

13th International docomomo Conference “Expansion & Conflict” Seoul, Korea, 2014

The 13th International **docomomo** Conference took place in Seoul, Korea, between 24 and 27 September 2014. Jong Soung Kimm, Chair of the 13th International **docomomo** Conference, explains that “after much soul-searching, ‘Expansion and Conflict’ was agreed as the theme by the organizers, and was presented at the Helsinki conference in 2012”.¹ Jong Soung stresses that “the keyword in the theme is ‘conflict’, and that word at one point was put forward as the lead of the catch phrase”.² Not as a pejorative word, “conflict” was used as a challenge to invoke a critical dialogue about the diasporas of the Modern Movement: how it has extended and taken root in various cultures and generations as well as how there has been conflict, if any, during this process, as explains Tae Woo Kim, Chair of **docomomo** Korea.³

Moreover, as the first International **docomomo** conference held in Asia, the 13th International **docomomo** Conference’s call for papers emphasized the necessity of re-measurement “of the expansion of the modern ethos within the different context of Asia. Instigated by a geo-political expansionist policy, colonial expansion produced violent confrontations and challenged the very cultural and heritage foundation of Asia. As a result, the relevancy of the Modern Movement — not as a style but as a way of thinking, a harbinger of contemporary values — was tested and fortified. Predictably, modernity in Asia grew and matured through this process of conflict and expansion and intrinsically took on very distinct identities in different regions”. To comprehend the variety of Asian Modernisms, besides the usual sub-themes on Education & Theory, Urbanism & Landscape, Conservation & Re-Use and Technology, the call for papers integrated a sub-theme on Asia Modernity, in order to map a comparative analysis of each country’s modern roots and major achievements. Ultimately, the conference was about the resilience of the Modern Movement.

The opening ceremony was held in the evening of 24 September at the Ninetree Convention Center, hosted by Tae Woo and Jong Soung Kimm and introduced by

Eui-Sung Yi. Many distinguished guests, **docomomo** partners’ representatives — UIA, UNESCO, ICOMOS and the Getty Conservation Institute — and **docomomo** friends attended the ceremony, which included Korean traditional music and dance performances. **docomomo** International Chair, Ana Tostões, formally opened the 13th International **docomomo** Conference.

The conference itself, between 25 and 27 September, took place in the recently-renovated National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul. The museum is a modern extension and renovation of the old Kimusa Military Hospital, built in 1928 during the Japanese occupation. Following that function, it was used as the Defense Security Command building during the tumultuous early days of democracy in Korea. The occasion to preserve its history and infuse it with modern cultural relevance was celebrated and inaugurated by the 13th International **docomomo** Conference as its first major event.



01 National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul. © **docomomo** Korea, 2014.



02 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Opening ceremony. © Kenji Watanabe, 2014.

About 80 papers were presented at three simultaneous sessions, during three enlightening days of discovery that were a huge success. Moreover, it was with great satisfaction that **docomomo** International and **docomomo** Korea published the Proceedings of the 13th International **docomomo** Conference for distribution to all the participants in the first day.

The first Conference day was opened with an inspiring keynote lecture by Jong Soung Kimm about the legacy of Mies van der Rohe — with whom he worked during the 60’s — in modern architecture in Korea. The audience had the opportunity to listen to Jong Soung talk about Mies’ influences on his own practice of architecture in Korea. The day was closed with the keynote lecture by Hubert-Jan Henket raising awareness towards the future of **docomomo**. The founder of **docomomo** International recalled that “two of the main global problems we are facing today — climate change and violent clashes between old cultures and Modernity — have their roots in the history of Modernity”⁴, appealing to all to join forces by making use of the lessons from the Modern Movement, contributing to the model where economic growth develops in harmony with the principles of re-use, reduction and recycling; through wise balances between old and new, as well between different cultural regions. Following on from this, Hubert-Jan Henket



03 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Speech of Jong Soung Kimm, Chair of the 13th International **docomomo** Conference, at the opening ceremony. © Yasuko Kamei, 2014.



04 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Opening Ceremony. Ana Tostões, chair of **docomomo** International, Tae Woo Kim, Chair of **docomomo** Korea and Rha Sun-Hwa, Administrator of Korea Cultural Heritage Administration. © **docomomo** International, 2014.



05 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Fumihiko Maki with the editorial team of **docomomo** Journal 50. © **docomomo** International, 2014.



06 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Round Table. © Carolina Quiroga, 2014.

and Ana Tostões, called for the creation of a **docomomo** International Specialist Committee on Sustainability. **Docomomo** International challenges everyone interested in participating, to send to docomomo@tecnico.ulisboa their ideas and suggestions, before 6 January 2015.

Fumihiko Maki opened the second day with a lecture on the theme of the conference through his *Investigations on Collective Form*, contributing for the debate on the effect of the growth process of the great metropolises on the scope of Modern Movement ideas: “as Fumihiko Maki argues, searching for new formal concepts in contemporary cities lies in the magnitude of recent change due to the unprecedented rapid and extensive transformations in the physical structure of society, rapid communication methods, technological progress and its impact upon regional cultures: ‘we must see our society as a dynamic field of interrelated forces, a dynamic equilibrium [...] which will change in character as time passes’ (Maki, 1964).”⁵

The **docomomo** Council Meeting took place in the afternoon. Angola, Israel, Kuwait, Taiwan and Thailand were accepted as new **docomomo** Working Parties and were welcomed to the **docomomo** family. Egypt, Hong Kong and Macao also became active Working Parties, losing their provisional status. Zara Ferreira was elected as the new General Secretary of **docomomo** International. The Council offered a vote of thanks to Ivan Blasi, in recognition of his work and commitment to **docomomo** over the last 4 years as General Secretary.

The Council approved Lisbon as the venue of the 14th International **docomomo** Conference between 6 and 9 September 2016, under the theme: “Adaptive Re-Use. The Modern Movement towards the Future”. In a break with tradition, the Lisbon conference is being

organized by the International Secretariat, reason why the Council stressed the importance of all Working Parties helping **docomomo** International in this challenging and hard task.

The International Specialist Committees presented their reports and plans of action for the next two years. Changes were made to some of the committees and these are listed in the Appendix to this journal. The **docomomo** International Specialist Committee on Publications was re-created. The members of Advisory Board remained the same and the new Executive Committee was elected, consisting of Ana Tostões, Zara Ferreira, Louise Noelle and Panayotis Tournikiotis.

Hubert-Jan Henket, honorary President of **docomomo** International, and Ana Tostões, Chair of **docomomo** International, proposed amendments to the Eindhoven Statement (1990), focusing on the theme of re-use and sustainability, in order to address **docomomo**'s future challenges, namely to formulate new ideas for the future of the built environment based on the past experiences of the Modern Movement. The Council Meeting discussed the proposal and a new Statement, the *Eindhoven-Seoul Statement 2014*, was unanimously approved as follows:

DOCOMOMO International is a non-profit organization dedicated to the DOcumentation and CONservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the MODern MOVement.

It aims to:

1. Bring the significance of the architecture of the Modern Movement to the attention of the public, the authorities, the professionals and the educational community.
2. Identify and promote the surveying of the works of the Modern Movement.
3. Promote the conservation and (re)use of buildings and sites of the Modern Movement.

4. Oppose destruction and disfigurement of significant works.
5. Foster and disseminate the development of appropriate techniques and methods of conservation and adaptive (re)use.
6. Attract funding for documentation conservation and (re)use
7. Explore and develop new ideas for the future of a sustainable built environment based on the past experiences of the Modern Movement.

The Council acclaimed the Secretariat's continued good work in Lisbon. Hubert-Jan Henket thanked the Chair, Ana Tostões, for the extremely hard work carried out over the last two years, stating that the Chair and the General Secretary are the key to **docomomo** and the Chair successfully managed the moving of the headquarters to Lisbon, under very difficult and challenging circumstances.

The second day of the conference closed with the keynote speech by Mark Sexton concerning the restoration of Crown Hall by Mies van der Rohe, undertaken by his office (Krueck+Sexton Architects), reinforcing the connection between **docomomo** and architectonic production.

On the last day, there was an inspiring round table, conducted by Hubert-Jan Henket and Jong Soung Kimm. The round table participants included the new Working Parties and Asian Working Parties, in order to discuss sustainability as a keyword for **docomomo**'s future. The participants were Angola (Filomena Carvalho), Cambodia (Khun-Neay Khuon), Hong Kong (Koon Wee), Iran (Hadi Naderi), Japan (Yoshiyuki Yamana), Korea (Tae Woo and Eui-Sung Yi), Kuwait (Zahra Ali Baba), Macao (Rui Leão), Taiwan (Remi Wang) and Thailand (Waevichian Abhichartvorapan).



07 13th **docomomo** Council Meeting.
© Waeovichian Abhichartvorapan, 2014.



08 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Closing session. © Yoon, Joonhawan, 2014.

Finally, the 13th International **docomomo** Conference 2014 was closed with a formal ceremony, marked by speeches by Tae Woo, Jong Soung Kimm, Fumihiko Maki, Eui-Sung Yi and Ana Tostões. **docomomo** journal 50 on High Density was launched by Ana Tostões and Eui-Sung Yi, guest editor of the issue. The results of the workshop were summarised for the conference participants and the Committee thanked all the tutors for their collaboration.

Furthermore, **docomomo** International awarded Marieke Kuipers with the **docomomo** International Achievement Award 2014, in recognition for her 20 years of dedication and commitment to **docomomo** ISC Registers, as Secretary and Chair, for being a reviewer of the Bauhaus UNESCO World Heritage nomination, and for being the driving force behind the successful nomination of the Van Nelle Factory on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

After several eloquent thanks for everybody involved, a farewell cocktail party took place. In the end, it was possible to recognize a general feeling of satisfaction and mutual empathy and union between the entire **docomomo** family. The good work must continue!



09 Marieke Kuipers receiving the **docomomo** International Achievement Award 2014. © Yoon, Joonhawan, 2014.

Even though the 13th International **docomomo** Conference has been formally closed, most participants took the chance to enjoy the very meaningful **docomomo** post-conference tours organized by **docomomo** Korea and **docomomo** Japan. The tours began with a very special guided visit to the Changdeokgung Palace, in Seoul, on Sunday, 28th September 2014.

docomomo International would like to thank **docomomo** Korea, the Scientific Committee, the Keynote Speakers, the Session Chairs, the Speakers and all the attendants for the participation in the 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Thanks to all of you, the 13th International **docomomo** Conference has been a great success. It was a pleasure to count on your commitment, knowledge and scientific work.

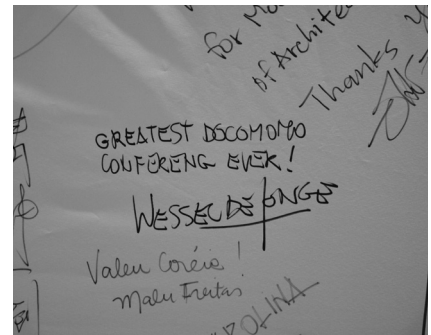
docomomo International wishes to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of all the national Working Parties the future location of **docomomo** International's headquarters. **Docomomo** Iberia's hosting of the International Secretariat will end at the next conference in 2016. All national Working Parties are invited to send proposals for hosting the future headquarters of **docomomo** International for the 2017–2022 period as soon as possible, in order to ensure the continued operation of **docomomo** as an effective international organization. ■

Zara Ferreira,
Secretary General of **docomomo**
International

Notes

- 1 Jong Soung Kimm, "Editor's Note" in Ana Tostões, Jong Soung Kimm and Tae-Woo Kim (ed.), *Proceedings of the 13th Docomomo International Conference Seoul, Expansion&Conflict*, Seoul, **docomomo** Korea, 2014, p. 13.
- 2 *Idem*.

- 3 Tae-woo Kim, "Publication Remark" in Ana Tostões, Jong Soung Kimm and Tae-Woo Kim (ed.), *op. cit.*, p. 15.
- 4 Hubert-Jan Henket, "When the Oppressive New and the Vulnerable Old Meet, a Plea for Sustainable Modernity", in Ana Tostões, Jong Soung Kimm and Tae-Woo Kim (ed.), *op. cit.*, p. 27.
- 5 Ana Tostões, "High Density and the Investigations in Collective Form", *Docomomo Journal*, 50 - High Density, Lisboa, **Docomomo** International, 2014, p. 3.



10 13th International **docomomo** Conference. Dedicatory panel. © Carolina Quiroga, 2014.