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the Architect

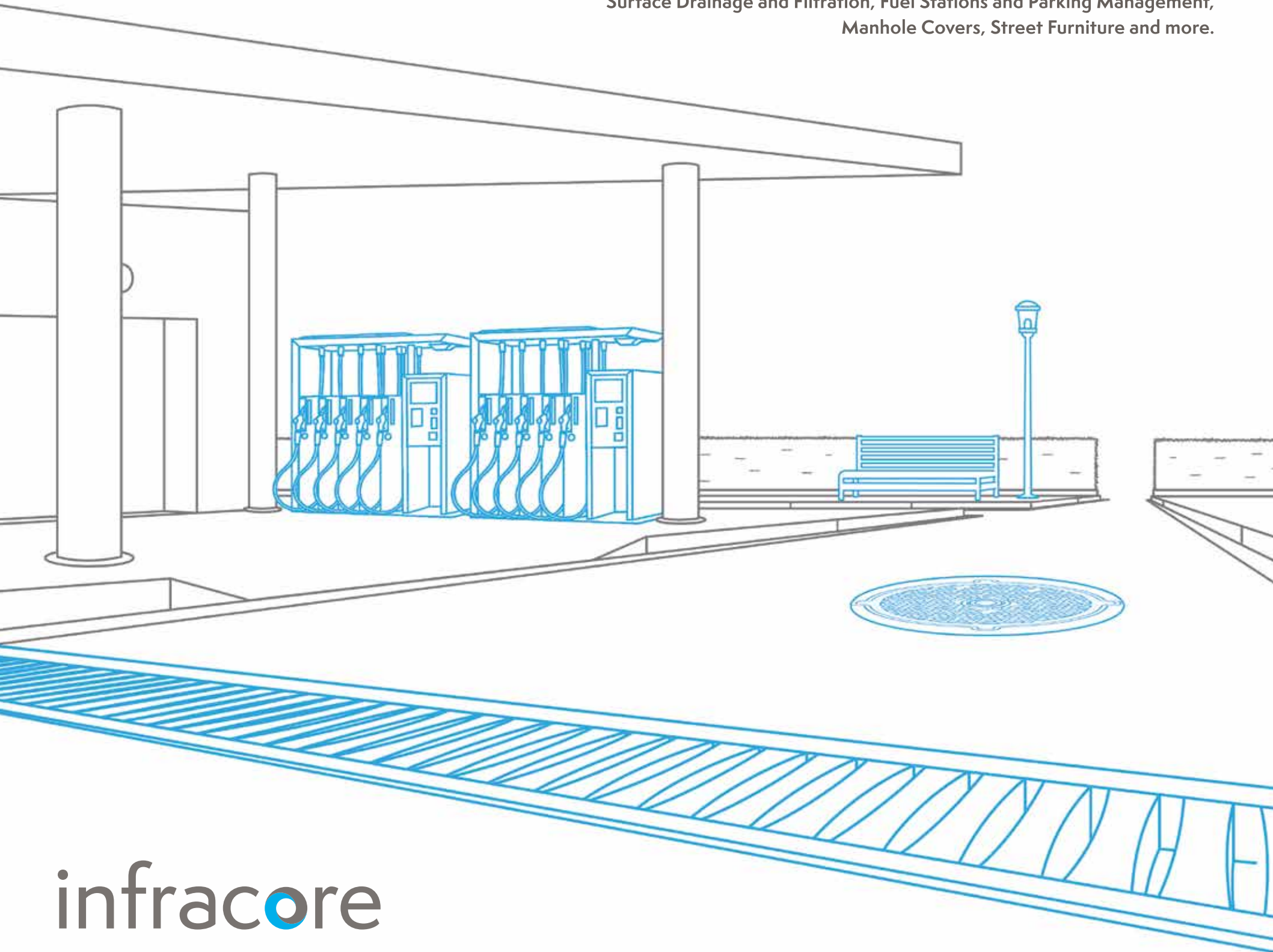
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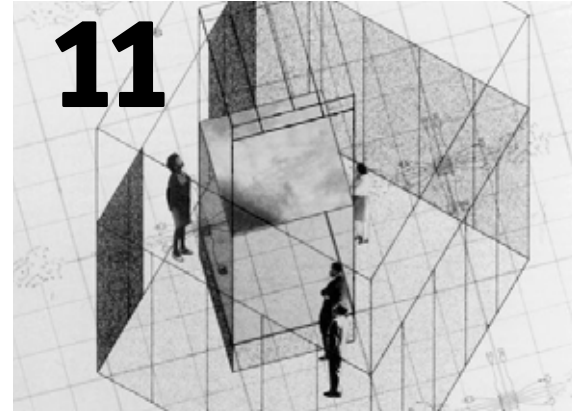
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the Architect

"Marsa has died. They have taken everything away from us. The youngsters all leave to live elsewhere where they can buy an attractive new flat."
- Marsa resident speaking to students of the Faculty for the Built Environment (see pages 12-19)

Regenerating our communities

The social impact of our planning policies is all too often overlooked. The infamous Paceville Masterplan is a case in point, with current residents and economic operators being completely ignored at policy formulation stage. The published document stated that the plan would ensure that "all the community's needs are met comprehensively", yet at the first opportunity to put it into practice this noble principle was ignored. The recent transfer of the ITS site, and the controversy surrounding the transfer value, is sadly yet another example of how the financial gain of a handful of individuals has prevailed over the current and urgent needs of the community. This public land has now been given over to private individuals, instead of being used to provide much needed community facilities such as a police station, a post office, a civic centre, a health centre and emergency clinic, day care facilities, or a park and sports facilities.

Another instance where the Planning Authority is on the road to missing a sterling opportunity to catalyse a proper regeneration exercise is the recent publication of proposed amendments to the Local Plan for the Marsa Park area. The Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED), the Authority states, "identifies Marsa Park as a Business Hub with the aim of promoting the regeneration of the Marsa area which has experienced urban decay. The area has the potential for regeneration and the improvement of the general environment of the area. The anticipated commercial development serves as an impetus to improving the quality of the area."

Even according to the SPED, the development of the Marsa Park should be linked to the regeneration of the town itself, and should not be treated in isolation. Marsa has suffered for several decades from an evident lack of planning and investment, resulting in degradation of its urban environment, the proliferation of undesirable uses and the increased lack of attractiveness of the town for residential purposes. The proposed plan, however, seems to be oblivious of the need to reverse this trend.

In a position paper on the Marsa Local Plan Review, the *Kamra tal-Periti* stated that the plan "shows no evidence that the proposed type and scale of commercial development may lead to the reversal of Marsa's fortunes, nor does it outline how the Marsa community may eventually benefit from any development envisaged. No measures are included in the plan to support and strengthen the local community, and provide for their needs. Nothing in the proposal will make Marsa any more attractive as a residential town

once again. Measures to shield the community from the effects of the traffic are also ill-considered or inadequate. The Planning Authority should be responsible for a comprehensive plan which ought to include community needs, road transport re-alignment, environment improvement and flooding mitigation measures. These should be integral components of any planning proposal for the future regeneration of Marsa and the Marsa Park. It is the Planning Authority's duty to include improvements in these aspects, to carrying out the necessary studies with the authorities concerned and integrate them into the plan. The problems cannot be left in the hands of the developers of the separate parcels of land. Tackling the major infrastructural, social and structural problems which affect the site should precede any proposals for the redevelopment of the Marsa Park site. This is the hallmark of good planning. The Marsa Park review should not be released until long term solutions for these issues are sought and taken on board."

We need to shift from a planning system which places economic gain as its primary goal, with dubious outcomes regarding the quality of the built environment, to one where the community is at the centre of all decisions and where the liveability of our urban areas is the prime driver. This is an approach which the students of the Faculty of the Built Environment successfully adopted in their final year project for 2016. Marsa 2050 presented different strategic visions for Marsa, encompassing approaches towards transportation, water conservation and reuse, cultural projects and forward looking projects which provide a holistic vision for the area and its community.

These projects are reviewed in this edition of "the Architect", and it is hoped that the Planning Authority and government will consider these studied proposals in the Local Plan Review process currently under way. There is still time to ensure the successful regeneration of this long-neglected part of our Grand Harbour. We cannot afford to allow this opportunity to slip through simply for the sake of accommodating more high-rise developments which will have little, if any, impact on the quality of life of the Marsa community.

Simone Vella Lenicker
Editor



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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 2017 consists of Perit Alex Torpiano, President; Perit Simone Vella Lenicker, Vice President; Perit Amber Wismayer, Honorary Secretary; Perit Chris Mintoff, Past President; Jeanette Abela, Perit Anthony Bezzina, Sandro Cini, David Felice, Alberto Miceli Farrugia, Lara Mifsud, Andre Pizzuto. 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. 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.

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COVER:

Marsa 2050; Image by Mark Casha, Department of Visual Arts, Faculty for the Built Environment.
(see pages 12-19)

KTP News

NEW KTP COUNCIL MEETS VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS

The new Council has held various meetings during January 2017 to introduce its new members and also to share the *Kamra's* agenda with various organisations and entities which have an impact on the profession and on the quality of the built environment.

A meeting was held with the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC) on the 31 January 2017. The agenda revolved around a number of topics including the need to strengthen the relationship between the BICC and KTP, and in this sense the KTP will be reviewing its representation on the BICC Council and Working Groups to ensure better attendance and synergy. The issue of the need for a full set of building regulations was also discussed, and that there should be a clear distinction between these and matters relating to development planning. In this regard, both the BICC and the KTP agreed on the need for the strengthening of the Building Regulation Board and Office.

Health and safety matters were also discussed, including the importance of raising awareness of such issues within the profession, as well as the need for a better understanding of health and safety at design stage.

The *Kamra tal-Periti* also proposed a joint

campaign targeting the industry and aimed at ensuring the availability of product certification. It was noted that Malta Enterprise is currently offering a scheme (<http://www.maltaenterprise.com/support/certify-tax-credits>) for assistance and funding in relation to product certification, however there has been virtually no take-up. *The Kamra tal-Periti* therefore urges its members to encourage manufacturers to make use of this scheme and to request certification.

Other matters discussed with the BICC included the proposed changes to the Periti Act, professional liability, masons' licencing and recent legal interpretations and court decisions which may have a serious impact on the profession.

Immediately after the meeting with the BICC, another meeting was held that same afternoon with the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA). The need for a better collaboration between the two organisations was high on the agenda, particularly with respect to the need to raise awareness on such matters, especially with young graduates. Discussions were held on the possibility of organisation of CPD courses for the profession.

The KTP and OHSA also discussed the need to amend legislation to simplify and unify the various "site managers" arising out of dif-



Dr Simon Busuttil (centre) together with (from right to left) Ing Ryan Callus, Perit Anthony Bezzina, Dr Marthese Portelli and Perit Giorgio Schembri.

ferent legislation suites, and to establish (or limit) the role of the perit in these matters.

Another meeting was held on the 3 February 2017, this time with representatives of the Opposition. The Council met with the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Simon Busuttil, Nationalist MPs Dr Marthese Portelli, Ing Ryan Callus and Perit Anthony Bezzina, as well as Perit Giorgio Schembri representing the Nationalist Party. The discussion focussed on three main topics, the first of which concerned the changes to the Periti Act which are currently being discussed with the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, and which will soon be presented to the profession in an Extraordinary General Meeting, details of which will be published in the coming days. The Council explained the main changes being proposed, and asked for the Opposition's support when the amendments are discussed for Parliamentary approval.

Another item on the agenda for this meeting was the matter of building regulations and the importance that these are separate from the planning process, both in terms of administrative structure as well as in terms of implementation and enforcement.

The recent publication by the Nationalist Party of its document "A better quality of life for you" was also discussed. Dr Simon Busuttil stressed that this document does not only offer the Party's vision for our natural and built environment, but also maps up a number of measures that are required to

achieve a better quality of life for all citizens. He explained that this document presents a long-term vision which commits all political parties, with the aim of ensuring that environmental issues would not remain victim of political whims.

The document was welcomed by the *Kamra tal-Periti*, in particular the proposals to introduce a National Architecture Policy, to set up a National Centre for Architecture and the Built Environment and the introduction of Design Review Panels. The importance of Design Competitions for public projects was also a welcome proposal. The Council expressed its concerns that the way in which planning policy is set out needs to be rethought in line with international practice, and welcomed the Party's commitment to review this. *The Kamra tal-Periti* will be setting up a working group to prepare detailed comments on the document, and invites all Periti who are interested in participating in this Working Group to contact the *Kamra*.

A number of other meetings with various stakeholders are in the pipeline, including with the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, the Malta Developers Association, the Building Regulation Board, the Building Regulation Office and the Planning Authority. These will be held in the coming weeks, and the *Kamra* will keep its members updated on the outcome of such meetings.



KTP Council Members (from left to right) Periti Alberto Miceli Farrugia, David Felice, Sandro Cini, Christopher Mintoff, Simone Vella Lenicker (Vice President), Alex Torpiano (President), Amber Wismayer (Honorary Secretary), Andre Pizzuto and Lara Mifsud.

MASONRY EC6 PT MEETING

A Masonry EC6 PT meeting was held in Valletta between the 15th and 16th December 2016. The masonry Eurocode consists of four parts, however this group's remit covered only part 1, mainly EN1996 - 1-1. The masonry Eurocode covers both plain and reinforced masonry. The meeting was at the premises of the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC) in Valletta. The Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) also hosted the delegates to an evening dinner on the 15th December. The group is composed of Paulo B. Lourenço (Convener), Portugal; Denis Camilleri, Malta; Francesca da Porto, Italy; John Roberts, UK; Poul Dupont Christiansen, Denmark; Wolfram Jäger, Germany; Barry Haseltine, Convener of CEN/TC 250/SC 6/WG 1, UK; Rob van der Pluijm, Chairman of TC 250/SC 6, Netherlands; and Rui Marques, Technical Secretariat, Portugal.

The aim of these PT meetings is to propose a new suite of Structural Eurocodes to be launched by 2020. This new suite is to be more user friendly, and to address the Primary Target Audience which is to give absolute preference to Practitioners/competent engineers and graduates. It is further envisaged that these Eurocodes should not demand a disproportionate level of effort to be applied.

THE INTERPRETATION OF URBAN VOID FOR STREET LIBRARY

The Chamber of Architects of Turkey Antalya Branch has launched the 12th International Young Architects' Award and Exhibition with the support of the UIA (International Union of Architects). This



year's edition of the Young Architects' Award and Exhibition asks participants to examine the conceptual question of "solid-void relations, ... a universal problem of architectural design in the context of rapid urbanisation throughout the globe." Young architects will explore how "the concentration on closed spaces and masses affects the idea of 'void' in the historical memory of architecture."

Participants are requested to select a particular context for developing design ideas concerning "the interpretation of the urban void for street library" while keeping in mind the concept of "void." Focusing on contemporary evolutions of the "library," architects will investigate the implications of the traditional building type "in our age where the ways of reading and acquiring knowledge are trans-

forming rapidly." The objective of the competition is to discuss "constructive ideas of library along with the interpretation of urban void."

The annual single stage ideas awards programme is open to young architects worldwide and is conducted in accordance with the UIA-UNESCO regulations. Participants must be qualified architects registered with the national association of architects in their own country and born after 1977. Teams are welcome, and each team member must also fulfil the aforementioned conditions. Participation is free of charge. The deadline for registration is the 29 March 2017. For more information visit: <http://www.youngarchitectsmeeting.com>.

PRIX VERSAILLES 2017

The third edition of the Prix Versailles has been launched. The Prize recognizes exceptional architecture for commercial edifices and 2017 marks the second international edition of the prize, which has been endorsed by the International Union of Architects and UNESCO. Submissions to the pre-selection process may be submitted to the prize secretariat by the 31 January 2017. Candidates in the pre-selection phase will enter into six regions (Central America, South America and the Caribbean, North America, Central Asia and the Northeast, South Asia and the Pacific, and Europe) adjudicated by six different juries, which will attribute priz-

es in four categories: Shops and Stores, Hotels and Restaurants and most recently, Shopping Malls.

Each continental jury member will pay special attention to exterior or interior structures, paying special attention to projects whose architects have undertaken a sustainable approach to commercial architecture, or which exhibit exemplary and inspirational architectural value. Continental and special prizes for interiors and exteriors will also be awarded.

The World Judges Panel of eight jury members headed by François de Mazières, Mayor of Versailles, France will then select the final prize as well as Interior and Exterior prizes in each category. The Prix represents a unique effort to recognise the contribution of commercial architecture to society. The World prizes and the special prizes will be awarded to the winners in a ceremony held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France on 12 May 2017. For more information visit <http://www.prix-versailles.com/>.

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION FOR SOLIDARITY

"Kaira Loooroo Competition - Sacred Architecture" is an international architectural competition which has as project theme the architectural celebration of the cult philosophy in a remote place on earth, where the shortage of materials and high-performing technology pushes architecture to the branch of sustainabil-



ity and integration with landscape and culture. Kaira Loooroo, that in Mandingo language means "Architecture for Peace", is not just architecture, but it also represents the link to a culture, a spirituality and research of interiority.

The competition is organized by the Nonprofit Organization "Balouo Salo" with the collaboration of the University of Tokyo, Kengo Kuma & Associates, CNAPPC, Embassy and Consulate of Senegal, Sedhiou Government, the City of Tanaf and others. The sponsors will provide cash prizes for the winning projects. These will be named by an internationally renowned jury made up of: Kengo Kuma, Ko Nakamura (University of Tokyo), A. Ghirardelli (SBGA), A. Muzzonigro (Stefano Boeri Architects), R. Bouman (Mohn + Bouman Architects) C. Chiarelli (Arcò), A. Ferrara (Juri Troy Architects), Pilar Diez Rodriguez, R. Kasik (X Architekten), S. D'Urso (University of Catania), I. Gomis (Tanaf Mayor), I. Lutri (InArch), W. Baricchi (CNAPPC).

The winning project will receive a cash prize and an internship in the Kengo

Kuma architectural studio in Tokyo, as well as publications, exhibitions and articles. The competition is open to architects, designers, engineers and students. It is possible to participate as a team or individually. For more information visit <http://www.kairaloooroo.com/competition.html>.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME OF THE MALTESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

The Environment Council agenda during the Maltese Presidency will strive to deliver tangible results in the EU's gradual shift towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, while also safeguarding the environment and human health. The Environmental Priorities are as follows:

- 1) Following up the Paris Agreement: The Maltese Presidency will prioritise a proper follow-up to the Paris Agreement and focus on the negotiations on the United Nations Framework - Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- 2) Emission Reduction: The Maltese



Presidency will build on the work already carried out on the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework. The Presidency will also advance discussions on the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) on sectors which are not covered by the Scheme.

- 3) Circular Economy Package: The Maltese Presidency will further advance the Circular Economy agenda, by making substantial progress in the negotiations relating to the legislative proposals to amend six Waste Directives. The Maltese Presidency will also attempt to promote discussions on marine litter and the plastics strategy expected by the end of 2017.

For more information visit www.eu2017.mt.

BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA 2018
Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara

have been appointed as curators of the 16th International Architecture Exhibition in 2018. Famous for working as a team, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara live and work in Dublin, where they graduated from the School of Architecture of University College and co-founded the firm Grafton Architects in 1977.

Farrell and McNamara have designed and built several schools and architectural works for institutions and universities, mostly in Ireland. They have won many international competitions including the project of the School of Economics of the University of Toulouse. The firm has been the recipient of the Architectural Association of Ireland's awards many times and in 2008, it won the World Building of the Year Award for the design of the new building for the Università Bocconi in Milan. They won the Jane Drew Award in 2015 and Irish Design Institute President's Award in 2016. Both partners began teaching at the University College of Dublin in 1976, and are currently full Professors of architecture at the Accademia di Mendrisio and Adjunct Professors in UCD. They held the Kenzo Tange Chair at GSD Harvard in 2010 and the Louis Kahn Chair at Yale in 2011. They have taught and lectured widely throughout Europe and in the United States.

The 16th International Architecture Exhibition will be inaugurated on 26 May 2018 and will conclude on 25 November 2018.





Aspen Art Museum in Aspen, Colo, by Shigeru Ban Architects. Photo by Michael Moran.



Carmel Place in New York City, by nARCHITECTS. Photo by Field Condition.



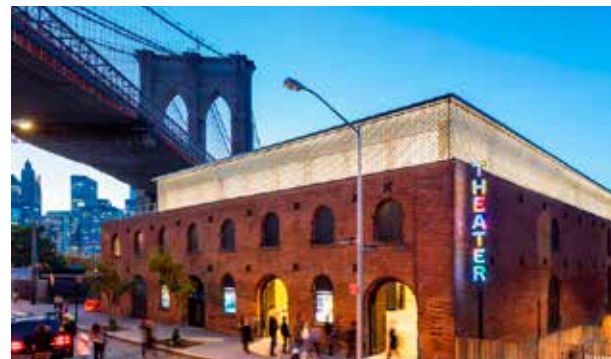
Carnegie Hall Studio Towers Renovation Project in New York City, by lu + Bibliowicz Architects. Photo by Jeff Goldberg.



Grace Farms in New Canaan, by SANAA. Photo by Iwan Baan.



Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts in Chicago, by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects. Photo by Tom Rossiter.



St Ann's Warehouse in New York City, by Marvel Architects. Photo by David Sundberg - ESTO.



Stanford University Central Energy Facility in Stanford, by ZGF Architects. Photo by Matthew Anderson.



The Cotton Gin in Texas, by Antenora Architects. Photo by Biran Mihaelsick.



The Six Affordable Housing by Brooks + Scarpa. Photo by Tara Wujcik.



Yale Center for British Art Building Conservation Project by Knight Architecture. Photo by Richard Caspole.



Thread Artist Residency and Cultural Centre by Toshiko Mori Architect. Photo by AKTC - Dev TV.

AIA 2017 HONOR AWARDS

On the 13 January 2017, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) announced the winners of the 2017 program of the Institute Honor Awards for Architecture, along with the winners in the Interior Architecture and Regional & Urban Design categories. This year, like the four years before it, the Institute has awarded 11 projects in the architecture category.

KTP'S FOCUS FOR 2017/18

Message from Prof Alex Torpiano, President of Kamra tal-Periti

The realities of our profession are changing rapidly. We need to widen the range of activities where our skills are relevant. Our professional skills are surely not limited to merely obtaining planning development permission, on behalf of our clients. EU membership is about free trade between member states. It is necessarily also about free movement of professionals, wishing to offer services in any of the member states. This means that Maltese architects and civil engineers have the right to work in any member state; but equally, citizens of other member states have the right to work in Malta. EU membership has forced us to confront the realities in other EU countries; for example, can a professional offer his services within a limited liability company? Can limited liability companies offer professional services? Indeed, the question is raised whether, and which, architectural and civil engineering services should be reserved to warranted *periti*, in the interests of society. Do we even need to regulate the profession?

The *Kamra tal-Periti* was set up in 1919/1920 in order for the profession to regulate itself. This was a great step forward for the profession; self-regulation is much better than a regulatory process by outsiders who do not understand our work. And having a combined voice of the order of 900 professionals ought



to mean more influence to shape our industry and our profession. All *periti* are represented by the Kamra, and fall within its disciplinary remit, whether they pay their membership dues or not. But, we would be much more effective if we had more paying members, and more members active within the politics of the profession.

Later on this year, we will hold an EGM to explain the draft new *Periti Act* - we continue to hope that Parliament will enact this legislation before the end of this year. We will still need to work on a whole range of Subsidiary Legislation, including the rules and regulations for the *Kamra* itself, the Code of Professional Conduct, the detailed regulations for acceding to the profession - academic criteria, professional training objectives/requirements or examinations, disciplinary procedures and penalties, professional indemnity, and many other aspects.

There are other issues that that the Council is committed to address, that go beyond the *Periti Act*, and in which the profession should really have a stronger say.

1. Liability. There is no doubt that, following the Services Directive, which opens the door to cross-border professional services, the current civil law liability for 15 years is an anomaly, compared to other EU countries, which puts our *periti* at a

competitive disadvantage. We are creeping closer to consensus that this period of liability ought to be reduced, and aligned with other EU practices. But we need to be clear about other types of liabilities, which creep on to us as a result, often not of legislation, but of certain practices and assumptions. Recently, a court decided that it was the *periti's* fault if the mason working on the project he was supervising was not licensed. Yet, at the same time, the Masons' Licence Board refuses to publish the list of licensed masons because of Data Protection concerns. We really need to get our act together, since we are becoming the catch-all for all sorts of situations. The Commencement Notice saga is symptomatic of this attitude. In my view, we are not the referees of the building process. But we need to better understand the liabilities that we carry for each type of service that we offer.

2. Planning and Development Control.

A considerable amount of time is spent by the Council responding to the many "consultations" that are published by the Planning Authority or other authorities. Intelligent and meaningful responses depend on the expertise of our membership. During the past year, we have found very good support when it was necessary to comment on, amongst other issues, the proposed amendments to the Sanitary Legislation, the draft National Transport Strategy, the Vision for Valletta, and more

recently the Development Framework for Paceville. It is however clear to many of us that the Planning Process, and the process by which development is assessed and approved or otherwise, remains flawed. We really ought to have a stronger voice on these issues.

3. Building Regulations and Standards.

There seems to be a stay in the general direction of integrating planning permit conditions with building control processes, and regulations; but the truth is that the whole area of Building Regulations and Standards is sorely under-resourced. The profession ought to be more vocal in insisting on better, performance-based, regulations, rather than old-fashioned prescriptive ones; this is better for the industry, but it also reduces the burden on the *periti* in the effort to obtain good quality construction.

I ask for your help to raise the profile of the profession.

Letters to the Editor

Letters from our readers to be considered for publication are most welcome. Letters for inclusion in Issue 75 are to reach us by the 31 March 2017. Please write to: The Editor, "the Architect", Kamra tal-Periti, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira GZR1633, or send an email to kamrataperiti@go.net.mt. All contributions will be acknowledged.

SUSTAINABILITY SNAPS

PARIS AGREEMENT TARGETS

PROGRESS OF THE EU TOWARDS THE AT LEAST -40% TARGET

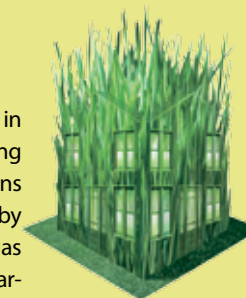
On October 4, 2016, the EU ratified the Paris agreement on climate change, thus enabling its entry into force on November 4, 2016. On October 5, 2016, the EU deposited its ratification instruments together with eight Member States which already completed their national ratification procedures: Hungary, France, Austria, Malta, Germany, Portugal, Poland and Slovakia. Greece and Sweden deposited their ratification instruments later in October 2016. The remaining Member States will continue their domestic ratification processes with a view to depositing their ratification instruments as soon as

possible.

According to Member States' projections based on existing measures, in 2030, the total EU emissions are estimated to be 26% below 1990 levels. New mitigation policies are being put in place so that the EU target at least a 40% domestic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990, agreed in Paris, is reached.

The EU Emissions Trading System is a cornerstone of the EU's climate policy. It applies mainly to the industrial and power sectors. Between 2005 and 2015, emissions covered by the EU ETS, which represent slightly less

than half of the total emissions in the EU, decreased by 24%. During this period of time, the emissions outside the EU ETS decreased by 12%. In 2015, greenhouse gas emissions from installations participating in the EU ETS are estimated to have decreased by just under 0.4%. This confirms the decreasing trend over the last five years. Moreover, the surplus of emission allowances that has built up in the system since 2009 fell significantly to around 1.78 billion allowances as a result of the implementation of back-loading. The surplus



is thus at the lowest level since the start of the current trading period in 2013. The back-loading postponed the auctioning of 400 million allowances in 2014, 300 million in 2015 and 200 million in 2016. These allowances will be transferred to the Market Stability Reserve (MSR) which will start operating as of January 2019 and will address the current surplus of allowances. A report on the functioning of the carbon market will be published later this year.

Source: MEUSAC



THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION IN EUROPE 2016 – ACE SECTOR STUDY

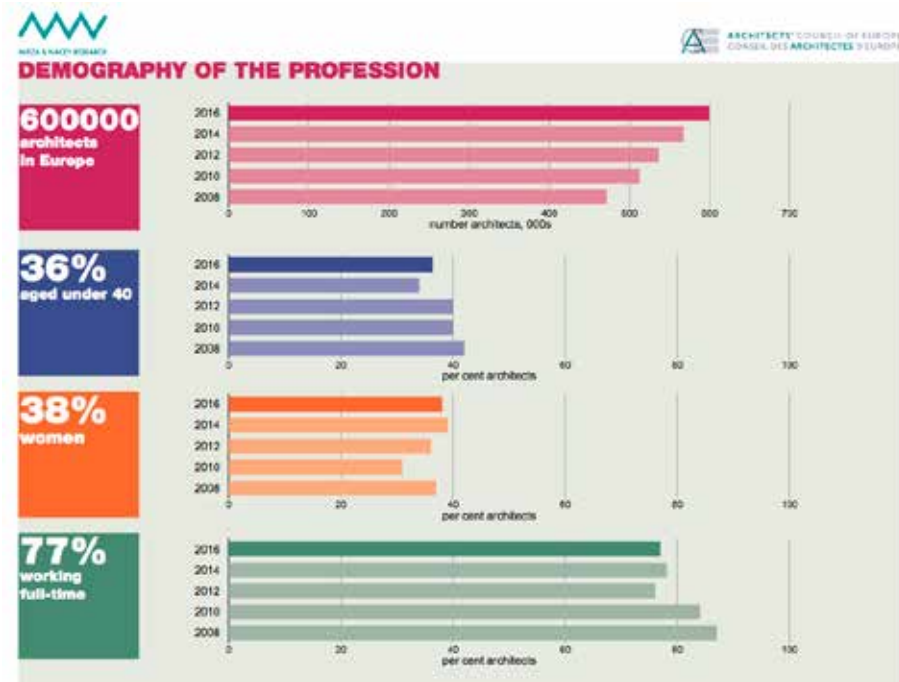
THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE SECTOR STUDY OF THE ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE (ACE) SHOWS THAT THE PROFESSION MAY BE RETURNING TO SOMETHING NEARER NORMALITY, AFTER THE 2008 ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND REVEALS POSITIVE PROSPECTS FOR THE PROFESSION.

The Sector Study is a biennial survey commissioned by the ACE that collects and analyses statistical, sociological and economic data on European architects, the architectural market and architectural practices. Results are presented in the form of charts, tables and maps, accompanied by explanatory texts. Country fact-sheets present all data collected on each country covered by the Study.

Based on responses from 27,000 architects in 27 European countries, the 2016 edition of the Study has been enriched with new research areas, making it, without doubt, the most comprehensive study on the architectural profession in Europe and an essential reference tool for all those interested in the architectural profession and the built environment.

The research confirms that architecture is a growing profession – the number of architects in Europe-31 is estimated to be around 600,000, an increase of 4% since 2014. Even if there is still some way to go until the profession returns to its pre 2008 levels, the Study reveals numerous signs of recovery of the architectural market and positive prospects for the Profession: the value of the architectural market has increased; the average revenue is higher for most sizes of practices; the number of independent architects has fallen – suggesting that architects are returning to more formal employment within practices; and more importantly, architects in a majority of countries feel confident about their future prospects, anticipating more work for the coming year.

However, the positive average trends at European level must not hide the fact that the situation varies throughout Europe – growth remains weaker in the south and not surprisingly, the predictions there are more pessimistic.



“By supporting and effectively guiding ACE policy positions with statistical evidence, the Sector Study contributes to enhancing the credibility of ACE in its dealings with policy-makers at EU and national levels”, says ACE President Luciano Lazzari. “It also helps us to understand better how the profession has been affected and transformed by the economic crisis and offers a detailed picture of the new reality the architectural profession must face”, he adds.

The number of countries participating in this survey is the highest ever, and the number of individual participants is only just short of the highest ever. The survey reveals that large numbers of young people are joining the profession in some Mediterranean countries, while growth has been particularly strong on the eastern and western edges of Europe - Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Construction output is starting to edge up across Europe, the total value of the architectural market has increased, and architects’ performance measures show some growth since 2012. There is clearly some way to go until the profession’s health returns to its pre 2008 levels, and in several countries earnings and revenues remain subdued. But for Europe’s architects as a whole, the various indicators are moving in a positive direction.

Total revenue of the profession across Europe is estimated to be 12 per cent higher than in 2014. Standing now at €17 billion, this is the highest value since 2008.

There has been a big fall in the number of Independent Architects, in favour of partnerships and limited companies. The number of Independent Architects has fallen from 65% in the 2012 and 2014 surveys to nearer 50% - as in 2008 and 2010. Similarly, the number of Sole Principals is

the lowest since 2010. These trends suggest architects are returning to more formal employment within practices, rather than practising alone. This is confirmed in total practice numbers, which are down - more architects now work in larger practices, and fewer on their own or with one other. This is another sign of recovery from the recession.

The reduction in the number of Sole Principals has lifted their average earnings; Sole Principals’ earnings are now 23% higher. Average earnings overall are 10% higher; the first time average earnings have increased since the survey began in 2008.

There is evidence that architects are returning to their core service, building design, which now accounts for its highest share of revenue since 2010. Average hourly rates are the highest recorded in any of the years this survey has been running. Average rates for Principals are higher by 9%, while for Architects average rates are up by 8%.

Crucially, architects themselves see a positive future. For the first time since this survey began in 2008, architects in a majority of countries say they expect more work, on balance, in the coming year. Only two countries record negative ‘balance’ figures this year; Italy and the UK. There is also evidence that architects are investing in their own future; spending on CPD is substantially higher than in 2014, as is the number of hours spent undertaking CPD.

The image reproduced here gives a snapshot of the profession at European level. In the coming issues of ‘the Architect’ we will delve further into the results, with a particular emphasis on the situation in Malta. The full study can be viewed on www.ace-cae.eu.

The Architectural Experience of Community Spaces

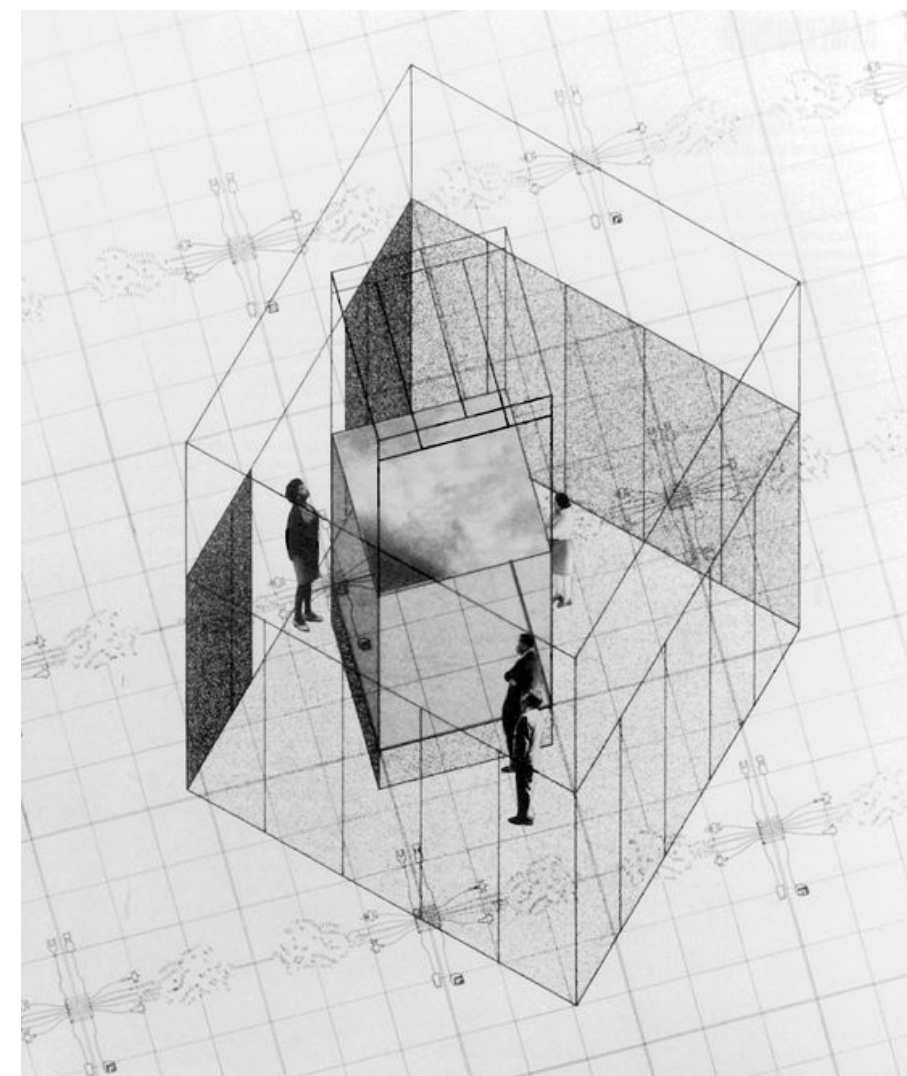
BY SEPHORA SCHEMBRI

Just as people may affect places, places can also affect people. Places influence people both because of their physical structure and also on a subconscious level, engaging a deeper connection that the place can create with one’s soul. Some personify these connections created as the energy of the space.

The energy of a place affects how we experience the place as well as how we represent it. A sense of place identity derives from the multiple ways in which place functions to provide a sense of belonging, construct meaning, foster attachments, and mediate change. The place identity of a person can inform their experiences, behaviours, and attitudes about other places. The concept of place identity was introduced by environmental and social psychologists which defined a place identity as a substructure of a person’s self-identity, and consists of knowledge and feelings developed through everyday experiences of physical spaces. Identities and affiliations shift as places gain or lose particular meanings. The ways in which place and identity intertwine both confuse and allow us to make sense of the worlds we inhabit.

The distinctive aspects of a place, which we witness with all our senses, is what brings out the energy of a place. Our senses help shape a fragmented or rather clear memory of the space we experienced. As Peter Zumthor says, a space can imprint its memory indelibly on one’s mind. The atmosphere of the room can become insolubly linked to the purpose of the room. Every single detail within a room is part of the atmosphere created and these details become memories attached to these spaces. Zumthor said, “Memories like this contain the deepest architectural experience that I know. They are the reservoirs of the architectural atmospheres and images that I explore in my work as an architect.”

There are various ways how a space can



“Italy: The New Domestic Landscape” Exhibition Catalog, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1972. P242

imprint a memory through the senses, such as the use of materials. For instance using particular materials which have a meaning within the specific architectural context of the space can throw new light on the material’s inherent sensuous qualities. Heidegger says, “Man’s relation to locations, and through locations to spaces, inheres in his dwelling.” The reality of architecture is the concrete body in which forms, volumes, and spaces come into being.

Being concerned with creating a space is vital, no matter how small it is. That space in a tiny part of the infinity that surrounds the earth, every building marks a unique place in this infinite world. The way we create spaces for people matters since the design of these spaces affects the conscious agent. Architects have the capacity to design dwellings that inform our inner world. When you walk into a room and you start feeling better but you don’t quite know why and then you

realise; the lighting, the shapes, the lines, the shadows, everything about how the designer installed mind and intention into a physical form is able to move you.

Ferrier from a French architecture firm suggests that, “The idea is no longer to focus solely on technical potential, but instead to put people back at the heart of architecture and urban planning”. In establishing our relationship to the city, it is necessary to find a mobility to give a fresh point of view through movement, dynamic perception of volume and space as such, sharpens our visual sense. We need to take the senses seriously. Addressing the aspect of spatial experience that we find has been ignored in the climate of contemporary city planning. In a city people are restricted to conventional flow currents that inhibit them from tapping into a more sensitive state. Every building is built for a specific use in a specific place and for a specific society. In a day and age where constant productivity is expected, leisure in its conventional form is greatly valued but few have the time for it so why shouldn’t the city, in particular community spaces, evoke a new kind of leisure through the spatial experience that we get through a multisensory journey. This idea is no romantic indulgence, as written in A Theory of the Human Environment Eugene Victor Walter; “A place has no feelings apart from humane experience there. A place is a location of experience.”

The idea is to immerse ourselves in spaces within the city in order to absorb its atmosphere, its images and its stories. Being Baudelaire’s flâneur, the idle man of leisure and urban lounging of the modern experience. Those urban atmospheres are then translated into graphic and narrative form, giving shape to a sequence of social landscapes that brings character to particular areas of the city.



MARSA 2050

The history of Marsa is closely linked to its position at the innermost point of the Grand Harbour, where it connected to the flatlands, located practically at the heart of Malta. The area is relatively flat, and receives rainwater from major valley systems going up towards the north of

the island. The pools and marshes and fertile flatland were gradually converted into a complex of harbour, military and industrial installations, surrounded by the dense residential areas of the workers attracted to these new job opportunities. The construction of the Power Station

linked Marsa inextricably to the infrastructure of energy generation and distribution. Over recent years, Marsa became synonymous with EneMalta, with heavy industrial harbour activities including ship-building. Consequently, Marsa has been at the forefront of technologies

associated with the Harbour. Marsa was, for a very long time, a place where goods arrived in Malta or left our shores, and a number of places survive that testify to this, such as the Potato Sheds, or the Coal Wharf, or the Polverista on the other side of the harbour.



Aerial view - Marsa designated areas. Base image - Google



At the same time, the establishment of the Marsa Sports Club by the British military also led to Marsa being closely associated with sports activities, and particularly with horse-racing. The rich, fertile, and well-irrigated land was lost to industry, except where associated with such sports activities.

Unfortunately, as is often the case with harbour industrial areas, Marsa has also been associated with pollution, degradation, dilapidation and abandon, particularly as the industries of old declined. Consequently, the residential aspect of the town has also declined, so that it now has a population of under 4,500, a higher percentage of over 55's than the rest of Malta, and a higher proportion of unoccupied dwellings by state of repair, than other areas in the Harbour region. In recent years, Marsa has also seen a higher influx of migrants than anywhere in Malta, except Hal Far. It is no surprise that Marsa has a high level of illiteracy amongst its residents. The residents of Marsa have suffered from all these changes, and now feel abandoned and angry.

These are some of the findings by the final year students reading for the degrees of Master in Architecture and Master in Engineering, in the Faculty for the Built Environment of the University of Malta, as part of their Final Project: Marsa 2050. In fact, in 2015-2016, as the Faculty celebrated its 100th year of existence within the University of Malta, the first cohort of circa fifty students, following the new professional degree structure, which was launched in 2010, were reaching the last phase of their studies. The



The situation today

latter two years of this new course structure comprise three groups within the M.Arch Programme, Architectural Design, Architecture and Conservation Studies, and Architecture and Urban Studies, and three groups within the M.Eng Programme, Structural Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Engineering and Management. For this last phase, the students were given a tough challenge. Given that the glorious industrial past of Marsa had come to an end, or was declining fast, there would certainly arise opportunities for redevelopment, which could make or break the Marsa of the future.

The decommissioning of the Marsa



Power Station, and its proposed demolition to "create real estate" is symptomatic of this situation. There is the risk that if the current model of Spatial Planning is retained, there could not be a holistic vision of what Marsa of the future could be. This is the theme that the Faculty final year students were asked to address over the period between October 2015 and June 2016.

At the start of the Project, the fifty students were divided into five multi-disciplinary groups, with students from all six master degree programmes in each group. Multi-disciplinarity underpins the Faculty philosophy, even as it has moved from a single five-year B.E.&A. programme, to six different Master degree programmes. The rationale for this approach is found in a recommendation, made in 1981 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe that, as far as was feasible, a common core of studies be established for the four disciplines, architects, town planners, civil engineers and landscape designers, without prejudice to the specific character of studies in each discipline, "so as to make clear that any action involving one of those disciplines is but partial and belongs to a general pattern; to foster the adoption of a common language for the various participants, in order to create an atmosphere of inter-disciplinarity, and

clarity, which is often lacking at present." It was also recommended that the educational objectives ought to "inculcate a new philosophy of the environment, with particular reference to the architectural, cultural, social and natural heritage of a place; create an understanding of, and respect for, the various scientific disciplines relating to the environment, and the importance of the environment, as a framework for living conditions; prepare professionals for co-operation, notably by means of joint exercises throughout the training period."

THE PROCESS

The students were invited to consider the following questions

- What could Marsa, and the Inner Harbour area, look like in 2050?
- Could the area be revived into a modern, vibrant, town, with a balance of residential areas, office areas, industries, and if so, what amenities and supporting services would make Marsa into a modern urban area of the future?
- What modes of transport, and which routes, including cross-harbour links, could be catered for?
- What infrastructural systems would be required to make the area "self-suffi-

cient" in terms of water resources, in terms of waste management, in terms of integrated energy production and distribution?

- How could the original green landscape be brought back into the area? Could the zone become an area for food production? What were the biodiversity issues that could arise?
- What sustainable redevelopment would be appropriate to take into account the effects of Climate Change, such as, for example, the changes in sea-level?
- How could IT be expected to impact on the zone?

These are obviously difficult but exciting questions. As part of their methodology to address these questions, students undertook extensive studies of the area, ranging from land use analyses, landscape characterisation, heritage asset evaluation, infrastructure system analysis, socio-economic surveys, as well as hydrological and geological studies. They undertook background studies, including archival research, consultations with various experts, surveys, visual and photographic assessments. They used various techniques to assess the site, including Lynch analysis, demographic studies, transport data. They carried out research on the

main infrastructural problems, and identified opportunities relating to transport, water, energy and waste disposal strategies. They explored current proposals, including that for the dismantling of the Power Station, or for the Carnival Village.

The students also engaged in a degree of future gazing, surveying the potential impact of climate change, the future of food production, the industries of the future, educational trends, and demographic projections. They explored the technologies that are round the corner, or perhaps slightly beyond. They looked at potential developments in transport, from driverless cars to drones in industry; at developments in clean industries, and technologies such as 3D-printing; they looked at water resources, technologies for recycling, and technologies for cleaning polluted water; they looked at food production of the future, and the impact of urban farming, robotics, and intelligent systems; they looked at zero-energy buildings and resource efficiency issues.

On the basis of these studies, by December 2015 the five groups had prepared and presented five different strategic visions for Marsa. These strategic visions were also presented in a poster exhibition held at Pjazza Teatru Rjal, in connection with the CAA exhibition on the theme "Visualising the Future of the

City: What Will your City look like in 2065."

In the subsequent stage, each student proposed and detailed a project that supported one of the formulated strategies. There are a number of main themes which emerged in these projects, reflecting the multi-disciplinary approach adopted at the research stage, and, by some of them, all through the year. Many students worked on their individual projects, whilst remaining within the framework of a multi-disciplinary group. The groups were formed either because the projects related to the same geographical region, and which therefore clearly had to relate to each other, both in terms of urban space, but also in terms of infrastructural systems as well as of architectural approach.

The types of individual projects varied on the basis of the specific Master programme. For M.Arch. architectural design

students, the projects focused on the design of a building, taking into account architectural form, function, and technology; for the architectural and conservation studies cohort, the projects focused on interventions which responded to the industrial, and other, heritage in the area; whilst for the architecture and urban studies cohort, the projects addressed the design of buildings and their relationship with urban space and the landscape, as defined in one of the strategic master-plans proposed.

For the M.Eng. groups, structural engineering students focused on structures required to achieve the pre-defined strategic objectives, such as bridges, floating structures, large span structures. The civil engineering cohort focused on projects related to waste water management, waste management, marine infrastructures, and vehicular and pedestrian road

systems and networks; whilst the engineering and management cohort focused on the delivery of specific structural or infrastructural systems, including feasibility,

cost engineering and other aspects. The students all recognised the important industrial heritage present in the area, ranging from the Polverista at Ras



Managing water and using it as a resource



Transport strategy exploring multi modal systems



Hanzir, which was the receiving depot of military explosive material from the period of the Order of St. John, to the Chadwick Osbert Building and the Potato Sheds, also tackled in a couple of student proposals. There are other heritage assets which were identified by the students, but for which no proposals were made, such as the ex-Sea Malta Building. One of the most important industrial heritage buildings is, of course, the Power Station itself, which has unfortunately, and shortsightedly, been scheduled for demolition. In the view of the Faculty, this is a mistake, since the building is both a beautiful building, as well as one which has potential uses, as was illustrated in a number of projects. However, the most important consideration would be the importance of these heritage icons within the context of a revived Marsa. These industrial heritage mementos would represent the link between the past and the future, and become the *raison d'être* of the new town of Marsa.

There are many examples, round the world, where this approach has been important in the masterplanning of an area; one of the most notable examples is BelVal, in Luxembourg, which is a new University town built around the surviving, and preserved, blast furnaces of the previous extensive steelworks. The real estate around the preserved blast furnaces gained value because of this characterisation.

TRANSPORT

Transport was a first main theme. Although the original intention was to look at Marsa 2050 as a self-sufficient town, it was clearly not enough to look at transport systems around the area itself. Transport systems needed to reach out to the national networks, and to understand what systems would be required in 2050. The key proposals could be summarised as (i) enabling real multi-modal transport; (ii) studying the possibilities for rapid mass transport; (iii) exploiting the sea as an important mode of transport.

The projects presented, consequently, include a transport hub, located strategically to connect ferry transport, to light rail systems, to cable car connections, and public buses, and, very importantly, enhanced pedestrian routes. Related projects include the engineering of pedestrian bridges, or floating bridge structures, or underground rail stations, or public bus depots, or ferry terminal facilities, all subscribing to this common vision.

WATER

A second theme was that of water, particularly that arising from storm water coming down the extensive catchment area north of Marsa. The proposals included the development of a water park, which can turn the stormwater outfall into an asset, with the landscape allowing the handling both of the winter high volumes flowing through as well as the



Marsa as a cultural hub

summer low water flows. The water urban park was associated with a green overpass linking it to the green area around the Marsa Sports Club, and with a water treatment facility, which is designed to also allow visitors to appreciate the treatment technologies. Technologies of the future were seen not only as clean, but as potential spaces of both learning as well as leisure for visitors. The idea of "infrastructural facilities" which become visitor attractions was also picked up in a proposal for a solid waste processing facility.

A related third theme was that of food production. There is no doubt that climate change as well as dwindling land resources will force us to look at alternative ways of growing our food – and the directions are already visible in other countries and other climates. A couple of visionary proposals postulated the creation of a new undulating landscape, taking over the hard surfaces of the abandoned industrial facilities, to focus on a closer interaction between food production, processing, distribution and consumption. Another

group of proposals was exemplified by an algae production facility, and various aquaponic farming and research facilities, including one proposed for the Power Station itself.

It was acknowledged that climate change would result in a rise in sea water levels, which was bound to affect Marsa, and other low-lying areas of Malta. It is also expected to result in more intense rainfall – and hence to an increased likelihood of flooding – and an increase in mean temperatures, particularly in urban spaces. Therefore, the technologies of urban green infrastructure, and of green roofs, would be very important for our future. And therefore Marsa was proposed as the place where investment could be made so as to create the prototypes researching these issues.

CULTURAL HUB

The proximity to MCAST was an asset that was identified by many of the students, who saw the potential of linking new and existing buildings to specific technology academies associated with the MCAST campus, such as Maritime or Alternative Energy, or Urban Agriculture Institutes. The overall vision was that of dirty industry being gradually replaced, over a period of, say, thirty five years, by a focus on education, research, clean transport and clean energy, efficient water and waste management, in other words, making Marsa a great place to live, work, as well as play.

The aspect of amenity and the various forms of leisure that will feature in the future was the subject of other projects. A particular set of proposals related to an eventual redevelopment of the area around the Ship-Building structure, into a complex housing major exhibitions, on the scale of the renowned EXPO, a water and rowing park centred around Dock 7, and an educational academy focussing on Design and Craft. One student's project focussed on the urban space created between the retained and re-used buildings, such as the big shed and the office buildings, and new educational buildings on the other side of the Dock, addressing such problems as to how to receive and entertain up to 30,000 visitors a day, during peak events, whilst retaining the appropriate scale for shoulder periods.

AS PART OF THE DESIGN PROCESS, THE STUDENTS ALSO TALKED TO THE RESIDENTS TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY THOUGHT WERE THE PROBLEMS. SOME OF THE COMMENTS WERE AS INTERESTING AS THEY WERE DAMNING:

"MARSA HAS DIED. THEY HAVE TAKEN EVERYTHING AWAY FROM US. WE DO NOT EVEN HAVE A FOOTBALL GROUND TO ENJOY HERE, AND THE YOUNGSTERS ALL LEAVE TO LIVE ELSEWHERE WHERE THEY CAN BUY AN ATTRACTIVE NEW FLAT"

"IF I COULD RELOCATE I WOULD CHOOSE THE THREE CITIES BECAUSE THE AREA HAS PLACE FOR ME TO MEET OTHERS AND SOCIALISE IN A SAFE, ATTRACTIVE SPACE"

"SPACES WON'T WORK IF THERE IS LOTS OF SOUND POLLUTION, LIGHT POLLUTION AND POLLUTION OF ALL TYPES"

"THE WATER AROUND THE HARBOUR IS THE MOST POLLUTED AREA IN MALTA"

"THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN US"

**AND FROM A MIGRANT LIVING IN MARSA:
"THE PLACE IS NOT FRIENDLY AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET AROUND"**

THE POWER STATION

A fourth important theme related to the redevelopment of the Power Station site. As pointed out earlier, it is the belief of the Faculty, and of many who have visited and studied the building, that it is a serious mistake to demolish the Power Station. The demolition of the power station, as is scheduled, would clear up a vast tract of land that could be used to accommodate a wide range of uses, both commercial and civic, but, the value of the

building itself was important as industrial and architectural heritage, and there was no reason why it could not be preserved, and used as a spur for the redevelopment of the surrounding area. Previous cohorts of students had studied this site and the building before, and proposals have ranged from a University Campus to cultural buildings – always conceived as the heart of a new town of Marsa. Why not build an Opera House or a Philharmonic Concert Hall on the area around. In the current studies, students presented other

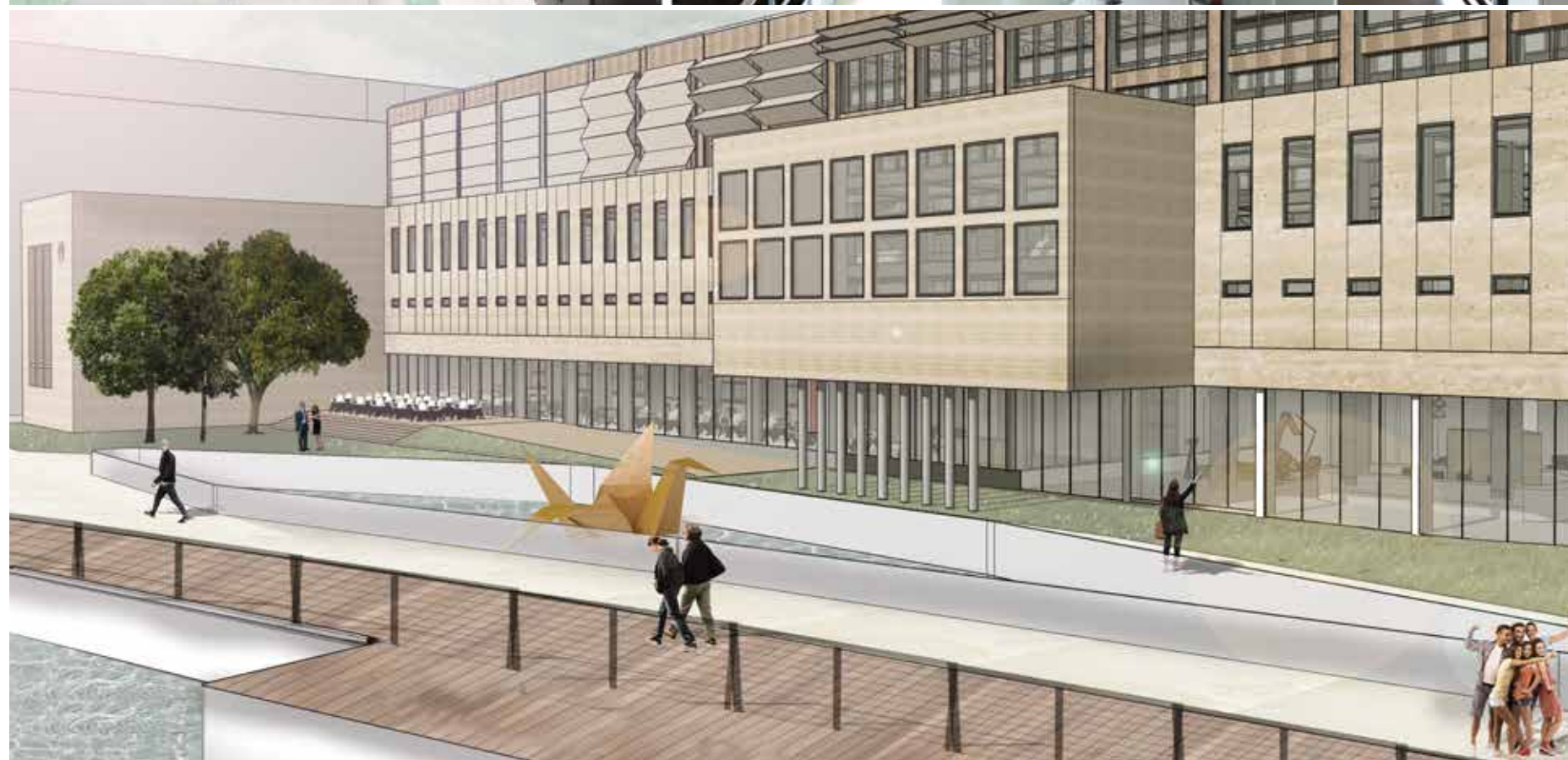
proposals for the Power Station, including using it as an experimental aquaponics research centre, or a leisure amenity facility, including a Performing Arts resource in the underground tunnels adjacent. The top of the tunnels would, obviously, become a park, as proposed by another student; but, perhaps, not a conventional park, but a special type of facility which links nature with art, as in Berlin's former Tempelhof airport, or in Copenhagen's Norrebro district.

THE RESULTS

The projects proposed, therefore, ranged from the strategic study of transport networks, to the technical details of engineering bridge or cable car structures, from the rehabilitation and re-use of existing heritage masonry structures to re-interpretations of massive steel industrial buildings, from water and waste treatment buildings treated as amenities which can be enjoyed by visitors, to futuristic residential complexes, from urban water parks to futuristic, post-industrial, landscapes. The projects could, in some cases, appear visionary and unlikely; and therefore removed from those interventions which may seem to be more immediately useful to the current residents. However, the role of the University is not to teach its students to do what we did in the past and therefore know well, but to think about the future, and postulate how to do things we do not yet know how to do.

The final proposals were first examined, and subsequently presented to the general public, in a three-day exhibition which was held, in July, in the tunnel referred to, in the Power Station, as the A Station, hosted by Enemalta. This was the first time the tunnels were opened to the public. A seminar was also held to promote a debate on how the future of Marsa ought to be re-engineered. The Enemalta Chairman, who opened the seminar, acknowledged how, given that the old power station had shut down, it was important to focus on how the zone could be regenerated.

The most telling comments came from the Marsa mayor, Mr. Frans Debono, who expressed the hope that there would be a shift from the idea that the damage suf-



The Power Station is part of our industrial heritage and efforts should be made to preserve and regenerate it.

ferred by Marsa over decades was a necessary sacrifice for the economic benefit of the country, to the realisation that, equally, regenerating and re-invigorating Marsa was an opportunity of great benefit to the country. It was important, he emphasised, that a new approach was undertaken immediately, since the people of Marsa were tired of hearing about projects and proposals, which then never materialised.

“It would be a pity for residents to feel like there is nothing else the locality can be known for,” he said, referring to the Power Station. The message from the Faculty, through the work of its students, was directed at the planning processes that have been applied to date. Spatial Planning is not about setting up design guidelines, or adopting rules about high-rise or low-

rise. The Faculty would argue that the way the future of Marsa should be addressed was very far from the type of Local Plan tool that has been adopted hitherto by Malta. The proposals for the tweaking of the Local Plan for the Marsa Park area, on either side of Aldo Moro Road, have recently been published. The problem remained that there was no real vision within this tweaking of the Local Plan. It

was simply about the limits of what one can do, but it otherwise left things in the hands of the developer, in the pious belief that “private developers would build according to the needs of local people”. **“One building next to another does not make a place, and many buildings do not make a city. The cure is to adopt a new approach to modern planning”.** *The Architectural Review, June 2016*

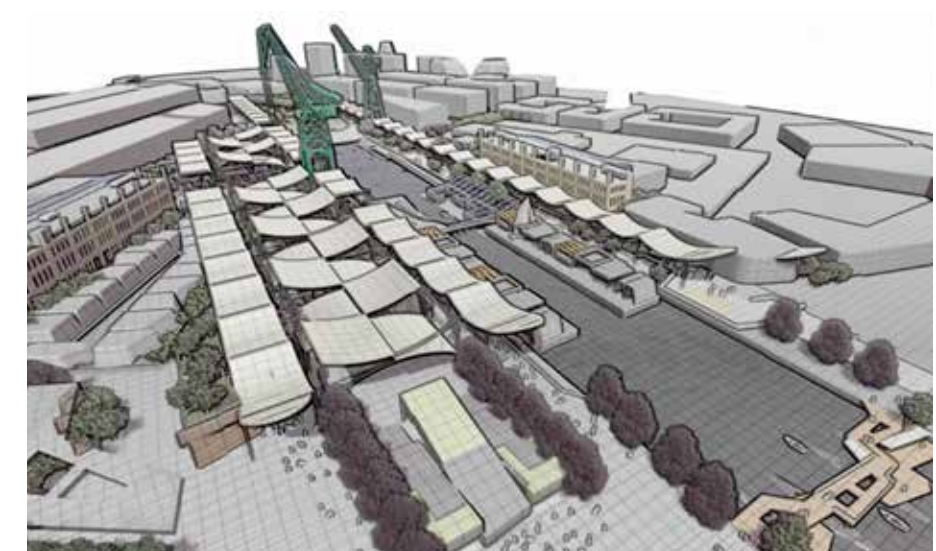


The following are the students who worked on Marsa 2050

M.Arch.: Aleksandrova Martin; Attard Daniel; Avellino Jonathan; Azzopardi Christopher; Bianco Andrea; Bonello Samuel; Borg Martha; Bugeja Neville; Borg Bonaci Clive; Camilleri Mark; Caruana Joseph; Cutajar Sacha Joseph; Debattista Francesco; De Gabriele Sergio; Falzon Aidan; Farrugia Roberta; Fava Rene; Frendo Mark; Gauci Katrina; Grech Paula; Grech Ryan Noel; Mizzi Justin; Moran William; Muscat Matthew; Pace Kristine; Pace Robert; Sciberras Luke; Spiteri Albert; Turscherl Nadine; Vassallo Julian; Vella Neal; Zerafa Andrea.

M.Eng.: Baldacchino Peter; Bondin Jean Karl; Bonello Kyle Victor; Bonello Daniel; Briguglio Charlo; Bugeja Dale Francis; Cachia Malcolm Vincent; Caligari Andrew; Farrugia Clara; Fenech Luigi; Gauci Diane; Gatt Matthew; Marmara Russell; Mizzi Robert; Pellicano Luke; Schembri Antoniette; Tong Malcolm Joseph; Vella Kurt.

The students developed their projects under the guidance of Prof Alex Torpiano, Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of Malta, while Dr Rebecca Dalli Gonzi was responsible for the co-ordination of the various Faculty and visiting tutors who assisted the students throughout the year.



Damages to third parties – impediment on operation

BY DR IAN J STAFRACE

According to articles 1030 to 1033 of the Civil Code, any person who, within the proper limits, makes use of a right competent to him, shall not be liable for any damage which may result therefrom (1). However, every person shall be liable for the damage which occurs through his fault (2). We encounter the application of these basic principles of law in every day occurrences, some of which are quite obvious.

Our Courts have had the occasion to dwell on the application of these principles in such cases where a development that is ongoing, causes operational restrictions on neighbouring properties. In Fiorino d'Oro Co. Limited vs. Direttur tat-Toroq (3), the Court of Appeal confirmed the decision of the Civil Court which found the defendant responsible for damages (4) suffered by the plaintiff when the works related to the road that were being undertaken, were delayed. The defendant had tried to justify the delay in the works, yet the Court held:

"Hi x'inhi r-raġuni, is-soċjeta` attrici la tahti għal dan id-dewmien u lanqas m'għandha issofri l-konsegwenzi ta' dan l-aġir (jew nuqqas tiegħu). Il-Gvern lanqas ma jista' jfarfar ir-responsabilità` billi jgħid li għal dak li ġara u qed jiġri fl-inhawi hu mhux responsabbli għax qabbd lil xi hadd iehor iwettaq il-proġett." (5)

Ultimately, the Court concluded:

"Kull persuna – u għalhekk anke il-Gvern – li teżerċita jedd li jkun lilha jispetta għandha teżerċita dak il-jedd b'mod raġjonevoli u għalhekk b'mod li, safejn hu possibbli, ma jikkagunax hsara lil terzi." (6)

In a more recent case, Mountford vs. Hotel San Antonio Limited (7), the plaintiff claimed damages for the loss of business. Defendant was carrying out a large scale development, and plaintiff claimed that while these works were being carried out, he suffered a loss in his commercial activity which ultimately led him to give up on



his lease of a restaurant he was operating.

Defendant pleaded that it had every right to carry out the development, and hence could not be found responsible for any damages caused through the mere use of a right competent to it. The Court referred to jurisprudence on the matter and noted that during the development being carried out, the road on which the plaintiff had his restaurant was closed off since a tower crane had been installed. The court also remarked that:

- The works carried out were extensive;
- There was no adequate hoarding and works were causing excessive dust;
- Apart from the tower crane, other construction equipment was parked or retained in the road immediately in front of the plaintiff's restaurant;
- Pedestrian access was limited.

Based on these facts, the Court concluded:

"Il-Qorti qieset dawn il-fatturi kollha u tasal għal fehma illi s-soċjeta konvenuta kellha dritt li tagħmel ix-xogħlijiet fil-lukanda, pero' meta wiehed iqis l-entita' tax-xogħlijiet, u l-kwalita' ta' makkinarju u inġenji involuti u l-manjiera kif it-triq li hi wahda prinċipali bi stabbilimenti tal-ikel bħal ma hu dak tal-attur, ingħalqet u l-aċċess sar wiehed skabruż u inkonven-

jenti b'mod mhix tollerabbli għal żmien ta' erba' xhur u fuqhom, ma hux sempliċement użu ta' dritt iżda abbuż ta' dan id-dritt fil-konfront ta' terzi senjatement l-attur li bata serjament biex jiġġestixxi n-negożju tiegħu li hu wiehed ta' l-ikel." (8)

Whilst finding the defendant responsible for damages, the Court did not award any damages to plaintiff because of lack of proof of such damages.

When executing a project, there is a very fine line between the rights of the owner or developer carrying out the development, and the rights of the neighbouring properties. One should not limit oneself to real and physical damages that a property may suffer as a result of the development. Caution should be taken in relation to hindrance to operational and/or commercial activities. Measures must be taken to ensure that the consequences on the activities of neighbouring properties are reasonable and contained. Most of these matters ought to be part of the management of the site.

Obtaining the necessary permits for the installation of equipment or the placing of materials from local authorities is not sufficient. An operator must ensure that in carrying out the development to which he is entitled to, the neighbouring properties are afforded due consideration.

Notes

- (1) Civil Code, Article 1030
- (2) Civil Code, Article 1031
- (3) Court of Appeal, 17th February 2006
- (4) In this case the plaintiff was the operator of a restaurant and the damages awarded were based on loss of revenue for the period where the works were excessively delayed.
- (5) Liberal translation: Irrespective of the reason, the plaintiff is neither responsible for such delays nor should it suffer the consequences of such actions (or lack thereof!). Government may not abdicate its responsibility by stating that what happened and what is happening in the neighbourhood is not its responsibility because it has contracted the project to a third party.
- (6) Liberal translation: Each person – and therefore even Government – who exercises a right competent to him should do so in a reasonable manner and therefore in a manner which, as far as possible, does not cause damages to third parties.
- (7) Civil Court, 26th January 2017
- (8) Liberal translation: The Court considered all these factors and concludes that the defendant had the right to carry out the works in the hotel, however when one considers the entity of the works, the type of equipment and plant involved and the manner in which the road, which is a main road and which houses a number of restaurants such as the one belonging to the plaintiff, was closed off and access was dangerous and inconvenient in such for the intolerable duration of over four months, is not simply the exercise of right but the abuse of such right to the detriment of third parties in particular the plaintiff who suffered serious damages with respect to his ability to operate his restaurant business.

http://archigram.westminster.ac.uk/

The influential Archigram group was active from 1961 to 1974, and their work has now been digitised. The Archigram Archival Project is run by a team from EXP, the Research Centre for Experimental Practice at the University of Westminster and was funded by a Resource Enhancement Grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Collaborative help was kindly provided by the surviving members of Archigram or their heirs who retain copyright of all images.

The database include digital versions of

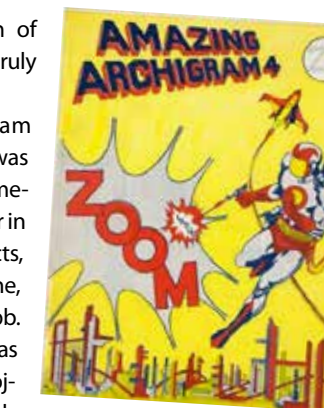
drawings, collages, paintings, photographs, magazines, articles, slides and multi-media material, and original texts by Archigram where available. Given that most of Archigram's work remained unbuilt, its digitisation provides a poetic structure to the collective output of the architects involved.

Archigram are amongst the most seminal, iconoclastic and influential architectural groups of the modern age. They created some of the 20th century's most iconic images and projects, rethought the relationship

of technology, society and architecture, predicted and envisioned the information revolution decades before it came to pass, and reinvented a whole mode of architectural education – and therefore produced a seam of architectural thought with truly global impact.

The name Archigram (Architecture +Telegram) was invented to describe a home-made magazine put together in 1961 by the young architects, Peter Cook and David Greene, joining first with Mike Webb. This free-form magazine was designed to explore new projects and new thinking which were overturning the strict modernist dictates of the 1960s.

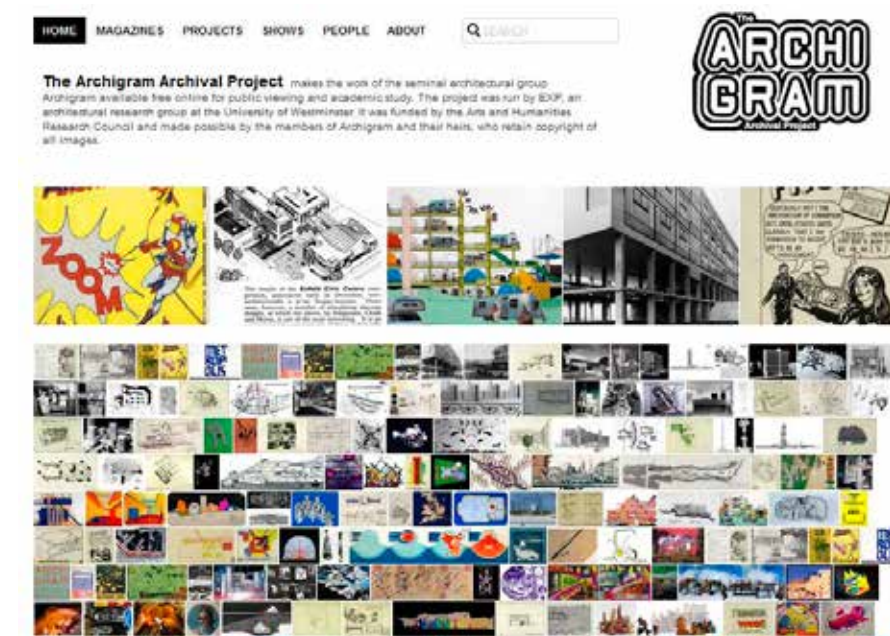
The astounding projects which they created drew on the technologies of the 'Space Race', the dawn of the digital information revolution, and the US-led consumer boom, to develop new visions of what life and society might be like in the immediate future. The projects included the famous Walking City, Plug-in City and Instant City, which variously proposed the use of pods, capsules, mega-structures, inflatable or temporary components, cars, furniture, clothes and gadgets



to replace conventional building forms – in other words, the inventive use of new technologies to rethink society and its forms of habitation.

Besides these powerful joint themes, the differences between the various members of the group gave their work a special charge and an ongoing capacity for challenge. At the RIBA's award of the Royal Gold

Medal in 2002 they described themselves as 'a dysfunctional male family'. Typically, Peter Cook is seen as the dynamic can-do optimist and spokesman; Dennis Crompton as the back-room fixer dealing with technology and looking after the archives; David Greene as the poet, pessimist, elusive dreamer and devastating critic; Mike Webb as the hermit-like artist and design genius; while, of the members who are sadly departed, Ron Herron was the positive, hands-on designer, and Warren Chalk the catalyst of ideas.



Can you identify the location of this photograph taken in the late 1960s?

The winner of this competition will be entitled to a copy of the book "Modernist Malta: The Architectural Legacy". Send your entries to: The Editor, The Architect Competition, Kamra tal-Periti, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira, or by email on kamratalperiti@go.net.mt. The first correct answer drawn on the 31 March 2017 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.

In the previous edition, we published the image of a church which was still under construction and asked our readers to identify it, and the architect who designed it. The correct answer was **St Gregory church, Sliema, designed by Godwin Galizia**. The winner of this competition is Peter Gingell. Congratulations!



NOW TO 5 MARCH 2017; DESIGN MUSEUM, GENT, BELGIUM

HANDS ON DESIGN

The chemistry between the maker, the designer and the company 'Hands on Design' showcases design that is inspired and produced thanks to the innovative power of traditional methods and craftsmanship. 'Hands on Design' will show a superb selection of contemporary and historic design products, which are perfect examples of outstanding craftsmanship and the master's touch. As a user, you can feel the difference between a store-bought kitchen knife or chair and a hand-made knife or chair, but sometimes it is difficult to pinpoint that difference. 'Hands on Design' reveals this invisible added value, the influence of the master's touch and craftsmanship. Stroll through the maker's house, his workshop and design studio. Take a closer look at his drawings and computer models. Learn about prototypes, materials and tools. Discover the human touch in familiar and brand-new utensils. Learn how designers, makers and companies push back boundaries and find new applications for centuries-old techniques. By processing familiar materials such as stone, wood, glass, leather, bronze in new and different ways. Curator Johan Valcke spent two years searching for brand-new utensils by emerging young designers, established design studios and local businesses. He also brought together designers and companies, which led to some novel design products that will be shown for the first time during 'Hands on Design'. Design museum Gent has juxtaposed these designs with surprising masterpieces from its own collection. MaisonCaro designed the exhibition's scenography. www.designmuseumgent.be

NOW TO 26 MARCH 2017; MAXXI, ROME, ITALY

ÁLVARO SIZA, SACRO

Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza has designed inclined walls, a sinuous layout, and a mix of ample restricted spaces to display his religious practice projects at the Zaha Hadid-designed museum in Rome. A mixture of his drawings, projects and objects will demonstrate a range of design, including spaces for religious practice to objects designed for the pope. www.fondazione-maxxi.it

NOW TO 29 MARCH 2017; NEW LONDON ARCHITECTURE, LONDON, UK

DON'T MOVE, IMPROVE!

Celebrating London's best-designed and most innovative home extensions completed in the last two years across the capital, this exhibition will display a wealth of inspiration for those looking to create better living space for Londoners.



Over 100 responses from architects working with London's eclectic mix of building types will be shown, from small flats in 1960s housing blocks and Victorian terraces to Edwardian semis and post-war detached homes. A shortlist of 24 projects have been selected by an esteemed jury out of 120 best projects, decided by industry leaders, experts and journalists from London's built environment. www.newlondonarchitecture.org



Photo by Luke Hayes

NOW TO 23 APRIL 2017; THE DESIGN MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

FEAR AND LOVE: REACTIONS TO A COMPLEX WORLD

This exhibition presents eleven new installations by some of the most innovative and thought-provoking designers and architects working today. These newly commissioned works explore a spectrum of issues that define our time, including: networked sexuality, sentient robots, slow fashion and settled nomads. The exhibition asserts that design is deeply connected not just to commerce and culture but to urgent underlying issues – issues that inspire fear and love. This is a bold, multidisciplinary and global exhibition that aims to capture the mood of the present and establish the Design Museum as the home of design debate. www.designmuseum.org

NOW TO 7 MAY 2017; MOMA, NEW YORK, USA

THE SHAPE OF THINGS: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ROBERT B. MENSCHEL

This exhibition presents an engaging survey of The Museum of Modern Art's multifaceted collection of photography. Borrowing its title from the eponymous work by Carrie Mae Weems, it is drawn entirely from works acquired over the past 40 years with the support of Robert B. Menschel, telling



Photo by: 2016 Berenice Abbott/Commerce Graphics

the story of photography from its beginnings. Covering more than 150 years of photography—from an 1843 view of Paris by William Henry Fox Talbot, the English father of photography, to An-My Lê's depictions of US military exercises in preparation for war in Iraq and Afghanistan—the exhibition underscores an equal attention to the past and the present, and a strong belief that they complement each other; and that each generation reinvents photography. www.moma.org

8 MARCH TO 25 JUNE, 2017; THE ARCHITECTURE GALLERY, RIBA, LONDON, UK

MIES VAN DER ROHE AND JAMES STIRLING: CIRCLING THE SQUARE

Comparing the design methods of two of the most highly recognised architects of the 20th century this exhibition offers a renewed examination of their iconic architectural schemes proposed for the same site in the City of London. www.architecture.com



Photo by Janet Hall/RIBA Collections

23 MARCH TO 25 JUNE 2017; BARBICAN, LONDON, UK

THE JAPANESE HOUSE: ARCHITECTURE AND LIFE AFTER 1945

This is the first major UK exhibition to focus on Japanese domestic architecture from the end of the Second World War to now, a field which has consistently produced some of the most influential and extraordinary examples of modern and contemporary design. In the wake of the war, the widespread devastation of Tokyo and other cities in Japan brought an urgent need for new housing, and the single family house quickly became the foremost site for architectural experimentation and debate. In the years following, Japanese architects have consistently used their designs to propose radical critiques of society and innovative solutions to changing lifestyles. Considering developments in residential architecture in the light of important shifts in the Japanese economy, urban landscape, and family structure, The Japanese House presents some of the most exciting architectural projects of the last 70 years, many of which have never before been exhibited in the UK. As well as architectural projects, the exhibition incorporates cinema, photography and art in order to cast new light on the role of the house in Japanese culture. www.barbican.org.uk



Lighting Design

December 2016 saw the opening of a new outlet belonging to a renowned cosmetics brand at a shopping mall in Tigne. This is the third outlet on the island, with the previous opening taking place at Mosta just a year prior. Both projects required a high element of design which effectively conveyed the company's branding. The lighting design played a pivotal role in bringing to life the spaces as well as serving a very important purpose within a commercial context that is of product display. In this regard the quality of the lighting, more specifically the require-

ment for a high colour rendering index (CRI), was paramount. The CRI is a quantitative measure of the ability of a light source to reveal the true colours of objects faithfully in comparison with an ideal or natural light source. This ideal light source from a CRI perspective is the incandescent or halogen lamp which both rate as excellent (CRI 100), however which perform poorly in terms of energy efficiency. To this effect the



EU continues to push for these to be phased out. The general colour rendering index of LEDs has been relatively low in the past, however improvement of phosphors and the technological upgrade of LED materials has meant that some LEDs now provide a CRI exceeding 90.

The lighting installations in both the Tigne and Mosta outlets utilise the STRUCTEC spot mounted on the EUTRAC, a track lighting system from the SLV brand. The STRUCTEC is available in several colour versions and beam angles with a suitable adapter for the

3-phase 240V track system. It has a high-performance COB LED module which, thanks to a CRI of >90, is especially suitable for excellent colour reproduction. The EUTRAC 240V 3-phase surface-mounted track system consists of an aluminium carrier track. The surface-mounted version of this system is available in several



colours and lengths, with an alternative recessed version also being available.

The decorative FORCHINI PD2 pendant lights, also from SLV, have been utilised in the secluded spa corner at the Tigne outlet to give a warmer and softer lighting to this space. The pendant is fitted with a lamp shade made of glass fibre reinforced plastic. The exterior is finished in matt black with a gold leaf effect interior finish. A white exterior finish and a silver interior finish are also available. Alongside the optical aspects, the reflective internal surface also has an effect on the colour of the light.

Both projects were realised in collabora-

tion between the client and the lighting supplier, ESS Ltd, who is an SLV partner. SLV, a German brand, covers decorative lighting, lighting systems, architectural lighting and outdoor lighting. Applications include residential, commercial or industrial. Over the past years ESS Ltd has actively distributed the brand's catalogue to design professionals, with the distribution of the BIG WHITE 2017 in the pipeline. The catalogue is an essential tool in any design office since it provides extensive information about the various products, specifications as well as pricing.

Image Credits: ROCS Group and ESS Ltd.



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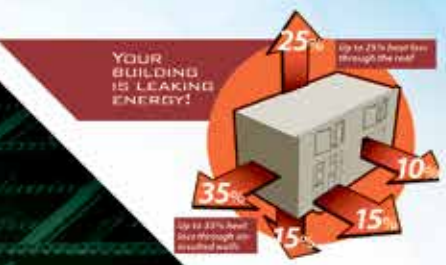


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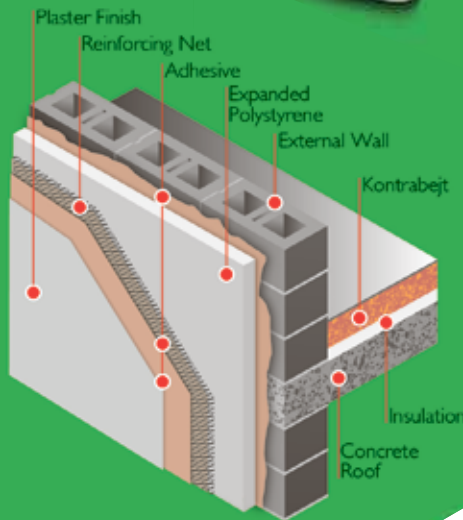


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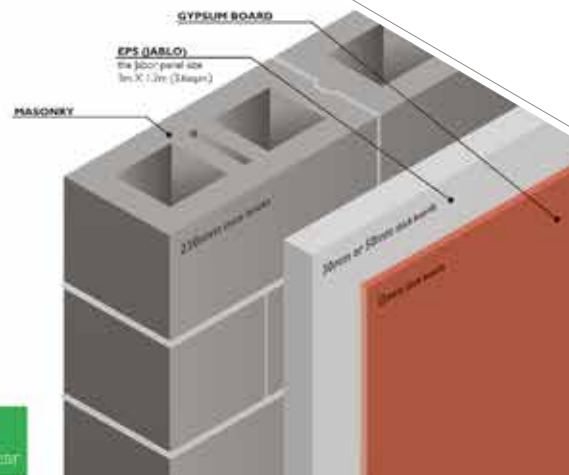
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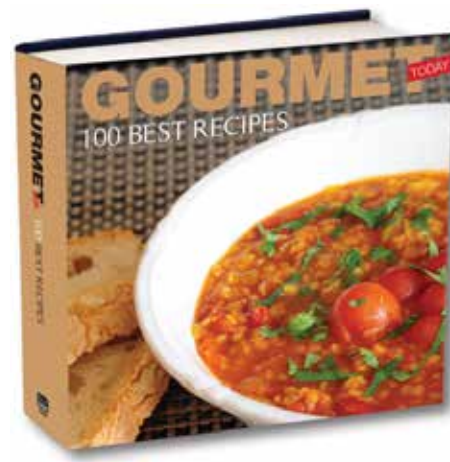
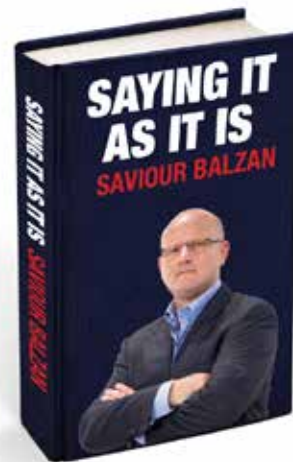


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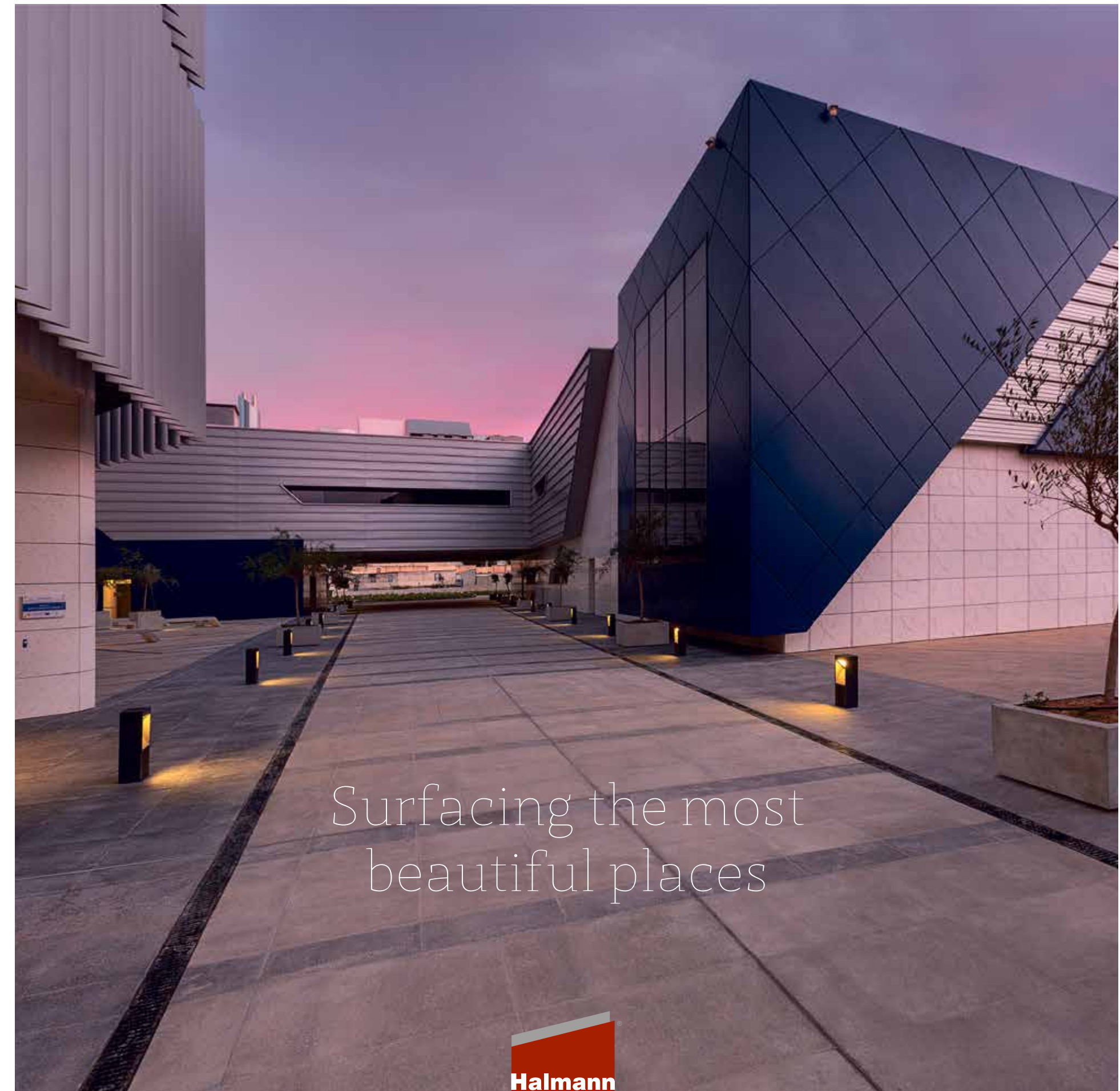


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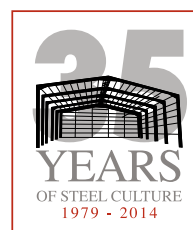


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