

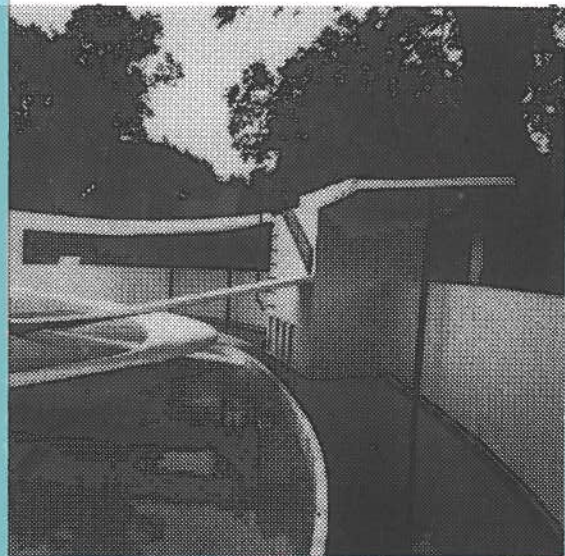
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international working-party for
documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the
modern movement

Newsletter

3

June 1990



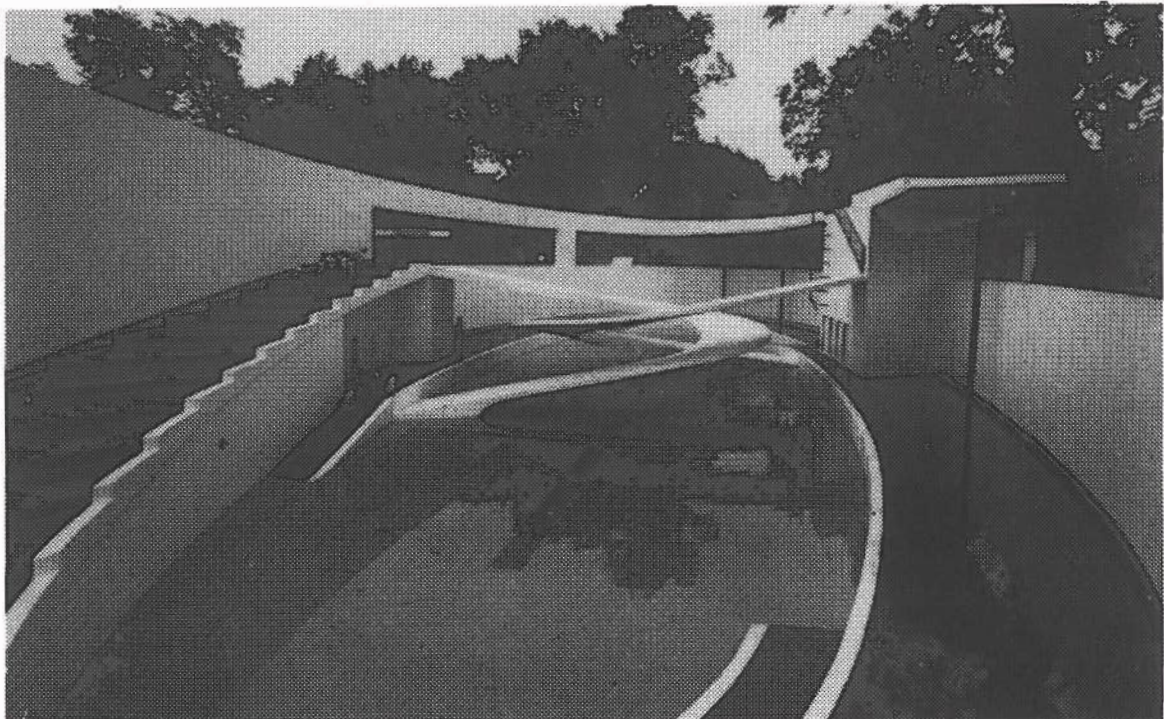
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Hilbert-Jan Hilbert.

Newsletter **3**

June 1990



The Penguin Pool in Regents
Park Zoo London, shortly
after restoration.
See the essay on page 25

The First DOCOMOMO Conference enjoys patronage from

Netherlands Unesco Commission
Hungarian Unesco Commission



The First DOCOMOMO Conference is organized under the auspices of

Catherine Lalumière,
Secretary General of the Council of Europe



The First DOCOMOMO Conference is sponsored by

Crittall Windows Limited



The First DOCOMOMO Conference enjoys financial support from

Commission of the European Communities



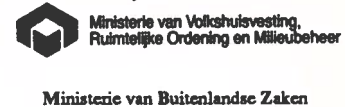
European Cultural Foundation



Netherlands Ministry of WVC



Netherlands Ministry of VROM



Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Netherlands Department for Conservation



Eindhoven University of Technology



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In the 1920's and 30's the Modern Movement was an important international architectural development, especially in Europe. The cultural, economic and technical results of this movement are still noticeable today.

Characteristic of this movement is among others that buildings were designed with a relatively short functional as well as technical life expectancy in mind. Therefore most of these buildings are in a bad condition at present, or they have been altered, sometimes beyond recognition. Due to their social and cultural value it is important to safeguard some of these for the future, in one or another way.

The International Working party for Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement
DOCOMOMO was initiated in 1988 by the University of Technology in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, further to a research project on how the preservation of these buildings can be obtained in a coherent and effective way. The foundation of the Working party is meant to advance an effective inventory, documentation and preservation of the most important functionalist and constructivist buildings of that period. The aim of the Working party is to come to a network for exchange of experience and know-how and to draw the attention of the general public to the significance of this part of the cultural heritage.

The initiative is directed to:

- those who are involved in policy-making (legislation, financing, management),
- those who are professionally interested in the protection of early modern buildings, sites and neighbourhoods (architects, urban designers, critics, art-historians) and
- those who are responsible for their actual restoration (researchers, technical specialists, consultants).

INTRODUCTION

The International Secretariat likes to present the third DOCOMOMO Newsletter to all participants in Europe. The response to the Call for Papers for the First DOCOMOMO Conference has been so great, that the composition of the Final Program required much more efforts than we planned. Therefore, the publication of this newsletter has been delayed some weeks, for which we like to apologize. We hope you will enjoy to read about what has been accomplished in the various participating countries. Also we would like to recommend the interesting essays on the restoration of several works of Lubetkin in Great Britain, that have been sent in by John Allan.

The program for our first conference is one of the main items of this newsletter. An excerpt of the text of the program can be found in this issue. We hope all DOCOMOMO participants will be as enthusiastic about the quality and variety of the proposed contributions as we are.

Note that the last part of the conference will be devoted to the official founding of DOCOMOMO. Some national working parties are preparing texts and manifestos for this Founding Session. Since the amount of speakers has been tripled as compared to the original set up, the conference fee had to increase as well. The International Secretariat hopes that the participants will understand that it was not to be foreseen that our initiative would have such a success.

Fortunately, the rise of expenses could be partly balanced with generous grants from several international funds and from institutions in the Netherlands. Moreover, the decision of Crittall Windows Ltd. from Great Britain to act as main sponsor for the conference put an end to the hitherto delicate financial situation of the conference' organization.

An extra grant from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs enabled us to invite a large number of speakers and participating experts from Eastern Europe to the conference. We are looking forward to meet our colleagues in September.

With pleasure we like to announce that the First International DOCOMOMO Conference will be organized under the auspices of Mrs. Catherine Lalumière, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Lately, support for DOCOMOMO has also been obtained from the Hungarian UNESCO Commission.

Your special attention is asked for the candidacy of the Bauhaus in Dessau, DDR, for the Second International DOCOMOMO Conference in September 1992.

In many countries the National DOCOMOMO Working parties have been very active. In six countries a national group has been officially established, while in three other countries informal groups are active. Associated members can be found in seven more European countries. We like to welcome all new participants and hope to see you all in September in the Netherlands.

ATTEMPT ON MODERNISM IN BELGIUM

Campaign to saveguard House dr. De Beir in Knokke

Huub Hoste (1881 - 1957) is one of the mayor representatives of modernism in Belgium. Being an architect as well as an urban designer his best known works are the garden-cities "Klein Rusland" in Zelzate (1921) and "Kapelleveld" in Sint Lambrechts Woluwe (1922), the House dr. De Beir in Knokke (1924), the House Gombert in Sint Pieters Woluwe (1933) and the urban plan for Antwerp, that he developed in collaboration with Le Corbusier in 1933.

The house and practice for doctor De Beir must be considered as one of Hostes' masterpieces. Moreover, it is one of the first and particular examples of modernist architecture in Belgium.

The design, the choice of materials and the unusual polychromy (the facade finished with tar, the color of the brickwork socle in harmony with the nearby dunes) make this building a striking example of international avantgarde architecture.

Repeatedly efforts have been made to have the house listed. Although procedures has been started as early as 1979, no positive result has emerged as yet. The proper authorities have been called upon again and again without any success whatsoever. Property developpers recently seized the opportunity to apply for a permit for the demolition of the building.

Experts in Belgium started a campaign to defeat this brutal attempt on the cultural heritage. DOCOMOMO participants from all participating countries are kindly requested to support the campaign by expressing their great concern by letter.

Letters should be directed to:

**Mr. Jos Vandenbreen
Director Sint Lukasarchief
Paleizenstraat 70
1210 Brussels
Belgium**

He co-ordinates the campaign.
Mr. Vandenbreen will redirect received reactions to the proper authorities.

1. NATIONAL WORKING PARTIES

In several European countries national DOCOMOMO working parties have been set up officially. The International Secretariat welcomes the recent establishment of the Czechoslovak Federal Group of DOCOMOMO and the National DOCOMOMO Group of the DDR. Previously national groups had been established in Belgium, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the Netherlands. In Italy, Hungary and the BRD informal DOCOMOMO groups are active, that are not yet formally established. In other countries like Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Portugal, France, Finland and Sweden the International Secretariat keeps up contacts with several associated members of DOCOMOMO.

A full list of national co-ordinators and members of official DOCOMOMO groups is part of the appendices of this newsletter. National groups which have not yet been established officially are kindly requested to do so. Experts in countries where DOCOMOMO is not yet active are invited to contact the International Secretariat.

Most national groups concentrated activities on three main items:

- to advance public interest in the preservation of the Modern Movement heritage. DOCOMOMO members in various countries prepare exhibitions, publications and publicity through the media. Options for the organization of a national "Modern Movement day" are being investigated.
- to act as watchdog or huntingdog. In some countries DOCOMOMO members have initiated action to saveguard specific examples of Modern Movement architecture that are in jeopardy. The International Secretariat will try to co-ordinate such actions internationally when necessary.
- to advance debate and research. Debate on the aspects of preservation of Modern Movement architecture in particular are of main concern of national DOCOMOMO working parties. Possibilities for international co-operation in research programs are to be investigated in the future.

Depending on the local situation it can be very useful to obtain the support of national institutions or organizations. For example

the national group in Great Britain enjoys moral support from several national institutions operating in the field of conservation of historic buildings, such as the British Arts Council, the Royal Fine Arts Commission and the Thirties Society. In the Netherlands DOCOMOMO is supported by the Department for Conservation, the Union of Architects and the National Institute for Architecture and Urban Design. In other countries support from ICOMOS and UNESCO as well as from national ministries etc. has been obtained.

Official recognition and moral support from these institutions will give the national groups a certain prestige that might be vital, for example when action has to be taken to safeguard a Modern Movement object. Some of the national DOCOMOMO groups are investigating options to obtain financial support as well. These financial means will be used to give individual members of the national working parties the opportunity to be present at international DOCOMOMO conferences, to cover expenses of national DOCOMOMO activities, such as watchdog actions, and the costs of a national secretariat. To this end the establishment of foundations is being prepared by the national groups in Great Britain and the Netherlands.

National DOCOMOMO groups are kindly requested to send minutes of their meetings to the International Secretariat. Also other information concerning the preservation of buildings and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement in their country will be gladly received and incorporated in future DOCOMOMO newsletters.

2. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Catherine Lalumière, secretary general of the Council of Europe, has reacted to our application for support positively. The First International DOCOMOMO Conference will therefore be organized under her auspices. The International Secretariat hopes to welcome mrs. Lalumière at the conference in Eindhoven in September.

3. FINANCE

The International Secretariat has applied for financial support from various national and international institutions for the First International DOCOMOMO Conference. Since most institutions have responded to our application positively, the expenses for the conference are now fully covered. Crittall Windows Ltd., leading producer of steel framed windows from Great Britain, has decided to support the conference as main sponsor.

Also grants have been confirmed from the Commission of the European Communities, the European Cultural Foundation, the Netherlands Ministries of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs (WVC) and of Housing, Planning and Environment (VROM), the Netherlands Department for Conservation and the Eindhoven University of Technology.

Apart from the conference' direct expenses, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been so kind to submit on extra grant for conference participants from Eastern Europe, to cover their expenses for lodging and the conference fee.

The International Secretariat likes to thank all institutions and Crittall Windows Ltd. for their generosity and would be pleased to welcome their representatives in September in Eindhoven.

4. NATIONAL REPORTS

Based on received information from various countries the following national reports have been composed by the International Secretariat. No information for this issue has been received from Austria and France. We will be glad to receive any news on the subject from participants in DOCOMOMO.

A selection of sent in information will be published in the next newsletter.

Belgium

A campaign has been set up in Belgium for one of the first modernist buildings in that country: the jeopardized House of De Beir in Knokke, designed by Huub Hoste in 1924. All DOCOMOMO participants are invited to express their concern by letter; see elsewhere in this issue for more information.

The Belgium DOCOMOMO Working party proposed a set of contributions for the conference in September including lectures by Hilde Heynen, Luc Verpoest, André Loecx and an international studentgroup consisting of Carmen Espejel, Gabriela Lee and Peter Verhaeghe. More information on their subjects can be found in the conference program, that is included in this issue. Unfortunately Marc Dubois will be engaged at the time and will be replaced in the program by another participant. However mr. Dubois' contribution will be included as an essay in the conference proceedings.

The International Secretariat has been informed about the College of Europe in Brugge by mr. Diego Bustamante of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Department of Architecture of the College has an extended program of postgraduate courses on preservation of historic buildings, that are being attended by architects from all over Europe. The International Secretariat will contact the College of Europe on short term to investigate possible co-operation in the future concerning the education of Modern Movement restoration experts.

Canada

In Canada several institutions are operating in the field of conservation of the architectural and urban heritage, some of them directed to the Modern Movement in particular.

In Montréal understanding and conserving the production of the Modern Movement is quite relevant. In 1988 a public outcry (mostly from professionals) occurred when renovation started on Westmount Square, a Mies van der Rohe complex, to bring it up to today's technical and stylistic standards. The complex includes four buildings with offices and appartments, on a podium housing a shopping concourse. The shopping mall was post-modernized and the plaza disturbed by skylighting the mall. Consequently, Montréal Moderne was created to advocate for sensitive action on modern structures. In Toronto, a similar group has already been active for many years.

The DOCOMOMO International Secretariat has contacted Héritage Montréal for co-operation with respect to the activities in favour of the preservation of Modern Movement architecture and urban projects.

Héritage Montréal is a private foundation established in 1975 to promote the conservation of urban heritage as a key component of the living environment. In the past, Héritage Montréal has been more involved in saving older structures. But their goals are comprehensive and related to approaches rather than particular styles or production periods. In that conceptual context, action on the more recent heritage has been developed.

The Director General of Héritage Montréal stated that now is a good time to get co-ordinated action on the preservation of the production of the Modern Movement and showed great interest in DOCOMOMO. Therefore Héritage Montréal will contribute to our network within the limits of possibilities. Also a contact between the Canadian Milieu Moderne and DOCOMOMO will be established.

We hope to give more information on the situation in Canada in the next issue.

Czechoslovakia

The Czechoslovak Federal Group of DOCOMOMO had its founding meeting in Brno on February 9, 1990.

Vladimír Šlapeta has been elected as president, while Stefan Šlachta was chosen as vice president and Jan Sedlák as secretary. Other founding members are Osvald Labaj, Petr Pelčák, Jan Sapák, Dušan Riedl and Iveta Černá. Other experts who have applied for membership of DOCOMOMO in Czechoslovakia will be registered by the International Secretariat as associated members of DOCOMOMO International.

Main subjects of the first meeting have been the Czechoslovak contributions to our conference in September, the national activities of the DOCOMOMO group and its possible enlargement by inviting more distinguished experts on the subject as members of the group.

A second meeting has been planned for this spring.

The International Secretariat welcomes the establishment of the Czechoslovak group with enthusiasm. We would like to congratulate its' founding members with their constructive initiative.

The International Secretariat would appreciate to be informed about the program of DOCOMOMO activities in Czechoslovakia.

Federal Republic of Germany (BRD)

Recently the DOCOMOMO co-ordinator for the BRD dr. Hartwig Schmidt, visited the Netherlands a.o. to discuss the activities of our network in Germany. Mr. Schmidt offered to use the infrastructure of the Special Research Program Sonderforschungsbereich 315 (Erhalten Historisch Bedeutsamer Bauwerke - Baugefüge, Konstruktionen, Werkstoffe) of which the documentation department is co-ordinated by him.

The SFB 315 has been established at the University of Karlsruhe in 1985. The program centres on research of historic structures and the development of preservation methods. The research is being carried out by scholars from different scientific

disciplines, such as engineers, physicists, preservation specialists, historians, biologists and the like. Research teams operate both in laboratories and on site. Point of departure for the work is that preservation of historic buildings should be done with as little alterations as possible by taking advantage of the potential of the building itself.

Tens of experts joined the SFB 315 since 1985 and formed a coherent group of distinguished specialists from all over the BRD. Also contacts are kept up with colleagues in France and other European countries, so that co-operation between SFB 315 and DOCOMOMO might be very valuable for both.

Within the framework of the Erasmus Programme "Leuvenring" an exchange of theory took place between the Faculties of Architecture of the Rheinisch-Westfälische TH in Aachen and the University of Technology of Delft, the Netherlands. On the basis of concrete themes short exchanges took place in April and June 1990. This year's theme has been "CIAM and the consequences on housing and townplanning". The students first attended a conference on the theme in Aachen, while CIAM projects were visited and architects interviewed in the Netherlands. Next year's theme will be "Expressionist architecture and housing in the Rhineland from 1910 - 1980". Information: Prof. Gerhard Fehl (TH Aachen) or Prof. Alexander Tzonis (TU Delft)

BRD members of DOCOMOMO asked the International Secretariat to make clear that the colloquium on Shuchov mentioned in our last issue had been organized by the Institut für Auslandbeziehungen and the Institut für Leichte Flächentragwerke, both in Stuttgart. Although mentioned in the report on the Soviet Union this information has been omitted in the BRD report, for which we apologize.

Finland

Through Swedish DOCOMOMO participant Ingmar Holmström the International Secretariat got in touch with Mrs. Maija Kairamo, practicing architect and publicist. Mrs. Kairamo has been involved in the

restoration of Alvar Aaltos' Paimio Sanatorium, submitted in 1929. Just before that, in 1928, he visited a conference on reinforced concrete in Paris, where Aalto met architect Jan Duiker from the Netherlands, whose reinforced concrete Sanatorium Zonnestraal is said to be the point of departure for Aaltos' competition design for the Paimio Sanatorium. From that time Aalto was decidedly under the influence of both Dutch and Russian constructivism.

The DOCOMOMO International Secretariat would certainly welcome the participation of Mrs. Kairamo and other experts from Finland as participants in our network.

German Democratic Republic (DDR)

The Bauhaus in Dessau informed DOCOMOMO, that this institution likes to apply as a candidate for the Second International DOCOMOMO Conference in September 1992. Director Rolf Kuhn suggested to organize the conference in co-operation with the Hochschule für Architektur und Bauwesen in Weimar and staff of the Büro der Stadtarchitekten Dessau.

In harmony with this initiative the DOCOMOMO activities in the DDR will be co-ordinated by the Bauhaus from now on.

Further to this the National DOCOMOMO Group of the DDR has been established on May 10, 1990. Its fifteen members are distinguished scholars, restoration architects and conservation officials from Berlin, Weimar, Dresden, Jena, Dessau and Magdeburg. A complete list of members can be found in the appendices.

Other experts who have applied for membership of DOCOMOMO in the DDR will be registered by the International Secretariat as associated members of DOCOMOMO International. The group will be co-ordinated by Dr. Wolfgang Paul of the Büro der Stadtarchitekten Dessau, who was responsible for the 1976 restoration of the Bauhaus itself. DDR secretary of DOCOMOMO will be Dr. Karl Schleichert, custodian of the Bauhaus. The first meeting of DOCOMOMO in the DDR has been

dedicated to arrive at a general concept of the main goals and policies. Although some Modern Movement buildings and neighbourhoods are listed, this is not yet a national policy. Therefore the national working party decided to centre activities on a national inventory of modernist buildings and neighbourhoods and their physical condition. A draft list will be prepared for September 1990 and will be the topic of the second national meeting in October.

Apart from the essential preparatory activities, the DDR group will take initiatives to advance actual restoration of important modernist buildings. Members of the group visited the Weissenhofsiedlung in Stuttgart, BRD, as an orientation on various options for restoration of residential areas. The Siedlung Törten in Dessau, a neighbourhood with private houses designed by Gropius in 1926 - 28 is of main concern of the DDR group. DOCOMOMO International will establish contacts between the DDR and experts in Great Britain and the Netherlands for technical assistance with respect to the preparation of the reconstruction of one of the "Meisterhäuser" near the Bauhaus, designed by Gropius in 1925.

Recently DOCOMOMO secretary Wessel de Jonge visited Dessau on invitation of Dr. Kuhn, director of the Bauhaus. The concept for DOCOMOMO activities in the DDR has been discussed with the members of the group at the occasion. Second subject has been the candidacy of the Bauhaus for the next International DOCOMOMO Conference in 1992.

The auditorium of the Bauhaus can accommodate a maximum of 150 participants. More seminar rooms are disposable on other floors. The restaurant and exhibition rooms are available for participants as well. The Bauhaus has a great deal of experience in the organization of international conferences.

Accommodation for participants can be found on the Bauhaus premises, partly in the former student dormitory. Although some of these rooms are of basic standards, the historic atmosphere will certainly weigh up to that. The hotel Stadt Dessau is of international standards and offers a more

sophisticated service if this should be preferred.

The International Secretariat has agreed upon the candidacy of the Bauhaus. A definite decision will have to be made by the DOCOMOMO members at the Founding Session in Eindhoven, September 14, 1990

Great Britain

The National DOCOMOMO Working party in the UK has been very active during the last three months. Already four meetings of the UK group have been organized, the last one on June 5, 1990, at the Royal Institute of British Architects RIBA in London.

The UK Working party consists of a number of distinguished experts on documentation, research and conservation of Modern Movement architecture, as well as architects, critics and representatives and observers from national institutions and organizations. A full list of members of the DOCOMOMO UK Working party can be found in the appendices. Other experts who have applied for membership of DOCOMOMO in the UK will be registered by the International Secretariat as associated members of DOCOMOMO International.

John Allan (restoration architect Avanti Architects) has been appointed as chairman, James Dunnett (architect and critic) as honorary secretary and Geoffrey Ashworth (Monk Dunstone Associates) as honorary treasurer. Co-ordination of all activities will remain in the hands of Christopher Dean.

The activities of the UK Working party centre on official constitution of the group itself, obtaining support from institutions, obtaining financial support for the activities of the UK Working party and the draft of a comprehensive list of objectives.

The UK group investigates several options for formal establishment of the national working party, either as a trust, an unincorporated association or a company limited by guarantee. A preliminary draft for constitution and subscriptions has been circulated among members and has been discussed on the third meeting on May 2,

1990. It was agreed that the preliminary draft should be submitted for professional advice. Contacts were made with the RIBA for legal advice.

The working party agreed that definition of membership should be established before subscriptions were set. Yet, as a proof of intention, all members contributed a sum of £ 15,= each to be deposited in a special bank account, to cover first expenses of the groups' activities.

Moral support for DOCOMOMO has been obtained from several prestigious institutions in Great Britain. The personal support of the RIBA president has been confirmed, as well as official support from the British Arts Council, the Royal Fine Arts Commission and the Thirties Society. The DOCOMOMO UK meetings are usually attended by observers or representatives from these institutions.

UK co-ordinator Christopher Dean had a meeting with Mrs. Sharman, head of Conservation of British Heritage, who explained that this Institution could not become a member but welcomed the proposed option of DOCOMOMO and confirmed that such actions would be helpful to English Heritage.

Also a meeting has been held with ICOMOS UK, who confirmed that they see DOCOMOMOs' objectives as complementary to theirs. A suggestion to become institutional members of each others' group will be taken into consideration by the International Secretariat; a similar suggestion had been put forward by members of the Netherlands Working party. Apart from the institutions stated above the UK Working party obtained access to several other institutions of which a reaction has not been received as yet. (note: since Great Britain no longer participates in UNESCO, there is no National UNESCO Commission active in the UK at the moment)

The UK Working party has applied for financial support from several institutions. Since the program of objectives of the group is quite pragmatic, also concrete actions are to be expected. Members who are without institutional sources could not be expected to work gratis. With the

fundings applied for these expenses as well as the cost of the national secretariat and the participation in the conference in September might be covered.

The International Secretariat made arrangements with Crittall Windows Ltd. from Braintree, Essex, to become the main sponsor for the First International DOCOMOMO Conference in September 1990 in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. However, these financial means will be disposed to cover the expenses of the conference in general and not for the benefit of the UK group in particular.

Although several members expressed their individual point of view already, a list of objectives is now being prepared by some members of the group. The members agreed that the work from other institutions or groups should not be duplicated. International links are considered most important and activities should be complementary to the objectives of other institutions. According statements of individual members, main objective should be to organize exhibitions and make press and media statements to inform the general public. Present activities of the UK group indeed include press releases and publicity through the media. An article on DOCOMOMO will be published in the August issue of World Architecture. The list of objectives is awaited by the International Secretariat with enthusiasm and could be incorporated in the proposals that will be presented at the DOCOMOMO Founding Session at the conference.

Like most other national groups, the UK group has been confronted with some urgent cases, such as the campaign for Ernő Goldfinger's Alexander Fleming House in London, that is being co-ordinated by James Dunnett. Also action has been considered regarding the Isoken Flats, designed by Wells Coates, after information received from Gavin Stamp, chairman of the Thirties Society. It was found that the building had recently had much restoration work done and, consequently, would not be suitable for DOCOMOMO action. However an investigation of the actual work carried out will be undertaken and recorded in a file note by Christopher Dean.

The International Secretariat likes to apologize for the fact that the information on the Finsbury Health Centre in the last newsletter suggested that the building already had been restored. Unfortunately this is not yet the case. This issues' essay on the work of Lubetkin offers more information on the subject.

Hungary

As a member of the Hungarian DOCOMOMO Working party we welcome Mrs. Katelin Kiss of the Budapest Department for Conservation BMF. Mrs. Kiss is in charge of preservation of historic buildings as well as actual restoration design and has a special interest in Modern Movement architecture. Mrs. Kiss hopes to be present at the conference in Eindhoven in September. Tamás Pintér, former official of BMF, changed to the National Department for Conservation OMF recently. Mr. Pintér, who is also representing the Hungarian Union of Architects, will stay in charge of co-ordination of DOCOMOMO activities in Hungary.

Dr. Nora Pamer, leading Hungarian publicist on 20th Century architecture, showed her interest in joining the national working party. Mrs. Pamer will present a poster on Hungarian Modern Movement architecture at the conference in September.

Although the Hungarian group of colleagues is not very large, the results achieved are very much appreciated. The Hungarian UNESCO Commission confirmed that the commission is willing to support DOCOMOMO activities, what is to be considered as a main success for the Hungarian Working party.

Italy

The Italian DOCOMOMO Working party has been very active during the last months. Much efforts were made to help the International Secretariat with the program for the First International DOCOMOMO Conference in September and, consequently, many Italian colleagues will be presenting a contribution. The main result of

the activities however, is the recent establishment of a national working party in Italy, consisting of scientists, restoration architects, documentation and technical specialists, representatives of the proper authorities and publicists.

The co-ordination of DOCOMOMO in Italy will remain in hands of Maristella Casciato and Carla Saggiore of the II Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata . Postal adress and a list of members of the Italian DOCOMOMO Working party can be found in the appendices. Other experts who have applied for membership of DOCOMOMO in Italy will be registered by the International Secretariat as associated members of DOCOMOMO International.

The Italian group is preparing a short general statement for the DOCOMOMO Founding Session on the last day of the conference in September. The statement could be appropriate to agree upon by all national groups, so that it might be the basis for a general manifesto of DOCOMOMO. The International Secretariat will keep in touch with our Italian colleagues concerning their initiative.

With respect to the conference the International Secretariat asked the assistance of the Italian group to invite Enrico Mantero of the Polytechnics of Milano to participate in the Opening Session. Mr. Mantero has been invited to explain on the relation between Italian razionalismo and functionalism.

The International Secretariat likes to apologize for the fact that mr. Marco Biuzzi has not been mentioned in the conference program. Marco Biuzzi is co-author of the paper on the Duilio Building at the Lido of Rome, that will be presented by Christiana Marcosano dell'Erba.

The Netherlands

The Director of the Netherlands Institute for Architecture and Urban Design, mr. Adri Duivensteijn, agreed on becoming a member of the Consultative Council for the DOCOMOMO conference. Mrs. Mariet Willinge joined the national working party as representative of the Institute. Mrs. Willinge

is director of the Documentation Department of the Institute.

The activities of the Netherlands DOCOMOMO Working party have been centered on the conference in September. The national group has been consulted frequently regarding the composition of the program. Also a number of members will contribute to the conference themselves with a presentation of a paper or poster. Other activities of the national group during the four meetings so far, concerned the three main aspects of the general aim of the Netherlands DOCOMOMO Working party, as explained in the second newsletter.

Regarding the advancement of public interest in the preservation of the Modern Movement architecture, members of the group have contacted the Netherlands Union of Architects, at the occasion of which several possibilities were discussed to achieve a more general appreciation of modern architecture from the 1920's and 30's. One of the options is to choose the preservation of 20th Century architecture as general theme for the next years' Day of Architecture (1 July 1991).

All members agreed that the public is best reached through exhibitions, publications and the media. For the re-opening of the restored Gooiland Hotel, now converted into a cultural centre for the City of Hilversum, an impressive exposition is being prepared on Modern Movement architecture and interior design. The exhibition will be focused on the architect Jan Duiker who designed Gooiland in 1934. After Hilversum the exhibition will travel through the DDR and other countries in Eastern Europe; catalogues in English, Spanish and Russian are being prepared.

The Netherlands DOCOMOMO group discussed the options to act as a watchdog with respect to the heritage of the Modern Movement. Main problem is to come to more or less objective criteria to judge whether an object is worthwhile to start action for its' preservation. Apart from several buildings in the Netherlands that are actually being jeopardized, members from other countries asked attention for buildings and neighbourhoods in their country that are being threatened by alteration or demolition.

The Netherlands group will formulate a concept for approach of this problem, that might be useful elsewhere as well. It will certainly be put forward on the Founding Session of DOCOMOMO on September 14, 1990.

With respect to research and education the national group is investigating options for co-operation between institutions in the Netherlands and in other European countries. We hope to have more information on the subject in the next newsletter.

One of the most particular Modern Movement buildings in the Netherlands, Jan Duikers' Zonnestraal Sanatorium, will possibly be restored on short term. The building, designed in 1926-28, is considered a distinguished demonstration of the modernist philosophy of building with a short life expectancy in mind. The slender reinforced concrete frame and the basic detailing of the steel framed windows make the sanatorium a manifesto for lightweight structures with a limited period of use and a clear functional image.

Obviously, the conservation of such a building requires a specific approach and special techniques. After years of protest against the deterioration of the buildings - actions started as early as 1960 - in 1983 the Ministry of Cultural Affairs gave commission for a research project on how the preservation of such buildings can be obtained in a coherent and effective way. The research has been carried out by DOCOMOMO founders Hubert-Jan Henket and Wessel de Jonge. Their report has been published last May.

Recently one of the Netherlands largest unions FNV showed its' interest in the buildings as a new training centre. As successors of the Diamond Workers Union, that had the sanatorium built in the 1920's, the FNV tightens its' former ties with Jan Duikers' masterpiece. A feasibility study will be carried out this summer and if results are positive, restoration is likely to start next year. However, the Netherlands DOCOMOMO Working party will closely follow developments concerning

Zonnestraal, that is considered the most important Modern Movement building in the Netherlands. A visit to Zonnestraal will be part of the post conference tour, that can be attended by the conference participants on Saturday September 15, 1990.

A fine example of Modern Movement architecture under restoration is the House Van der Leeuw in Rotterdam, designed by C. van der Vlugt in 1929 for the director of the famous Van Nelle factory, another modernist masterpiece in the same city and designed by the same architect.

This luxurious villa for a bachelor faces a lakeside road in the east and a garden in the west. Although from the east the house appears as a cubist' composition of white volumes with a "fenêtre-a-longeur" for the livingroom on the second floor and some scattered windows, the other side of the house shows the steelframe in a facade almost entirely made of glass.

The restoration has been initiated by a private foundation, that has been established especially to this end. First action has been to raise the necessary Dfl. 970.000,= for the restoration. More than twothirds of this has been supplied by the Netherlands Department for Conservation, a tenth has been donated by the City and the remaining part supplied by other foundations and funds.

The restoration is now being carried out by Van den Broek en Bakema Architects, considered as successors of Van der Vlugt. Main problem appeared to be the poor condition of the steelframe. Due to thermal changes, the expanding steelframe cracked the buildings' skin. Water entering the cracks caused serious corrosion damage. With thermal insulation the restoration architects hope to prevent damages like this in the future.

According the restoration plans the original fenestration will be replaced by copies, so that the clear and lightweight character of the building will be perceptible after restoration, that will be finished this summer.

Another success was achieved for the Tuinwijk neighbourhood in Haarlem. This quarter, a typical 1920 garden-city, has been

designed by J.B. van Loghem, one of the leading Modern Movement theorists in the Netherlands.

Tuinwijk, that suffers from a poor foundation, is likely to be refurbished after the Netherlands Ministry of Cultural Affairs decided to supply an extra Dfl. 3,6 million for restoration. Still there is Dfl. 3 million short, for which applications will be submitted to the Province of Noord-Holland and the C.E.C.

Aldo van Eyck, architect and one of the founders of CIAMs' Team X, has been honored with the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture 1990 by the Royal Institute of British Architects. The medal, better known as "the queens gold", is one of the most prestigious international awards for architects. Asked about the motives of the jury, Aldo van Eyck reacted: "What I hear, is that they see me as the last survivor of the 'Nieuwe Bouwen', of modern architecture. The influence I've had on modern architecture. For me the most important thing is, that they supported the concepts of modernism with this decision. It is the confirmation of a point of view."

Poland

Through co-operation of DOCOMOMO participants from the BRD and the Netherlands, the International Secretariat has recently got in touch with a number of experts on Modern Movement architecture and urban design in Poland.

Particularly in Wroclaw a number of most interesting Modern Movement works are to be found. Among them are several designs of Werkbund architects, the famous Jahrhunderthalle by Rading and a hotel of outstanding architectural quality designed by Hans Scharoun. Due to lack of financial means for refurbishment, most of these buildings are in their original state, though their physical condition is sometimes very poor. The International Secretariat hopes to welcome some of Poland's experts on the subject at the conference in September and is looking forward to the establishment of a Polish National DOCOMOMO Working party in the future.

Portugal

Recently mr. José Manuel Fernandes contacted the International Secretariat. Mr. Fernandes showed his interest in joining the DOCOMOMO network and is likely to attend the conference in September.

Soviet Union

The co-ordination of DOCOMOMO activities in the Soviet Union will be taken care of by mr Abdul R. Akhmedov. Mr. Akhmedov has been so kind to replace mr. Glazytchev as national co-ordinator of the DOCOMOMO network.

The group of experts in the Soviet Union has been extended with Sergei Fedorov and Boris Kirikov from the Leningrad Institute of Architectural and Urbanistic Theory. Both scholars have been invited as speakers for the conference in Eindhoven. With the help of Manfred Speidel from the TH Aachen, BRD, the International Secretariat will also contact Maria Nashchokina of the Soviet Scientific Research Institute for Architecture and Town Planning Theory in Moscow to discuss the possibility of her membership of the national working party in the Soviet Union. We hope to welcome mrs. Nashchokina at the conference in Eindhoven as well.

Some associated members who recently visited Moscow, informed the International Secretariat on the possible refurbishment of the Narkomfin Apartmentbuilding in Moscow designed by Ginsburg and Milinis in 1928 - 1930. It has been understood that the building might be altered and re-used as an office building.

Mrs. Catharine Cooke, publicist from Great Britain and member of DOCOMOMO UK, and mr. Robert Oerlemans, photographer from the Netherlands, are preparing a publication on modern architecture in the Soviet Union. Although the book will not centre on the Russian Avantgarde, it will definitely be one the main topics. The book will be composed in co-operation with the Union of Architects in the Soviet Union and

will be published by Academy Editions.

The beautiful photograph of Shuchovs' NIGRES electricity towers published in the previous issue, has been falsely identified as a picture of the Shabolovka Tower. The published photograph has been made by Igor Kassuss.

Spain

Mr. Hortet i Previ, director of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe in Barcelona informed the International Secretariat that he will be participating in the conference in September. The paper on the reconstruction of the Van der Rohe Pavilion however will be presented by Fernando Ramos, architect in the team responsible for the reconstruction and director of the School of Architecture in Barcelona.

Sweden

During a recent visit to the Netherlands Ingmar Holmström of the Central Board of National Antiquities in Stockholm got in touch with DOCOMOMO secretary Wessel de Jonge. Mr. Holmström is a distinguished expert on the conservation of plaster, stucco and paint and showed his great interest in exchanging information on restoration technology. He is likely to present a paper on the subject at the conference in September.

Mr. Holmström has been so kind to offer to organize a DOCOMOMO working party in

Sweden or possibly an international group for all Scandinavian countries. He will contact experts in Norway, Denmark and Finland to sound their opinion on the idea. Experts who would like to join such a working party in these countries are kindly invited to contact Mr. Holmström or the International Secretariat.

We hope to inform you on the subject in the next issue.

Switzerland

Alfred Roth, CIAM member and practising architect in Zürich throughout the 1930's, has been invited to address the participants of the conference in September. In 1940 Alfred Roth published a well known anthology "the New Architecture", in which he explained his point of view that the "Neue Sachlichkeit" was at its best where neither advanced technique nor the plan-libre was allowed to become an end in itself. In his book he showed a wide variety of Modern Movement architecture, featuring works in Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Sweden. Mr. Roth has been asked to give an overview of the impact of the Modern Movement in architecture and urban planning from 1920 - 40 in Europe as a part of the Opening Session of the conference.

Ruggero Tropeano confirmed to present a paper at the conference on two residential buildings in Zürich, Wasserwerk and Bleicherhof. His comparative study of the two buildings is included in the session on case studies.

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A full list of the members of national working parties and all associated members is available on request at the International Secretariat.

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First International DOCOMOMO Conference 12 - 15 September 1990, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

Introduction

The response to our Call for Papers has been so great and from such a variety of East and West European countries that we decided to use the First DOCOMOMO Conference partly as an introduction platform for as many speakers from different countries as possible.

In order to arrange the presented topics in a comprehensible way the following main items have been introduced:

- technology
- architectural history
- analysis and documentation
- urban conservation
- policy
- case studies.

These items will be presented on the second and third day of the Conference.

Since a discussion about why, how and what to conserve in relation to buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement has not been sufficiently held as yet, we decided to devote the first day to this important issue, and to use it as an umbrella of thought over the items of the second and third day.

The afternoon of the last day will be devoted to arrive at general consensus on the main goals and policies of the DOCOMOMO network, both at a national and international level and to agree on the host city for the Second International DOCOMOMO Conference in 1992.

In between the discussions, papers and posters we have tried to leave sufficient time for the participants to socialize and to exchange ideas and experiences.

Since the amount of speakers in the Conference Program has tripled as compared to the original set up, the costs for the Conference have increased as well. Therefore the final Conference Fee, as announced in this program is more than initially mentioned in our first Call for Papers of October 1989.

Those speakers mentioned in the program marked with * are to be considered as provisional.

Wednesday September 12, 1990

Lecture Hall 6 Main Auditorium

08:30 Reception and registration

Opening Session

- 09:30 **Opening and welcome**
Prof. Hubert-Jan Henket, Chairman DOCOMOMO.
Prof. M. Tels, Chancellor Eindhoven University of Technology; Member DOCOMOMO Committee of Recommendation.
L. van Nispen tot Sevenaer, Director Netherlands Department for Conservation; Member DOCOMOMO Consultative Council.
- 09:45 **The meaning of the Modern Movement for contemporary architecture** (preliminary title)
Pierre Vago, Honorary President International Union of Architects.
- 09:55 **Principles of protection of the Modern Movement in architecture**
Sherban Cantacuzino, Chairman Icomos UK, Secretary Royal Fine Arts Commission; Great Britain
- 10:05 **The role and action of the Commission of European Communities**
Theodossios Mastrominas, Representative of the Cultural Division of the General Directorat 10 of the CEC
- 10:15 **The Modern Movement: a new era in European architecture and urban design** (preliminary title)* (.....)
- 10:35 **The Modern Movement and Italian razionalismo** (preliminary title)
Prof. Enrico Mantero*, Milan University of Technology; Italy
- 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:30 **Modernism's Soviet connections; how do they influence our criteria**
Dr. Catherine Cooke, Open University Cambridge; Great Britain.
- 11:55 **The issue of transitoriness in modern architecture**
Dr. Hilde Heynen, Catholic University Leuven; Belgium.
- 12:20 **Controversy between functionalism and restoration: keep 'Zonnestraal' for eternity as a ruin**
Prof.dr. Wessel Reinink, University of Utrecht; the Netherlands.
- 12:30 **Conclusion of the Opening Session**
- 12:30 **Luncheon**

Session 1: Dilemma's concerning conservation of Modern Movement architecture

- 14:00 **Hubert-Jan Henket**, Professor Faculty of Architecture and Building Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology; the Netherlands.
- 14:25 **Dennis Sharp**, Editor World Architecture; Great Britain.
- 14:55 **Wiek Röling**, Professor Faculty of Architecture, Delft University of Technology, Member of the National Conservation Board; the Netherlands.
- 15:25 **Peter Palumbo**, Chairman Arts Council; Great Britain.
- 15:40 **Tea break**
- 16:05 **Martin Pawley**, Architectural Critic; Great Britain.
- 16:30 **Discussion**
- 16:50 **Conclusion of Session 1**

Hedy d'Ancona*, Netherlands Minister for Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs has been invited to give an address.

17:10 **Opening Melnikov Exhibition**

17:30 **Reception**

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Thursday September 13, 1990

Conference Centre, Conference Room A

8:30 Reception and registration

Parallel Session 2: Technology

- 09:00 **Recent developments in history of structural design**
Dr. Jos Tomlow, Institute for Lightweight Structures (IL); BRD.
- 09:30 **The development of steel framed windows**
David Blake, Crittall Windows Ltd; Great Britain.
- 10:00 **From white to grey; the story of Eysellnck's own residence**
Marc Dubois, St. Lucas Institute for Architecture Gent; Belgium.
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Contemporary requirements and the conservation of typical technology of the Modern Movement**
Wessel de Jonge, Eindhoven University of Technology; the Netherlands.
- 11:30 **The conservation of an architectural concept versus the restoration of its' technology**
Luc Verpoest, Catholic University of Leuven; Belgium.
- 12:00 **Discussion**
- 12:30 **Conclusion of Session 2**
- 12:30 **Luncheon**

Parallel Session 4: Analysis and documentation

- 14:00 **Analysis of historic buildings as an educational tool**
Dr. Jan Molema, Delft University of Technology; the Netherlands.
- 14:30 **The Dulilo Building at the Lido of Rome (Luigi Moretti, 1937)**
Christiana Marcosano dell'Erba, University of Rome La Sapienza; Italy. Co-author Marco Biuzzi.
- 15:00 **The periodical publications in France, 1920-40; their use today**
Françoise Hamon, IV University of Paris Sorbonne; France.
- 15:30 **Tea break**
- 16:00 **Research and restoration of the Melnikov House in Moscow (Melnikov, 1927-29)**
Vladimir Rezvin, Head of Restoration Design Institute, Ministry of Culture; USSR.
- 16:30 **Conservation of the work of Lubetkin**
John Allan, Avanti Architects; Great Britain.
- Tecton's Finsbury Health Centre, a proposal for renovation**
Geoffrey Ashworth, Monk Dunstone Associates; Great Britain.
- 17:10 **Discussion**
- 17:30 **Conclusion of Session 4**
- 20:15 **Cultural Program**
Theater, ballet or music performance at the Eindhoven Theatre.

Thursday September 13, 1990

Conference Centre, Conference Room B

8:30 Reception and registration

Parallel Session 3: Architectural history

- 09:00 **Architectural conservation. Traditionalism and the Modern Movement**
Dr. Eberhard Grunsky, Head Department of Conservation Westfalia; BRD.
- 09:30 **The new school buildings in Greece 1930-38**
Andrea Giacumacatos, University of Saloniki; Greece.
- 10:00 **Functionalist shopfronts in Brno, their destruction and protection (presented in German)**
Petr Pelčák, Architect; Czechoslovakia.
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Bauhausbuildings in the DDR**
Dr. Klaus-Jürgen Winkler, HAB Weimar; DDR.
- 11:30 **Bata; maecenas of modern architecture ? (preliminary title)**
Vladimír Šlapeta, Head Department of Architecture, National Museum of Technology Prague;
Czechoslovakia.
- 12:00 **Discussion**
- 12:30 **Conclusion of Session 3**
- 12:30 **Luncheon**

Parallel Session 5: Urban conservation

- 14:00 **The future of housing of the Modern Movement in the Netherlands: "existenz" or deterioration**
Dr. Ben Rebel, University of Amsterdam; the Netherlands.
- 14:30 **Petseri: Russian monastery as a centre of a functionalist town**
Sergei Fedorov, Leningrad Institute of Architectural and Urbanistic Theory; USSR.
- 15:00 **Neighbourhoods of the 1920's and 30's**
Rob Docter, Netherlands Department for Conservation;
the Netherlands.
- 15:30 **Tea break**
- 16:00 **Conservation of Modern Movement neighbourhoods in Berlin**
Klaus-Peter Kloß, Department for Cityplanning and Environment;
West Berlin.
- 16:30 **Restoration of the Kiefhoek in Rotterdam (J.J.P. Oud, 1925-30)**
Wytze Patijn, Architect; the Netherlands.
Public housing and conservation (preliminary title)
Noud de Vreeze, National Housing Board; the Netherlands.
- 17:10 **Discussion**
- 17:30 **Conclusion of Session 5**
- 20:15 **Cultural Program**
Theater, ballet or music performance at the Eindhoven Theatre.

Friday September 14, 1990

Conference Centre, Conference Room A

Parallel Session 6: Policy

- 09:00 **Modern heritage; conservation or integration ?**
Peter van Dun, Netherlands Department for Conservation; the Netherlands.
The Dutch way: the MIP Inventory Project for historic buildings 1850-1940
Dr. Marieke Kuipers, Netherlands Department for Conservation; the Netherlands.
- 09:30 **Rome 1932-42: the modern and the antique** (presented in French)
Prof. Giorgio Muratore, University of Rome La Sapienza; Italy.
- 10:00 **Some questions on the restoration of constructivist buildings, illustrated with the Tsentrosoyuz Building in Moscow (Le Corbusier, 1928-35)**
Irina Chepkounova, Shushev Museum for Architecture Moscow; USSR.
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Functionalist architecture in Budapest; the question of protecting modern historic monuments**
Tamás Pintér, Hungarian Department for Conservation; Hungary
- 11:30 **Conservation of functionalist architecture in Czechoslovakia, focused on Brno** (presented in German)
Dr. Jan Sedlák, Brno University of Technology; Czechoslovakia.
- 12:00 **The Charter of Venice outdated ?**
Rob Apell, Netherlands Department for Conservation; the Netherlands.
- 12:20 **Discussion**
- 12:40 **Conclusion of Session 6**
- 12:40 **Luncheon**

Poster Session 1

- 14:00 **Urban conservation in Indonesia** (preliminary title)
Prof. Frits van Voorden* (Delft University of Technology; the Netherlands)
- 14:15 **Colonial architecture: a forgotten corner in modern architecture. Experimental housing in Algiers 1950-60**
André Loecx, Catholic University of Leuven; Belgium.
- 14:30 **The modern house in Rome and the experimental quarter in 1930**
Giuseppe Strappa, University of Rome La Sapienza; Italy.
- 14:45 **Restoration of the Papaverhof housing project in Den Haag (Jan Wils, 1919-22)**
Jaap Franso, Architect; the Netherlands.
- 15:00 **Tea break**
- 15:30 **Functionalist architecture in Leningrad: a city with classical traditions**
Boris Kirikov, Leningrad Institute of Architectural and Urbanistic Theory; USSR.
- 15:45 **The architecture of Kozma, a way from Jugendstil to functionalism**
András Hadik, Budapest Museum for Architecture; Hungary.
- 16:00 **The preservation of an early example of Modern Movement in the Netherlands; Société Céramique Maastricht**
Jan-Bernard Vercauteren, Architect; the Netherlands.
- 16:15 **Documentation and restoration project for the newspaper plant Dagblad Vooruit in Gent (Brunfaut, 1931)**
Carmen Espejel, Gabriela Lee, Peter Verhaeghe, Catholic University Leuven; Belgium.
- 16:30 **Conclusion of Poster Session 1**
- 16:45 **See Closing Session**

Friday September 14, 1990

Conference Centre, Conference Room B

Parallel Session 7: Case studie

- 09:00 **Restoration of the elementary school Sant'Elia in Como**
(G. Terragni, 1936-37) (presented in French)
Emilio Terragni, Architect; Italy.
- 09:30 **Reconstruction of the Barcelona Pavilion**
(Mies van der Rohe, 1929)
Fernando Ramos, Director School of Architecture in Barcelona, Mies van der Rohe Foundation; Spain.
- 10:00 **Reconstruction of the Tugendhat House in Brno**
(Mies van der Rohe, 1930)
Jan Sapák, Architect; Czechoslovakia.
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Restoration of the Bauhaus in Dessau**
(W. Gropius, 1925-26) (presented in German)
Dr. Wolfgang Paul, Design Institute City of Dessau; DDR.
- 11:30 **The New Frankfurt and It's neighbourhoods**
Dr. Christoph Mohr, Head Department for Conservation Hessen; BRD.
- 12:00 **Comparitive study on two buildings in Zürich; Wasserwerk (M. Haefell, 1928) and Bleicherhof (O. Salvisberg, 1939)**
Ruggero Tropeano, Architect; Switzerland.
- 12:20 **Restoration of buildings of Le Corbusier**
Christian Gimonet, Architect; France.
- 12:40 **Conclusion of Session 7**
- 12:40 **Luncheon**

Poster Session 2

- 14:00 **The tradition of modern sacral architecture in Slovakia** (presented in German)
Stefan Šlachta, Slovak Department for Conservation; Czechoslovakia.
- 14:15 **Bauhaus buildings** (presented in German)
Dr. Karl Schleichert, Bauhaus Dessau; DDR.
- 14:30 **Modern Movement in Hungary** (presented in German)
Dr. Nora Pamer, Publicist; Hungary.
- 14:45 **Housing architecture of the 1920's and 30's compared** (presented in German)
Adalbert Behr, Bauakademie der DDR.
- 15:00 **Tea break**
- 15:30 **The campaign for Erno Goldfinger's Alexander Fleming House**
James Dunnett, Architect and critic; Great Britain
- 15:45 **Restoration of the Frigerio apartment building in Como**
(G. Terragni, 1939-40)
Mariagrazia Soldini, Architect; Italy.
- 16:00 **Renovation of the Bergpolder apartment building in Rotterdam (Van Tijen & Van der Vlugt, 1934)**
Casper van den Thillart, Architect Buro Opten Noort-Blijdenstein;
the Netherlands.
- 16:15 **Documentation of the Royal Pavillon of the Santa Maria Novella railway station in Florence (a.o. Michelucci, 1933)**
Alessandro Conti, Lidia Fiorini, University of Florence; Italy.
- 16:30 **Conclusion of Poster Session 2**
- 16:45 **See Closing Session**

Friday September 14, 1990

Conference Centre, Conference Room C

DOCOMOMO Founding Session

To be attended by National DOCOMOMO Representatives and Members of the National DOCOMOMO Working parties

- 14:15 **Opening**
- 14:30 **First Session:**
- General aims of the Working-party
 - Limitation to the period 1920-1940
 - Manifesto
 - Appointment of the International DOCOMOMO Board
- 15:15 **Tea break**
- 15:45 **Second Session:**
- Organisation and financing
 - Appointment of the host city for the Second International DOCOMOMO Conference in 1992
- 16:30 **Conclusion**

Closing Session

Conference Room A, B and C

- 16:45 **Opening**
- 17:15 **Final Statement**
- 17:30 **Reception**
- 19:00 **Informal gathering and dinner**

Saturday September 15, 1990

Post Conference Tour (optional, costs Dfl. 100,-)

- 09:00 **Departure from the Eindhoven University of Technology**
- Kiefhoek Housing Project, Rotterdam (Oud, 1925-1930)**
- Van Nelle Factory, Rotterdam (Brinkman, Van der Vlugt, 1925-1931)**
- Townhall, Hilversum (Dudok, 1924-1930)**
- Hotel Goolland, Hilversum (Duiker, Bijvoet, 1934-1936)**
- Zonnestraal, Hilversum (Duiker, Bijvoet, Wiebenga, 1926-1931) (see cover photo)**
- Schröderhuis, Utrecht (Rietveld, Schröder, 1924)**
- 18:30 **Drinks in Utrecht**
- 19:30 **Dinner (optional, not in Tour Fee)**
- 23:00 **Arrival in Eindhoven**

Restoration of the Penguin Pool at London Zoo

- Client:
The Zoological Society of London
- Patron:
Peter Palumbo
- Grant Assistance:
English Heritage
- Consultants:
Avanti Architects
in collaboration with
Berthold Lubetkin,
Project Direction Ltd,
Ove Arup and Partners
- Main contractor:
Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd
- Concrete sub-contractor:
Concrete Repairs Ltd

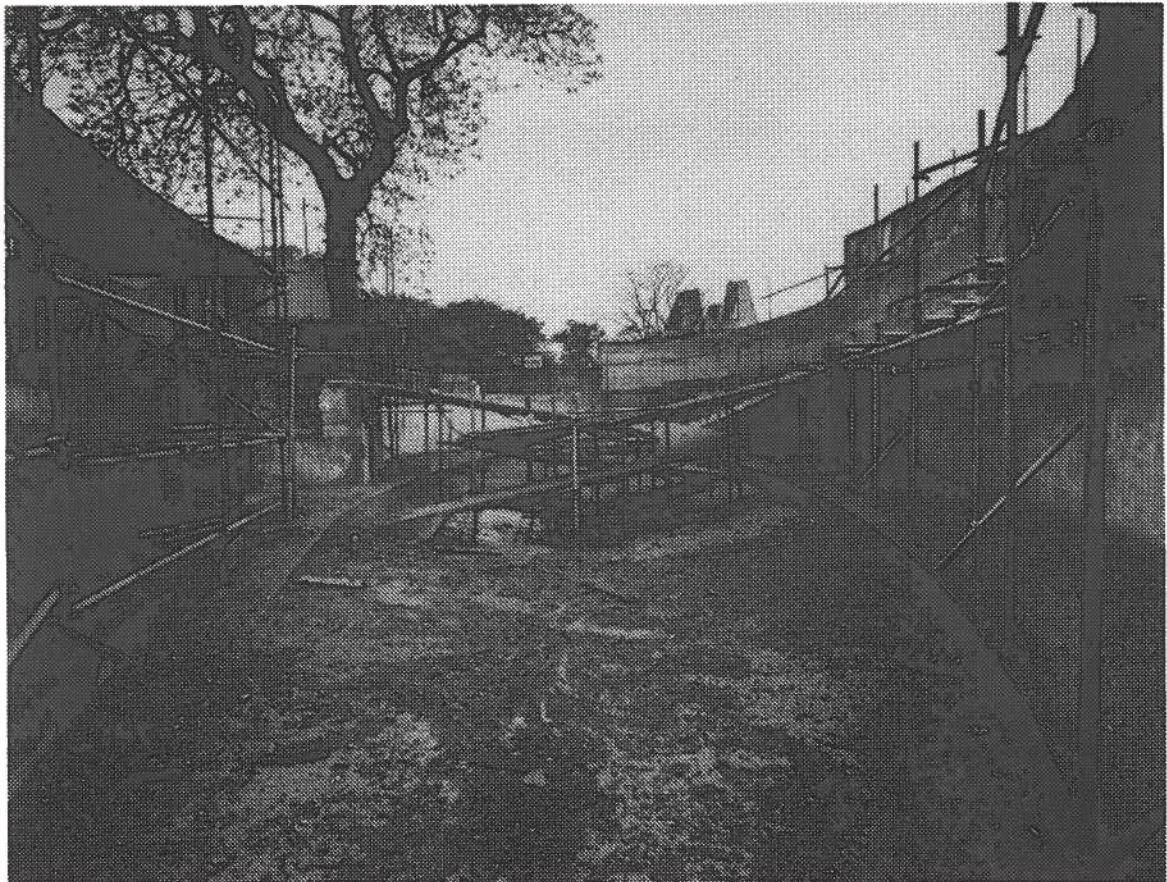
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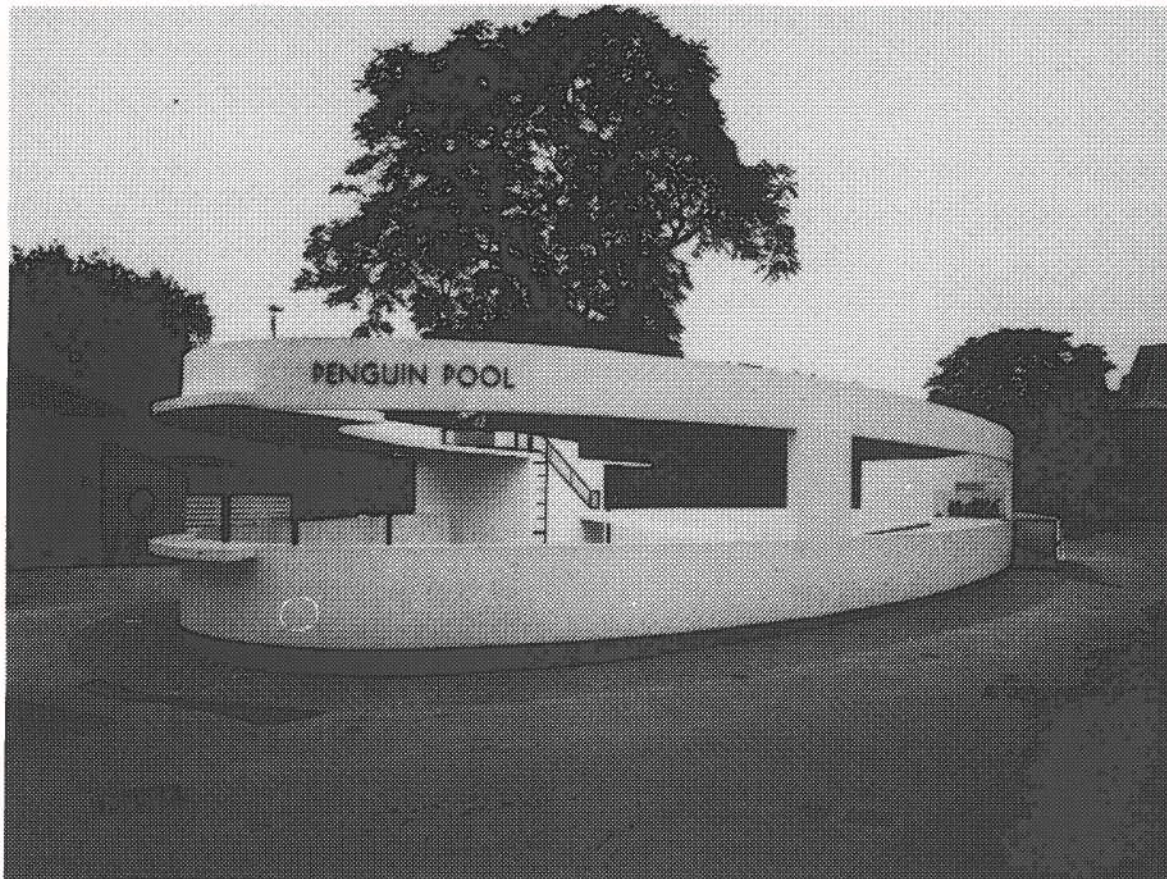
The Penguin Pool was originally constructed in 1934 at the Zoological Society Gardens in Regents Park, London, and in 1970 was officially listed as a building of special architectural interest. It was designed by Lubetkin and Tecton in collaboration with Ove Arup.

The exhibit contains 34 black-footed penguins - a species found on the off-shore islands of South Africa and now under threat of extinction. All the birds in the pool have been bred here, some having grandparents still alive and producing fertile eggs.

The Penguin Pool is, in effect, a free-standing reinforced concrete sculpture defined by the proscenium screen walls, enclosing an elliptical swimming-pool served by two interlocking cantilevered spiral ramps. The perimeter section includes a deep diving tank and a series of nesting boxes.

Penguin Pool during restoration





Penguin Pool after restoration

The design intention was to display alternately the birds' characteristic gait on land, and their grace and agility in the water. In the half century since its first opening the Penguin Pool has become one of the Zoo's most popular attractions. Latterly, however, the structure and finishes have suffered general deterioration. In addition, the original diving tank had become unused and the nesting quarters inadequate.

The restoration

In 1987, with assistance of a grant from English Heritage and generous private benefaction, a complete restoration was carried out including the repair and renewal of the structure and finishes, the reinstatement of an enlarged diving tank and the provision of additional nesting boxes. A completely new filtration plant was introduced to serve the diving tank and housed in an adjacent plant enclosure with underground connections.

The new-build elements involved excavating under the perimeter steps for the new nesting boxes which are finished with cement rendering and lined with rubber sheeting. On the south side, where the new tank was to be formed, the entire section of existing structure was cut out by high-pressure water-jetting to avoid disturbing adjacent ramp supports and overhead canopy. The new walls are thicker than the original - which in any case would not conform with current standards - but where a new wall presents a visible edge, its thickness is reduced to match up with the old. The viewing panel is formed of two 25mm sheets of laminated glass fixed in a stainless steel frame.

The new filtration installation is designed to provide diamond-clear water for the penguins to display their antics. Surface and low-level contamination is removed through quartz/silica sand filters, the water being dechlorinated then rechlorinated on the downstream line. An ultra-violet

photo-chemical system is included, together with controls of pH value CO2 levels.

Repairs

The repairs element of the project involved comprehensive investigation of the existing structure and remedial treatment. In many instances there was failure and steel bars were visibly corroding. A full condition survey, including cover meter, carbonation and hammer tests, was carried out. Defective bars were cleaned or replaced, and local repairs were made with polymer-modified cement mortar. All the edges of both ramps were exposed back to the bob bars and entirely recast, whilst the top cover was enhanced with a two-coat Sikatopseal cement slurry. Movement joints in the perimeter wall were cut back and reformed.

Finishing

Once the structural carcass had been made sound, the task of re-establishing the geometric profile could begin. All arises were formed with stainless steel beads screwed to the concrete.

By using a polymer-modified cement render in maximum applications of 6mm, it was

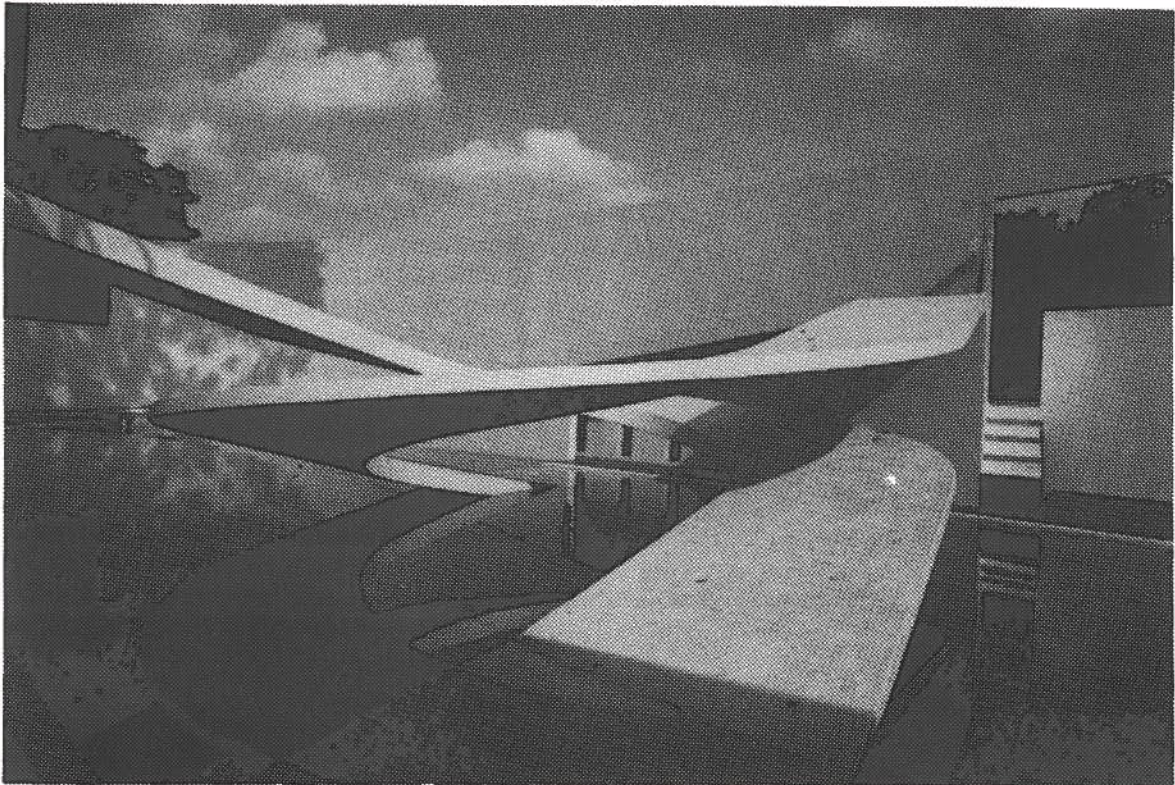
possible to avoid any perceptible thickening of the original 100mm structure.

Icosit Concrete Cosmetic Acrylic paint was used generally, with Sikagard 65 Epoxy paint on wearing surfaces such as the perimeter paving, ramps and canopy.

The other main item of finishes was the mosaic lining to the pool floor which was entirely replaced using matching glass mosaic tiles bonded with Elastoflex on a reformed screed base. The same mosaic is used to line the inside of the diving tank. All the metal-work accessories - handrails, gates, nesting-boxes doors, etc. - were replaced in stainless steel, powder coated black as appropriate to match the original effect of painted mild steel. Likewise all the plumbing services, including the central fountain and perimeter sprays - used both to wash the pavings and refresh the birds in hot weather - were renewed in stainless steel. Site operations began in April 1987 and were completed in September 1987. The project cost was £ 210.000.

Photographs and text used by kind permission of John Allan, Avanti Architects.

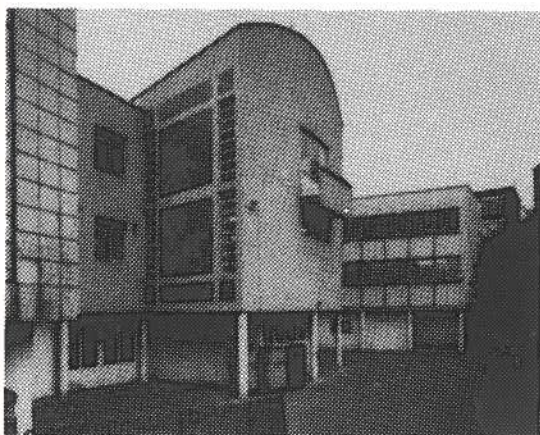
Penguin Pool after restoration



Prescription for a health centre

Finsbury Health Centre celebrated its 50th birthday in 1988. It is still in use and is well liked by its users, but it is slowly decaying. If the rot is not stopped soon, a milestone Modernist building will be lost. Colin Davies reports on Avanti Architects' rescue plan.

Like any conservation exercise, the restoration of a 1930s building is part archeology, part creative reconstruction and part building science. The secrets of a 50-year-old building are just as fascinating as those of a 500-year-old building, and more directly relevant to modern construction. In the case of Finsbury Health Centre, decisions about replacement components, materials, colours and so on are made easier by the fact that the architect, Berthold Lubetkin of Tecton, is still alive and available for consultation. But still there are areas of uncertainty and scope for interpretation. This modern masterpiece, inspired by the supremely practical need to improve the health of the people of Finsbury, has become an art object; a part of our heritage and a grade II listed building. Modern building techniques therefore have to be modified for the sake of historical accuracy. Over 50 years many alterations have been made to the internal planning and the fabric of the building, but its main architectural



Service yard at the back of the building as it is today. Walls have been re-rendered and glass blocks replaced, but note the condition of the ceramic tiling in the foreground on the left. Photo by Peter Cook

features are still intact and it is still in use as a health centre. This in itself is a tribute to the far-sightedness and flexibility of the design. In 1982 the interior was refurbished under the supervision of Watkins Gray Woodgate, but external repairs were very limited. So in 1988, to mark the 50th anniversary of the building, Islington Health District commissioned Avanti Architects to review the condition of the exterior and propose measures for its restoration. The authority is at present considering the architect's report and looking into possible sources of funding.

Avanti's report reveals that, while the general arrangements of the building - its spaces, structure and provision for services - has withstood the test of the time, some details of its construction have not. Potentially the most serious problem is the lack of adequate cover for reinforcement in exposed concrete. The structural engineers' report contains the following analysis of the problem: 'In all exposed concrete the depth of carbonation exceeds the minimum cover to reinforcing steel. Carbonation occurs when atmospheric carbon dioxide reacts with free lime in concrete, gradually converting it from alkalinity to acidic calcium carbonate. The strength of the concrete is unaffected. The process advances from the free surface at a rate which diminishes with time but is greater in porous, cracked and low-cement concretes. When concrete around the steel loses its alkalinity, and provided water is present, corrosion will commence.'

Corrosion can be observed in several places in the health centre: in external columns, canopies, planters, parapets and retaining walls, and at window junctions. All exposed concrete surfaces are suspect and require treatment. Even if cover were adequate, after 50 years it would be necessary to examine all surfaces for cracks and other weaknesses. As it is, the report recommends that all exposed concrete should be subject to a full specification of testing, repair and protection, and that overall there should be a 20mm protective modified render coating

containing a polymer additive such as Ronafix.

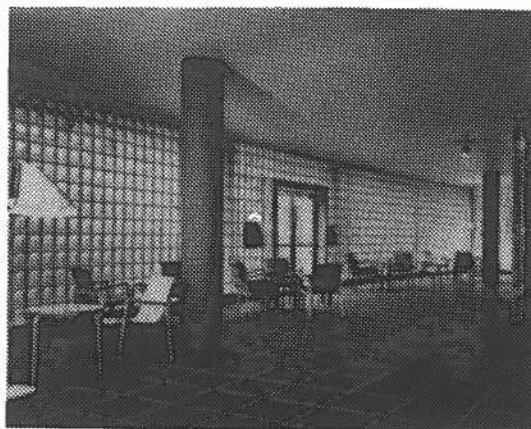
But exposed concrete accounts for only a small proportion of the external surface area. Large areas on the north side of the building are rendered and were re-rendered as part of the 1982 refurbishment. These are still in good condition. The same cannot be said, however, of the ceramic tiling which is the main external concrete finish. Although Tecton took the precaution of specifying 'frost-proof' glazed tiles and recessing the gable bays, it did not think necessary to introduce expansion joints. As a result, about 50 per cent of the tiled areas are cracked or hollow. The original tiles were individually cast and therefore very accurate in shape and size, but all are now crazed and dirty. Many have fallen off and some have been replaced by non-matching, non-frost-proof modern equivalents. Some of these replacements have also failed. Avani's report recommends that the building should be completely retiled to match the original as closely as possible in colour and size, but to a modern specification. From the 'archeological' point of view, the ideal specification would be individually cast tiles with narrow joints to match the original pattern precisely. However, it is estimated that this would be prohibitively expensive and, in any case, it would not solve the expansion joint problem. Here is the perfect example of the need for compromise between historical accuracy and technical caution. Berthold Lubetkin and English Heritage have duly been consulted, and the architects have concluded that, though the pattern will be subtly altered, it is not worth spending the extra money for purpose-made tiles or taking the technical risk of leaving out expansion joints.

The problem of expansion joints crops up again in relation to the large areas of glass block. Here, however, the archeology becomes rather complex. All the original glass blocks have been replaced at some time. Photographs of the building taken when it was new show large uninterrupted glass block walls on either side of the main entrance, flooding the entrance hall with bright, diffused light. It is thought that many were damaged by sandbagging during the war and that they were replaced as part of post-war restoration. It seems likely that the blocks in the front wall are original - 200mm square with a Flemish finish and a circular

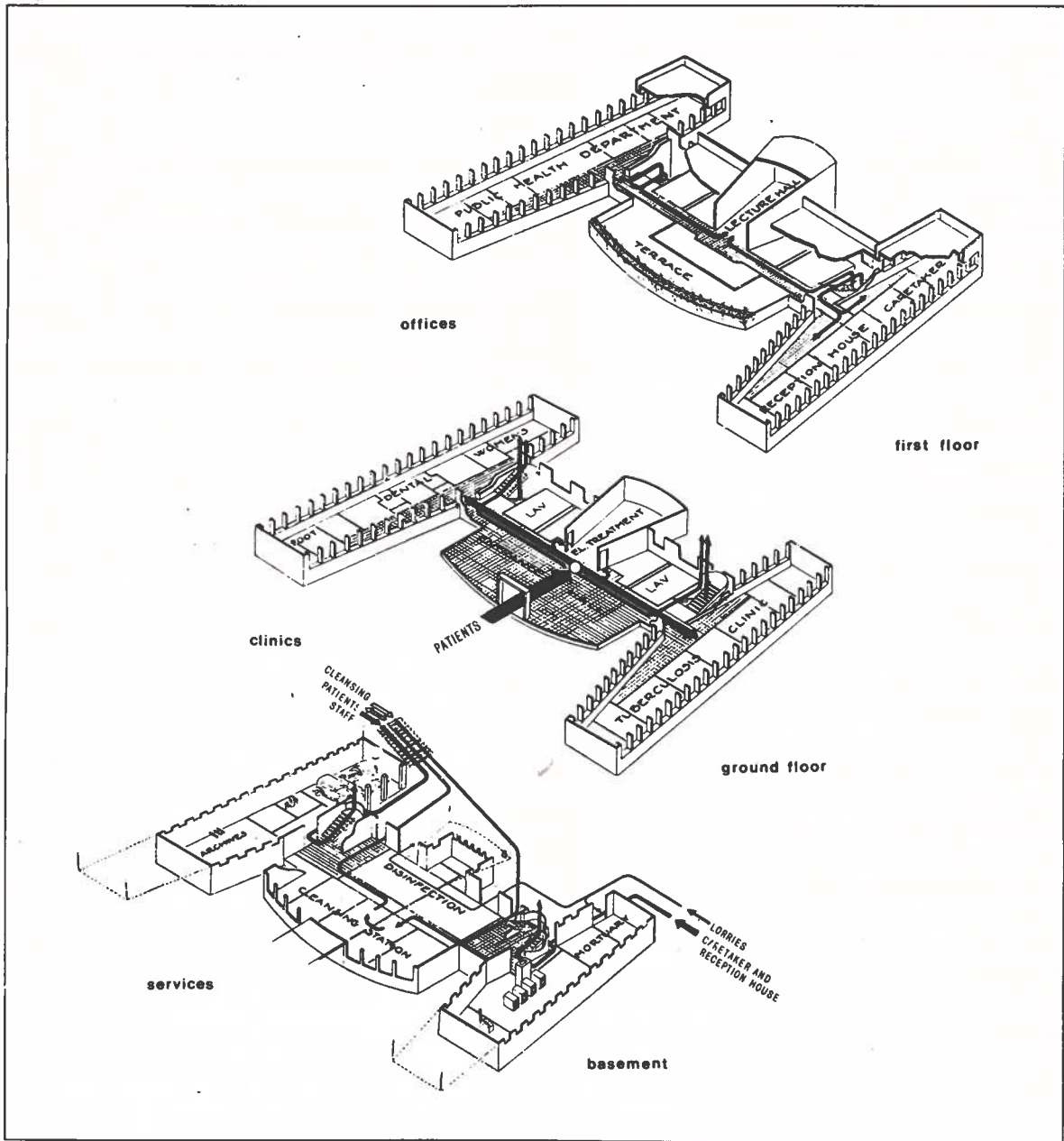
lens on the inside faces - but that they have been reused in a completely rebuilt wall with mullions to accommodate expansion joints. This wall is in generally good condition. The other main areas of glass block are in the flank walls of the projecting lecture theatre at the back of the building. We know that these have all been replaced, because a comparison of the existing walls with old photographs reveals that there are now fewer blocks in each panel. In fact, the original blocks were approximately 125mm square, and the new ones are 145mm square. Maintenance records show that 80 blocks were replaced in 1983, and a number have broken since then. Once again, expansion joints - or the lack of them - are the problem, though moisture penetration and frost action are also possible culprits. Shattering blocks are a potential safety hazard, and the report therefore recommends that once again all the glass blocks on the north side of the building should be replaced, restoring if possible the original grid but introducing an expansion rim round each panel.

The other major element of the exterior is the curtain walling, which consists of a teak structural subframe infilled with steel windows and spandrel panels of various materials according to their vintage. Here the main problem is corrosion. The teak itself is in remarkably good shape, apart from some warps in the thin cover bead, but it is fixed to the concrete frame with steel bolts which are severely corroded. Not surprisingly, the report recommends new stainless steel fixings, though it hopes that the frame itself can be retained.

It seems likely that all of the windows are



The entrance hall as it was, with an uninterrupted wall of glass blocks.



Isometric diagrams showing in the original plan arrangement. Many minor alterations have been made but the essence of the plan survives.

original. Unfortunately they are ungalvanised. All are severely corroded and all will have to be replaced. The closest match to the original steel section is the Critall W20 range, but the report recommends that other types be investigated for cost and appearance. The most important considerations are that they should be of painted steel, but galvanised this time (or, preferable, polyester-powder-coated) and that the characteristic pattern of alternate top- and bottom-fixed lights should be maintained. Changing the glass can have a profound effect on the appearance of a building. The report recommends that the new windows

should be double-glazed if the budget will stretch to it, but more important from the historical point of view is the change from frosted glass to clear glass in the windows overlooking the service yard. This is one more detail to be discussed with English Heritage and Berthold Lubetkin.

The original spandrel panels were of a material known as Thermolux: two sealed sheets of glass with a layer of coloured glass fibre silk between. The exact colour is uncertain, since none of these panels have survived, but it is known that they were dark in tone, and again Mr. Lubetkin is being consulted. At the outbreak of war, the building was sandbagged, breaking many panels, and soon after all of the panels were replaced by uninsulated, ribbed asbestos. These replacement panels, in the original steel frames, survive on the inner faces of the side wings. The remainder were replaced in 1983 by insulated GRP fixed with aluminium glazing beads. These, in the words of the report, 'depart wildly' from the original Thermolux in surface texture and colour, and in the profile and finish of the frames. They are, however, sturdy, serviceable and tolerably well insulated, so their replacement is 'desirable' rather than 'essential'.

However, the asbestos panels and their corroded steel frames must go. A number of possible replacements are suggested, including two layers of toughened glass with a coloured insulating core, enamelled glass, vitreous enamelled steel and GRP, all with appropriate insulation. At present, some of the external panels are warm to the touch, and many of the old steel-framed panels are rusted in position. Insulation and accessibility are very important elements of the performance specification for the replacement panels, because these are not just spandrel panels; they are also duct covers.

One of the most innovative features of the original design was the horizontal service duct which runs in the recess in the concrete spandrel beam and which is accessible from the outside. The duct carries water supplies, waste pipes, and flow and return pipes to radiators mounted under the windows. This is not the heating system envisaged in the original design. The original system was even more advanced than the fully accessible service duct - perhaps too

advanced, since it stopped functioning long ago. The flow and return pipes in the ducts fed what were described at the time as 'radiant panels' embedded in the ceiling. The efficiency of this form of heating must be rather doubtful, and in any case the embedded pipes are now corroded beyond repair. However, the existence of the ducts has made conversion to conventional radiators a relatively simple matter.

Another feature of the original services installation which has fallen into disuse is the slightly cranky system of automatic air vents with roof-mounted fans. In such a relatively small and shallow-planned building it is hard to see why these should have been thought necessary. Certainly the services consultants for the report have no hesitation in recommending that they be removed. This will simplify work to the existing asphalt roofs which the report recommends should be completely recovered with a new screed, new insulation and new waterproof membrane.

During its 50th anniversary year last year, interest in the history of this building was revived, not only among architects but also among local health workers. The chairman of the district health authority organized a celebration dinner, attended by Berthold Lubetkin, and the staff of the health centre mounted an exhibition in the entrance hall. They even went to the trouble of restoring some of the original furniture that had been languishing in the basement. This kind of interest from non-architects in a modern building is rare. It is a tribute to the quality of the architecture and the strength of social purpose that it symbolises that it is held in such affection by those who use it. Renovating modern buildings is, however, an expensive business. The total cost is estimated at £ 1,2 million, but the regional health authority has been able to allocate only £ 300,000. We can only hope that the district authority meets with success in its attempts to raise the rest of the money so that the building can continue to be an inspiration to architects and health workers alike.

Article by Colin Davies
Architects' Journal Renovation Supplement
22 March 1989

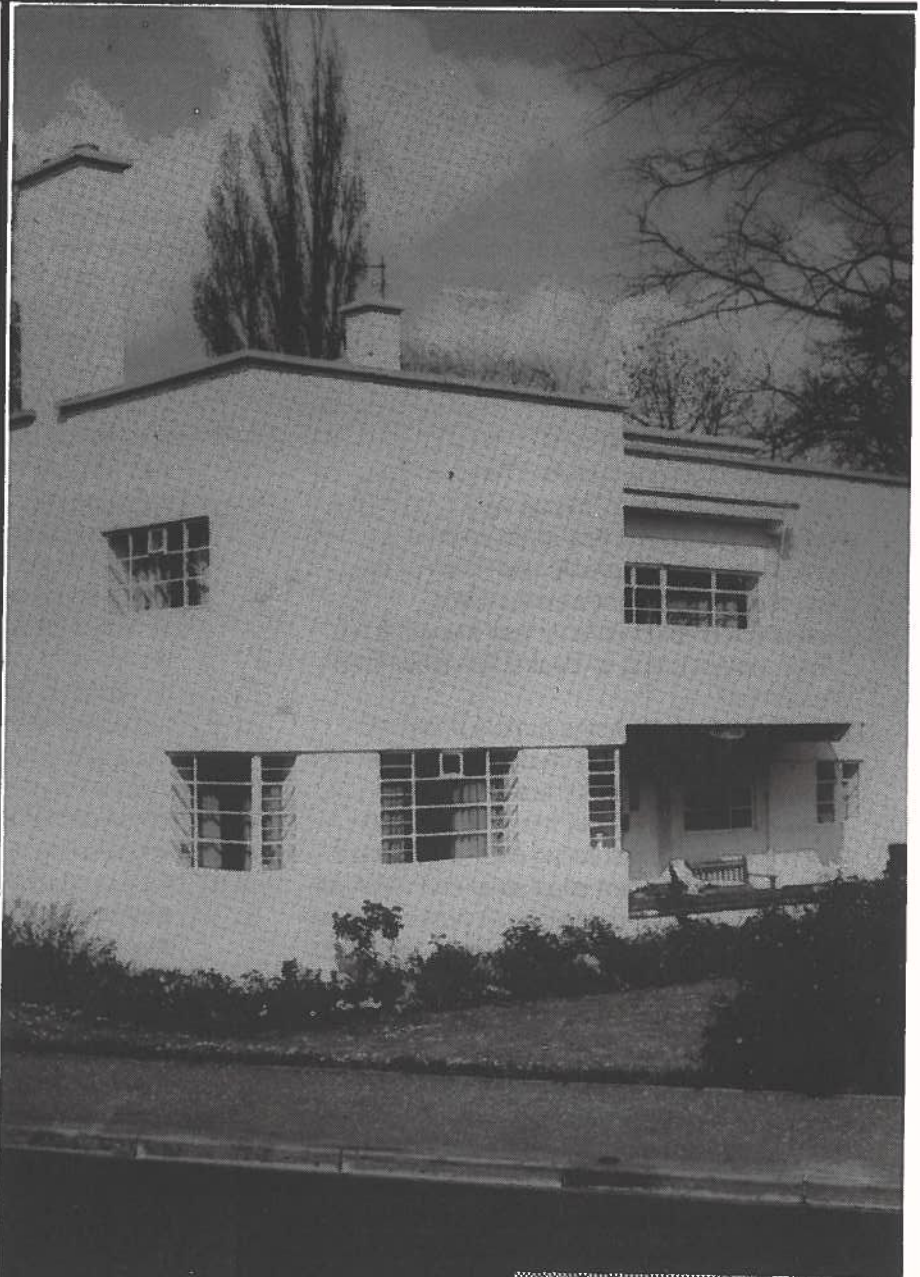
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