

docomomo ISC/Urbanism and Landscape

ISC/U+L REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2016-2018

A: Conferences/Events

(i): Africa-themed urbanism conferences:

- Following the highly successful DOCOMOMO U + L African Urbanism conferences in July and October 2015 (KNUST Kumasi, etc.), two further events were held in 2017 and 2018.
- Firstly, in July 2017 at the University of Edinburgh (with video link to Ghana), the 'Conserving African Modernism' conference (see also (c) Publications), aiming to broaden the agenda of modernist urban recording elsewhere in Africa, with participants e.g. from South Africa:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/docomomointernational/photos/?tab=album&album_id=763124203880516; <https://sites.eca.ed.ac.uk/docomomoiscul/publications/conservingafricanmodernism/>

- Secondly, on 6-8 July 2018, a writing workshop with young Ghanaian students based at KNUST Guest House, Accra, led by OU and members of WARUH (West African Rapid Urbanism and Heritage Conservation Research Network), including Kuukuwa Manful, Victoria Okoye and G O Frimpong, intended to foster historical and critical writing on urban modernist ensembles (and earlier buildings), in conjunction with the ongoing DOCOMOMO-Ghana initiative:

see <https://africanarchitectures.wordpress.com>, and www.africarchi.net (OU)

(ii): Joint Research Lecture with DOCOMOMO Israel

- On 9 June 2017, Yael Allweil (Technion, Haifa) and Inbal Ben Asher Gitler (BGU) gave a joint lecture at the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies: 'The Role of Housing Research in Design, Preservation and Urban Regeneration':

[https://www.docomomo.com/events?sec=6&id=92\(MG-OU\)](https://www.docomomo.com/events?sec=6&id=92(MG-OU))

(iii): International conference 'URB/DOCONF 2017' – 'Facing Post-War Urban Heritage in Central-Eastern Europe', BME, Budapest

- This regular doctoral conference on the history and heritage management of Central-Eastern European modernist urbanism was held in collaboration with ISC U + L at the

Budapest University of Technology in October and coordinated by Melinda Benko: the ISC U + L was represented by MG.

See the following links: <http://urb.bme.hu/doconf2017> (conference e-proceedings); <http://www.urb.bme.hu/en/uhrab/prefabmh/> (MB)

(iv): 'Building the Modern Campus' (joint landscape/urbanism activity):

- Workshop on campus landscape, planning and heritage, at University of Melbourne, 2018. (AS and HL)

(v): Tower Block end-of-project events

- The HLF-funded 'Tower Block UK' project was rounded off by two events in early 2018: a masterclass lecture by Hannah Garrow and MG on 25 January, and an end-of-event conference and field tour on 12 June, both at the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies: see <https://sites.eca.ed.ac.uk/sccsmasterclass/thu-25-jan-2018/> (MG)

(vi) Military Landscapes – a Future for Military Heritage: Conference, 21-24 June 2017

- This major international conference, held on the island of La Maddalena, Sardinia, and organised by the Università degli Studi, Cagliari, examined the heritage and conservation challenges of the redundant military patrimony, with Cold War structures as one of the main areas of study. (MG) See <https://www.docomomo.com/events?sec=6&id+93>

(vii) MODSCAPES: Modernist Re-Inventions of the Rural Landscape

- We are a supporting organisation for this ambitious trans-national research programme into the modernist rural environments of the 20th century, and attended the initial 2017 conference in Milan (MG/AT). <https://modscapes.eu/project/>

B: Database/Research Work

(i): Mass housing: pilot database/image bank

- The award to Edinburgh University of a £53,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2014 made possible an ambitious project to create a searchable database of mass housing images and data, using a relatively sophisticated format based on Drupal software, initially focused on the UK, in keeping with HLF rules, but also potentially extensible internationally. Over 4,000 historic slides dating from the 1980s (many of long-

demolished blocks) were scanned and sites created, and gaps in coverage are now being infilled (<http://www.towerblock.eca.ed.ac.uk/>)

- Work continues on the international extensions of the project, including the initial 'piggyback' Hong Kong database (<http://www.hk.towerblock.eca.ed.ac.uk/>) and an alternative, google-searchable arrangement hosted on University of Edinburgh's open-access 'Datashare', on which pilot city collections covering Tashkent, Budapest and Madrid have been uploaded: see for instance <https://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/handle/10283/2927>; <https://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/handle/10283/3127>; <https://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/handle/10283/2979>; <https://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/handle/10283/2982> (MG)

(ii): International mass housing research programme and external liaison

- Our extensive global research programme on postwar social housing has continued to generate a range of field visits and highly productive liaisons with DOCOMOMO working parties – visits since 2016 have included Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and various European countries. The housing initiative serves both as a basis for international liaison and for further research efforts, including 2 ongoing book projects covering the international history of mass housing (Bloomsbury) and housing in Hong Kong (Routledge). (MG)

C: Publications/E-Proceedings

- **E-proceedings:** Summer 2018 saw the successful publication of E-proceedings 7 and 8, covering the July 2017 'Conserving African Modernism' conference, and the June-July 2017 student workshop at Hunan University, 'China's Vanishing Socialist Housing Heritage':
see <https://sites.eca.ed.ac.uk/docomomoiscul/publications/conservingafricanmodernism/>
and <https://sites.eca.ed.ac.uk/docomomoiscul/publications/chinas-vanishing-socialist-housing-heritage/>. The proceedings of the 2007 conference on postwar new university design and landscape, at Stirling University, are not yet completed (some contributions have not yet been traced) (OU/MG)

D: Africa/S Asia/Global South/Activities

(i): Recent international liaison activity:

- Liaison activity has included support of the ultimately successful negotiations (led by Gaurav Sharma, architect, Delhi) for the formation of a DOCOMOMO India national working party: the candidacy proposal will be presented by us at the Council meeting. (MG)

(ii): Africa-related conferences/events: see A (ii) above. (OU)

ISC/U+L PLAN OF ACTION 2018-2020

A: Landscape

- **MODSCAPES: Modernist Re-Inventions of the Rural Landscape:** We will continue our involvement as a supporting organisation, including participation in the 2019 conference in Berlin (MG). <https://modscapes.eu/project/>
- **‘Building the Modern Campus’** (joint landscape/urbanism activity): workshop on campus landscape, planning and heritage, at University of Melbourne, 2018; 2019 book about modern campuses. (AS and HL)
- **Landscape activities (general):** Further investigation of project for a landscape-themed book, including the suggestion of contributions by working parties on selected landscapes (subject to any wider DOCOMOMO-International policy developments about ‘homework’). (JH & AS)

B: Urbanism

- **‘Scandinavian Housing Week’** in partnership with DOCOMOMO Denmark and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, November 2018: activities will include a lecture (‘Modernist mass housing – towards a global and Scandinavian overview’) at the KADK School of Architecture, a research seminar at the University of Copenhagen, and a field expedition around Køge Bugt Byerne (in collaboration with Forstadmuseet I Hvidovre) (PS)
- **Flanders social housing research inventory:** potential tie-up with the Flanders Heritage Agency – investigate issuing joint English-language synthesis of proposed book on the social-housing inventory (possibly in 2019 to coincide with the centenary of the founding of the national social-housing company). (KVH)
- **URB/DOCONF:** the next event (with BME Budapest) will take place in autumn 2019 – details to be confirmed in due course by MB. (MB)

- **Jiangnan University, Wuxi:** student workshop on modern urban heritage, October 2018 (MG)
- Continue to investigate Henrieta Moravcikova's 2016 proposal for international exchange and collaboration on theme of 'co-existence and conflicts between modern and traditional urban structures'. (HM)

C: Databases

- The UK (HLF-supported) and Hong Kong projects will be completed, refining and infilling the searchable databases in both cases – accessible both directly and via the 'Tower Block' website. (MG)
- Continued development of DOCOMOMO International Mass Housing Archive with UoE Datashare (next potential cities: Belgrade and Sofia) (MG)

D: Africa/Global South

- Further development of DOCOMOMO-Ghana (now focused chiefly in Accra); further West African collaborative events (tbc) (OU)

E: PUBLICATIONS (Lead: Miles Glendinning)

- The Bloomsbury Academic overview book on global history of mass housing (now in progress) will be completed and submitted for publication, and work will continue on the Hong Kong Routledge book. Arising out of the research for the global book, the potential for a more focused follow-up study of the architecture of postwar mass housing in Yugoslavia is being investigated, in collaboration with academics in the former Yugoslav territories. (MG)
- Publication of e-proceedings 9 and 10 (Ghana writing workshop and, probably, the Tower Block end-of-project conference). Complete Stirling University proceedings if possible. (MG/OU)