



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

ACE INFO

[SEPTEMBER 2010]

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Welcome to the third edition of *ACE Info* in 2010, in which you will discover a number of items of both general and specific interest as to the priorities and actions of the European Institutions in the field of architecture and construction.

It is well known that the architectural profession has been particularly badly affected by the global financial crisis and the ACE has been regularly tracking and reporting those impacts since the last quarter of 2008. What may not be so well known is that architectural journalists sometimes speak about the idea that the profession might become “extinct” due to the fallout from events such as the global financial crisis or the increasing impact of standardisation and automation in the building sector.

When such statements are made, it can be difficult for an organisation such as the ACE to convincingly counter the arguments put forward. The ACE sees that there are threats to the profession, but it also realises that there have always been threats and that the profession has evolved to manage these threats in a way that ensures its continued survival, often becoming strengthened and more relevant.

This phenomenon, among other factors, has led the Executive Board of the ACE to conclude, during a strategic workshop in June 2010, that the key priority for the ACE in coming years will be to better understand the role of the architect in our increasingly fast-moving world and that its understanding of the role of the architect must account for how it relates to all facets of society.

Two key actions of the ACE will, during the next half-year or so, deliver to the ACE and its member organisations data of significant importance to understanding the profession as it is at the present time. The first action is the setting up of a Work Group that will survey the scope of services offered by architects in all of the member countries of the ACE. The work to be carried out should deliver a greater and clearer understanding of the way in which architects answer the requirements of their clients and of society across Europe.

The second action is the carrying out of the 2010 Sector Study of the profession. This will be the second reliable and truly comprehensive survey of the profession in Europe – the first one was completed in 2008. This time around the questionnaire on which the survey is based is available in 11 languages and it is being run as one of a series of coordinated actions of the ACE to mark its 20th Anniversary. The 2010 Sector Study has been made possible by generous sponsorship and support from a number of key companies and associations in Europe and the results will be delivered at the General Assembly of the ACE, which is going to be held in the European Parliament on the 3rd December.

It is expected that these actions will produce results that will demonstrate that the architectural profession is, despite the threats constantly bearing down on it, robust, strong and highly relevant to society, both today and tomorrow. This is not a profession that will one day cease to exist! We are here for the long-term.

This edition is also available in French.

CORE ISSUES

Construction Activity in the EU as a Whole Declined by 7.5% in 2009



The European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) reported in June 2010 that there had been a decline of 7.5% in overall EU construction activity in 2009 and that a further drop of about 4% is expected in 2010. The report states that there has been a decline in activity in nearly all of the Member States of the EU, with some suffering much more severe falls than the overall average. In fact the reduction in construction activity has largely been concentrated within the new house building (-15.6%) and private, non-residential (-10.8%) sectors. In contrast, rehabilitation and maintenance activities have, in most EU countries, benefited from fiscal incentives in favour of energy efficiency measures and have therefore recorded a relatively small decrease of 4.1%. A direct consequence of this decline in activity has been an 8.3% fall in employment in the sector.

To read the full annual statistical report of the FIEC on construction activity, go to:

<http://www.fiec.org/docshare/docs/2/HIFPEHEBLPDFMECJEEPDBJPFBDV3Q6PDBGHKQOQHUYBY/ECIF/docs/DLS/KeyFig2009edition2010-final-200604-001107-EN-v1.pdf>

Source: FIEC

EU Energy Ministers to Hold Talks on New Energy Savings Plan



Informal discussions between the Energy Ministers from the 27 EU Member States are scheduled to take place in the week of 3rd September. A spokesperson for Paul Magnette, the Belgian Climate and Energy Minister who will chair the discussions, confirmed that the first round will relate to the revision of the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan. It is recalled that the Commission has announced its hope to produce a revised plan by early 2011 and that the ACE led a taskforce of many stakeholders to prepare an input to these discussions that highlights the fundamental importance of ensuring the deep energy renovation of all existing buildings. One subject that will be controversial during the planned discussions is the question of whether or not there should be binding targets for energy savings imposed by the revised plan on Member States. The ACE led work argues that without binding targets it is hard to see how the necessary deep energy renovation of buildings will happen within the necessary, relatively short timeframe.

The paper on deep energy renovations has been widely circulated to decision makers in the EU institutions and to national governments and it can be accessed on the website of the ACE at:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/getdocument/content_id/868

Source: euractiv.com

ACE MATTERS

Promoting Sustainable Green Jobs

The increasing attention being paid to the EU energy and climate change package has led the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to prepare an opinion on the promotion of sustainable green jobs as a way of increasing employment across the EU. The rapporteur, Mr. Iozia, arranged a public hearing on the subject earlier this year at which the President of the ACE, Selma Harrington, spoke. The Opinion was adopted and published on the 14th July and contains many interesting proposals on the subject. Among them is a full paragraph (4.6) that captures the key message that the ACE President delivered during her intervention at the EESC hearing. To download the paper, go to:

http://eescopinions.eesc.europa.eu/EESCOpinionDocument.aspx?identifier=ces\ten\ten401\ces985-2010_ac.doc&language=EN

The ACE General Assembly Adopts Guidelines on the Acquisition of Professional Experience

During its re-scheduled General Assembly in June, the ACE adopted the final report of the Work Group on the acquisition of professional experience. This report contains high quality information about the various approaches adopted across the EU to ensure that graduate architects acquire the necessary professional experience to permit them to become fully registered architects, capable of independent practice of the profession. Understanding these various approaches will permit member

countries that are adopting new or revised procedures to have a reliable and nearly complete overview of the practices that exist in Europe. The information gathered will also be useful to several ongoing activities of both the ACE and the European Commission, particularly in relation to the updating of the annexe of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. To download the ACE paper, go to:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/getdocument/content_id/853

Announcements from Member Organisations

Many Member Organisations have, since the last edition of *ACE Info*, informed the ACE Secretariat about changes in their organisations as follows:

CAA – Cyprus

Constantinos Constanti is now the President of the Cyprus Architects Association (CAA) having taken over from Constantinos Marathefitis some time ago.

OAR – Romania

Serban Tiganas, a member of the Executive Board of the ACE, has been elected as President of the Order of Architects of Romania for a four-year period.

IARP – Poland

Wojciech Gęsiak, was elected President of the Chamber of Polish Architects (IARP) in June 2010 during the General Assembly of the IARP for a period of four years. The new Presidium includes Wojciech Gęsiak (President), Sławomir Żak (Vice-President), Tomasz Tomaszewski (Vice-President), Waldemar Jasiewicz (Secretary General) and Marek Mikos (Treasurer).

RIBA – The United Kingdom

Angela Brady, an Irish-born architect, has been elected to succeed Ruth Reed as President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Her term in office will run from September 2011 to August 2013, giving her one-year as President-Elect.

CCA - Czech Republic

Jan Vrana was recently elected President of the Czech Chamber of Architects (CCA). He takes over from Dalibor Borak, who is currently a member of the Executive Board of the ACE and will serve for a period of 4 years.

The ACE at External Events

The ACE is frequently represented by its President, Members of its Executive Board, Chairmen of Work Groups and/or the Secretariat at external events and conferences. These activities often go unnoticed, but are very important to the pursuit of the policies of the ACE. Readers who wish to know more about these activities can access the reports, prepared after the events, in the calendar of external representations maintained on the website of the ACE at the following address:

<http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/mee/rep/rep009.asp>

ACE 20th Anniversary Events

As mentioned in the Editorial to this edition of *ACE Info*, the ACE will be marking its 20th Anniversary with a series of events in Brussels later this year. Those events include an exhibition, with catalogue, of the best examples of sustainable architecture from all corners of Europe that will be mounted in the European Parliament for the week commencing 29th November. The exhibition is being supported by the Belgian MEP, Frieda Brepoels, an architect by training. Mrs. Brepoels will officially open the exhibition at a reception on the evening of the 30th November. On Friday 3rd December the General Assembly of the ACE will be held in the premises of the European Parliament and it will address all of the most pertinent EU policy issues that affect the built environment. On that occasion, the results of the ACE 2010 Sector Study will be presented for the first time. That evening, there will be a ceremony and celebratory dinner at the cultural centre Palais des Beaux Arts in the heart of Brussels to which the ACE exhibition will have been transferred and where it is hoped it will run until Christmas.

The ACE wishes to acknowledge the generous sponsorship and donations that it is to receive in order to finance these celebratory events from Velux, Knauf Insulation, Johnson Controls, Team Stainless, Camfil Farr, Daikin and the MAF.

As plans are finalised over the coming weeks and months, the ACE will publicise them and issue invitations for the various events to its delegates, partners and interlocutors across Europe and the world.

ACE Events and Meetings in September, October and November 2010:

Work Group on Public Procurement – Thursday 9th and Friday 10th September, Brussels
Work Group on Scope of Services – Monday 20th September, London
Chairs of TA2 Work Groups – Monday 20th September, London
General Coordination Meeting – Friday 24th September, Brussels
Finance Committee Meeting – Friday 1st October, Brussels
Executive Board Meeting – Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd October, Brussels
Joint Working Party Meeting with Schools of Architecture – Thursday 7th October, Brussels
Architecture and Quality of Life Workshop – 25th October, Sofia
Official launch of the ACE Exhibition – 30th November, Brussels

OTHER MATTERS

Biennale de Venise

Like every two years, when summer ends, architect's attention from all over is captured by the Venice Biennale. Starting from this end of August "People meet in Architecture" at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition of which curator is Pritzker Prize winner in 2010, Kazuyo Sejima. According to Paolo Baratta, president of the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia, former edition in 2008, by Aaron Betsky, was characterized by "a kind joyful pessimism... because of the little faith that seemed placed in the architecture of buildings before the immense, impersonal urban spaces now compromised by the increasing urban sprawl". This year "we go back to a more serene faith in architecture, precisely the art of building spaces in which man as individual and community may realize his ideals and establish his society", says Baratta. Seen as an exhibition in the time of crisis, the Biennale is providing a wide range of different attitudes and reflections on architecture, demonstrating that this profession is embracing from many angles the complexity of life in space, of people in architecture. From visions on metropolitan scale of urban development, research for sustainable houses, reflections on materiality and perception to a revisited history and more architectural education, everything is there, even the contemplation of the vacancy and the absence from the exhibition. Many ACE member organizations are presenting national pavilions building together a kind of endless hope in architecture as an ingredient of life and not as a super flue exception. In the end, quoting Paolo Baratta again, "People meet in Architecture also means that we become people in architecture."

For more information also visit: www.labiennale.org

Commissioner Barnier Reported to be Finalising an "EU Single Market Act"

The Single Market of the EU is based on the "four freedoms". That is freedom of movement for goods, services, people and capital within the borders of the EU. Much progress has been made over the decades in creating the Single Market, but it is still not a truly functioning reality as many citizens will attest. A recent report by the former Commissioner for Competition, Mario Monti, called for the Single Market to be "put back on track". The current work by the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services, Michel Barnier, is a clear response to this call by Monti. Although the principal focus of the proposed Act appears to be on taxation, counterfeiting and helping small businesses, experience shows that such legislative activities often have an impact on the architectural profession. For this reason, the ACE intends to track developments in this work by Commissioner Barnier.

Source: euractiv.com

Perception Study of how European Citizens View Their Quality of Life Released

In May of this year, the European Commission released the results of a Eurobarometer opinion poll that looked at how citizens view the quality of life in 75 major European cities. Regular readers of *ACE Info* may recall that the ACE was able to make input to the questions that were used in the opinion poll, particularly those that relate to the beauty and attractiveness of the built environment. Although the responses show an expected wide disparity of opinion, the perception of the level of service for transport, health and education generally scores well and the results will certainly be helpful to city planners and urban designers as they plan the future of our cities.

The full report can be downloaded at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/themes/urban/audit/index_en.htm

Source: European Commission Press Service

Construction Products Regulation – Political Agreement in Council

The European Council reached political agreement on the controversial Construction Products Regulation (CPR) that is proposed to replace the Construction Products Directive, a directive that has a significant impact on the market for construction products across the EU and that regulates the CE marking of those products. The ACE and several key actors in the construction sector remain concerned about certain aspects of the CPR, particularly in relation to how CE marking will be regulated in the future. There is concern that such marking may be inappropriately extended to certain products that are manufactured on-site for specific one-off projects. The next step is that the text of the political agreement will be considered by the European Parliament in Second Reading.

Source: FIEC

European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage – Europa Nostra Awards 2011

Each year, Europa Nostra and the European Union reward the best of cultural heritage achievements. Through the **European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards**, they celebrate excellence and dedication by architects, craftsmen, volunteers, schools, local communities, heritage owners and media. The Awards celebrate exemplary restorations and initiatives of the many facets of Europe's tangible cultural heritage, in categories range from the conservation of monuments and buildings, their adaptation to new uses, new interventions in historic settings, urban and rural landscape rehabilitation, archaeological site interpretations and care for art collections. Also awarded are research and education projects, dedicated service to heritage conservation by individuals and organisations, and education and awareness raising initiatives related to cultural heritage. Every year, up to six Grand Prix monetary awards of €10,000 each are presented to the top Laureates in the various categories. Anyone can make a nomination or enter a project (with the permission of the project's owner). Closing date for entries for the 2011 Awards is 1st October 2010 and entry forms are available on the Europa Nostra website:

<http://www.europanostra.org/apply-for-an-award>

Source: Europa Nostra

From Paper Performance to Real Performance

New research coming out of the UK is showing that in many cases the actual thermal efficiency of a building fabric is far worse than its design calculations would suggest. The research is being led by a team at the School of the Built Environment at Leeds Metropolitan University and it has focused on measuring the real performance of actual buildings and individual elements of those buildings (e.g. walls and roof elements), comparing them with the expected design performance. Moreover, as the team at Leeds has developed a number of test methodologies that allow them to better understand how and why building elements are underperforming, they are now able to identify a number of design assumptions and implementation issues that are leading to discrepancies between real and modelled performance. Given the drive towards nearly zero energy buildings, this research is an important first step in helping to understand how to design building fabrics that deliver what they promise. The team at Leeds has undertaken a number of trials and reports on these can be accessed from their website:

<http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/as/cebe/projects/eurisol/> and <http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/as/cebe/build.htm>

Source: Knauf Insulation

PUBLICATIONS

Affordable Warmth for All

A guide to improving energy efficiency in the social housing stock, for social housing providers, residents and supporting organisations has been published by the FinSH Project. It can be freely downloaded from the project website, where you can also see who the project partners were:

www.finsh.eu

Architecture and Beauty: Conversations with Architects about a Troubled Relationship

Based on a series of interviews by Yael Reisner, Architecture and Beauty has been developed into sixteen individual chapter/portraits, written up by Fleur Watson, that recount the thoughts of some of the world's most creative designers. Featured architects are: Will Alsop, Hernan Diaz Alonso, Peter Cook, Odile Decq, Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Zvi Hecker, Mark Goulthorpe, Kolatan/MacDonald Studio, Greg Lynn, Tom Mayne, Juhani Pallasmaa, Gaetano Pesce, Eric Owen Moss, Wolf Prix and Lebbeus Woods. The cost of the book is €61 and can be ordered online at:

http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/274f4c/architecture_and_beauty_conversations_with_a

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Energy Efficiency First: The Foundation of a Low-Carbon Society

The European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee) has chosen the above title as the theme for its Summer Study course to be held in Southern France from the 6th to the 11th June 2011. The event will be divided into 8 "Panels", two of which are directly relevant to architects: Panel 5, Saving energy in buildings: the time to act is now and Panel 6, Innovation in buildings and appliances. The eceee has issued a call for papers with a deadline for abstracts to be submitted before 30th September. Full details can be found at:

www.eceee.org/summer_study

World Sustainable Energy Days, 2nd to 4th March 2011 in Wels, Austria

A call for papers for this major, annual series of events has been issued with a closing date for submission of abstracts of 5th October. The subjects on which papers can be submitted include energy efficiency in buildings, building renovation and sustainable energy technologies and strategies. Full details can be found at:

www.wsed.at

UIA Tokyo 2011 – Design 2050

The next World Congress of architects will take place in Tokyo from the 25th to the 28th September 2011 under the theme of Design 2050. The UIA has issued a call for papers with a deadline for the submission of abstracts of 31st October. The three sub-topics on which papers can be submitted are *environment, cultural exchange* and *life*. Full details can be found at:

<http://www.uia2011tokyo.com/en/callfor/>

EVENTS

StandarDays – Open information days on European Standardisation – Brussels, 22nd and 23rd September

This two-day event is aimed at newcomers to European Standardisation as well as those who would like to understand CEN and CENELEC better. The event takes place in Brussels and full details can be found at:

<http://www.cen.eu/cen/Services/Education/StandarDays/Pages/8thStandarDays.aspx>

Conference on Urban Planning and Soundscape – Stockholm, 30th September and 1st October

This Conference is part of the Stockholm European Green Capital programme 2010. For more information on the event, go to:

<http://www.soundscape-conference.eu/>

Building Sustainability – Stockholm, 20th October

A Conference that will explore the strengths of the city's recent urban development and redevelopment projects and how they have contributed to the designation of Stockholm as the first ever European Green Capital. Full details can be found at:

www.buildingsustainability.se

Solar Power on Buildings: Making Money by Incorporating PV Into Building Design – Watford, UK, 20th October

This Conference, of which the ACE is a supporter through its involvement in Design Build Solar, will look at the increasingly interesting issue of building integrated photo voltaics, a subject that the ACE has worked on in the past. Full details can be found at:

<http://www.bre.co.uk/eventdetails.jsp?id=4296>

Property Valuation in a Volatile Market: Accuracy and Reliability – Brussels, 28th October

This Conference is organised by RICS and aims to inform participants about valuation methods that are appropriate in a volatile market. It should be of interest for architects who need to have a good knowledge of property values. Full details can be found at:

<http://www.joinricsineurope.eu/en/events/european-rics-valuation-conference-brussels-belgium/>

Bauhaus.Solar, Technology, Design, Environment – Erfurt, Germany, 10th and 11th November

This event will address a range of topics including *architecture and solar structural elements, energy-efficient construction and redevelopment*. The ACE will be a supporter of this event and full details can be found at:

www.bauhaus-solar.de

URBACT Annual Conference – Liege, 30th November and 1st December

This Conference will address ways of overcoming the challenges facing cities today in the context of a global economy impacted by crisis. Full details can be found at:

www.urbact.eu

UIA Congress 2011

An important date for your diary is the next UIA Congress that will take place in Tokyo, Japan from the 25th to the 29th September 2011. The main theme of the event will be *Design 2050* and it will be approached from three key themes: Environment; Life; Survival. More information can be accessed at:

<http://www.uia2011tokyo.com/en/>

Listing of events relating to Urban Issues

The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) maintains a very good listing of events that relate to urban issues on its website, many of which are interest to architects. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.eukn.org/eukn/meetings/index.html>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Selection of Useful and interesting links:

European Commission homepage

http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Search page for Commission documents

http://europa.eu/documents/comm/index_en.htm

The Barroso Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/index_en.htm

Commission page containing reference documents for the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/future_en.htm#docs

The European Parliament Homepage:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

Website of the Belgian Presidency (Jul10 to Dec10):

<http://www.eutrio.be>

Website of the Spanish Presidency (Jan10 to Jun10):

<http://www.eu2010.es>

European Forum for Architectural Policies:

<http://www.efap-fepa.eu/>

EU Video Website:

<http://www.youtube.com/eutube>

URBACT Hous-Es Network website:

<http://urbact.eu/projects/hous-es.html>

Sustainable building website

www.sustainablebuilding.info

Collegi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC) international relations database:
<http://www.coac.net/international/>

Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori (CNAPPC) database - ArchiEuro:
<http://www.awn.it/AWN/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/26111AWN0905/L/1>

Website of the network of French Architecture Centres:
www.ma-lereseau.org

Website of the European Construction Technology Platform:
<http://www.ectp.org>

Website of the *Build Up* website on energy efficient buildings:
<http://www.buildup.eu>

ArchiEuropa website – comparative information on practice of architecture:
<http://www.arvha.net/selectionlang.php?s=AXMIG1FZFB>

Archi-Student website – a wealth of information on schools and students of architecture in Europe:
www.archi-students.org

Link to the Newsletter of the International Union of Architects (UIA):
<http://www.uia-architectes.org/texte/england/Menu-2/4-lettre.html>

Passive and Draught Cooling in Buildings – The website of an EU-funded project that shows the way towards a pragmatic alternative to conventional air conditioning in buildings:
www.phdc.eu

Database of Digital Architecture – A subscription based website that contains several sections including one that provides images of the works of the great masters of architect and videos of talks by famous architects has been set up. For full information go to:
www.pidgeondigital.com

Interactive Database for Architects – Launched in March 2008, this site provides an opportunity for all architectural practices to become globally recognised. Check it out at:
www.worldarchitecture.org

ACE Website:
www.ace-cae.eu

Useful tip:

In the website addresses given in *ACE Info* for the documents of the EU, you will frequently see the following near the end of the address: “_en”. These two letters define the language of the document (English in the case of “en”) and you can usually change these two letters in order to bring you to a different language version as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| French_fr | German_de | Danish_da | Swedish_sv |
| Italian_it | Spanish_es | Greek_el | Dutch_nl |
| Portuguese_pt | Finnish_fi | Czech_cs | Maltese_mt |
| Estonian_et | Latvian_lv | Lithuanian_lt | Polish_pl |
| Hungarian_hu | Slovene_sl | Slovak_sk | Bulgarian_bg |
| Romanian_ro | | | |

The editorial board for the compilation of this *ACE Info* is:

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If you wish to receive *ACE Info* regularly and you are not on the mailing list, you can register online at: <http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/sub/sub/subscribe.asp>

If you have information that you wish to have included in the next edition then e-mail it (in English or French please) to adrian.joyce@ace-cae.eu. The deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.

End