Architectural drainage systems for all surfaces

Wet surfaces discourage people from exploring and enjoying new spaces. Modern structures place special demands on architects and engineers to ensure their creations are accessible for everyone, and soaking wet walkways are an obstacle that must be avoided.

Bonnici Group, in partnership with HAURATON, offer project managers 60 years' experience in developing custom surface drainage solutions for commercial, landscaping, and specialised use. Our technicians work alongside you from the planning phase through to the delivery and installation of drainage products that fulfil both functional and design needs.
Civil Engineers must now apply their knowledge to also find durable ways of providing social welfare consistent with respect to the natural environment.

Extract from the Madrid Declaration (see page 10)
Design Quality

This issue of ‘The Architect’ is bringing with it various articles that are designed to draw the readers’ attention. The main piece consists of a review of the new Planning Act and the Planning Authority, which is published on a quarterly basis and distributed with the MaltaToday newspaper. The Architect is not to be sold separately.

The Architect is the official journal of the Kamra Tal-Periti. It is published on a quarterly basis and distributed with the MaltaToday newspaper. The Architect is not to be sold separately.

To support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their profession, which is to propose regulation of the sector, is incapsulated within it.

Earlier this year, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Economic and Competitiveness, Dr. José Vickers, published the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Kamra tal-Periti, which was held last January at the Xara Lodge. During the AGM, a new Council was announced, with Periti Stephen Cassar from the post of Vice-President being elected President. The new President was elected at Vice-President for the remaining term, that is until the end of December. The term of Perit Damien Xuereb, who was elected at Vice-President from the incumbent Perit Chris Mintoff, ended on 30 June 2015.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Kamra tal-Periti has requested a new Council to be nominated on the jury, which is to propose regulation of the secto...

It noted that, had it been approached as outlined above, which was also covered in the minutes of the Integrated Design Team, is specified in the context of the design of their centres.

In addition, the Architect's consultative role during the preparation of the Contest documents may completely throw off the original set of regulations, seeking clarity may completely throw off the original set of regulations, documents and original set.

For these reasons, the Kamra Tal-Periti submitted two nominations for representation on the jur...
PEOPLE & PROJECTS

Innovative and inspiring, he shows how architecture at its best can improve people’s lives. “

Alejandro Aravena, architect who deepens our understanding of what is truly great design. Alejandro Aravena of Chile has been the architect that, as the jury visited Aravena’s projects, waswhelmed by the work of Alejandro Aravena. They understood that his is an innovative way of creating great architecture, with the best yet to come. Referring John Keats poem “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”, Lord Palumbo said, “Stout Cortez stared at the Pacific with eagle eyes, whilst the Pizarro jury felt some weather of the idea when a new planet seems fit for him. And although not silent upon a peak in Dares, they looked as each other with a widening, captivated, staring and unavailing gaze that the universe would be made over, and the presence of a golden future.”

Tom Pritzker, Chairman and President of the St. Regis Hotels and Resorts and the fourth from Latin America, after Luis Barragán of Mexico, Rem Koolhaas of the Netherlands, and the first Pritzker Laureate from Chile, Alejandro Aravena, has been announced as the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate.

Aravena has completed remarkable building projects at the esteemed Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, including the UC Innovation Center – Anacleto Angelini de Chile in Santiago, including the UC Innovation Center – Anacleto Angelini (2014), the Sanatorio Tovar (2005), Medical School (2004), School of Architecture (2004), and the School of Engineering (1998). These energy-efficient buildings respond to the local climate with innovative, efficient facades and floor plans and offer the users natural light and convivial meeting places. Currently under construction in Shanghai, China, is an office building for healthcare company Novartis, with office spaces designed to accommodate different modes of work — individual, collective, formal and informal. In the United States, Aravena has built Skid-Steer University Domes (2008) in Austin, Texas.

Since 2001, Aravena has been executive director of the Santiago-based ELEMENTAL, “a Tic Tac” as opposed to a Tic Tac pawn, whose partners are Gonzalo Arteaga, Juan Cerda, Victor Oddo, and Diego Torre. ELEMENTAL focuses on projects of public interest and social impact, including housing, public space, infrastructure, and transportation. ELEMENTAL has designed more than 350,000 square feet of social housing. A hallmark of the firm is a participatory design process, in which the architects work closely with the public and end users.

Aravena is also known for designing social housing that they call “half of a good house” in which the design leaves space for the residents to complete their houses themselves and thus raise themselves up to a middle-class standard of living. This innovative approach, called “incremental housing,” allows for social housing to be less expensive land closer to economic opportunity and greater sense of accomplishment and personal involvement. Alejandro Aravena is the Director of the Venice Architecture Biennale 2016, titled “Reporting from the Front,” set to open in Venice Architecture Biennale 2016, titled “Reporting from the Front,” set to open in April 2016. The theme of the Venice Biennale is “Reporting from the Front,” set to open in April 2016.

NEWCAA PRESIDENT

At a ceremony held at Lahore, Pakistan on the 4th March 2016, Port Vincente Causar took over as the new President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) for the period 2016-2019. The following a period of three years (2013-2016) as Senior Vice-President of the same Association to which post he was elected in 2013. Port Causar succeeded Architect Rubenodilares de Sri Lanka who served as President from 2013-2016, and who will now sit on the CAA Council as the Immediate Past President.

The CAA, which had its first meeting in Malta in 1965 and then changed its 50th anniversary last year, is made up of organizations that represent the body of architects in Member Countries of the Commonwealth. The local CAA of Sri Lanka, of which Port Causar is also a former President, is a full member of the CAA. Port Causar has also just been appointed Chairman of the newly established Planning Authority, after having served as Chairman of the now defunct Malta Environment and Planning Authority since April 2014.

At the CAA held its last Council meeting for the period 2013-2016 and the following a period of three years (2013-2016) as Senior Vice-President of the same Association to which post he was elected in 2013. Port Causar succeeded Architect Rubenodilares de Sri Lanka who served as President from 2013-2016, and who will now sit on the CAA Council as the Immediate Past President.

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They have undertaken a definition of architect to include researcher, inventor, form-finder, engineer, builder, teacher, collaborator, environmentalist, humanist, and creator of memorable buildings and spaces,” the CAA said in a statement. The CAA recognized the joint recipients, viz, Pervaiz Vandal and Saadia Hudai Vandal towards the development of the profession, through their lifelong and dedicated teaching and training of young architects spanning two generations, through their design practice and also through their research and scholarship having authored several books, research papers, reports and articles. The CAA presented the 2016 Robert Matthew Award to the ‘Yeoman fellowship’ visionary ideas, inquiring mind, boldly in search of knowledge and uninterest in the ‘collaborative spirit and concern for the collective use of resources’.

The other joint recipient, Grimshaw Architects, place particular importance in developing and enhancing the sense of belonging that their projects inspire. They have a strong commitment to environmental excellence and their innovative use of materials use, many deeply connected to a region’s heritage, the use of space and light, particularly with which filters into spaces, transparency and mass, interplay of materials that are warm, engaging and intimate, caught the attention of the jury. While their projects are sophisticated, their architecture is accessible, participatory and tangible. Grimshaw has also created knowledge. Their contributions to the field of architecture are not only skilled and talented, but also beautiful.

This Award (commemorates CAA) first President Sir Robert Matthew and recognizes an individual, or a group of architects, or an institution for an outstanding contribution to architecture, in the Commonwealth context. The award is made to architects or architectural offices making the most outstanding contribution, having particular relevance to the country or region in which they operate.

LA BERNINI DE VENEZIA 2016 INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

The 15th International Architecture Exhibition will take place between the 26 May and the 27 November 2016 at the Giardini and Arsenale in Venice. The Board of Directors of the Biennale di Venezia, chaired by Paolo Baratta, appointed Alejandro Aravena as the Commissioner of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition, to be held from 26 May to 27 November 2016.

The theme of the 15th Venice Biennale is “Reporting from the Front,” set to open in April 2016.

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consequently people’s quality of life. This is why we need to find new ways of thinking architecture, to build a new relationship between architecture and people, and to create a new vision of architecture that is more relevant to the needs of society.

The project is supported by the Malta Arts Fund, the European Commission, and the City of Valletta.

CHARLES KNIVETT (1952–2016)

Journalist, author, playwright, critic, broadcaster and former director of the British Council. Charles Knivett was appointed as director of the British Council in Malta in 1979 and worked there until 1987. He then became a partner of the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, taught at the AA until 1987. Since then she held the Kenzo Tange Chair at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, the Tange Chair at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, Seattle University of Applied Arts and Sciences, and led works, the MAXXI in Rome, and in 2011 running, in 2010 for one of her most celebrated projects, the Millennium Dome, the Vilnius Guggenheim Museum, the acclaimed Rosenthal Centre for Contemporary Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria and was the University of Applied Arts, Vienna. In the permanent debate about the quality of the built environment, there is not much to choose between architects.

On his part, the President of the Biennale, Paolo Baratta stated, “After the important experimental framework developed by Rem Koolhaas, dedicated entirely to the curator’s award 2017 is a crucial test of our ability to keep this agreement going.

Fabius, President of the COP 21 and current President of the COP 22
to the upper echelons of the profession.

Letters to the Editor

Letters from our readers to be considered for publication are most welcome. Letters for inclusion in Issue 72 are

sustainability

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE JARGON

and what’s going on

Ratification of the Paris Agreement

A historic agreement to combat cli-
mate change and unwind actions

that harm the environment, de- 
veloping countries, and the planet’s

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Civil Engineers committed to UN Objective on Sustainable Development and Climate Action – Madrid Declaration

On the occasion of the celebration in Madrid of the 7th General Assembly of the Council of Civil Engineers (WCCe) and other regional assemblies and associations of Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries (ICCEP), the European Council of Civil Engineers and other events organised by the World Council of Civil Engineers (eCCe) and other associations, these organisations signed what has been termed the Madrid Declaration in March 2016.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM THE DECLARATION:

We, civil engineers set our collective role to:

• Foster links between the civil engineers and the architectural, engineering, construction and environmental sciences.

Civil engineers have clearly defined responsibilities: planners, designers, builders and managers of society, and technology, and providers of high standards of services to promote the common good.

Civil engineers and the proper and efficient use of their resources: innovation and integration of ideas and technologies in the public, private and academic sectors.

Civil engineers as administrators of natural events, accidents and other threats.

Civil engineers bring incredible benefits to the society, namely the truth environment.

Civil engineers offer the community and the professional and efficient use of its resources.

Civil engineers are the promoters of sustainable development and climate change.

Civil engineers are the promoters of sustainable development, taking into account the social and economical impacts.

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XI EDITION OF THE DIN L-ART HELWA AWARDS FOR ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

In November 2015, Din l-Art Ħelwa announced the winners of the eleventh edition of the Awards for Architectural Heritage, organized with the support of the Kamux tal-Ferti. The Awards are presented annually for built projects which, in the opinion of the Judging Panel, make an outstanding and significant contribution to architectural excellence in the Maltese context. This year, the Awards were presented by Professor Richard England, and the Awards Ceremony was attended by a suitable audience which included a delegation of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAAA) who were in Malta attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at the time. The 2015 edition of these Awards was also significant in that it took place during the year in which Din l-Art Ħelwa marked its fiftieth anniversary.

The panel of judges for the XI Awards consisted of Prof Conrad Thake, an architect, planner and architectural historian, representing the Kamux tal-Ferti; Dr. Antonio Mifsud, architect and senior lecturer at the University of Malta; and Joanna Spiteri Staines, architect and Din l-Art Ħelwa Council Member. Maria Grazia Cassar, executive president of Din l-Art Ħelwa; was the chairperson of the Award Scheme panel of judges. The Award Scheme comprises three Categories, namely Category A for Major Regeneration Projects, Category B for Rehabilitation of Re-use of Buildings, and Category C for Restoration and Conservation Projects. The Editorial Team of “the Architect” reviewed the entries and the winning projects.

CATEGORY A: MAJOR REGENERATION PROJECTS

Category A for Major Regeneration Projects considers projects which have brought about a significant impact in improving the quality of the urban environment. This category is intended for medium to large-scale projects which have influenced a positive way the urban fabric of an old town or city and have added tangible benefits to the local community. There were two entries in this Category. One was the Fort St. Elmo Regeneration Project by DeMicoli and Associates, described by the Jury Chairperson as “an ambitious undertaking, of considerable scale, and sensitivity. Some have described the fort complex as ‘a city within a city’ which had been under-utilised for many years, as the Police Academy and as government stores for various materiel.” The project included the preparation of a comprehensive master plan, which identified the various historical structures dating from the Knights’ period, the British period interventions and other physical changes dating to the more recent past. The plan outlined a strategy that called for a viable conservation and professional restoration of the upper levels of the fort. The aim of the regeneration of this fort was to permit access to the general public, through the construction of a walkway, called ‘NEPTUME’, intended for the irrigation of the surrounding vegetation and the maintenance of a wastewater filtering system, as well as integrating a visitor trail centred around the War Museum. Since its restoration, the main parade ground within the fort has already hosted many concerts and public activities and it has also recently served as a media centre during the Valletta Summit.

The other entry in Category A was the Dock No. 1 Regeneration Project, The regained access to Dockyard Creek now utilizes the residential quarters of the Three Cities through a continuous two-and-a-half kilometres long promenade, linking the Senglea and Vittoriosa waterfronts with gardens and public open spaces, while showcasing the industrial heritage of the dockyard. The project included the reconditioning of historic water reservoirs from the Knights’ and British period, as well as the development of a wastewater filtering system, called ‘NEPTUME’, intended for the irrigation of the surrounding vegetation and landscape. This system was the result of a research project carried out in collaboration between Architecture Project, the Biology Department at the University of Malta, Argotti Botanical Gardens and the Water Services Corporation. The dry dock itself as designed by the British Admiralty architect, William Scamp was restored to become DeMicoli and Associates, for the St. Elmo Regeneration project.

The other entry in Category A was the Casa Ellul, Valletta, by Chris Briffa Architects and William Scamp was restored to become Casa Ellul, Valletta by CVA Architects Studio. The other entry in Category A was the Ursolino Valletta by CVC Architecture Studio.

Project Casa Ellul, Valletta, by Chris Briffa Architects and William Scamp was restored to become Casa Ellul, Valletta by CVC Architecture Studio.

In December 2015, the judging panel of the Awards for Architectural Heritage selected the winners of the eleventh edition of the Awards for Architectural Heritage. The Awards ceremony was attended by a suitable audience which included a delegation of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAAA) who were in Malta attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at the time. The 2015 edition of these Awards was also significant in that it took place during the year in which Din l-Art Ħelwa marked its fiftieth anniversary. The panel of judges for the XI Awards consisted of Prof Conrad Thake, an architect, planner and architectural historian, representing the Kamux tal-Ferti; Dr. Antonio Mifsud, architect and senior lecturer at the University of Malta; and Joanna Spiteri Staines, architect and Din l-Art Ħelwa Council Member. Maria Grazia Cassar, executive president of Din l-Art Ħelwa; was the chairperson of the Award Scheme panel of judges. The Award Scheme comprises three Categories, namely Category A for Major Regeneration Projects, Category B for Rehabilitation of Re-use of Buildings, and Category C for Restoration and Conservation Projects. The Editorial Team of “the Architect” reviewed the entries and the winning projects.

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The other entry in Category A was the Dock No. 1 Regeneration Project. The regained access to Dockyard Creek now utilizes the residential quarters of the Three Cities through a continuous two-and-a-half kilometres long promenade, linking the Senglea and Vittoriosa waterfronts with gardens and public open spaces, while showcasing the industrial heritage of the dockyard. The project included the reconditioning of historic water reservoirs from the Knights’ and British period, as well as the development of a wastewater filtering system, called ‘NEPTUME’, intended for the irrigation of the surrounding vegetation and landscape. This system was the result of a research project carried out in collaboration between Architecture Project, the Biology Department at the University of Malta, Argotti Botanical Gardens and the Water Services Corporation. The dry dock itself as designed by the British Admiralty architect, William Scamp was restored to become DeMicoli and Associates, for the St. Elmo Regeneration project.

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Project Casa Ellul, Valletta, by Chris Briffa Architects and William Scamp was restored to become Casa Ellul, Valletta by CVC Architecture Studio.
its original state, including the reinstatement of the dock head, and all services and utilities were re-laid and buried throughout, reclaiming unused public spaces. A new connecting bridge, spanning 45 metres over the creek, now serves as an entrance waiting room and restaurant area. A new connecting bridge, spanning 45 metres over the creek, now serves as an entrance waiting room and restaurant area.

And re-use of Buildings (Category B: Rehabilitation)

Project: Dock No. 1 Regeneration Project, for the Dock No. 1 Regeneration Project

CATEGORY B: REHABILITATION AND RE-USE OF BUILDINGS Category B consists of projects which have sought to rehabilitate historic buildings and also re-define their use. Projects in this Category are those which seek to re-adapt and re-utilize to the needs of contemporary society, while respecting the historical memory of that particular building or structure. These projects go beyond a strict definition of restoration to their original form and use, but would seek a positive synergy between the historic fabric and modern interventions. There were three entries in this year’s edition of the award scheme for this Category. One was the House of Four Winds, by DeMicoli and Associates, which saw the construction of a new office for Bank of Valletta’s Chairman and his team, on the site of a previous building located in the historic St. Michael’s Bastion, Valletta. This involved the integration of the remains of a gun-powder magazine within the project, and the reinstatement of part of the bastion parapet wall, which had been previously demolished. The new design was recessed away from the bastion edge, and allows for a line of vision from the street through the offices to the spectacular view of Fort Manoel. Another project, Valletta Waterfront, involved the rehabilitation of a traditional multi-storey Valletta waterfront townhouse and its use as an upmarket guesthouse. The young architects entrusted with the job, CYC Architecture Studio, used creative solutions to accommodate the new services and spaces required, and to reveal the original fabric of the building. The judges were particularly impressed by the screening of the lift shaft and the floating stairs leading to the breakfast bar, as well as the good quality detailing used throughout. And therefore awarded this project with a Diploma for the Rehabilitation and Re-use of Buildings.

Project: Dock 1, Cottonera, by Architecture Project

CATEGORIE C: RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS Category C for Restoration and Conservation Projects includes those projects which are intended to achieve comprehensive restoration and conservation of those buildings or projects which can be considered as historical monuments. These are usually of a site-specific nature and are part of the historical memory of that particular location. There were five restoration projects submitted in this Category, with labour-intensive conservation and restoration projects that make the news in the local media, and the noteworthy restoration projects that are often unnoticed or did not get sufficient recognition. In this respect, the local media has an obligation to highlight these projects and to raise public awareness. Unfortunately, many-a-time it is the conservation and restoration projects that make the news in the local media, and the noteworthy restoration projects are either relegated to a few minor lines or are totally overlooked. In this regard, the Jury felt that this project deserved a Diploma for the conservation and restoration of Villa Gorgiomen. The other intriguing conservation and restoration project submitted in this Category was carried out by Mamoan Local Council, which acknowledged the historical value in the disused Emergency Underground Flour Mills and Grain Silos at Gharb. Architect Edward Said and William Lewis oversaw the project which spanned the best part of four years, during which time all the underground chambers, and machinery housed within them were fully conserved and restored to working condition. The Flour Mills and Grain Silos, dating from 1957, are now a visitor attraction and an important part of Gozo’s industrial heritage. It was therefore decided to Award the Prix d’Honneur in Category C for a Conservation and Restoration Project to the Munar Local Council.

Silver Medal

The Din l-Art Ħelwa Silver Medal for 2015, signifying the overall winner in all the Categories was awarded, to the Dock No. 1 Regeneration, by Architecture Project. The Din l-Art Ħelwa Awards scheme is a regular fixture, and has over the years gained prestige, serving to highlight endeavours in safeguarding our architectural heritage which previously went unnoticed or did not get sufficient recognition. In this respect, the local media has an obligation, to highlight these projects and to raise public awareness. Unfortunately, many-a-time it is the conservation or special projects that make the news in the local media, and the noteworthy restoration projects are either relegated to a few minor lines or are totally overlooked.
Roger de Giorgio

APPRÉCIATION PAR PERIT ANDRÉ ZAMMIT

I first met Roger in October 1945 when, with some forty odd others, I joined the first post-war course in Engineering and Architecture at the then Royal University of Malta. Roger, with seven others, was the first third-year student enrolled. As President of the RUM Arch SS (Royal University of Malta) Arch Students’ Society, he welcomed us to the university and told us what our profession was about. I was very impressed by his personality.

He graduated in 1946 and two years later entered into a partnership with that other great gentleman Arthur S. Mortimer. The Mortimer and De Giorgio partnership became Mortimer, Degiorgio & Partners in 1965 with the acquisition of the architectural practice of Roger’s former colleague, Mr. V. De Pace. I had the honour to be one. With a full-time staff of only five (as it was the largest of the architectural practices at the time), we had fifty members of the profession which were to one day find the time to research and bring forward the achievements of so many of their other creations which I hope will be more in keeping with the minimalist metaphor. One of his lesser known designs was both elegant and De Giorgio, a hallmark of Mortimer and De Giorgio, gives an abstract sculptural presence to the exteriors.

Roger de Giorgio was Chairman of the Board of the Royal University of Malta. Where Roger was a senior member of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Roger de Giorgio was Chairman of the Board of the Royal University of Malta. Roger had arranged an interview with Chev. Roger De Giorgio at his home in Madliena. His son Roger had arranged an interview with Chev. Roger De Giorgio at his home in Madliena. His son Roger had arranged an interview with Chev. Roger De Giorgio at his home in Madliena. His son, Roger de Giorgio, in his recently published Maltese architectural heritage. One of his lesser known designs, on a smaller scale, is a closed balustrade, an important part of Lino’s design. Fairly recently it had patinated and the trees have matured one afternoon when shadows play on the honey-coloured stone, giving an abstract sculptural presence to the exteriors.

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CARMEL (Lino) Gatt

APPRÉCIATION PAR PERIT ANTHONY STIVALA

When contributing to the heritage section of the “Archi” magazine, Carmel Gatt intended to write a piece on the University of Malta. After some enquiries managed to line up Carmel Gatt’s (contact details in Carmel Gatt’s interview with me in September 2011). Almost immediately Carmel asked about the state of the extension and whether the accompanying buildings and sites around it were well taken care of. After measuring it, he concluded that it was probably too big for the site to be given a unique police station with its original, early twentieth-century design. The building is still in use as an office block, but the courtyard has been converted into a small chapel with a simple cross proposed by Mortimer and De Giorgio, giving an overall result was monumental. The main nave angled like louvres or stage wings allowing light to penetrate. The combination of material and rusticated stonework, a hallmark of Mortimer and De Giorgio, gives an abstract sculptural presence to the exteriors.

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CARMEL GATT - ST THOMAS MORE CHURCH, UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, TAL-GRQIQ

AND JANE joined a day Carmel Gatt’s community. Both Carmel and Jane became deeply involved. Carmel was always loyal to his Church and the Carmelite community helped him and Jane to get closer to God. I pray that God is still in use as an office block, but the courtyard has been converted into a small chapel with a simple cross proposed by Mortimer and De Giorgio, giving an overall result was monumental. The main nave angled like louvres or stage wings allowing light to penetrate. The combination of material and rusticated stonework, a hallmark of Mortimer and De Giorgio, gives an abstract sculptural presence to the exteriors.

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FUTURE
& WORKSPACE

The Future Workspace

The Dex Workspaces & Vitra Curiosity Conference took place on the 17 February 2016 in the Borg Palace Hotel, & attracted close to 500 participants. The keynote speaker at this event was Raphael Gielgen, Head of Research and Trendscouting, who gave a very inspiring talk on his vision for the workspace in the digital world.

Challenging the status quo in the field is an important first step – what will remain of the analog world? What is the purpose of an office? How does one carry out business in the age of uncertainty of markets? How will jobs change?

These are but some of the questions that Gielgen posed to the audience, and attempted to answer. All countries are redefining their boundaries in the context of the digital world, and in all of these new jobs are primarily driven by creativity and innovation. Digitisation allows for increased permeability and can serve as a catalyst for employees to get together, solve the puzzle and discuss everything and anything. Autodesk, for example, have taken this idea on board, opening up their workshop space to external artists who can utilize their space and equipment to explore their ideas.

The discussion that ensued following Gielgen’s presentation delved into the importance of understanding how Malta is transcending its cultural today. One participant put forward the opinion that Maltese society are now in a place where new jobs are emerging, and it is paramount that businesses are ready to reorganise and acknowledge the wellbeing of their employees. It is also important that businesses react to the more purpose-driven approach of today’s employees and markets. The fear of the past was efficiency, the fuel of the past is creativity, the fuel of the future is the creation of a culture of curiosity. Notwithstanding this, it is also imperative that trend setting is noted in the past, since history provides the basis for the future.

During the event, Gielgen floated the idea of “artists in residence”, advocating that each office should have a “garage” or “workshop”, where employees can not only develop and enhance their creative talents. Smaller companies can be the more flexible and adaptable in this sense – all it takes is a table, a couple of chairs and a jigsaw puzzle, which can serve as a catalyst for employees to get together, solve the puzzle and discuss everything and anything. Artists, for example, can take this idea on board, opening up their workshop space to external artists who can utilize their space and equipment to explore their ideas.

The event also provided an opportunity to interact with a variety of speakers on the future of work, architecture and the workplace.

In such a case, the property that lies at the lower level must receive such waters and materials as flow or fall naturally from the property at the higher level without the agency of man (1). The owner of the property situated at the higher level cannot do anything to render the said obligation more burdensome and neither can the owner of the lower level do anything to prevent such a flow or fall. Our Courts have interpreted this provision of law in the following manner:

1. The easement must be limited to natural flows and cannot be extended to include flows which are resultant from human intervention. As such the flow of water is not a nuisance.

2. The easement also includes natural flows, which are created out of necessity and cannot be extended to include flows which are resultant from human intervention. As such the flow of water is not a nuisance.

3. The properties need not both be privately owned, but one of the properties may also be a public tenement.

4. The owner of the higher level tenement may carry out any interventions, provided that these interventions have not sensibly aggrivated the said easement (4).

5. The right to a lower level tenement is a right to receive water and it is not a right to be free from noise, dust etc. (6).

6. The right to a lower lying tenement receives water and materials as flow or fall naturally from the property at the higher level without the agency of man (1).

7. The use of a dividing wall for common use is a nuisance (7).

8. The dividing wall should be repaired at joint expense (8). Our Courts have held that if the owner of the lower tenement uses the said dividing wall, such use will be, reconstruct the said wall and not just to contribute for the necessary expenses (9).
The first few months of 2016 saw the coming into force of the much-vaunted and much-criticised MEPA demerger, which resulted in the division of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) into two new Authorities, namely the Environment and Resources Authority (ERMA) and the Planning Authority (PA). Indeed the role of the MEPA was a consensus of the officials charged with these responsibilities as long as both branches maintained the same level of decision-making power within the process. However, as details of the split began to emerge, many of the proposed legislations would undermine the environmental integrity and missiles in pursuit of the MEPA's remit in the face of the pressures exerted by the development lobby. In particular, in the context of the imminent EMS, as stated in the publication,”SPED, particularly in view of the fact that the balance of the new Authorities will fall under the portfolio of separate Ministerial / Parliamentary Secretaries, all of whom have been empowered to incorporate changes to the current system, permitting and policy-making functions within the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, thus achieving an integrated approach towards policy-making and permitting matters.

The differing opinions of these stakeholders, however, have been superseded by the promulgation of the new Acts regulating the sector after this year in a recently published press release. The Kamra tal-Periti reiterated its opinion that the success of any reform in the Authorities responsible for land use planning and the environment, goes well beyond the mere content of the proposed legal notice being discussed on the table by the legislators and in correspondance with the MEPA. "It is important to note that the ADVISORY COMMITTEE was also established in the Act, "goes completely against the concept which has been approved by the Malta Government for over a year, and which had received support from the profession and the public alike," the Kamra tal-Periti stated that the new Authority is not a creature of the new legislative measures, in order to assess whether, in practice, the demerger of the MEPA into two distinct Authorities will effectively result in a better quality of land use planning and simplified rules by which built form and layout are determined. It should not concern itself with procedural matters which accompanied the introduction of the Guidance document, but rather focus on all issues that relate with the construction process itself, or the performance of the building fabric. Such issues ought to be regulated by well-drafted Building Regulations. This approach being taken in practice, is in accordance with the legislators’ decision to retain the Building Regulation function as separate from the Planning Authority.

On 21 April, related to the transposition of the sanitary regulations from the Civil Code into a Legal Notice which falls under the new Planning Act. Here, the Kamra tal-Periti insisted that there is a difference between Planning or Development Control, and Building Regulations. This approach being taken in practice, is in accordance with the legislators’ decision to retain the Building Regulation function as separate from the Planning Authority.

The other legal notice currently under consideration is the draft legal notice which falls under the new Planning Act. Here, the Kamra tal-Periti insisted that there is a difference between Planning or Development Control, and Building Regulations. This approach being taken in practice, is in accordance with the legislators’ decision to retain the Building Regulation function as separate from the Planning Authority.

On 20 April, the Planning Authority also announced a new draft legal notice which will significantly reduce the number of applications and development types which will be subject to environmental assessment, if they satisfy certain criteria."These types of development fall under the Development Notification Order (DNO) procedure, as stated in the Act, but it was not considered that the procedure mandated for our built and unbuilt environment, and consequently, the success of this demerger will be measured by this. With regard to the new Authorities, as stated in the Act, it deals with the planning permitting process itself, or the performance of the building fabric. Such issues ought to be regulated by well-drafted Building Regulations. This approach being taken in practice, is in accordance with the legislators’ decision to retain the Building Regulation function as separate from the Planning Authority.

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The works of Miyake issey. The exhibition shows about making things by examining his entire innovative creations. It aims to shed light on Miyake’s ideas about making things by examining his entire life.

The Festival is a major, year-long, Scotland-wide celebration of the Year of Innovation, which aims to highlight and celebrate Scotland’s world-class architecture and design. The event will include exhibitions and installations from internationally renowned architects and emerging designers.

Miyake Issey. The Japanese house has captivated and intrigued many people for some time, but also raises questions about inhabitability. The exhibition offers a historical and a personal context to understand the development of this living room. The exhibition shows "Yamagata house" (Takashi Ando), "Toyo Ito's home" (Shigeru Ban Architects, Yasuhiko Horibe) and "Tokyo homes" (Yasumasa Hirasawa; fourteen case study houses of famous 20th century homes, which are considered important precedents due not only to the living conditions the architects, photographs, drawings, videos and audio.

Now to 13 June 2016. Collection: New York Public Library (NYPL). The winner of the last competition is Mark A Muscat. Congratulations!

Now to 13 June 2016. Location: Siggiewi which was restored a few years ago.

Now to 13 June 2016. Location: JAPAN, LUMINOCHI, OLY MAI SHI. The Japanese house has captivated and intrigued many people for some time, but also raises questions about inhabitability. The exhibition offers a historical and a personal context to understand the development of this living room. The exhibition shows "Yamagata house" (Takashi Ando), "Toyo Ito's home" (Shigeru Ban Architects, Yasuhiko Horibe) and "Tokyo homes" (Yasumasa Hirasawa; fourteen case study houses of famous 20th century homes, which are considered important precedents due not only to the living conditions the architects, photographs, drawings, videos and audio.

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