

Barcelona, August 2, 2010

September 14th 2011

Support letter for the protection of Modern Slovene Architectural Monuments:
Cultural Centre Cankarjev dom, 1961–74, 1975–82; Architect: Edvard Ravnikar

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to Docomomo's attention that alterations are being made to this major public building designed by Edvard Ravnikar which occupies a key symbolic site in the centre of Ljubljana.

The building is a landmark of Modern architecture in Slovenia, listed in Docomomo Slovenia's Register, but it is also part of international patrimony and should be protected.

We therefore request that inappropriate interventions be halted altogether. Beyond this individual case those in positions of authority should realize that Slovenia has several major works of Modern architecture to be preserved at all costs and that Docomomo Slovenia has been working hard for many years to make this heritage visible and studied..


Docomomo (the international committee for the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern movement) is aware of the concern that the present situation has produced in architectural and conservation circles. We fully support our colleagues in their efforts to get the estate conserved.

Yours sincerely,



Ana Tostões
Chair
Docomomo International

Nataša Koselj
Chair
Docomomo Slovenia



Ivan Blasi
Secretary General
Docomomo International

Ljubljana, 22.8.2011

RE. Support letter for the protection of Modern Slovene Architectural Monuments: Cultural Centre *Cankarjev dom*, 1961–74, 1975–82; Architect: Edvard Ravnikar

Dear Colleague,

The official representatives of Slovene architectural institutions and associations are seeking broad-based support for our appeal letter to a pressing cultural dilemma. The letter, with your signature, will serve as a petition and if you are willing, a letter from you regarding the importance of preserving *Cankarjev dom* will help in the preservation of this important cultural edifice.

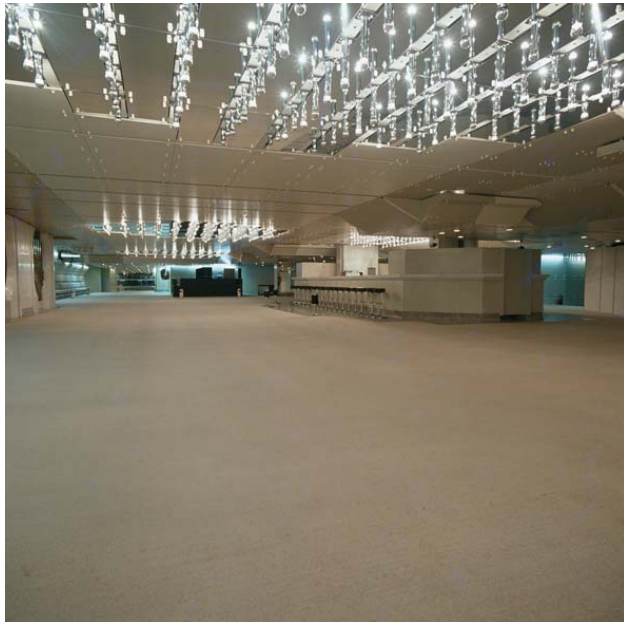
In Slovenia, as in other countries, much architecture from the Modern period is still not under official state protection and is therefore exposed to the free will and wishes of owners and investors.

The latest building that is being destroyed through the renovation of its interior is the cultural centre *Cankarjev dom (CD)* in Ljubljana, originally designed in 1977 by distinguished architect and academic Prof. Edvard Ravnikar. *Cankarjev dom* is part of the complex composition of the square *Trg revolucije*, also designed by Prof. Ravnikar. The urbanistic design of the square was planned for several decades and therefore most clearly presents Ravnikar's creative mind.

Cankarjev dom needs to be renovated. Unfortunately the director of *Cankarjev dom* and the architect exhibit a fundamental lack of understanding and respect towards Ravnikar's original design. Instead of protecting it, they have used the renovation to completely remove Ravnikar's existing interiors. Their attitude toward Ravnikar's work is shown through their previous renovations: the redesign of the first and second entry hall, *Kosovel* hall and Club CD; changing the proportion of the spaces, original materials, colors and details.



Cankarjev dom in Ljubljana, designed by Prof. Edvard Ravnikar in 1977



Cankarjev dom, original entrance hall in first underground level



Cankarjev dom, original Gallus hall



Cankarjev dom, original main entrance hall

Official representatives of Slovene architectural institutions and associations wrote an appeal letter to Slovene Ministry of culture – the owner of *Cankarjev dom* – to stop the renovation and to urgently protect the building and its interior. To date our letter has had no success.

We are now perusing the opinions of distinguished international architects, professors and critics in hopes that a collective endorsement of a different process will be respected by our government and the Ministry of culture.

We will be accepting signatures and letters until 5.9.2011. You can simply reply to this e-mail.

Thank you for your help and support regarding this urgent cultural issue!

Respectfully Yours,

Maja Ivanic

President, Ljubljana Architectural Association and Union of Architectural Associations of Slovenia (Društvo arhitektov Ljubljana in Zveza drustev arhitektov Slovenije)

*** Official representatives of competent Slovene architectural institutions and associations**

- _ Maja Ivanic, president of Ljubljana Architectural Association and Union of Architectural Associations of Slovenia (DAL, ZDAS)
- _ Peter Gabrijelcic, dean of Ljubljana Faculty of Architecture (FA, Ljubljana)
- _ Andrej Goljar, president of Chamber of Architecture and Space of Slovenia (ZAPS)
- _ Matevz Celik, director of Museum of Architecture and Design (MAO)
- _ Andrej Hrausky, director Dessa architectural Gallery, Ljubljana
- _ Anja Planiscek, Trajekt, Institute for culture of space

This letter has been sent to:

- _ Prof. Friedrich Achleitner | Vienna, Austria
- _ Prof. William J. R. Curtis | USA, France
- _ Prof. Kenneth Frampton | New York, USA
- _ Prof. Luis Fernández-Galiano Ruiz | Madrid, Spain
- _ Prof. Friedrich Kurrent | Vienna, Austria
- _ Prof. Anton Schweighofer | Vienna, Austria
- _ Prof. Luciano Semerani | Venice, Italy
- _ Prof. Ákos Moravánszky | Zürich, Switzerland
- _ Prof. Vittorio Magnano Lampugnani | Zürich, Switzerland
- _ Prof. Vladimir Slapeta | Brno, Czech Republic
- _ Prof. Boris Podrecca | Vienna, Austria
- _ Prof. Robert Macleod | Florida, USA
- _ Prof. Robert McCarter | St. Louis, USA
- _ Prof. Milton Braga | São Paulo, Brazil
- _ Prof. Roy Graham | Washington, USA
- _ Prof. Martha Kohen | Florida, USA
- _ Prof. Heinz Tesar | Vienna, Austria
- _ Esa Laaksonen | Alvar Aalto Academy, Finland
- _ Prof. Keith L. Eggener | Missouri, USA
- _ Prof. Peter MacKeith | St. Louis, USA
- _ Prof. Juhani Pallasmaa | Helsinki, Finland
- _ Prof. Aino Niskanen | Helsinki, Finland
- _ Prof. Zeuler Lima | St. Louis, USA
- _ Prof. Hugo Segawa | São Paulo, Brazil
- _ Prof. Vladimir Kulić | Florida, USA
- _ Prof. Srdjan Jovanović Weiss | Chicago, USA
- _ William Saunders | Newark, UK
- _ Prof. Roemer van Toorn | Umeå, Västerbotten, Sweden
- _ Prof. Mary McLeod | New York, USA