

# **DOCOMOMO International**

**ISC on Urbanism and Landscape**

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# 1: ISC U + L ACTIVITY REPORT 2024-26

## A: DATABASE/RESEARCH WORK

### (i): DOCOMOMO International Mass Housing Archive (DIMHA)

- Further significant progress has been made with our **DOCOMOMO-International Mass Housing Archive**, a huge, Google-searchable image repository hosted on University of Edinburgh's open-access 'Datashare': see <https://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/handle/10283/2927>. Originally, some 49 country and territory collections from all over the world were created, containing currently some 35,000 images taken between 2011 and 2024, covering all main centres of mass housing production and very many others, and around 2,000 further images have been added during 2024-6, covering sites in countries including Chile, Hong Kong, Belgium and Italy.
- In line with the new DOCOMOMO policy of maximising online, open-access resources, all these images are high-quality, open-access and free of any copyright or use restrictions. In order to link the DIMHA with the DOCOMOMO International Website, a new 'Digital Archives' tab has already been added to the DI website. (MG)

### (ii): Other database initiatives

- Work has also continued on other linked database projects, with international extensions of the 'Tower Block' online database project, including further work to potentially update the 'piggyback' Hong Kong database by a comprehensive field survey of new estates completed in the territory in the decade since 2013. (MG)
- The AHUWA – 'Afrimomo' Group have continued to develop their West African Modernism database to accompany the West African Campus open access website created from the now concluded Writing West African Modernisms writing Workshop (2018 – 2025) led by Ola Uduku. (OU)

## B: PUBLICATIONS/E-PROCEEDINGS

### (i): *Landscape Architecture and Infrastructure of the Twentieth Century – Selections from the DOCOMOMO Chapters* - Jan Haenraets, Andrew Saniga, Gulnur Cengiz (eds.)

- The beginning of the 2024-26 reporting period saw the long-awaited publication of our major ISC U + L publication on the theme of the global landscape heritage: ***Landscape Architecture and Infrastructure of the Twentieth Century – Selections from the DOCOMOMO Chapters*** - now available fully open-access at <https://doi.org/10.52200/DOCOMOMO.books.01>, This is a massive achievement by our three

colleagues. The book, intended as an authoritative international synthesis of this topic, draws on a large range of contributions from national DOCOMOMO working parties, together with overarching thematic essays by the co-editors. For future possibilities, see Plan of Action. (JH, AS)

**(ii): International mass housing research publication programme**

- November 2024 saw publication of a further outcome (following *Mass Housing, 2024*) of our extensive global research programme on postwar social housing - a major monograph, published by Routledge: *Hong Kong Public Housing: an Architectural and Policy History*. (MG)

**(iii): New Towns research project**

- Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, this multi-agency research project (jointly run by Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities) on the social, political and architectural history of postwar new towns has now been completed, and a significant project monograph, *Building Modern Scotland* (ed. Fair, Abrams, Breen, Watters and Wright) was published in early 2025. (MG)

**(iv): Other publications:**

- *Modern Architecture in Africa* [DOCOMOMO/Birkhauser] – 2024 saw completion of this co-edited book by Uta Pottgiesser, Ana Tostoes and Ola Uduku, including joint introduction on modernist architecture and landscapes in Africa by the editors (launched at the 2024 Santiago conference and published 2025). (OU)

## **C: AFRICA/GLOBAL SOUTH URBANISM ACTIVITIES**

- Following the highly successful DOCOMOMO U + L African Urbanism conferences, the setting up of the DOCOMOMO West Africa Group, and the Africa Architecture Writing Workshops with young Ghanaian students (see <https://africanarchitectures.wordpress.com>, and [www.africarchi.net](http://www.africarchi.net)), the workshop series has now been revived, focusing on modernist campuses in West Africa and involving students from universities in Ghana and Nigeria. (OU)
- Specifically, the British Academy-funded African 'Campus Modernisms' writing workshop, led by Ola Uduku, with co-leads Irene Appeaning Addo (Ghana) and Taibat Lawanson (Lagos) held a writing workshop in Kigali in 2022. It involved ECR architectural history academics from Nigeria, Ghana and Rwanda, and its final programme took place in February/March 2025. (OU)
- Nigerian Modernism exhibition, Tate Modern, 2025-6: DOCOMOMO input on drawing sources for Elder Dempster Building. (OU)
- This knowledge-transfer and sharing network has now developed links to the DOCOMOMO-International/TU Delft/German-funded 'Shared Heritage' project led by Uta Pottgiesser,

involving writing-fellows from Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda in a wider project focusing on modernist architecture in Africa. The programme and the fellows featured at the Valencia conference. (OU)

- Prof Taibat Lawanson has taken up the Leverhulme Global Professorship in West Africa Urbanism and Heritage, and has set up a West African Coastal Heritage and Urbanism Lab. This focuses on urban heritage at risk in West Africa, including numerous mid-century modernist office blocks on the West African coastline, with a focus on Accra, (Ghana) Lagos (Nigeria) and Freetown (Sierra Leone). (OU)
- Henrieta Moravcikova's South African PhD student, Cornelius van der Westhuizen, recently completed a significant thesis on the history of modern urbanism in Pretoria. Part of it was published in the journal *Architektura & Urbanismus* in 2024 under the title "An imperfect circle: an investigation into the variations and contrarian phenomena of several unique intrusive ring roads". (HM)

## **D: CONFERENCES/EVENTS/WATCHDOG WORK**

### **(i): International conference 'URB/DOCONF 2025' – Budapest University of Technology and Economics**

- This regular doctoral conference on the history and heritage management of Central-Eastern European modernist urbanism was successfully held in collaboration with ISC U + L by the Budapest University of Technology in October 2025 and coordinated by Melinda Benko. See the following link: <https://doconf.architect.bme.hu/doconf2025-proceedings/> (MB)

### **(ii): EAHN Housing Interest Group:**

- Miles is representing DOCOMOMO on the housing research 'interest group' of the European Architectural History Network (originally founded by Gaia Caramellino and Filippo Di Pieri of Milan Uni), whose inaugural volume, *Housing Histories*, is to be published during 2026. (MG)

### **(iii) DOCOMOMO-Italia international conference, Ferrara University, October 2025:**

- This major international conference focused on urbanism topics: organised by AA, and with MG as a keynote speaker. (AA)

## 2: ISC U + L PLAN OF ACTION, 2026-28

Hopefully the in-person discussions in Los Angeles will generate a range of new initiatives, but those already known are listed below.

### A: DATABASE/RESEARCH WORK

#### (i): Mass housing: DOCOMOMO International Mass Housing Archive

- Work will continue on the expansion and consolidation of the open-access DOCOMOMO-International Mass Housing Archive, adding probably another 5,000 images and further systematising the captions. (MG)

#### (ii): Other database initiatives:

- Enhancements of the existing Tower Block database will be explored, including the possibility of a database focusing on New Towns. (MG)
- West African Modernism database: continued development, as mentioned above under (1) (A) (ii)

#### (iii): Research/network collaborations:

- It is hoped that the EAHN Housing Interest Group link (see above) will generate worthwhile collaborative initiatives at the next biennial conference, at Aarhus 2026. (MG)
- As part of continuing efforts by the Flanders Heritage Agency to broaden its international activities and visibility, the possibility of creating links between the DOCOMOMO International Mass Housing Archive and the Flemish Inventory on social housing will be further explored in 2026/7. (KVH)

### B: PUBLICATIONS/E-PROCEEDINGS

#### (i): E-proceedings:

- The possibility of further e-proceedings will be actively pursued, possibly covering the 2021 Aberdeen mass housing conference and preceding 'listing' application, but meantime any existing e-proceedings not already added to the main DOCOMOMO-International website (under 'Publications') will be duly incorporated. (MG)

**(ii): Other publications:**

- An open-access gazetteer of African University Modernist Campuses – including masterplans and key buildings – will be produced in 2026 as a completion of the West African Campus Modernisms writing workshop project. It is likely to be print on demand, although we may also consider negotiating with a physical publisher – or University of Liverpool. (OU)
- Future publications on urbanism topics in Flanders in 2026/7 will include the international re-publication (in English) in September 2026 of a book previously published in 2012 on the late modernism of the ‘Turnhoutse School’, including a republication of an original essay on the Parc quarters (Karina Van Herck, ‘Wonen in een park: de sociale woningbouw in de golden sixties’, In Yves De Bondt, Francis Strauven (eds), *Architectuur in de Golden Sixties. De Turnhoutse School*, Tiel, 2012; and a government-funded DOCOMOMO-Belgium volume, planned for publication in 2026/7: *Reviving Modernist Utopia. Exploring Strategies for Regenerating post-war Modernist Housing Ensembles*. (KVH)

**C: AFRICA/GLOBAL SOUTH URBANISM ACTIVITIES (miscellaneous)**

- The 2026-28 agenda will focus on further developing pan-African urbanism heritage links and meetings, working especially with South Africa, and specifically aiming to mount a 2025 Africa MoMo meeting. (OU)
- DOCOMOMO will be represented at the first session of the African Architecture Biennale, at Nairobi in September 2026. The African ISC U + L team are also involved in the Modernist Heritage of Africa (MoHoA) initiative. (OU)
- There will be further more specific development of DOCOMOMO-West Africa/Ghana (now focused chiefly in Accra). Specifically, there are plans to initiate a DOCOMOMO Nigeria chapter during this period, arising out of the third writing workshop taking place in Nigeria and Ghana. (OU)
- ASAUk – African Studies Association of the UK: September 2026 Conference: Ola will be representing DOCOMOMO at this conference, which will feature a panel on West African Architecture and Urbanism, re-visiting historic modernist structures in ‘danger’ such as the Alan Vaughan Richards House, and also focusing on the building re-use projects for the Godwin and Hopwood offices, both in Lagos. (OU)
- MoMa New York, August 2026 – ‘West African Modernism’ exhibition, featuring amongst other buildings the Alan Vaughan Richards House (Lagos) with DOCOMOMO input from Ola Uduku – as previously announced at earlier Docomomo conferences. (OU)

## **D: CONFERENCES/EVENTS/WATCHDOG WORK**

### **(i): International conference 'URB/DOCONF 2027' – Budapest University of Technology and Economics:**

- The next of the regular doctoral conferences on the history and heritage management of Central-Eastern European modernist urbanism, held in collaboration with ISC U + L at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, will be held in October 2027, coordinated by Melinda Benko. (MB)

### **(ii): Mass housing heritage designation:**

- Following the successful outcome in 2022 of the test-case appeal against designation of several multi-storey public housing projects in the centre of Aberdeen, investigations continue into a pilot Scottish study of potential landscape designations, and a research and community engagement programme in Aberdeen. (MG)

### **(iii): Cultural Heritage in the Metropolitan Peripheries (CUMET)**

- This trans-national project, running to 2026, deals with the diverse cultural heritage of the peripheries of three European metropolises, Paris, Madrid, Edinburgh, and its potential to contribute positively to contemporary metropolisation. Researchers from three Una Europa universities – Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Complutense University of Madrid, University of Edinburgh – participate in the CUMET project whose objective is to analyse both opportunities and risks for cultural heritage at the metropolitan peripheries. DOCOMOMO is involved in support via researchers based in the University of Edinburgh.

### **(iv): 'Australia After Modern: the post-modernisation of Australian Cities'**

- A collaborative national project including planning, landscape and architectural historians looking at city-making between 1975 and 2000 in Australia: outcomes would include a comprehensive oral history interview program, a symposium and exhibition and book. This will be led by Hannah Lewi, and involve Andrew Saniga, along with a number of other Australian Docomomo members.

## **3: ISC U + L - LIST OF MEMBERS (as at February 2026)**

Ola Uduku (Convener) – [o.uduku@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:o.uduku@liverpool.ac.uk)  
Miles Glendinning (Vice-Convener) – [m.glendinning@ed.ac.uk](mailto:m.glendinning@ed.ac.uk)  
Antonello Alici - [a.alici@staff.univpm.it](mailto:a.alici@staff.univpm.it)  
Melinda Benko - [benko.melinda@gmail.com](mailto:benko.melinda@gmail.com)  
**Umberto Bonomo** – [ubonomo@uc.cl](mailto:ubonomo@uc.cl)  
Andrea Borde - [andreaborde@gmail.com](mailto:andreaborde@gmail.com)  
Zara Ferreira - [zara.c.ferreira@gmail.com](mailto:zara.c.ferreira@gmail.com)  
Jan Haenraets - [jhaenraets@googlemail.com](mailto:jhaenraets@googlemail.com)  
Hannah Lewi - [hlewi@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hlewi@unimelb.edu.au)  
Henrieta Moravcikova - [usarmoro@savba.sk](mailto:usarmoro@savba.sk)  
**Emmanuel Ofori-Sarpong** – [eo15@soas.ac.uk](mailto:eo15@soas.ac.uk)  
Andrew Saniga - [ajsaniga@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ajsaniga@unimelb.edu.au)  
Karina Van Herck - [karina.vanherck@vlaanderen.be](mailto:karina.vanherck@vlaanderen.be)

*Candidates co-opted since 2024 Conference highlighted in bold; no additional members beyond those proposed at present.*

## **4: Agenda for ISC U + L meeting on 17-3-26**

### ***ISC U+L, Agenda for Conference Meeting of Committee***

***To be held at the Los Angeles Conference, Tuesday 17 March 2026, 1430-1630.***

***Location: USC Campus, room tbc.***

**Meeting Convener (in lieu of Ola Uduku): Miles Glendinning**

**1: Apologies, etc.**

**2: Committee matters**

**3. Activity Report, 2022-24**

**4: Plan of Action 2024-26**

**5: AOCB**

**6: Next meeting**

***CIRCULATION: all committee members (see (3) above)***