1. ISC-ID Seminars, Collaborations + Publications

1.1 Seminars
The ISC-ID Seminar in collaboration with ISC-T on ‘Plastics in Modern Movement Interiors. Conservation and (re-)design of plastic Finishes, Furniture and Products’ took place at the University of Antwerp on 5th March, 2018. It was organized by Uta Pottgiesser, Zsuzsanna Böröcz, Marieke Jaenen - Karine van Doorselae from the Faculty of Design Sciences of UAntwerp in collaboration with DOCOMOMO Belgium (Program: https://www.uantwerpen.be/nl/faculteiten/ontwerpwetenschappen/in-de-kijker/plastics-in-interiors/). (Report in attachment)

A one-day international seminar focusing on the interiors and interior applications such as finishings and objects took place on Monday March, 5th, 2018, at the Faculty of Design Sciences at UAntwerp, Belgium. The program featured a.o. architectural historians, interior and heritage specialists, designers, material scientists, art conservators, consultants and practitioners. It offered discussion and networking.

A one-day excursion to various relevant sites was scheduled for Tuesday March 6th, 2018, Brussels. A three-day workshop for PhD, Master and Bachelor was open for students who attended the seminar and excursion.

1.2. Activities
2016 October-December Lecture Series: Inside Belgian Modernism II
Three cases on design for the industrialized society, and what to do with them today.

Generally speaking interiors, furniture and design tend to enjoy a short life span. Due to constant renewal and replacement they represent the more ephemeral side of architecture. They most closely shape everyday life and as such testify directly and intimately to the ever changing cultural conditions of a period. Consequently, they are subject to frequent alteration or replacement, as people (re)create their own places. Their most defining qualities, to do with immediacy and nearness, are also their weakness. But, at the same time, design is a mirror for the understanding of each time period. Because design implies an understanding about spatial and architectural ideas, furniture, equipment and decorative arts is an inestimable archive of information about life, society, ideology and style. These utensils were not made to be displayed in museums but often end up on display, far from their original more active role in everyday life. From this perspective Docomomo Belgium offers a series of three lectures which approaches the heritage issues of Modern Design through the lens of these seemingly
subsidiary aspects. The presentations of the series questions examples, discourses and possibilities for innovative ways of preservation of Modern(ist) design artefacts.

25 October 2016 Ernie Mellegers, University Leiden (NL):
‘7316 X 6 or Turning Circle #2 (no more beds from Brittany)’
Workshop Flemish Government Architect | Galerie Ravenstein 54-59, 1000 Brussels
Following the lecture, possibility for a free visit on the opening of the exhibition A Good City had Industry at 8:00 PM in BOZAR Brussels.

22 November 2016 Katarina Serulus, University of Antwerp (B)
Belgian Design Framed: the interior of the Design Centre in Brussels (1964-1968)
+ free museum visit (18:00-20:00)
Ghent Designmuseum | Jan Breydelstraat 5, 9000 Ghent

20 December 2016 Pierre Lhoas (Lhoas & Lhoas Architects Brussels)
‘Much with nothing’: the Arts & Design Atomium Museum (ADAM) in Brussels
+ Museum visit + Drink
Museum ADAM | Place de Belgique 1, 1020 Brussels

1.3. ISC-ID Dossiers – Plastic Seminar - Publication

A report of the seminar in Delft and Antwerp is available in the DOCOMOMO Journal 58 (2018).


1.4. Further publications
The organizers of the Seminars in Delft and Antwerp have taken initiative to publish a dossier or a DOCOMOMO Journal as a summary of both seminars. The publication is planned for 2019.
1. ISC-ID membership confirmation

Action: New members and candidates of the ISC-ID: list available of interested candidates. In a second phase active invitation with world-wide focus

A call for membership will be launched on the 15th International Docomomo Conference Ljubljana

2. Chair and secretary of the ISC/ID for 2018-20

Action: Zsuzsanna Böröcz, prior Chair of committee, and Bábara Coutinho, prior Chair of committee are proposed to be elected one additional term.

A Secretary of committee, Eva Storgaard, is proposed to be elected.

As the committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, August 29 12.15 - 01.15 a.m., 2018, the committee will confirm elections and continued membership results at the scheduled council meeting on Thursday, August 30, 2018.

3. ISC-ID Work Program 2018-20: Meetings, Seminars, Collaborations + Publications

3.1 Committee Meetings: yearly or according to activities (could also be through video-conference)

3.2 Seminars and themes: ISC and Collaborations

3.2.1 Action: For organizing seminars: collaborating with the other committees, universities and museums (University of Antwerp, University of Lisbon, Izmir University of Economics, ADAM Brussels)

3.2.2 Action: ECIA (European Council of Interior Architects) meeting in Antwerp (B) on 13.09.2018 which is organized by Inge Somers (University of Antwerp): talks on collaboration with ISC-ID and looking for members/candidates

It is agreed that the committee’s willingness and interest in working with other committees on some joint events would be presented to the Board.
3.2.3 **Action:** start of discussion: possibilities to create a digital platform that presents Interior Design in the Modern Movement (how to feed the platform with information, publications, and images relevant to the theme?)

3.2.4 **Action:** start of discussion: organizing a digital exhibition on the iconic interiors of the modern movement (Bárbara Coutinho as initiator from the end of 2018, as a feasible initiative for 2019, a search for partners and co-coordinators to be made)

3.2.5 **Action:** start of discussion: submitting an application to European Organization (http://www.europeana.eu/) in order to develop a European Database of Modern Design (Bárbara Coutinho as initiator from the end of 2018, a search for partners and co-coordinators to be made).

3.3 Publications

The organizers of the ISC-ID-T seminars together in Delft and Antwerp have taken initiative to publish a dossier or a DOCOMOMO-Journal as a summary of both seminars on Plastic in Delft and Antwerp. The publication is planned for 2019.

4. **Proposed Recommendations for Council Meeting**

1. The ISC-ID has (co-)organized the **Seminar 2 on ‘Plastic in Modern Movement’** in 2018 in Antwerp:
   Seminar 1 took place on ‘Synthetic building components’ on October 22, 2017 at TU Delft (organized by Wessel de Jonge and Wido Quist).
   
   **Seminar 2** took place on ‘Plastic interiors, objects, and finishes’ on March 5, 2018 at the University of Antwerp (organized by Uta Pottgiesser, Zsuzsanna Börocz and Marieke Jaenen) as a collaboration with ISC-T.

   Both will be documented as DOCOMOMO Journal or as a Dossier in 2019.

2. The ISC-ID has approved a Secretary of Committee, **Eva Storgaard**.
3. The ISC-ID may review the action plan regularly in order to formalize the Strategic Plan.
4. ISC-ID shall work on the invitation of interested to become members and broaden its network.
5. Committee members of the ISC-ID would like to have the opportunity to provide input and to help organizing committees on Interior Design on future DOCOMOMO International Conferences. The ISC-ID is interested in providing input prior to formalizing the call for papers.

_antwerp-lisbon 23. august 2018_

_zsuzsanna böröcz and bárbara coutinho with deep gratitude for uta pottgiesser for her examples and guidance_
International Conference and PhD-Workshop, 5-9 March 2018:
‘Plastics in Modern Movement Interiors. Conservation and (Re-)Design of Plastic Finishes, Furniture and Products’

Organization: University of Antwerp, Campus Mutsaard

A collaboration between University of Antwerp, ISC Docomomo Interior Design, Docomomo Belgium

Partners: KU Leuven Belgium, Free University of Brussels (VUB), Technical University of Delft Netherlands (TU Delft), Technology Arts Sciences Cologne (TH Köln), Institute of Advanced Architecture Catalunya (IAAC), Flemish Architecture Institute (VAI)


Discussion between researchers and practitioners on the history, conservation and (re-) design of plastic finishes and products.

University of Antwerp, 5 March 2018
The 20th century and its built environment has been widely influenced by the use of plastic – in particular the interiors and our daily consumer products. Today in Europe, the building industry is the second biggest demander of plastics after the packaging industry. The seminar, the first of its kind in Belgium, aimed to raise the sensibility of young researchers and designers as well as of restoration and heritage professionals towards the use, conservation and recycling of plastic finishes and products in the context of circular economy approaches. The program of the 1-day seminar provided a theoretical, historical and practical input in an interdisciplinary context, and took place on March 5th 2018, at the Faculty of Design Sciences at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

The event was organized in collaboration between the DOCOMOMO International Specialist Committee on Interior Design (ISC/ID), DOCOMOMO Belgium and the Henry van der Velde Research Group at the University of Antwerp, and brought together material scientists and chemists, art conservators, architectural historians, heritage specialists, designers, consultants and students. Nathalie Vallet, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Design Sciences, welcomed participants from eight different countries, in particular the attending experts in conservation, circular economy and industry, emphasizing the interdisciplinary character of the event. In her introduction, Uta Pottgiesser, spokesperson of the Henry van der Velde Research Group and Chair of the DOCOMOMO International Specialist Committee on Technology (ISC/T) referred to the past seminars and publications related to research and practical applications in the context of the Modern Movement.

The morning session on ‘History’ was moderated by Zsuzsanna Bőröcz (UAntwerp, KU Leuven), Chair of the DOCOMOMO International Specialist Committee on Interior Design (DOCOMOMO ISC/ID), who also presented the plans of the new committee. DOCOMOMO ISC/ID was established in 2016 in order to deepen the knowledge of Interior Design, an issue of major relevance for the Modern Movement and for modern life, as it provides necessary spatial, ideological and aesthetic information for fully understanding and experiencing Modernity. One aspect of this was the development of a new aesthetics in response to emerging technologies, of which the plastics were a prime example. She stated: ‘The Modern Interiors’ identity is characterized by a strong and coherent style across many disciplines. The unity which results from this makes the conservation of modern interiors a formidable challenge.’ Next step for Docomomo ISC/ID is to broaden its network starting with the Architecture Faculties at Belgian Universities, which are flying high with academic research on interior design, both from a heritage conservation perspective as well as from a technical and design viewpoint.
More than 80 participants were attending the seminar featuring four different sessions on the history, heritage, design and future of plastic interiors. Photo: Marieke Jaenen.

Architect Wessel de Jonge, TU Delft Chair of Heritage & Design, kicked off with an overview of ‘Synthetic Building Components’ since the early 20th Century, referring to Anthony Walker’s seminal research of the 1990s. He explained how early thermoset and thermoplastic building materials were primarily fit for interior use. In order to promote the use of plastics several producers developed prototypes of single family houses, such as the Monsanto ‘House of the Future’ in 1957. The examples were presented with a great array of illustrations which allowed the audience to be transported back in time.

In his talk on ‘The Plasticarium: Collecting Design History’ Arnaud Bozzini, Director of the ADAM in Brussels showed this remarkable acquisition. The ‘Plasticarium’ is the only one of its kind and was launched during the late 1980’s, comprising around 2,000 art and design items: everyday objects, design pieces and artwork. He explained how ADAM started from a private collector’s enlightened taste, which became the seed for an entire design museum. This lecture featured the story behind the collected design items, their value and the new museum’s project, with details on its exhibition policy and the presentation of the permanent collection.

The history of ‘Plastic Goods in Belgium’ was presented by Nina Serulus (VAI Antwerp, KU Leuven). Serulus’s lecture was a fascinating introduction to the history of plastic until the 1970’s. She started with the period immediately after WWII, when plastic furniture first reached Belgium through international companies. She explained that only in the 1960’s the Belgian production of plastics slowly developed. The very first steps were – remarkably enough – not taken by the furniture industry or designers but by the petro-chemical industry, which was in search of new markets. The very first Belgian furniture company which ventured into the large-scale production of plastics was
Meurop. Their colourful chairs were produced and sold in huge quantities, while the design process was often led by trial and error. Meurop’s plastic dream finally came to an end with the oil crisis of 1973.

The second session on ‘Heritage’ was chaired by Marieke Jaenen (UAntwerp, ICOMOS Belgium), with a focus on research and conservation approaches. Griet Kockelkoren (KIK-IRPA) gave an overview of the challenges of ‘Conservation Approaches of Plastics in Interiors’ and referred to the importance of a precise understanding of the production process and components. Together with Friederike Wäntig (TH Cologne) she is working on larger objects. Nick Serneels (UAntwerp) is investigating ‘Plastic finishes (in Flemish) Interiors’ in his master thesis and explains the difficulties in finding precise information about the objects and in particular their materiality.

Griet Kockelkoren (KIK-IRPA) gives an overview of the challenges of plastic conservation in the heritage session moderated by Marieke Jaenen. Photo: Marc Dubois. The final reception was used for networking between speakers, practitioners and academia. Photo: Ashal Tyurkay.

The afternoon opened with a session on ‘Design’ chaired by Wessel de Jonge (TU Delft), showing how designers can and have to take responsibility for a sustainable use and re-use of materials in interiors and buildings. Karine Van Doorsselaer, industrial engineer (UAntwerp) gave an overview over the ‘Design with Plastics in a Circular Economy’ and showed the potentials and limits of certain materials. Michael Ghyoot (ROTOR Brussels), presented different approaches for the ‘Recycling- Upcycling-Re-use: Melaminated Panels’ (http://rotordb.org and http://rotordc.com) that are a prominent interior element. Often used in kitchens and bathrooms and as partition walls in public buildings, they are not degradable and challenge the designer to develop new ideas for re-use. In his talk on ‘Advanced Architectural Approaches with Plastic’ Alexandre Dubor (IAAC), Barcelona
advocated the exploration and implementation of new digital and robotic technologies in design and construction. He showed how materials should be seen as a design tool to contribute to affordable, fast, sustainable and personalized constructions (https://iaac.net/).

The final session on ‘The future of plastics’ was dedicated to industry approaches. Niklas Meine from Covestro (Leverkusen/Antwerp) presented the companies’ approach towards the ‘Next Generation Polymers’ by ‘Innovating within the framework of sustainability’ and the first results of this ongoing research. On the material side the amount of oil in PU-Foam could be reduced by 20% today and it is the aim to further compensate petroleum by CO2 or other biomass components. The final talk by Steven Schuitema from FKuR Polymers GmbH in Wittlich (Germany) gave an overview of the ‘Customized Solutions for Bioplastics’, explaining the differences between biodegradable and bio-based plastics and showing the changes in policy and strategy towards more bioplastics.

After moderating the last session Uta Pottgiesser (UAntwerp) concluded: ‘The conference raised the awareness about the presence, abundance and particularities of plastics in our interiors. It also clarifies the need for more knowledge and new approaches in the design disciplines towards the principles of a circular economy’. At the end of the day the roles and responsibilities of individuals, politics and industry as stakeholders in this process were discussed. It was good to see how intensively designers, researchers and students exchanged knowledge and experiences on the topic. The companies Covestro, Vink and Biopla contributed with exhibits and material samples.

Excursion to Brussels, 6 March 2018

The excursion day started with a bus trip to the Brussels Atomium. On the Heysel site we visited the Brussels Design Museum ADAM. Arnaud Bozzini, the director gave us a guided tour of the collection. We also had the opportunity to visit the impressive depot holding a wide array of national and international plastic objects. Furthermore we checked out the current temporary exhibition on ‘Sovjet design. Red wealth’.
The visit to ADAM illustrated the challenges of conservation of plastic objects. Photo: Michel Corthaut.

The next stop was in the European district of Brussels. There we visited the first Belgian building with a reinforced polyester façade, namely the headquarter of the CDH Centre Démocrate Humaniste. This modernist building was designed by the architects René Aerts and Paul Ramon and constructed between 1964-66. On site, Zsuzsanna Böröcz and Uta Pottgiesser gave an historical and technical explanation on the construction of the building. The third visit was at ROTOR in Anderlecht. This visit showed how construction elements can be dismantled from buildings under demolition and how these elements can be sorted, stored and re-used in new constructions.

The north and south façade show how different weathering affects the material. Doors at the ROTOR shop and view of one of the storage sites. Photos: Michel Corthaut / Uta Pottgiesser

Workshop on upcycling and the practical challenges of conservation and re-use of plastics in interiors. University of Antwerp, 7-9 March 2018

On Wednesday the workshop started with an intense theoretical course on the properties of different plastics by Karin Van Doorslaer (UA, Product Development). In the afternoon the students of the master interior architecture and heritage studies started to work with different materials and plastic objects. The workshop using HPL-panels was conducted by Victor Meesters (ROTOR, Brussels) and the workshop using PU-Foams was conducted by Evy Puelinckx (upcycling consultancy, Antwerp). The two made clear the differences between designing and constructing with smooth and hard materials.
The Friday afternoon workshop focused on the recognition of different plastic characteristics. The students had the opportunity to work in the laboratories at the heritage department. Under the supervision of Marieke Verboven (UA, Conservation and Restoration) they were able to experiment individually with chemicals and learn more about the properties of damage to plastic objects.

Experimenting with different smooth materials and objects (foams) and melaminated panels. Finally some experiments in the laboratory of conservation & restoration. Photo: Marieke Jaenen.

The results of the workshop were shown at the Open Campus Day, University of Antwerp, March 10th, 2018.

**Further output following the conference**

One or more publications on the theme are being prepared in collaboration with TU Delft.