

# **DOCOMOMO International**

## **ISC on Urbanism and Landscape**

- (1) Activity Report 2018-21***
- (2) Plan of Action 2021-22***
- (3) List of Members***

**22-6-21 (updated 20-08-21)**

# 1: ISC U + L ACTIVITY REPORT 2018-21

Owing to the impact of Covid-19 the in-person activities listed below were concentrated pre-March 2020, but a limited number of online activities were able to continue after that date (specified as online in list below).

## A: CONFERENCES/EVENTS

### (i): Africa-themed activities:

- Following the highly successful DOCOMOMO U + L African Urbanism conferences in 2015 and 2017, and the initial 2018 Africa Architecture Writing Workshop with young Ghanaian students, a further workshop in the same series was held on 12-16 June 2019 at the University of Ghana, Legon, led by OU and members of WARUH (West African Rapid Urbanism and Heritage Conservation Research Network); the aim of the series is to foster historical and critical writing on urban modernist ensembles, in conjunction with the ongoing DOCOMOMO-Ghana initiative: see <https://africanarchitectures.wordpress.com>, and [www.africarchi.net](http://www.africarchi.net) (OU) It is currently in its 3<sup>rd</sup> series and will be working with Docomomo Germany to incorporate an architectural photography workshop in 2022.

### (ii): International conference 'URB/DOCONF 2019' – BME, Budapest

- This regular doctoral conference on the history and heritage management of Central-Eastern European modernist urbanism was held in collaboration with ISC U + L at the Budapest University of Technology in October and coordinated by Melinda Benko: the ISC U + L was represented by MG. See the following link: <http://urb.bme.hu/doconf2019> (conference e-proceedings) (MB)

### (iii): Scandinavian Housing Week, Copenhagen

- November 2018 saw a multi-event themed initiative on the international mass housing heritage held in Copenhagen (jointly by ISC U + L with Docomomo Denmark and the University of Copenhagen). The three key components of this were:
  - 5 November, public lecture on global mass housing at KADK.
  - 6 November, University of Copenhagen research seminar on mass housing (later published as E-Proceedings 10: see below).
  - 7 November, Walk and Talk public tour of Køge Bugt Byerne (modernist planned townships SW of Copenhagen). (all MG)

### (iv): Other conferences and international events themed on mass housing

- The Heritage Lottery funded 'Tower Block' project, and the consequent successful Docomomo nomination of five multi-storey public housing projects in central Aberdeen for 'listing' preservation, generated a spin-off online conference on 16 June 2021, with 100 attendees, co-hosted by the ISC U + L and Robert Gordon University ('Security, Rights and Shelter') focusing on the threat posed to modernist housing complexes of social housing by

real estate-led 'regeneration'. (<https://architecturefringe.com/festivals/2021/security-rights-and-shelter-aberdeens-tower-blocks-unlearned>) (MG)

- We also participated in an online PhD research seminar on global mass housing at Torino University in September 2019; an online conference on 9 October 2020 at the Bartlett School, University College London, focusing on the repercussions of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/construction/events/2020/oct/seminar-series-grenfell-tower-inquiry>); an online conference, 'Terms of Habitation', at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies on international mass housing in November 2020 ([https://iias.huji.ac.il/Retheorizing\\_conference](https://iias.huji.ac.il/Retheorizing_conference)); an online workshop of KU Leuven in April 2021 on the place of mass housing in Modern Movement heritage; and provided a keynote contribution to the European Architectural History Network conference based at Edinburgh University in June 2021. (<https://eahn2021.eca.ed.ac.uk/>) (MG)

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

- We were a supporting organisation for this ambitious trans-national research programme into the modernist rural environments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and attended the closing conference on 28-29 November 2019 at the Académie Royale de Belgique, Brussels (MG). <https://modscapes.eu/project/>

**(viii) International conference on urbanism of 20th century: title (Un)planned City**

- The conference was held in September 2020, hosted from Bratislava, in form of an online platform. The aim was to present contradictory tendencies in the planning of European cities. <https://unplannedcity.sav.sk/> (HM)

**(ix) Public lecture and forum co-hosted by Docomomo Australia**

- Held online in December 2020, the event focused on the City of Melbourne's 'Hoddle Street Grid' heritage review initiative - an ambitious evaluation of the Modern postwar commercial architecture in the whole of the Melbourne CBD. (HL)

## **B: DATABASE/RESEARCH WORK**

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

- Work has continued on the international extensions of the 'Tower Block UK' online database project, including the 'piggyback' Hong Kong database (<http://www.hk.towerblock.eca.ed.ac.uk/>) and the alternative, google-searchable arrangement hosted on University of Edinburgh's open-access 'Datashare', on which further pilot city collections (e.g. for Buenos Aires) have been uploaded: see for instance <https://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/handle/10283/2927> (MG)

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

- Our extensive global research programme on postwar social housing has generated a major international monograph, published by Bloomsbury Academic Press in March 2021: *Mass Housing: Modern Architecture and State Power, a Global History*. (<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/mass-housing-9781474229289/>) In addition, there have been a continuing range of field visits and highly productive liaisons with Docomomo working parties – visits since 2018 have included various European countries (e.g. Croatia, Slovenia, Belgium, France), Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau. A further book, on the history of public housing in Hong Kong, is in course of preparation and will be published by Routledge in 2023. (MG)

## C: PUBLICATIONS/E-PROCEEDINGS

- (i) ***Modernist Landscapes in the Century of Revolutions: Integration and Dislocation in the Modernist Era***: co-edited by Jan Haenraets, Andrew Saniga, and Gulnur Cengiz  
Preparation is now complete of this major ISC U + L publication on the theme of the global landscape heritage, and negotiations are underway with publishers with a view to publication during 2021-2. The book, intended as an authoritative international synthesis of this topic, draws on a very large range of contributions from national Docomomo working parties, together with overarching thematic essays by the co-editors. (JH, AS)
- (ii) **E-proceedings 10**  
2020 saw the successful publication of E-proceedings 10, derived from the November 2018 Scandinavian Housing Week in Copenhagen, and jointly edited by Svava Riesto and Miles Glendinning: entitled *Mass Housing of the Scandinavian Welfare State: Exploring Histories and Design Approaches*. (<https://sites.eca.ed.ac.uk/docomomoiscul/files/2020/06/Eproceedings10-1.pdf>)  
It was published in conjunction with the University of Copenhagen and the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies. (MG)
- (iii) **Military Landscapes – a Future for Military Heritage: Conference, 21-24 June 2017**  
December 2018 saw publication of the e-proceedings of this major international conference, held earlier in the year on the island of La Maddalena, Sardinia, and co-organised with the Università degli Studi, Cagliari, and ESALA, which examined the heritage and conservation challenges of the Cold War military patrimony. ([https://www.militarylandscapes.net/wp-content/uploads/Military\\_Landscapes.pdf](https://www.militarylandscapes.net/wp-content/uploads/Military_Landscapes.pdf)) (MG)
- (iv) ***Adaptive Re-use: Strategies for Post-War Modernist Housing***, edited by Maren Harnack, Natalie Heger and Matthias Brunner (Jovis Verlag, 2020).  
We contributed to the November 2019 conference in Frankfurt that generated this monograph, and participated in a follow-on bid for a spin-off international research project. (MG)
- (v) **Bratislava, (un)planned City**, by HM and colleagues from docomomo Slovakia (published December 2020).

This resulted from a huge investigation of planning and building the Slovak capital with special focus on the period of the last 200 years. For more information:  
[https://issuu.com/oddelenie.architektury/docs/neplanovane\\_mesto\\_ukazka\\_knihy](https://issuu.com/oddelenie.architektury/docs/neplanovane_mesto_ukazka_knihy) (HM)

## **D: AFRICA/S ASIA/GLOBAL SOUTH/ACTIVITIES**

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

Docomomo-Ghana now has a second (regional) chapter: Docomomo Accra. There are also plans to initiate a Docomomo-Nigeria chapter (see Plan of Action below).

## ISC U + L PLAN OF ACTION, 2021-22

In general, the continued restriction on international travel stemming from COVID-19 and the fact that only one year is covered by this plan of action, will curb any very ambitious or fixed plans for the period, but the following are currently envisaged:

### A: LANDSCAPE

- ***Modernist Landscapes in the Century of Revolutions: Integration and Dislocation in the Modernist Era***: co-edited by Jan Haenraets, Andrew Saniga, and Gulnur Cengiz

It is planned to publish this comprehensive ISC U + L publication on the theme of the global landscape heritage during the course of 2021-2, subject to satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with a publisher. (JH, AS)

### B: URBANISM

- **E-proceedings:**

Subject to time and resources, the possibility of further e-proceedings during the course of the year will be explored, possibly covering URB/DOCONF-19, or the June 2021 Aberdeen mass housing conference and preceding 'listing' application. (MG)

- **Mass housing heritage designation:**

An appeal against designation of the eight multi-storey public housing projects in the centre of Aberdeen (see above) is currently being resisted, and if it is turned down, a follow-on community engagement programme is planned (MG)

- **URB/DOCONF:** the next event (with BME Budapest) will take place in autumn 2021, potentially with an online element – details to be confirmed in due course by MB. (MB)
- A conference planned by the consortium of the project Art Nouveau, will cover the urbanism of the late 19th century in the Danube region and will be held in Bratislava in May 2022. (HM)

### C: DATABASES

- The UK (HLF-supported) and Hong Kong projects will be expanded and refined – accessible both directly and via the 'Tower Block' website. (MG)

- Continued development of DOCOMOMO International Mass Housing Archive with UoE Datashare. (MG)

## **D: AFRICA/GLOBAL SOUTH**

Further development of DOCOMOMO-Ghana/West Africa (now focused chiefly in Accra).

Specifically, there are plans to initiate a Docomomo Nigeria chapter during this period, as a result of the third writing workshop taking place in Nigeria and Ghana.

## **E: PUBLICATIONS**

- *Modernist Landscapes in the Century of Revolutions* (JH, AS): see above.
- E-proceedings (MG): see above.

### 3: ISC U + L LIST OF MEMBERS (as at Aug 2021)

In reflection of the continued restrictions on travel and communication more generally, we plan to leave the membership of the committee unchanged for this year and to restructure it at the next 'in-person' conference in 2022, in Valencia: <https://www.docomomo.com/news/17th-international-docomomo-conference-2022>

The current membership is as follows:

Miles Glendinning (Convener): [m.glendinning@ed.ac.uk](mailto:m.glendinning@ed.ac.uk)

Ola Uduku (Vice-Convener): [Ouduku@gmail.com](mailto:Ouduku@gmail.com); [o.uduku@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:o.uduku@mmu.ac.uk)

Melinda Benko: [benko.melinda@gmail.com](mailto:benko.melinda@gmail.com)

Zara Ferreira: [zara.c.ferreira@gmail.com](mailto:zara.c.ferreira@gmail.com)

Jan Haenraets: [janh@bu.edu](mailto:janh@bu.edu)

Hannah Lewi: [hlewi@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hlewi@unimelb.edu.au)

Henrieta Moravcikova: [usarmoro@savba.sk](mailto:usarmoro@savba.sk)

Andrew Saniga: [aisaniga@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:aisaniga@unimelb.edu.au)

Poul Sverrild: [psv@hvidovre.dk](mailto:psv@hvidovre.dk); [poul@sverrild.com](mailto:poul@sverrild.com)

Karina Van Herck: [karina.vanherck@rwo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:karina.vanherck@rwo.vlaanderen.be)