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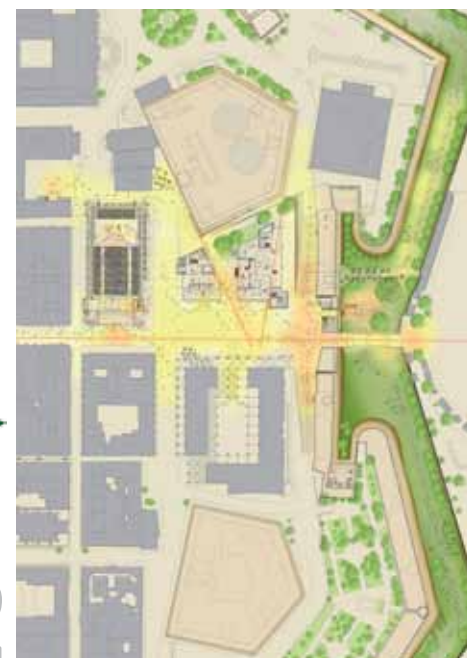
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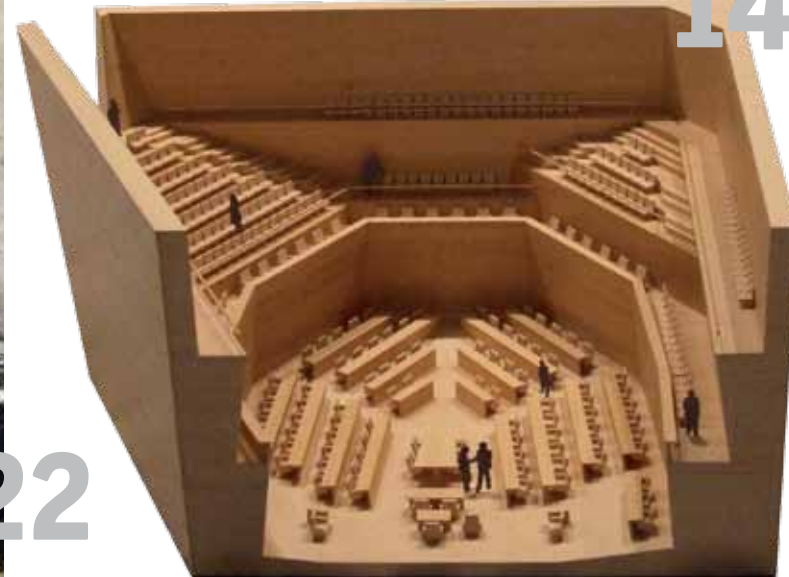
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the Architect

“Instead of expansion, the consolidation of the city  
... must be our starting point.” - Hans Ibelings (see pg 16)

# 50th issue and other commemorations

You are holding the 50th Issue of "the Architect", the official journal of the Kamra tal-Periti, in your hands! The journal was first published in November 1985, with Perit Victor Torpiano as its Editor. He continued to serve as Editor until the publication of the 28th Issue in September 2003. After a brief break, the journal was again published in the summer of 2004, with Perit David Felice taking over the role of Editor, and being responsible for the publication of Issue 29 through to issue 38. The undersigned took on the role of Editor in December 2006 and has been responsible for the publication of Issue 39 through to this.

Reaching the publication of the 50th edition of this journal is somewhat of a milestone, and allows us to celebrate 24 years during which the Kamra has regularly kept its members and the general public informed of the advances in the profession, specific local and international projects and various other technical issues that merited promulgation. On behalf of the Editorial Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our readership for their continued support, which often comes by word of mouth and sometimes through emails and letters. I trust that this journal continues to be of relevance to the profession and that it also serves as a source of information and education to all members of the public. On the occasion of this milestone, we have given the journal a facelift which we trust will be well received by all.

Another commemoration to note is the publication in 1919 of the Architect's Ordinance which was promulgated by the Colonial Government to regulate the exercise of the profession by establishing, among other things, that no person could practise as an Architect and Civil Engineer (Perit) without the direct authority of the Governor. The Ordinance also declared that the Governor could regulate the number of practising Periti according to the circumstances. 2009 therefore marks the 90th year from the promulgation of this Ordinance, which was eventually replaced in 1996 by Chapter 390 of the Laws of Malta, also referred to as the Periti Act, enacted "to regulate Periti and to provide for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto."

The Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers as we know it today was formed in 1920 through Government Notice 202 published on the 12 June. This Notice also included the Regulations of the Chamber and an amended "Tariff K". This means that next year the Kamra tal-Periti, as the Chamber was later renamed, will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Plans are already underway to commemorate this important anniversary in the Chamber's annals. Over these years, the Chamber has acted as the sole link between the profession and the Government of the day. It has had an essential role in the formulation of various pieces of legislation that have

been promulgated during these decades and has always endeavoured to protect the interests of the profession and its members with changing circumstances.

This edition of "the Architect" is being published a few days after the architecture profession worldwide commemorated the World Day of Architecture, which falls on the first Monday of October each year. The theme for this year's Day was "Architects' energy versus the global crises." In a letter to all member associations, Louise Cox, President of the International Union of Architects (UIA), stated that "The world is experiencing unprecedented and simultaneous environmental, climatic, financial and social crises that force us to urgently reconsider a number of parameters and find innovative solutions. In these difficult times, architects must step forward and show their aptitude to lead the struggle, to use these crises as a springboard for developing new technical, environmental, social, economic and aesthetic solutions. Developing pertinent responses to entirely new situations is the daily task of the professional architect." The role of the architectural and civil engineering professions in combating climate change and the responsibilities in the creation of sustainable solutions cannot be emphasised enough. In fact, the UIA is currently working on the drafting of an architects' declaration to be presented at the next United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

On the occasion of the World Day of Architecture, the Kamra tal-Periti has for the past four years organised a series of events under the umbrella of "Time for Architecture." Members of the profession as well as various sectors of the public will have noticed that these events were absent from the Kamra's calendar this year. This was mainly due to a number of difficulties encountered in the organisation of these events, but mainly due to a lack of human resources available at this time. The Kamra is run on a purely voluntary basis by Periti who dedicate their time to the day to day running of the organisation as well as to the preparations required to hold the various events that have become a standard feature of the Chamber's activities throughout the year. Having said this, the Council, and in particular its Events and Communications Standing Committee, are still committed to the organisation of other events later this year, including the popular Architecture Nights and the Annual General Meeting. I do however, take this opportunity to appeal to those of you who can spare their time to assist in the various aspects of the Kamra's work to come forward and participate in the vast number of projects the Kamra is currently undertaking.

**Simone Vella Lenicker**  
Editor



THE PROFESSIONAL CENTRE  
SLIEMA ROAD  
GZIRA GZR 06 - MALTA  
TEL./FAX. (+356) 2131 4265  
EMAIL: info@ktpmalta.com  
WEBSITE: www.ktpmalta.com

**KAMRA TAL-PERITI**

*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 2009 consists of Vincent Cassar (President), David Felice (Past President), Simone Vella Lenicker (Honorary Secretary) and Council members Ruben Paul Borg, Jacques Borg Barthelet, Keith Cole, Philip Grech, Anthony Fenech Vella, Danica Mifsud, and Damian Vella Lenicker. The Architect is the official journal of the Kamra Tal-Periti. It is published on a quarterly basis and distributed with the Business Today newspaper. The Architect is not to be sold separately. The contents of this journal are copyright. Reproduction in part or in full is forbidden without the permission of the editor. The opinions expressed by writers of signed articles and letters appearing in the magazine are those of their respective authors, and neither the Kamra Tal-Periti nor MediaToday Co. Ltd is responsible for these opinions or statements.

Editor: **Simone Vella Lenicker**  
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Vjal ir-Rihan, San Gwann SGN 4016, Malta  
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Email: admin@mediatoday.com.mt



**COVER:**  
Aerial view of the entrance to Valletta.  
*Image courtesy of the Ministry for Infrastructure,  
Transport and Communications.*

## MEPA Reform

The Kamra tal-Periti has actively participated in the reform process initiated by Government in 2008. The culmination of this process came with the publication last July of the blue print document for the reform



of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. The members of the Council attended a meeting with the Hon Dr Mario de Marco following the announcement of Government's proposed measures. A meeting for the Kamra's members was also held to discuss Government's proposals and to consolidate the Kamra's response. The Council also attended the National Conference organised by Government, where it also put forward its comments on behalf of the profession. Read a full report on page 21.

## Regulations and Legislation

Following the Extraordinary General Meeting held in 2008, Council concluded the various documents discussed at this meeting, namely the Regulations of the Kamra, the Code of Professional Conduct,



the proposed changes to the Periti Act and to Tariff K, the standard forms of agreement and a policy paper on Professional Indemnity Insurance. These were passed on to the Hon Minister George Pullicino as well as to the Office of the Prime Minister. Discussions have been held throughout this year, and it is hoped that a conclusion of this process will soon take place.

## Design Competitions

The Kamra tal-Periti issued a press release with reference to the ongoing project for the upgrading of Misrah San Gorg in Valletta. The Kamra restated its position in favour of design-based competitions for the selection of projects of particular size and importance, particularly those of a public nature, or those utilising public funds or funds from EU sources. It is the firm belief of the Kamra that design competitions are



**Pjazza San Gorg Project.** Source - Times of Malta.com

instrumental in providing the best design proposals for a given urban or architectural undertaking. Design competitions also enhance competition within the profession while promoting quality and innovation in the procurement of architectural services, offer an important opportunity to support the emergence of young design talent and contribute to ensure that design quality can be delivered as independently as possible of economic and vested interests. The full text of the press release can be viewed on [www.ktpmalta.com](http://www.ktpmalta.com).

## Change of Architect

In its Circular to Architects Ref 03/09, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority stated that the requirement for endorsement of a 'Change of Architect' form by both the incoming and the outgoing Architect and Civil Engineer was being withdrawn and that the relevant form must be endorsed solely by the incoming Architect and Civil Engineer. This change was summarily imposed by MEPA without any consultation whatsoever, in spite of the obvious potential for problems, legal complications and possible abuse. The Kamra issued a directive to all Warrant Holders to ignore the contents of the MEPA Circular and to continue observing the appropriate procedure whereby both incoming and outgoing Warrant Holders endorse the 'Change of Architect' form.



**Upper Barrakka Gardens - one of the projects carried out by government architects**

The Council informed MEPA of its directive and requested a meeting with the Chairman. During this meeting, the Council's displeasure at the way things were handled was expressed, and the implications of MEPA's Circular amply explained. Subsequently, the Kamra again issued a Directive to all Warrant Holders outlining the

correct procedure to be followed in cases where an Architect and Civil Engineer is being replaced on a project by another Warrant Holder. The text of both the Kamra's Directives issued in this regard can be viewed on [www.ktpmalta.com](http://www.ktpmalta.com).

## Government Architects

In a statement published in the local press, a spokesperson for the Ministry for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications passed comments that in the Council's view undermined the competence of periti working with Government. The spokesman was commenting on the fact that Renzo Piano was not given a brief for the City Gate Project, and stated that "If we do not allow ourselves to be persuaded by people of the calibre, experience and reputation of Renzo Piano there is really no use in engaging such an artist for this project and instead commission in-house architects that we employ to draw up the designs of a pavement or a beach-side promenade". The Council of the Kamra tal-Periti took great exception to these comments and immediately

wrote in requesting a formal apology from the Ministry. A letter along the same lines was also sent in to the newspaper by the Union Periti u Inġiniera tas-Servizz Pubbliku (UPIGP). Within a few days, Emanuel Delia as Head of the Ministry's Secretariat published a formal apology and confirmed the "full confidence" that Government has in Maltese architects. The Kamra accepts this apology and trusts that similar comments of a disparaging nature to the profession are considered carefully in the future. One positive outcome of this incident is that the Kamra communicated with the UPIGP and is in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss possible collaboration between the two organisations.

## Council Afternoon Meeting

On the 29 September, all the members of the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti met for an afternoon meeting. This type of meeting is held on an annual basis with the aim of reviewing the goals set in previous years, and setting new goals for the coming two years. A number of issues were discussed, and a plan formulated to guide this Council and the new Council to be elected in December in their work for the profession.

## ACE Elections

The Elections for the Executive Board of the Architects' Council of Europe will take place during the General Assembly meeting scheduled for the 20th and 21st November 2009. The post of President is being contested by the current ACE President Juhani Katainen on behalf of the Finnish Association of Architects, and Selma Harrington on behalf of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland. The Council posts are being contested by Vincent Cassar on behalf of the Kamra tal-Periti, Konstantinos Belibassakis of Greece, Lionel Dunet of France, David Falla from the United Kingdom, Wolfgang Haack from Germany, Georg Pendl of Austria and Vladimir Petrovic from Croatia. Perit Vincent Cassar has already served one term on the Executive Board and has held the post of Treasurer. On behalf of the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti and its members, the Editorial Team expresses its full support of his nomination, and augurs successful election.



## JENCKS AWARD: VISIONS BUILT 2009 CHARLES CORREA

This year's winner of the Jencks Award, Charles Correa, is one of India's pre-eminent architects and widely recognised for his outstanding contribution to architecture having received the Royal Gold Medal in 1984 and the Praemium Imperiale of Japan. He is also a planner, activist, teacher and theoretician and in this talk he will discuss both his work and the issues of architecture, low-income housing and urban planning in India. Correa's projects include,



From an internal courtyard of architect Charles Correa's Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur, built in 1993. Photo by Meena Kadri

the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial at the Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, the State Assembly for Madhya Pradesh and housing projects and townships in Delhi, Bombay, Ahmedabad and Bangalore.

## LONDON BRIDGE 800: DESIGN AN INHABITED BRIDGE COMPETITION

The first prize of the London Bridge 800 Ideas Competition was awarded to Laurie Chetwood of Chetwoods, London. Second prize went to Lawrence Friesen, of GenGeo, Ilona Hay, London, while third prize was awarded to Polish student Ryszard Rychlicki. Organised by RIBA on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects (WCCA), a Livery Company of the City of London, the competition marked the 800th anniversary of the opening of the first London Bridge in 1209AD. The competition invited today's designers to imagine a new version of the inhabited bridge. The competition received a good response with a total of 73 entries received from archi-



First Prize - Laurie Chetwood

tects and students of architecture from all over the world. Submissions came from the UK, Europe and as far afield as the USA, Argentina, China, Hong Kong and South Africa. The judging panel, which included Richard Saxon CBE, journalist Peter Murray, Colette O'Shea of Land Securities, and Ian Head, Master of the WCCA, described Laurie Chetwood's scheme as 'beautifully presented, wildly imaginative and a unanimous first choice'. Source: RIBA

## BARBARA CAPPOCHIN INTERNATIONAL 2009 AWARD

This biennial prize aims to raise public awareness and bring together the various actors in the field of architecture: town planners, builders and customers, and promote environment and construction quality in an urban or natural setting. The third edition honoured buildings completed between July 2006 and June 2009. The international grand prize was awarded to the Japanese architect Konishi Hikohito for a residential complex in a rural environment on the island of Hokkaido, the Aikoku farmhouse, unanimously praised by the jury for its simplicity, humility and authenticity as well as for its efficiency and its capacity to structure the heterogeneous volumes of the adjacent agricultural buildings. Three mentions were also awarded: to Riccardo Vannucci (Burkina Faso), Gerhard Wittfeld (Austria) and Juan Mira (USA). The special prize for construction detail quality was awarded to Piergiorgio Semerano (Italy);



First Prize awarded to Konishi Hikohito

two mentions went to Charlotte Skene Catling (United Kingdom) and Laraine Sperleng (China).

The Spanish architect Francisco Mangado is the first winner of the Giancarlo Lus medal for his Spanish pavilion at the international exhibition in Saragossa in 2008, a very strong example of bioclimatic architecture fully respecting the environment and the climate; a forceful and innovative architectural statement in the city.

Since its creation, the Barbara Cappochin Prize has met with growing interest. For this third session, four hundred and thirty projects from fifty countries were presented to the international jury. Under the chairmanship of Gaëtan Siew, UIA past President, the jury was composed of the following architects, Fulvio Irace, President of the Architecture Section of the Milan Triennial, Kengo Kuma (Japan), Jordi Querol (Spain), Nikos Fintikakis (Greece), Fabrizio Mangoni (Italy) and Matias Sambarino (Uruguay). Organised, since 2005, by the Barbara Cappochin Foundation, with UIA support, this prize is part of the programme for the Padua Internazionale biennial of architecture that will be held on 26 - 27 October 2009 and present an exhibition and conference devoted to the work of Zaha Hadid.

## EUROPE 40 UNDER 40

The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and The Chicago



Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design recently announced the selection of this year's most promising and emerging European design talent for 2009. A total of 61 architects and industrial designers from architecture and industrial design and manufacturing firms across Europe were selected by a jury of architects. Geographically, the selected recipients for 2009 "Europe 40 Under 40" hail from across 19 European nations: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, and Switzerland - the best of the young best of Europe. Amongst these is Jens Bruenslow, of the local firm Architecture Project.

An exhibition of work by the 2009 Laureates opens at Contemporary Space Athens (46-48, Megalou Vassiliou, Rouf-Athens, Greece) on Wednesday, September 16 and continues through November 1. A more formal exhibition and presentation takes place at the symposium "The City and the World,"

in Florence, Italy during the second week of November 2009. The "Europe 40 Under 40" program was initiated by The European Centre and The Chicago Athenaeum to spotlight and identify the next generation of European architects and design professionals who will impact future living and working environments, cities, and rural areas in Europe and around the world. Presented annually, the program is open to all young European architects, landscape architects, urban planners, industrial designers, graphic designers, and fashion and textile designers who are under the age of 40 who are working independently or in a firm or on a specific project where they are the lead designer. Information about the winning architects and designers together with their works can be found at The European Centre's website [www.europeanarch.eu](http://www.europeanarch.eu). The deadline for submissions for the 2010 Architecture and Design "Europe 40 Under 40" program is November 1, 2009.

## EUROPEAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT PRIZE

Union Investment Real Estate AG, one of Europe's major real estate investment man-



agement companies, announced the second edition of the Prime Property Award. Organised for the first time in 2008, this prize aims to encourage widespread sustainable development by recognising real estate projects showing outstanding performance with regard to commercial, socio-cultural and ecological sustainability. The 2010 prize seeks to contribute to increasing the awareness of the key players in all areas of the property market, particularly investors, of the opportunities and needs associated with the global change represented by sustainability. This award, supported by the UIA, is open to architects and town planners together with investors and promoters who are invited to submit projects completed between 2004 and 2009. Completed works of a minimal surface of 5,000 sqm can be new constructions, refurbishments or redevelopment of existing commercial or housing constructions located in Europe. Further information can be found on [www.prime-property-award.com](http://www.prime-property-award.com). The deadline for entries is December 2009.

## GHLP

The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) has finalised proposed revisions to the Grand Harbour Local Plan



for Valletta. The objective of this review is to take into account recent Government initiatives for the urban regeneration of Valletta specifically the new transport strategy and the development of City Gate, Freedom Square and the Opera House site. MEPA has invited individuals and organizations to make representations on the proposed 2009 Revisions to the Grand Harbour Local Plan of 2002 (Valletta) by the 9 November 2009. The proposed revisions can be viewed on [www.mepa.org.mt](http://www.mepa.org.mt).

### 2069 9595



This is the new single emergency service number the public can dial to report on environment protection or illegal development in Malta and Gozo. The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) has introduced this system to make it easier and effective for the public to assist the Authority in its efforts to curtail development and environment abuses around the Maltese Islands. Prior to this new service number the public had to make use of four separate emergency numbers for different reports. This 24 hour emergency number will cover the following core services: Pollution Control; Littering; Nature protection; Construction Site Management; Illegal Development.

### WORLD ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL

WAF is an annual international architectural event that rewards excellence in a fully interactive, inclusive live format. Through its entry and judging process and its cutting edge seminar and exhibition content, it is simultaneously a celebration of great architecture and an inspirational intellectual challenge to a major world profession. This year's shortlisted projects are split into four main categories – Completed Buildings, Future Projects, Interiors and Fit Out, and Structures. Each of these is then further subdivided into different categories, with a total of 630 entries being submitted, located in 81 different countries entered by architectural practices based in 62 different countries, making this a truly global awards scheme. The Festival will take place in Barcelona from the



4 to 6 November 2009. Besides the awards and exhibition of projects, the Festival also includes a thematic exhibition titled "Less Does More" which will show how cleverly utilised resources can create opportunities for living, working, learning and playing that would otherwise not exist. The Festival will also feature a number of keynote presentations, a student competition, product showcases, and the opportunity to meet an estimated 2,000 architects. Further information can be found on [www.worldarchitecturefestival.com](http://www.worldarchitecturefestival.com).



**Robert Bell**

### MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009

The winner of the Institution of Civil Engineers' Graduates and Students Network Mentor of the Year Award for 2009 is Robert Bell from Production Services Network in Aberdeen. Bell has been very active in the training and mentoring of young engineers throughout his career. The judges were particularly impressed by his commitment to the development of engineers during both their formal study period and as they work towards becoming professionally qualified. He is also currently writing and developing a significant amount of material for an MSc in Oil and Gas Structural Engineering at the University of Aberdeen.

### MEEA

The Chamber of Engineers is currently accepting nominations for the ninth edition of the Malta Engineering Excellence Awards (MEEAs). The MEEAs for 2009 have also been included in the European Commission's official programme for the European Year for Creativity and Innovation. These awards are an opportunity to recognise engineering excellence in the areas of innovation and leadership and to accredit those who, throughout their career, have contributed significantly to the development of engineering in Malta. This year's awards will be presented during the Chamber's Annual Reception later on in the year. As in previous years the presentation will serve as a showcase of the capabilities of the engineering community and an important networking opportunity. Further information and nomination forms can be downloaded from [www.coe.org.mt](http://www.coe.org.mt). The closing date for submission of nominations is the 23 October.

### DIN I-ART HELWA WINS AWARD

Din I-Art Helwa has won the Body Shop Foundation's award for the greening of areas



### SUSTAINABILITY SNAPS

Keeping in touch with the jargon and what's going on

The Earth Summit - also known as the Rio Summit, was held in 1992 in response to the Brundtland Commission's proposal for a conference to be held twenty years after the Stockholm conference. The scientific findings regarding the impact of human activities on the environment, including how emissions have contributed to depleting the ozone layer, made their mark at the Rio Summit. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted at the Rio Summit. By 2005 it had been ratified by 188 countries and the European Commission. The parties to the Convention meet every year. The first meeting took place in Berlin in 1995. The third meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan, and it was here, in 1997, that a protocol requiring a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions was adopted.

Source: MEUSAC

around the historic sites managed by the organisation. Areas around the Delimara Lighthouse and Foresta 2000 below the Red Tower in Mellieħa will benefit from the award. Together with Birdlife Malta and the Rural Affairs Ministry, Din I-Art Helwa manages the vast project known as Foresta 2000 that stretches from Mellieħa Bay to the extreme promontory at Ċumnija. Over the past five years thousands of endemic trees and shrubs have been planted. Simone Mizzi, local representative of the Body Shop, said: "This money comes at a time when areas such as Foresta 2000 are at a stage in their development plan when visitors can enjoy maps of the area close to the coastal road, pathways and guided trails. The funds can help the site managers to continue to protect against vandalism and dumping, continuing the planting

#### Letters to the Editor

Letters from our readers to be considered for publication are most welcome. Letters for inclusion in Issue 51 are to reach us by the 30th November 2009. Please write to: The Editor, "the Architect", Kamra tal-Periti, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira GZR 1633, or send an email to [thearchitect@ktpmalta.com](mailto:thearchitect@ktpmalta.com). All contributions will be acknowledged.

schemes...". With the funds, DLH also intends to lend support to the farmers who work the fields within the area. The organisation will be harvesting the organic honey from the apiaries close by and selling it within the historic sites it looks after. The Body Shop Foundation is a charitable trust set up by the Body Shop International to support innovative projects across the world working for social and environmental change.

### WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY

World Architecture Day was celebrated worldwide on the 5 October. The theme for this year's celebration was "Architects' energy versus the Global Crises." The world is experiencing unprecedented and simultaneous environmental, climatic, financial and social crises that force us to urgently reconsider a number of parameters and find innovative solutions. In these difficult times, architects must step forward and show their aptitude to lead the struggle, to use these crises as a springboard for developing new technical, environmental, social, economic and aesthetic solutions.

Developing pertinent responses to entirely new situations is the daily task of the professional architect.

### 50th ISSUE

With this issue, the Architect celebrates its 50th publication. The first issue was published in November 1985, with Perit Victor Torpiano as its first editor. In October 2006, Perit David Felice took over as Editor and was responsible for the publication of issues 29 to 38. He was then succeeded by Perit Simone Vella Lenicker, who has served as the journal's Editor from issue 39 to this. The production of this journal certainly could not happen without the continued support of the Editorial Team, which currently includes Perit Danica Mifsud as Consulting Editor,



and Team members Periti AnneMarie Mayo, Edward Said and Conrad Thake, together with James Muscat representing SACES. The Editorial Team hopes to continue delivering an informative journal to its readers, and welcomes any suggestions for contributions to the content.



# The Architectural Profession in Europe

**The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) commissioned a Sector Study in two phases in collaboration with its member sections. The Study was aimed at 32 countries (E32). Just over 8,000 participants sent in their responses from a total of 17 countries (E17), with 24% of Maltese periti responding to the call made by the Kamra tal-Periti to send in their feedback.**

## DEMOGRAPHY

E32 has an estimated 483,000 architects. 25% of these are based in just one country; Italy. The second highest number of architects is recorded in Germany, accounting for 20% of the Europe total. Third highest is Spain, with 45,000 architects and three countries (Turkey, UK and France) have around 30,000 architects each (between 6 and 7% of the Europe total). Thus these six countries together account for 74% of all of Europe's architects.

Comparing the number of architects with the general population is another way of examining country variations. There are approximately 0.8 architects per 1000 of Europe's population. The highest 'density' of architects occurs in Italy (2.1 architects per 1000 population), FYROM and Portugal. The lowest 'density' of architects is recorded in Eastern Europe – Slovakia, Latvia, Czech Republic and Romania, each recording 0.3 or fewer architects per 1000 population. The range in the 'density' sta-

tistic across Europe is huge; in Italy there is one architect for every 485 people while in Slovakia the ratios nearly ten times lower at one architect for every 4155 people. In Malta, there are 1.2 architects per 1000 population.

The vast majority of architects (93%) work or reside in the same country as they are registered in. The highest proportions of architects working / resident outside their 'home' country are in Ireland (18%), Malta (14%), Austria (13%) and Luxembourg (11%).

The male / female split across Europe averages at around one third female, two thirds male. In five countries the profession is predominantly male; 80% or more of architects in Austria, Estonia, Malta and the Netherlands are male. However, in four countries women form the majority of the profession, namely Finland, France, Greece and Sweden.

The age profile of the profession is skewed towards younger age groups with 42% aged under 40. The profession peaks at a relatively young age, in the age range between 35 and 39, after which numbers decline. 23% of the profession is aged under 35, with slightly more (32%) aged between 35 and 44. Thus, a little over half of the profession is aged under 45. Countries with the youngest profile are Turkey (48% aged under 35), Belgium (41%) and Malta (46%). Countries with the highest proportion of architects aged over 55 are Denmark

(26%), Finland (29%), the Netherlands (28%) and Sweden (30%). Fewer than 10% of architects are aged 60 or over.

A significant proportion of architects operate alone as Sole Principals (24%) and Freelancers (9%) which is typical of the 'liberal professions'. Including Sole Principals, private practice dominates and accounts for more than two thirds of the profession. 27% of architects work in private practice as salaried architects (including Associates), while the remainder are Principals, Partners or Directors, with an equity stake in the practice.

Outside private practice, the principal employer is Government and Local Authorities. The public sector employs 13% of the profession. Private practice is the largest employment field in most countries. The highest level of architects employed in private practices is in Austria (99%). The highest proportion of architects who are Sole Principals is in Austria (66%) and Germany (40%) while the lowest proportions are in Malta (9%), Sweden (8%) and the UK (8%).

## MARKET

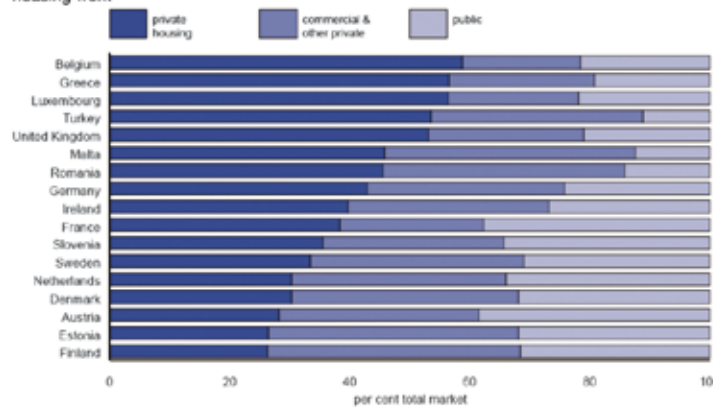
The total value of the E32 construction market is estimated to be worth in excess of €1,650 billion per year. This includes civil engineering and infrastructure work. There are four significant players, who together account for 54% of total construction output: the UK, France, Germany and Italy. Construction output has been growing in

each of the last ten years. The estimated figure for 2007 is an all-time peak value, up by 4 per cent since the previous year. Construction output measured per head of the general population works out at €2,826 per person. The highest output per head is in Luxembourg, Norway and Ireland - each is over €7,000 per person.

The total value of the architectural market in the 17 surveyed countries is estimated to be €11.6 billion. This relates to the total value of the revenue generated by the profession. This figure is very much of an estimate and relies on survey data from which it has been grossed up. Two countries emerge as having the largest markets: Germany and the UK. Those two countries alone account for more than half of the total market of the countries surveyed. Analysed per architect, the highest values are recorded by architects in Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK. The average market size per architect in these three countries is €95,000 or more. By comparison, the average market size per architect is under €25,000 in Finland, Greece, Romania and Turkey.

The largest single sector of the market is work to individual houses. These account for an estimated 31% of the architectural market. Other private housing work – which will include flats and housing developments – account for a further 14%. So in total 45% of the architects' market is private housing. Add in the public housing share and housing in total accounts for 49%. 18% of the market is commercial work, while public works (including public housing) accounts for 24%. Over half of work in Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, the UK and Turkey is private housing (including individual houses). The highest proportion of public sector work is in Austria and France. Commercial and other private is highest in Malta, Romania, Estonia and Finland. Not only is private housing the dominant source of revenue; more architectural practices are involved in private housing than in any other sector. 76% of architectural practices have, in the past 12 months, derived revenue from work on individual houses; while 48% have undertaken other private housing work. 42% have been involved in the office sector.

Proportion of work undertaken for each main building sector, ranked in order of highest private housing work



## Summary

Countries in Sector Study	32 (E32)
Participating countries	17 (E17)
Total respondents	8,083
Response rate	18%
Estimated no. of architects in E32	483,000
Estimated no. of architects in E17	255,850
Estimated size of construction industry in E32	€1,650 billion
Estimated size of architectural market in E32	€22 billion
Women architects	37%
Economically active (full or part-time)	84%
Freelance architects	9%
Sole Principals	24%
Architects aged under 40	42%
Architects aged 40 to 54	40%
Architects aged 55 and over	18%

The data presented in this article was sourced from *The Architectural Profession in Europe - A Sector Study Commissioned by the Architects' Council of Europe*, carried out by Mirza & Nacey Research. More results will be published in the next issue of 'the Architect'.

Once again, SACES would like to take the opportunity to showcase some students' projects from the June reviews. Last semester's projects came in a variety of settings and uses ranging from backstage buildings for street theatre and ideas stores in Valletta, to individual shops at the upcoming Tigne' Point project, to Hostels in the greener settings of Hondoq Ir-Rummien.

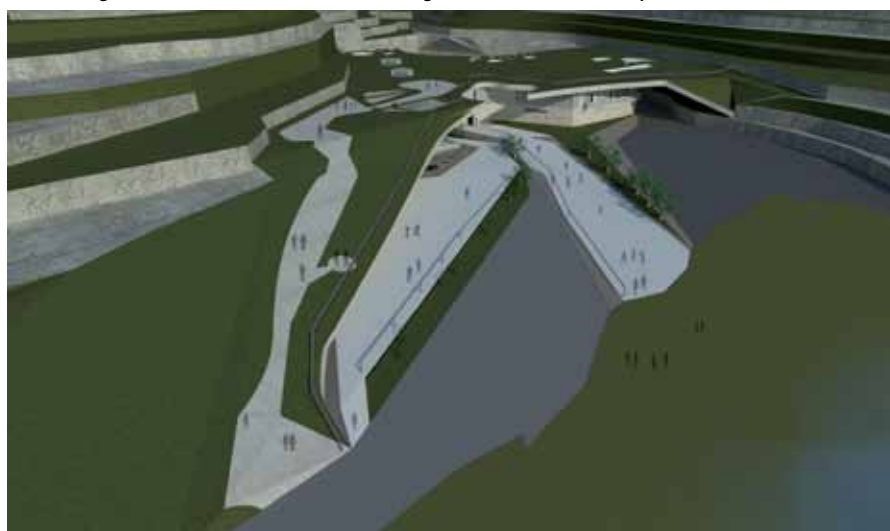
All of these projects, together with the fifth year thesis projects which we hope to feature individually in later editions were on display at the Faculty during Freshers' week. Should you wish to keep updated on SACES exhibitions and events, please join the SACES group on facebook, where announcements are regularly updated.



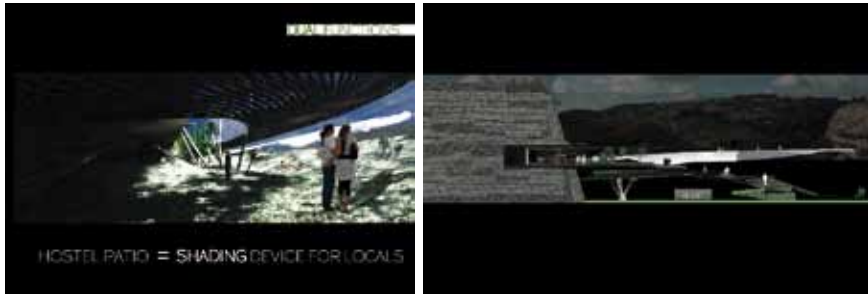
*James Schembri, Third Year, Youth Hostel to be used by students of Earth Sciences, Hondoq Ir-Rummien*



*Andre Mangion, Third Year, Hostel to be used for agricultural studies Hondoq Ir-Rummien*



*Carlo Muscat, Third year, Hostel at Hondoq Ir-Rummien*

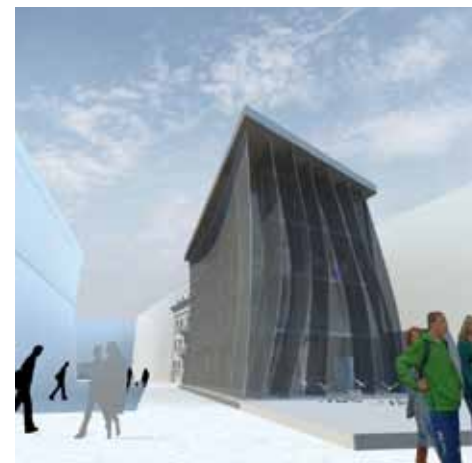


Zack Xuereb Conti, Third year, Student Hostel, Hondoq Ir-Rummien



Ruth Borg, Second year, Design of a high end women's shoe shop, Tigne Point

Matthew Tanti, Fourth year, A residential tower designed for a fictitious character from the film, *On The Waterfront*, Marlon Brando starring as Terry Malloy, in Raleigh, California, Produced at North Carolina State University



Joanna Vella, Fourth Year, Backstage for street Theatre, Valletta

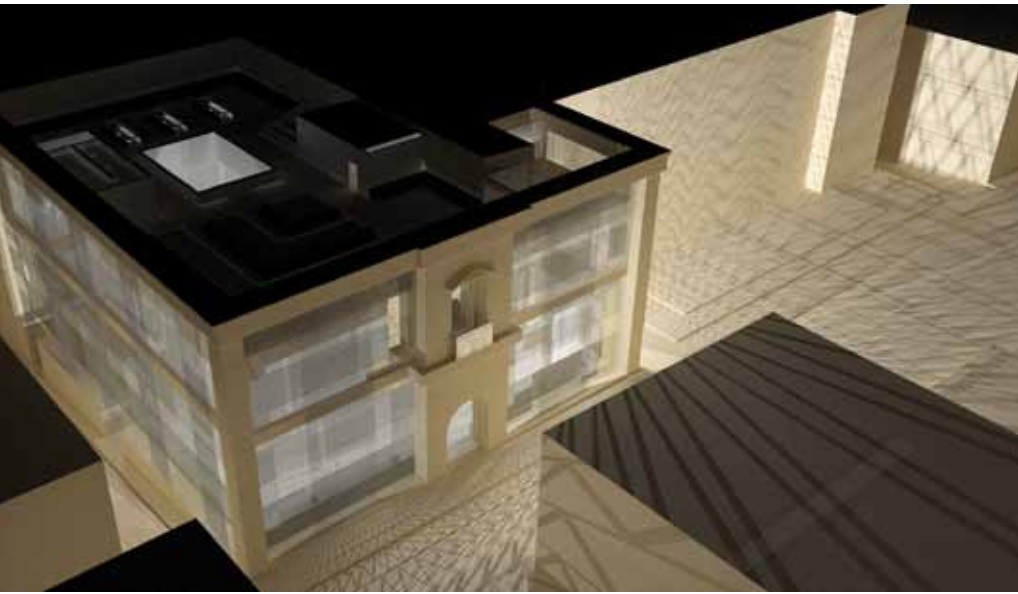


Joe Galea, Third year, Environmentally friendly Hostel, Hondoq Ir-Rummien



Matthew Casha, Second year, High-end fashion store, Tigne Point





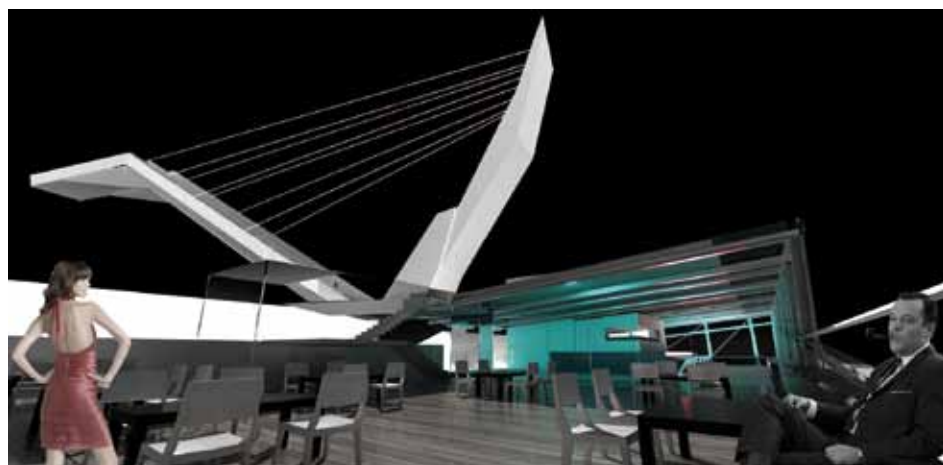
*Ramona Spiteri, Fourth year, Fashion House, Valletta*



*Seb Grima, Second year, Shop for Virgin Galactic, Tigne Point*



eating area



*Mark Sullivan, Fourth year, Ideas store, Valletta*



*William Bondin, Fourth year, Backstage for street theatre, Valletta*





# Valletta

An appraisal of the Renzo Piano Scheme for Valletta's City Gate Entrance

By Dr Conrad Thake

The redevelopment of the former Royal Opera House site and the City Gate entrance has been a source of intense public debate and controversy over the past 65 years. It has pitted conservationists against modernists. The former have vociferously advocated the rebuilding in its original form of Edward M. Barry's Opera House and some form of grand monumental gateway to the city. The modernists have advocated the thesis that a historic city is not one that should stagnate in the past and indulge in serendipity and nostalgia; but that should also be a beacon for the future by embracing an architecture and urbanism which is relevant to the needs and aspirations of contemporary society. The battle lines have long since been drawn and both camps have seemingly entrenched positions. Any project proposal for the entrance to Valletta has always attracted a wide spectrum of reactions varying from the positive to the downright negative verging on total condemnation.

Renzo Piano's commission was to prepare a design scheme that would provide for a new entrance to the city and also incorporate the re-use of the land-front ditch; a

parliament building which would be built on the Freedom Square site and the re-use of the ruins of the Opera House site as a performing arts centre. Piano's scheme was formally launched towards the end of June and the exhibition of the scheme has regaled the Museum of the Archaeology in Valletta. Although the project was treated holistically as one coherent urban intervention, for practical purposes an appraisal of the scheme can be subdivided into three main components.

#### The City Gate Entrance and the ditch

Piano has departed from his original proposal that was the subject of intense controversy over 20 years ago. Gone is the slender and elegant pedestrian steel bridge that spanned over the ditch and penetrated into the city entrance. Even the two free-standing pylons that had been labeled by detractors as reminiscent of some Egyptian funerary temple were abandoned. The current scheme seeks to re-dimension the present over-sized width of the bridge to a narrower one which would permit any passerby to also experience at closer range the ditch and the land-front bastions. The former Tumas Dingli arched stone bridge is

given a new lease of life by the removal of later accretions and additions. Some form of cladding appears to be proposed for the surface of the bridge. Prima facia this solution appears to be less bold and innovative than the original scheme and was probably suggested as it would appease the more conservatively minded.

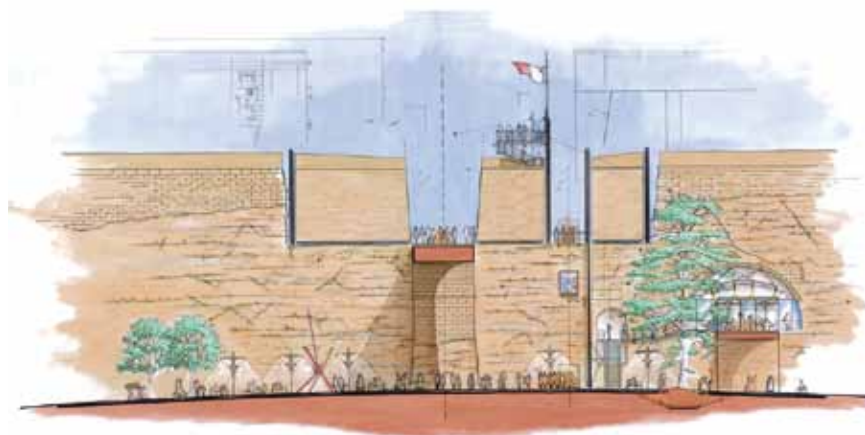
The removal of Bergonzo's Fascist-style gate is not a matter of controversy. It is virtually despised by all. However, what replaces it has stirred a hornet's nest – with the conservationists either wanting a replica of the British-era gate or else some monumental gateway built to classical principles and deemed fitting for the entrance to a military city. However, Piano has remained steadfast in his belief that the new entrance to Valletta should not be some form of pseudo historicist gate but rather a breach in the land-front wall of fortifications. Symbolically, the "breach in the wall" concept is anathema to the grand monumental military-gate concept. The inference is that Valletta in the 21st century is no longer preeminently a fortified military city and has evolved into a democratic city that welcomes all. Re-creating the former British gate (which in any case





was not the Order's original entrance to the city) or having a pseudo-military style gate would at best represent a cheap and hollow reproduction.

Piano's scheme calls for two breaches, a major opening through which any passerby entering into the city could appreciate the sheer mass and depth of the bastions and a secondary opening that would permit access to pedestrians utilising a panoramic lift from the underlying ditch. Piano incorporates a series of metal sheets that act as vertical blades slicing through the fortifications. Within the original breach, following the dismantling of the Bergonzo gate, are three gigantic stone blocks that are placed to re-dimension the new entrance to the city. Piano's scheme gives particular attention to the reviving the land-front ditch as an oasis of greenery and providing a means of vertical access from it to the city. Another



interesting element is the viewing platform perched above the fortifications where visitors could experience a panoramic view over the entire city.

### The Parliament Building

Piano's brief was to design a parliament building. Originally, it was proposed to build this on the former Opera House site, but as the design process evolved it became apparent that the site was too restricted to accommodate parliament and furthermore, it would lead to the total obliteration of the memory of the Opera House. Freedom Square was never conceived as a planned urban space – it was an unplanned space that arose in the aftermath of the Second World War. Even within the context of the rigid orthogonal plan, the existence of an open space next to the entrance of the fortified city was totally out of synch with the urban morphology of Valletta. Piano skillfully designed the parliament building in synergy with St James Cavalier. The building is raised on pilotis so that at ground level, pedestrians have see-through views of the Cavalier. The back façade of the parliament building is parallel to the shorter side wall of the Cavalier. Externally, the building is perceived as a coherent assemblage of imposing masses encased in local limestone. The building mass is spliced through along the diagonal axis that is in effect an extrapolation of the longer façade of the cavalier (that facing the church of St Catherine of Italy). The building envelope accommo-

dates the parliament chamber and a number of ancillary facilities and offices for the parliamentarians and the staff.

In his presentation Renzo Piano alluded to the fact that the Parliament building should be a model of energy efficiency and that the building would be sustained by alternative forms of energy. The model provides some indication of this in the form of arrays of photovoltaic panels that cover a considerable part of the roof area. Piano astutely steered away from a building that could be labeled stylistically. The external appearance of the proposed parliament is imposing and monumental without indulging in superficial decorative pastiches.

Being in the immediate company of the Cavalier, basically a massive mound of stone with hardly any relieving openings, Piano had to 'flex his muscles' so to speak, and utilise the same architectural lexicon as used by the military engineers of the Order. This is achieved without resorting to an insipid, historicist imitation. Piano's parliament building is essentially an iconic building that catapults Valletta into the 21st century whilst still respecting the collective memory of the city. The building has a sense of monumental gravitas and complements the neighbouring Cavalier. It also provides an immediate point of reference as soon as one enters into the city - something which is very amiss today as one is welcomed with the sight of a glorified car park supposedly square and a statement of architectural mediocrity on the other side

comprising the shopping centre cum social housing apartments.

### The Opera House site

Piano proposed the retention of the existing Opera House ruins as a kind of 'theatre of memory'. The space is bound by a lightweight structure which would provide a sense of enclosure for the staging of performing arts and cultural events. Piano made quite an emphasis on the use of the latest lighting and stage technology utilising holographic imagery. A major point of controversy has been that it is an exclusively open-air cultural venue and this has its limitations as it cannot be utilised in inclement weather. The possibility of incorporating some form of retractable roof that can provide for full flexibility should be explored. Obviously there are cost implications but given the size of the site and the modest spans, it should technically be possible to come up with an elegant and economical roofing system. The major criticism has been the fact that the cultural facility is "roofless", and one leading detractor of the scheme went so far as to cynically suggest that instead it should be the parliamentarians that should be left "roofless". It appears that Piano was constrained by a tight financial budget and it would not be amiss to appeal to the powers that be, to be more generous in their budgetary allocation to the cultural centre such that some form of permanent roofing system can be proposed.

### Conclusion

The scheme, once implemented, would completely transform the entrance approach to Valletta. After so many decades of unfulfilled promises and false starts, it is high time that this time we get it right. There is no time for further dithering and pandering to the prophets of doom. Now is the time to let the act of building do the talking.

One truly hopes that the whole urban scheme can be implemented within the next few years, as a fitting prelude to Valletta's designation as the European capital city of culture in 2018.



# Architecture & Models

BY PERIT SIMONE VELLA LENICKER

Months after the plans for the entrance to the Capital Valletta were announced, the comments on the perceived merits and disadvantages continue to pour in through the local press, blogs and other comments in the media. Anyone who has Valletta at heart has an opinion on the proposals, and many feel that this project is, to some extent or another, "their" project. Very often, projects of national importance are announced through some articles in the press, possibly accompanied by a press conference and a few images of what the proposals will look like. With the City Gate project however, the public was given a unique opportunity to observe, scrutinise and study the proposals in depth, to walk

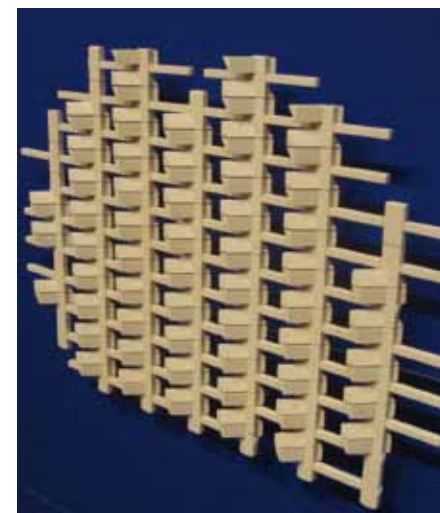
opportunity to spend hours mulling over the proposals, assessing them in their detail and observing the overall impact on the entrance, and indeed the whole, of Valletta. Architects have ideas, and must represent them in such a way as to communicate them to their clients and to the public. Drawings, sketches, computer generated images, and walkthroughs are some of the tools at their disposal to communicate thoughts, concepts and designs to the rest of the world. Physical models are possibly one of the more important media available, since they provide the opportunity to create a three dimensional representation of the architect's proposals, a representation that most people can relate to, aiding visualisation of the project and enabling architects to convey a range of information about their ideas.

The choice of creating a model in relation to a particular project can be fuelled by a number of reasons. Sometimes architects use them to ensure and test the validity of their design or to assess technical performance. This is especially important when the architect is exploring a particularly innovative feature.

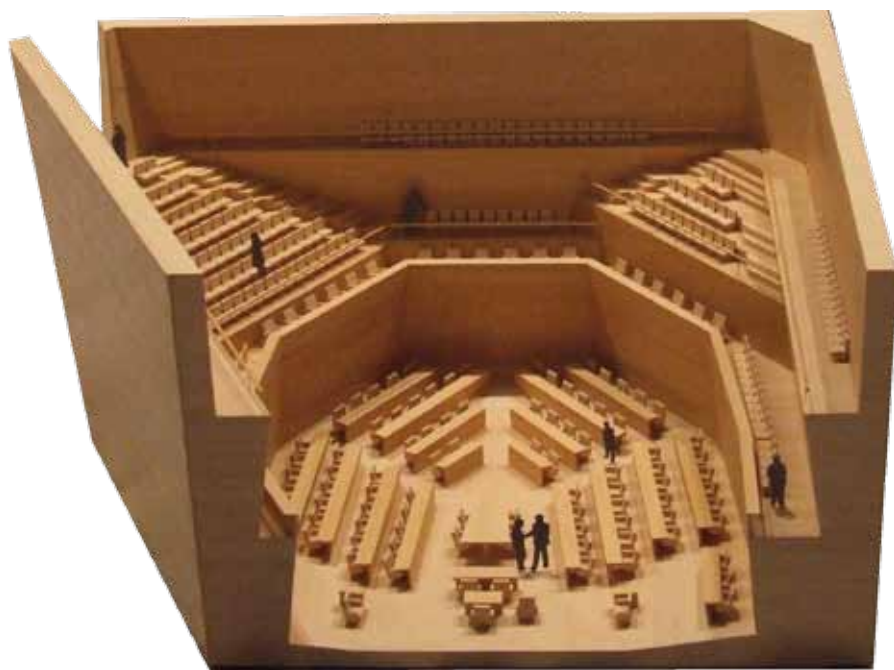
In the past, models were also used to estimate the quantities of materials required for a particular construction and also to estimate the cost of such construction. Alberti noted that models "provide a surer indication of the likely costs ... by allowing one to calculate the width and the height of the individual elements, their thickness, and number."<sup>1</sup>

More often, architects make use of models as a means of communication with their clients. In this case, the model serves as a sort of mediator between the two, translating the architect's ideas into tangible and understandable forms. Wherever there is a lack of training in the reading of drawings, the model has an advantage over the image, providing a complete and comprehensible picture that is difficult to emulate through other media.

The process model is now also a famil-



Model of proposed cladding system



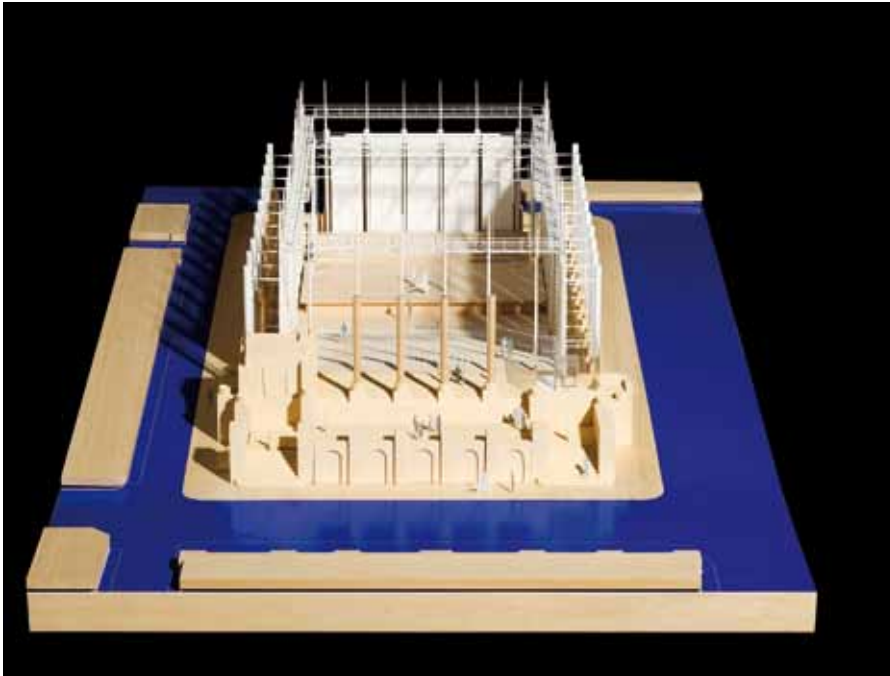
Scale model in timber showing the interior layout of the proposed parliament chamber.

through a miniature reproduction of the project and to assess the impact of the proposals in their entirety. In fact, whether one agrees with the proposals or otherwise, few can claim to have not been touched by the exhibition that has been on display at the Museum of Archaeology since the unveiling of the project last June. Here one had the

iar feature in architectural offices, with many architects using them as part of the design development process. These are used to help clarify, analyse and test design ideas, often helping to prevent mistakes and confirming new ideas. Model photography started to gain importance in the early 20th century, making available a new medium for architectural



Scale Model of the proposed new Parliament Building, with the Opera House in the background



Scale model showing the proposal for the Opera House site \*

presentations. This led to the increased use of photomontages, a sort of cut and paste technique where an image of the proposed building can be superimposed onto an image of the existing landscape. This allowed architects to produce convincing compositions of the buildings as they would appear in real life, showing the relationship with adjacent buildings and the way the building would be perceived in a streetscape.

The use of computers has rapidly accelerated the evolution of models. The possibility of three dimensional studies and presentations available today means that architects have access to a virtual model

making workshop at their computer. These new systems allow for the virtual creation of buildings and the possibility to explore aspects such as lighting, environmental performance, wind loading, overshadowing and various other impacts of the building without leaving one's desk. The advanced use of computers has however also opened up new doors with respect to the creation of physical models, allowing for laser cutting of materials, live projections, rapid prototyping and stereo lithography (ultraviolet laser radiation directed onto liquid polymer resin following the direction of a CAD drawing).



A series of 1:500 cardboard models used as an urban study for the proposed Parliament Building

There is, however, little doubt that the model will continue to exist as an important tool to the architect. As technologies advance, the more high-tech models will become, allowing the architect to achieve higher precision and increased levels of detail.

As observed in a British article, "models are almost a necessity in the processes of present day architectural practice. The directness and simplicity of contemporary architectural expression tends to be deceptively stark, almost arid, and in the normal conventional presentation of elevation, section and plan, so much so as ... to mislead the uninitiated ...

drawings cannot convincingly convey to clients unaccustomed to them the effects which modern architecture is designed to produce."<sup>2</sup>

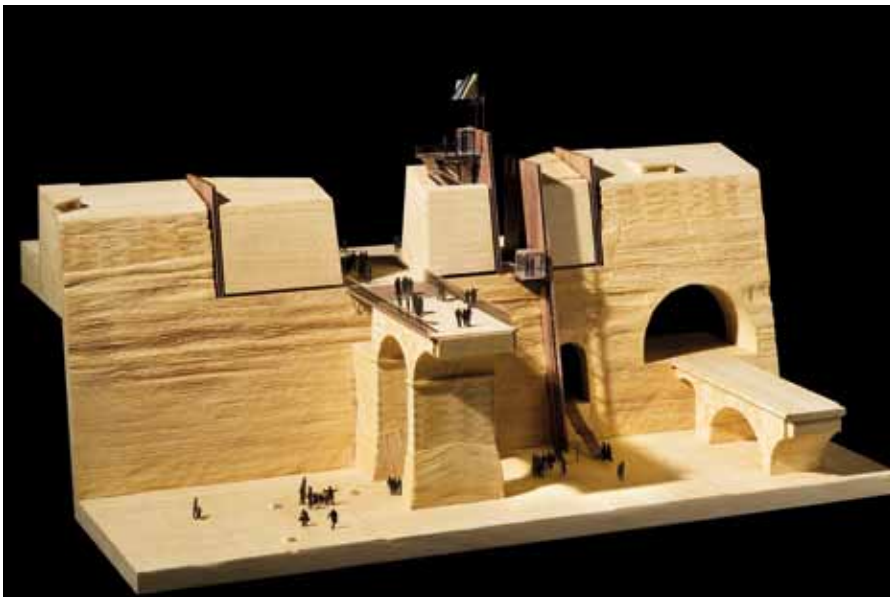
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**Main research source:**

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IMAGES MARKED \* COURTESY OF THE MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS. ALL OTHER IMAGES BY THE ARCHITECT.



Timber model showing the proposal for City Gate. Scale 1:100 \*



Sectional model through the Opera House, allowing the observer to perceive depth and movement

# The changing challenges

BY PERIT SIMONE VELLA LENICKER

IN AN ARTICLE TITLED "BEYOND BUILDING"<sup>1</sup> CARRIED IN THE EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE A10, ITS EDITOR HANS IBELINGS COMMENTED ON THE CHANGES FACED BY ARCHITECTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND BEYOND. HE ARGUES THAT "DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE WILL RESULT IN A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE DESIGN TASK AND CALL FOR A SUBSTANTIALLY NEW APPROACH BY ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN."



Overdevelopment of our coastal areas. Do the residences we build cater for an aging population?

## Demographic developments - a growing population?

A demographic analysis<sup>2</sup> of the European population reported in "Population projections 2008-2060" reveals that the EU27 population is expected to increase from 495 million in 2008 to 521 million in 2035, and thereafter gradually decline to 506 million in 2060. From 2015 onwards, deaths are expected to outnumber births, and hence population growth due to natural increase would cease. From that point onwards, positive net migration would be the only population growth factor. However, from 2035 this positive net migration is no longer expected to counterbalance the negative natural change, and the population is projected to begin to decline. The report also projects that 30% of the EU27 population will be aged 65 and over by 2060.

Applying the trends to Malta, the analysis predicts that our population size will decrease by about 1.4% by 2060, and that about 130,000 (32%) of citizens would be aged 65 and over by that same year. Today, Malta's over 65 population stands at around 55,000, according to the 2005 Census<sup>3</sup>, implying a more than two-fold increase in the size of this age group by 2060.

These statistics pose important challenges to the manner in which we plan our urban areas, the number of new housing

units placed on the market each year, and more importantly the nature and quality of the buildings we are constructing today. What effects will these changes in population size and age distribution have on our approach to planning? How will today's residences and places of work respond to these changes and challenges? How much are the buildings we construct today adaptable to the evidently changing needs of the population in years to come? And, more importantly, what quality of built environment are we providing for today's teenagers who, in 2060, will constitute the younger band of the over-65 age group? What can they expect to find?

Ibelings in fact continues to state that "*now that growth is a thing of the past, attention will inevitably shift from quantity to quality. Instead of expansion, the consolidation of the city ... must be our starting point. It is going to require a major reversal in thinking to swap the paradigm of growth equals progress and the assumption of continuing growth, for an approach aimed at discovering the advantages of shrinkage and changelessness.*"

## Current building stock & expectations

Does our current building stock cater for the demands of the current population? Already, according to the 2005

Census<sup>4</sup>, about 53,000 properties, excluding summer residences, stand vacant. Many of these are caught up under the old rent law regime, or are subject of ownership litigation. The recent approval by parliament of a new legislative framework governing the rental market is expected to encourage more owners of these vacant buildings to start looking into the potential that these properties hold, and to investigate the various possibilities open to them. This will potentially open up a new market for rehabilitation, modernisation and revaluation of these properties for placing back on the market.

Although it may appear that these vacant properties will, over the coming years, more readily be placed on the market, this does not, in any way however, mean that the increased availability of such properties will result in a decline in construction activity. An improved standard of living brings with it a desire for more square metres per person, and therefore the redevelopment of existing substandard and abandoned properties may also be expected to increase. On a positive note, the less the need for new construction, the more one can expect to contain the much debated issue of urban sprawl. The impending upgrading of the public transport infrastructure will also contribute towards consolidation and intensification of the existing city and town centres.

# for our built environment

Increased standards of living also imply a desire for better quality living and work spaces, increased public recreational areas of a high standard, as well as a clientele that is more aware of what constitutes a good built environment. Hence clients and the public at large will be more demanding on the standards expected of our building stock, and hopefully more willing to invest in higher specifications with an aim towards added return.

## Ecological developments – are we keeping up?

On the ecological front, construction and demolition are among the highest contributors to waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions. The European ecological footprint is more than four times the global average, and this compounds the need to look into the renovation of the existing building stock in environmentally sustainable ways, as well as to consider the controlling of our construction trends.

The transposition into Maltese legislation of the EU's



"Instead of expansion, the consolidation of the city ... must be our starting point." – Hans Ibelings

Energy Directive and the publication in 2006 of what is known as Document F<sup>5</sup>, which lays out a quantitative approach towards building design and specification with an aim towards reducing energy requirements, is still in the infancy of its actual implementation. The first projects that were subject to these requirements were submitted as applications for development permission to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) in January 2007, and most of them have yet to be granted a permit, or have not as yet moved into the construction phase.

Having said this, no constituted entity was charged with the responsibility of vetting whether these new projects did in fact conform to the energy requirements at the design stage. Rather, the onus was left to the Architects & Civil Engineers to ensure that these requirements are

adhered to. How much this has been the case is anyone's guess, as no statistics appear to exist on the number of projects applied for post January 2007 that actually conform to these energy requirements. And two years down the line, the situation appears to be unchanged.

## The legislative framework

Government has introduced a number of other legislative instruments that affect the construction sector and that are primarily intentioned to improve the quality of operations within this field. These include, among others, the recently announced draft Regulations on the Avoidance of Damage to Third Party Property which seeks to safeguard the rights of third parties during ongoing neighbouring construction operations.

The much awaited and debated MEPA Reform is also an important factor, and one hopes that it will result in clear long term planning that takes all these issues into account. More important than the proposed administrative changes, however, is the review of the Structure Plan<sup>6</sup> published by MEPA in 1990, which is primarily concerned with resource creation, management and protection. The Structure Plan "covers the period of the next twenty years up to the year 2010. During this time the population is expected to increase by about 10% to almost 400,000, about 20% more households will be formed who will require housing, possibly 25% more people will require jobs, and the proportion of the population aged over sixty will increase by about 60%. Children of school age and below are likely to decrease by about 10%, and a greater proportion of women are likely to have part time or full time jobs." 2010 is at our doorstep, and an urgent review of the Structure Plan that takes into consideration the issues outlined earlier is imperative if we are to achieve a built environment that responds to the changing needs and expectations of society.

## The role of architecture – adapting to the times

During the launch earlier this year of a publication by the Kamra tal-Periti and Din l-Art Helwa, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi stated that "in order to appreciate buildings of a certain period, one must consider the socio-economic history of our country at the time in order to understand the thoughts behind their particular expression ... Architecture always embraced the vision of improving our surrounding environment and the way in which we live. This vision must continue to be upheld by our country as we move towards becoming a centre of excellence founded on the principles of sustainable development ... Architecture, like other forms of art, is a reflection of society in the social, cultural, economic and political contexts of its time. Architecture is never static; it is constantly renewing itself according to the needs and aspirations of every society".<sup>7</sup>



Vacant, derelict residences in Msida

This cannot be ignored. Today's architecture will speak volumes of the aspirations of our society, and will stand for years to come as a statement of our interpretation of the times and the emphasis we place on the quality of life we aim to achieve.

The most fitting conclusion to these reflections is an extract from the conference proceedings of "Designing for the Future: the Market and Quality of Life", a stimulating debate organised in 2008 by the Architects' Council of Europe: "Designing for the future is a long-term vision. It must be recognised by all built environment professionals that sustainability is absolute ... Governance and decision making processes that lead to the creation of the built environment must adopt an integrated approach drawing on all fields that affect the quality of the daily lives of all citizens ... Architecture has visionary and synthesising power to contribute to the achievement of these standards."

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3. Census of population and housing, Volume 1, Population; National Statistics Office, 2007
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**Note:** This article was first published in The Times "Property & Construction" supplement of the 30 September 2009.

# SHOULD WE BE TALKING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PLANNING OR ABOUT PLANNING EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS?

BY PERIT VINCE MAGRI

What was that?

Planning and Environmental considerations are interlinked. The whole issue hinges on the perspective from which the two aspects are viewed. I bet that each reader has read the title of this article twice and had to stop and think about what it really meant. Environment? Planning? Isn't this the same thing? What is this all about?

Planning is about thinking ahead, coordinating, managing and making the best possible use of resources. In order to formulate effective Land Use plans, three very important considerations have to be taken into account – the Economic aspect, the Environmental aspect, and the Social aspect. This is a basic requirement. Each aspect is equally important, however, in specific situations, each one aspect can assume more importance than the others. And it is the Political level that is responsible to give strategic direction.

Even if not in a formalised Planning context, in the 1980s politicians gave the Social aspect more importance through schemes that encouraged affordable home ownership. Some time later, the Economic aspect took over, with the emphasis being on attracting foreign investment and further encouragement to the construction sector. During the last few years, the Environmental agenda has become more important, mainly because in giving importance to the Social and Economic aspects, decision takers did not adequately consider the effects on the Environment.

## Sustainability

But if, for a moment, we look deeper at what we mean by Environmental considerations, we see that it has also evolved to include very similar criteria to those traditionally considered in Planning, albeit from a more narrow and focused perspective. Environmental considerations are synonymous with the concept of Sustainability. The three fundamental pillars of Sustainability include the three "E's" – Economic, Environmental and Equitable social effects. As one can see, we have come back to the three important pillars of Planning.

Now this could be the reason why today we have Environment and Planning incorporated in the same portfolio of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. This shows that the Political level is giving more importance to the Environmental aspect of Planning. But let's never forget that Environmental considerations are just one aspect of Planning, and through such an amalgamation, now being proposed to also have one Act, the other two aspects of Economic and Social considerations will continue to be further relegated to a lower division in Planning decision making and taking.

## Environmental Impact Assessments

What should we say – EIA, EIS or EPS? For some this is quite obvious, but for many others, these terms are quite confusing. An EIA is the whole process – it is the assessment process from start to finish. On the other hand an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and an Environmental Planning Statement (EPS) are the studies themselves. These are the "Statements" prepared by the professionals carrying out the EIA. An EIS is usually prepared for more complicated projects whereas an EPS is prepared for simpler projects.

As the legislation stands today, the EIS is paid for by the proposer of the project, but the consultants sign a declaration of impartiality and need to be approved by the MEPA. The present legislation calls for a list of such consultants to be drawn up. Each EIS needs to include a Coordinator and a number of specialised consultants. Without removing any merit from that of the specialised consultants, the EIS Coordinator has the most important role, as his/her job is to coordinate the inputs of all the

other consultants, formulate the EIS, relate directly with MEPA, and be present and reply to questions raised during the Public Consultation exercise. The coordinator needs to be a generalist, with very good knowledge of the respective fields, good coordination skills and most importantly, a good understanding of Planning (not just Environmental) issues. With the proposed reform, this list will be published for one and all to know who can be contacted to do such work, and the list will be revised every year according to their performance.

Unfortunately, the EIA process has developed into a lobbying football. Developers take it for granted that all effects of their proposals can be rectified through mitigation measures. Environmentalists, on the other hand, use the EIA process to shoot down all applications which need an EIA, whatever their impact on the environment. This leaves us with a 1 – 1 draw. Through the adoption of extremist attitudes, both lobby groups are being taken with a pinch of salt by decision takers. Where development should be permitted, more mature lobby groups try to get a development with the least impact on the environment. In the long term, this will benefit both the developer and the environment.

## Economic and Social Impacts

As its name implies, the EIA process has tended to concentrate on the Environmental (Physical) aspects of the development being proposed. However, that only satisfies the Environmental aspect of Planning. MEPA realises that this is an issue, and sometimes makes half-hearted attempts to include the other aspects of Planning into the EIA process. Sometimes, the EIA process includes some form of economic

assessment. Now, one would argue that if the project is not economically feasible, then the developer would not even consider doing it. However, economic feasibility depends among others, on intensity of development and market changes. We have all heard about White Elephants, and we can assume that their proposers had carried out some form of economic feasibility studies. The whole point is that it is very easy for the developer to withhold confidential information, without which a proper assessment cannot be made. The only way to do this is to exclude the Economic assessment from the EIA process and get independent advice about the feasibility of the project. Half hearted attempts will not convince anyone.

It is very rare for an EIA to consider Social impact. The concept itself has only developed recently, even abroad. However, this does not diminish from its importance. The assessment of Social impact is truly in its infancy in Malta. As in the case of Economic impact, assessment independent of the EIA procedure needs to be carried out.

## Do we need all this?

If we are serious about carrying out proper Planning, then the only conclusion is that yes, we do. Planning needs to take Environmental, Economic and Social considerations into account. Environmental considerations alone are not conducive to good Planning. Any approved development will have an impact on the public in general, and it is our responsibility towards future generations to encourage positive projects and discourage negative ones. A few years back, who would have taken the EIA process for granted? Today, many people do.



*Perit Vincent Magri is specialised in Land Use Planning, having graduated from the University of Malta and the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He has worked in Planning since 1988, both as part of the Planning Directorate in the early days of Planning in Malta and in the Private sector. He currently forms part of the team at Mangion, Mangion and Partners (Architects, Civil Engineers and Planning Consultants).*



# APPRECIATION – LAWRENCE MINTOFF

Despite being 9 years my junior, Lawrence and I had struck a late friendship when, in 1999 we attended an architect's World Congress in Beijing with our wives and some colleagues, and where we discovered a shared interest in Chinese culture, including their art, and medicine, especially acupuncture of which he had become an aficionado since the very first arrival of the Chinese doctors in Malta with their mission for the Freeport Terminal in the 1980s. Until then, I had only known him as the young



Lawrence Mintoff

Architect who had given quite an amazing PowerPoint presentation some 15 years earlier on at a Kamra tal-Periti seminar on the use of Computers in an Architect's office, and only met him again after that just a few months before the Beijing event when he was elected as a new Council member. From then on, this friendship led also to a professional working relationship which moved ahead on the rare quality of the word of honour.

So, when I received the sms informing me of Lawrence's death whilst I happened to be in Larnaka in transit for an outbound flight for a holiday in the Middle East, my immediate reaction was one of dismay at not being able to attend his funeral. However, I now realise that this was a blessing in disguise as I now cherish only a living memory of him; especially of one of the last moments I had shared with him whilst in hospital when, with what I imagine must have been a great mental effort, he responded with a humph, accompanied with his characteristic impish grin, to the comment I had made, in a sort of man to man confidential manner, that I fully understood why he did not bother to open his eyes since there weren't enough good looking nurses around in his ward ... obviously, with no offence meant to all of those nurses whose quality and dedication to their work has got nothing to do with their looks (I know this well enough as my mother was one of the first State Registered Nurses in Malta).

That reaction and grin were just simply Lawrence; an apparently serious demeanour of a workaholic which hid the insatiable, but contained, appetite for enjoying the good things in life ranging from good food, to partying and dancing, travel, art including photography, theatre, especially satirical comedy, but which did not either disdain stand up comedy; all of which is, perhaps, evidenced in

his childish enthusiasm, inherited from and shared intimately with his father Raymond first and now also with his son Christopher, towards any form of electronic gadgetry. This included computers, mobile phones, audio/visual apparatus (he had just completed a fully equipped home cinema which, unfortunately, he did not manage to enjoy enough). He also had a mad passion for model electric car racing with a full blown scaled model of a racing track in the basement of his house. This obsession with gadgetry was so infectious that the first question anyone would invariably first ask him on meeting him would be as to whether Lawrence knew, had seen or read about the latest novelty to hit the market, or whether he had, as most likely would be the case, already bought it? This, however, would only happen after thorough and protracted, often exasperating, comparative study of all the models available on the market at the time. So an advice from Lawrence on a gadget came along with a certification of an expert and well informed opinion. For, behind this seemingly laid back attitude, which at first encounter he may have given, there was an intelligent, knowledgeable, inquisitive and meticulous mind at work, a mind which did not shortcut for seeking solutions but went, if necessary, into the late hours of the night to examine a problem or calculate a new structure. In my opinion, few architects in Malta have had the vast experience and wide base of knowledge about concrete, especially in its use in precast elements, as Lawrence did, not only as he had a lucky start as the son of one of the pioneers of this building element, but also, since he specialised his studies on the matter and was constantly adjourning himself. In fact, after graduating as an Architect & Civil Engineer in

1982 at the then Royal University of Malta, he furthered his studies at the Imperial College of London where he obtained his Masters in the Science of Concrete Structures and has a following CV full of attendance at both local and foreign CPD courses and seminars. During his short but intense career, Lawrence was responsible both as an Architect and Civil Engineering Consultant and/or a Project Manager for several important project such as the Fortina Hotel, the Westin Golden Sands Resort & Spa Hotel and the Pavi Supermarket amongst others; he was Chief Engineer in the Freeport Terminal (Phase 1) and the Consulting Engineer to the precast factories of Concrete Products Ltd and Tal-Maghtab Precast Factory. His managerial skills and easy to deal with attitude were called upon when he was appointed Chairman of the Gozo Ferries Steering Committee. His curriculum also involves some academic work as a lecturer on the Theory of Structures for a couple of years at University, an appointment as an expert of structural issues both in parastatal and civil cases, and the involvement in several Technical subcommittees of the Building Industry Consultative Council involving publications, courses and research related to the subject. A deep sense of respect towards the profession led him to stand for a Council post of the Kamra tal-Periti, where he was also President for the period 2002-2004. From then on, he has been constantly at the disposition of the Kamra for a post on the Board of Professional Conduct; the Kamra's appreciation of this characteristic is manifested in his nomination as its representative on the Warranting Board for a long number of years. On my behalf and that of all the Council and the profession, I extend my deepest condolences to all his family, his parents and sister whom he loved so dearly, but for his wife, Michelle, his children Christopher and Stephanie, I especially pray that they find the strength, the courage and the faith to look forward in this new phase of their life by keeping his joie de vivre as their guiding light in the belief that Lawrence, in his low key manner, will be around to provide them with the necessary pragmatism to help them through these difficult moments. Occasionally, however, they have to remember and realise that he may not respond immediately, as now he may have been distracted or carried away with the newly discovered infinity of new gadgetry. Lawrence, my dear friend, may you rest in peace and may we, your colleagues, learn to emulate the model you have epitomised of the true professional Perit.



Council group photo in 2006. Lawrence (centre, red sweater) was a driving force behind the Kamra's work

## Perit Tony Fenech Vella

### Editor's Note

On behalf of the Editorial Team, the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti and all its members, I join Tony in extending condolences to Lawrence's family, colleagues and friends. The profession has lost a true gentleman.

# MORE HERITAGE THREATENED

BY PERIT EDWARD SAID

The recent transfer of the White Tower in Armier to the Mellieha Local Council is indeed good news, particularly as this monument has been greatly mutilated and vandalised in recent years. No doubt, sensible restoration will soon ensue. This tower guards one end of a tight front of military structures dating from particular periods that to all intents and purposes once formed Malta's northernmost frontier against invasion. This heritage section discusses three components of this little-known historic site.

## COASTAL ENTRENCHMENTS

**History:** These structures were constructed during the rule of Grandmaster Emanuel Pinto de Fonseca to defend this low-lying, vulnerable stretch of coast. This scheme was carried out in other areas along the northeast and southeast shores of Malta, however the Armier stretch appears to be the best-preserved. A World War Two beach post can be seen at one of the salients of the entrenchment wall.

**Current state:** Whilst the fabric of these entrenchment walls appears prima facie to be in

relatively good condition, closer inspection will reveal recent illegal construction of walls, buildings and shacks against the masonry. Cannon embrasures have been abusively deformed or blocked up. General neglect compounded with exposure to the elements particularly marine action is also leading to accelerating deterioration. The beach post appears to be occupied and is thus inaccessible.

## TA' MAČĊU BATTERY

**History:** Built between 1714-16 during the rule of Grandmaster Ramon Perellos y Roccaful (1697-1720) this battery (also referred to as Vendôme Battery) formed part of the defence programme that saw a line of such structures built along Malta's vulnerable coasts stretching from Marfa eastwards all the way past Grand Harbour round to Bengħajsa as well as parts of Gozo. A number of eminent French engineers in Malta at this time were entrusted with creating these fortifications, hence the reason why almost no one of these batteries is alike. Ta' Mačċu consists of a block-house fronted by a semi-circular gun platform



Internal view of the abandoned Crivelli Battery

and parapet. The whole structure was originally surrounded by a ditch.

**Current state:** The battery is currently occupied and thus inaccessible to the public; however the fabric is clearly in a serious state of neglect. The outer walls are crumbling whilst the ditch has been filled in with soil and is used to grow vegetables. The gun embrasures in the semicircular parapet are either filled with rubble or collapsing whilst numerous coping stones have been pillaged. A number of oversize masonry elements such as cornerstones, lintels and coping stones have been cannibalised from the structure and used in the construction of illegal structures around the redoubt.

## CRIVELLI BATTERY

**History:** Like Ta' Mačċu, this redoubt was also built around 1716 probably designed by the French engineer Philip Mignet. Unlike Ta' Mačċu however, the platform and parapet are triangular rather than circular, similar to the now almost completely



Crivelli battery falling apart



Inscription on lintel mentioning Fra Ferdinando Crivelli

destroyed Tal-Bir Redoubt nearby. An interesting feature of the building is the inscription in the lintel above the doorway mentioning Ferdinando Crivelli, Grand Prior of Capua. Inside one can understand the spatial arrangement of the block-house, with its ceilings supported on lofty diaphragm arches. One can still observe a cooking oven built into the wall to serve the garrison in this remote outpost.

**Current state:** Crivelli redoubt is

completely abandoned and very recently part of the arched ceiling has collapsed whilst whole sections of the walls have given way. This monument is facing the greatest risk of being completely lost, as has happened in the past with the nearby Tal-Bir battery.

*All historical information was researched from Dr. Stephen C. Spiteri's recent work The Art Of Fortress Building in Hospitaller Malta (Malta 2008).*



Makeshift field and collapsed masonry in the ditch of Ta' Mačċu Battery

# MEPA REFORM

Last July, Government published the much awaited blue print for the Reform of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). The document is split largely under four main headings – Consistency, Efficiency, Accountability and Enforcement – with proposals put forward under each of these sections.

The Kamra tal-Periti participated actively in the reform process, with the submission of its recommendations to the Prime Minister in March 2008, followed by additional comments in August 2008. In November 2008, the Kamra organised a Business Breakfast for its members and other interested parties at which the Prime Minister was the keynote speaker – during this morning meeting, those present had to opportunity to listen to the strategy being adopted in the reform process and to make their own recommendations in this regard.

A few days after the publication of the blue print document, the Council met with Dr Mario de Marco to discuss the initial reactions. This meeting was followed by a seminar for the Kamra's members on the 22 July, where the Council's initial reactions were presented, commented upon by those present, and more suggestions put forward by the participants. This allowed the Council to formulate its official response document to Government with the back up of the Kamra's members. In its comments, the Kamra notes that the proposed reform contains a number of positive proposals. It seems clear that the main drive of the reform blue print is to create a framework which seeks to make all concerned in the development application process more directly accountable for their actions. The Kamra feels that this can be positive but will not contribute, alone to a real reform which brings about a tangible positive change in the development application process itself or in our urban and rural environment. What follows are some of the issues raised by the Kamra in its report to Government.

## QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

One fundamental aspect which is completely absent in the reform proposals is a commitment to quality and the under-

standing that the real measure of MEPA's performance can only be the quality of the living environment that its policies and decisions result in. In its recommendations, the Kamra had placed Vision and Quality at the heart of its proposals and continues to insist that better living environments must be at the heart of MEPA's outlook at all levels. Whereas 'consistency, efficiency, accountability and enforcements' are sine qua non practice conditions for a just and effective administration of any public agency and for the effective administration of policy, quality is the only foundation on which the proposed four pillars can stand if they seek to achieve real benefit.

## QUALITY IN PLANNING

The Kamra reiterates the need for quality to be underpinned by a more harmonised, more vision-driven, three-dimensional (as against the current two-dimensional approach) urban design approach to policy-making and implementation. It would welcome the creation or strengthening of a central policy unit that addresses policy-making across all government sectors, particularly those which in some way affect the built environment. It is essential that amongst other safeguards MEPA must continue to have a strong input in policy-making as far as land use planning is concerned. It must, however, be stressed that it is the quality of planning and policy-making which should at the end of the day be the key guiding factor.

## FOCUS FOR QUALITY – DESIGN REVIEW

Quality is also an objective in individual projects. In this respect the Kamra reiterates its position on the need for a forum where the quality of development can be properly assessed and promoted through a system which offers the opportunity for Design Review. The Kamra notes the success of Design Review panels in promoting better quality design elsewhere in Europe, and

their increasing popularity with the private sector. The work of the CABE in the UK is one notable example and indeed the practice of design review is well disseminated in many European countries.

## IMPLEMENTATION

If the measures suggested are not also supplemented by other interventions, there is no means of ensuring that certain safeguards will remain in play and that abuses will continue to be checked. The Kamra is deeply concerned that the proposed reform measures will be extremely liable to abuse by parties on many fronts if the process of implementation does not ensure that

these safeguards are brought into play. It is also concerned of the undermining of the four pillars if the phasing in of certain measures is not matched by the introduction of adequate skills and resources at key points in the planning process. The importance of a clear timeframe for the implementation of the proposed reform is also missing in the Blueprint and the

Kamra is of the opinion that this is essential to guarantee delivery and reduce uncertainty. Furthermore, the Kamra remarked that many of the proposals put forward by Government had been put forward by the Kamra itself and agreed to between the Kamra and MEPA in the past. However, the Kamra regrets that despite this agreement the relevant changes have not been brought into effect. It is now hoped, that this time round, there is a long-lasting commitment to the reform process if this is to provide improved procedures.

## PAPER AND PRACTICE – THE ROLE OF THE CASE OFFICER

The Kamra is concerned about the emphasis of the proposed reform on the role of the case officer in the application process. This will demand case officers of the highest capability and integrity, who are empowered, politically and intellectually to discern a decision in the light of policy

and on the basis of the public benefit of a proposal rather than a blindfolded tick-boxing against the full spectrum of policy, regardless of the importance of certain aspects in a particular case. Until a suitable complement of case officers with these qualities are brought into the process, it may be better to postpone certain proposals. Furthermore, the Kamra reiterates the need for the assessment of a case officer's performance to be based on the quality of his/her decisions and not only by the number of applications he/she manages to process.

## ONGOING CONSULTATION

Many of the proposals in the reform document have vast implications which need to be carefully assessed. A number of the proposals are too vague to elicit real feedback. With such proposals the devil is always in the detail. Consultation must continue well after the proposed start date for the implementation of the reform and as well as post implementation to be fed back into the system.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

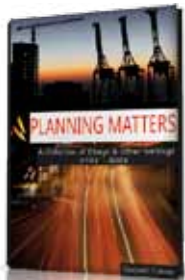
Good governance in all matters relating to the built environment must continue to underpin the role that Government adopts with MEPA reform. In this respect Government must lead by example and ensure that its own interventions in areas like policy-making truly respect the processes and procedures embodied in the spirit of the law, and that it sets quality environments for public benefit as the real objective of the reform.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The Kamra notes with satisfaction that a number of its proposals have been taken on board by Government and were even specifically referred to during the National Conference at which the Reform was discussed. It remains open to dialogue with Government and looks forward to a positive implementation process.

*The full text of the Kamra's document can be viewed on [www.ktpmalta.com](http://www.ktpmalta.com)*





# PLANNING MATTERS

A collection of Essays and Other Writings, 1985-2008

Author: **Dr Godwin Cassar**; ISBN: 978-99932-0-695-8; Printed by P.E.G Ltd, 2009. Reviewed by **Dr Conrad Thake**

'*Planning Matters*' is essentially a compilation of diverse essays and other writings penned by Cassar during the course of his professional career. Most were published in the local press and dealt with an extensive range of spatial planning and environmental-related subjects. The writings by their own nature offer a live commentary of major planning developments both on specific environmental issues and also those tracing the evolution of planning policies and institutional reforms. One of the early seminal papers presented at the *Council of Europe 7<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning* (The Hague, 1985) provides a comprehensive histori-

cal overview of planning and building legislation in Malta. It outlines the urban planning ordinances enacted by the Order of St John in the planning of Valletta, the Codes of Police Laws dating back to the mid-nineteenth century and the drive to regulate building development in synch with an efficient public utilities infrastructure and sanitary regulations during the first half of the 20th century.

In his writings particularly those dealing with institutional reforms, Cassar does not shy away from addressing structural deficiencies in the planning system and also, in responding to at times negative public perceptions many a times induced by inefficient bureaucratic strictures and

unnecessary delays in the processing of planning development applications.

As one would expect from a compilation of over 50 articles written over a period of 23 years, there is at times a certain degree of information overlap or 'time-lapsed' writings targeted for specific milestone events. The subject matter that is dealt with is very extensive and broad in nature. The papers are arranged in chronological order starting from the early contributions written in mid-1980s to the latest writings dating to 2008. The obvious advantage of such an arrangement is that it provides the reader with insights as to the way the Maltese planning system evolved over the years. The drawback with such a layout is

that the diverse papers could not be classified according to broad subject categories. *Planning Matters* is not intended to be read as a continuous narrative of Maltese spatial and environmental planning. Rather, it presents a discontinuous and multi-faceted mosaic of various aspects that have had a direct bearing on the course of local environment and planning processes. The volume is a welcome addition to the rather sparse corpus of publications on the history of local planning and the environment. The book with its multi-disciplinary offerings is particularly relevant to geographers, architects, land-use planners, and environmental policy-makers.

BOOK

## www.sustainablecities.org.uk

This website cuts through the complexities of the climate change debate to provide expert advice, offer clear priorities for action and describe good practice in sustainable urban design and management. It supports the people whose job is to make decisions about how to plan, design and manage towns and cities. The website provides tailored, expert advice arranged around seven spatial scales,

from individual building to regional. It systematically links these scales with six critical sustainability themes – energy, waste, water, transport, green infrastructure and public space. This allows one to see, for instance, how low-carbon and renewable energy technologies or transport will work across a neighbourhood. The website also offers an invaluable knowledge base of examples of

good practice from around the world, to help decide the right approach for any city, town, neighbourhood or site. This website has been created as a central part of CABE's sustainable cities programme. CABE is the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. As the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space, CABE is helping cities and towns to become more sustainable places.



**The photographs show one of Malta's largest parish churches still under construction and also, the first mass service held whilst the church was being built. Can you identify the name of the parish church under construction and the architect who designed and supervised its construction?**

The winner of this competition wins a copy of the book reviewed above: "Planning Matters".

Send your entries to: The Editor, The Architect Competition, Kamra tal-Periti, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira, or by email on [thearchitect@ktp-malta.com](mailto:thearchitect@ktp-malta.com). The first correct entry drawn on the 30 November 2009 will win. Only residents of the Maltese Islands are eligible to participate. Members of the Editorial Board and their families are not eligible to participate.

The building featured in last issue's competition was Villa Lugisland in Rabat and the architect was Francesco Zammit. The winner is Ms Daniela Valentino.



COMPETITION

WEBSITE

ONGOING; NEW LONDON ARCHITECTURE, LONDON, UK

### PIPERS CENTRAL LONDON MODEL



The Pipers Central London model is built to a scale of 1:1500. Measuring some 12m, the model covers an area from Paddington in the west to The Royal Docks in the

East and from Battersea in the south to King's Cross in the north. Major new and proposed buildings with planning permission are highlighted in white, including the Olympic masterplan and a range of new tall buildings set to transform London's skyline. [www.newlondonarchitecture.org](http://www.newlondonarchitecture.org)

NOW TO 01 NOVEMBER 2009; DESIGN MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

### REMEMBERING JAN KAPLICKÝ – ARCHITECT OF THE FUTURE



Jan Kaplický, who died earlier this year, was the Czech architect responsible for some of the most remarkable buildings that Britain has ever seen. Lord's cricket

ground holds the press box he built with his former partner, Amanda Levete – it was their first major project and won the Stirling Prize. Kaplický also designed the Selfridges department store in Birmingham, 2003 and yet even more remarkable are the buildings that Kaplický designed, which the world will never see – to say nothing of his stream of ideas for solar powered vehicles, electric cars, jewellery, bikinis and double-decker buses. [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)



NOW TO 01 NOVEMBER 2009; AUSTRIAN MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS, AUSTRIA

### FURNITURE AS TROPHY

An exhibition of furniture made from hunting "trophies" such as antlers, horns, etc. [www.mak.at](http://www.mak.at)

NOW TO 01 NOVEMBER 2009; ARCHITECTURE MUSEUM, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

### ARCHITECTURE IN SWEDEN



Architecture in Sweden contains many different elements and will be regularly altered by means of additions and supplementary exhibitions.

You will find a historical expose, from the very earliest building down to the present, on ten work tables. [www.arkitekturmuseet.se](http://www.arkitekturmuseet.se)

NOW TO 02 NOVEMBER 2009; TATE MODERN, LONDON, UK

### ARCHITECTURE + ART : CROSSOVER AND COLLABORATION

How does an artistic approach change the practice and



products of architecture? What alternatives can collaborative and trans-disciplinary thinking bring to the search for new ways of building and living? The Architecture Foundation, in conjunction with Tate

Modern, presents a series of chaired conversations that will explore these questions with practitioners from around the world. Events will examine projects including buildings co-authored by artists and architects, collective models of practice and inhabitable installations. [www.architecturefoundation.org.uk](http://www.architecturefoundation.org.uk)

NOW TO 22 NOVEMBER 2009; V&A MUSEUM, LONDON, UK



### A HIGHER AMBITION: OWEN JONES (1809-74)

This display will trace Owen Jones's unique contributions to Victorian design reform; from his early studies of Islamic decoration at the

Alhambra Palace, through to his designs for the 1851 Great Exhibition building, the publication of the Grammar of Ornament (one of the most important design sourcebooks of all time) and his influence in the founding of the South Kensington Museum. [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)



NOW TO 14 FEBRUARY 2010; IMPERIAL FURNITURE COLLECTION, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

### INTERIOR DESIGN BETWEEN THE WARS

The Imperial Furniture

Collection holds one of the key works of Viennese interior design around 1930: the apartment of the ceramic artist Lucie Rie, designed by Ernst Plischke in 1928. In the exhibition Interior Design between the Wars this outstanding ensemble will be placed in the context of the history of Viennese furniture design. [www.hofmobiliendepot.at](http://www.hofmobiliendepot.at)

NOW TO JULY 2011; V&A MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

### AESTHETICISM: BEAUTY IN ART AND DESIGN 1860-1900



This will be the first international exhibition to explore the unconventional creativity of the British Aesthetic Movement (1860-1895). Featuring superb artworks from the traditional high art of painting, to fashion-

able trends in architecture, interior design, domestic furnishings, art photography and new modes of dress, this exhibition traces Aestheticism's evolution from the artistic concerns of a small circle of avant-garde artists and authors to a broad cultural phenomenon. [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

21 OCTOBER 2009 – 31 JANUARY 2010; DESIGN MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

### DAVID CHIPPERFIELD

With a style that is restrained, quiet and thoughtful,



David Chipperfield is one of Britain's leading architects. This comprehensive overview will look at key moments in his development as well as at major recent projects including the Museum of Modern Literature in Marbach, Germany, the America's Cup Building in Valencia, Spain,

the newly completed Neues Museum in Berlin and the Hepworth Museum in Wakefield, Yorkshire. [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)



04 – 06 NOVEMBER, 2009; CENTRO DE CONVENCIONES INTERNACIONALES DE BARCELONA, SPAIN

### WORLD ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL

Exhibitions, Seminars, Awards... just three good reasons to visit this year's festival!

[www.worldarchitecturefestival.com](http://www.worldarchitecturefestival.com)



05 NOVEMBER TO 17 DECEMBER 2009; CENTRE FOR THE URBAN BUILT ENVIRONMENT, MANCHESTER, UK

### CUBEOPEN 09

CUBE will be hosting its third open submission exhibition. This year's selection panel includes Leo Fitzmaurice, Sans

Facon, CUBE creative director, Jane Anderson and last year's CUBE Open winner, artist Andrea Booker. [www.cube.org.uk](http://www.cube.org.uk)



09 DECEMBER 2009 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2010; MUSEUM OF FINNISH ARCHITECTURE, FINLAND

### GERT WINGÅRDH

One of Sweden's most renowned architects, Wingårdh started his prac-

tice in Gothenburg in 1977. Most of his buildings have materialised in western Sweden, but some have been built in various parts of the world. The exhibition displays buildings reflecting the characteristics of the architect's prolific and wide-ranging output. In addition to buildings, the exhibition features Wingårdh's view of architecture. [www.mfa.fi](http://www.mfa.fi)