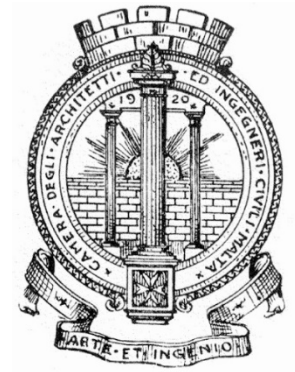


**KAMRA TAL-PERITI DESIGN REVIEW**

**MOCK SESSIONS**

03 – 05 DECEMBER 2019



## PREFACE

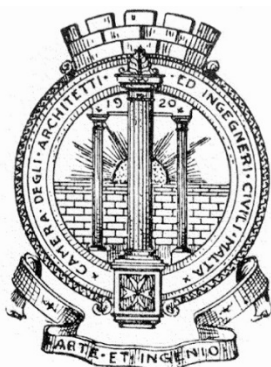
These regulations are published by the *Kamra tal-Periti* (Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers), in connection with the Kamra tal-Periti Design Review launch.

Good design is not about subjective stylistic decisions or producing extravagant schemes. The appearance of our built environment is important, but good design is about much more than how things look. It is about uplifting communities and transforming how people feel and behave. It is about smart thinking, using resources effectively and imaginatively, and integrating within larger planning and local objectives.

Good design is about building and spaces which are fit for purpose and will last. It is about creating developments which are compatible and suitable to a location, which respond to their surroundings and which promote inclusion and cohesions. It is about responding to environmental initiatives and creating spaces and places that a community will enjoy and be proud of.

There is currently no formal forum for debating design in a constructive and impartial manner. The assessment of development proposals needs to shift away from mere compliance to a set of purely quantitative checklists – *a practice largely responsible for driving the mediocrity in our built environment* – towards a more qualitative analysis of development proposals. All stakeholders need to place the public's well-being at par with their particular interests.

As part of our mission to improve the quality of the built environment, we are proud to launch the ***Kamra tal-Periti Design Review***, starting with a a series of mock processes to serve as a catalyst for the fully-fledged system, and to inform the setup thereof.



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## Rules of participation

### **1. Voluntary Design Review**

- 1.1 As part of its mission to improve the quality of the built environment the *Kamra tal-Periti* is inviting *periti* to participate in a series of design reviews of their pending or current projects. The proposals should have a significant influence on the public domain or should be challenged by present design guideline policies.
- 1.2 The projects will be presented to a panel of multi-disciplinary advisors selected by the *Kamra tal-Periti*. The reviews will be carried out on a voluntary basis by the panel.
- 1.3 The ultimate aim of these reviews is to improve the quality of the built environment by providing a professional forum and platform for the discussion and promotion of good design. These reviews are not intended to replace the functions of any other established advisory or statutory bodies.

### **2. General Principles**

- 2.1 *Periti* and the Planning Authority routinely seek advice from advisory bodies and statutory consultees. Design Review does not replace the insights and expertise of these bodies. Rather, it offers additional breadth of vision and support on issues of design to aid decision making in the planning system.
- 2.2 The strength of advice received through design review lies in its independence, objectivity and ability to analyse a scheme within the context of wider good practice and knowledge of referential projects.
- 2.3 Design Review gives constructive and impartial advice to architects, urban designers, landscape architects and other design practitioners from fellow professionals and other advisors who are able to examine the project design from a variety of perspectives and at sufficient distance so as to offer a fresh viewpoint that can identify design issues which the project designers may be too close to see. The process supports good design intentions and pinpoints any opportunities and weaknesses that may have been missed.

### **3. General Rules**

- 3.1 Projects must be at pre-planning / planning stage; a Design Review is a conversation about work in progress, not a verdict on an outcome. The pre-application stage of the planning process, while the design is still fluid, is the best time for a review.
- 3.2 Scheme designs will not be circulated before the meeting. This will avoid panel members coming to the meeting with their minds already made up about the quality of the scheme, which could compromise the objectivity of the review. The review will be attended by invited specialists and the other *periti* and design teams that will be offering their projects for review. The reviews will not be open to the general public.

- 3.3 A written report will be provided upon conclusion of the review. The reviewers understand that the design advice provided is only as valuable as the written report that conveys it. The report will turn the deliberations into a coherent summary, with advice that can be acted on. In principle, the report will highlight the positive aspects of the project and make recommendations for improvements to the scheme.

#### **4. Submission Requirements**

4.1 The following are the submission requirements:

- i. One-page summary in .pdf format with project details (name of *perit* and design team members and contact details; name of client, location of site or property, description of project etc.) for distribution to the panel members – this should include enough background information about the project to allow panel members to declare any possible conflicts of interest.
- ii. A design statement in .pdf format describing the project and the challenges it is currently facing (max 500 words).
- iii. A motivation statement in .pdf format outlining the reasons why you wish to attend the design review (max 300 words).
- iv. A visual presentation in .pdf format illustrating the project design (max 2 x A1 sheets, or equivalent smaller sheets) – participants are also required to print this presentation for pinning up on the day (paper format, unmounted).
- v. Digital presentation (no videos) in .pdf format, together with 2 (two) printouts for the panel.
- vi. A participation fee of €100.00 (*one hundred Euro*) for submissions made by paid-up members of the Kamra tal-Periti, or a fee of €200.00 (*two hundred Euro*) in the case of submissions made by non-paid-up members).

#### **5. Procedure on the Day**

- 5.1 The design review sessions will take place on the mornings of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019. An agenda will be circulated once the number of submissions is known.
- 5.2 Reviews will be carried out as presentation sessions, where the design team and, if possible, the client, present the scheme to the panel. This has many advantages. It gives the design team the opportunity to make a personal case for their ideas, engage in discussion and hear the panel's comments directly.
- 5.3 If the client is present, s/he may introduce the presentation with a two- or three-minute overview of the brief, aims and objectives of the scheme. The *perit* and design team will then be invited to talk through the main design issues. The presentation should not last less than 15 minutes, and not longer than 20 minutes. A discussion will then take place, for a maximum total duration of 30 mins.
- 5.4 A pin-up board will be made available. Periti will be expected to pin up the visual presentation outlined in point 4.1(iv) above, and any other material they deem relevant.
- 5.5 Participants may also present any design aids they deem relevant (eg. models, photos, etc).

## **6. Panel**

6.1 All members and chairs must abide by the following principles — selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

6.2 The panel will be composed of experts in their respective and shall collectively have the following qualities:

- i. *Multi-disciplinary* – a mix of built environment professional expertise and not just architectural or planning experts – members could include experts in fields such as landscape architecture, urban design, the historic environment, sustainability and environmental services, inclusive environments, civil and structural engineering, transportation, public art, social development and property development.
- ii. *Specialist experience* – some schemes need to be reviewed by panels which include specialist members; for example detailed understanding of hospital or school design or knowledge of public policy.
- iii. *Communication Skills* – Members should have a track record of achievement and experience in their professional field and be articulate in discussing design issues. Quick analysis and ability to communicate criticism in a constructive and positive way is essential.
- iv. *Diversity* – Members should mirror the diversity of the communities they serve.
- v. *Embracing different options* – In selecting members the aim would be to have a range of people reflecting different views and backgrounds. Members should be able to act as part of a group, but a panel where members agree all the time is unlikely to be effective.

## **7. Criteria**

7.1 In reviewing the projects and preparing the respective review report, the panel will be guided by the following general criteria:

### **I. Core criteria**

- a) Response to brief
- b) Innovation
- c) Conceptual strength

### **II. Architectural criteria**

- a) Beauty
- b) Design approach
- c) Idea of the design
- d) Structural solutions
- e) Quality and appearance of spaces
- f) Sensitivity to urban context
- g) Restoration approach

### **III. Functional criteria**

- a) Zoning of interior areas
- b) Functionality of the solution
- c) Segregation of uses

#### **IV. Social criteria**

- a) Inclusivity
- b) Accessibility
- c) Appropriateness for target user group age, gender, ability, and wellbeing
- d) Relationship with community

#### **V. Environmental criteria**

- a) Sustainability
- b) Use of materials
- c) Maintenance
- d) Greening of spaces

#### **VI. Urban criteria**

- a) Design of exterior spaces
- b) Relationship to context
- c) Alternative transport solutions
- d) Circulation and pedestrian pathways

### **8. Copyright / Authors' rights**

- 8.1 The copyright of all entries rests with the *periti* who submit them. The physical material submitted to the *Kamra tal-Periti* as part of this process will be returned to the participants at the end of the respective session. Any digital material submitted to the *Kamra tal-Periti* will not be used for any purpose other than the presentation sessions to be held in the first week of December 2019.

### **9. Eligibility**

- 9.1 Design Reviews are open to all *periti* and their design teams.
- 9.2 Design Reviews are not open to student projects, but students may form part of the design team.
- 9.3 The *Kamra tal-Periti* reserves the right to eliminate any projects that do not meet the criteria outlined above.