

Editorial Designing Modern Life

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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. Weilin&Göös Printing Plant - WeeGee
Aarno Ruusuvuori
1964-1974



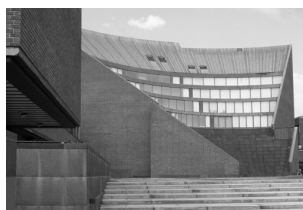
3. Tapiola School
Jorma Järvi
1959-1960



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. Tempeliahaukio 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



Pääkaupunkiseutu

Helsinki Metropolitan Area

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Helsinki

Otaniemi

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Tapiola

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Espoo

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