Editorial
Designing
Modern
Life
The argument of this *docomomo* Journal stands for interior design identified as a key conservation issue for modern living. *docomomo* acknowledges the major relevance of reflecting on the Modern Movement heritage, focusing on one of the most fragile conservation issues: modern interior space namely on modern furniture and product design questions.

The aim is to contribute for the discussion that relates modern heritage and interior space, common daily life and musealization of Modern Interior Spaces, gathered underneath a global strategy, to better understand and preserve these delicate monuments. In fact, the interior space with all devices and furniture pieces is frequently not appreciated as an essential matter in safeguard interventions. That’s why 2012 *docomomo* Journals are devoted to interior design and furniture, discussing preservation strategies and critical reflexions.

Ranging from restoration process research and know-how, new modern materials and techniques are discussed facing up to new conservation process and innovative rehabilitation solutions, as well. One knows that Modern spatiality must require furniture conceived under a unitary design concept, which implies today to identify every detail with the aim of a reconstruction process, where research on documentation is one of the success keys.

This year of 2012, when *docomomo* major Conference is hosted at the Espoo Cultural Center, the stimulus of this city center settlement in connection to Otaniemi University Campus is the starting point that justifies going deeper in the relation that connects form and function, esthetics and ethics. In fact, as Gropius stated, the “design from the cup of coffee to the urban plan” ability is the motto challenge for the 12th *docomomo* International Conference simultaneously with Helsinki being the World Design Capital 2012 dealing with all disciplinary aspects.

Finally, this issue wishes to pay tribute to the Finnish culture and its original contribution to Design. Indeed, through the conception of organic forms and the use of natural materials, a different path has been explored answering to sensorial and tactile comfort. Following the global design idea, this theme is the result of a challenge which is related to the Finnish approach to Modern Movement architecture, namely to an organic character that privileges comfort and economy, beauty and utility, simplicity and synthesis; improving regional roots in order to fulfill the sense of the place.

I wish to thank Bárbara Coutinho who acted as guest editor of this “Designing Modern Life” Dossier. Due to her knowledge and know-how acquired within a transversal framework as an art historian, researcher, curator and MUDE director, together with the knowledge shared by a range of authors, in connection with pioneer practical investigation on the subject carried out by restorers and researchers, it is possible to extend this debate over the reflection on the creation itself, the tools created by Modern Movement architects and designers to answer to efficiency and economy, improving comfort and beauty in daily life.

*Ana Tostões, Chair of docomomo International*
1. Espoo Cultural Centre
   Arto Sipinen
   1989

2. Wellin & Göös Printing Plant - WeeGee
   Aarno Ruusuvuori
   1964-1974

3. Tapiola School
   Jorma Järvi
   1959-1960

4. Tapiola Baths
   Aarne Ervi
   1965

5. Kontionkenttä Park
   Jusi Jännes
   1959-1961

6. Technical University
   Alvar Aalto
   1964

7. Dipoli Kongressikeskus
   Reima & Raili Pietilä
   1961-1966

8. Otaniemi Chapel
   Heikki & Kaija Siren
   1957

9. Housing Buildings
   Alvar Aalto
   1962-1967

10. Studio in Munkkiniemi
    Alvar Aalto
    1956

11. Töölö Rowing Stadium
    Hilding Ekelund & Alpo Lippa
    1940

12. Olympic Stadium
    Yrjö Lindegren & Toivo Jäntti
    1940-1952

13. House of Culture
    Alvar Aalto
    1955-1958

14. City Theatre
    Timo Penttilä
    1959-67

15. Finlandia Hall
    Alvar Aalto
    1967-1971

16. Temppeliaukio Church
    Timo & Tuomo Suomalainen
    1969

17. Portania
    Aarne Ervi
    1957

18. Rautatalo
    Alvar Aalto
    1951-55

19. Academic Bookshop
    Alvar Aalto
    1962

National Pensions Institute
Alvar Aalto
1952