

IN EVERY ISSUE



PRACTICE

- 4 Editorial
- 5 KTP News
- 6 People & Projects
- 8 Letters
- 9 Current
- 10 EU Desk
- 11 SACES



FEATURE

- 12 Maghtab
- 15 Landscape Seminar
- 16 Urban Spaces
- 19 Interview



CURRENT

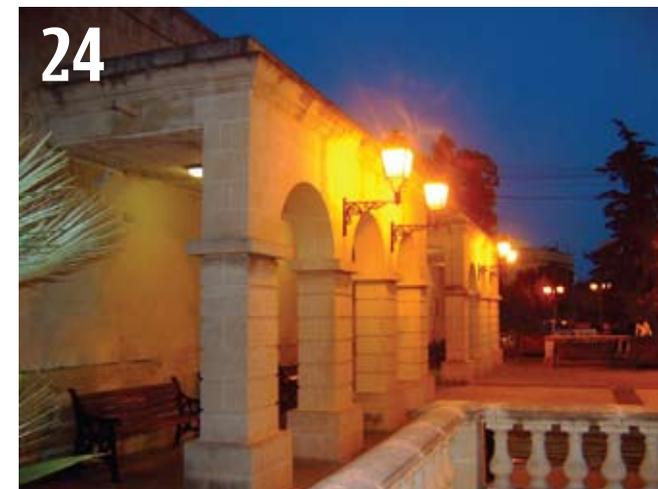
- 20 Peter Lorenz
- 21 T4A3/AN07
- 22 EC8
- 24 Heritage
- 25 Reviews
- 26 International Events



16



25



24



20

“We need to put a stop to those who are resorting to the law to delay matters.”

Minister George Pullicino

People & Projects, page 6

Recent decades have seen a dramatic change in the Maltese environment. In the post-war period, the built-up area of the Maltese Islands has grown more than four-fold. The rapidity of these changes has been such that their effects are still being assimilated, culturally, socially, environmentally and economically. As pressures on land and open space remain high, the built (and unbuilt) environment has become one of the principal topics of public debate, concern and negotiation.

The environment within which we carry on with our daily lives includes the natural landscape, the built environment and urban spaces which have been specifically designed to provide planned landscapes within built up areas. The well being of a nation, and thus the social structure of a society, depend to a high degree on a well-designed environment that is pleasant to live in. In recent years the number of projects initiated by government and, to a lesser extent, by private individuals to provide such environments has increased noticeably. This issue of "the Architect" takes a look at some such projects that are currently in the pipeline, and that augur well for the betterment of our urban, and not so urban, spaces.

While all these projects are well worthy of praise, the overall general impression is that the approach to these proposals is somewhat piecemeal, with contained projects being proposed for specific pockets of land. One may well ask whether there is an overall strategy for all this, or whether these projects are a result of whim. The same may be said, for example, for the recent proposal by government of no less than twenty projects for the Grand Harbour area ranging from a cruise liner terminal in Senglea to a hotel on the site of the Sir Paul Boffa hospital to the closing down of the Marsa power station. While each proposed project may be discussed on its own merits, and be found to be a valid one, one must question whether the totality of the proposal has been studied in depth. What will the effect of these projects be on the transport networks within the Grand Harbour region and on the already existing parking problem in the area? How will they affect the social fabric within which they will be introduced? Has MEPA been involved in the studies, and do the proposals fit within the approved Local Plan policies for the area? Will any of the proposed projects be subject to an EIA? These are but some of the questions that come to mind when taking a step back and looking away from the individual projects to the overall scenario.

Another point of note is the virtually inexistent recourse to design competitions for such projects, with the notable exception of the Magħtab project featured in this issue. While govern-

ment has every right to directly appoint professionals of its own choice, the awarding of contracts for architectural services must focus on the quality of the service being provided. The use of design competitions is one of the best means to provide for quality, demonstrating the skills of the profession and emphasising on quality based awarding criteria. Competitions could also be employed for the creation of the briefs for such projects, and could be open or offered to a selected list of participants. There is no doubt that such an approach would benefit these projects immensely, with a proliferation of ideas and design philosophies being proposed and exposed to the public for discussion.

Following on from this debate of the need for quality in the built environment one cannot but question the recent amendments to the Development Notification Order regulations whereby it is now possible for the installation of certain street furniture to take place without the need to even inform the MEPA of such additions to the urban fabric. Waste receptacles, lamp posts, public benches, bollards, barriers and similar items can be erected, subject to certain condition, without so much as a by-your-leave. No consideration is therefore given to the design of such items, or their suitability within the context within which they are placed.

An integrated, all encompassing and all inclusive approach is needed if we are to see a true rehabilitation of our urban spaces.

This issue of "the Architect" should reach your coffee table in time for you to read about the exciting activities being organised in the coming months by the Kamra tal-Periti. Time for Architecture is back with its third edition, and the Architecture Nights series are still ongoing. Surely one of the more interesting events will be the exhibition of works by local Architects and Civil Engineers that will be showing at the Auberge d'Italie in Valletta. It promises to be a true breath of fresh air, demonstrating that the building profession is not just the picture of gloom, inconvenience and disrespect for the environment it is often painted to be, but that there is a lot of good design going on; design which is certainly worthy of note and which can provide a good basis for discussion on the way forward for architecture in Malta.

Simone Vella Lenicker
Editor



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

KAMRA TAL-PERITI

To support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community

The Council of the Kamra Tal-Periti for the year 2007 consists of David Felice (President), David Pace (Past - President) and Council members Keith Cole, Anthony Fenech Vella, Alberto Miceli Farrugia, Danica Mifsud, Antoine Zammit, Damian Vella Lenicker, Vincent Cassar, Malcolm Sullivan, Ruben Sciortino and Philip Grech.

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

The contents of this journal are copyright. Reproduction in part or in full is forbidden without the permission of the editor. The opinions expressed by writers of signed articles and letters appearing in the magazine are those of their respective authors, and neither the Kamra Tal-Periti nor Newsworks Ltd is responsible for these opinions or statements.

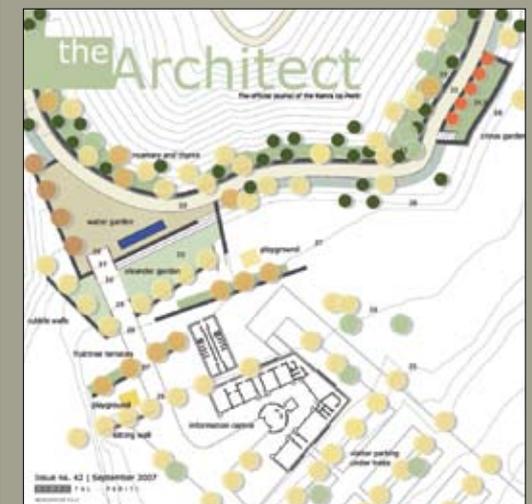
Editor: **Simone Vella Lenicker**
Design: **Zvezdan Reljic**
Sales executive: **Joseph Zammit**

Published by:



Vjal ir-Rihan
San Gwann SGN 02
Malta
Tel: +356 21 382 741
Fax: +356 21 385 075
Email: admin@mediatoday.com.mt

Printed at: **Union Print**



Cover: Winning proposal for Magħtab design competition

QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

The KTP Council's concern about the Europe-wide recognition of the Bachelor degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering conferred by the University of Malta, due to the lack of notification of the course as required following Malta's accession to the EU, led it to write a letter to the Rector of the University of Malta. This letter was copied to the Prime Minister, Minister Ninu Zammit, Minister Louis Galea and Dean Joseph Falzon. As a result, a meeting was called in order to review the course description, which was then forwarded to the relevant authorities in Brussels for notification. Other member states can challenge the course content, and should this be the case such challenge will be discussed at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in Architecture (ACETA). Should the course content go unchallenged, or should any challenges be unsuccessful, students following the course at the University of Malta can rest assured that their qualifications will be acknowledged throughout the European Union.

ACE ELECTIONS

The elections for the President and members of the Executive Board of the Architect's Council of Europe (ACE) will take place in November 2007. Following the ACE's call for nominations from Member Organisations, the KTP Council has nominated Council Member Perit Vincent Cassar to contest this election. Over the last few years, collaboration between the KTP and the ACE has greatly increased and it is felt that the ACE has a lot to offer the Kamra especially in terms of issues concerning Professional Practice. KTP President David Felice has already served on the Executive Board in 2006 as vice-coordinator for Culture and Communication.

SEMINAR & AGM

This year the Kamra tal-Periti will be combining its Annual General Meeting with a Day Seminar, where a number of topics that will certainly interest the whole of the profession will be discussed. The event will also include a trade exhibition. More details will be circulated in due course. In the meantime, mark your diaries! This will surely be a day not to be missed.

CENTRE FOR ARCHITECTURE

Council Members Vincent Cassar, Keith Cole, Danica Mifsud and Antoine Zammit were guests of the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) last June. The purpose of this visit, which was made possible by the kind collaboration and sponsorship of the Dutch Ambassador to Malta Mr Jan Heidsma, was to better understand the workings and functions of an architecture centre, in view of setting up a similar centre for Malta. The NAI is the national institute for the Netherlands, but many Dutch towns also have their own centres, which offer information about developments in the field of urban development, architecture and



related disciplines in the respective regions. This is done by means of activities such as exhibitions, events, guided tours, discussions and lectures. The KTP delegation also visited AIR, AORTA and

ARCAM, which are the regional architecture centres for Rotterdam, Utrecht and Amsterdam respectively. The Kamra is actively working on setting up such a centre in Malta. It tendered for the lease of a government-owned property in Valletta, but was outbid by a couple of hundred Liri. In the coming months, the Council will be working on drafting an organisational setup and will start to hold discussions with government and other entities to establish possible routes of collaboration.

MID YEAR STATUS

In addition to the regular fortnightly meetings, the KTP Council held an extra meeting on the 20 July. The main aims of this meeting were to carry out an evaluation of the first six months of Council's term in office as well as to update, amend and consolidate its short and long term goals. Besides reports by each Chairperson of the various Standing Committees, a number of other issues were discussed, such as the setting up of the Architecture Centre and the preparation of a financial plan for the Kamra. Also, the KTP Organigram was confirmed, establishing lines of communication and procedures. This is further detailed on page 9.

KTP WEBSITE

Last August, www.ktpmalta.com was migrated from a local to a foreign domain. This change allows for bet-



ter graphics and enhances communication. It also allows for the creation of a "KTP Members Only" section which will serve as an archive of important documentation for Periti, as well as the possibility for an active forum for discussion. Work on the site is ongoing, thanks to the input by Perit Saviour Borg. In the meantime, KTP members are encouraged to log on to the new website and send in their comments. In addition, those

members who wish to be enlisted in the KTP directory are to email their details to info@ktpmalta.com. Members are also encouraged to set up the site as their homepage.

MEMORIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

The UMAR member countries launched an exhibition together on the 14 of July to commemorate the organisation's birthday. Titled "Khans, Foundouks and Caravanserais", this exhibition looked at examples of the particular building typologies found in these forms on the caravan routes. These can also be compared to other typologies, although in different forms and with different functional priorities throughout the Mediterranean basin. As a member of UMAR, the Kamra tal-Periti also participated in this event. Due to its limited financial resources, a full-blown exhibition could not be set up. However, further to the MEPA's immediate positive support to host this exhibition, a relatively



innovative manner of setting up this exhibition by using modern technology of image projection, a very close alternative to the ideal, was setup in the MEPA foyer. The digital exhibition included a panel prepared by Perit David Mallia on an 18th century architectural complex in Rabat, similar to the principle of a fondouk, where a number of spaces are grouped together with different families occupying different rooms, and used for the purpose of allowing farmers to store their produce close to the market.

GIVING NEW LIFE TO ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH LIGHT

Apex Interiors Ltd in collaboration with iGuzzini and the Kamra Tal-Periti organised a seminar at St James Cavalier, Centre for Creativity, Valletta on the 21 June. The aim of this seminar was to delve into how professional illumination can give a new dimension to architectural heritage to maximise its potential. This was achieved through reference to the theoretical concepts as well as iGuzzini projects in this field. Special attention was also given to conservation of areas to be illuminated as well as to energy efficiency. A number of case studies were presented through short documentaries.

MEETING WITH ECCE PRESIDENT

Earlier this year KTP President David Felice, together with Council Members Danica Mifsud and Damian Vella Lenicker met informally with European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) President, Richard Coackley, who happened to be in Malta for an ICE Conference. The possible membership of KTP in ECCE was discussed. The outcome of this meeting will serve as a basis for discussion within the KTP Council since membership of a European Engineering body is deemed to be an important step that must be undertaken in the near future.

NEW WARRANTS

Congratulations on obtaining their warrant to practice as an Architect and Civil Engineer to Rosanne Ascias Muscat Azzopardi, Lisa Aquilina, Antonella Caruana, Simon Bernard Grech, Deborah Grech, David Mifsud Parker, and William Privitera. Good luck with your professional careers.

MARKET VS MEANING

In June, internationally renowned architects Rem Koolhaas and Peter Eisenman shared their often-conflicting opinions on what they consider to be the most pressing issue in architecture today, during a discussion entitled "Urgency" at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) in Montréal. Koolhaas discussed the death of the icon - "partly due to ridicule, partly to overdose and certainly [connected to] money" - and the dilemma this represents for architects. "If you look back over the past 2,000 years, architecture dignified civic and public life. Then the market economy happened, replacing all former values and erasing almost all ideology over the entire world. What it represents for all of us today is an invitation to simply be extravagant and spectacular. It will not be subtle," he said. He questioned the curious situation architects find themselves in: an ambiguous



The simulated desert rendering with OMA's own Dubai Renaissance project in the foreground. Image: Courtesy Office of Metropolitan Architecture.

status of not being taken seriously, but having unlimited amounts of media attention. "It is not always clear whether we are using our position to engage in an intellectual discourse or an incredible ego free-for-all. Unfortunately, we have not been able to provide any dignity to the profession due to our complete technical inability to conquer market pressures and our willingness to be totally manipulated," he said. Eisenman, for his part, stated he felt no sense of urgency; rather, he claimed that urgency itself is the problem in present-

day architecture. "The problem we need to solve is the urgency of media to have something new to look at and talk about all the time. Our need to be in the news all the time... The slowness required to find and understand meaning in architecture no longer has any attraction," he said. In his opinion, whether you're looking at the work of "star" or "B-movie" architects, we are witnessing the late period of modernism - its "death rattle" - and are in too much a hurry to get out of it, but with no new paradigm to replace it.

URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Earlier this summer, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority explained the workings of an EU funded project in which it is involved and which is seeking to develop an e-based training tool on the promotion of sustainable urban development. The project started last October when MEPA signed a partnership agreement and joined a consortium of partner organisations from Greece, the Czech Republic, Spain, the UK, and Hungary. The project is led by the Research and Development Centre within the Intercollege of Nicosia, Cyprus. It is part-funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme (2004-2006) and MEPA's share of the budget amounts to EUR43,000. All project activities are expected to be completed by September 2008.

MEPA said that around 80 per cent of the EU population live in cities and towns. Urban areas were, therefore, the places where environmental problems most affected the quality of life of European citizens. Due to the high density of activities in urban areas, a number of environmental problems result in significant implications on human health, impacts on the wider environment and climate change, the quality of life and the economic performance of the cities themselves. The project aims at increasing awareness of the need for sound environmental management in urban areas, in line with the EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment. The strategy aims at improving the quality of the urban environment and reducing the impact cities have on the environment.

The first activity of the project involved an assessment of the current situation regarding urban environment and sustainable development and also an assessment of the role of the Local Authorities in the EU. Subsequently each partner organisation from the four new EU member states

involved in this project developed an environmental performance review on their own country. Next in line is the development of the Training e-Tool based on the priority themes set in the Commission's Communication on the Thematic Strategy for Urban Environment. The e-Tool will then be tested through a series of pilot trainings of local officers. The training sessions will be evaluated and the e-Tool will be adapted according to the recommendations made. To fulfill the EU publicity requirements, this project will disseminate and promote the Training e-Tool to the broadest audience possible. All the activities in which MEPA is involved are being carried out by the Development Control Unit, with the assistance of the EU and Multilateral Affairs Unit of MEPA, which helped to secure EU funds for this project.

RIBA STIRLING PRIZE

The RIBA Stirling Prize is given for the RIBA Building of the Year. It is run in association with The Architects' Journal and is pre-



sented to the architects of the building which has been the most significant for the evolution of architecture in the past year. The winning architect receives a cash prize of £20,000. The prize is named after the great British architect Sir James Stirling (1926-1992). The short listed buildings, chosen from winners of the RIBA National Awards and selected RIBA European Awards, are visited in September by the RIBA Stirling Prize jury, who reconvene on the afternoon of the RIBA Stirling Prize Dinner to make their final decision. The jury for the 2007 Stirling Prize comprises Tom Bloxham MBE, chair of Urban

Splash; Alain de Botton, author and philosopher; Louisa Hutton, architect; Kieran Long, Editor of The Architects' Journal; and Sunand Prasad, architect and RIBA President-Elect.

This year's short list includes the following buildings:

America's Cup Building, Valencia, Spain by David Chipperfield Architects;
Casa da Musica, Porto, Portugal by Office for Metropolitan Architecture with Arup-AFA
Dresden Station Redevelopment, Dresden, Germany by Foster + Partners;
Museum of Modern Literature, Marbach am Neckar, Germany by David Chipperfield Architects;
The Savill Building, Windsor, by Glenn Howells Architects;
Young Vic Theatre, London SE1 by Haworth Tompkins.
The Barajas Airport in Madrid, designed by Richard Rogers Partnership, won last year's edition of the Stirling Prize.

ODZ

Illegal structures built outside development zone could be demolished within days thanks to legal amendments approved by the Cabinet last July.



Malta Environment and Planning Authority inspectors will be empowered to take direct action against illegal buildings constructed since May 2007, the date when aerial photography clearly established the legal parameters. This important amendment gives MEPA inspectors the right to seal such buildings and call in the demolishers, with the offender being given no right of appeal or the chance to regularise his status.

"We need to put a stop to those who are resorting to the law to delay matters," Environment Minister George Pullicino told a news conference. These amendments will be submitted to Parliament for endorsement, and include a proposal to raise the maximum fine Lm1,000 to Lm10,000.

NEW BUILDING FOR THE AF

The Architecture Foundation is one of the UK's leading independent architecture centres. It will soon have a new home, a purpose-built venue for communicating architecture to a wide public, through exhibitions, events and other activities. Designed by Zaha Hadid, this will be her first public building in London. Responding



to the brief's request for a building "with the qualities of a billboard and a chapel", it combines a powerful relationship to the street with more contemplative exhibition spaces inside. Hadid won the commission following a competition that attracted over 200 entries. The building will include exhibition space, space for events, a cafe/bar and offices for the AF. It is conceived as a centre of energy and a social place, as well as an exhibition space. Once installed in the new building, the AF will continue to deliver off-site projects and events in various locations as well as a rich programme in the new building. A planning application was submitted in July 2006. The building is due to open to the public in 2008.

TA' QALI CRAFTS VILLAGE

Last July, Minister Jesmond Mugliett and Parliamentary Secretary Edwin Vassallo launched the new Ta' Qali Crafts Village Project – a four-year project that will cost around Lm8 million (EUR18.63 million) and create 400 new jobs. The total area covered by the project will be of approximately 75,000 square metres and will include three car parks that can hold up to 450 cars. The project will also include an incubation centre that will be run by the Malta Council for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) and the Education Ministry.

SURCH

The SURCH (Social Inclusion in Urban Regeneration through Cultural Heritage) network united five cities from northern to southern Europe to study how urban regeneration can be tackled through cultural heritage. Participants included the Grand Harbour of Malta, the Irish docklands in Cork, Western part of Nicosia, and the working-class districts of Athens in Greece and of Kaunas in Lithuania. The study concluded that urban regen-

eration cannot be done without considering the cultural heritage of the city as a whole or that of one of its districts, and a city's cultural baggage should even be the starting point for urban regeneration initiatives. "Cultural heritage, in the widest sense of the term, is an important tool for getting and keeping citizens involved in changing and developing their own neighbourhoods" explained Mayor of Valletta, Paul Borg Olivier, in the introduction to the SURCH network's report. "Cultural identity and community spirit are key factors that should be retained in urban regeneration projects so as not to develop faceless projects that give no consideration to local citizens".

Valletta was the SURCH network's lead partner. In concrete terms, the SURCH network's partner cities came to the conclusion that the issues surrounding cultural heritage must be central to all urban regeneration projects. The network's members even believe that identifying cultural heritage should be a prerequisite for all projects as otherwise projects may have the opposite effect to the one desired, resulting in the social exclusion of the very local citizens who should be involved in the decision-making process.

VITTORIOSA CLOCK TOWER

At the end of 2004, "the Architect" had reported on plans to rebuild the Vittoriosa clock tower. A full development permit was submitted to the MEPA in June for the reconstruction of the tower and the upgrading of Victory Square. The archaeological project at Victory Square is the result of a close collaboration between the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Cottonera Rehabilitation Committee and the Vittoriosa local council. Originally, the tower reached a height of approximately forty meters, consisting of five to six floors, with a quadrilateral plan. Towards the top, a balcony with stone balustrades ran around the tower, but the balustrades were replaced by wooden railings during the 19th century. Framed squares and diamond patterns decorated the first floor and a flower design decorated the 1549 date inscription. The tower was hit by a bomb



in April 1942 and what remained standing was dismantled since it was considered to be dangerous. The hands of the clock, as well as parts of the clock works, were salvaged.

WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH LIST

The 2008 World Monuments Watch List of the 100 Most Endangered Sites announced last June shows that human activity has become the greatest threat of all to the world's cultural heritage. This year's list highlights three critical man-made threats: political conflict, unchecked urban and industrial development, and, for the first time, global climate change.

Announced every two years, the WMF Watch List acts as a call to action, drawing international public attention to threatened cultural heritage sites across the globe. The Watch List is assembled by an international panel of experts in archaeology, architecture, art history, and preservation. For many historic sites, inclusion on the List is the best, and sometimes the only, hope for survival. So far, more than 75% of Watch sites – from the famous and familiar to the unexpected and remote – have been saved or are now out of danger, thanks to timely intervention.



In Malta, Fort St Elmo is the only site inscribed on the current list with the primary justification being: exposure to the elements, vandalism, limited resources. Searching the global map at www.worldmonumentswatch.org brings up details of all sites and their threats.

MEPA BOARD SECRETARY

Mr Joe Catania is the new board secretary at the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. He has worked as a law clerk at the Attorney General's office and graduated as a legal procurator in 1992. Following three years with a law firm, Mr Catania joined the then Planning Authority's legal office in 1995. His duties included handling the authority's court registry work,

representing the Planning Directorate before the Planning Appeals Board, prosecuting breaches against the Development Planning and Environment Protection Acts, and tendering internal advice. He has also occupied the post of senior legal procurator at the Mepa legal office.

ENERGY & WASTE

Figures published in August show that more than 80 per cent of people in the UK believe they have a "duty" to recycle household waste. The survey also found that 81



per cent of people say they have at least one low-energy light bulb at home compared to

just over 30 per cent a few years ago. The findings also indicate that public opinion may be ahead of the Government on the environment following the disclosure that officials have warned ministers that the European Union 2020 target for renewable energy is not achievable. It would be interesting to have a similar survey carried out in Malta, even in view of the government's recent proposals on the implementation of a new waste separation scheme, which will be in place by the end of the year, that will give people the choice of having their recyclable material collected from their doorstep rather than having to take it themselves to bring-in sites.

PIETA' CUSTOMS VERANDAH

An application for the conversion of the dilapidated Old Customs verandah at Pietà to an up-market restaurant has been submitted to the MEPA following a call for tenders issued by the local council. The building, for a long time used as a boathouse, has been neglected for years and needs extensive restoration. Part of the roof has collapsed and the masonry on the sides is crumbling. A notice affixed to the wall



urged boat owners to vacate the building because of its dangerous state. In the initial phase after the setting up of local councils, the verandah was at the centre of a controversy between the Pietà and Floriana councils, with both claiming jurisdiction. When eventually the verandah fell under the Pietà council, it was incorporated in plans by the council to develop Sa Maison into a major public recreational area.

GREEN SKYSCRAPER

Green skyscrapers seem to be all the rage these days, and now India is jumping on the bandwagon with FXFowle Architects' India Tower, currently being built in South Mumbai to house a new Park Hyatt Hotel. According to the designers, India Tower



will be the greenest skyscraper in the entire country, boasting rainwater harvesting, green materials, and a possible US LEED Gold rating. The 60 storey, 301 metre tower is subdivided

into different modules, each slightly rotated to the next. Each module is meant to signal a change in function of the tower, one being a hotel, the next residential units, next a retail area and so on. In terms of green features, the structure would integrate everything from common-sense green strategies like shaded windows, natural ventilation, and proper site orientation and zoning to green technologies such as rainwater harvesting and eco-friendly materials.

CABE – GUIDANCE ON TALL BUILDINGS

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and English Heritage have published strengthened



Guidance on Tall Buildings to support planners, developers, architects and local authorities in evaluating proposals for tall buildings. As cities and their skyline evolve upwards, it is vital that tall buildings are properly planned and that proposals are informed by a clear long-term vision. The updated document is capable of being a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. It supports a pro-active approach to planning for tall buildings in cities and emphasises the need for environmentally sustainable, high-quality design. "By their nature tall



buildings have an impact on their context that is far wider than most other types of building," says CABE Chief executive Richard Simmons. "It is essential that they are planned well, designed well and meet the highest standards in terms of sustainability." The Guidance can be downloaded from www.cabe.org.uk

ACCIDENTS AT WORK

The NSO published statistics on accidents at the workplace for the second quarter of 2007. At 1,079, non-fatal accidents at work

decreased by 1.4 per cent when compared to the same quarter in the preceding year. There were three fatal accidents at work during the period under review. Many work-related accidents occurred in the economic sectors of manufacturing (33.4 per cent), construction (15.2 per cent), transport, storage, and communication (9.9 per cent), and wholesale and retail trade (9.3 per cent). Accidents at work mostly concern people employed in elementary occupations and craft/trades work.



COURT WATCH - SPOLIATION

On July 27 in the case "Estelle Azzopardi Vella and John Azzopardi Vella vs Michael Muscat," the Court of Appeal, composed of Chief Justice Vincent De Gaetano, Mr Justice Albert J Magri and Mr Justice Tonio Mallia, held among other things that by carrying out alterations in his property, the owner of the ground floor tenement prejudiced the owners of the overlying tenement, and despoiled their possession. The owners of the overlying tenement suffered an act of spoliation as their possibility to construct additional floors had been restricted.



By excavating under the building, a block of apartments, the defendant weakened the foundations of the block of apartments, according to the technical experts appointed by the court. Despite the fact

that no actual structural damage was caused to the building, the building was weakened in such a way that prevents the construction of additional floors by the overlying owners, who claimed to have been despoiled in their enjoyment of their property.

This ruling is a breakthrough one in that it overrides the common perception that each owner had practically absolute right over his property and could alter it without any need to take into consideration the effect on the potential development of the overlying properties. In this case, as the property could not be restored to its original condition, the First Court condemned the defendant to carry out repairs to strengthen the foundations within two months.

letters

Muxrabija-windows and roundel carvings

I am a third year University student reading for a B.A. (Hons.) in History of Art and currently working on a thesis entitled 'A gazetteer of Muxrabija-windows and Roundel



Stone Muxrabija

carvings in the Maltese Islands. My assignment is to find, study, photograph and document specific architectural elements which in all probabilities were introduced

to our shores during the Medieval Islamic occupation of Malta. These architectural features are now being lost to progress and hence becoming very rare.

The muxrabija-window was and is still in use in North Africa as a device for women to keep a watchful eye on the streets without being observed from the outside. One has to take into account that the Koran restricts women from having contact with the outside world, therefore such a window with perforated screens suits the context well.



Wooden Muxrabija

The other artifact is the roundel carving, that is carvings on stone, found mainly on farmhouses, house facades and in private courtyards or interiors. These carvings contain abstract patterns which recall the dismissal of representations of human beings in Islamic Art due to their respective religion without reducing their significance of faith and of the spiritual dimension of what the Muslims

call the perfect universal religion. I hope that readers of 'The Architect' could direct me to find examples of both



Roundel carving

muxrabija-windows and roundel carvings in the Maltese islands which I have not yet documented.

Yours Sincerely,
Robert Galea

Editor's Note: Contributions can be forwarded to "the Architect" on thearchitect@ktpmalta.com.

KTP Organigram

The work carried out by the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti varies greatly and involves liaising with various other bodies as well as carrying out work aimed directly at its members or at the public at large. While this variety of tasks has always existed in the past, it was felt that the vast amounts of work that the Kamra is dealing with needed to be somehow contained within a framework that would define the responsibilities of each of the Kamra's Committees and Working Groups, as well as the relationships of each with the various sectors with which the Kamra deals on a regular basis. Last July, the Council approved the above Organigram which will serve to identify clearly its work. This is intended to be a working tool which will be updated and amended with time

as the need arises, but is currently felt to encompass all the work that the Kamra is currently dealing with.

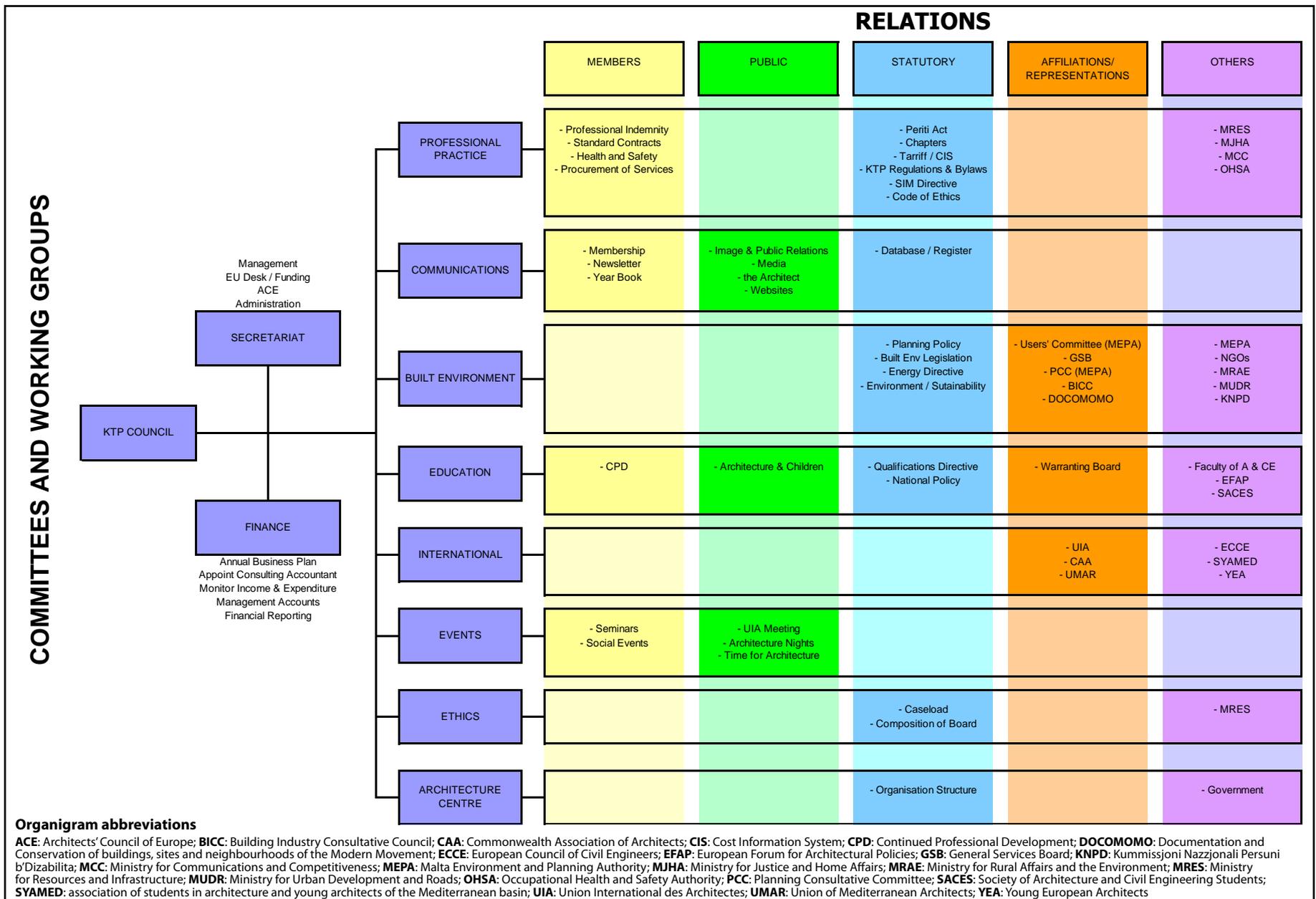
On the left hand side of the chart one finds the various Committees and Working Groups, starting off with the Council itself which regulates and approves the work of all these Groups and Committees. The Secretariat and the Finance Committee are seen to have a supporting role to the Council and to all the other committees. The Secretariat carries out the day to day administration and management of the Kamra's operations and also has the role of liaising with the Architects' Council of Europe as well as acting as an EU Desk. The Finance Committee is responsible for drawing up an annual business plan, monitoring income

and expenditure and keeping management accounts among others.

The right hand side of the chart classifies the work carried out by the Kamra into five distinct sections: work directly related to the Kamra's members, items related directly to the Kamra's interaction with the public at large, work that can be considered to be of a statutory nature, relations with the various affiliations of the Kamra and with bodies on which it has a representation, and relations with other entities with which the Kamra has a clear working relationship or interest. The work of the various Committees and Working Groups is then listed under the different headings as outlined above. Thus, for example, one can see that the main interaction with the public is carried out

in different forms by the Communications, Education and Events Committees, while most of the statutory work of the Kamra is spread out among all the committees except for the International and Events Working Groups.

This Organigram is intended to streamline the work of the Kamra, and to define clearly the roles of the various working groups within the Kamra. It is further intended to inform members of the work currently being carried out by the Council on their behalf. While the work of some of the Committees may be more apparent than others, it is important for all members to be aware of the input that the Council is giving on various fronts for the development and the advancement of the profession.





Leipzig Charter

A Significant Milestone for Sustainable Cities... and Architectural Quality. by Perit Simone Vella Lenicker

EU Ministers for urban development and territorial cohesion met at an informal session in Leipzig last May. This meeting was part of a linked series of meetings that have contributed to significant advances in the appreciation of what is meant by a sustainable city and on what role cities can play in assisting the EU to achieve its main economic, social and environmental objectives.

The principle output of the meeting was the adoption, by the Ministers, of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities and of a Declaration on the Territorial Agenda of the EU. The Charter sets down the principles that must be respected in order to achieve sustainability within our cities and it comes after the earlier adoption of the Urban Acquis in Rotterdam in November 2004 and of the Bristol Accord in December 2005. The Charter specifically recognises the role that quality architecture can play in creating sustainable cities and it calls on governments and cities to consider this factor in all pertinent policy developments. Thus, for the first time the link is established between architectural policies and urban and territorial policies.

Declaration

As part of the Charter, the Ministers declared that our cities “possess unique cultural and architectural qualities, strong forces of social inclusion and exceptional possibilities for economic development. They are centres of knowledge and sources of growth and innovation. At the same time, however, they suffer from demographic problems, social inequality, social exclusion of specific population groups, a lack of affordable and suitable housing and environmental problems.” They state that in order for cities to be able to fulfil their function as engines of social progress and economic growth, it is important to maintain a social balance within and

among these cities, “ensuring their cultural diversity and establishing high quality in the fields of urban design, architecture and environment.”

How can this be achieved?

The Charter lists a number of recommendations with the aim of achieving the above-mentioned goals. Making greater use of integrated urban development policy approaches is one of the key recommendations. This implies a process in which spatial, sectoral and temporal aspects of key areas of urban policy are co-ordinated and includes the involvement of economic actors, stakeholders and the general public. Such a process should have the aims to describe the strengths and weaknesses of cities based on analysis of the current situation, define consistent development objectives for the urban area and develop a vision for the city, coordinate the different plans and policies to ensure the promotion of a well-balanced development of the urban area, coordinate and spatially focus the use of funds by public and private sector players, as well as involving citizens and other partners who can contribute substantially to the shaping of the future economic, social, cultural and environmental quality of each area.

In particular, the Charter stresses that the quality of public spaces, urban man-made landscapes, architecture and urban development play an important role in the living condition of urban populations, serving to attract knowledge industry businesses, a qualified and creative workforce, as well as tourism. Importance must also be given to the modernising of infrastructure networks, including urban transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructures, technical infrastructure and sophisticated information and communication technologies. Of importance also is the emphasis on energy efficiency and the sustainable use of resources.

The second key recommendation of the

Charter refers to the special attention that must be paid to deprived neighbourhoods within the context of the city as a whole. Cities are faced with major challenges, especially in connection with the change in economic and social structures and globalisation. This recommendation advocated for well-conceived social housing policies that can become effective tools in creating attractive neighbourhoods for the city's citizens. Economic activity and investments, high quality urban structures, a sound built environment and a modern and efficient infrastructure and facilities will contribute towards an upgrading of the physical environment in which we live. The betterment of transport connections within deprived neighbourhoods also helps to increase the attractiveness of such areas.

Implementation

The Leipzig Charter is above all a political document. It does not contain any specific action points. Urban policy is a matter for national governments. The importance of the Leipzig Charter should not be underestimated, though. By adopting the Charter, the Ministers have committed themselves to initiate a discussion in their own countries on how the urban dimension can be integrated into national, regional and local policy. Besides this, the importance of cities is politically emphasised at a European level. In future, the EU will take the consequences for cities into account more specifically in shaping its policy, and several of the forthcoming Presidencies expressed their commitment to effectively implementing the Charter.

At national level, Government Departments need to recognise more clearly the importance of cities to deliver national, regional and local ambitions, and the impact of their policies upon them. The efforts of different sectoral Government Departments working or having an impact on urban issues

need to be better aligned and integrated so they complement rather than conflict with each other.

Locally, the Ministry for Urban Development and Roads, through the Projects Development and Coordination Unit, participated in the formulation of the Leipzig Charter following its parameters on policy and project development. The Transit Orientated Development (TOD) Strategy (MUDR 2005) developed by the Ministry had been forwarded as a supporting document in the pre-signing stage as it pre-empted the integration of transit and urban development which was the mission statement formulated with the Ministry's inception. In policy terms the TOD Strategy, the ancillary policy and project documents (i.e. Dock No.1, Vertical Connection and Park and Ride) follow parameters on mobility, accessibility and urban design. The research projects which the Ministry was involved in through EU funded Programmes (2005-2007) such as INTERREG (Pagus), URBACT (Citum), CIVITAS and ASC reflect the commitment in developing strategies in line with the charters' parameters.

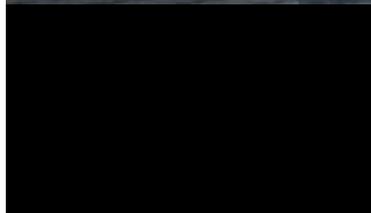
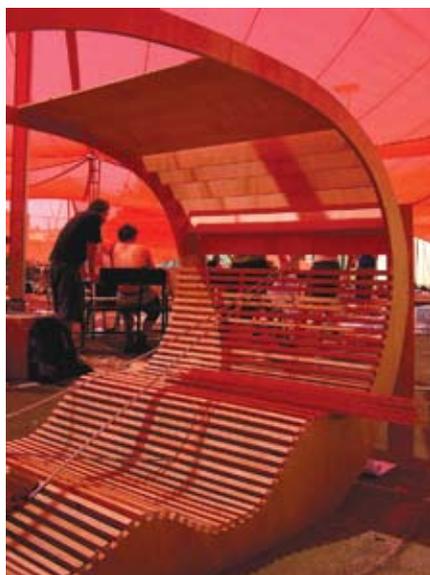
This was felt tangibly in the accompanying documents to the Charter where the Maltese Government's policy was highlighted. The Ministry is now further committed to participate in all EU programmes especially in the light of promoting 'best practice' in regeneration and implement the charter on a National level. This commitment has also been confirmed in the Operational Programme 1 – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013, where the focus area of intervention under Priority Axis 6 – Urban Regeneration and Improving the Quality of Life refers to the same principles and policies directing EU funding to this sector.

Sources:

- ACE Info 04_07

- www.bmvbs.de

KEEPING BUSY



Creating experiences for ourselves is quite an integral part of our architectural education. Although it is what we learn together during the year that gives us qualifications, the things we do voluntarily are what will eventually make our individual works different from all the rest. Luckily, we are blessed with three months of summer for such personal endeavours, and it is very heartening to see that a lot of students at the faculty

made the most of the holidays, many gaining valuable work experience at a number of architectural firms, whilst others engaged in a more popular pastime: travel.

Nikki Muscat, who recently completed her fourth year, combined both travel and work experience when she took

off for a three month work internship at a London based firm. Her work in their 'design strategy unit' entailed both the conceptual development of several large projects as well as their

submission for planning approval. The projects she worked on varied both in nature and location, ranging from a central London hotel to an office block in Athens and she even went as far as assisting in the design of a small town in Italy. When asked about the benefits of her

internship she said, "Being in London and being surrounded by the British architectural system, made me not

only learn about their system when it comes down to architectural planning but also I have got a different perspective to architecture and vernacular architecture. I've learnt new architectural principles and also my own strengths that are beneficial to the office!"

Third year student Debbie Crockford joined Nikki for two weeks to attend the Architectural Association's annual summer school, an architectural workshop which lasted three weeks. This year's theme was "Live it up", and it tackled London's ever changing skyline. The participants were split up into five workshops which dealt with the subject matter in a variety of ways ranging from the construction of tensile models to photography. Debbie and Nikki joined a workshop which put together a tabloid paper focused on London's high rise buildings. They spent their first week trying to access a number of London's high rises, which proved to be very difficult, and the rest of the time putting together stories, mocked up advertisements, a crossword and anything else one would expect to find in a regular tabloid, all centring around high rises. When asked to comment about the whole affair, Debbie told us, "The project really taught us the importance of expressing architecture through words and discussion rather than images alone. The workshop opened my eyes to the different ways in which architecture could be taught. Maltese students would really benefit from a similar experience, and I'd highly recommend it to anybody!"

Meanwhile, seven second year students attended this year's EASA (European Architecture Students' Assembly) in the industrial town of Elefsina in Greece, between July and August. Rachelle Spiteri, Steve Scicluna, Roderick Spiteri, Vicky Falzon, Brenda Agius, James Muscat and Sarabelle Montebello spent two weeks camped out on scaffolding with 350 other students working away at a number of small workshops centred around the theme of "easa007:city index". The idea was to create a project which related to indexing the several physical or cultural spaces in Elefsina. The results included traditional

architectural projects, small constructions, alterations to spaces, performance art as well as a few short films, all of which gave participants a great deal of exposure to different forms of architectural expression, as well as exposure to the radically different architectural perspectives which emerge when you gather students from about forty different countries. This exposure, and the idea of a multi-national gathering is intrinsically what EASA is all about, and the projects that are worked on are simply catalysts which stimulate architectural discussion and the idea of working in an international community.

Finally in September, third year students Giancarlo Torpiano, Mark Muscat and Eddie Coppini, as well as fourth year's Paula Curmi, attended a workshop in the Italian town of Lucca. It was organised by professor Bugatti, of the University of Pavia and included students from several other universities in countries such as Shanghai, Poland and Jordan. Rather than participating in several small workshops, the students here worked together on a single project which was the development of a historic mental hospital in Lucca into a new campus. The works included the design of facilities and accommodation, but special emphasis was placed on the landscaping aspect. When asked to comment about the workshop, Giancarlo Torpiano who was still at the workshop at the time said, "The Maltese team is working



very well with the participants, and we are learning a lot in terms of what it takes to put together a functional project, whilst at the same time, we are enjoying meeting so many people from the various universities involved."

Finally on the home front, the SACES committee has been keeping itself busy with the organisation of our annual workshop and the designs exhibition, so keep an eye out for news on that, since both are events which are not to be missed. We held our annual Sand Sculptures event which was very well attended, and plans are also underway for the end of summer get together for students at the faculty and their friends.

So all in all it's been a very eventful summer for a number of architecture students. We worked and travelled our way through what would otherwise be a very tedious summer break, and we'll hopefully return next semester full of fresh ideas to inject into our work. In the meantime we'll be making the best of the good weather while it lasts.



From beast to

by Perit Simone Vella Lenicker

“Mount Magħtab” is a deep wound in our landscape, a man-made monument to our disregard of the environment and to the volume of waste generated over the years by our everyday activities. This may, however, no longer be the scene that greets our eyes. Last year, the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment launched an international landscape design competition for the long term rehabilitation masterplan of the 59 hectare waste management complex at Magħtab. Response to the call was good, with eight proposals being submitted, two by Maltese practices, two by British practices and one each from Denmark, Germany, Holland and Italy.

The resulting Park is intended to represent a benchmark of restoration, rehabilitation and sustainable design in Malta. The proposals took into account the criteria set out in the brief, namely to provide a landmark, a destination, and a recognisable site of national significance. The healing process of the site was also one of the main criteria, and the participants responded to this by proposing projects that are not bombastic in nature but that reflect sensitivity to this renewal through gradual and planned regeneration of the site.

The submissions were multi-faceted, with the site being split into various areas and with a range of different proposals being made for the various parts. These included, among others, open air areas for various sports, recreation, picnics and theatrical representations, cafés and restaurants, observation points and viewing towers, gardens and orchards for the growing of vegetables, herbs, fruits and trees, as well as bird watching spots, visitor and information centres, theme parks and meandering walking trails. The participants were also specific in their emphasis on the sustainability aspects of their projects, with the use of recycled materials, eco-constructions, energy saving aspects and energy generation proposals.

Overview of the projects submitted

Awarded a joint Second Prize were the projects presented by Landscape Progetti of Italy and Land Use Consultants of the United Kingdom. The Italian submission proposed to split the site into two. The waste disposal site itself is likened to the heart,



2nd prize – Land Use Consultants

a mechanism of regeneration and environmental transformation. The immediate surrounds would work as the lungs, re-activating and enhancing links to the countryside, forging and propagating connections to the rest of the island, and activating sustainable uses. The proposal included the creation of various didactic spaces including a meteorological centre.

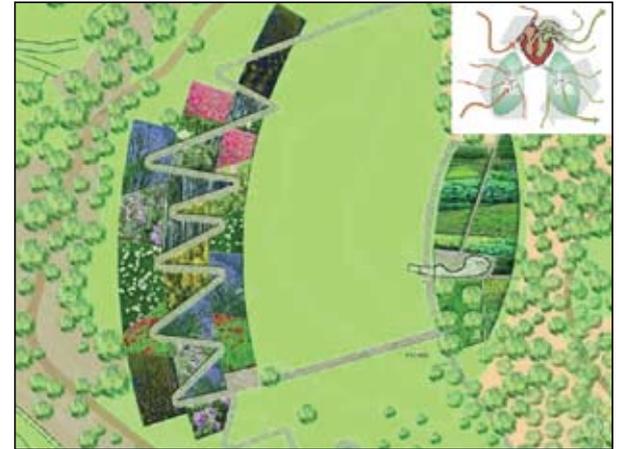
The submission by Land Use Consultants celebrates the qualities of scale, vantage and prospect of the site, working with its native ingredients to provide a park incorporating themed towers and land art to create a space dedicated to the

community and to nature. Visitors would be able to experience this great hill through climbing, relatively gently, along the terrace paths with wide panoramic views, passing through a range of ecotones, and entering the contained “citadel” of the plateau. Several towers form reference and resting points along the way, each themed on materials found on the site and its evolution – stone, wood, paper, plastic, organics, garigue.

An Honorary Mention was awarded to Arkitekt Kristine Jensens Tegnestue of Denmark. This proposal includes a phased strategy for engineering the waste pile, providing accessibility to the site and establishing a new flora carpet. An information pathway integrates educational



Environmental Landscapes Consortium



2nd prize – Landscape Progetti Ltd

elements as well as awareness towards the environment, by leading the visitor through the history of the waste pile. The path informs the public of all the years, the cubic measure of the waste and the height above sea level as they walk along it, thus performing the tasks of accessibility, measurement and historical recording of the waste pile. The process of technological healing makes use of simple solar technologies such as solar energy panels and solar chimneys.

Another proposal receiving an Honorary Mention was that put forward by Strootman Landschapsarchitecten of the Netherlands. This project focuses on the fact that the site is a man-made landscape and proposes establishing woodland on Magħtab using expressive manmade forms, creating a lace-like patterning visible from various parts of the Island. Magħtab would be ringed by a wide, raised walkway edged in stone and planted out with almond trees. The wall-walk follows the contours of the landform and connects all areas of the future park: the landforms of Magħtab, Ta' Żwerja and Ghallis, the entrances, the recreation areas and the paths and landscapes around the park.

A third Honorary Mention went to the proposal by Sheils Flynn of the United Kingdom. This proposal uses refuse extensively to define the various areas within the project, with a gallery of reclaimed waste leading visitors through this artificial landfill which, through processes of healing, recycling and transformation, will become a public park. An entrance plaza would form the hub of the Park and a wall charting the ‘timeline of waste’ from 1977 begins here, with a series of ‘window-like’ openings to display familiar domestic objects such as radios, mobile phones and ipods.

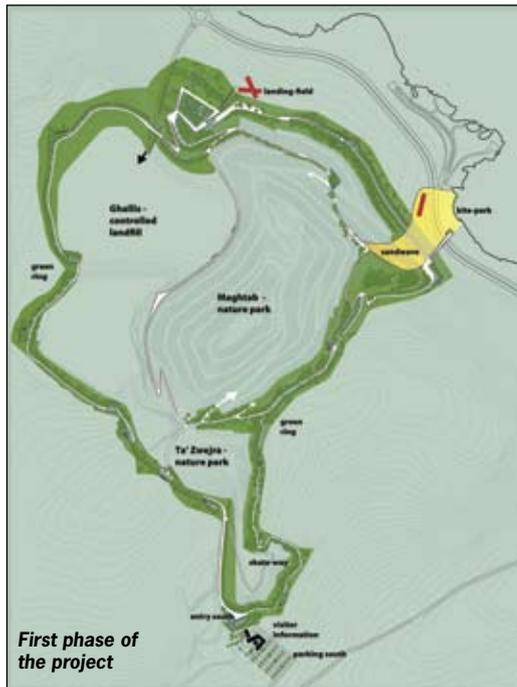
beauty

One of the projects from Malta, submitted by Environmental Landscapes Consortium, is conceived as a dialogue between nature and culture, and proposes a rethinking, reworking and rebirth approach that will convert Magħtab into a holistic public park with meaningful experiences of tranquillity and serenity. Theme parks placed on five significant flat areas in the landfill are dedicated to the elements of Earth, Fire, Water and Air, while culture is represented by an Artificial element.

The second Maltese project, presented by Neil Tully Associates, centres on the theme of healing on two fronts. Environmental restoration is proposed through the planting of endemic species, the creation of different maquis and woodland assemblages and planting of reed beds among others. Social healing is contemplated in the project through the creation of a meditation centre which would aim to give a spiritual quality to the site.

The winning proposal by Melitopia

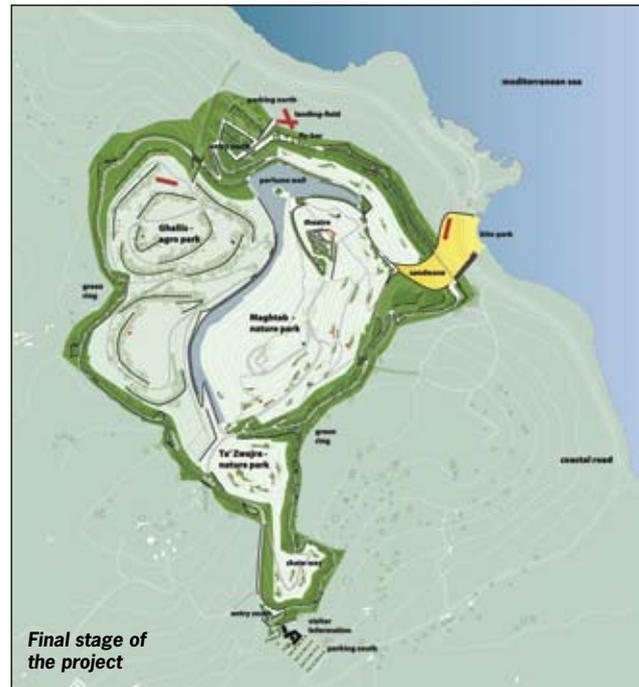
The project award first prize was that presented by Melitopia of Germany. The proposal includes a phased concept where in the first two years a green-ring landscaping surrounding the whole complex to provide immediate safe recreational space could be incorporated. A fly-park for paragliding and hang-gliding could be immediately incorporated and a sand wave could be created which links the north-east section of the park to the coast bringing a further aspect to the park: the sea. In the medium term (1 to 10 years), the project proposes a highly modular, scalable and flexible architectural landscaping which features the creation of a perfume wall to balance out odours emanating from the waste management site. It further contemplates the creation of an open-air theatre on the Magħtab plateau, natural successive rehabilitation of the park's upper areas, and the creation of trails, "amoeba cells" of peace and spirituality,



Winning entry by Melitopia



and lookout points. Over the long-term (7 to 20+ years), the project foresees the gradual return of select areas for agricultural use whilst maintaining high accessibility for Pollution Control Works. A strong characteristic of the green ring idea is the collection of rain water flowing down the hillsides, where it is collected and stored below the pathway. Simple irrigation systems for vegetation growth around the ring use the collected water with minimum technical effort. The green ring focuses on the lower "safe" areas of the complex, leaving the hill rehabilitate itself, taking nature's course over time with minimum architectural influence other than the proposed theatre on the Magħtab plateau and the sporadic "amoeba cells" of planted trees and vegetation which provide areas of seclusion and peace. The green ring provides for a holistic experience of the site: the world at one with nature contrasting



Final stage of the project

on a waste management facility provides a strong educational awareness. Everything takes place in this green ring around the park: a pathway shadowed with trees on either side for the walker, biker or skater; localised picnic areas for families and friends; areas dedicated to experimentation of vegetation growth; and simple but effective water collection and irrigation systems below the pathway.

The north-east facing slope of the site is closest to the coast and provides an optimal link to the sea. In this proposal, sand acts as the medium for this link. Melitopia here indicate that the sea is an important element of the rehabilitation process as a whole, portraying a sense of respect and healing. It is a place sought by many for peace

and meditation, and it was therefore felt that a link should be created to integrate this element into the project.



Honorary Mention - Strootman

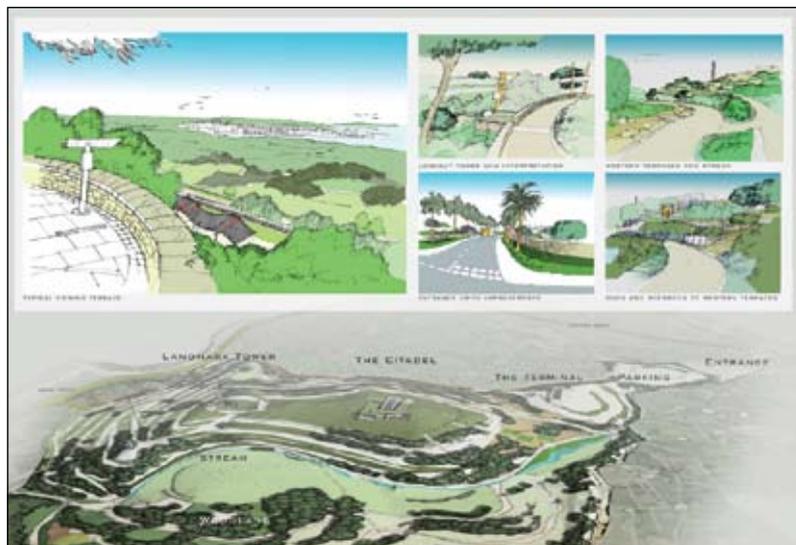


Honorary Mention – Sheils Flynn

Bordering along Magħtab and Għallis, an area of local plants that produce lovely strong natural smells such as thyme, lavender, and rosemary is envisaged to create a perfume wall. This area is intended to become a popular walking trail in the short to mid term. The walks are educational offering look-ins from above to the waste management site at Għallis. The perfume wall balances out odours emanating from this waste management site and creates awareness of Maltese natural habitats.

The Magħtab plateau is seen as the ideal site for an open-air theatre where summer performances such as plays or concerts could take place, having an ideal back setting on the sea. The theatre falls into the natural topography of the hill.

The proposal further considers that Malta has a long history of sailing, making good use of the natural elements which are so well suited for this. Paragliding, hang-gliding, windsurfing and kitesurfing are a contemporary form of this art, tapping in on the natural elements to allow the sportsman to move through space and time. The project aims at putting Malta on the map as a place that offers



Neil Tully

world-class flying and surfing facilities. In addition, the site provides the local people with excellent conditions that enable them to enhance their abilities to master these sports. The site as a whole is ideal for all-wind-direction paragliding and hang-gliding, particularly the slopes facing northwest to southeast where prevailing winds and sea breezes make for hours of soaring excitement. A "fly bar" at the landing site provides relaxation and the chance for spectators to watch the sports underway. Interviewed about their participation in this competition, Melitopia stated, "Needless to

say we were over the moon at learning we had won first prize. We knew we had some pretty good ideas and felt confident, it just all seemed to fit. However we also were aware of the fact that other good landscape architects would be participating and that winning could inherently be a question of the mood the judges found themselves in that day."

tA asked Melitopia what their aspirations for the project are: "Our aspirations are quite diverse: we are an interdisciplinary team coming from diverse backgrounds, thus you have the aspirations on a landscaping, engineering and architectural level in conjunction with the challenges faced with such a project, and you also have the aspiration of creating a sustainable recreation park that will be an attraction for the locals as well as foreign visitors to Malta. A further important aspect is that of facilitating an area ideally suited for paragliding and wind /kite surfing, encouraging more people - already from a young age - to practice and develop their skills in these sports and take advantage of the natural elements Malta so well provides. Just as Malta is known for world-class diving, why not also for world-class flying, surfing and sailing?"

Asked how they think that this project will change the face of the Maltese landscape, a local representative of Melitopia replied, "Our aim is to integrate the surrounding landscape, thus you have the park blending gradually into the surrounding natural habitat. The rehabilitation of the interior will also follow a natural process over time with minimal architectural intervention. But the fact remains that Mount Magħtab will always be 'visible' from most parts of the island. We believe though that this does not have to be a bad thing. It's not about 'forgetting' or 'hiding' what happened in the past: if the locals find the park to be a place they love to go and spend time



Kristine Jensens

in, or just watch exhilarating activities such as flying or surfing that are happening on and around the hill, then that already is a good thing. I grew up in Baħar iċ-Ċagħqa, have witnessed Mount Magħtab grow to its present state and know exactly when the wind blows from the north west by the smell that comes our way. Turning this eyesore into something beautiful remains the challenge we face up to today."

What happens next...

Government plans to formalise an integrated masterplan which can then be used for the purpose of a planning application to MEPA. It is intended for this to be com-



pleted by early 2008. Should this proposal go through, Malta will certainly be regaled with a project that not only is commendable in its own right, but also one that is a clear example of how even the sores scars on our landscape can be healed and rehabilitated into areas for public relaxation and enjoyment.

Further information on the submissions can be found at www.mrae.gov.mt/mpcompetition.asp

Article by Perit Simone Vella Lenicker, with thanks to Eng Christopher Ciantar and Mr Alexander Fenech of the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, and to Mr Dominic Borg Cardona representing Melitopia.

Landscape Architecture in the Design/Build Process

Earlier this year the Kamra tal-Periti collaborated with the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences of Germany to present a day seminar with the title: **Landscape Architecture in the Design/Build Process – European Best Practice and its Potential Impact on Malta. The President of the German Chamber of Architects (BAK), Prof. Arno Schmid, presented a keynote speech. Minister Ninu Zammit was also present and delivered the opening address. Some thoughts from both speeches are reproduced below.**

Prof. Schmid traced the development of settlements and the change in the role of landscape architects in time. Historically, settlements tended to occur around a certain landscape feature: fresh water sources, hilltops, a protected harbour. Although this is by no means an infallible approach, town and city development, and the construction of dwellings and buildings in general remained in an acceptable balance with the natural environment. Today, however, it seems that this fundamental regard for the natural environment has changed dramatically, and has even been lost with the onset of industrialisation and the concurrent population explosion.

In Europe, as in other highly developed and industrialised regions, the last two hundred years have seen an enormous growth of the settled areas. Villages have grown into towns, towns and cities have spread out over the countryside. The rapid growth at the periphery indirectly also resulted in the coming about of more or less unplanned areas in between, of left-over pieces of city between downtown and the suburbs, that have become to be known as the "Intermediate City." Town planning, and in particular landscape planning, seems to have been totally absent in their creation; if any planning took place at all, it was for infrastructure, for utilities and for traffic.

The rebuilding and the basic reorganisation of our cities to adapt them to ever-changing needs is one of the most difficult, but also one of the most challenging and rewarding tasks for the future. To develop and maintain the surrounding land - and for that matter also the surrounding sea - in such a way that a high quality environment, free of pollution is retained, is an immense undertaking. To have land and sea provide sufficient space for all forms of wildlife, and at the same time serving recreational purposes for the people, makes this task even more difficult.

No single discipline would ever be able to master all these challenges. What is needed is an interdisciplinary approach, a crosscutting orientation towards problem-solving, with town planners, architects, civil engineers, traffic planners, historians, archaeologists and landscape architects being in a unique position to serve as this interconnecting "generalist." Because by our training in the arts and sciences, because of the necessity to work both



with exacting engineering methods as well as with living plants, with the artificial as well as with the natural, we are predestined to master such a crosscutting approach.

Minister Zammit gave a brief outline of a number of projects carried out locally concerned with the upgrading and embellishment of external areas. Over the years central government has executed a number of landscaping projects including public gardens, urban squares or piazzas, seafront promenades, paving works, upgrading and rehabilitation of areas of archaeological importance, restoration of structures of historical importance and other projects that are slowly becoming imposingly present in the landscaping fabric of the Maltese islands.

Some of these projects include the landscaping of the Upper Barrakka Gardens which, back in 1661 was a 'private' garden of the Italian knights, being opened to the public in 1824. The Gardens are an important architectural landmark and the landscape design that has been adopted reflects the character of Valletta in the choice of the materials, paving layout, design and also in the installed lighting design system. The design makes use of both modern and traditional materials that make up the landscape, giving a fresh feeling in a conservative environment. The existing trees and monuments had to be respected and integrated in the overall design concept. Most of the trees and plants that existed in the garden were retained. Other indigenous species and a good selection of annuals and perennials were added to complement colour and form to the gardens.

The Lower Barrakka Garden perches on the bastion edge overlooking the entrance to the Grand Harbour. It commands a superb viewpoint of the harbour mouth, over to Fort Ricasoli, Bighi Palace, Fort St Angelo and the creeks of Vittoriosa and Kalkara. The important parameters of

conservation and restoration were important factors in the design, with modern interventions being included in such a way as to convey Valletta from living in the past, over to the present phase, and hopefully into the future.

Hastings Gardens, the largest park area in Valletta, is named after the former Governor

General, the Marques of Hastings (1824-26), who is buried in this garden. This attractive city park is situated on a long stretch of the Valletta bastions facing the suburb of Floriana. The sloping ramparts act as low parapets from which visitors can watch the panorama that extends beyond Floriana to the countryside as far as Mdina. The considerations that constrained and influenced the upgrading of Hastings Gardens were the existing Hastings's monument, the boundaries of the garden with one side facing the street and the other facing the marvellous views, the existing trees and the previous garden layout. As opposed to many contemporary gardens which are designed to a colourful and playful layout and which are generally 'activity intensive', Hastings Gardens had to retain its original objective of being a garden to enjoy peace, quite, and views away from the chaotic activities of the city, a sort of a getaway from it all. The Garden is about 500m long on the bastion side, and has a walkway that runs along the bastions. The area around Hastings' monument was upgraded in a manner to emphasise the importance of the focal point of this garden, and the gardiola in front of Hastings' monument was rebuilt to its original design.

The Minister concluded by reiterating that Landscape architecture is the art, planning, design, management, preservation and rehabilitation of the land in harmony with the design of human made constructions. He argued that landscape architecture would continue to evolve locally in a sustainable and functional manner, and specifically in a manner that is in harmony with our physical environment, in harmony with our vernacular and architectural buildings as well as in harmony with the prevailing social needs.

The Anhalt group University will be back in the beginning of October to hold another seminar, this time in Gozo. Details on this event will be circulated shortly and will also be available on the website of the Kamra tal-Periti.

Improve the product.

Anyone involved in tourism will tell you that. It has become a cliché. The truth is that we have witnessed a constant improvement in the tourism product thanks to various projects and initiatives by different government agencies and by the private sector. The Malta Tourism Authority gave its fair share in product improvement particularly with the upgrading of Howard gardens in Rabat, the replenished beach at St. George's Bay and the perched beach in Bugibba.

There is still so much to be done. Structural funds from the EU now provide an opportunity to bring about further changes and improvements. The Malta Tourism Authority is submitting applications for European Regional Development Fund under Operational Programme I of the Cohesion Policy 2007 - 2013. The projects being applied for include rocky beach improvements at Qawra and Sliema and a beach replenishment project at Qawra. In this article, we are presenting projects which have a strong urban design and architectural component. The tourism zones where the ERDF tourism funds are to be channeled were decided on by Government. In October 2006, MTA engaged Perit John Ebejer as consultant to identify possible projects involving the upgrading of tourism zones. His remit was also to prepare preliminary designs sufficient to convince the MTA and

the Ministry that they were projects well worth pursuing. Upon acceptance of the projects, MTA issued a call for interest in December 2006 and subsequently appointed the project architects. The ERDF application process and all matters related to these projects are being coordinated by Perit Ebejer on behalf of MTA as the client. The selected projects are intended to bring about a substantial improvement of the public realm within tourism zones. Urban spaces are an important part of the tourism product as tourists will spend substantial time within them to relax and to engage in leisure activities. Within seaside tourism zones, there is a lack of sizeable urban spaces which are suitably landscaped and/or which are not cluttered with miscellaneous structures and accretions. With the projects being proposed, spaces which are currently misused, unutilised or grossly underutilised will be converted into urban settings with shaded seating in pleasant landscaped surroundings. Another common theme of the projects is the sea view. In each case, maximization of this important asset is sought. This is mainly achieved by converting spaces close to the sea into pedestrian friendly areas. In addition, tourism related facilities will be provided, including an aquarium and a marine archeology museum in the Qawra project and a cycle track and a heritage garigue park in the Pembroke project. The title of the ERDF Operational Programme I is "Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life". The projects being applied for by MTA will increase Malta's tourism competitiveness and improve seasonality. Like all tourism product improvements, these projects will also bring about an enhanced experience for tourists and a better quality of life for Maltese.

Mario Attard
Product Development Directorate
Malta Tourism Authority



project is being submitted by the MTA for European Regional Development Funding, with the primary objective therefore being to upgrade the tourist product of the area. The whole area however will also be fully accessible to the general public, so as to provide an amenity to be enjoyed by all.

The project has been divided into 3 phases, each of which has rather distinct features and design considerations. Phases 1 & 2 are situated in a relatively developed but degraded zone, located in the open areas between the Institute of Tourism Studies, the Radisson and Corinthia San Gorg Hotels, the Pembroke Housing Estates and the Athleta Sports Grounds. In this zone, the main aim of the brief was to provide a sprawling landscaped area, a 9,000sqm green 'lung', that would provide a recreational space for visitors leading them all the way down to the coast. Additionally, the vehicular approach to the hotels is to be rerouted and upgraded, providing the possibility for a future multi level car park. During concept design stage it was decided that the primary objective of these landscaped areas was to create a tranquil space in a natural setting that would serve as a well needed getaway from the sur-

REVIVING THE PEMBROKE COASTLINE

**Architects: Kevin Bencini,
Antonella Caruana and Angelique
Abela - Bencini & Associates**

WE HAVE BEEN PRESENTED with a landscaping brief by the Malta Tourism Authority spanning a stretch of nearly 2km along the Pembroke coast, starting in the parking area located behind the Institute for Tourism Studies and continuing all the way to the Madliena Tower, situated just before the White Rocks Holiday Complex. The



rounding hectic tourist areas and towns. In order to achieve this, the topography of the site together with the proposed landscaping have been conceived so as to create a series of informal relaxation areas such as sloping lawns, shaded terraces, amphitheatres, and stepped ridges, that offer constantly changing views overlooking the sea and the undeveloped coastline. Another primary requirement of the Phase 1 & 2 landscaped zones was that they would also serve as a link between the St. Georges Bay promenade and Phase 3 of the project, the 'Garigue Heritage Park', that would include a 3km cycle and walking trail across the undeveloped Garigue Coast leading to the Madliena Tower.

This zone that spans across most of the Pembroke foreshore constitutes by far the bulk of the site, but will include the bare minimum intervention possible. Without doubt, the vast area of Garigue with its unique Flora & Fauna is the primary feature both from an aesthetic as well as environmental point of view. However the area also boasts various other natural as well as historic features worthy of note such as a number of isolated wooded areas and small valleys, the vast British Military Shooting Ranges and associated outposts, and the Madliena Tower forming part of the coastal defense system built during the period of the Knights of St. John.

In order to minimise any possible impact on the natural surroundings whilst at the same time helping to conserve part of the dilapidated shooting ranges, it is being proposed to restore some of the British military patrol trails that cut cross the site and reuse them to form the proposed walking/cycle route. These shall be reconstructed in a fully reversible manner based on the original system used, by laying two parallel masonry curbs cut to fit the underlying rock profile, backfilled with graded loose fill and finished off with an overlying wearing surface. In this way no cementitious material comes into contact with the underlying rock, at the same time allowing natural flow of rain water runoff along the terrain through the graded fill.

Wherever possible the trails have been selected in such a way so as to pass by the most interesting natural and historic features, which in turn would be cleaned up, restored, and explained to the visitors using a series of interpretation panels. The trail would eventually lead to the Madliena Tower that is intended to be restored and reused as the visitor centre for the Park,

providing sanitary facilities and refreshments together with audiovisual information on the natural and historic features of the area. The Madliena Tower, whilst being secluded and offering fantastic views of the park, would also be easily accessible from the nearby coast road by car or on foot, serving as an alternative start and pick up point to the proposed 'Garigue Heritage Park'.

CREATING THE TOWN PIAZZA, MARSASCALA

Architects: Bezzina & Cole, Architects & Engineers

MALTA TOURISM AUTHORITY deserves to be commended for recognising the potential of this site when considering improvements to the local tourism product. This is particularly so because despite the available space currently provided by the garden in Piazza Dun Tarcis Agius, the tourist resort of Marsascala is effectively deprived of a town square. MTA shall be seeking funds for this project in the second call for European Union funds to be made at a later date.



The site consists of a garden with mature greenery and paths laid in a rectangular fashion with some relationship to the church. Within the site lies a bocci club and pitch, a sewerage pumping station and a misplaced kiosk which regrettably deprives garden patrons from enjoying sea views. The present garden is surrounded by a significant but as yet incomplete road network. Outside this perimeter road are the parish church and parvis to the south-east, the primary school to the north-east, residences and commercial premises to the

north and west and, importantly, Marina Street promenade and the bay to the south.

The social and economic potential of the site as a throbbing urban hub is self-evident upon reaching the site. Its southerly orientation and views towards the bay provide an immediate reminder of the town's past as a peripheral fishing village. The parish church built on a high ground makes a powerful, overbearing statement which is only surpassed by the size and disposition of the school built higher up the slope. Furthermore one must acknowledge that Marsascala Local Council enjoys planning rights to construct a town hall on part of the site. It is currently proposed that the tourism information centre shall be attached to the town hall together with other community amenities.

The architectural solution provided by Bezzina & Cole locates the new building as a counter-balance to the marina promenade, thereby generating a south-west to north-east axis. An equally significant second axis is created by extending the main axis emerging from the church through the parvis and down to the leisure areas in the garden. The architects have in this case simply used landscaping to stitch together these powerful urban blocks.

In order to reduce the building footprint and return more land for landscaping, the proposed building is partly concealed beneath a section of the extension of Triq Santa Tereza. A pedestrian connection between the piazza and the school at the higher levels is being created to safely take children to and from the piazza avoiding surface crossings. This same vertical connection provides a focal point and visitor's belvedere overlooking the garden and the bay.

The proposed layout of hard floor surfaces picks up the skewed angles generated by the axes and parvis steps. Organically-shaped trellis supporting hanging vegetation provide shade around the playing



areas of the traditional village bocci pitch and children's swings, whilst on-site vegetation shall create a mature feel for this garden.

Succinctly, this project appears to be a successful effort at accommodating the complex demands of tourism in the community.

THE BUGIBBA / QAWRA PROMENADE

Architects: Cassar, Grech & Ebejer Partners

THE BUGIBBA / QAWRA COAST is lined with a promenade having open sea views. This promenade is a major asset for a tourism zone such as Bugibba and Qawra due to the large number of people that congregate in this area. This congregation necessitates a place such as a garden or large landscaped area where people can spend time sit and relax whilst enjoying the open views.

This was what inspired the initial project proposal. The setting of the site is ideal for the project in question as it is set between the rocky foreshore and the main road known as 'Triq it-Trunciera'. The site is on the seaward side of the road and thus allows for the provision of a traffic free environment providing open views. The site was used to dump construction waste over a span of time during the seventies. This activity created a disturbed area within which the development will take place. In fact the footprint of the development is set back from the yet untouched rocky shoreline. ▶



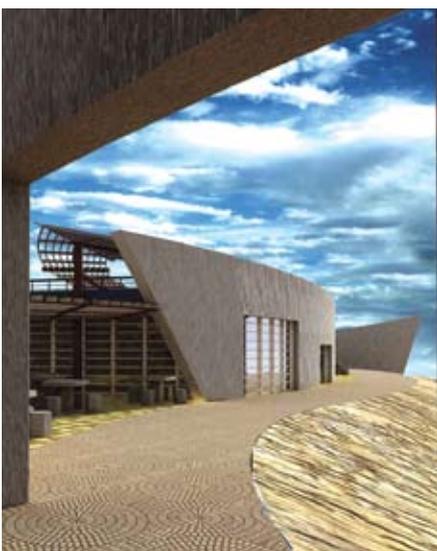
will provide a unique experience of underwater life whereas the marine archaeology museum will house numerous artifacts, recovered from the seabed over the years.

The visitor attractions will provide an innovative touristic product for Malta, distinct and yet complimentary to numerous attractions based on our historic heritage. The facilities, particularly the aquarium will also have an educational

The site steps down towards the sea and this provides an added advantage. By capturing the contours it was possible to allow for the development of a single storey which will be below street level on one side but having open sea views on the other. A second storey will be constructed entirely underground and this will house ancillary facilities as well as an extensive parking area for the public.

The space "won" from the site, at level -1, will house two visitor attractions namely an aquarium and a marine archeology museum. A gentle ramp from the current promenade will lead down to a second promenade running alongside the building at level -1. This promenade will be bound by the building along one side and open to the views to the other side.

Both visitor attractions are linked with Malta's maritime legacy. The aquarium



and research function.

A third facility being provided is a diving institute which is intended to be an education facility for diving schools and to improve the standards of diving instruction in Malta.

The seaward facade of the building is curved and undulating, creating added interest to the promenade at level -1. The profile, synonymous with wave motion, acknowledges the unique context in which it is set. Although substantial floorspace for visitor attractions and other facilities is being created, the building will not be visible from road level, other than the landscaped gardens located on the roof of the two storey underground structure.

The landscaped gardens include enclaves with shaded seating where people can relax and enjoy the views. An amphitheatre that is part hewn into the rock will have open sea views as a backdrop – a perfect setting for musical and other performances in the cool evening breezes of summer. The landscaped gardens extend to a large piazza in front of "Fra Ben".

No catering or retail facilities are provided within the development other than those related to the visitor attractions. It was felt



that an excessively strong commercial component would undermine the objectives for which the development is intended namely to improve the tourism product. Nearby lies an entrenchment wall built between 1761 and 1770, during the reign of Grand Master Pinto. This, together with a wartime defensive beach post, will be rehabilitated. Visitors will be able to appreciate their historic relevance for the area by means of appropriate interpretation facilities.

In pursuing this development the client, namely Ministry for Tourism and Culture and the Malta Tourism Authority, has very specific objectives in mind. With a well-designed, quality development and open space, it is hoped that the image of Bugibba/ Qawra as a tourism resort will be enhanced. More tourists and Maltese will be willing to spend time and money in the area. Good visitor attractions will make Bugibba and Qawra more attractive as a year round resort as tourists will have more leisure activities to engage in during the off peak months.

EMBELLISHMENT OF PROMENADE AND CREATION OF A PANORAMIC COASTAL WALKWAY

Architects: Robert Sant, Etienne Magri, Dirk Psaila, Clyde Abela - DTR

THIS PROJECT, comprising a 1km long promenade, aims at upgrading and extending the St Paul's Bay coastal walkway, that will link St Paul's Chapel to the Menqa quay,

the Sirens waterpolo pitch, Wignacourt Tower and St Paul's Bay primary school.

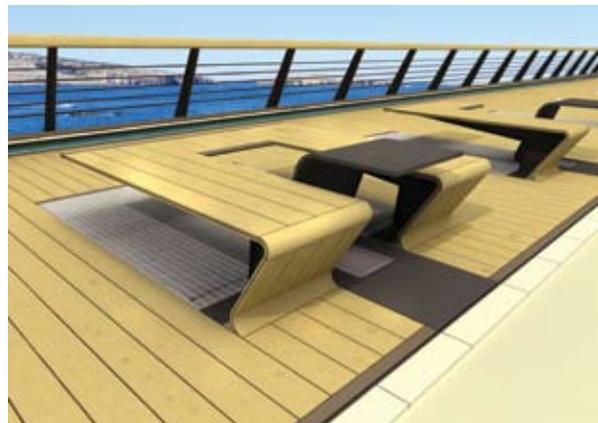
The project's main focus is an 80m stretch which cantilevers over the underlying unspoilt foreshore, thus creating a 5.4m wide walkway in an area which presently lacks any provision for pedestrians. The cantilevered walkway consists of a reversible steel structure finished with a composite timber deck.

With the early 17th century guard tower as its context, the balcony provides ample



seating which appears to "peel off" the deck to reveal the underlying steel grating, enhancing the experience of being perched onto the underlying ecologically sensitive foreshore.

Most of the promenade's length will be paved using recycled materials and will have new street furniture and an energy efficient illumination scheme installed.



GREEN DESIGN

This October, the Embassy of the United States to Malta will host two lectures being presented by workshop/apd, an American firm led by partners Andrew Kotchen and Matthew Berman. tA spoke to workshop/apd about their work and their impending visit to Malta.

Who are workshop/apd, and what are the driving forces behind the firm's operation?

workshop/apd was founded in 1999 as a design firm with offices in New York City and Nantucket, Massachusetts. Together, we work toward synthesising the often-problematic restraints of context with a modern and progressive understanding of contemporary living. Whether in New York, Nantucket, or elsewhere, we have repeatedly and successfully reconciled difficult existing conditions with well-developed designs. Conventional boundaries between adjacent spaces are transgressed, allowing activities to transition naturally across fluid thresholds. This results in performative spaces that collapse the form of function into the function of form.

Last year, Global Green and Brad Pitt announced workshop/apd as the winners of the Global Green Sustainable Design Competition for New Orleans. What was this project about? What green technologies have been incorporated in its design? What is the timeline for its construction?

The Global Green Sustainable Design Competition, which initially elicited over 3000 registrants, was divided into two phases and asked participants to create a



Matthew Berman



Andrew Kotchen

proposal for a 1.5 acre site along the levee in the Holy Cross neighbourhood of New Orleans (located in the much publicised Lower Ninth Ward). The design was to incorporate a 12-unit apartment building, six single-family houses, a community centre, and a day-care centre and asked contestants to integrate their ideas with the principles and systems of sustainable design. In Phase I, over 160 designers from around the world submitted designs and in Phase II, six finalists were asked to develop their ideas further and submit more detailed plans, drawings and renderings. Integral to the Phase II development process was the community's input, and we spent much of the summer travelling to New Orleans to elicit feedback from Holy Cross residents as GreenO.LA was developed.

Our concept originates with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability and extends from community redevelopment to specific material choices. Effective, sustainable design needs to infiltrate all scales of production and consumption, from the macro-scale of global distribution networks and community rezoning, to the micro-scale of site strategies, individual building systems, and social interaction. As we developed GreenO.LA, we realised how possible it is to use green design in every aspect and at every



level, without increasing cost. Our design can and will be built quickly, and can serve as a green model for the rest of the Gulf Coast rebuilding effort.

One of the most important components of the design is the use of modern modular construction which will substantially reduce cost, construction time, and improve overall quality. Modular construction practices are also environmentally friendly as waste can be efficiently recycled, jobsite pollution is minimised, and transportation-related fuel costs are substantially reduced.

What is the significance of winning this competition to your firm?

We're thrilled to be a part of the rebuilding process in New Orleans. After seeing how little has been done since the storm, it's exciting to be part of a project that is already underway. We have also learned a tremendous amount about sustainability and green design over the past year and it has and will continue to influence our work.

Your firm has been involved in a number of residential projects. What are the main challenges that you have faced? Which project has brought the most satisfaction to your firm?

Every project is different and represents its own set of challenges. Working in New Orleans has been very challenging but also very gratifying, especially with the hope that this small contribution may help to catalyse a much larger rebuilding process.

Most of the projects featured on your firm's website are based in the USA. Have you been involved in any projects abroad?

Yes. We've worked on a number of apartments in Paris and are currently the design consultant on the renovation of an old farmhouse in Siggiewi, Malta (currently under construction).

You will be guests of the American Embassy in Malta during October, and will be regaling the Maltese public with a lecture. What will this presentation discuss, and how do you feel that this topic is beneficial to the local scene?

We will be discussing the issue of sustainability and its relationship to the built environment, specifically through the lens of our project in New Orleans. The built environment - from the fabrication and transportation of materials, through construction and life-cycle maintenance costs - accounts for approximately 65% of greenhouse gas emissions. As we become more aware of the impact that our actions have on the environment, it becomes increasingly necessary to make changes. The responsibility lies with architects and designers to make better decisions that could significantly improve how we live. "Green design," as it is otherwise known, is applicable everywhere and to everyone, to Americans and Maltese alike.

Have any of you been to Malta before? What are your expectations?

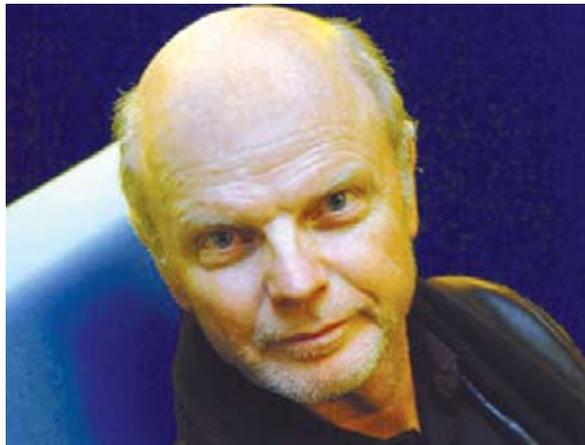
Yes, I (Matthew) was in Malta for the first time about two years ago. I thought it was a beautiful island with a rich historic past, much like some of the areas on our New England coastline. I was particularly inspired by the integration of more modern design gestures into historic structures and by the renovation of the waterfront in Valetta. I am excited to return to see the progress.



Austrian world-renowned architect at Architecture Nights in October

by Perit Antoine Zammit, KTP Events Chairperson

During the first half of the year, the Kamra tal-Periti organised AN07, a series of Architecture Nights that have all proved to be a resounding success. The theme for these events was "The Stuff of Architecture," and the speakers were asked to develop on the art of using appropriate materials in their right context, and to discuss the sensitive and responsive approach they have adopted in their architectural designs and their decisions in choosing the most suitable materials in the process. The debates have so far seen the participation of world-renowned architects Manfredi Nicoletti, Mario Botta and Cesare Casati.



Peter Lorenz

The series of Architecture Nights will now resume in October with one of Austria's foremost architects Peter Lorenz of peterlorenz.ateliers as the guest speaker. This debate will also be one of the concluding events of the 2007 edition of Time for Architecture, T4A3.

Peter Lorenz was born in Innsbruck in 1950. He obtained his Diploma from Venice in 1983 and opened his atelier in Vienna in 1991. Hailed as one of Austria's foremost contemporary architects by the likes of Dominique Perrault, Gustav Peichl and Daniel Libeskind, Lorenz has designed over 300 projects, a third of which have been built in Austria, Northern Italy, Slovenia, Hong Kong and China. His projects are of varying scales, ranging from product design to general urban planning. In the first few years

Lorenz concentrated mostly on interior design, the design of retail outlets and conversion jobs. Works in Innsbruck include Haus Gant (1982), Cafe Fresco (1984), Mode Leitner (1985) and Menardihaus (1989). The atelier focused on residential projects, urban planning, shopping malls and larger projects. Some of its main initial works were the Triest Hotel in Vienna (1995), the Tatzlwurm and Obermarkt residential developments (1995) and the In der Stille 'office container' (1996).

The last few years have seen peterlorenz.ateliers, heavily involved in a number of International Design competitions, winning the first prizes for the master plan for Mehrwert Simmering in Vienna (1998–2003), the Ilirija Sportcity in Ljubljana (2001–2003), the Interspar shopping

mall in Linz (2002), the Telekom office tower in Innsbruck (2002), the Bischofshofen railway station (2001), the Gienger München (2006) and the Graz Stadtbau invited European competition (2007).

The most celebrated completed recent works include the Mpreis stores in Telfs and Niederndorf (2001 and 2005 respectively), the Blaue Halle in St. Christoph (2001), the Conrad 3 residential and office building in Innsbruck (2002 - 2003), the Offene Bank (2002), the Zukunftszentrum (2002), the Master plan for Wilten-Ost in Innsbruck (2003-2004), the Interspar Q19 shopping mall in Vienna, (2000-2005), the Abitare Sottolifano in Trieste, (2001-2004), the Wohnen zur Sonne in Telfs (2004 - 2005).

The Atelier is also currently working on the Dongfang Xindi Langfang major city project in Tianjin, China that includes a 5-star hotel, a shopping center, an office building and a housing estate, over a floor space of 450,000sqm. Lorenz has also been actively involved in related architectural activities including jury work in about 75 competitions to date. He has been invited as a workshop facilitator and has lectured and held numerous working groups related to urban planning and architecture in a number of Universities and institutions. Peter Lorenz is visiting professor at Universities in Innsbruck and Graz (the Universität Innsbruck, Technische Graz and Universität Graz), as well as the Università Degli Studi in Trieste and Naples, the Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies in Bombay, the Chinese University of Hong



Super M Supermarket, Telfs, 2000-2001



Park and Ride Puntigam, Graz 2007-2008

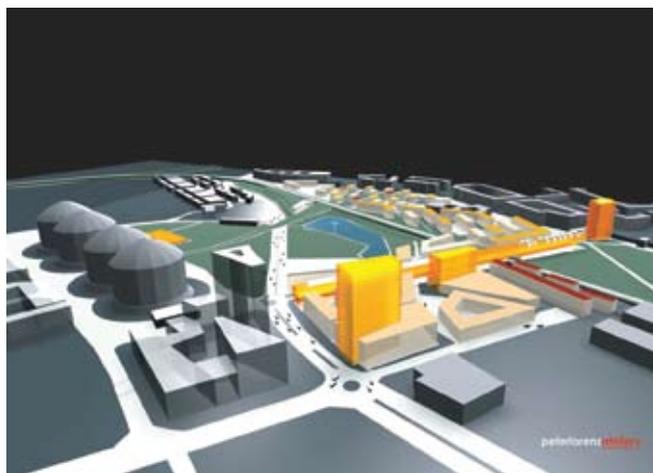
Kong, the School of Architecture in Nanjing, and other universities in Ahmedabad, New Delhi and Guangzhou.

Daniel Libeskind has said, "Peter Lorenz is a humanist, first and foremost, an architect who addresses in all his work the issues of meaning and space for mankind... He makes a poignant plea for those who work in architecture and for those who view architecture to take time to see the built form, to concentrate on the observation of real space, as opposed to televised space or virtual space. In both his architectural and urban projects, he is a careful craftsman and a keen observer. Both his built work and his conceptual projects are a testament to his profound belief in a fresh start for architecture and the cultural implications for the world and its environment." Peter Lorenz will deliver a lecture, which promises to be as engrossing as the previous three held to date, at the Aula Magna on Saturday 20th October at 7.30pm. Entrance to this debate is free of charge.

Architecture Nights 07 is sponsored by HSBC, Attard & Co, HalMann Vella, Steel Structures, Modern Elegance and Auntie Lucy and is being organised under the patronage of the Austrian Embassy in Malta.



Shopping centre, Vienna 1999-2005



Plusvalue Simmering Masterplan, Vienna 1998-2003

T4A3_October 2007



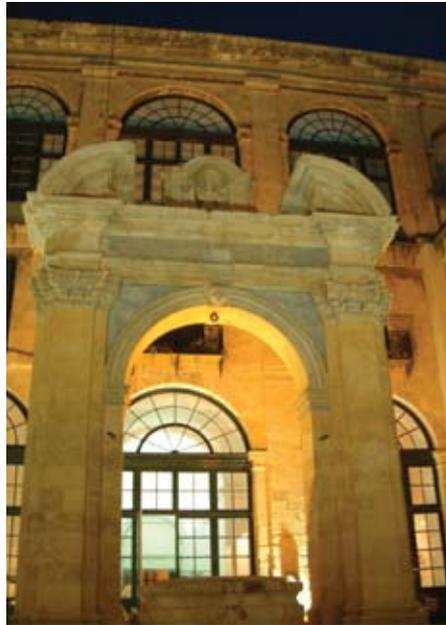
Time for Architecture is back, with the third edition being held this October. T4A3 will run from Monday 1st October, which marks World Architecture Day, until Saturday 20th October, with a number of architectural events that should attract both architects and architectural enthusiasts alike.

This year's events will kick off with the inauguration of an exhibition of Contemporary Maltese architecture by some of the leading architects and architectural firms on the Maltese Islands together with the annual Designs exhibition organised by SACES in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and Urban Design of the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, University of Malta. The exhibition will run for a period of three weeks from Monday 1st until Friday 19th October, and will be located on the first floor of the Auberge d'Italie in Valletta (today housing the Ministry for Tourism and Culture).

Each weekend until the 20th October will host a number of other architectural events.



There are two events being planned for the first weekend. On the 6th October there will be the Children's Workshop at St. James Cavalier from 9am to 12.30pm. This workshop will be coordinated by Perit Audrey M. Galea and Ms. Lucienne Ellul BE&A (Hons). The KTP believes strongly that education is an important element in fostering a society that



is aware of the need for quality in the built environment. The proposal for this year's children's workshop is based on the theme of World Architecture Day: **Zero-emission architecture**, and it will seek ways in which sustainability can be explained in simple and effective terms such that children may realise the importance of the built environment and its contribution to a greener environment. This workshop will be offered to a group of 15 children, aged between 9 and 14. The work done throughout the morning will also be exhibited during the Notte Bianca celebrations that will be held during the evening of that same day.

On the 7th October there will be a guided tour to the Prehistoric Temples of Tarxien, Ta' Hagrat and Ta' Skorba, an event being organised in collaboration



with Heritage Malta. Places for this event will be limited to 50 people.

The second weekend will see the annual architecture students' workshop organised by SACES between the 12th and 14th October based on the theme 'Architecture embraces the Arts'.

The events will come to a close on the third weekend with the fourth in this year's series of Architecture Nights which will feature world-renowned Austrian architect Peter Lorenz of peterlorenzatelier, to be held on Saturday 20th October at the Aula Magna. Present for the last weekend will also be the Presidents of the various Architectural Chambers and Associations for Western Europe, as the UIA (Union Internationale des Architectes) Region 1 Meeting will be hosted in Malta this year.

More details about the events may be found on www.ktpmalta.com. For reservations at the individual events kindly contact KTP on Tel/Fax: 21314265 (mornings only) or email kamratalperiti@nextgen.net.mt. Cheques for the paid events should be made payable to the Kamra tal-Periti, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira GZR 1633.



FULL PROGRAMME OF THE TIME FOR ARCHITECTURE 3 EVENTS:

MONDAY 01/10/07_ WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY ACTIVITY

EXHIBITION INAUGURATION, CONTEMPORARY MALTESE ARCHITECTURE AND SACES DESIGNS EXHIBITION, RUNNING FROM 01/10/07 UNTIL 19/10/07

VENUE: AUBERGE D'ITALIE [MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE], FIRST FLOOR

SPONSORED BY DELTALIGHT

WEEKEND #1

FRIDAY 05/10/07_ LANDSCAPE SEMINAR; VENUE: NADUR, GOZO

SATURDAY 06/10/07_ CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP, ON SHOW FOR NOTTE BIANCA TO BE HELD IN THE EVENING; VENUE: ST. JAMES CAVALIER, VALLETTA

SUNDAY 07/10/07_ GUIDED TOUR TO THE PREHISTORIC TEMPLES IN COLLABORATION WITH HERITAGE MALTA: TARXIEN, TA' HAGRAT AND TA' SKORBA TEMPLES

WEEKEND #2

FRIDAY 12/10/07 - SUNDAY 14/10/07_ SACES ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS' WORKSHOP

WEEKEND #3

FRIDAY 19/10/07_ UIA REGIONAL MEETING WORKSHOPS. VENUE: CAPUA PALACE, SLIEMA

SATURDAY 20/10/07_ UIA REGIONAL MEETING

VENUE: CAPUA PALACE, SLIEMA; DURATION OF MEETING 09.30 - 17.30

SATURDAY 20/10/07_ ARCHITECTURE NIGHTS #4 _ PETER LORENZ, PETER LORENZ ATELIER

VENUE: AULA MAGNA; TIME: 19.30

SPONSORED BY HSBC, MODERN ELEGANCE, AUNTIE LUCY, STEEL STRUCTURES, HALMANN VELLA AND VOLTECO

EC8 – implications for masonry

by Perit Denis H. Camilleri

This technical note follows a keynote presentation “Outlining the Seismic Vulnerability of Malta’s Buildings - is it an Issue” to a seismic RELEMR workshop held in Malta last year, followed by a Kamra tal-Periti CPD course on “The use of local sustainable masonry as a structural material”, presenting the terraced house seismic analysis case study.

Terraced housing two or three storeys high was traditionally considered robust and stable, but the needs of the motor-car have introduced a soft open storey at ground or basement level. An economical structural system to span this 6 to 7m soft storey is by utilising hollow prestressed slabs, with thicknesses varying from 280mm to 450mm, supported on 230mm thick masonry laid in grade IV mortar. Table 1 outlines the characteristic compressive stress for 230mm thick masonry units with a height of 265mm, as outlined in BS5628Pt1 (1).

MALTA’S SEISMIC ZONING

EC 8 (2) specifies that a design ground acceleration for a return period of 475 years has to be specified in the National Annex. The 475 return period is based on the proviso that this ground motion is not to be exceeded in the assumed 50 years’ design life of the structure in 90% of the cases.

With reference to Fig. 1, return periods may be identified for earthquakes of intensity MMV and MMVI, whilst an MMVII was noted to have occurred in 1693, when a strong MMXI had hit the Eastern side of

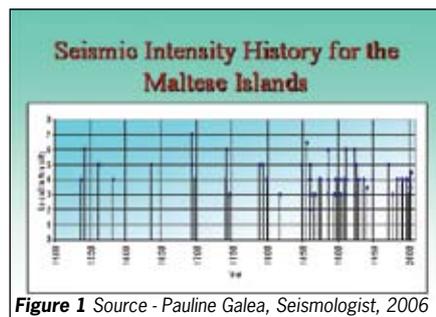


Figure 1 Source - Pauline Galea, Seismologist, 2006

Sicily. It is noted that an MMVII in Malta requires an MMXI in Sicily with a return period of 1,000 years.

Although a seismic risk hazard has not as yet been undertaken for the Maltese Islands, considering above data, Table 2 proposes return periods for expected seis-

mic activity in Malta for various earthquake intensities.

From Table 2 and plotting a log-log graph, the 475 return period works out at 0.06g. This figure is also confirmed by the GSHAP – (Global Seismic Hazard Assessment project) map, Fig. 2, for Europe, with Malta identified as a green colour corresponding to 0.05g -0.06g, although the data on which this was compiled for Malta was probably very sparse.

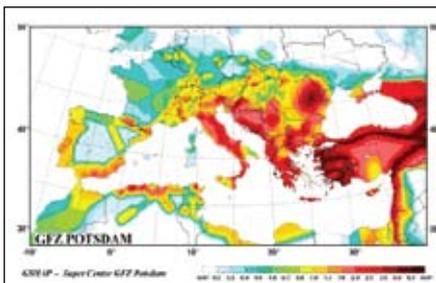


Figure 2. Peak horizontal acceleration map with a 10% probability of exceedance in 50 years

According to EC8, with a design ground acceleration of 0.06g, Malta is classified as a low seismicity zone, as falling within $0.10g$ but >math>0.04g</math>, with the following provisions to be catered for.

MASONRY EC8 DESIGN CRITERIA FOR ZONES OF LOW SEISMICITY

1. Shear walls in manufactured stone units are to have thickness $t > 175\text{mm}$. This fortunately is the thickness for internal partitioning adopted at 180mm. Further, $h_{\text{eff}}/t < 15$ and $h/l < 2.5$, where t is the thickness of the wall, h_{eff} the effective height of the wall, h the greater clear height of the openings adjacent to the wall, l the length of the wall.

2. For a design ground acceleration $< 0.2g$, the allowed number of storeys above ground is three for unreinforced masonry and five for reinforced masonry, however for low seismicity a greater number of storeys are allowed.

3. Mortar type to be adopted should be at least Grade III, although lower resistance may even be allowed, whilst for reinforced masonry grade IV may be used. Further there is no need to fill the perpendicular joints.

4. Floor diaphragms may be considered

Mortar Designation	Globigerina Compressive Strength of Unit (N/mm ²)			
	15	17.5	20	35
I	8.6	9.6	10.6	16.3
II	7.6	8.4	9.2	13.4
III	7.2	7.7	8.3	12.2
IV	6.3	6.8	7.4	10.4

Table 1: Characteristic Compressive stress f_k of 225mm thick masonry N/mm² for specified crushing strength – as per BS 5628 pt 1

MM - Earthquake Intensity	Return Period (years)	Base Shear Design % of g
VI	125	2-5
VII	1,000	5-10
VIII	10,000	10-20

Table 2: Malta’s Seismic Return Period

rigid, if they consist of reinforced concrete. The connection between the floors and walls shall be adequately provided by steel ties at every floor level, spaced at not more than 4m centres.

LOAD PATH ANALYSIS FOR A 4-STOREY MASONRY BUILDING

The floor plans indicated in Fig. 3, show an open garage plan constructed in 1995, when the allowable storey height stood at two floors. The prestressed planks inserted at first floor level were 230mm thick to support the overlying single floor. In 1998 the allowable height was increased to three floors. Thus to support the additional floor, hollow block concrete slabs were inserted

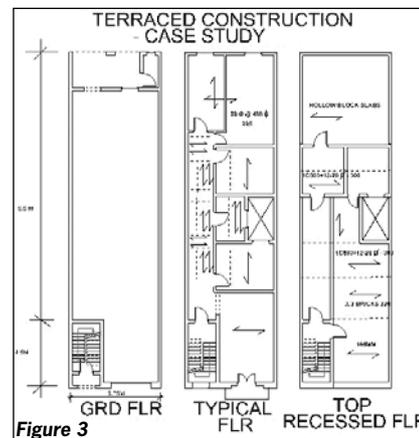


Figure 3

at 2nd floor level spanning over the 6.25m opening from party wall to party wall in 230mm thick masonry, as indicated in Fig. 4. In 2005 an additional recessed floor was further allowed.

Fig. 4 gives an indication of the load paths adopted. Arching was provided for at 1st floor level, up to the underside of the hollow block concrete slabs, while at the upper levels the loads went directly as reactions onto the party walls. The reaction from the prestressed planks was eccentric (3) onto the party wall, whilst the loading coming from the remaining upper floors is centrally located onto the party wall.

For the load analysis shown in Fig. 4, the total characteristic loading from the three

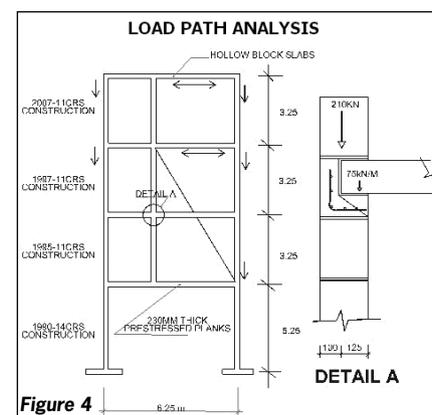


Figure 4

construction in Malta

habitable floors and roof construction totalling 285KN/m is split as 210 KN/m as direct loading onto the party wall, with the remaining 75KN/m being the eccentric reaction from the 6.25m spanning precast prestressed slab, with 125mm bearing.

At the prestressed planks seating level, the resultant eccentricity is calculated thus:

$$e = 75 (125/3 - 112.5)/(210 + 75) = 18.6\text{mm}$$

$$e/t = 18.6/225 = 0.08$$

$$I_{\text{eff}}/t = (4000 \cdot 1.0)/225 = 17.8 \text{ (dpm at ground level not considered stiff enough for this soft storey layout)}$$

$\beta = 0.72$, from table 7 in BS5628 Ptl giving capacity reduction factors β , only up to a value of 0.3t.

$$f = 285\text{KN/m}/0.225\text{m} = 1.27\text{N/mm}^2$$

From Table 1 for a masonry unit of compressive strength 20N/mm²

$$f_k = 7.4\text{N/mm}^2 \cdot \beta/\gamma_m = 7.4 \cdot 0.72/3 = 1.78\text{N/mm}^2 > 1.27\text{N/mm}^2$$

Thus under vertical loading, with resulting eccentricities the structure is stable.

WIND STABILITY CALCULATIONS:

With a basic wind speed of 47m/s, a ground roughness of 3 as no building dimension exceeds 50m, thus classified as a Class B structure, according to CP3 ChV (4)

$$S_3 = 0.83, \text{ thus } V_5 = V_5 S_2 S_3 = 47 \cdot 1 \cdot 0.83 = 39\text{m/s}$$

$$\text{Wind pressure } q = 0.93\text{KN/m}^2$$

Force coefficient C_f for buildings with flat roofs (Table 10 CP3 ChV):

$$l/w = 24/6 = b/d = 24/6 = 4$$

$$\text{height/breath} = 15/24 = 0.625$$

$$\text{Thus } C_f = 1.3$$

$$F = C_f q A_e = 1.3 \cdot 0.93 \cdot 15 = 18.15\text{KN/m}$$

Considering the load combination $1.2\gamma_D + 1.2\gamma_L + 1.2\gamma_W$ as being the more onerous

$$BM = 18.15/2 \cdot 4\text{m}/2 \cdot 1.2 = 21.8\text{KN-m/m}$$

$$P_w = 18.15 \cdot 7.5\text{m}/6.25\text{m} = 22.8\text{KN/m}$$

$\Sigma N(75 + 210) \cdot 1.2/1.45 + 22.8 \cdot 1.2 = 263\text{KN/m}$, where the vertical loading has been factored down to 1.2, instead of the previous average load factor of 1.45.

$$e = 21.8\text{KN-m/m} / 263\text{KN/m} + 0.0186\text{m} = 0.101\text{m}$$

$$e/t = 101/225 = 0.45 \text{ (Table 7 in BS5628 Ptl gives capacity reduction factors } \beta, \text{ only up to a value of } 0.3t.)$$

$$I_{\text{eff}}/t = (4000 \cdot 1.2) / 225 = 21.33 \text{ (under wind load, masonry structure considered to sway sideways.)}$$

From Table 1 for a masonry unit of compressive strength 20N/mm²

$$f_k = 7.4\text{N/mm}^2 \text{ with } \gamma_m = 3.0$$

Width of stress block x to which direct load subjected to:

$$x = 263\text{KN/m} \cdot 3 / 7.4\text{N/mm}^2 = 107\text{mm}$$

$$\text{Stability moment for wall section} = 263\text{KN/m} \cdot (225 - 107)/2 = 15.52\text{KN-m/m}$$

This stability moment is less than the moment induced under the wind load condition at 21.8KN-m

However, such constructions are known to be stable under such wind load conditions, thus besides the sway action analysed, diaphragm action comes into play whereby the end walls take the outstanding % of wind action via torsional redistribution, with the centre of gravity of the wind loading in plan not coinciding with the shear centre of the walling at ground floor level.

SEISMIC STABILITY CALCULATIONS:

Period of vibration for this 4-storey building given as per Annex C2 EC8:

$$T = C_t H^3/4 = 1.5 \cdot 153/4 = 0.38\text{s}$$

$$\text{As } 0.1\text{s} < T < 0.4\text{s}$$

$$S_d(t) = \alpha S \beta_0 / q$$

where α , the ratio of the design ground acceleration to the acceleration of gravity, is taken as 0.06 for Malta, as referred to above.

S and β_0 are dependent on the soil conditions, for type A sub-soil, which refers to rock founding material, as from Table 4.1 (EC8), given at 1 and 2.5 respectively.

Q is a behaviour factor, which for unreinforced masonry as per Table 5.1 (EC8) is given at 1.5.

$$S_d(t) = 0.06 \cdot 1.0 \cdot 2.5 / 1.5 = 0.1, \text{ corresponding to } 10\% \text{ of vertical load.}$$

The EC8 seismic load combination is $\Sigma G_{ki} + \Sigma \psi_{Ei} Q_{ki}$

Where ψ_{Ei} is the combination coefficient for variable action given by: $\psi_{Ei} = \delta \cdot \psi_{2i}$

With combination coefficient taking into account the likelihood of the loads being not present over the entire structure during the occurrence of the earthquake.

Value of ψ_{2i} is given in Pt1 of EC1 at 0.2 for domestic loading and the value of δ given at 0.5 from Table 3.2 of EC8. Thus only 0.1 of the total live load is to be catered for the seismic condition.

The total dead load for the upper floors is given at 4KN/m² (self weight) + 2KN/m² (finish) + 4KN/m² (masonry partitions) = 10KN/m²

The total load transferred onto the two supporting party walls at just below the 1st floor level is given by:

$$[[10\text{KN/m}^2 \cdot 3\text{floors} + 6\text{KN/m}^2 \cdot 1 \text{ roof slab} + 0.1 \cdot 1.5\text{KN/m}^2 \text{ (LL)} \cdot 4 \text{ floors}] \cdot 6.25\text{m} + 55\text{crs} \cdot 1.35\text{KN/m/crs} \cdot 2 \text{ in No.} = 377\text{KN/m}$$

The seismic horizontal force is thus given at 10% of the total vertical seismic load combination $0.1 \cdot 377\text{KN/m} = 37.75\text{KN/m}$ on each supporting party wall, as opposed to 18.15KN/m for the wind load condition.

$$BM = 37.75/2 \cdot 4\text{m}/2 = 37.75\text{KN-m/m}$$

$$P_s = 37.75 \cdot 10\text{m}/6.25\text{m} = 60.4\text{KN/m}$$

$$\Sigma N 377/2 + 60.4 = 248.9\text{KN/m}$$

$$e = 37.75\text{KN-m/m} / 248.9\text{KN/m} + 0.0186\text{m} = 0.17\text{m}$$

$e/t = 170 / 225 = 0.76$ (Table 7 in BS5628 Ptl gives capacity reduction factors β , only up to a value of 0.3t)

$$I_{\text{eff}}/t = (4000 \cdot 1.2) / 225 = 21.33 \text{ (under seismic load, masonry structure considered to sway sideways.)}$$

Again from table 1 for a masonry unit of compressive strength 20N/mm²

$$f_k = 7.4\text{N/mm}^2 \text{ with } \gamma_m = 1.7 \text{ from table 5.3 EC8}$$

Width of stress block x to which direct load subjected to:

$$x = 248.9\text{KN/m} \cdot 1.7 / 7.4\text{N/mm}^2 = 57\text{mm}$$

$$\text{Stability moment for wall section} = 248.9\text{KN/m} \cdot (225 - 57)/2 = 20.91\text{KN-m/m}$$

This stability moment is less than the moment induced under the seismic load condition at 37.75KN-m

OBSERVATIONS

For Malta's masonry construction, the seismic horizontal force at 37.75 KN/m is just more than double the horizontal wind force at 21.8 KN/m. From above, it is noted that the seismic force is 10% of the vertical load, thus wind load equates to just under 5% of vertical load. These figures are well above what BS 5628 specifies, for the minimum lateral load given at 1.5% of the characteristic dead load above that level.

Again the seismic stability moment at 20.91 KN-m/m is 55% of the overturning seismic moment at 37.75KN-m/m. The wind stability moment at 15.5 KN-m/m is 71% of the overturning wind moment at 21.8KN-m/m. Although the wind stability moment works out less than the overturning wind moment, the rigid diaphragm action of

these constructions appears to transfer the outstanding bending moment, not catered for by frame action by couple action into the transverse supporting wall system. For this to occur the tying clauses stipulated in BS 5628 pt 1 – Table 12 are to be adhered to.

Building Type	B	C
Earthquake Intensity MM	MDR	MDR
5	2%	-
6	4%	1%
7	20%	10%
8	45%	25%

Table 3 – Mean Damage ratio (MDR) for building types founded on rock (5).

However the stability, under the 475 year seismic return period, with the stability moment equating only to 55% of the overturning moment is under question. Table 3 for a symmetrical building in layout gives mean damage ratios for MMVI varying from 1% up to 4% and for an MMVII from 10% up to 20%, depending on the quality of the building. For buildings of higher irregularity and asymmetry, these ratios are even known to go higher.

These mean damage ratios outlined in Table 3, compared with the above analysis seem to indicate that masonry soft buildings in Malta will suffer damage if subjected to a seismic tremor as indicated by the 475 year return period as specified in EC8.

References:

- BS5628: Code of Practice for use of masonry, Ptl: 1992: Structural use of unreinforced masonry. British Standards Institution London
- Eurocode 8: DD ENV 1998-1-1:1996, Design provisions for earthquake resistance of structures, Part 1.1 General rules – Seismic actions and general requirements for structures. CEN.
- Denis H Camilleri, "FIXITY MOMENT INDUCED ON MASONRY WALLING – the Malta Experience", The Structural Engineer, 15/10/02
- CP3 Ch. V. Pt. 1972 Basic Data for the Design of Buildings – Wind Loads, British Standards Institution London.
- Camilleri D.H., "Vulnerability of buildings of Malta to earthquake, volcano and tsunami hazard", The Structural Engineer, Vol 77, No22 November.

Maltese street furniture: today's brash idiosyncrasy versus yesteryear's restrained uniformity

by Edward Said

Such a title may come across as being bluntly generalist. It has been chosen because in recent decades, successful urban furniture in Maltese streets, squares and promenades sadly is the exception rather than the rule. One may ask how a bench can be described as unsuccessful or a bollard incapable of stopping a car from entering a quaint alley. Firstly, without going into the design ergonomics of posterior comfort or traffic calming measures, the adjective 'unsuccessful' here aims at criticising the immediate visual impact of these novel furnishings. Secondly, this issue's heritage page is more than anything a eulogy to the once standardised, unassumingly elegant street furniture that has been capriciously replaced without any serious attempt at restoring, replicating or gaining inspiration from their age-old predecessors.

Poring over old postcards or photographs of Maltese urban settings will reveal that over time although there were changes in for example street lamp types, as they developed from paraffin to gas to electricity, there was still certain uniformity all over the place. The same can be said for paving, benches, bollards, phone-booths, post boxes, kiosks, railings and the like.



Three versions of street-names and a fountain once a common sight in Maltese streets. (Zebbug, Malta)

These days many have been substituted by cheap, tacky replacements or insensitively designed to be completely incongruous with their surroundings.

Street furniture might seem to some as a small-time influence on streetscape from an aesthetical point of view. Some may even argue that what makes the Maltese street distinctly Maltese is primarily the architecture. Granted, however, this must be complemented by an adequately designed scheme of street fittings which after all have a vital use to the pedestrian and motorist. As with architectural features, trans-local uniformity has its benefits too. Recognisable, subtle details are what tie the streets of a town together and across to other settlements. Thus whether you are in Valletta or Vittoriosa, there is still something that makes one say: this is Malta, especially to the unfamiliar visitor.

Perhaps these delicate aspects of urban design were best analysed with such distinction and detail by none else than Gordon Cullen. In his now aged but still applicable 'The Concise Townscape' Cullen takes the reader on a virtual tour, pointing out the countless delights of the inter-urban experience. Whilst dwelling mostly on the play of senses that architectural volumes have on the pedestrian who roams amongst them, the author also touches on aspects that might seem minor but can essentially make or break an urban space. In this context Cullen discusses the importance of street furniture. "The smallest details of the street or civic space should fit into the townscape in performing their individual functions."⁽¹⁾ The author describes the significance of good urban furniture through a multitude of photographs which incidentally are so much more evocative when reading a black-and-white version of his book. For anyone interested or involved in urban design, 'The Concise Townscape' is a must.

Comparing Cullen's scenarios with the local



Successful street furniture and traffic calming measures in Attard



Art-nouveau street lamp, once a common feature, now only a couple are left around Malta (Zabbar)

scene clearly explains the problems of deficient street furniture design. Street lighting for example is one of the more important protagonists of the inter-urban experience. There has recently begun a brutal spate of removal of central hanging or pendent ornate street lamps which have been replaced with non-descript substitutes. These lamps have been a characteristic of the Maltese streetscape since the 1930s. The excuse by many of local councils that spare parts do not exist is very dubious since the lamps of Valletta and Vittoriosa are maintained and where necessary like is replaced with like. As part of a section entitled 'Townscape unities', Cullen talks about three demands that a townscape makes of the engineer: scale, kinetic unity and propriety all with special emphasis on street lights.⁽²⁾ This can be said for most other items which make up the furniture suite. The effect of trees in our streets is another example, perhaps not so present



Street-lights dating from the late 50s which are rapidly disappearing from our streets (Sliema)



Ghar id-Dud a hundred years ago (Courtesy R. Ellis)

locally but still highly influential (e.g. the recent St. John's Square Ficus trees saga in Valletta). In conclusion all these criteria play a decisive role in the success of a well-designed urban space. Street furniture is the transitional intermediary between the street user and buildings.

Silver linings are manifesting themselves however. Ranging from MEPA's scheduling of British period phone booths and post boxes to successful projects such as the revamping of the Sliema Front promenade (although this saw the sad demise of the Art-nouveau railings), increasing improvement is being witnessed. More has to be done in saving examples or remnants of old furnishings before the stigma of our diminutive country come to play here again, meaning that we cannot afford to make more mistakes because so little is left since we never had much to start with.

References:

(1) Cullen, Gordon, *The Concise Townscape*, The Architectural Press, (Great Britain 1971), p. 95

(2) *Ibid.*, pp. 146-148

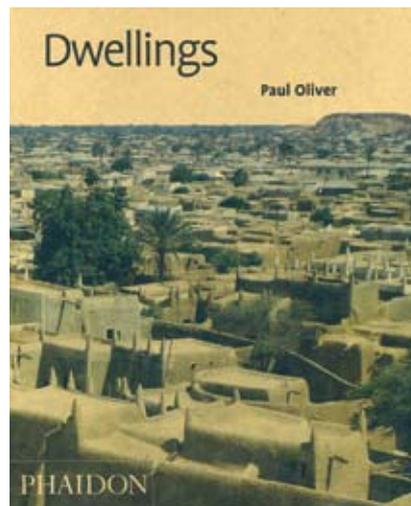
DWELLINGS THE VERNACULAR HOUSE WORLD WIDE

Paul Oliver

Phaidon Press Limited, London 2003; reprinted in paper back 2007, ISBN 978-0-7148-4793-1

The architecture by the people represents in excess of 90 per cent of the world's buildings, including some 800 million dwellings. Dwellings is about the types and forms of vernacular houses around the world, traditional buildings that are self-built by their owner-occupiers or built by members of a community, from many countries. Dwellings is an essential record of domestic buildings by indigenous groups that still exist and thrive in the world today, as well as others that are sadly under threat or disappearing. It is also a useful survey for understanding how different communities cope with issues that affect everyone who builds, eg. climate, migration, as well as

symbolic or cultural meaning in architecture. Since its first publication in 1987, *Dwellings: The House Across the World* has been the classic reference to the world's informal domestic architecture. This new book, *Dwellings: The Vernacular House World Wide* takes into account further scholarship in the field and also acknowledges theoretical developments in the areas of cultural geography, gender studies, sociology and anthropology. Each narrative chapter is highly illustrated with drawings and photographs, largely by the author from his research field trips over many years. For architects and students, and for those involved in historical research or the field of vernacular architecture it is a fascinating and informative document of the ways in which houses are constructed, decorated and inhabited around the world.



the largest artefact that a man, woman, or their family may ever construct; in many others it is the single most important item that they may ever call their own. The dwelling is more than the site it occupies, the materials of which it is made, the know-how of its construction, the labour that has gone into building it, the cost in time and money that has been expended upon it. The dwelling is the theatre of our lives, where the major dramas of birth and death, of procreation and recreation are played out, and in which the succession of scenes of daily living are enacted, and re-enacted in the processes of dwelling." The author, Paul Oliver is one of the most eminent scholars on vernacular architecture. He is currently the Chair of the Master's course in International Studies in Vernacular Architecture at the School of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University where he has taught for many years.

The following quotation from the author sheds light on the genius loci of the book: "In a great many cultures the dwelling is

www.architecture.com & www.ribapix.com



www.architecture.com, the website of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) has been recently upgraded to a more visual and easy to navigate site. With various sections including information on the RIBA and membership details, and information on Education and Careers, the site gives a new face to the RIBA itself. One of the more interesting features is the link to another RIBA site, www.ribapix.com. Here the user can navigate through a growing database dedicated to providing exceptional and unique images from the collections of the British Architectural Library at the RIBA, the world's most extensive visual archive devoted to architecture. RIBApix covers world architecture of all periods together with related subjects such as interior design, landscape, topography, planning, construction and the decorative arts. Many of the images are also of social documentary importance. Another interesting item is the "How we built Britain" section, which explores a thousand years of British architecture with through this online exhibition of photographs, drawings, books, models and manuscripts, all from the RIBA British Architectural Library. Assembled since 1834, this is one of the world's finest collections relating to architecture and our built heritage, totalling some four million items.

COMPETITION

Q: WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THIS BUILDING AND WHERE WAS IT LOCATED? WHO WAS THE ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED THIS BUILDING?

The winner of this competition wins a copy of the book reviewed above: "**Dwellings**" by Paul Oliver. This book is available from **Agenda Bookshop**, the sponsor of this competition and review page.



Send your entries to: **The Editor, The Architect Competition, Kamratal-Periti, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira**, or by email on **thearchitect@ktpmalta.com**.

Editorial Board and their families are not eligible to participate.

The first correct entry drawn on the 4 November 2007 will win. Only residents of the Maltese Islands are eligible to participate. Members of the

The building featured in the competition of Issue 41 was the Palace of the General of the Gallies in Birgu. It was constructed in the 1680s with Lorenzo Gafa as the architect. Today it houses the Casino di Venezia. No correct entries were received.



Agendabookshop

NOW TO 7 OCTOBER 2007; GALLERY 3, NAI, NETHERLANDS

NEITHER TOWN NOR COUNTRY

The messy zone of transition zone where city and farmland meet has time and again evaded the customary orderliness of Dutch spatial planning. This exhibition uses maps, drawings and photographs to give viewers an image of the unpredictable ways these spaces tend to develop. www.nai.nl

NOW TO 14 OCTOBER 2007; V&A MUSEUM, LONDON, UK



ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL REVIVAL

This exhibition reveals how this landmark building has been painstakingly refocused to meet the demands of the next 50 years as a world-class concert venue and a vibrant public arena for the arts. www.architecture.com

NOW TO 21 OCTOBER 2007; GALLERY 3, NAI, NETHERLANDS

A BETTER WORLD – ANOTHER POWER

Exhibition in connection with the 3rd International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam www.nai.nl

NOW TO 27 OCTOBER 2007; NEW LONDON ARCHITECTURE, LONDON, UK

AWAY FROM HOME

London currently receives some 27 million visitors a year. How is the hotel industry responding to the increasing demand? Where are the new hotels to be located and what will they be like? www.newlondonarchitecture.org



NOW TO 28 OCTOBER 2007; JOSEF HOFFMANN MUSEUM, BRITNICE, CZECH REPUBLIC

JOSEF HOFFMANN – ADOLF LOOS: ORNAMENT AND TRADITION

The exhibition explores the tension-charged discussion between Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffmann about the status of ornamentation in art and architecture. www.makcenter.org

NOW TO 04 NOVEMBER 2007; THE LIGHTHOUSE, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND



SIX STUDENT AWARDS

A showcase of young talent, SIX features work from the future stars of Scottish architecture submitted for five student awards

- the RIAS Silver Medal for best 5th year student, The Lighthouse Award for best 3rd year student, the Urban Design Award, the RIAS Award for drawing and the Sust. Award for sustainable design. www.thelighthouse.co.uk

NOW TO 21 OCTOBER 2007; LOUISIANA MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, DENMARK

THE FRONTIERS OF ARCHITECTURE I: CECIL BALMOND

This series is about new and alternative architectural movements today. This first exhibition should be seen as elucidating the relationship between science and architectural design, and gives a clue to where architecture is heading today – implementing new geometries, ideas and computer-generated forms with close affinity to the way nature itself works. Cecil Balmond of ARUP is the leading figure in this development. www.louisiana.dk

NOW TO 25 NOVEMBER 2007; DESIGN MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

ZAHA HADID : ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

www.designmuseum.org

NOW TO 6 JANUARY 2008; NAI ROTTERDAM AND NAI MAASTRICHT, NETHERLANDS



CUYPERS – ARCHITECTURE WITH A MISSION

www.nai.nl

01 OCTOBER - 25 NOVEMBER 2007; THE LIGHTHOUSE, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

SUTHERLAND HUSSEY ARCHITECTS MICROSTRUCTURES - "SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL"

www.thelighthouse.co.uk



07 OCTOBER 2007; MAK CENTRE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

MAK ARCHITECTURE TOUR 2007

The MAK Centre's annual architecture tour to Modernist homes and buildings. www.makcenter.org

16–18 OCTOBER 2007; STUTTGART, GERMANY

CIB W102 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

"Information and Knowledge Management - Helping the Practitioner in Planning and Building" <http://cib-w102.iconda.org/conference2007stuttgart>

28 OCTOBER–01 NOVEMBER 2007; BIRMINGHAM, UK

INTERBUILD – THE BUILDING SHOW

1200 exhibitors with hundreds of new products and new technologies www.interbuild.com

01 NOVEMBER 2007 – 05 JANUARY 2008; MAIN GALLERY, NEW LONDON ARCHITECTURE, UK



LONDON'S LEARNING

London is experiencing one of the biggest investments in education and skills infrastructure since the 1960s. Architecture and construction

face several challenges in this respect. www.newlondonarchitecture.org



03 NOVEMBER 2007 - 10 FEBRUARY 2008; THE LIGHTHOUSE, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

GILLESPIE, KIDD & COIA: ARCHITECTURE 1956-87

www.thelighthouse.co.uk

05-10 NOVEMBER 2007; PARIS EXPO, FRANCE

BATIMAT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXHIBITION 2007

www.batimat.com

20-22 NOVEMBER 2007; EARLS COURT 2, LONDON, UK

CIVILS 2007

Civils is the UK's largest exhibition to encompass the



needs of the civil engineering industry while reflecting on opportunities available within the sector. www.civils.com

22-24 NOVEMBER 2007; SINGAPORE

24TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PASSIVE AND LOW ENERGY ARCHITECTURE

www.arch.nus.edu.sg

NOW TO MID-JANUARY 2008; DESIGN MUSEUM, GENT, BELGIUM

ETTORE SOTTASS

Ettore Sottsass (1917), Austrian by birth but Italian in heart and soul, opened his own architecture and design studio in 1947. From 1958 he was the design consultant for Olivetti for over 20 years. <http://design.museum.gent.be>

