

Tenth International DOCOMOMO Conference

Rotterdam, September 13-20, 2008

The Challenge of Change: Dealing with the Legacy of the Modern Movement

The legacy of the modern movement has gained legendary status, largely as a result of the appreciation of the masterworks and the visionary architectural concepts. In the reality of everyday life, however, it has been difficult to maintain the architectural creations of the modern movement in such a way that they still reflect the original intentions of their designers.

Many buildings and ensembles of the modern movement have already been saved; the icons amongst these have even become so precious that they are treated like pieces of art rather than as buildings in everyday use. But despite the success that have been achieved, many buildings and ensembles are still at risk of demolition or maltreatment. The biennial international conference is one means by which it is possible to continue furthering the aims of Docomomo.

Knowing that many modern architects aimed at functionality and changeability, the challenge for today is how to deal with the modern heritage in relation to its continuously changing context, including physical, economic and functional changes, as well as socio-cultural, political and scientific ones. It is with this in mind that conservation in general, and the conservation of modern architecture in particular, has become a new challenge. Rather than attempting to return a modern building to its presumed original state, our challenge is to revalue the essence of the manifold manifestations of modern architecture and redefine its meanings in our changing world of digital revolution, worldwide mobility and environmental awareness.

documentation and conservation

of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the

modern movement



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The Second International **DOCOMOMO** Workshop made a sizeable contribution to the general program of the 10th International Docomomo Conference in Rotterdam in September 2008. The theme and area of study were chosen on the basis of two complementary issues:

- 1 Recognition of the specificity and current urban development of Rotterdam.
- **2** The need to tackle the urgent problems raised by the highly controversial re-design of Rotterdam city center.
- 3 The proposed demolition of the Lijnbaan shopping area.

The theme of the workshop 'Strategies for the Coolsingel Strip' gives serious pause for thought. Coolsingel, the backbone of 21st-century Rotterdam and dramatically reshaped by the trend towards newborn Manhattanism, is the repository of the Rotterdam collective memory. The handful of public buildings that survived the Luftwaffe bombing raids on May 14, 1940 inspired the construction of a modern boulevard, flanked by some remarkable edifices that reconfigured the vision of urban space.

As the area of study for the workshop, Lijnbaan tested the students' ability to rethink Rotterdam's modernist heritage as an asset and challenged them to put forward proposals on various scales and under diverse economic constraints. Students and tutors worked hard to come up with solutions. They rose to the challenge of measuring their plans on a human scale and tried to avoid formal gestures that favor designing within the interstices and remodeling spaces via changes that generate more sensible and body-related urban tissues. This new vision, which sees heritage as a living force and a priority for human beings living in a multilayered; built-up environment, lies at the heart of this report. Whatever future awaits Coolsingel, some of the ideas presented in this have already proven vital; let us hope that they will prove fruitful as well.



Second International Docomomo Workshop The Challenge of Change: Coolsingel Strip Rotterdam

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Foreword by Maristella Casciato — The Role of the Coolsingel Strip in the Historical Development of Rotterdam

Proposals for the Coolsingel Strip: Urban Vision: A Pumping Heart — Re-pulsation: Proposal for New Urban Heartbeat of the Very Ending of the Lijnbaan by Group 1: Hilton (A) — Changing Connections: Redevelopment of the Coolsingel Commercial District by Group 2: Luxor (B) — Slow Down: The Urban Stop of Coolsingel Strip by Group 3: Holbein House (C), Spaarbank (D) — Permeability: Desirable Connection by Group 4: Lucia School (E) — 'Box'ing: Bijenkorf, The Boundaries of Preservation by Group 5: Bijenkorf (F) — Stitching the City Together: Up / Between / Under by Group 6: Abn-Amro Bank (G), Jungerhans (H) Jury Report

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Tenth International DOCOMOMO Conference Conference Proceedings

The Challenge of Change: Dealing with the Legacy of the Modern Movement

Rotterdam (September 13-20, 2008) 549 p.

Introduction: Modern Architecture is Durable: Using Change to Preserve by Maristella Casciato
Introduction by the Organizing Committee

Change and Continuity (1): Introduction: Issues of Temporality, Paradoxes and Challenges of Modern Heritage by Horacio Torrent — Being and Becoming of Modern Heritage: The Challenge of Planned Conservation by Andrea Canziani — Notes on the Unfinished Modern Monument: Clorindo Testa's Civic Center in Santa Rosa, La Pampa by Claudia Costa Cabral — Historic Present: The Modern Movement in Situation by Zeuler Lima — Architecture and Temporality in Conservation Theory: The Modern Movement and the Restoration Attitude in Cesare Brandi by Fidel Meraz — Metsäpaviljonski: Forms Follows Wood by Cristian Suau.

Change and Continuity (2): Introduction: Buildings and Ideologies by Dirk Van den Heuvel—The Evolution of Intervention Criteria in Modern Movement Restoration: Essential Problems and Circumstantial Problems, GATCPAC's Conservation Projects as a Case Study by Martin Capeluto & Maria Turull—Anatole Kopp (1915–1990): The Engaged Architect and the Concept of Modern Architecture by Anat Falbel—The Cubanacan Art Schools Rehabilitated by Universo Garcia Lorenzo—Modern Movement Conservation as Progressive Practice: Byker and British Welfare State Housing by Aidan While & John Pendlebury—Rewriting the Past: The Demolition of Modern Buildings and Monuments in Post-Communist Poland by Krystyna Wieszczek & Fabiano Lemes de Oliveira.

Change and Continuity (3): Introduction: Monuments and Icons by Nancy Stieber — The Trojan Horse: Contemporary 'Iconic' Architecture and the Falsification of Modernism by Miles Glendinning — Transformations of a Suburban Estate Designed by Gregory Ain: Preservation of the Mar Vista Tract After 60 Years by Yasuko Kamei — Neglectfulness in the Preservation and Continuity of Late-modern Architecture: The Case of St Peter's Seminary by Gillespie, Kidd and Coia by Mhairi McVicar & Cristian Suau — The Obsolescence of the Monument: The Future of Airport Icons by Nathalie Roseau — Reconstructing the Philips Pavilion, Brussels 1958: Elements for a Critical Assessment by Sven Sterken.

Change and Continuity (4): Introduction: Myth, Authenticity and Lived Practices by Hilde Heynen — Beyond Oscar Niemeyer: Authorities, Remodelings, Paradoxes and Peculiarities in the Preservation of Modern Buildings in Brazil by Carlos Eduardo Comas, Cecilia Rodrigues dos Santos & Ruth Verde Zein — Myth, History and Conservation in Tel Aviv by Marina Epstein-Pliouchtch & Ron Fuchs — Rietveld at Bergeijk by Madeleine Steigenga — Viva Stirling's Florey Building by Igea Troiani — Questioning Material/Conceptual Authenticity by France Vanlaethem & Céline Poisson.



Cities and Landscape (1): Introduction: Cities by Paul Meurs — The Urban Validity of Modern Experiences by Carmen Blasco Sanchez, Francisco Martinez Perez & Julia Deltoro Soto — Translating the New Old-world into the New New-world: Reassessing Ernst Plischke's Plan for Naenae, Lower Hutt, New Zealand by Ian Bowman — Transformation: An Alternative Approach Renewing the Postwar City by Arjan Gooijer, Gert Jan te Velde & Henk van Schagen — Plymouth: City of the Welfare State in the 21st Century by Jeremy Gould — The Pittsburgh Civic Arena: Memory and Renewal by Robert Shaw Pfaffmann.

Cities and Landscape (2): Introduction: The Landscape of Modernity by Louise Noelle — Modern Urban Landscape to Sustainable Urban Landscape: A Challenge for Chandigarh by Parmeet Singh Bhatt — Landscapes of the Recent Past: Identifying Key Problems Regarding the Conservation of Designed Landscapes by Jan Haenraets & Obas John Ebohon — Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: Everyday Modernism in Australian Suburban Communities by Hannah Lewi — Ecological Crisis and the Modernist Residential Landscape: Pontchartrain Park, New Orleans, Louisiana by Carol McMichael Reese & Jane Wolff — Mountains and Modernity: Bernese Modernist Buildings in its Environment by Bernd Nicolai.

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Ghersi Rassi & Alvaro Gonzalez Bastidas—How Should We Teach the Conservation of
Modern and Contemporary Architecture? by Franz Graf—Experiencing the Modern in Lisbon
by Jorge Spencer, João Paulo Martins, José Neves & Pedro Belo Ravara—Modern
Education and the Education in Transformation of the Modern: The Experience of the Masters
Degree in 'Rehabilitation of the Built Environment' by Gonçalo Canto Moniz & José Antonio
Bandeirinha.



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Glass by Flora Chou — Securing Ornamental Design in Modern Havana Heritage:
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of the Original? Remarks on the Importance of Materiality Regarding the Preservation of the
Tugendhat House and Other Buildings of Modernism by Ivo Hammer — Concrete Repairs and
Coatings for Frank Lloyd Wright's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum by Amanda Thomas
Trienens, Glenn Boornazian & Norman Weiss.

Change and Continuity (Short Papers): Historical Research, Architectural Design and the Conservation of Modern Paulista School Buildings: The Case of the Gymnasium of Itahaém by André Augusto de Almeida Alves — Preserving the Body in Greek Modern Architecture: The Sanatorium 'Sotiria' in Athens by Katerina Chatzikonstantinou — Change and Permanence in Greek Modernity: The Case of Takis Zenetos by Elias Constantopoulos — Paradoxes in the Rebuilding of Casto Fernandez-Shaw's Porto Pi Petroleum Station by Luis Maldonado Ramos, David Rivera Gamez & Fernando Vela Cossio — Chandigarh: Managing the Challenge of Change in an Icon of the Modern Movement by Sangeeta Bagga Mehta & Rajiv Mehta — A Roof Over One's Head: Luxury for Everybody, Vienna's Social House Project, 1923–2008 by Inge Podbrecky — Paradoxes and Contradictions in Conserving Modernisms from the 1960s, Case Study: Pihlajamäki Housing Area, Protective Plan, Regeneration and Repair Guidelines by Riitta Salastie — Making a Home of Modernism: Architectural Alterations in the Dessau-Törten Siedlung, 1928–2007 by Andreas Schwarting — Tropical Modernism: The Legacy of the Modern Movement in Sri Lanka, with Respect to Three Practitioners by Rajiv Wanasundera.

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