

WINTER 2011 EDITION

President's update

QUESTION: ISC+ET Priorities

ISC+ET Mexico Statement

Reviewing Mexico 2010: Student Workshop

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Welcome to DOCOMOMO's ISC-E+T Newsletter

The ISC Education+Theory is pleased to welcome you to its newsletter, which will be published on a tri-monthly basis. Our efforts seek to bring greater emphasis to the subjects of education and theory in the international DOCOMOMO community, its working parties and individual members], to work closely with the other ISC's and to better communicate to the [world at large the] importance of preserving modern architecture globally. As a part of the newsletter, we will send a question to be answered by the committee and other interested participants. The answers will be combined and distributed in a report, sent in the following newsletter. The success of this discussion depends on our combined efforts.

No aesthetically or technically outstanding or meaningful preservation can take place without an underlying theoretical concept and explaining these very ideas to practicing professionals, advocates, students or the general public is key to our mission. The so-called Eindhoven Statement formulated at the end of the first DOCOMOMO International recognized the importance of education and makes frequent reference to it as a major organizational goal. [In this mission statement education is interpreted in its broadest possible sense. We not only seek that we want to continue that tradition and endeavor but we want to expand that and reach out to an [ever larger and] broader base constituency. To do this successfully, the interest and participation of the members and the various constituencies is of paramount importance. We urge you to contact us with thoughts, ideas, suggestions, news and activities that can be shared or discussed with others. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

Theodore Prudon Chair, ISC Education+Theory, President of DOCOMOMO US

THIS EDITION QUESTION

The Eindhoven Statement reflects the deep interest in education in DOCOMOMO in all its aspects from the very beginning. After some twenty years, a greater acceptance in general and the development of a broader appreciation and resulting audience it is important to revisit the original intent and review what has or has not been accomplished. While the importance of the ISC in Education + Theory was never in question, more needs to be accomplished.

***Building on the Mexico Statement,
Which area of research should be prioritized
by the ISC-E+T Committee?***

- A. Guidelines for DOCOMOMO Workshops?
- B. Body of theory resources (publications, bibliography, seminars)
- C. Fostering DOCOMOMO outreach in educational communities?
- D. Increasing awareness of DOCOMOMO ISC-E+T through memberships

Please list them in order of importance and feel free to develop your answer or contribute your own

ISC+ET Mexico Statement

During the 11th International DOCOMOMO Conference in Mexico City, 2010, we got together to discuss a draft for the mission statement for the committee.

Following the DOCOMOMO tradition (i.e the Eindhoven Statement) we have called "Mexico Statement" and we hope for it to help to align our efforts towards a common direction.

- 1) Educate to protect "by prevention". This means to preserve not by action-reaction to specific threats, but by creating a general awareness and appreciation of modern buildings in the younger generation, general public and the society at large.
- 2) Through education help to understand and celebrate the particularities of preservation of modern architecture and its specific needs, social, technical and aesthetical challenges.
- 3) Intensively address with other participants the education of the general public, professionals and specialists, and the development of a theory and intellectual content, and the constant interaction and integration of these three areas to create a cohesive theoretical construct, and engage the world around us.
- 4) Improve the existing tools and develop new ones to create awareness in the future generations of professionals responsible for protecting, adapting, reconverting, restoring and studying the monuments of the modern movement.
- 5) Use all possible channels available to promote the exchange of knowledge at an international level, informing the education and preservation strategies of the different member countries with each other.
- 6) Disseminate the study of modern architecture as a tool to better create contemporary architecture, to include humanity principles in design, to live a better city.
- 7) Develop and foster the formulation of a comprehensive preservation theory that recognizes the unique contribution of modernism, guides its meaningful preservation, and brings its principles in a meaningful way into the future.

DOCOMOMO Conference , Mexico City, 2010



DOCOMOMO INTERNATIONAL: MEXICO 2010 CONFERENCE STUDENT WORKSHOP

The 3rd DOCOMOMO Student Workshop took place in Mexico City as part of the 11th International DOCOMOMO Conference "Living the Urban Modernity", August 2010. The workshop was held in the studio of Luis Barragán, located directly opposite Casa Barragán, a World Heritage Site. The workshop, which started 5 days prior to the full conference, had a number of students from different Mexican universities as well as participants from Brazil, Chile and England.

The student teams were configured in such a way as to mix nationalities, background and levels of proficiency as much as possible. The area of study was the Colonia Cuauhtémoc, an urban sector of Mexico City established and built up in the 1930's.

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*(MEXICO 2010 STUDENT WORKSHOP,
 continuation)*

The workshop focused primarily on possible solutions for this complex urban configuration, the difficulty of accessing the park from the surrounding area and the creation/accommodation of a building for the DOCOMOMO Mexico headquarters. The new building (or reuse of one of the existing ones) was to link a new space for the documentation, conservation and study of Mexican modernity in general with the modern heritage of the area specifically.

The students, divided in 4 teams, worked for 5 days on proposals for the project brief and the new DOCOMOMO Mexico Building. Very different yet connected initiatives appeared in the four groups. However, some themes were common to most projects such as the need to minimize the intervention into the significant existing buildings as little as possible, the use of the conceptual idea of modernity as basis for the new designs, and the acceptance of the car as an integral part of the design.

As with all previous DOCOMOMO workshops, one of the most interesting aspect of the sessions were the discussions among the students in the teams and the exchanges between the different groups, where the ideas in common were tested, criticized and analyzed, which made the workshop a learning experience going well beyond the final designs that were produced. This is a key component of the workshops, and should be enhanced and improved in the future.

The exchange of ideas and knowledge between people of various disciplines, backgrounds, countries and cultures that is the core of DOCOMOMO and that will strengthen our advocacy and discipline and help in understanding what and how to preserve modern architecture in a meaningful way.

Lorena Perez Leighton

