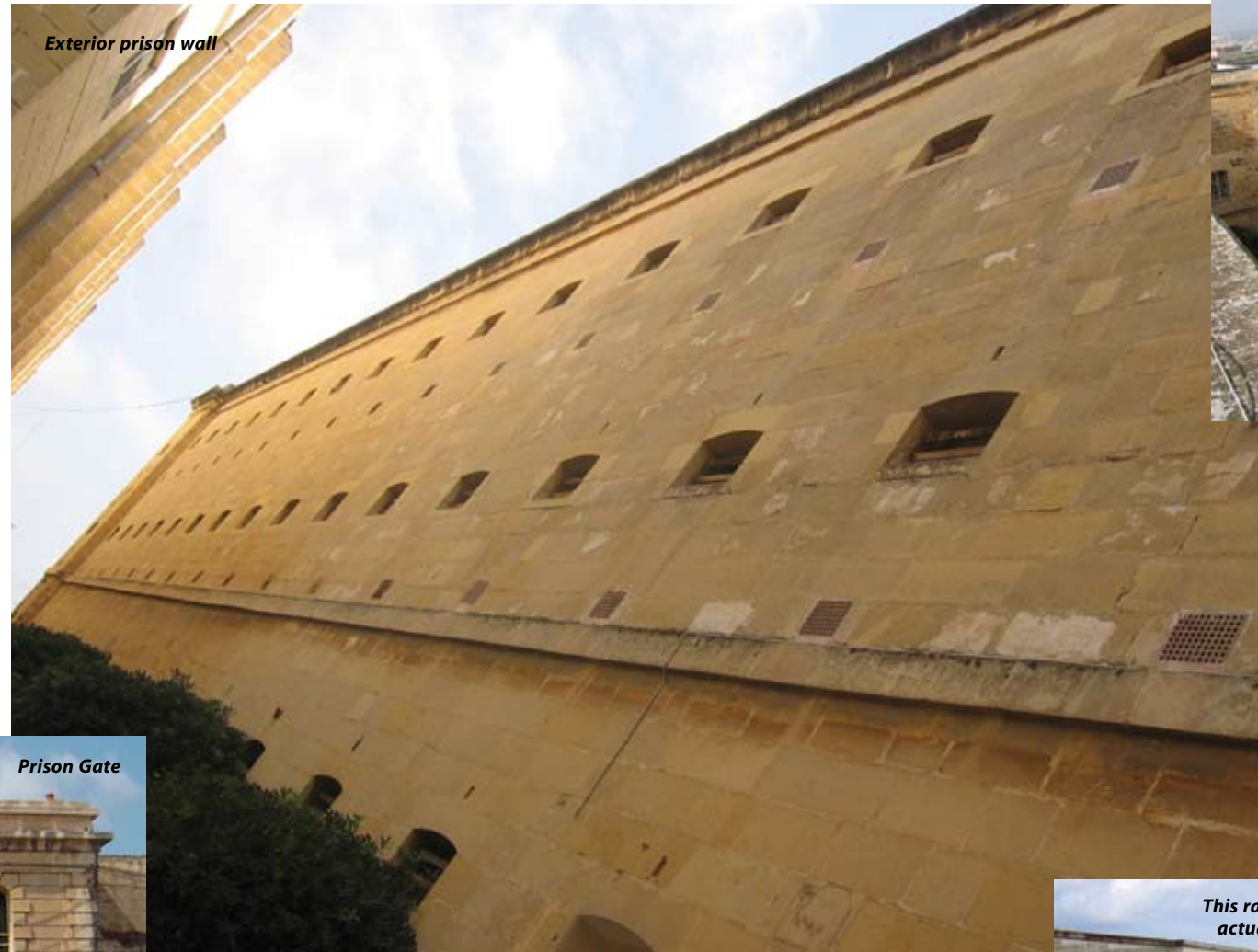


Prison Gate

English engineer Sir Charles Barry, engaged by the British Crown to design a number of the nation's penitentiaries, based his concepts on Haviland. Barry's designs were imitated profusely throughout Britain, and her colonies including Malta followed suit.

The Corradino Civil Prisons bear striking resemblances to Pentonville Prison completed in 1849 by Barry(6). Only a mile away, the Military Prison albeit smaller in size, still bears the same architectural grammar. What in England was built in brick was translated in limestone, yet apart from this technicality the typology remained more or less standard.

Entrance is through a quasi-colossal gatehouse, heavily rusticated stonework, with deeply set apertures, crowned with the Royal Coat-of-Arms. In through a double gate, one can vividly imagine the deafening clanging of the metal, sheer intimidation. Back outside, on either side



Exterior prison wall



The former chapel

wing, connecting the core with the cells and at the other ends the communal sanitary facilities. The third wing, although with thirteen cells per floor, has a similar arrangement to the other two. The roofing system of this wing differs in that steel beams support the roofing stone slabs, unlike the others which have timber ones. Interestingly, over the corridor of this third wing two ventilated skylights were designed and can still be seen today.

What is of great interest in this study is the passive ventilation system designed for the prison. One prominent feature in British colonial architecture is the consideration given to sanitary and environmental issues. At Corradino, these were meticulously addressed. However other criteria being mainly security-orientated resulted in the design of an intricate air circulation system, ensuring that every

prison cell was adequately ventilated but also safe. Fresh air was channelled through a series of ducts that run in the external walls, in between a double-skinned ceiling and exiting at two tall towers (today missing) located at each end of the two older wings. Each prison cell was furnished with three custom-made metal ventilators.

With all three wings, Corradino Military Prison had 160 cells. Each unit was typically Spartan in design. As a space each con-

sist of shallow vaults, reminiscent of the brick roofing systems in England having an overall area of approximately six square metres. They were furnished with a bed and wall-mounted foldable table. Each cell had a high-level almost-slit window, fitted with a timber swivel aperture and heavily barred. Three-inch thick wooden doors sealed the space from the corridor, having only a metal peep hole

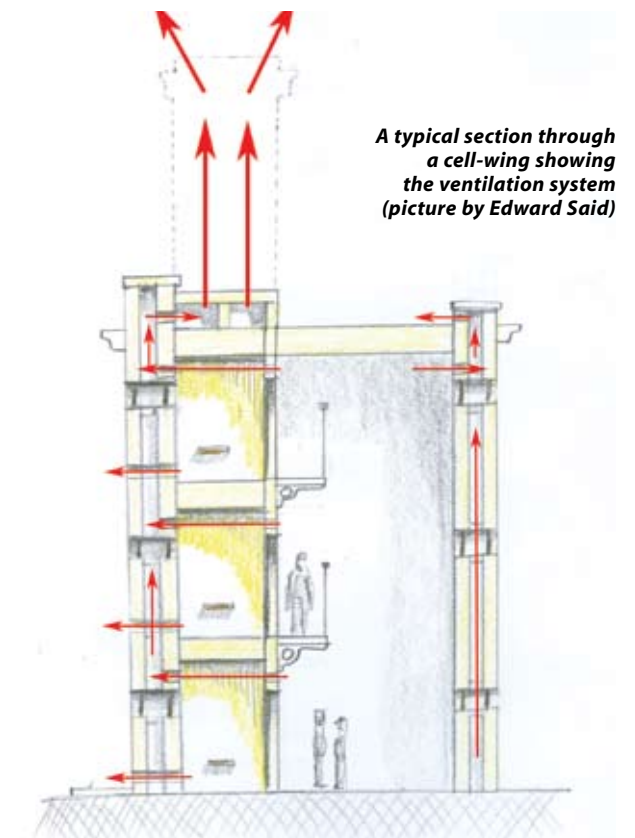
are two of the courtyards where one glimpses the storeys-high boundary wall and 'recreation' areas of the inmates.

Onwards indoors stands the central core, which contained the institute's principal amenities including the governor's and wardens' quarters, cook-house, and the chapel with its semicircular apse. At the other end of this block stands the winding staircase which gives access to the three cell wings which radiate outwards from this core. This layout allowed those of the administrative staff standing at the core to keep an eye on all three wings simultaneously. Similarly, the Civil Prisons consist of four radiating wings, an arrangement which is a typical hallmark of these Victorian schemes.



This raised platform on the roof is in actual fact a double ceiling system

Old plans of this prison show that this was originally conceived as a two-wing scheme perpendicular to the administration block. Soon after it was enlarged with the addition of a third wing set out along the axis of the gatehouse and central block giving the prison a cruciform plan. The 'older' two wings are made up of three storeys with 20 cells per floor, each with a floor space of 10 feet by 7 feet. These were set on one side of a corridor that passed through the centre of each



A typical section through a cell-wing showing the ventilation system (picture by Edward Said)

for wardens to keep surveillance on inmates. Each level was also furnished with latrines and ablution rooms.

The penitentiary remained in use right on through World War Two, only to be decommissioned in 1966 at the time when Malta was on the road to independence and the British services were preparing to shut down. Together with the other lands and facilities at Corradino Heights, the Military Prisons was handed over to the Maltese Government. In subsequent years it was leased to the Hibernians Football Association were in its grounds a sports pavilion was erected whilst the former administrative block and gatehouse were converted into offices, a canteen as well as other ancillary amenities. At present plans are being drawn up by the Association to conserve this unique historic monument and making it accessible to the public.

NOTE - Photos taken with the kind permission of the Hibernians Football Association.

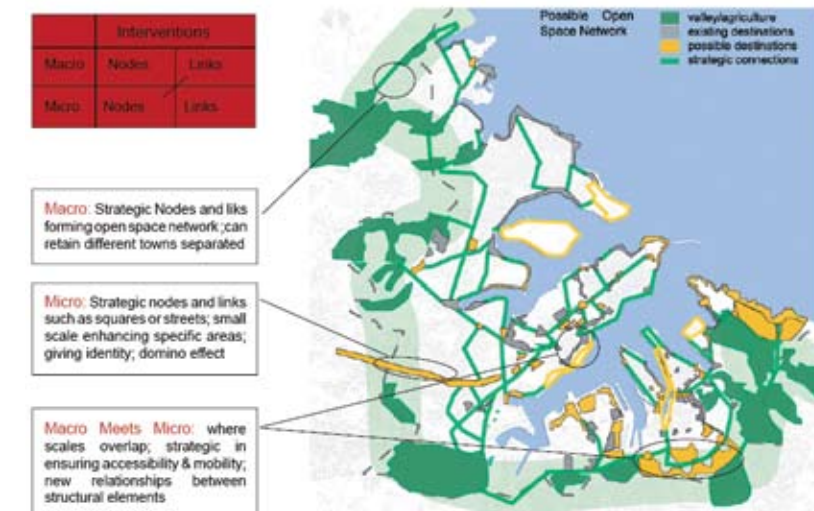
References:

- (1) Malcolm Borg, *British Colonial Architecture - Malta 1800 - 1900*, (Malta 2001), p. 57
- (2) Joseph Bonnici and Michael Cassar, *The Malta Grand Harbour and its Dockyard*, (Malta 1994), p. 110
- (3) Borg, *op. cit.*, p. 111
- (4) Stephen C. Spiteri, *British Military Architecture in Malta*, (Malta 1996), p.361-370
- (5) Borg, *op. cit.*, p. 59
- (6) *Ibid.*

Sustainable urban growth = accessibility & mobility = open public space design

Ir. Sarah Anastasi

MALTA: THE HARBOUR REGION... INTRODUCING THE MALTESE 'CITY'



Nowadays, in Malta, residence in newly established suburban housing areas is a goal achievable through professional advancement and rise in family income. Therefore, urban growth and new suburban development have tended to create a negative attitude, or indifference, towards the present value and future of urban history. The sites and areas of urban heritage in the old historic centres, despite official acknowledgment of their importance, are underrated as a focus of urban life. This is due to increased demand for alternative suburban housing and life-styles that favour low density residential areas and car-based mobility.

The capital city of Valletta has been losing population since the 80's. This study deals with the main urban agglomeration in Malta around the Harbour Areas in which this trend is taking place. It was analysed as a city in relation to this urban growth dynamic.

A design strategy was proposed to deal with this situation at the macro-scale, in terms of an integrated transportation and open space network. This aims at improving the attractiveness of the urban areas through the provision of open space and increased accessibility and mobility so as to reverse the

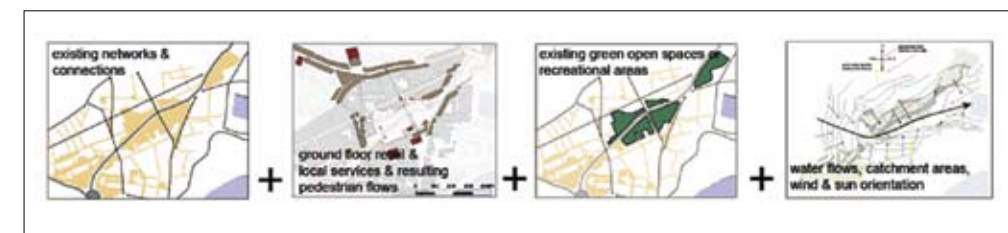
population shift. The transportation strategy proposes a polycentric system as opposed to the current monocentric one, since functionality in the region is also polycentric. The open space network suggests various possible interventions at various scales. The two strategies come together ensuring an integrated spatial development vision for the region, leading to sustainable urban growth through increased accessibility and mobility. The approach to designing public space is seen as a strategic design tool in achieving this. Marsa can be seen as an important node within this regional spatial vision where strategic interventions can take place. A park and transportation interchange are two projects which were developed further as part of the regional strategy to ensure accessibility and mobility. They are typological since they represent a number of other possible interventions within this network. They also have a value in their own right at the local scale. The images shown are for the design of a Maltese 'city' park. The park re-connects the residential neighbourhood of Marsa, which is currently bisected by an existing arterial road. Its design strategy has goals and impacts ranging from the local to the regional scale.

RE-INTRODUCING MARSALA... GENERATING CONNECTIVITY

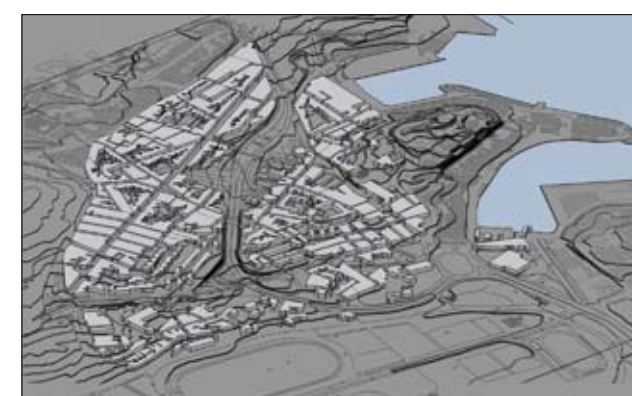


Strategy and Goals in increasing accessibility in the region through the regeneration of Marsala

1. Improve public transportation system. Impact: national
2. Reconnect the public realm. Impact: local
3. Boost neighbourhood image & attractiveness: trigger regeneration. Impact: local / regional
4. Create leisure & social services node. Impact: regional



Aspects of the analysis and context influencing the strategy and design



Residential area of Marsala as existing



Visual experience of the park from the tunnel



The multi layer view point allows one to move between the different levels connecting them while also providing the possibility to experience the different layers and environments brought together in this intensive use of space



Birds eye view of the park re-connecting Marsala



Shopping street/squares created along side existing buildings where local services exist at ground floor level

PARCONNECT... INTRODUCING THE MALTESE 'CITY' PARK

Besides re-connecting the residential area, the park also creates new land and fronts for the town and the region. It provides new recreational value at the city scale through a 1km long park. There is a main entrance at the mid point, 2 side entrances at either end, 4 main cross connections connecting the neighbourhood at different levels and creating varying crossing experiences through the park and a 1 km long boulevard through the whole park ensuring connectivity of all areas along its length. The design looks at the landscape identity for the park,

the relationship between landscape and infrastructure, natural elements such as water flows, and the building-park interaction and thus the design of edges/fronts of the park. A multilayer experience visual relation to infrastructure from the park and vice versa is created. In other places a visual barrier is created by trees so as to ensure an enclosed park atmosphere. In some cases the public park immediately adjoins public buildings, tying the urban fabric together, therefore no transition zone is needed. In others, semi-public transition zones are ensured in

the form of play areas, squares and landscaping. In total the park requires 790m in length by 30m in width of the existing arterial road to be covered. Relative to such projects the construction in this case is relatively straightforward; however its feasibility and social impact requires attention, particularly financially. Therefore aspects such as: fractioning of lots; urban agriculture; creation of land for the private market; change in use of existing buildings; and subsidies and tax abatements were considered as part of the design feasibility.

The study and design were carried out as part of Anastasi's thesis while reading for her Masters in Urbanism at The Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands. The Masters specialised in Renewal and Redesign of City Areas. Sarah Anastasi's particular interest in Urban Regeneration led to her thesis: Sustainable Urban Growth: Accessibility and Mobility through Open Public Space - A Strategic Approach for the Harbour Region, Malta. Ir. Sarah Anastasi B.E. & A. (Hons) MSc (Hons) (Delft) is an urban designer for the Spatial Planning Department of the Municipality of Delft, The Netherlands.

TARIFF K

Earlier this year, all periti were presented with a proposal for the revision of Tariff K. This proposal consisted of a complete revamping of Tariff K as we know it today, with a completely different set up and with the inclusion of various aspects of the perit's work that are not contemplated in the current Tariff.

Members were given time to sift through the document and to present their comments during an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Kamra tal-Periti held on the 25th April 2006. Various members present at this EGM asked for clarifications and raised queries on some aspects of the proposed new tariff. However, a consensus on the document could not be reached. The comments were diverse and new ideas were proposed, and those present felt that a vote to approve the draft could not be taken at the time. A vote was taken, however, on the mandatory nature of the document: once in place, all periti are obliged to abide by it in all cases.

At the end of the April EGM, members were invited to submit in writing their comments, suggestions or recommendations to the Standing Committee for Professional Practice. The feedback received from members was quite encouraging, though widely varying. Some considered some percentages too low, others too high! Some suggested more 'bands', others the complete elimination of such a tool! The Standing Committee for Professional Practice, led by Edgar Rosignaud, took note of all comments received (including those received before the EGM), and, after sifting through them, tried to address these issues in the 'final' draft which was submitted to the KTP Council. For example, one particular request by some members which had to be decided upon was whether to include structural design as a separate or an additional activity. The decision taken was against particular treatment, on the reasoning that the fee Bands were purposely introduced in this proposal to provide the perit with a tool whereby the complexity of his/her involvement can be evaluated and the most appropriate Band chosen. Another argument was that, if particular sections for structural design, an element present to some extent in most projects, were to be created then why not also have sections relating to road engineering, municipal engineering, etc.? As a result of these discussions, the



A good number of KTP members attended the EGM held on the 18th September 2006

Bands were amplified to include as many of the activities as the local perit might be asked to provide, but it is then up to the individual to assess the level of involvement each challenge will present.

Besides a lot of polishing up of the original document, the document also included a recommendation for the introduction of Interim Payments with regard to the agreed fees, which are tied to specific milestones, and should be another useful tool for the perit. This updated and re-formatted document was presented to all periti, and once more an EGM was called in order to pass a vote on its contents.

The second EGM on this matter was held on the 18th September 2006, and once again the attendance was encouraging. This time too the comments were varied. It was commented that the rates for preparing a bill of quantities and for measurement of works should be separate. While there were strong arguments in favour of the inclusion of rates for interior design services in the first EGM, the inclusion of these services in the latest document was questioned. Some proposed a re-distribution of the interim payments and others proposed a minimum amount for the submittal of certain minor applications to MEPA (eg for the installation of satellite dishes).

Furthermore there were comments of a more generic nature. Some stated that putting an upper cap on the rate provided for a service may result in putting a cap on the level of service provided; others then stated that once an agreement is reached with the client on the level of service expected, then a different rate may be applied that reflects the amount of work to be put into a particular project. A comment was raised about

the fact that the Tariff should include only those services that are within the sole remit of the perit, such as architectural design, structural design, valuations, etc. Services that can be performed by other persons, such as interior design, should not be included, and periti engaging in these types of services will be able to apply market-based rates to their work, placing them on an equal footing with other practitioners who are not regulated by law. Once again the proposal of scrapping the idea of bands in favour of a matrix of activities and rates based on the RIBA model was made. Some even proposed that the structure of Tariff K as it stands today should be retained, with updated rates and values to reflect today's exigencies.

At the end of the EGM it was once again felt that the opinions on the document were too varied in order to take a vote on it, and furthermore many agreed that the points raised in the meeting were valid and required to be included in some way or another in the final proposal. It was therefore agreed that some of those present at the EGM would meet separately in order to prepare alternative proposals to be presented to the Council of the KTP. A third draft will then be presented to the members of the profession and another EGM will be held to discuss this. (Note: At the time of going to print, the date of such EGM was not yet determined and the third draft had not been circulated.)

Members of the Kamra can have their say on this matter on the tariff forum on www.thebluebucket.com.

10%

60%

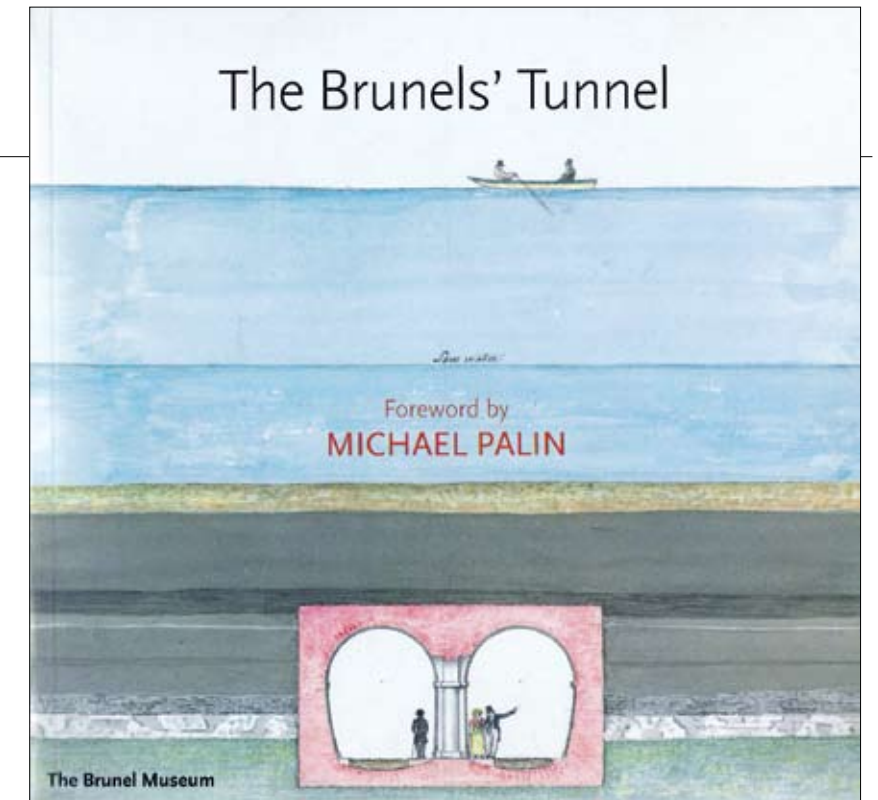
THE BRUNELS' TUNNEL

This book, published by the Brunel Museum, deals with "the most rhymed about, danced about, sung about and painted about construction site in the world." In his foreword to the book, Michael Palin writes that the "story of Brunel's tunnel under the Thames is a fine combination of drama, farce, ingenuity, showmanship and sheet engineering chutzpah, the like of which we shall probably never see again." The construction of this tunnel took over fifteen years, five hundred percent longer to complete than had originally been estimated!

The book begins with a chronological look at the history of the Thames tunnel, starting from Ralph Dodd's attempt in 1798 on to the confirmation in 1827 of Brunel as the engineer in charge and up to this century with the history of the Brunel Museum. It then gives an insight into the Brunel family history. The book then delves into the intricacies of the construction of the tunnel, including the several misfortunes

that affected the works, and presents a number of drawings and sketches that depict the construction of the tunnel and the publicity pertaining to it. An interesting journey through the life of a pioneering construction project, this book illustrates the numerous problems and setback encountered by the engineers, and their determination in going ahead with the project, until in 1843 the first Londoners were able to walk from one side of the city to the other beneath the river. "The eight wonder of the world," a term coined by the Victorians to describe this tunnel, continues to be used today as part of the East London Line.

The cover of the book depicts a watercolour painted by Marc Brunel in 1835. It is thought that the elderly figure in the west tunnel is Marc himself, with his daughter Sophie and her husband in the east tunnel. On the reverse of the watercolour, reproduced on the back of the book, is a schematic illustration of the strata under the river.



Published in the year marking the bicentenary of Brunel's death, this book is a testament to this engineering feat and to the minds behind it.

ISBN 0-9504361-2-7
The Brunel Museum

www.eea.europa.eu

The European Environmental Agency, EEA, The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy making agents and the public. The EEA's website comprises a wealth of information on environmental matters. A vast range of reports can be downloaded from the site. One can also browse through a list of topics including urban environment and waste and find reports related to that specific theme. Alternatively one can browse through the reports by country. The site also includes a link to EIONET, the European Environment Information and Observation Network, which is coordinated by the EEA.

The site was recently given a face lift. It is compatible with "screen readers" used by people with visual disabilities and text sizes can be enlarged manually to enhance readability. Designed in line with EU guidelines on eAccessibility, the EEA website is one of the first from an EU body that complies with international accessibility standards.



www.renewableenergy.com

Part of the World News Network, this site provides breaking news on renewable energy issues. Besides news items posted as they happen, the site is split into eight themes with the items sorted according to their relevance to these themes: nuclear energy, environmental impact, petroleum, solar power, hydropower, Kyoto protocol, recycling and energy conservation. There is also an immense archive of past articles that appeared on the site dealing with a vast range of topics.

The site offers the option of subscribing to news updates by email. It is easy to navigate and is visually appealing, with fresh and creative graphic design. The site is clean looking, fast loading and the layout enables the visitor to find what they are looking for quickly and easily.



Now to 20 October 2006; Josef Hoffman Museum, Czech Republic

JOSEF HOFFMAN – CARLO SCARPA: ON THE SUBLIME IN ARCHITECTURE

Early on in his career, the Italian architect Carlo Scarpa (died 1978) was impressed by the work of Josef Hoffmann. Later he confessed that Hoffmann was the architect whose work he knew best and appreciated most. The extent to which Scarpa's architecture—often called the "special path to modernity"—was actually influenced by his great predecessor is the subject of this exhibition. www.mak.at

Now to 25 October 2006; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA

ZAHA HADID: EXHIBITION

This 30-year retrospective presents a wide range of mediums: paintings, sketches, architectural drawings, urban plans, models, relief models, animations, furniture, and design objects.

www.guggenheim.org/hadid/index.html

Now to 28 October 2006; New London Architecture, London, UK

THE OFFICE – LONDON'S WORKPLACE: EXHIBITION

The exhibition will look at the design and planning of a selection of new offices in London and at changes in technology in offices. These will be set in the context of video interviews with office designers, office users and theorists. www.newlondonarchitecture.org



Now to 29 October 2006; MAK Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria

CANTILEVER CHAIRS: ARCHITECTURAL MANIFESTO AND MATERIAL EXPERIMENT: EXHIBITION

The exhibition covers more than eighty years of innovative suspension design with chairs by Marcel Breuer and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe right up to Ron Arad and Ross Lovegrove. www.mak.at

Now to 5 November 2006; Gallery 2, NAI, Netherlands

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF CHIEF GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT: BICENTENARY EXHIBITION

The display of drawings, photographs and models in Gallery 2 will document the visible influence of successive Chief Government Architects on Dutch architecture. www.nai.nl

Now to 19 November 2006; Venice, Italy

10TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION DURING THE BIENNIAL OF VENICE

The exhibition, directed by Richard Burdett is dedicated to Cities, Architecture and Society. This edition focuses on the key factors facing large scale metropolitan areas around the world: from migration to mobility, from social integration to sustainable growth. www.labiennale.org



Now to 3 December 2006; Zeche Zollverein, Essen, Germany

TALKING CITIES - THE MICRO POLITICS OF URBAN SPACE : EXHIBITION

Talking Cities features innovative international design, architecture and spatial interventions in a trans-disciplinary exhibition platform. The 35 protagonists create a dense collage of statements, designs and installations: a collective dialogue on reconfiguring and reactivating the marginal, residual and public spaces of our contemporary cities. www.talkingcities.net

Now to 17 December 2006; Victoria and Albert Museum, UK

TWILIGHT - PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE MAGIC HOUR: EXHIBITION

This exhibition will focus on contemporary photography and video and is the first to explore the theme of twilight. www.vam.ac.uk

www.vam.ac.uk

Now to January 2007; Victoria and Albert Museum, UK

LEONARDO DA VINCI - EXPERIENCE, EXPERIMENT AND DESIGN: EXHIBITION

This exhibition is about how Leonardo da Vinci thought on paper. It contains some of his most complex and challenging designs. www.vam.ac.uk

www.vam.ac.uk

30 October – 4 November 2006; Nicosia, Cyprus

THE E-VOLUTION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN CULTURAL HERITAGE: CONFERENCE

A joint event for the exchange and sharing of know-how of Cultural Heritage and Information Technology focusing on e-documentation and computer graphics. www.cipa2006.org

25-29 November, 2006; Dhaka, Bangladesh

SOCIETY, ARCHITECTS AND EMERGING ISSUES

Commonwealth Association of Architects 18th General Assembly, Conference, and Student Forum www.caa-iab.com

01 December 2006 - 04 March 2007; The Lighthouse, Glasgow, Scotland

NORTHERN CITY (BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK) : EXHIBITION

This exhibition explores Edinburgh and its light and dark sides through a series of collaborations between Scottish-based architects and artists. www.thelighthouse.co.uk

www.thelighthouse.co.uk

6-10 February 2007; Milan, Italy

UNITED PROJECTS FOR BUILDING: EXPO

One of the largest exhibition initiatives dedicated to the world of Architecture and Building. www.buildupexpo.com

7-9 February 2007; Milan, Italy

IDOLS, GODS, MONSTERS – METROPOLIS, CITIES, VILLAGES, REASONS

First International Conference on the City www.arcaedizioni.it/idolideimostri/uk/index.html

22 February - 28 May 2007 ; Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK

ALVAR AALTO THROUGH THE EYES OF SHIGERU BAN: EXHIBITION

www.barbican.org.uk/

15-18 September 2007; Agia Pelagia, Greece

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PASSIVE AND LOW ENERGY - COOLING FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT PALENC 2007

<http://palenc2007.conferences.gr/>

17-18 September 2007; Beijing, China

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CURRENT AND FUTURE TRENDS IN BRIDGE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

www.bridgemanagement2007.com

16-18 October 2007; Stuttgart, Germany

CIB W102 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

"Information and Knowledge Management - Helping the Practitioner in Planning and Building" <http://cib-w102.iconda.org/conference2007stuttgart>