

# the Architect

The official journal of the Kamra tal-Periti

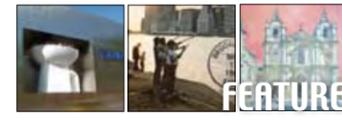


Issue no. 45 | July 2008

KAMRA TAL · PERITI

NEWSPAPER POST

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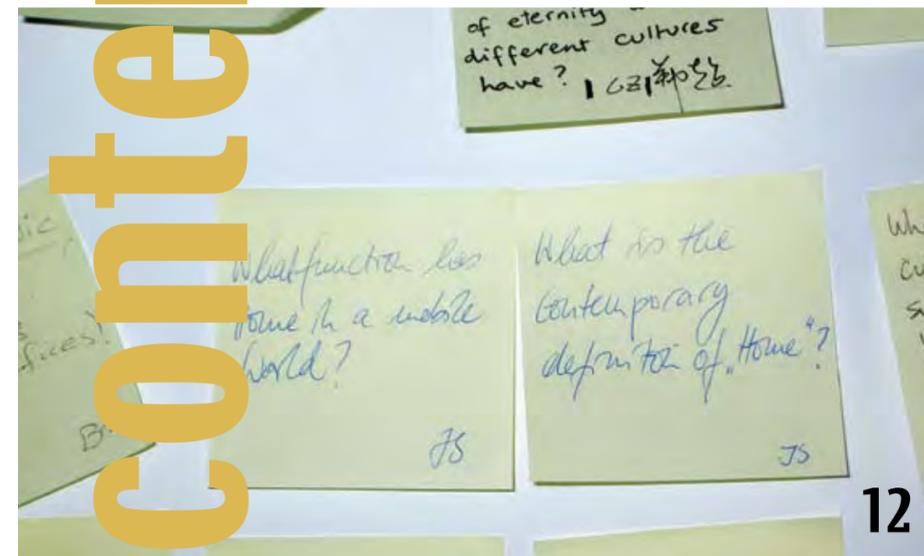
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**"Success will depend on our ability to strike an effective partnership between politics and architecture."**

**Lawrence Gonzi**  
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I was half-tempted not to write this editorial, which invariably is the last item that gets written when putting together this journal for publication. The summer heat is taking its toll, and my un-air-conditioned study is not the best place to be sitting in ...which then got me thinking about the Energy Directive and its implications on the way we design and build in the future. Or rather, the way we should already be designing and building, since the Directive came into force in 2006, while the Minimum Requirements for the Energy Performance of Buildings, also known as Document F, should have been adhered to for all new buildings since January 2007. How aware is the industry about these requirements? Are we taking the Document F requirements into consideration when designing modern edifices, or is the document lying on some shelf, somewhere, unopened, unread and ignored?

The quality of our built environment is hugely influenced by the way buildings are designed and detailed. The quality of the spaces within which we live, work and play, is also a direct result of the amount of attention given to each and every part of the design process, from such basic consideration as the orientation of openings, to the careful choice of building and finishing materials that can grossly affect the energy performance of these buildings and spaces. Choice of light fittings, inclusion of alternative energy sources, a good level of workmanship in the actual construction process, use of shading devices, the utilisation of rain water collected in wells ... these are but some of the measures that can be employed and considered in an effort at achieving buildings that are more and more environmentally conscious in their design, and more importantly in their use.

As of January 2009, new regulations will come into force, wherein each application submitted to MEPA for a new building, or significant alterations to an existing one, must be accompanied by an Energy Certificate which grades the building according to a pre-defined scale. Similarly, any promise of sale agreement or lease agreement entered into after next January must also be accompanied by such Certificate. The Services Division within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs recently published draft legislation on these matters for consultation with the industry, and following such consultation the draft was endorsed by government as I write.

What still remains to be seen is who will be monitoring these certificates and the compliance with the Document F requirements. So far it appears that MEPA will not be assessing applications in terms of their compliance. There has been talk of the Malta Resources Authority acting as a consulting body (similarly to HAC, KNPD, etc) but nothing is firm as yet. In any case, the legislation will be effective as of next January, in some form or other, and it is not just periti who need to be aware of the implications, but also estate agents, notaries, contractors and construction workers, building materials suppliers, the Faculty at the University, and many others who are part of the building sector. Particularly, clients and building owners need to be aware of the obligations imposed on them by such legislation.

In my opinion, the success of the implementation of these regulations will only be effective if there is an adequate educational campaign aimed at each of the sectors mentioned above. We are not talking just about complying with some minor regulation, but about a culture change that will affect the way we look at the construction sector in the coming years. Both locally and internationally, the debate on energy efficiency in buildings is heating up (no pun intended), and in an effort to spur on the process, the Kamra tal-Periti recently organised a seminar as part of an EU-funded project on this subject, and will continue to liaise with the relevant authorities in order to ensure as smooth a transition as possible as well as to ensure that information on the implementation of the impending legislation is widely and freely available.

In the meantime, the Kamra will also continue to work on its various other projects, in particular on the implementation of the decisions taken during its Extraordinary General Meeting held earlier this year, the setting up of a Centre for the Built Environment as well as the various activities already planned for after the summer months. It will also be involved in various consultations, including the proposed reform of MEPA, the pre-Budget consultation process launched by government and various other aspects that have a bearing on the way the profession is practiced locally, as well as with a view towards the international market.

**Simone Vella Lenicker**  
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**KAMRA TAL-PERITI**

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

The Council of the Kamra Tal-Periti for the year 2007 consists of David Felice (President), Vincent Cassar (Vice President), Simone Vella Lenicker (Honorary Secretary) and Council members Keith Cole, Philip Grech, Frank Giordmaina Medici, Anthony Fenech Vella, Etienne Micallef Grimaud, Alberto Miceli Farrugia, Danica Mifsud, and Damian Vella Lenicker.

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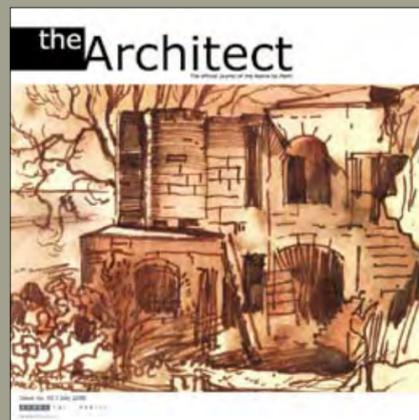
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COVER: **BASIL SPENCE**  
Dar Tal-Ghar, Fawwara 1970  
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**MEETINGS WITH MEPA**

A meeting was held between the KTP Council and the Chairman (then Andrew Calleja), members of the MEPA Board and the Chairpersons of the DCCs on the 08 April 2008. This meeting followed a series of letters between the KTP and MEPA regarding the recently announced change in time of DCC Board Meetings from the afternoon to the morning. The Kamra presented a document in which it compiled the reactions it had received from periti. This document may be downloaded at the following address: <http://www.ktpmalta.com/documents/commentsReceived.pdf>

Items discussed during this meeting included DCC procedures, the proposed MEPA reform, the implications of The Urban Challenge (KTP's position paper on the Built Environment) in terms of the planning process, as well as the importance of consultation with the KTP in all MEPA issues. In the meantime, following the appointment of Austin Walker as new Chairman of MEPA, the Kamra will be holding additional meetings, with particular focus on the much discussed reform of MEPA.

**MEETINGS WITH BANKS TO IMPROVE LEVEL OF SERVICE**

Following comments received by members regarding certain procedures adopted by local banks, the Kamra wrote to all financial institutions stressing the importance of the client's prerogative in selecting a perit when it is the same client who pays for the professional service rendered, also highlighting the issues of fees due in accordance with Tariff K. Further to this correspondence, the KTP Council held separate meetings with senior executives of Bank of Valletta, HSBC, APS and BANIF during April and May. A discussion on the preparation of valuation reports and adherence to KTP standards was also made. KTP also discussed ongoing issues and items of mutual interest and also investigated the prospects of some future cooperation and collaboration between the Banks and the Kamra.

**GENERAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

The first meeting of the General Services Board (GSB) for 2008 was held on the 09 May. Perit Philip Grech and Perit Alan Saliba attended this meeting on behalf of the Kamra tal-Periti. The KTP has been for several months requesting a meeting with the CGMO regarding the publication of decisions made by the GSB, in order to provide periti with guidelines to improve their professional service. During this meeting, members of the GSB agreed to review their internal directives to identify those which are still valid and seek legal advice to determine whether these directives should be published and if so, by which entity. The Kamra will continue to follow the issue and keep members informed.

**KTP ATTENDS MEETING REGARDING SERVICES DIRECTIVE**

The Ministry of Finance, Economy and Investment held a High Level Briefing and Consultation Conference regarding the Services Directive, with the aim to update on the work done to date, identify the work that must necessarily follow and to consult on possible solutions. Perit Simone Vella Lenicker attended the meeting on behalf of the KTP. Directive 2006/123/EC on Services in the Internal Market was adopted in December 2006. Member States, including Malta, will have to bring into force laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with

this directive before 28 December 2009. The Ministry of Finance, Economy and Investment is leading this transposition process together with the other relevant line Ministries who form a Working Group specifically set up in April 2007 for the purpose. The KTP is one of the stakeholders in this transposition, and had organised a seminar in May 2007 to inform periti on the implications of this directive on the profession and has since then liaised with Government in the transposition process.

**REAL ESTATE FORUM 2008**

KTP President, David Felice, addressed the Real Estate Forum held on the 04 June 2008, with a presentation entitled "The Economics of Design: Adding Quality and Value to the Built Environment." This year's Forum was intended to centre on the importance of upgrading the investment value of real estate in Malta as well as address the issue of supply and demand based on the conclusions achieved in the first real estate forum of 2007. The forum was also addressed by Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism, Mario De Marco who highlighted his views on positioning the real estate product as an integral part of Malta's unique tourism value proposition.

**KTP MEETS WITH MINISTER MIFSUD BONNICI**

A meeting was held on the 07 May 2008 with Minister Mifsud Bonnici regarding the proposed amendments to Tariff K, following the approval of the draft by the KTP Extraordinary General Meeting held last month. David Felice, Vincent Cassar and Damian Vella Lenicker attended the meeting. Both sides expressed their views on Tariff K, in particular regarding the preparation of valuation reports. The Kamra tal-Periti presented copies of the Valuations Standards document and The Urban Challenge to the Minister, together with various position papers outlining the activities undertaken and decisions reached by the Kamra in recent months and agreed to hold further consultations, correspond more closely and cooperate with the Ministry in order to address the issues discussed.



Minister Mifsud Bonnici

**KAMRA TO BE INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION REGARDING COURSE STRUCTURE**

Newly-appointed Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Prof Alex Torpiano responded to the KTP's request for a meeting, and this was held on the 03 June 2008. David Felice, Vincent Cassar and Keith Cole attended the meeting. Following the recommendations of the Federation of Professional Bodies that there should be representatives of the professions on the Faculty Boards, Prof. Torpiano had attempted to appoint a KTP representative on the Architecture Faculty Board. However, this issue has as yet not been resolved. Prof. Torpiano presented a draft revision to the present course structure which proposes a number of changes. This is currently being discussed by the KTP Council and feedback shall be forwarded to the Dean in the coming days.

**ARCHITECTURE & CHILDREN**

The KTP has embarked on the UIA Architecture & Children project. The Union of International Architects (UIA) Built Environment Network aims to help Architects and Teachers show young people what makes good Architecture and a Sustainable Environment. This in order that, as adult citizens, users, clients and decision-makers they may take an active part in shaping the world they live in, embracing both heritage and innovation in the creation of communities which provide a healthy and harmonious quality of life for all. The co-ordinators, Perit David Pace and Perit Audrey Galea, were invited to deliver a presentation to the KTP Council, describing their progress. This presentation focused on the main ways of implementing the program, namely by it being a part of the core subjects of the students' curriculum, a separate activity (eg workshops, weekend events), or through an "Ideas" program, where the student becomes the client and is part of the design process. Two young architects are also collaborating on the project. The next step is to approach the Ministry and some potential schools in order to determine the best way to bring architecture closer to children. Anyone interested in supporting this program is invited to contact the Kamra. ([www.uiabee.riai.ie](http://www.uiabee.riai.ie)).



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## THE GEORGIAN GROUP ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING PRIZE

In celebration of The Prince of Wales's sixtieth birthday in November, The Georgian Group, in association with The Prince's Drawing School and the Traditional Architecture Group of the Royal Institute of British Architects, is organising a prize competition for a measured drawing of a Georgian building. The aim of the competition, which is open to British, Commonwealth and US citizens under 40, is to promote and reward excellence in measured architectural drawing and to encourage close study and understanding of Georgian buildings. For the purposes of the competition, the term 'Georgian building' means any building completed in the period 1660-1840, whether in Britain or elsewhere. Full details can be downloaded from [www.georgiangroup.org.uk](http://www.georgiangroup.org.uk). The deadline for entries is the 19 September 2008.

### PROJECTS BY MALTESE ARCHITECTS FEATURE IN ARCA ...

The April 2008 issue of ARCA, the prestigious Italian architectural design journal features the work of two Maltese architects. One project featured was that of Conrad Thake's own family residence in Zebbug



Conrad Thake, Architect's family residence



Richard England, The Garden of Apollo, St Julians, Malta

which is a conversion of a traditional courtyard house with a number of minimalist modern interventions. The project's relevance is particularly noteworthy for the preservation of the spirit of the old while also projecting a non-intrusive essence of the new.

The other project is a landscape-interior design scheme entitled the Garden of Apollo by Richard England. The scheme is essentially a remodeling of the architect's own private study and office annex, and is



characterised by a dynamic synergy with the external garden space. Both articles featured in ARCA are illustrated by comprehensive photographic documentation.

### ... AND OTHERS FEATURE IN AJ

The weekly publication The Architects' Journal (AJ) has been promoting good architecture since 1895. In one of its issues last June, AJ featured the Malta Maritime Authority office complex in Marsa, designed by local practice Architecture Project. The article also referred to the firm's recent exhibition of works held in Brick Lane, London. [www.architectsjournal.co.uk](http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk)

### LUBETKIN PRIZE

The Lubetkin Prize is named in honour of the Georgia-born architect, who worked in Paris before going to London in the 1930s to establish the influential Tecton Group. It is awarded for the most outstanding building outside the EU by an RIBA mem-



ber and is chosen from winners of RIBA International Awards following visits by a jury of architects and a lay judge. The 2008 winner was Casa Kike by Gianni Botsford Architects.

Casa Kike in Costa Rica is a small scheme where success is dependent on the absolute simplicity of the initial diagram and a refusal by the architect to over-complicate it. Two buildings, each a parallelogram, are orientated so their sides are parallel to the boundaries of the site. The glazed ends (and here's the clever bit) are then twisted away from the meridian so as to catch the northerly sea breezes. The house is built on 1.2m piles of the hardest of hard woods, Cachà, which is so dense that it sinks in water. As a result it is also termite proof, an important factor in these parts. The point about the house is books, 17,000 of them, so the fact that the books and the structure are brought together in what are in effect structural bookcases is highly appropriate. The two pavilions are linked by a raised walkway which is long enough so that the smaller building is not in the wind shadow of the bigger one.

Photos copyright: Christian Richt

### DYNAMIC TOWER

Italian architect David Fisher is building his first skyscraper, the Dynamic Tower, a new concept in luxury architecture. Every floor of the 80-storey self-powered building rotates according to voice command, and nearly the entire construction of the \$700 million structure is prefabricated.

Fisher was inspired to design the Dynamic Tower during a visit to a friend's top-floor Midtown Manhattan apartment. "I had a

view of the Hudson River and East River at the same time, it was beautiful and I wanted to make that feeling accessible to more people." He loves the idea of seeing the sun rise and set in the same room, and considers the building to be four-dimensional. "Time is always changing the shape of the building."

The rotation takes up to 3 hours, and gets power from photovoltaic solar cells and 79 wind turbines, one located between each floor. The system is meant to create enough energy to power the entire tower and still have some left for surrounding buildings. According to Fisher, two of these futuristic scrapers are planned so far, one each in Dubai and Moscow. They will be built using a truly radical technique.

Construction on the Dynamic Tower will be unlike anything that preceded it. The only part of the tower built on site will be the centre core. It is strong enough to hold the floors in place, and will contain the building's elevators, which transport people and cars right to their door. Each floor will be made piece



by piece in a factory in Italy and placed onto the core using a lift system. With this method, each story is completed in about six days. By comparison, traditional



ground-up methods can take six weeks per floor. Groundbreaking for Dynamic Towers in Dubai and Moscow is expected to happen in the autumn, with construction reaching completion by the end of

### NEW MEPA CHAIRMAN

Mr Austin Walker has been appointed as the new Chairman at the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). The former chairman of the Malta Resources Authority replaces Andrew Calleja who stepped down in June.

Mr Walker, who is also a director at Malta

Shipyards, has been closely associated with the agriculture and farming community. A Certified Public Accountant and Auditor, he was appointed chairman of the Co-operatives board and was also chairman of the Agricultural Export Marketing Board between 1992 and 1996. In February 2005, he was appointed chairman of the MRA, regulator for energy, water and mineral resources.

On behalf of the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti and the Kamra's members, the Editorial Team extends its congratulations and augurs success in his new role.

### TEN INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTS TO PRESENT IDEAS FOR GREATER PARIS

Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, met with ten 'big names' in the field of architecture and urbanism at the Elysée Palace on the 4th June in order to launch them on a project to re-image Greater Paris. Each architect/urban designer will have a budget to cover their work and a team of professionals that will permit full inter-



disciplinary consideration of how to give birth to a new city.

Those chosen to undertake this mammoth task are Antoine Grumbach (FR), Roland Castro (FR),

Christian de Pontzamparc (FR), Jean Nouvel (FR), Yves Lion (FR), Finn Geipel (DE), Richard Rogers (UK), MVRDV (NL), Bernard Secchi (IT) and Djamel Klouche (FR). The teams are expected to present a prospective diagnosis at the beginning of 2009 that will contain concrete proposals for the metropolis in the post-Kyoto epoch.

### ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARD

Din I-Art Helwa is accepting entries for its Award Scheme for Architectural Heritage for 2008, designed to encourage better architecture by rewarding any building project which made an outstanding and significant contribution to architectural

excellence in a Maltese context and that sends a clear message that old buildings can be successfully restored and converted to modern use while retaining their character and intrinsic value.

Eligible projects include the restoration or conservation of buildings, the adaptation of buildings to new uses, building additions or alterations, or new building projects in conservation areas. The projects can relate either to a single building, a complex of buildings, or historic urban environment or townscape. The project will be judged on the quality of the work executed, its historic, cultural, educational and social relevance, the preliminary research conducted and the aesthetic and visual merit. The project may be on any scale, and should display a standard of work which would be outstanding in a Maltese context.

Submissions for consideration must be received at the Din I-Art Helwa office, 133 Melita Street, Valletta, by 30 September 2008. Applications and participation conditions are available through Din I-Art Helwa.

### HEATHROW TERMINAL 5

One of the largest construction projects in Europe, the new Terminal 5 at London's Heathrow Airport opened earlier this year, nearly 20 years after the Richard Rogers Partnership (now Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners) won the commission. Master-planner and lead architect Richard Rogers designed the new terminal as an exclusive and unified home for British Airways. With its wavy roof and glazed facade, Terminal



5 (T5) creates a recognisable face for the airport, and forms a key part of the ongoing Heathrow renovation and expansion project.

Heathrow currently accommodates the world's largest number of international passengers and 85 percent of the UK's international travelers, yet it only has two



runways. The facility is running at 98 percent capacity with little room for growth. Source: Architecture Week

### PRITZKER ARCHITECTURE PRIZE LAUREATE

62-year old architect Jean Nouvel of Paris, France has been chosen as the 2008 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize. The formal ceremony for what has come to be known throughout the world as architecture's highest honour was held on June 2 in Washington D.C. at the Library of Congress. In announcing the jury's choice, Thomas J. Pritzker, chairman of The Hyatt Foundation, quoted from the jury citation,



L'Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris

"Of the many phrases that might be used to describe the career of architect Jean Nouvel, foremost are those that emphasise his courageous pursuit of new ideas and his challenge of accepted norms in order to stretch the boundaries of the field." And further, Pritzker added, "The jury acknowledged the 'persistence, imagination, exuberance, and, above all, an insatiable urge for creative experimentation' as qualities abundant in Nouvel's work."

### GIANCARLO IUS

Giancarlo Ius, Vice-President of the UIA (International Union of Architects) since 2005, passed away on the 05 July after suffering a heart attack in his hotel room in Turin. Ius was a candidate for the presidency of the UIA, a position assigned at the end of the XXIII edition of the World Congress of Architecture which has just drawn to a close in Turin, and which elections were due to



take place just hours after his passing away. Giancarlo Ius was born in Zoppola

(province of Pordenone, Italy) in 1953. In addition to his many undertakings and commitments in professional institutions, he stood out for his role as architect and planner, with a well-known practice in Pordenone. He is remembered, among his many professional activities, for his commitment to salvaging and restoring buildings damaged in the 1980 earthquake in the Irpinia region of Italy. In addition to his position as Vice-President of the UIA, he currently held the position of Head of the Italian Delegation to the ACE (Architects' Council of Europe).

On behalf of the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti, the Editorial Team extends its condolences to Giancarlo's family and his colleagues at the UIA.

### BNA CUBE 2008

The Royal Institute of Dutch Architects (BNA) has awarded cepezed architects with the BNA Cube 2008 for its complete body of work. The BNA Cube is the highest decoration of the institute and possibly the most prestigious Dutch architecture prize. It is presented for exceptional merits within Dutch architecture.

According to the jury, cepezed's modern interpretation of the notion of the master builder compels admiration in particular. Within this interpretation, the office does not distinguish architecture from construction. It uses integral design methods that have brought the architects an enormous knowhow and competence in fields such



Westraven office complex exterior photo by Jannes Linders

as the organisation of the construction process, innovation and the development of construction components; all exerted for the purpose of architectural excellence.

cepezed pairs a minimal use of materials with most efficient execution techniques. Furthermore, the office has always regard-

led recycling and sustainability as evident issues of construction assignments. This has resulted in inspiring examples. cepezed's most recent work, such as the renovation and expansion of both the Westraven office block in Utrecht and the Audax Textile Museum in Tilburg, compels reverence because of its consistent subtlety and lightness and its sensuous control of at times rarefied space and light. The BNA presents the Cube on a yearly basis since 1965. Last year, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture received the prize. The presentation of the BNA Cube 2008 will take place near the end of the year.

#### ABITARE IL MEDITERRANEO

The International Prize for architectural projects titled "Living in the Mediterranean" is aimed at professionals who, through their work, ideas and passions, influence the changes taking place in society in the Mediterranean and who thereby foster the dialogue between different cultures and different ethnic groups. The subject matter of the Second Edition of the Prize is the "piazza", understood as the fundamental topos of living: a place for social gatherings and cultural exchanges in every society in the Mediterranean.

The competing projects may be either completely new undertakings or restruc-



turings of historic piazzas. They must demonstrate the ability to fit into the urban context, consistency with already existing structures, a coherent dialogue between the setting's historic language and its contemporary language, and the ability to reactivate the social and cultural practices at the heart of the piazza system.

The material received will provide the stimulus for a debating seminar on the characteristics of primary installations - the piazza - and their relationships with the Mediterranean territory and its traditions, to coincide with the XV General Assembly of UMAR which will take place in Morocco in January 2009 on the occasion of architecture day. The competing projects will also be displayed in an exhibition which will take place during the Extraordinary Assembly of UMAR in Pescara in June 2009 during the Mediterranean Games. Further information may be viewed on [www.abitareilmediterraneo.org](http://www.abitareilmediterraneo.org)

## KTP CONCLUDES CONSULTATION PROCESS

During its Annual General Meeting held in December last year, those present approved a motion whereby it delegated the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti to forward a packet of proposals to its members and to receive written comments on such, following which it would proceed to assess these comments and to consider amending its proposals. Revised documents were to be circulated to members and proposed for approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on the 06 March 2008. Due to the National General Election held on the 08 March and other circumstances, such EGM was postponed to the 01 April, where the discussion on these documents began. Due to time constraints, the Meeting was adjourned to the 15 April, where the consultation process was finally concluded with the approval of all five motions presented by the Council to the General Meeting.



The first motion dealt with the approval of a Position Paper on the Periti Act. This Paper assessed the current Act and proposed a road map for its updating. The approved motion gave the Council the go-ahead to enter into discussions with government, and to revert back to the Kamra's members with any amendments agreed to between the Council and

government.

The proposed amendments to subsidiary legislation 390.01, which includes the Regulations of the Chamber and the Code of Professional Conduct, were the subject of the second motion presented to the General Meeting. Save for some minor alterations, the proposed regulations were also approved and the Council was

delegated to present these "for the urgent consideration of the relevant authorities and to seek that such legislation is enacted without further delay."

Another Position Paper discussed by the General Meeting was that dealing with PI and Professional Liability. Here again, through the third motion presented by the Council, the contents of the paper were

approved, and the Council was mandated to take up discussions with the relevant authorities on this subject.

The fourth motion approved dealt with the Standard Forms of Agreement between periti and their clients. The Council was given the mandate to proceed with their publication and dissemination to its members and to introduce measures to encourage their widespread utilisation in the profession.

Lastly, the fifth motion dealt with the proposed amendments to Tariff K. These were also approved and the Council was delegated to initiate discussions in this regard with the relevant authorities and to revert back to the General Meeting of the Kamra once agreement has been reached, for the approval of the

General Meeting. Moreover the Council was requested to proceed with the publication and dissemination of Guidelines for the Engagement of the Services of periti to its members and to introduce measures to encourage their widespread utilisation in the profession, and to proceed with its work in the compilation and publication of a Cost Information System (CIS).

# Designing for the Future: The Market and Quality of Life

An international conference was organised on 10 April 2008 in Brussels by the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), and was held under the Patronage of José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. Over 400 of Europe's leading politicians - at international, European, national and local level - administrators, industry representatives and professionals in the field met at this one-day event in Brussels to draw up the agenda for tomorrow's built environment.

Vincent Cassar, also a member of the ACE Executive Board, Simone Vella Lenicker and Danica Mifsud represented the Kamra tal-Periti at this event. Jacques Borg Barthet, Anne Marie Mifsud and Ray Farrugia also joined the Maltese delegation.

During the Conference, Richard Parker, Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, pointed out that while modern architecture has a shared communal ability to cultivate real beauty, this is often "profoundly incompatible with markets - the defining institutions of our time - and there is thus a need to bridge this democratic deficit".

Professor Riccardo Petrella from the Academy of Architecture of Switzerland-Italy urged the audience to "reinvent cities as places of "common goods", providing public services for all" and to renew them as spaces of representative and direct democracy. Jean-Marie Beaupuy, Member of the European Parliament, President of the European Parliament Inter-Group Urban. Logement lent his support to the architects call when he said "We need to have a more coherent approach to the forms of governance in cities, as this will help to improve the social, cultural and economic standards of its citizens, so this October the Inter-Group will present a report to the European Parliament on introducing an integrated approach".



Over 400 delegates attended the Conference



Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European Parliament: "Space is not a luxury, but a basic need for everyone in Europe"

The Conference overwhelmingly agreed to the Brussels Statement which stressed that architecture is a positive tool in steering investments towards sustainable development. Developing cities demand an integrated, holistic approach, with input from politicians, architects, developers and civil society. Planners, designers, the construction industry and end users must work together to create and maintain a quality built environment to provide solutions for sustainable cities. Public procurement at all levels should be used to promote sustainability and quality, and particular attention should be given to rectifying the current misuse of Public-Private Partnerships.

In a closing speech to the Conference, Janez Podobnik, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia and President in Office of the EU Council of Ministers, reminded the audience that in the past architects and politicians had together created epoch-defining buildings - from the pyramids of Egypt to the buildings of renaissance Florence - and that they continue

to do so nowadays. They will continue to fulfil that role in building the new Europe, harnessing growth to develop a high quality built environment for the 21st century. The conclusions of the Conference are reproduced hereunder and set a roadmap for sustainability that should be kept at the heart of all political decisions in this regard.

#### Architects' Brussels Statement for the Future

A high quality built environment requires high quality in planning, design, building and management with good, timely cooperation between architects, other professionals, city leaders, administrations and citizens. A long-term vision for the built environment has to recognise the importance of the four pillars that constitute the basic framework for sustainable development.

#### A. Social pillar

1. A real challenge for all professionals in the construction sector lies in their ability to capture quality and 'beauty' and to translate them into completed projects and measurable values. There is a need to better



understand why the market does not fully respond to the desire of citizens for a high quality built environment - and to address these constraints one by one.

2. Good design benefits all citizens. The role of design in achieving greater equity and justice needs to be explored through pilot

projects and best practice.

#### B. Economic pillar

3. The cities of tomorrow can only be deemed successful if they fulfil the genuine needs and responsible desires of people. The true needs of citizens must be anticipated and longterm viable solutions devised to respond to them for which economic aspects are decided on the basis of life cycle costing.

4. Governments have to effectively and urgently assume their responsibilities and must see that it is not acceptable to privatise public policy. This is especially the case in the areas where the market fails to produce good results. In particular, reform of the public procurement process must be devised in which quality outcomes become the main goal over and above lowest cost.

#### C. Environmental pillar and sustainability

5. Designing for the future is a long-term vision. It must be recognised by all built environment professionals that sustainability is an absolute. A challenge that waits to be faced is the need to retrofit our cities, devising policies and techniques at the scale of the challenge faced that will lead our existing cities to a sustainable future.

6. Governance and decision-making processes that lead to the creation of the built environment must adopt an integrated approach drawing on all fields that affect the quality of the daily lives of all citizens.

#### D. Cultural pillar

7. Seen within the context of globalisation, cultural quality and diversity provide dynamism, identity and real attractiveness to places resulting in economic, social and environmental benefits. We need to recognise, cherish and promote our European identity. Architecture has visionary and synthesising power to contribute to the achievement of these statements.

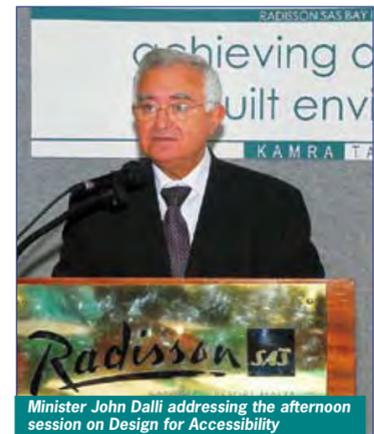
The full text of the conference report can be downloaded from:  
[www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/toc/toc/mytoc.html?id=1-1-3](http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/toc/toc/mytoc.html?id=1-1-3)



# Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Design for Accessibility

**"A fully functional, quality and well-managed built environment has a motivating effect on society, it sustains its identity and propels it to excellence in all of its undertakings."**  
*(from Architecture and Quality of Life, Architects' Council of Europe, 2004)*

Last November, the Kamra tal-Periti launched its position paper entitled **"The Urban Challenge – Our Quality of Life and the Built Environment."** Two of the main scopes addressed by this document are the presentation of the vision of the Kamra for a more sustainable development of the built and rural environment, and the emphasis of the need for quality in design as an essential tool for the nation's economic and social development. Two aspects of the design process that require attention and that are gaining in importance are the energy efficiency of our buildings and the issue of accessibility for all. Far too much of recent construction is inadequately built, with a general absence of attention to detailing both in the design, as well as in the implementation stages of the project. The principal issues are two,



Minister John Dalli addressing the afternoon session on Design for Accessibility

namely an inadequate response to the local climate, and insufficiency in detailing and workmanship to meet requirements and standards.

Our buildings' ability to retain heat in winter and prevent solar gain in summer and to deal with water ingress and humidity are commonly debated facts. So too is the quality of our construction and its longevity. As the cost of land and hence the cost of property spirals upward, the quality of our construction has remained relatively unchanged (with evident exceptions). A large proportion of our recently built properties however, are affected by the familiar problems arising from inadequate detailing and bad workmanship. They are wasteful of energy, over-dependent on fuel resources for heating and cooling and ventilation. They also require constant, frequent and costly maintenance programmes to keep them in adequate condition.

The recent transposition of the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings into local legislation through the recently issued "Document F, Technical Guidance – Conservation of Fuel, Energy and Natural Resources (minimum requirements on the energy performance of buildings regulations)", is a positive step in principle, though it highlights the Kamra's concerns that the introduction of regulations is not always carefully thought through. All regulations should be backed by adequate research and funding to ensure that they truly provide value for money to society (e.g. although these regulations have been published, there is no relevant data on local construction materials against which to benchmark the performance of new buildings).

Another set of guidelines that has now become a standard item in every design



office is the "Access for All Design Guidelines". While these were met with resistance upon their introduction, it is now felt that genuine attempts at achieving buildings and urban spaces that are

accessible for all are being made, though not always with the best possible outcomes. It is possibly now time to start talking about what is referred to as universal design, which strives to be a broad-spectrum solution that helps everyone, not just people with dis-



Minister George Pullicino addressing the morning seminar on Energy Efficiency in buildings design

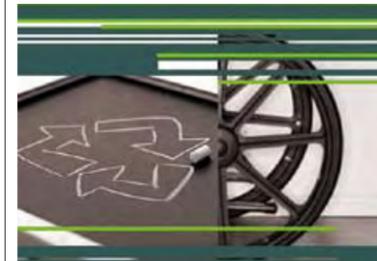
abilities. Moreover, it is an approach that recognises the importance of aesthetics. The introduction of any regulation needs to be accompanied by a widespread education campaign to provide professionals with adequate knowledge to implement them and to alert the public to the value of the investments they will be required to undertake. The proper training of other stakeholders in the construction industry to ensure that they too understand their responsibilities and obligations is also critical. Together with architects, developers, contractors and

clients all share in the responsibility for quality in construction and for the adherence to regulations.

In an attempt to address these issues and to provide a platform for consumers and professionals to discuss the issues at hand, the Kamra tal-Periti, in collaboration with the Chamber of Engineers, the Services Division (Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs), and the National Commission Persons with Disability organised two seminars as part of the FEED 2007 program. The program is part financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund (ESF), whose main target is "helping develop employment by promoting employability, the business spirit and equal opportunities and investing in human resources."

The seminars were held on the 15 May 2008 and were well received by periti, engineers and the general public at large. In fact, the Kamra was able to welcome 153 participants to the seminar on energy efficiency in buildings, and 91 participants to the seminar on accessibility. All participants received a certificate of participation at the end of each seminar.

Both seminars helped to raise an increased awareness on each of the topics discussed and served to launch an interesting debate on the quality of our built environment even in the smaller details that affect our daily living.



The presentations delivered on the day are available for downloading from: [www.ktpmalta.com/resources/feed2007.html](http://www.ktpmalta.com/resources/feed2007.html)

## SACES update

As the academic year draws to a close SACES is pleased to introduce the new board consisting of many familiar faces as well as some welcome new additions. The new members of the board are: Giancarlo Torpiano, Matthew Cachia Zammit, Karl Ebejer, Michael Previ, Patricia Grech, James Muscat, Lara Mifsud, Pierre Bianchi, Marc Spiteri, and Nicholas Psaila Savona. The new team has already coordinated a trip to Torino in conjunction with the Kamra tal-Periti and preparations for the summer activities such as the Sand Sculptures event, the traditional summer barbeque and of course, the October Workshop are well underway.



TV Transmission and Power Generation Tower - Justin James Schembri



Katia Calleja



Hi-Tech Research and Development Science Park



Nicola Muscat - War Museum, Fort St. Elmo

organizing a series of short workshops throughout the year in collaboration with the Faculty.

The end of term brings about a shift of activity from our customary workshops, get-togethers and activities to the final preparations for our final reviews. It is with great satisfaction that we have witnessed a number of changes to the formats of the final reviews such as the



Annmarie Mifsud - Pembroke Science Park



Paula Curmi - Mediterranean Campus, Fort St. Elmo



Sandro Valentino - Boutique Hotel, Fort St. Elmo

use of projections rather than posters or in other instances, we witnessed a more exhibition-like approach to our final presentations. Such changes not only allow students to learn from each others' projects, but also encourage the community atmosphere that we are all too keen to promote within the faculty.

It is in this spirit of community that we are dedicating much of our column in this edition to sharing the work of our esteemed fifth year students' thesis projects. We are here only showing a fraction of the full projects which were on display in June. More projects from all of the other years will be shown later on in the summer at the projects exhibition which we encourage everybody to attend. Details of this exhibition will be released closer to the date. In the meantime, SACES would like to wish everybody a wonderful summer season!



Elaine Stephanía Farrugia - Multi-Level Junction



Peter Valentino - Academy of Mediterranean Studies, Fort St. Elmo



# The Universal Home project

BY ANNEMARIE MAYO

## How it came to be

The project "Universal Home" was in essence a state-funded initiative to bring young design professionals towards the city of Essen, in North Rhine Westphalia, Germany. The state is always on the look out for ways to breathe new life into this once dilapidated post war German city. It had once been hailed by the Allies as "the heart of German industrial power" and "the cauldron of wars".

To this end, architecture and design graduates from all around the world were invited to submit essays on what the proposed project Universal Home could be made into. By August 2006, ten scholarship holders had been chosen, and were asked to spend a year in Essen working in what used to be the Zollverein Coal Mining Complex, now an international centre for culture and design. They would be under the supervision of the Design Zentrum NRW, as well as ten German manufacturing companies. At the time, I was a fresh graduate of the University of Malta, with fertile interest in adaptable architectural solutions. I had been chosen to be one of them.

During our first colloquium with the Design Zentrum, Dr Peter Zec, the initiator of the red dot design award, explained that the idea for the project stemmed from his own living situation. The impracticality of his contemporary villa is often brought home when his elderly mother visits or by the exploits of his young children. Can there be a living space for all stages of life? 10 German companies of international repute, and all past winners of the red dot, would be following our research with interest. These companies dealt with products for daily living and included brands we often see in Malta such as Duravit, WMF, Miele, Vaillant and Poggenpohl.

## Living and working in Essen

In the meantime, we were spending most of our free time looking for a private place in the yet unexplored city of Essen.



At Kahla



At Duravit

Happily for me, the network of international friends I had developed from IAESTE(1) had kicked in at an early stage and I would be staying with a friend of a friend (of a friend). Back at the Design Zentrum, the management had worked on closing off part of the red dot museum to visitors and converting it into a workplace for us. The museum is housed in the boiler house of the Zollverein colliery, which is listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage industrial monument and was remodelled by none other than Sir Norman Foster. Here are a few notes I wrote about my new address during my stay.

"(Its) main hall echoes Antonio Sant'Elia's 1912-1914 highly futuristic sketches of cathedrals to an electric religion. There is no doubt that the pair (Schupp and Kremmer) were inspired by this artist's Futuristic drawings, whose visions have mostly graced the cinema screen. One example is Fritz Lang's 1927 silent film 'Metropolis'..."



At Walter Knoll

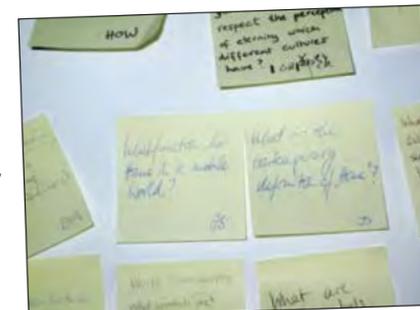
## The early stages

Working with people from such varied cultural and professional backgrounds was an experience in itself. Initially, the product designers were sidetracked into believing this was merely a project on universal design. In contrast, many of the architects in the group found the scope to be so great, that it lacked context. Dr Michael Blank, a member of the board of directors of Walter Knoll, had mixed feelings. "We see the work of the young designers and architects as an inspiration for our own work and want to muster the courage to see value in the "Universal Home" project without having a specific product in mind." Cornelius Boerner, design manager at WMF, encouraged us by saying that the very context we found missing, was most valuable.

We decided to take on this challenge and research a context for the German companies to envision their future products in. Thus, motivated by our own situation, my workgroup "Make Yourself At Home" decided to design the living scenario we so dearly wished to have found in Essen.

## My workgroup project: Make Yourself at Home

So how does one go about making themselves at home for one year? My workgroup which consisted of Canadian Katrin Braun (product design), Chao Zheng (architect) from China, Iris Prehn (product design) and Susann Stiehl (architect) from Germany, and myself sought to find out. We believed this to be a valid question which 21st century inhabitants will be asking themselves time and time again. Contemporary living seems to be made up of a never ending sense of transition since exciting opportunities do not always arise at our doorsteps. Thus, a major premise was that in



Random questions



At Gardena



Private place

the future relocating individuals had the potential to become a major target group.

Though we long for our personal sense of home, this may not necessarily be related to the hardware that helps us run our lives. We argued that the setting, friendship and engagement within a community are for most of us just as important as our four walls. Thus we embraced a flexible living model based on the exchange of different services. We wished to tackle 'home in its entirety' and felt we managed to do this by making something great i.e. the home, even bigger.

The system "Make yourself at home" can be used all over the world since it addresses a global problem in a local way. At our test Zollverein site, "Make yourself at home" is visualised in three architectural blocks, each designed by a different architect to ensure desirable diversification yet respect a sensitive architectural and socio economic context. The five filters we kept addressing, namely communication, sustainability, adaptability, mobility and nature were our shared ideals for living. For example, considering communication served as the primary instrument to

organise and define spaces and services. Every part of Make yourself at home had to be passed through each of the five filters.

Here are some examples of the recurrent jargon we used throughout the project:

## Home in its Entirety

A concept for 500 people mixing living and working together



Make yourself at home workgroup



Major appliance kitchen (by Katrin Braun)



View of one architectural blocks

where relationships are valued as highly as architectural hardware.

## The five filters

Our shared ideals, namely, communication, sustainability, adaptability, mobility and nature.

## Buddy ID service

Both portal and person, the Buddy ID functions as a global relocation passport assistant as well as a local host, ready to show you around.

## Luggage storage service

The luggage storage service is a personal memorabilia manager. It categorises, on a learning basis, items used frequently, those too dear to throw away and those so rarely used it might be best to have them auctioned. Suitcases can be converted into furniture when stationary.

## Furniture/wall configuration service

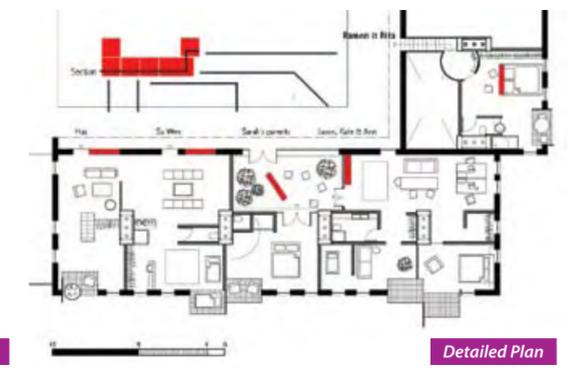
Optional online configuration service which allows a future user to select furniture from an online database and draft its layout prior to arrival.

## Private place

The communication of oneself through the space inhabited... into and outwards from it.

## IMU service

IMU, or 'Intelligent Mobile You', is the principal city goods delivery system. Be an IMU for a day and earn rebates off your rent!



Detailed Plan

## Service Tree

A vertical sustainable operations plan which connects every private place to various services, such as the dishwasher service, the central laundry service and the major appliance kitchen.

## Major Appliance Kitchen

The primary bridge designed to have people flow out of their private place and possible isolation into a social setting. Elements from the entire food system are networked into this spatial concept. The inhabitants of 'make your self at home' cook, eat, meet, shop, and socialise here.

## Small Appliance Shelf

Provided within the private place, the small appliance shelf contains the basic hardware for making breakfast, a cup of tea or a hot soup when unwell. The shelf is designed to be part of your living area and appears as a smart little piece of furniture. May include a used dishware drawer, espresso-maker, kettle, cool and hotshelf.

Zollverein



## Home as a Workplace

The possibility to occupy neutral spaces and conduct work in a shared environment. Employment which is close to home reduces travel time and is thus far more sustainable. We believed that such a living scenario would have been the ideal address during our twelve months in Essen. Home as a service for migrating individuals, couples and families eliminates the annoying hassles of moving and allows one to spend time on what is really valuable - integrating with the new surroundings and focusing on real life social and career networking. It will become a social reality which many in the near future will look for and be willing to participate in.

(1) International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience

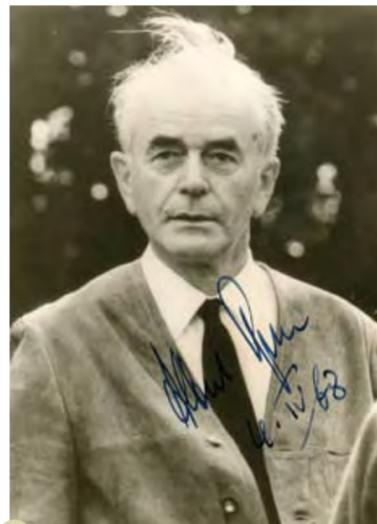
# Collecting Architectural Memorabilia

by Conrad Thake

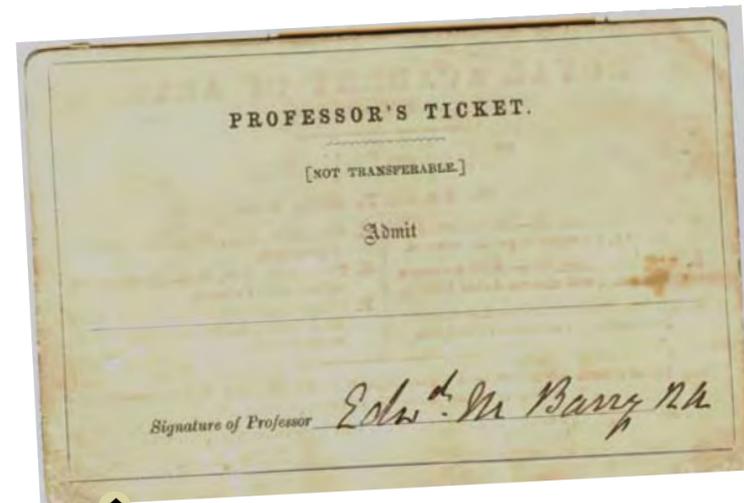
During recent years, I have developed a keen passion for collecting memorabilia related to famous architects. The collectibles could take various forms be it an original signature, an autograph letter, a commemorative medal, a signed photograph or some form of artwork produced by the architect. Surfing the internet particularly sites such as ebay.com has provided fertile hunting ground for acquiring all kinds of architectural souvenirs. I have even managed to acquire some rather rare and invaluable material, with my most treasured acquisitions including a rare seventeenth century edition of the architectural treatise Gli Ordini di Architettura by Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola and a limited edition portfolio of architectural etchings by the modern regionalist Iraqi architect Rifat Chadirji. These items spanning decades, sometimes even centuries, provide a tangible form of nostalgia and memory where one feels personally connected to the subject. I will here highlight some of the more interesting items that form part of my collection.



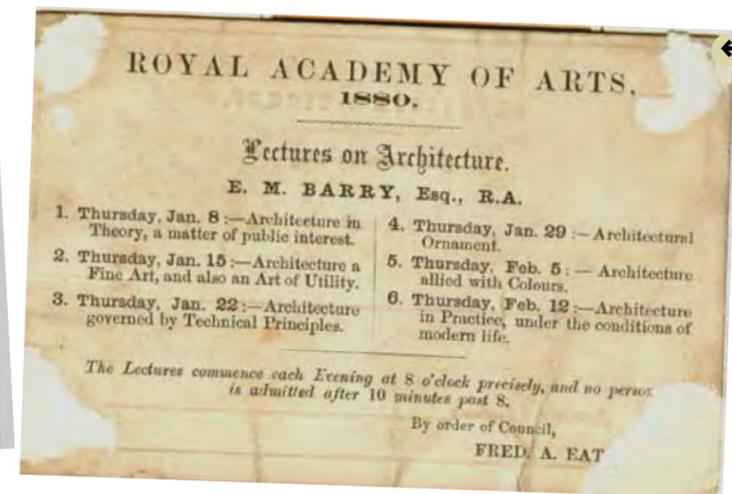
A postcard bearing the stamp mark date of 17 May 1983 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. The postcard displaying the Brooklyn Bridge and part of the Lower Manhattan skyline is signed in felt pen by Minoru Yamasaki (1912-1986), architect of the ill-fated Twin Towers. The towers are partially visible in the postcard.



A signed photograph of Albert Speer (1905-1981), architect during the Third Reich who sought to implement Hitler's grandiose architectural schemes. The photograph dated 4 April 1968, was taken two years following Speer's release from Spandau prisons where he served a twenty year prison sentence for his role as Hitler's Minister of Armaments.



The 'Professor's Ticket' of the Royal Academy of Arts, bearing Edward Middleton Barry's signature.



The back-side of the same ticket lists the dates of six weekly lectures on architecture to be delivered by Edward Middleton Barry at the Royal Academy for the period January to February 1880. Unfortunately, half way through the lecture series on the 27th January 1880 he died suddenly at the age of 50.



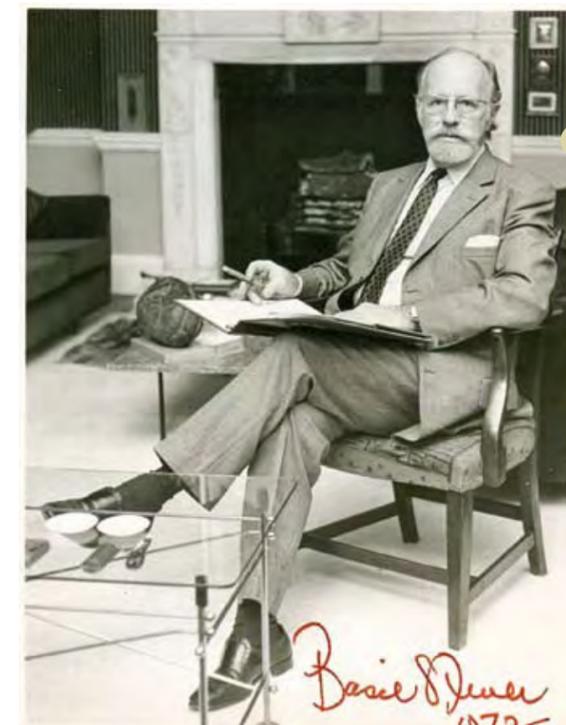
An original signature cut from the end of a letter by the famous English architect Sir John Soane (1753-1837). John Soane enlarged and rebuilt the Bank of England in London (later demolished) and was an avid collector of art works from diverse cultures and periods. His house in Lincoln's Inn Fields with its vast collection was bequeathed to the nation and to this day serves as the Soane Museum.



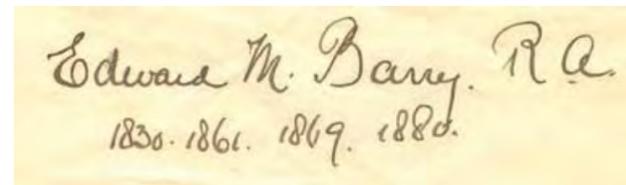
An information leaflet on the architecture of the new German Chancellery in central Berlin, Germany signed by the architects Axel Schultes and Charlotte Frank. The souvenir was acquired following a tour of the Chancellery conducted by the architects themselves.



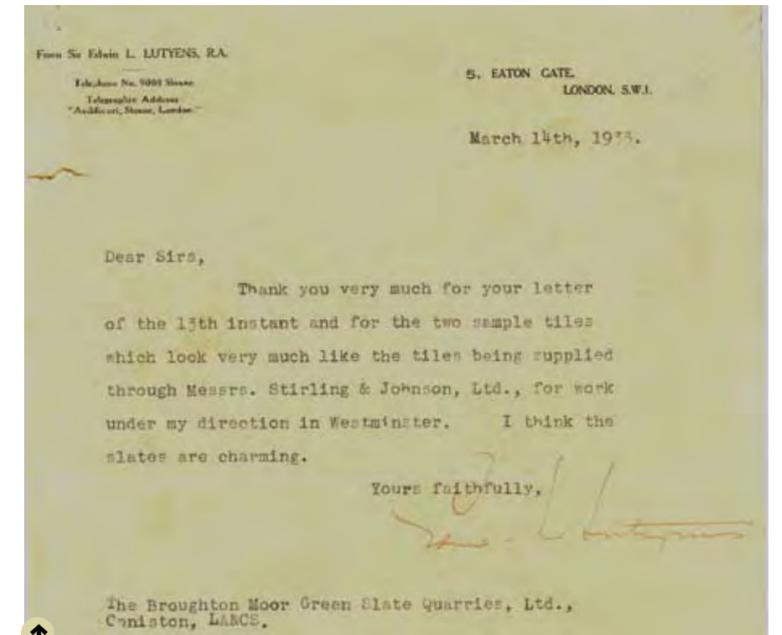
An original wood-block print depicting a house in Morrison Street, Edinburgh produced by Basil Spence, then a 16 year old student attending art classes.



An autographed photograph of Sir Basil Spence (1907-1976), who became a celebrated architect in Great Britain following the post-war reconstruction of Coventry Cathedral. Other notable architectural works of his include the British Embassy building in Rome and the Sussex University campus. Spence also had close connections to Malta as in the late 1960s he purchased a farmhouse in Fawwara, limits of Siggiewi where he would spend his holidays painting and drawing whilst enjoying from his studio the spectacular view of Filfla.



An original signature written on the back flap of an envelope by Edward Middleton Barry (1830-1880), architect of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London (1858) followed in 1866 by the Royal Opera House in Valletta (destroyed in 1943).



A typed letter dated 14th March 1933 and signed in ink by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944), architect and planner of New Delhi, India. The letter addressed to the Broughton Moor Green Slate Quarries concerns the potential use of slate tiles for works being undertaken at Westminster.



## MEPA Reform – the KTP's Position

The Kamra tal-Periti (KTP) notes with satisfaction the intention of Government as expressed by the Prime Minister to undertake reform at the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, and it applauds Government's decision to give this reform process sufficient importance so as to place it under the direct stewardship of the Prime Minister in the light of his responsibility for the National Policy for Sustainable Development. Last April, the Kamra presented a document entitled "MEPA REFORM" to the Prime Minister. This document presents the Kamra tal-Periti's position related to the issues which it believes will be significant for the success of this reform. The KTP envisages that the process will require a long-term strategy built upon shorter term goals and achievements. The KTP Council asked for a meeting with Dr. Gonzi in order to present its position and also to discuss the way forward. However, this meeting has as yet not been set. The full document may be downloaded from [www.ktpmalta.com](http://www.ktpmalta.com). Hereunder is a synopsis of its contents.

### Developing a clear vision

The KTP believes it is essential for reform within MEPA to be based on a clear vision, for the environmental development (urban and rural) of the Maltese Islands, which vision cannot be separated from the country's economic and socio-cultural aspirations. Without a clear vision based on critical core values, any reform risks being a costly and laborious exercise which will not result in a better environment. This is all the more so given the adversarial and legalistic system within which MEPA operates and the often conflicting concerns of the various parties it serves. The KTP believes that

these core values should be structured around the central tenet that development should aim to achieve qualitative public benefit and that this requirement needs to be balanced against individual demands.

These core values should include: heritage (built and environmental) protection, environmental sustainability, the avoidance of undue speculation, quality living conditions in urban centres, and development which is of the highest quality, yet specific to its context. Investment in culture will further assist in the enlightenment of society.

### Achieving Quality

While MEPA has achieved improvements in the overall process of urban development, it is clear that the end result, i.e. the quality of the rural, and particularly the urban environment which we inhabit, still leaves much to be desired. Quality is not a result of planning tools and policy alone, yet an assessment of the planning tools at MEPA's disposal is necessary to ascertain their suitability for the achievement of quality environment.

The KTP notes that:

- Design quality is not a factor currently taken into consideration in the planning process;
- Because they have not been considered from a holistic urban design viewpoint, design guidance and policy (e.g. Local Plans, vague interpretations of the Structure plan Policies) are also having a negative effect on quality of design and on quality of life;
- Highly prescriptive guidance documents like Policy and Design Guidance 2007 shackle rather than promote creativity, innovation, and quality;
- There is a need for mechanisms which encourage creativity and quality;
- There is a need to establish an Independent Design Review Commission to assess the quality of all projects of significant scale or importance from the point of view of their contribution to society and the built environment.

### MEPA Procedures and Resources

Reform in procedures and resources is necessary to ensure that these are suf-

ficient to develop a quality approach to development and to ensure that development applications are handled in a timely and cost-effective manner.

### The KTP notes that:

- Procedures are often inefficient and too bureaucratic on minor projects, yet insufficient to ensure quality on major projects;
- Consultation procedures need to happen in parallel rather than sequentially to avoid tortuous alteration procedures;
- Further procedures need to be put into place to reduce laborious review processes for minor applications so as to direct the resources to developments that require greater input;
- The DCC boards should not adopt ad hoc policy, but they should give their feedback to the Directorate where they feel that policy does not sufficiently provide for suitable development;
- The measurement of MEPA's success or failure should not be calculated on its pending caseload but on the quality of ensuing development;
- The assessment of work output within the Directorate needs to shift away from a quantitative assessment of number of files processed to a quality-based system where quality and diligence are given due merit.

### With respect to resources, the KTP notes that:

- Adequately skilled resources are highly lacking in all levels of the organization;
- There is a need for skilled and experienced planning officers who can judge applications on their merits (and not against a list of tick boxes);
- There is a lack of adequate forward planning;
- There is a need for policy impact assessment from an Urban Design point of view;
- There is a lack of supervision by inspectors during construction and insufficient enforcement;
- There is a lack of adequate resources for heritage protection and listing of heritage buildings;
- The Structure Plan Review is way overdue and outdated; much of the research that has gone into its preparation is now several years old;
- There is a need to rely less on political appointees and to have better representa-

tion on MEPA bodies from the various sectors of society;

- Continuous training should be central to the MEPA's staff development policy.

### Good Governance

There is a need for the strict implementation of good governance throughout the organisation, firstly in national planning and procurement processes, and later, in all sections of the body.

- Strengthening and empowering public participation and public consultation should be encouraged and supported and should be included at every stage of the process;
- Board decisions should be published in such a way that similar circumstances would benefit from such a decision;
- The non-functioning Planning Consultative Committee (PCC) should be reconvened and reconstituted, while the Users' Committee should be strengthened;
- Discussions and consultations with the KTP on policy making and policy formulation should be restarted, and a closer relationship sought between the two bodies;
- Inconsistency and favouritism in the treatment of applications, political lobbying and the lack of real autonomy from political influence need to be eliminated;
- There needs to be a clamp down on unethical conduct by MEPA professional staff and management; any abuses by employees, executives and appointees to the boards should be investigated with urgency;
- Local representation within DCC boards requires broadening;
- Posts should be assigned on the basis of competence and merit, and sufficiently remunerated to ensure the complete dedication of the personnel to their employer;
- Redundant or underutilised staff must be relocated away from MEPA;
- Incompetence is never tolerated and measures are implemented to eliminate it as far as reasonably possible;
- Management and the administrative roles should be separated from the professional planning function of the organisation, and the posts filled with those capable of managing;
- Management should be instilled with the vision and drive to provide the best level of service possible to its customers in order for the organization to ensure it achieves its mission.

# Basil Spence Exhibitions

Edinburgh - London | Reviewed by Richard England

Earlier this year I had occasion to visit the first major Exhibition of works of Sir Basil Spence (1907 – 1976) at two venues; the first at the Dean Gallery in Edinburgh, Scotland, followed by a watered down version of the same show at the RIBA Gallery in London. The Exhibition was a result of the donation of Spence's archive by his family to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Both shows offered an impressive reminder and demonstration of Spence's great talents and qualities as both architect and artist.

During the 50s, 60s and part of the 70s, Basil Spence was without doubt, not only the most celebrated, but also the most prolific architect working in Britain (a sort of Norman Foster of his time). Yet nearly half a century later, his legacy is somewhat overlooked and his work still remains relatively underrated. These exhibitions however provided a valuable documentation of the vast spectrum of Spence's work which ranged from ecclesiastical to educational and institutional buildings including also mass and private housing schemes.

That Spence was a formidable form-maker is immediately made obvious by viewing the bold and sculptural designs of his major buildings. These demonstrate a remarkable nerve, exuberance and proficiency in an era when British architecture was more inclined towards intellectualizing and verbalizing rather than producing manifest buildings. Falmer House at the University of Sussex (1962), the small exquisite Mortonhall Crematorium in Edinburgh (1967), the British Expo 67 Montréal Pavilion, and the 'Modern Travertine Palazzo' of the British Embassy adjacent to Michelangelo's Porta Pia in Rome, show an architect both daring and confident with his built-form. His was always an architecture which looked resplendent under a blazing sun. I have often wondered whether because he was born and raised in India, together with



Basil Spence, British Embassy Sketch, Rome 1970

the fact that he was a pupil of Lutyens, accounted for his masterly play and understanding of light and shade in most of his buildings. The Rome Embassy, a decade in the making (designed 1960 – completed 1971), apart from the majestic Cathedral at Coventry, remains to my mind, his most beautifully crafted building. Its bold, articulated forms, basking comfortably under a vibrant Mediterranean sun, sit comfortably in unison with its illustrious neighbour, echoing both its proportions and rhythm. This is indeed a timeless edifice and to my mind the architect's masterpiece.

Others may well opt for his 1951 Coventry Cathedral competition winning scheme as being his greatest work. The winning of this competition was to be a turning point in the architect's life, also projecting him into a wide public consciousness. His amalgamation of the skeletal ruins of the devastated Cathedral was a precursory gesture, at a time when the Modern Movement was making few, if any, reconciliatory gestures towards the past. Both Exhibitions (the RIBA one omitted the educational buildings and private residences), show Spence's propensity in the handling of light, space and form as also his sensitivity towards materials. From his early regional, carefully crafted buildings in Scotland (his 1934 houses in Dunbar provide an excellent example), to his later more monumental and expressive edifices of the sixties, Spence always explored what he termed "the lush pastures of plastic expression".

Between the success of Coventry and the sixties, Spence was a popular figure, his communicative skills endearing him to the public at large. His success peaked when he was knighted in 1960 and then in 1962, awarded the Order of Merit by the Queen. Later, many of his forceful buildings were criticised, many believing he was pursuing a personal eclectic expressiveness ignoring the functional and social scope of the profession. His 1965 ill-fated (Corb and Maekawa inspired) high-rise Gorbals housing blocks in Glasgow (demolished in 1993) and his much maligned Knightsbridge Barracks (1971) in



Basil Spence, Mдина Cathedral 1971

London turned both public and press against him, with many of his contemporaries accusing him of adopting a veneered pictorial approach to architecture, as opposed to more in-depth methodologies.

His work has regrettably been poorly understood and undervalued for too long. These Exhibitions show that Spence's work as an architect now needs to be revalued, for much of his oeuvre was perhaps an architecture ahead of its time. His extravagant sculptural forms in the era of arid Modernism and Internationalism were too much for the time. Yet his architecture of euphatic flamboyant gestures was to pave the way for a future richer and more human palette of pluralism. While these shows reveal Spence's qualities as an architect, they also serve to demonstrate his fantastic graphic élan and draughtsmanship qualities. The fluency with which he rendered his perspective presentations was both luring and remarkable. The ones on show, especially those of his early works in Scotland and the Coventry Cathedral panels, reveal an artist of rare talent, with a vigorous deft touch together with an immaculate sense of composition, colour and texture. If not remembered as the superb architect that he was, he would surely have had a protagonist's place in the history pages of 20th century British art.

Above all, Spence was an exuberant, if controversial show-man, perhaps even a romantic, with a penchant for both verbal and graphic fluency. Always he was exuding his passion-

ate love and unique talent for architecture. He was above all a great promoter of the profession, even more so during his term as RIBA president (1958-60). At the height of his powers he may be looked upon as the personality who bridged the Lutyens and Foster eras. Certainly, he was the finest British architect of the immediate post-war years.

I have not mentioned my own recollection of Basil as both friend and mentor during his period in Malta between the late 60s and his death in 1976. As a young architect, when he first approached me to help him with the conversion of Dar Tal-Ghar,

a property he had bought in Fawwara, I trembled at our initial meeting. He however, immediately put me at ease and during the years that followed, we developed a rare and precious friendship, the memory of which I cherish dearly. During these years, I gradually discovered the man behind the architect and with each and every meeting my esteem and respect for him grew. If as an architect he had few equals, as an individual, he was unique. He had an incredible joyous commitment to anything he was doing, whether building model aeroplanes, painting, sculpting or working on complicated architectural projects. He approached all of these with an almost childlike enthusiasm and vigour. During the long periods we spent together, we discussed many topics and always I emerged enriched, for Basil was a great natural teacher and his knowledge, talent and warmth were a luxurious treat to a very willing and grateful pupil.

Surely, it is regrettable that the Malta Governments of the time never commissioned him to design a public building in Malta. In an era when the island hosted such personalities as Nicholas Monsarrat, Desmond Morris, Victor Pasmore, Nigel Dennis and Spence himself, it is regretful that the island never took full advantage of their talents and potential. A Spence or Pasmore Foundation of Museum at their respective residences would surely have been wonderful assets for both the local culture scene and the promotion of a cultural tourism.

# THE EX-REDIFFUSION BROADCASTING COMPLEX, GUARDAMANGIA

The recent decision by the Prime Minister instructing the Public Broadcasting Authority to withdraw a planning application to demolish and redevelop the ex-Rediffusion Broadcasting Complex has been welcomed by the Kamra tal-Periti and all those committed to the conservation of our architectural heritage. Both the KTP (Kamra tal-Periti) and DOCOMOMO Malta (Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement) have been instrumental in making the case for the preservation of this pioneering modernist building. The full text of the appeal made to the authorities is reproduced below. By Conrad Thake

"The former Rediffusion Building Complex in Guardamangia is a pioneering work in the introduction of the modern architectural movement in Malta. It was inspired by the design ideals and philosophy of the 1930s Bauhaus school based in Dessau, Germany. The movement's ideals in disseminating modernism in various art forms was promoted by its leading protagonists including the internationally-acclaimed architects Mies Van der Rohe and Walter Gropius and artists of the fame of Itten, Kandinsky and Moholy-Nagy. With the coming to power of the Nazis, the Bauhaus school was closed as it was considered to be subversive and incompatible with the vision and ideology of the Third Reich. Most of its leading protagonists would be forced to leave Germany and emigrate to the United States.

In the aftermath of the Second World War and the massive reconstruction program, the Maltese scene was not particularly conducive to the introduction of the Modern Movement. It was only during the late 1950s and 1960s, that Modern architecture was gradually introduced to the island. The intensive drive to build various government schools at both primary and secondary levels was perceived as a golden opportunity

to promote and adopt modern architecture so as to reflect the aspirations of a modern and progressive society. A number of architects trained overseas were keen to introduce the principles of modern architecture into Malta. Architects Joe Huntingford, Joseph Borg Grech, Joseph Spiteri and Joseph Consiglio designed some of the most architecturally progressive and modern schools on the island.

The ex-Rediffusion Building Complex was one of the first institutional buildings beyond the realm of educational facilities to embrace Modernism. The adoption of a modern architectural idiom was consonant with a future-oriented vision of broadcasting, alluding to technological progress and being in tune with the international community. Just over 50 years ago, on the 23rd January 1958 the Rediffusion building was inaugurated by the local Governor General Sir Robert Laycock. Rediffusion was widely disseminated amongst the local population with over 45,000 subscribers to the service. For the special inauguration of the building

complex, the chairman of the company Mr F.J. Belchambers attended the ceremony. The complex was designed by the late Maltese architect Carmelo Falzon who was one of the leading architects in private practice at

the time. The complex which included various studios, control rooms, offices and libraries had cost the then princely sum of 150,000 pounds. (Refer to Joseph Bonnici and Michael Cassar, A Chronicle of 20th Century Malta 1900-1999, Book Distributors Limited, Malta 2004, page 250).

Some of the more salient features of the broadcasting building complex include the iconic transmission tower with its quaint circular portholes on the elevation, the cantilevered winged canopy over the main entrance to the building, and the distinctive strip horizontal windows that run the full length of the façade and that were promoted by the international Modern Movement, which promoted the use of a uniform white colour aesthetic as a unifying visual element.

A recent planning application by the governmental agency PBS calls for the demolition of an integral part of the complex. Should this planning application be accepted this would lead to the irretrievable loss of one of the pioneering examples of twentieth century modern architecture in Malta. This institutional building represents a milestone in the development of architecture in Malta in its historic progression from the Baroque to Neo-Classicism to Victorian-era Eclecticism to the Modern Movement.

Our heritage of truly valid modern architecture is limited in terms of numbers.

To date little or no protection has been afforded to post-war modern architecture in Malta. The partial demolition of Huntingford's Qala primary school in Gozo, the demolition of the MIRA building in Gzira – one of the first concrete frame commercial buildings on the island - and the wanton ransacking of the ex-British services accommodation (known as the White Rocks complex) are testimony to our lack of appreciation towards this architectural period. It is important that we secure the fate of the few remaining iconic modern buildings for future generations to appreciate.

A final appeal to the decision makers at PBS ... please do go back to the drawing board and do celebrate the 50th birthday of this modern masterpiece not by demolishing it but by committing to restore and refurbish it in a sensitive manner for all of us to enjoy. In doing so you would be rendering a sterling service to the nation.

The Prime Minister's decision to intervene and safeguard one of the pioneering architectural icons of the modern movement in Malta represents a historic milestone in the quest to conserve modern buildings of quality and architectural significance. Whilst congratulating the Prime Minister for intervening, our appreciation and thanks goes to all those members of the Kamra and DOCOMOMO (Malta) who contributed in highlighting the building's value and objected to its proposed demolition.



# ARCHITECTURE & POLITICS

The Kamra tal-Periti organised a seminar entitled: ARCHITECTURE & POLITICS - PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, on the 04 April 2008, on the occasion of the Union of Mediterranean Architects' (UMAR) 14th General Assembly which was held in Malta that weekend. Prime Minister Dr. Lawrence Gonzi delivered a keynote address. Other speakers included H.E. the Ambassador to France, Jean Marc Rives, Patrice Genet, UMAR President, Prof. Lino Briguglio, chairperson of the National Committee for Sustainable Development and David Felice, KTP President.

This seminar took place within a few days of the debate held on architecture at the House of Lords in the UK, a debate which was held for the first time in four years. The discussion was intended to 'call to attention the case for encouraging high-quality architecture in the UK and for ensuring that design quality is taken into account by local planning authorities'. The debate included the likes of Richard Rogers who stressed that architects should be placed at the heart of all government decision-making when it comes to the built environment. In addition, only last September, worldarchitecture.com (WAN) reported that the French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, was seeking advice from what was being called a "dream team" to develop a new vision for Paris.

The main thrust of the Kamra tal-Periti has been to work on carving a space for this debate on the national agenda and can safely



claim that all its work is focused in this sense. Architects need to assume their responsibilities for their contribution to the voluminous and ubiquitous development, regrettably often of poor quality and a result of economic expedience.

The Kamra now works on programmes that communicate the values of architecture, to members of the profession but also to children and to the general public, also in the belief that, while it is ready to assume its responsibility and provide its willingness for change, it cannot do this alone.

This was Dr. Lawrence Gonzi's first public

debate related to the built environment, given his decision following the General Election to take the local planning authorities and sustainable development under his wing. The KTP hopes that this is the start of a long and healthy relationship between architecture and politics, particularly in the light of the fact that these two disciplines are responsible for the physical transformation of many of both Malta's socio-economic and cultural objectives. The Kamra thus enthusiastically supports Dr. Gonzi's contribution wherein he stated that, "The Government of Malta is - as always - open to dialogue with the Kamra tal-Periti with particular reference to those matters that are distinctive locally. We need to work together to achieve the highest professional standards and to make sure that the core values of what we do together, remain linked to what is valuable for quality of

UMAR represents all but two of the architects' national organisations from countries in and around the Mediterranean basin. It aims to reveal Architecture to be of public interest, Architecture and the organisation of space being expressions of culture. It also acts as a forum for encouraging relationships of friendship, solidarity and confraternity between all architects, while acting as a representative for more than 300,000 architects in a dialogue with governments, regional and international institutions. The Kamra tal-Periti is a founder member and has been prominently active within the organisation. In fact Malta is the official seat of the organisation and its Secretary-General is David Pace, a past President of KTP.

The Prime Minister's address as well as that by David Felice, KTP President, may be downloaded from [www.ktpmalta.com](http://www.ktpmalta.com)

life and not merely for material wealth."

The Prime Minister also made reference to the Kamra's Position Paper on the Built Environment entitled THE URBAN CHALLENGE: THE QUALITY OF LIFE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, when he stated that the "ideas in this document that are generally consistent with the objectives declared by the Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR) were taken into account in the policies put forward by my Party at the last election."

Founded in Rabat (Morocco) in 1994,

# REAL ESTATE

## – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

The Real Estate Market in Malta is evolving, rapidly. It is no longer a single simple product market. The range of properties is vast, from commercial properties to different types of residential properties to rural properties.

The complexity of the Real Estate Market is a reflection of the development and the liberalisation of the Maltese economy that has further evolved since Malta's membership of the EU and has been further liberalised since the entry into the Eurozone. The regulation of the market however must also be liberalised in terms of right to let and upgraded in terms of quality and standards, besides sorting out outstanding tax issues.

Following on the success of last year's Real Estate Forum, a second edition was held last June, where the focus centred

2007, almost 34,000 tourists stayed in owner-occupied accommodation in Malta – accounting for 2.7% of the total number of tourists. A further 7.7% visit Malta and stay with friends and relatives, thus enabling them to experience the buildings owned by such local contacts.

The Forum included a large number of speakers who were invited to give their views on various aspects, including the importance of including real estate in investment portfolios, Malta's potential on the international real estate market, and means of enhancing Malta's offer in terms of real estate. Perit David Felice was invited to address the Forum as President of the Kamra tal-Periti and delivered a presentation entitled "The Economics of Design: Adding Quality and Value to the Built Environment."



A collage published by the Financial Times depicting world business in one place with an island containing recognizable business buildings from all over the world, including the Jim Mao Building and Oriental Pearl Tower in Shanghai, Arche De La Defence in Paris, Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, IFC 2 in Hong Kong, Shurfit-Stone Building in Chicago, Commerzbank Tower in Frankfurt, New York Stock Exchange, Taipei 101, The Gherkin in London, TransAmerica Pyramid in San Francisco, Landmark Tower in Yokohama.

on the above issues as well as a number of other aspect affecting the Real Estate sector today.

In his opening address, Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism Mario de Marco stated that mistakes committed by the construction industry in the name of progress and development might take years to undo, if they can be undone at all. He called for qualitative, sustainable development which blends in with the environment instead of scarring it and pointed out that sustainable real estate development can play a very important role in the development of Malta's tourism product. Quoting figures issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Dr de Marco said that in

He referred to various examples of good quality architecture abroad, and how the profession locally is slowly but surely striving to achieve excellence in design and quality in the built environment. While a cursory glance at the local scene may give an impression of haphazard construction with little or no sensitivity in their design, there are a number of projects that stand out as shining beacons of the way forward. Reference was also made to the Kamra's endeavours in this regard, in particular the publication of "The Urban Challenge" last November.

The new requirements in terms of the energy performance of buildings, as well as the obligation for energy certification of all new buildings as well as those sold or rented out as of 2009 was also mentioned by David Felice as one of the factors in the building industry that will have an impact on the real estate market, possibly not immediately but certainly in the not too distant future.

## Expert on tall buildings in Malta

Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. Sponsored by the United States Department of State and the Council on International Exchange of Scholars, the Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

Through this program, and in collaboration with the US Embassy to Malta, Fulbright Senior Specialist Dr Mir Ali visited Malta recently and conducted a program with the University of Malta and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). Dr Ali is a Professor at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign's School of Architecture and is an expert in tall buildings and urban design. He has written numerous papers and articles on tall buildings and has authored a number of books, including the most recent "The Skyscraper and the City" published in 2007. In addition, Dr Ali has designed or consulted on tall buildings in the United States, Singapore, Korea, Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

During his time in Malta, Dr Ali has worked closely with MEPA, which is developing policy guidance for high-rise development. His main role was to look at the sites that have been identified by MEPA as being suitable for such developments, and to advise MEPA on whether such sites were in fact ideal for accommodating high rise development.

Dr Ali's view, while he also tried to gauge the public's impression of tall buildings locally, is that people are generally opposed to change and tend to resist anything that is out of the ordinary. This could possibly be due to a lack of education and dissemination of information. It is important that any examples of tall buildings in Malta are good ones, and allow the public to accept them as positive rather than negative contributions to the urban landscape. Siting is of course of utmost importance, and the choice of sites for such buildings must be done sensitively if such projects are to be successful.

Members of the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti and of its Built Environment Standing Committee also had the opportunity of meeting with Dr Ali, once during a joint meeting with MEPA, and subsequently during a lunch hosted by Mr Jason Davis, Charge d'Affaires at the US Embassy. These were both important occasions for the Kamra to exchange views with Dr Ali as well as with the MEPA delegates on this important issue that has a huge bearing on the future of Malta's built environment.



Group photo with Dr Ali (centre)

# EFAP

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) Conference was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia between the 15 and 17 June 2008 with the theme "Urban Regeneration – Adapting to climate change". The Conference was organised jointly by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia. The Conference also formed part of "A Week of Architecture in Slovenia" that took place between the 15 and 22 June 2008. The Conference placed particular empha-



sis on adapting architectural values to the increasing problems of climate change and to the complex dimensions of urban regeneration in the light of intergenerational relations and the strengthening of intercultural dialogue. Several Slovenian and other experts from different EU Member States addressed the Conference.

Special attention was given to the importance of the existing built environment as an experiential environment, a source of identity and a cultural value for its users, which should be taken into account, together with the adaptation to climate change, in the process of urban revitalisation or regeneration.

It was stated that owing to the impact of climate change, economic processes and social stratification, numerous changes are taking place in the urban and suburban environment. Furthermore, environment is too often perceived as a good that can be used unrestrictedly. Therefore, any initiative leading to the rise in awareness of the importance of a well-managed environment is welcome. This applies to new structures, as well as to the renovation and revitalisation of the existing built environment. In the case of new constructions functional, economic

and ecological aspects are of prime importance, but in the urban regeneration mostly sociological aspects and the protection of cultural heritage and traditions come to the forefront.

Recognising that the built environment is a reflection of the culture and values in a society and is one of the most important ideals of every individual, it is important to attest these existing systems and relations at different levels of spatial use.

There are a number of mechanisms in spatial development and construction that allow adaptation to climate change and at the same time contribute to the reduction of factors affecting those changes. One way of achieving this and at the same time creating a good quality of

life in cities and settlements is by ensuring access to high social standard, quality public places for socialising and well organised and effective public transport. Distribution of activities in cities having regard to energy saving by reducing transport costs or energy consumption is another way.

The point was also made on the need of having more effective systems for the construction and renovation of environment-friendly sustainable buildings, such as building orientation that enables reduced energy consumption, rational energy use in social standard buildings, good energy protection – passive energy construction and consistent use of alternative energy sources.

The Conference concluded that with an integrated urban regeneration aimed at improving the quality of life, while taking into account the values and the sensitivity and fragility of the urban environment, we can improve the wider perception of the environment and thus contribute towards the common goal of maintaining natural balance and cultural values of individual environments. The Forum was attended by Vice President of the Kamra tal-Periti Vincent Cassar and Director General (Works) Ray Farrugia.

## :: European Council of Civil Engineers

At the 47th European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) General Assembly meeting held at Riga, Latvia between the 23 and 24 May 2008, the Kamra tal-Periti was formally admitted as a full member of the organisation. Vice President Vincent Cassar gave an overview of the organisation and activities of the Kamra to those present.

ECCE is the equivalent of the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) and thus through this new membership the profession can say that the two interests of the Perit – architecture and civil engineering – are now both duly represented.

ECCE was created in 1985 out of the common concern of the professional bodies for Civil Engineers in Europe that the Civil Engineers working together across Europe could offer much more to assist Europe in advancing its built environment and protecting the natural environment.

At EU level, ECCE aims to promote the highest technical and ethical standards, to provide a source of impartial advice, and promote co-operation with other pan-European organisations in the construction industry. ECCE also advises and influences individual governments and professional institutions, formulates standards and achieves a mutual compatibility of different regulations controlling the profession, and formulates standards for a European Code of Conduct of the Civil Engineering Profession and disciplinary procedures applicable throughout the Union.

ECCE formulates guidelines to maintain and raise standards of civil engineering education, training and professionals competence, as well as assisting in achieving mutual compatibility of Euro codes, standards and regulations in the related industry and encouraging and improving levels of safety and quality in the industry.

Also, ECCE is active in such areas as the environment, research and development, education and training, ethics, continuing professional development, transportation and liability, as well as organising workshops and conferences.

The theme of the 47th General Assembly was that of "Development of Infrastructure: Projects influence on local building market (Demand and Supply Side)". In similar fashion to ACE, ECCE has a number of Standing Committees (SC) dealing specifically with Professional Recognition and Mobility, Knowledge and Technology, Development and Business Environment, Education and Training, Environment and Sustainability and Civil Engineering Heritage. Of particular interest is the last SC which is in the process of preparing a publication entitled "Civil Engineering Heritage in Europe". It is hoped that the Kamra will be contributing to this publication with three civil engineering projects carried out in Malta.

The 48th ECCE meeting in autumn 2008 will be held in Cyprus and the theme will deal with water - its production, harvesting and distribution.

# ECCE

# XXIII UIA World Congress – TRANSMITTING ARCHITECTURE TORINO 2008

It is obvious that architects, national and international organizations, and the UIA, which is architecture's highest international body, must be key players in the renewal of economy and culture, which affects politics and social coexistence: as architects we must profess our hope for a brighter future, work conscientiously, and state with great conviction that we want: **"to be architects and transmit quality architecture."**

Giancarlo Ius, UIA Vice-President

"Transmitting Architecture" is the theme that echoed in Turin, where close to 10,000 architects from all over the world met at their World Congress between the 29th June and the 3rd July 2008. For this prestigious event, held in a different country every three years, professionals meet to discuss general architectural issues, exchange ideas and elaborate in depth on certain topics of worldwide interest. A group of Maltese architects and architecture students joined the crowds and participated in the series of talks and spec-



The Lingotto Congress Centre

tacular events held in Turin.

The congress aimed at underlining the power of transmitting good quality architecture, and hence the power given to architects in this ever-changing world. Through our architecture, we have the power to transmit back values to societies that are losing their own identities.

This was no exercise in self gratification but a vibrant workshop which, besides the aspects of Architecture, tackled relevant issues of sustainability, habitat, heritage, especially of the present together with modern materials and technologies. It also delved deeply into the modern social issues that discussed the effects of buildings on standards of living, of how to alleviate poverty, provide decent housing, provide essential emergency services in places of crisis or war as done by the Architectes D'Emergence, of dealing with the NIMBY syndrome, Universal Design and the problems related to intermediate and growing cities as well as the issues brought about by high rise. There were sessions dedicated to the study of the design of specific buildings such as those for sports and leisure, waterside tourism, and places of spirit. The profession also had time to have a look at itself, on standards of professional practice, the emerging role of the architect in the decision making, quality of design, education and universal accreditation systems.

The sessions were not only run by Architects; there were journalists, politicians, art and architectural critics, personalities like Nobel prize winner Yunus who saw in architecture the hope for better quality of life even in the poorer countries. Moderators were of the calibre of Bruno Vespa and Alessandro Cecchi Paone

The main theme was sub-divided into three parts: Culture – the past; Democracy – the present; and Hope – the future. These were the three themes for each day of the congress, where each day hosted a series of talks, lectio magistralis, main sessions, special sessions, round tables and workshops. The congress events were held at the Lingotto Conference centre, the site of a previous FIAT factory converted to a modern multifunctional space by Renzo Piano, and at the Palavela, with its distinguishable sail-shaped roof fixed to the ground at three points, which was renovated and used as an arena during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.

During the days of the congress we had the possibility of listening to talks and presentations given by some of the world's leading architects. The list of over

500 speakers included big names such as Kengo Kuma, the ever controversial Peter Eisenman, Massimiliano Fuksas, Jean Nouvel, Dominique Perrault, Cesare Casati, Foster+Partners, Thomas Herzog and Matthias Klotz, all of whom attracted large crowds to their talks. In the Lectio Magistralis the main speakers presented some of their works, their ideas and philosophies for transmitting good quality architecture. In the other sessions, speakers were grouped and exchanged their views on various issues varying from sustainable architecture, regeneration of slum areas, waterfront architecture, tall buildings, sport and leisure buildings, preserving modern heritage, young architecture, landscaping and the use of old and new materials in architecture. Among the list of international speakers we were very honoured to have three Maltese representatives. Perit Danica Mifsud delivered a presentation regarding the KTP's projects during an International Forum of Young Architects Associations, which brought together young architects from all over the world to share their ideas about the future of architecture. Perit David Pace on the other hand was part of a scientific committee and presented to the congress the launch of an international competition of ideas for defining the future of the monumental complex of the Fenestrelle Fortress, the iconic symbol of the Provincia di Torino. Perit Vincent Cassar, vice-president of the KTP and also Executive Board member of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) delivered a speech regarding sustainability in Malta during an Architects' International Organizations Workshop.

At Lingotto, the congress centre, there were also other activities taking place. 'Architektonika' was an innovative event where professionals from 105 countries exhibited projects, experimental products and models, competition entries, and innovation and research applied to new materials and solutions. 'Architex', also held in Lingotto, was a trade fair for the new textiles used in architecture, building and construction and interior and landscape design.

The UIA Congress also included an inexhaustible list of Off-Congress events, visits, exhibitions, presentations, concerts and festivals which attracted congress participants from dusk to dawn in a festive series of events in all locations of the city. In the evenings, the city squares came alive with events which made architecture available to everyone. On one such occasion, a discussion was held in Piazza San Carlo

with invited guests such as Massimiliano Fuksas, Italo Rota and Joseph Rykwert. During these three days, the streets of Torino, and the banks of the river Po came alive with the museums of the city staying open till 11pm, and all sorts of exhibitions, shows, installations, films, concerts and late night parties taking place in the beautiful castles, palaces and gardens of Torino.

The congress came to an end on the 3rd July, and was immediately followed by three days of the General Assembly of the Union of International Architects, where KTP was represented by Perit Tony Fenech Vella. This should have included the election of the new President whose 3 year



term of office would have ended at the next Assembly set for Tokyo in 2011. There were two candidates, Giancarlo Ius from Italy and Louise Cox from Australia. In an unfortunate turn of events, Giancarlo Ius passed away just a few hours before the elections were about to take place, after suffering a heart attack in his hotel room and, therefore, Louise Cox was automatically declared president. She succeeds Gaetan Siew, who hails from Mauritius, and who held this post since 2005.

At the closing meeting, and in respect of the brightness with which Giancarlo Ius had tinted his presence in the various posts he held in the UIA, the Assembly approved the following three resolutions:

- The Presidency of the International Union of Architects will not only be shared with Giancarlo Ius, but will also be officially entered in the Annals of the UIA;
- World Architecture Day, scheduled for October 6, 2008, will be dedicated not only to Giancarlo Ius but also to "Child Be the Architect", the song whose realisation he had recently overseen;
- The International Union of Architects will institute a new prize, to be awarded every three years: the "Giancarlo Ius Prize for Architecture", on the topic of "Child Be the Architect". The first edition of the awards ceremony is scheduled for 2011, in Tokyo.

# A FANTASTIC START TO THE THIRD EDITION OF ARCHITECTURE NIGHTS

Architecture Nights, now in their third edition, have gained a strong momentum and popularity following the participation of award-winning world-renowned international architects and practices including Mario Botta, Manfredi Nicoletti, Richard England, Peter Lorenz, Building Design Partnership, Llewelyn Davies Yeang and Bennetts Associates, among others, during the past two years.

This year, the debates kicked off on 29 March with world-renowned leading international architectural firm Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates for the first in a series of five debates for Architecture Nights 08. KPF was represented by none other than the Director of its London office, Architect John Bushell, who presented KPF's strong body of work which has earned the firm recognition as one of the most respected architectural design practices in the world. KPF has studios in New York and London and a growing presence in Shanghai and provides full architectural design, programming, urban design, master planning, graphic and product design services for clients in both the public and private sectors. The firm's extensive portfolio, developed over thirty years, includes designs ranging from a small jewel-like glass pavilion for Rodin sculptures to an entirely new city in Incheon, Korea. The breadth of experience allows the firm to bring an international perspective to a local project.

The postmodernist manner in which materials such as colored marbles and classically reminiscent forms were employed by KPF became a hallmark of their buildings in the 1980s, many of which were corporate commissions. KPF increasingly produced tall structures abroad for international clients in the 1990s. To date KPF has built in over 30 countries. One of KPF's first significant commissions outside the US was the Westendstrasse 1/DZ Bank Headquarters Building in Frankfurt in 1993, a 915,000 square foot mixed-use complex that included a 52-storey office tower, residential apartments and a winter garden, for which it received its third AIA Honors Award in 1994. KPF has also had a large number of commissions on the Pacific Rim, particularly in China's provincial city of Shanghai. The Shanghai World Financial Center, scheduled for com-



The House of the Winds on Santorini Island

pletion shortly, will be one of the tallest buildings in the world at 1,509 feet. KPF's design ethos is based on the recognition that buildings have a responsibility not only to those who use them, not only to the city around them, but also to the environment at large. For KPF the ongoing environmental crisis calls not for the rejection of technological advances but for the promotion of appropriate technology, using new construction techniques and innovative building components in order to make buildings more useful and efficient.

Next in line was Greece's most prominent and respected female architect, Agnes Couvelas who chose to structure her presentation on 19 April around a theme, entitled 'Locality – Interlocality: tools for architectural creation'. Agnes Couvelas operates in the field of architectural projects in a wide area of applications such as museums, archaeological parks and private residences and also lectures in numerous architecture faculties in Greece, but is most renowned for her residential projects, which have featured widely in architecture publications, including a summerhouse on Andros Island, a one-family house in the suburbs of Athens and the celebrated 'House of the Winds' on Santorini Island. Her portfolio also includes the famous in-situ museum of Naxos and the master planning of the archaeological park of the Marathon Tumulus.



Agnes Couvelas

Agnes Couvelas' work is characterised by a sensitiv-

ity that is hard to find in contemporary architecture. Her architecture is mature and proper, very fitting to the context in which it is situated and responsive to environmental and climatic conditions. Most of her work is based in Greece which, given its Mediterranean context and similar climatic condition to our country, makes her architecture very apt for Malta too. Her sensitivity is particularly evident in the judicious choice and use of materials and the careful and sensible control of detail. This makes her buildings harmonious with and respectful to the surrounding environment – a calm and gentle approach to architecture that is carried out without extra fuss but that can still provide strong architectural statements where required. Her celebrated and award-winning museum in Naxos, Greece is particularly interesting for the deployment of an almost anonymous modern backdrop that was purposely created to provide a sensitive backdrop against which craftsmanship can speak.

The first half of this series of debates came to a close on the 17 May featuring none other than one of Holland's most prominent architecture firms, Mecanoo architecten, represented by one of its partners, Francesco Veenstra. This debate was held under the patronage of the Dutch Embassy in Malta.

Based in Delft, Mecanoo has produced many outstanding projects in architecture and urban planning both domestically and internationally during its 25 years in existence. Founding partner Prof. ir. Francine Houben is opposed to stringent interpretations of her work. For her, architecture is not only about designing a building. The area

of her focus is much wider: "Architecture is a combination of various elements, like town and landscape planning and interior design. Mecanoo's work is characterized by the integration of these disciplines."

Well known projects include the new Library for the Delft Technical University (1998), Nieuw Terbregge in Rotterdam (2001), the Chapel of St. Mary of the Angels in Rotterdam (2001) and Montevideo in Rotterdam (2005). In 2006 Mecanoo won the design competition for the Palace of Justice in Córdoba, Spain, to be completed in 2011. The year 2007 was a very active year for the firm. In March, construction began on the new Theatre and Congress Centre La Llotja in Lleida, Spain. That month Mecanoo also won the prestigious competition for the National Kaohsiung Performance Arts Center in Taiwan. In July the firm won the competition for the Municipal Offices and Station in Delft. Finally, in November, FiftyTwoDegrees in Nijmegen was officially opened, and work commenced on the celebrated housing project Fox Hill in Sheffield, U.K., which will be completed in 2009.

## COMING UP...

The efforts of the team of young architects who have been working on the organisation of these events do not stop here. Work has already begun on the second part of Architecture Nights 08 series that will take off again in October with award-winning London-based practice lead by RIBA Royal Gold Medallist Edward Cullinan.

Preparations are also under way for the 2008 edition of Time for Architecture, T4A4. This series of events is organised annually to mark World Architecture Day, which this year falls on the 6 October. The events will centre around two main themes, namely "20th C Architecture" and "Sustainability and Environmental Design". Once again, the program promises to be an exciting one, with events to suit all tastes and interests. As in past years, a workshop for children will be held, together with a guided tour, two exhibitions and a film night. More details on the program itself will be forthcoming shortly, so keep your eyes open for information in the local press.

The Kamra tal-Periti thanks all its sponsors without whom none of these events could take place. In particular thanks go to HSBC and Steel Structures for their support of Architecture Nights 08.



# Fort San Leonardo – one of Malta's lesser known historical monuments

by Edward Said

Perhaps one of the least known of Victorian forts in Malta, Fort San Leonardo undoubtedly is one of the finest. Constructed between 1872 and 1878 as part of a chain of fortifications, it watches over a stretch of the low-lying south-eastern coastline of Malta, between Delle Grazie battery to the North and Zonkor Battery to the South.

Fort San Leonardo is built on the polygonal system that characterises many others of its kind and age in Malta. Aesthetically however, it has been described as "the most satisfying of all the coastal defence forts built by the British on Malta"(1). Its layout consists of an internal ditch which segregates the battery proper from the keep, physically dividing the fort. The gun emplacements in the battery were modified and upgraded over time right on to World War Two. A number of the original guns are today found at Fort Madliena. The entire structure is strategically sited atop the lofty Nward hill, however the sprawling nature of San Leonardo's design makes it cunningly invisible from most approaches on land.

The most visible feature is the keep which is situated at the rear of the battery, near one entrance and being sited slightly higher than the rest of the complex, it commanded any fire attacks if any such need arose. Under normal circumstances it served for living quarters for the garrison that manned the battery's guns. The fort is accessed through a staidly designed gate situated on the western flank. Another access was created when later armament was installed on the south-eastern flank(2). Outworks include the construction of a ravelin-like structure, covert ways and an extensive glacis amongst others(3).

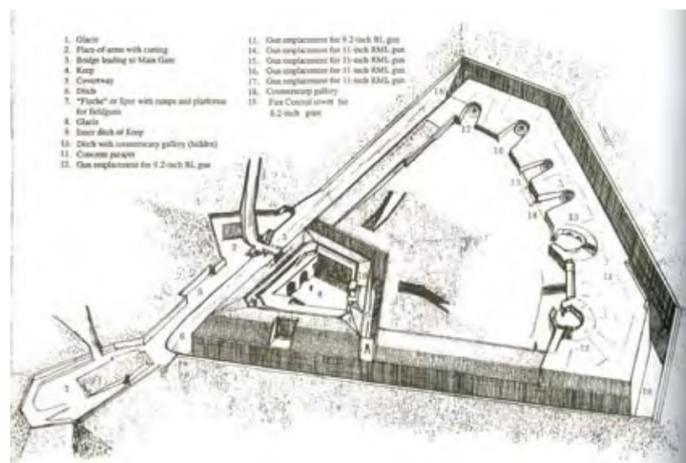
Used as a military establishment until the 1970s, San Leonardo, as happened with a number of its counterparts, was then handed over by the state to a cattle-farmer. At present inside the overgrown, crumbling battlements, over two hundred bovines thrive, giving Malta milk and beef whilst depositing almost three decades of biological waste into the bowels of the fort. Further damage is being continuously caused by dumping, construction of accretions and demolition of parts of the deteriorating complex. One can only wonder what is happening to the extensive subterranean network of counterscarp galleries and ancillary tunnels.

Some years ago a group of urban design students carried out an extensive study of the fort and its surroundings. They brought together a number of ideas for possible rehabilitation and reuse of Fort San Leonardo and came up with a

convincing proposal revolving around agro-tourism. Indeed the area is of great ecological and agricultural significance as is the case with many of these fortifications. As almost a score of these Victorian monuments are lying in ruin and are being abused as we speak, is it not high time the State considers such sensitive ideas for the sustainable regeneration of our country's cultural heritage, which let's face it, is the only this that make our Islands stand out.

#### References:

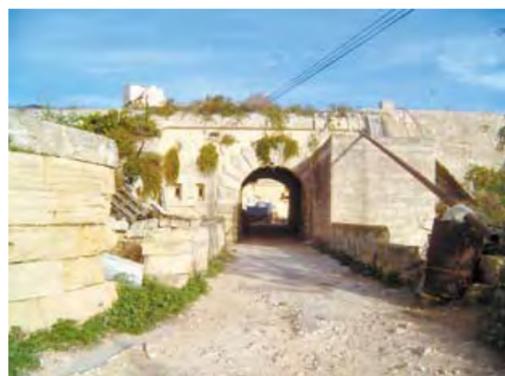
- (1) Thake, Conrad & Quentin Hughes, *MALTA – War and Peace – an Architectural Chronicle 1800-2000*, (Malta 2005), p121
- (2) Spiteri, Stephen C., *The British Fortifications*, (Malta 1991), p. 109
- (3) *Ibid.*, p. 111



Isometric impression of Fort San Leonardo in its original state (courtesy Dr Stephen C. Spiteri)



The gun emplacements used as cattle pens



One of the entrances into Fort San Leonardo



Casemates in the Keep. Note the anti-gas attack doorway installed in the last war



Bomb damage and neglect on outerworks of the fort

## 21ST CENTURY HOUSE

JONATHAN BELL

Whatever happened to the future? Whatever happened to what the mid 20th century imagined the 21st to be like? 21st Century House offers its perspective on the residential projects which will be representing the Noughties and beyond.

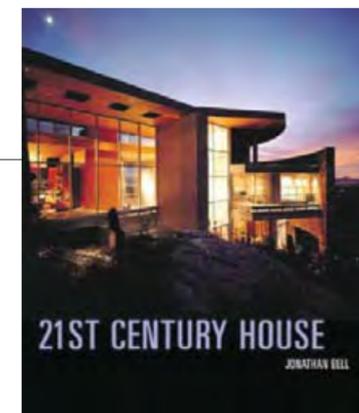
The author, Jonathan Bell, is a regular contributor to Wallpaper, the monthly journal for all things design interiors fashion and art. He already has one book on residential design, co-authored with Sally Godwin, under his belt. Like "The Transformable House", Bell takes a select view at recent residential endeavours which will turn heads and our pockets

out.

As would be expected from a book editor, Bell introduces his book with a literature review which offers a valuable critique of the architectural monographs available for residential architects at local book stores. He discusses today's culture of representation, arguing in a similar manner to Kester Rattenbury that "This is Not Architecture!" The manner in which projects are showcased by the media have a hand in shaping our perception, sometimes mitigating possible dissemination. Classic interior photographs are a well-orchestrated tableaux of clean architectural lines, punctuated with a

few, iconic, and usually cliché, pieces of furniture. Residents? Pollutants. Bell laments that publishers have similarly reasoned that for non-architects to want to own books on architecture, you have to tone down the technical jargon and focus on the shiny stills. This is not one of those books.

The book categorises its case studies in four parts, namely, iconic, urban, practical and future. Jonathan Bell has chosen to include projects by Álvaro Siza, London-based FAT and Souto Moura Arquitectos as well as lesser known architects such as the Portuguese Aires Mateus e Associados. Each project is illustrated thoroughly, by



Lawrence King Publishing, 2006  
ISBN 9781856694537  
Format Hardback - 256 Pages

means of both image and commentary, complete with detailed architectural drawings.

## www.buildingsplatform.org

The EPBD Buildings Platform was launched by the European Commission in the framework of the Intelligent Energy – Europe, 2003-2006 programme. It is an information service for helping the implementation of the Buildings' Directive and is useful for practitioners and consultants, experts in energy agencies, interest groups and national policy makers in the EU's Member States.

The main objective of the Platform is to support the full and continued implementation of the EPBD by setting up mechanisms for the transfer of information between all stakeholders, helping implement the Directive by specific actions and co-ordinating the activities of the various stakeholders, and providing input and tools to support



the Commission and the Member States in the follow-up and evaluation of the impact of the Directive. The website forms part of this Platform and is easily divided into the 5 main themes of the Directive, namely Certificates, Experts, Inspection, Calculation and EP Requirements. It includes a number of downloads, information tools and also a help desk.

## COMPETITION

Can you identify the sitter of this portrait? He was one of the most prolific and accomplished architects in Malta during the second half of the nineteenth century. His works include the Ottoman Turkish cemetery.



The winner of this competition wins a copy of the book reviewed above: '21st Century House'. This book is available from **Agenda Bookshop**, the sponsor of this competition and review page.

Send your entries to: **The Editor, The Architect Competition, Kamra tal-Periti, The Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira, or by email on [thearchitect@ktpmalta.com](mailto:thearchitect@ktpmalta.com).**

The first correct entry drawn on the 30 August 2008 will win. Only residents of the Maltese Islands are eligible to participate. Members of the Editorial Board and their families are not eligible to participate.

#### Previous competition

The cliff-hanging hotel that was proposed in 1967 by the famous Spanish architect Julio Lafuente was projected for Ta' Cenc. The winner was Ms Annabelle Bugeja.

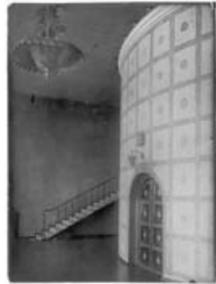


Agendabookshop

NOW TO 24 AUGUST 2008; ALVAR AALTO MUSEUM, FINLAND

### RENAISSANCE PALACE AND DEFENSIVE CITADEL

The Gallery's 2008 summer exhibition presents two buildings from Alvar Aalto's early production, both of which were originally designed as club houses. The Jyväskylä Workers' Club and the Defence Corps building were among the few masonry buildings in the small town dominated by wooden buildings. The building history of these important milestones in Aalto's architecture is presented in the exhibition through original drawings and photographs from that time. Original furniture from the buildings is also on display. [www.alvaraalto.fi](http://www.alvaraalto.fi)



NOW TO 24 AUGUST 2008; DESIGN MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

### RICHARD ROGERS + ARCHITECTS – FROM THE HOUSE TO THE CITY

Richard Rogers has had the most remarkable career in British architecture. Beginning with an extraordinary family house in Cornwall, then changing the shape of post-War architecture with the Pompidou Centre, he now heads up an international office that is busier than ever. Recipient of the most prestigious distinction in international architecture, the 2007 Pritzker Prize, Richard Rogers is one of Britain's most influential architects. Exceptional and high-profile projects include the headquarters for Lloyd's of London, the Millennium Dome and the National Assembly for Wales. Rogers has established himself and his practice, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

NOW TO 7 SEPTEMBER 2008; V&A AND RIBA ARCHITECTURE GALLERY, LONDON, UK

### UNSEEN HANDS: 100 YEARS OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

To mark the centenary of the founding of the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), this exhibition celebrates the importance of engineering in creating some of the most iconic buildings of the past 100 years. Using three themes (towers, bridges and large enclosures) to find a pathway through a wealth of structural achievement, the exhibition brings to life the design and construction of edifices including New York's Empire State Building, Switzerland's Salginatobel Bridge and Poland's People's Hall – as well as more modern projects including the Millau Viaduct, the Eden Project and the still-rising Burj Dubai. [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

NOW TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2008; MAK GALLERY, AUSTRIA

### ANDREAS FOGARASI

[www.mak.at](http://www.mak.at)

NOW TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2008; NEW LONDON ARCHITECTURE, LONDON, UK

### SPANS: VIADUCTS, BRIDGES AND WALKWAYS

As London both expands along the Thames Gateway and prepares for the 2012 Olympic Games it will

require new bridges to make new connections. SPANS explores a select number of contemporary bridges to explore different approaches to design, celebrating the joy of crossing, connecting places and engineering. Case studies will include both major arteries and small pedestrian footbridges giving equal importance to both. The exhibition will allow both industry professionals and the public to understand how these structures work and will contribute to their enjoyment of these bridges. [www.newlondonarchitecture.org](http://www.newlondonarchitecture.org)

NOW TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2008; THE LIGHTHOUSE, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

### HAPTIC: AWAKENING THE SENSES

**Haptic:** *of or relating to the sense of touch; tactile.* What happens when you ask 21 international architects and designers to create objects that focus on the sense of touch, instead of colour and form? See a beautiful and intelligent collection of fascinating items driven by the senses including hair lanterns, soft doorknobs and packaging made of replica fruit skin. This exhibition features work by Shigeru Ban, Jasper Morrison and Toyo Ito, commissioned by Japanese designer Kenya Hara, Chief Executive of the Nippon Design Centre and MUJI. [www.thelighthouse.co.uk](http://www.thelighthouse.co.uk)

NOW TO 12 OCTOBER 2008; GENT DESIGN MUSEUM, NETHERLANDS

### HOMAGE TO HANS WEGNER (1914-2007)

This summer Design museum Gent is bringing a limited homage to Danish furniture designer-architect Hans Wegner. He is one of the designers to have made Danish design famous the world over, and is a major name in the gallery of "Danish modernists". [www.design.museum.gent.be](http://www.design.museum.gent.be)



NOW TO 20 OCTOBER 2008; THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK, USA

### HOME DELIVERY: FABRICATING THE MODERN DWELLING

This exhibition will offer the most thorough examination of both the historical and contemporary significance of factory-produced architectures to date. [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org)

NOW TO 26 OCTOBER 2008; JOSEF HOFFMANN MUSEUM, BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC

### ORNAMENT AND MODERNITY: JOSEF HOFFMANN 1870-1956, ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER

The presentation outlines the life and work of Josef Hoffmann on wall-high panels. Richly illustrated with 200 historical photographs and relying on detailed descriptions, the show documents the biography and production of the architect and designer. [www.mak.at](http://www.mak.at)

NOW TO 26 OCTOBER 2008; MAK FURNITURE STUDY COLLECTION, AUSTRIA

### FORMLESS FURNITURE

Since the 1960s, contemporary artists have transcended and redefined traditional relations between materials and form by means of the experimental, often seem-

ingly formless use of a variety of materials. As a first, the exhibition "Formless Furniture" shows that the rule "form follows material" was also applied – and still is – in the design of everyday objects: to this day, designers playfully oppose the so-called good form and the marketing of conformity in living environments [www.mak.at](http://www.mak.at)

NOW TO 31 DECEMBER 2008; ARCHITEKTURZENTRUM WIEN, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

### A SHOW: AUSTRIAN ARCHITECTURE IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY

With the opening of the final 3rd stage of a show, the Architekturzentrum Wien is bringing the comprehensive documentation of Austrian architecture of the 20th century up to the present day. [www.azw.at](http://www.azw.at)

NOW TO 24 APRIL 2009; V&M MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

### LIBRARIES OF LIGHT: PHOTOGRAPHIC BOOKS FROM THE V&A COLLECTION

Photographic books are almost as old as photography itself. Indeed, one of the inventors of photography, William Henry Fox Talbot, was also author of one of the very first books to include photographs, The Pencil of Nature (1844). The Museum has been collecting photographic books since 1852. The images below represent a small selection from the V&A's holdings. Many more may be seen and handled on request in both the National Art Library and the Prints and Drawings Study Room. [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

05 SEPTEMBER 2008 TO 04 JANUARY 2009; DESIGN MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

### DESIGN CITIES

Design Cities tells the story of contemporary design through seven key cities at their creative height: London (1851), Vienna (1908), Dessau (1928), Paris (1936), Los Angeles (1949), Milan (1957), Tokyo (1987) and London (2008). The exhibition will feature a full range of objects from textiles and fashion to industrial pieces, furniture and prints. It will include design classics such as chairs by Charles and Ray Eames, as well as work by a spectrum of designers that together will evoke an impacting impression of their era. Key exhibits will include work by William Morris, Christopher Dresser, Adolf Loos, Marcel Breuer, Le Corbusier, Eileen Gray, Achille Castiglioni, Issey Miyake and Ron Arad. Design Cities has been organised by the Design Museum, London in association with Istanbul Modern and is curated by Design Museum Director Deyan Sudjic. [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

17 TO 19 SEPTEMBER 2008; VAN NELLE FACTORY, ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

### THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

Docomomo invites architects, historians, and other parties involved in the processes of preservation, renovation and transformation of modern buildings to investigate the paradox of the modern monument, and to reflect on the manifold dilemmas of change and continuity. It is time to once again face the challenge of change. [www.archi.fr/DOCOMOMO](http://www.archi.fr/DOCOMOMO)