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HOUSING RELOADED

International committee for
documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the
modern movement

Journal 54 - 2016/01



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On the cover: Georges Addor, Jacques Bolliger and Louis Payot, *Meyrin Parc*,
the first satellite precinct in Switzerland, 1960–1964. © ETH-GTA Archives,
Zurich, ph. W. Binder.

Contribute to the next journal

Journal 55 is scheduled for September 2016. Authors who would like to
contribute to this issue are kindly invited to contact
docomomo@tecnico.ulisboa.pt.

Guideline to contributors

- A copy on CD or an e-mail version of the text. The CD should be clearly labeled with the author(s) name(s), the title, and the names of the files containing the text and illustrations. The name and version of the word-processing software used to prepare the text should also be given.
- A hard copy on paper by postal mail. The title and author's name should be clearly mentioned on each page of the manuscript and the name, title, postal address and e-mail address should also be given at the end of each contribution.

Form

- All texts must be in English; if translated, the text in the original language must be enclosed as well.
- Manuscripts should be written with double spacing and liberal margins with all pages numbered in sequence.
- A short resume of the author(s), in connection with the contribution, must be included.
- Illustrations referred to in the text should be mentioned and abbreviated as follows: (figure 1).
- Articles must include a short bibliography of about 5 to 10 reference books or articles.
- Footnotes should be numbered and should follow the following style:

Books: Nikolaus Pevsner, *Pioneers of Modern Design: From*

William Morris to Walter Gropius, Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1960.

Articles: Julius Posener, "Aspects of the Pre-History of the Bauhaus", *From Schinkel to the Bauhaus*, London, A.A., 1972, 43-48.

Illustrations

We accept 3 to 6 illustrations for short contributions (about 600 words) and up to 10 illustrations for full-length articles (about 1500 words). It is essential that authors provide good quality illustrations either printed on paper or as digital data on disk or CD (size of images: 300 dpi for an A5 format). For figure captions, the order of information is: designer, name of building or object, location, date, description, source. If a building has been destroyed, include that information.

projects. The success of the first conference has resulted not only in the rapid growth of interest, but also has led to the organization of three more iterations. This year will bring the fifth of the series, titled *20th Century Architecture — Preservation — Conservation*.

Undoubtedly, the choice of Gdynia as the place of the inaugural conference was not random. This Polish city seems to be a perfect location for such activities and studies, as it is the only Modern Movement creation of that scale in Poland. Its homogeneous and well-thought-out architectural concept was designed mainly in the 1920s and 1930s and is still clearly visible today, the Polish “White City” is preserved almost in its original form.

The book, documenting this prominent event, is as important as the conference itself. Although it does not aspire to be a monograph, it does present a vast spectrum of information about work carried out in various European cities. The material has been split into two parts, first of which serves as a presentation of icons and models of modernist architecture from the period between the World Wars, while the second part deals both with theoretical and practical issues connected with the preservation of 20th century heritage. Despite noticeable differences in the authors' views and opinions, the book clearly stresses two issues: the different character of Modern Movement architecture compared with historical monuments, giving rise to the inability to use the same methodology of conservation in both cases, and the unquestionable need of creating a separate and coherent procedure when dealing with 20th century heritage. Authors of the thoughtfully illustrated articles included in the book document individual problems in a detailed manner; the separate issues are connected with respective buildings, the relationships between ideas and forms of all the European flavors of Modern Movement heritage are thoroughly explored.

Although the need to create new conservation methodology for modern architecture in Poland is still urgent, the situation looks to be a lot better nearly a decade after the first *Modernism in Europe. Modernism in Gdynia* conference. The book *Modernism in Europe. Modernism in Gdynia. Architecture of the 1920s and 1930s and its Protection* is still relevant as a document of the former state of affairs and also as a reminder that, although a great deal of work has been done since 2007, several questions about Modern Movement architecture's future still have to be answered.

Piotr Tomaszewski

docomomo International Collaborator



En el Sítio Roberto Burle Marx

Author: Patricio Vélez

Publisher: Libros del Vórtice

ISBN: 978-84-617-3314-9

Language: Spanish, Portuguese and English

Year: 2015

En el Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is a descriptive essay about the place where the famous landscape designer had his gardening and landscaping laboratory. Eighteen photographs in black and white, twenty two in color, and eight pages of text, describe the different environments and most characteristic elements, whilst, at the same time, highlighting the importance of the *Sítio* in the artist's life and in the experimental process that provided new concepts on, and shapes to, the modern Brazilian garden.

Translated from the Publisher.



Reconstruire La France. L'Aventure du Béton Assemblé. 1940-1955

Author: Yvan Delemontey

Publisher: Editions de la Villette

ISBN: 978-2915456882

Language: French

Year: 2015

The reader is invited on a journey through the emergent building industry and the resulting architecture. He is provided with a reasoned inventory of a multitude of inventions,

improved from one building site to another, contributing to the accelerated modernisation of a sector deemed backward in a time of repairing the damages of the war. The urgency and the challenge that the recovery of the country represents impose the implementation of innovative operational processes, all of this led by the Government. In this context, the explosive growth of prefabrication paves the way for innovative technical performances and formal achievements around a leading material, the concrete.

Even if it doesn't summarize itself the building industrialization policy, prefabrication is the result of an unprecedented technical adventure, an adventure defined by the wealth of new proceedings and by the remarkable inventiveness of the concept that testifies the richness and the vitality of the French constructive culture back then.

In this effervescence where most of the players think about the procedures, manufacture and construction, the architect, which sees his role redefined, the engineer, the building contractor, the technician and the worker, experience an unlimited fascination before the process of fabrication and assembly, the movement of cranes, the back and forth of trucks, disassembly and reassembly of the formwork, the pace of the molding. Nevertheless, beyond the reeling aroused by this “mechanical ballet”, some architects are worried about the possible excess of an absolute rationalization.

Translated from the Publisher.



El Paris de Le Corbusier

Author: José Ramón Alonso Pereira

Publisher: Editorial Reverté

ISBN: 978 84 291 2098 1

Language: Spanish

Year: 2015

El Paris de Le Corbusier analyzes the dual relationships between the city and the architect: the dialectic between the real city — Paris, where he lived — and the ideal city — the abstract Paris that he was projecting. *El Paris*

de Le Corbusier tries to confront both worlds to understand them better. Paris is an opportunity to understand Le Corbusier and Le Corbusier is the occasion to study Paris. None of the factors wants to take precedence over the other.

Le Corbusier embodied the dynamics of the 20th century in Paris. It was there that he lived most of his life: where he thought, where he wrote, where he designed. The city of Le Corbusier was both place of reality and utopia. His proposals for *La Ville Contemporaine* and *Ville Radieuse* are both a prophetic gesture and a poetic image.

The intersection between his ideals and the reality of Paris is presented in this book through a rich and sequential speech — Édouard, Jeanneret and Le Corbusier: the discovery of Paris by Édouard, the dialectic that Paris, with its provocative energies, established with Jeanneret, and the proposals for Paris developed by Le Corbusier, making them a poetic journey and a vital encounter.

Translated from the Publisher.



**Alvar Aalto Library in Vyborg:
Saving a Modern Masterpiece,
Part 2**

Edited by Eric Adlercreutz, Maija Kairamo and Tapani Mustonen
Publisher: Rakennustieto Oy
ISBN: 978 952 267 101 1
Language: English
Year: 2015

On its completion in 1935, Alvar Aalto's library in Vyborg was regarded as one of the most significant functionalist buildings of its time. The restoration of the library, which had been in a state of neglect for a long time, began in 1994 and was completed in 2013. The restoration work has since received several awards for the exceptionally high-quality result and the laudable international cooperation. *Alvar Aalto Library in Vyborg Saving a Modern Masterpiece, Part 2* takes off from where the previous book ended and presents in detail,

through texts, photos and drawings, the individual renovation projects that were completed in 2010–2013: the lecture hall, the lending and reading halls, the children's library, the main entrance and lobby, the basement floors, the book storage and technical systems as well as the external walls and roofs. The book's viewpoint is very much set in the present, in presenting the recently restored library, its pure white surface, the soft grey soapstone on the main entrance façade, and the carefully finished details of the windows, doors and staircases. The photos taken specially for the book beautifully show Aalto's masterpiece in all its new splendor.

From the Publisher.



**Towards a Typology of Soviet
Mass Housing: prefabrication
in the USSR 1955–1991**

Authors: Philipp Meuser
and Dimitru Zadorin
Publisher: DOM publishers
ISBN: 978 3 86922 446 6
Language: English
Year: 2015

Soviet mass housing is a contradictory but unique phenomenon. It is usually blamed for creating the most monotonous built environment in the history of mankind, thus constituting a symbol of individual suppression and dejection. The construction programme launched in the post-Stalinist era was the largest undertaken in modern architectural history worldwide. At the same time, Soviet mass housing fulfilled a colossal social role, providing tens of millions of families with their own apartments. It shaped the culture and everyday life of nearly all Soviet citizens. Yet, due to the very scale of construction, it managed to evolve into a complex world denoting an abundance of myths and secrets, achievements and failures. Soviet mass housing is indisputably intriguing, but nevertheless it is still neglected as a theme of research.

Therefore, the time is ripe for a critical appraisal of this ambitious project. The authors aim to identify the most significant mass housing series designed and engineered from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok.

From the Publisher.



**Angola Cinemas.
A Fiction of Freedom**

Authors: Walter Fernandes
and Miguel Hurst
Edited by Christiane Schulte, Gabriele Stiller-Kern and Miguel Hurst.
Publisher: Steidl / Goethe-Institut
ISBN: 978-3-86930-794-7
Languages: German, Portuguese
and English
Year: 2015

Angola Cinema honors the unique, fantastic and unknown architecture of movie theaters in Angola, built in the decades before the end of Portuguese colonial rule in 1975. Initially designed as traditional closed spaces, open-air cinemas with terrace bars became the order of the day, better suited as they were to a tropical climate. The arrival of these cinemas in the 1960s brought atmosphere and elegance to the experience of going to the movies; but these urban cathedrals were also, importantly, a place where social barriers dissolved and where liberation from colonialism was possible. Walter Fernandes (born 1979) photographs offer not only an examination of the architectural history of these buildings, but also an important document of urban organization in the 20th century, as well as the changing mentalities of a society living with the prospect of its independence.

From the Publisher.