"Nobody who has followed the evolution of local architecture over the last decades can have failed to notice how depressingly ugly many of our buildings have begun to look, frequently to the point of repulsiveness. It is incomprehensible how certain designs go past the drawing board."

Peri Joseph M. Spiteri (see pages 14-17)
In this issue...

The late-1950s and 60s witnessed the advent of modern architecture in Malta. The vast construction program of schools and other public buildings provided the ideal opportunity for local architects to translate their modernist ideals into reality and to see concrete results. This issue of the ‘Architect’ pays tribute to Perit Joseph J. Spiteri who, in the course of his career, was an architect and educator, was at the fore front of this development of modern architecture in Malta, as well as contributing in many other areas of interest.

A feature in this issue highlights his artistic endeavours and the way he looked forward to seeing more of the coming years.

October is a hectic month as summer fades from our memory and everyone settles back into the school-work-routine. High summer, with its usual home-work-school routine. On the occasion of the World Architecture Day, which is celebrated internationally by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, the Kamra tal-Periti has once again organized an extensive program of events addressed at both practitioners as well as different segments of local society.

The events, under the umbrella title of “Time for Periti”, were well attended, and will certainly contribute to raise the profile of architecture amongst the general public. An overview of these events, together with other activities organized by the Kamra tal-Periti over the last few months, feature in this issue.

A staple feature in our journal is the People and Projects section, which provides a number of glimpses of news and information about various happenings in the architecture and civil engineering worlds, both locally and internationally. We welcome contributions to this section of the journal from all our readers, in particular to the Letters to the Editor section.

Another stimulating article in this issue is by Perit Edward Said who, following his recent well-attended public lecture, highlights the importance of the historic residence and former gardens of the Villa Fasano in Gzira. Against the backdrop of an architectural heritage which is high on our agenda.

Perit Dr Conrad Thake

Acting Editor

Periti Act

The Kamra tal-Periti is currently reviewing the proposed amendments to the Periti Act - Chapter 390 of the Laws of Malta. The Board is considering an amendment to the Kamra’s statute. Discussions are on-going with the profession and a draft of the proposed amendments will be discussed at the upcoming December AGM.

Vast developments on the Valletta entrance project, which we look forward to seeing more of in the coming years.

Perit Godwin Cassar after remaining active and socially-engaged in architecture and related visual arts. Perit Godwin Cassar after his retirement in January 2013, has recently been appointed a member of the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti for the year 2013.

Concerns and standpoints have also been voiced by Kamra members about the suitability of the proposed amendments to the Kamra’s statutes. Discussions are on-going with the profession.

A new Board of Profession Conduct has recently been constituted, the composition of which will be finalized during the next December AGM.

The Kamra tal-Periti’s Conferences on Building Regulations and EU Directives, the Property Market, professional development (CPD) and the registration/classification of architects are among the topics that are being discussed in the Kamra’s AGM.

As a means of raising the awareness of the importance of good design and quality in our built environment, the Kamra has also long-promoted the establishment of a Design Review Panel in the built environment (BEAC) for the better appreciation of built works, and will always pursue sustainable development in future years. The newly elected Board of the Kamra tal-Periti was able to endorse and ratified during the next AGM.

Design Review Panels and CABE

The Kamra has long-championed the introduction of Design Review Panels as a means of raising the awareness of the importance of good design and quality in our built environment. It is a true artist, at heart and in spirit. Although he may have appeared aloof at times, he possessed a humble and sensitive character which, when shared with his thoughts with us students, were always the most practical, previous lessons on humanity and values to cherish in life.

When I last visited him over a year ago, although in poor health, his mental faculties were undiminished and as keen as ever and he was still bent on the best developments on the Valletta entrance project. Many of us who are indebted for having had the privilege to benefit from his knowledge and values. We lovingly salute his memory, and his enduring legacy.

Perit Keith Cole during the December 2012 AGM Motions discussion.

A standing committee has been established to address the motions proposed by Perit Keith Cole and endorsed during the December 2012 AGM.

The Kamra tal-Periti is pleased to announce that it is well-represented on a number of boards and councils. Perit Philip Grech has also been re-elected as President of the Building Regulations and EU Directives, the Property Market, professional development (CPD) and the registration/classification of architects, as well as being a member of the Kamra’s AGM.

The Kamra has been recently requested to nominate a representative to the General Services Board. Similarly, a call for interest was issued to the profession and, in this issue, we went to print, the Council was in the process of receiving submissions for its consideration.

The Kamra tal-Periti is pleased to announce that the The Kamra tal-Periti has recently nominated two representatives for each working group and, as an administrative coordinator of the KTPI-BSCC sub-committee, Perit Amber Wismayer is collaborating with the KTPI. The Kamra tal-Periti has recently requested to nominate a representative to the General Services Board. Similarly, a call for interest was issued to the profession and, in this issue, we went to print, the Council was in the process of receiving submissions for its consideration.

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Standing Committee to address the October 2012 AGM Motions. A standing committee has been established to address the motions proposed by Perit Keith Cole and endorsed during the December 2012 AGM.

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A new Farsons Brewhouse, designed by Architecture Project. Photo by Tim Ellis.

**The BREWHOUSE: OUR CRAFT, OUR WAY**

Designed to become a carbon neutral, energy efficient and sustainably sourced building, the Farsons Brewhouse has been shortlisted in two categories at the World Architecture Festival in Singapore.

The new Farsons Brewhouse will be the third building designed by Architecture Project to be shortlisted for a World Architecture Festival (WAF) award, following the recent shortlistings for the Waitemata Deep Water Harbour in Auckland and the Māori Arts and Crafts Institute in New Zealand.

**A Simple Factory Building** designed by UNStudio, the Netherlands, won the RIBA Stirling Prize 2013 and is one of the key highlights of the festival. The Brewhouse is a significant contribution to the architectural landscape of New Zealand, and exemplifies the high standard of design achieved in the country.

**The Barrakka Lift** is a major public project aimed at increasing accessibility to the capital city of Valletta, Malta. It is a major contribution to the city's urban design and is expected to have a significant impact on the city's tourism and economic development.

**Valletta: the capital city of Malta**

The city of Valletta is being given a new lease of life as the island prepares to celebrate its 900th anniversary. The Barrakka Lift, one of the projects aimed at improving accessibility, is a major contribution to the city's urban design and is expected to have a significant impact on the city's tourism and economic development.

**New Farsons Brewhouse, designed by Architecture Project. Photo by Tim Ellis.**
REASONABLE DREAMS VALLETTA FROM RENAISSANCE TO RENZO PIANO

Reasonable Dreams represents the identification of an architectural firm with the visions and educational and cultural potential of Valletta, and their exploration of the urban and architectural projects in Valletta. Concerned with the Architectural Project, the exhibition is a thoughtful journey through the city’s transformations, linking past and present across around three main axes: historical, economic, modernist and realist dreams, and the fragmented understanding of the time-space through artistic dreams. Changes to the urban fabric of Valletta as a capital city are woven through with ongoing and planned novel and realised projects that have contributed to the transformation of Valletta from its Renaissance beginnings to its modernity. The exhibition will cover through projects such as the on-going City Gate proj ect by Zyher Building Workshop, the Castille Gate by AP, the Barrakka Lift by AP. The RIBA Award of Excellence for his thesis work. For more information visit www.architecture.com.

ANNE BEECH

From 2000 to 2006, he worked for Saucier + Perrotte architects on a number of significant projects. In 2006, he co-founded ACDF Architecture, which is now considered one of 150 professional practices in Canada. Since its creation, he has worked on projects throughout Canada, in the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, and Indonesia. His design approach is based on the precise understanding of the user’s needs. The spaces he is responsible for and the breadth of work achieved by his young architecture firm. Since its creation, he has worked on projects throughout Canada, Towards a new Field Guide to Canadian Architecture: An Architect for his thesis work within his studio and at the University of Montreal.

KUBOTER PRIZE 2013

Lyric Gabrielle David and the team of Architects and Wilkinson Eyre Architects, their award-winning Gateshead Millennium Bridge, an engineering and architectural triumph. Wilkinson Eyre Architects.

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LUBOTER PRIZE 2013

HUTCHISON & GABBAY ARCHITECTS

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The Architectural Review

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) recently published the results of its third biennial survey of architecture in Europe. The survey covers 95% of the profession in Europe, substantially up from the 35% and 84% in 2010.

The survey report is split into four main sections: the Architects’ Council of Europe, architecture in Europe, 2012 and the last section, titled ‘Architecture: the Market’.

The total value of the European construction market, calculated on the basis of the countries covered in the survey, came to €1,657 billion for 2012. This is the largest output per head in 2011 is in Denmark, Italy and Malta. Interior design is the dominant service provided by architects in the fields of architecture and civil engineering, rather than just architecture as it is the case in many other European countries.

The single most important client group for architects is individual clients, accounting for 45% of clients. The proportion is highest in Greece, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Luxembourg, each capturing 10% of the market for the first time. The second most important source of work is found in Lithuania and Portugal.

The highest output per head in 2012 is in Lithuania and Portugal. Education accounts for more than 10% of the market in Denmark and Germany, while Residential work has the highest share in Sweden and private housing is highest in Bulgaria and residential work is found in Lithuania and Portugal.

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Many people, especially those who would have led an active and intense professional life, view retirement as daunting, and wonder how they will pass their time away once their days begin to belong mostly to themselves. Some continue to be active in professional spheres, others focus on their family, while others decide to make the most of their free days by taking up a hobby or two.

Gudrun-Casar falls into the latter category; after an intense career as an Architect & Civil Engineer, as well as a planner upon retirement from his post as Director General of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority in January 2000 he first published “Planning Matters”, a compilation of technical articles and essays concerning planning issues. Following this, he took up art as a hobby. “I took a short summer course on drawing in pencil, doing portraits and preparing bird profiles in ink and coloured pencils, and everything developed from there,” he explains. “Watercolour is a fantastic medium which can produce a very unpredictable final result.”

Here, the Architect takes a closer look at Casar’s paintings and delves into those aspects of his hobby which give him the most satisfaction, as well as what inspires him most.

Your paintings exude a sense of calm, restfulness and romanticism. Do you think this reflects mainly your character, or your frame of mind at this stage in your life? Or maybe both?

Well, this is how the art curator of the current solo exhibition described me and I think he was accurate in his analysis of my character. I do tend to be calm and reflective but sometimes I could build up an inner tension because I rarely share my frustrations. Painting in watercolour requires inner tension because I rarely share my frustrations but sometimes I could build up an inner tension because I rarely share my frustrations, and everything developed from there,” he explains. “Watercolour is a fantastic medium which can produce a very unpredictable final result.”

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Do you think that your professional career as an architect and planner influences your paintings? Does your technical eye assist you to discover beauty in your surroundings, and transfer it onto canvas?

As you go through the exhibits you will notice a subtle development over time in technique, the more recent works being more notice a subtle development over time in technique, the more recent works being more subtle. I got a lot of positive feedback mainly from tourists particularly appreciating the use of colour, perspective and interpretations of local scenes. I am glad that after this exhibition my works will be embellishing homes in Malta, Sweden, Belgium, London, Germany, America and Japan.

What is next in the pipeline? Do you plan to continue to focus on your paintings?

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The exhibition is called “Impressions”. Why did you choose this title?

As you go through the exhibits you will notice a subtle development over time in technique, the more recent works being less detailed. “Impressions” tends to define better what I am trying to achieve in my own style – impressions of various scenes leaving the viewer enough room to fill in the details in his mind rather than producing a ‘photographic’ reproduction of the scene. What is next in the pipeline? Do you plan to continue to focus on your paintings?

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TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH M. SPITERI

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH M. SPITERI, (1934-2013)

Qawra Point, the new town at Santa Lucija, and, most of all, his villa, at Ta’ Xbiex. He was a builder, not only of buildings, but of communications, and was a watercolourist. His passionate concern with the built environment, which he incessantly worked to develop area, be it residential or other – whatever the rash assault on the landscape, not to mention the despoliation of landscape; and (4) proliferation of wastage of land; (2) amount of sprawl; (3) local architecture over the last decades can

criticism of the Modern Movement, and ugliness seen associated with extreme care, at once dramatic and

to ask them, let alone to find comfort in your
doors. "(3)

Mordant Crook. “In the battle between the

Façade? Do these steps descend too steeply,

the roots for modernist theory. It is there-

"the state of the environment", and his heartfelt “j’accuse”, remain completely applicable to

Protestive drawing of proposed new Courts in Valletta, showing front elevation on Kings Way (Republic Street)

Visual literacy

By Perit Joseph M. Spiteri, 1991

Walking in many of the streets in a recently developed area, be it residential or other, one is likely to see that the visual environment is of such a degree, and carried out with such a lack of urban

The defenders of the Classical and the Gothic, both soloquy and atmosphere, does nothing more in a building than its public appearance. To buildings, both and pinnacles are the essence of archite-

He placed, in one of a lecture series at the Tate, that "the architect has to face up to the

In a lecture delivered in 1957, John

Calling for a building was right or wrong.

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Appreciation

by PERI ANDRE’ ZAMMIT

When the celebrant at the Carmelite church of Balbia announced the death of architect Joseph Spinelli, I instinctively thought of Christopher Wren’s memorial tablet at St. Paul’s cathedral in London: “If monuments could speak, what would they say about us?” For the Carmelite church’s celebrant is probably not its most iconic and memorable work (it was very well designed and executed). But you have to imagine it standing there beside the pavement in front of the “Great Store of Groceries” of our merchants. The church is not a statue or a sculpture, but a living organism, a structure which has been reproduced by courtesy of his son Stephen C. Spiteri.

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October 2013

The tie that bind architecture and culture together is a subject of considerable interest and discussion, probably because both are subject to rapid and often tumultuous change. This year’s International Union of Architects (UIA) ‘Time for Architecture’ as the theme for the 2013 World Architecture Day, which all in all, the 7 October World Architecture Day is celebrated every first October since 1983, the UIA hoped to generate a wellspring of interpretations and illustrations of architects’ insights, innovations, imagination, and capacities for invention through their designs and their use of space.

World Architecture Day is celebrated every year, concurrently with World Habitat Day, which is organised by UN-Habitat. The theme chosen for the year’s World Habitat Day was “Urban Mobility.” The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the challenges which impact the quality of our urban environments. Is it too late? for this year’s events, focusing on housing and the urban environment in which we live. How does design quality impact the urban environment? What is its value in a context of a historic built environment and allows us to remember it and its history? The events provided an opportunity for architects and town planners to reflect on the roles of architecture, the urban environment and the value of our historic environment in which we live.

Stephen Gleave then took over the floor and delved into a number of thought provoking issues focused around the theme of what makes a city? What makes a great place? How do we define it? Unlike many other fields of design, does architecture have a great impact improving the cities in which we live? By exploring a diverse range of urban design projects around the world, Urbanised a global discussion on the future of cities. “Urbanised” is the third part of Gary Hustwit’s design film trilogy, joining “Helvetica” and “Objectified. ”

The events came to an end on Friday, 11 October, with a debate on the issues under consideration. The Maltese architectural journal went to print a couple of days before the cemetery complex. There are many contributors to urban design, architects, policymakers, builders, and thinkers. Over half the world’s population now lives in the urban and suburban built environment as the need for quality in our built environment is rising. The Kamra tal-Periti had so much of the dialogue on these issues is diverse. The Maltese language, who was buried here as an is here to remind the world that we all have a responsibility to shape the future of our cities. This year the International Union of Architects (UIA) chose “Culture-Architecture” as the theme for the 2013 World Architecture Day.

Architecture Day is celebrated every first October since 1983, the UIA hoped to generate a wellspring of interpretations and illustrations of architects’ insights, innovations, imagination, and capacities for invention through their designs and their use of space. We will appreciate the fine Auberge stone carvings and the decorative engravings on the property door and main façade of such Luft family homes. This is a fine example of a neo-Ottoman/Arabian representative of Islam and the Orient in a historic centre of a British island-colony.

On Wednesday, 9 October, renowned plan- ner and urban designer Stephen Glavan, who is chairman of BLT Planning, gave a talk titled “Making better places – buildings and space”[1] this event, which attracted a 100- to 120-seater audience, delved into a number of issues. REPA Chairman Pietro Vincei gave an introductory speech wherein he questioned whether, as a country, we are managing to achieve quality in our built environment as the Kamra tal-Periti has so strongly advocated in its seminal publication The Urban Challenge. He urged the Kamra to continue to issue public statements, and to organise events and CPDs with the aim of sensitising both the public and the general public. Stephen Glavan gave an introductory speech wherein he questioned whether, as a country, we are managing to achieve quality in our built environment as the Kamra tal-Periti has so strongly advocated in its seminal publication The Urban Challenge. He urged the Kamra to continue to issue public statements, and to organise events and CPDs with the aim of sensitising both the public and the general public. The events, which took place at the Fortifications Interpretation Centre in Valletta, kicked off on the 3 October with a children’s workshop in the morning. The City of the Future, which is a discussion about how our cities are in which they sit. On Thursday, 10 October, the Kamra screened the Gary Hustwit film “Urbanised”, a feature-length documentary about the design of cities, which looks at the issues and strategies behind urban design and features some of the world’s foremost architects, planners, policymakers, builders, and thinkers. Over half the world’s population now lives in the urban and suburban built environment as the need for quality in our built environment is rising. The Kamra tal-Periti had so much of the dialogue on these issues is diverse. The Maltese language, who was buried here as an is here to remind the world that we all have a responsibility to shape the future of our cities. This year the International Union of Architects (UIA) chose “Culture-Architecture” as the theme for the 2013 World Architecture Day.

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Saving Villa Frere: a National Must

By PERIT EDWARD SAID

Readers who are or were students of architecture will surely recall the final Gambier pattern designed by Edward Price, loosely attributed to the style's local pioneer. The subnet was favourably by both Knight and English gentlemen as a quiet, wholesome seaside retreat, away from the bustle of Valletta. It was a Dutch Tulip Garden and even a Maltese woodland scene which they visualised may trees will not be hurried, and the magnificent public awareness the Friends of Villa Frere aim to highlight the property's qualities which historic gardens, unpublished Masters degree thesis for the University of Bath, 2012.

A general view of the garden on the other and other/architectural elements of Villa Frere stand today 20 (the helicopter pad heads the list!). Through what a site this once was. Indeed, Hookham Frere and lamented the pitiful condition which the State-owned property had suffered chronically from old age and vandalisms. A landlord in his home. Daunting to say the least. Of the once sprawling 1833 and subsequently developed. For over a century, the grounds, clearly inspired by the English landscape garden movement which Frere was so familiar with, were the most admired in the Maltese Islands and even overseas. At the end of the 19th century, Edward Price, who followed Frere by investing more blokok. If approved, then Villa Frere's future will be a Dutch Tulip Garden and even a Maltese woodland scene which they visualised may trees will not be hurried, and the magnificent public awareness the Friends of Villa Frere aim to highlight the property's qualities which historic gardens, unpublished Masters degree thesis for the University of Bath, 2012.

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Villa Frere was conceived in 1833 and subsequently developed. For over a century, the grounds, clearly inspired by the English landscape garden movement which Frere was so familiar with, were the most admired in the Maltese Islands and even overseas. At the end of the 19th century, Edward Price, who followed Frere by investing...
Solar Energy

Today, one can safely state that the age of alternative technologies and renewable energy is truly with us. Infinite sources of energy like the sun and the sea, can be considered as renewable and these resources have been used for many years. However the fact that the cost of electrical energy from solar and wind energy was more expensive than that from conventional power stations was never really appealing. As is the case in the Maltese Islands, still consider that we are in the infancy in Malta where it comes to Solar energy, and that we need to do much more to be able to tap into the one resource of which we are blessed with all year round. This is solar energy.

Thermal Solar

Alternative Technologies Ltd are local distributors and installers of Chromagen Solar Water heaters from Israel, a market leader in the field. In Israel solar water heaters have been used since the early sixties. Every household, by law, needs to install a solar water heater. And the fact that they live in high rise buildings is not an excuse not to install. The Thermal Solar Forced Loop system can easily be used in high rise buildings if it is already integrated in the design of the building. In this way one can either have a centralised hot water system which can then provide hot water using separate individual meters to the various apartments. Else one can even have each individual apartment with its own hot water tank. This is illustrated in the figures attached. In this manner, the various tanks in the same building, can even have each individual apartment meters to the various apartments. Else one can even have each individual apartment with its own hot water tank. This is illustrated in the figures attached. In this manner, the various tanks in the same building, can even have each individual apartment with its own hot water tank.

The same concept of building integration has quite a few advantages when it comes to the hot water needs. Needless to say this will also be of significant freedom in designing architecturally. The architect should be encouraged and with high efficiency modules, like our SunPower modules, one can generate a decent amount of energy even from a small roof space. Sunpower modules hold the world record for efficiency, provide the most energy production per sq m and have the best warranty. SunPower PV panels have:

- Superior Light Capture
- Broader spectral response
- Better low light performance
- Higher Performance at Higher Temperatures
- Lower temperature coefficients than conventional crystalline
- No Light Induced Degradation (LID)
- SunPower cells does not suffer a initial 0-0.5% degradation when first exposed to sunlight
- Higher Lifetime Yield/Badges show that crystalline modules degrade less year to year than the thin film.

The Thermal Solar Forced Loop system can be operated with a conventional boiler, or if it is already integrated in the design of the building, with its own hot water tank. This is illustrated in the figures attached. In this manner, the various tanks in the same building, can even have each individual apartment with its own hot water tank. This is illustrated in the figures attached. In this manner, the various tanks in the same building, can even have each individual apartment with its own hot water tank.