

Fifth International DOCOMOMO Conference

Stockholm, September 16-18, 1998

Vision and Reality: Social Aspects of Architecture and Urban Planning in the Modern Movement

The Swedish Museum of Architecture and the Swedish chapter welcomed the Fifth International **DOCOMOMO** Conference in Stockholm, on September 16–18, 1998. Attended by 250 delegates from 39 countries, the conference was organized in collaboration with the **DOCOMOMO** chapters in Denmark, Norway, and Finland, and with a modern movement interest group in Iceland.

The ideals of human freedom and prosperity, whose roots stem from the Age of Enlightenment, have been implicit in the programs of the modern movement. These aspirations became the focus for intellectual clarification during this century; philosophers, sociologists, politicians, fine artists among many others have formulated proposals for the realization of communitarian models. Political, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions have, however, frequently frustrated realization of these ideals.

Simultaneously, changes in social values have transformed inherited conditions creating new ideals of freedom and material expectation. Such revised ideological perceptions become preconditions informing improvement, or justifying obstruction. The advancement towards a modern society has followed various paths in countries having different political regimes and distinctive cultural, social, and economic conditions.

Architects and planners have worked to transpose the paradigms of freedom and prosperity into architectural and urban forms designed for future generations. Many are now recognized as the early visionaries of the modern movement; their architecture has evolved through built and unrealized projects which have gained wide international attention. In parallel with social ambition, pure artistic ideals as well as technical innovations, have also influenced architectural development. The emphasis on universally held ideals has favored the status of many internationally established practices as the only representatives of truly modern architecture. However, those architects who have united the ideals of freedom and prosperity anchored in local traditions, building materials and methods have not, as a rule, received the recognition they deserve for their building and planning work as modernizers and representatives of social ambition.

Social ideals have been particularly important in framing modern architecture and urban planning projects in the Nordic Countries, where architecture and the built environment have developed their specific characteristics related to geographical, cultural, and social circumstance.

The **DOCOMOMO** Conference in Stockholm, "**Vision and Reality**", promoted analysis, description and debate around how social aspirations, in particular, have influenced the development of architecture and urban planning in different cultural and economic contexts between 1910 and the 1960s. By focusing on these issues, this conference contributed to our understanding of the modern movement in architecture and planning.



**Fifth International DOCOMOMO Conference
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Nordic Session: *Modernism as a Vehicle for Social Change in the Nordic Welfare-States* by Nils-Ole Lund — *'One Day We Shall Inherit the Earth:' Swedish Functionalism as a Vision and in Reality* by Eva Rudberg — *Norway* by Brigitte Saugé — *Vision and Reality: Denmark* by Ola Wedeburn — *Finnish Modernism: Future Ideas and Hard Realities* by Maija Kairamo — *Social Aspects and Modern Architecture in Iceland* by Petur H. Armannsson.

Primary Session: *Confronting the 'Modern' in Architecture: The Limits, the Limit* by Maristella Casciato — *The Eichler Homes and the Hybridization of California Modernism* by Paul Adamson — *The Birth of Modern Architecture in Japan: Internal and External Aspects in the 1920s and 1930s* by Hiroyuki Suzuki — *Montevideo 1930–40: Modern Architecture and Urbanism as Symbol of Liberty and Prosperity* by Ruben Otero — *The Kibbutz: MoMo and Romantic Architecture in an Agricultural Commune* by Arie Sivan — *Modernity and Typology: Standard Versus Outstanding* by Gérard Monnier — *The Modern Movement in Hong Kong* by Desmond Hui — *Portugal, the Modern Rupture: The Fifties 'Green Years'* by Ana Tostões — *Czech Residential Architecture: Its Social Aspects and Consequences after World War II* by Jan Sedlak — *Convenio Escolar: Modern Architecture at the Service of Public Education* by Angela West Pedrao — *'What Belongs to Architecture?' Avant-Garde Ideas in the MoMo's Discourse* by Hilde Heynen.

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