

TG39 - Deconstruction

Reports Joint Coordinator Charles Kibert:

Task Group 39 held its first working meeting on 18th and 19th May 2000 at the Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford, U.K. The first day 18th May 2000 was occupied with a Conference entitled Deconstruction - Closing the Loop. Charles records the warm thanks of all participants to Clodagh McGrath who organized the meeting and who ensured that the participants were well cared for throughout their stay. (Clodagh has been appointed as Joint Coordinator and she reviews the Conference below.)

On 19th May 2000 eight countries presented national reports on deconstruction and materials reuse: Australia, Germany, Israel, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It is envisaged that these reports will be published in electronic format as a CIB publication, and information as to how to acquire a copy will be published in due course on the TG39 website located at www.bcn.ufl.edu/sustainable

Future meetings of TG39 are as follows:

- April 2001: TG39 will hold a meeting in conjunction with the CIB Triennial Congress in Wellington, New Zealand. The organisers have offered us a track on one of the conference days. TG39 is to organize this track so I need to know as soon as possible which of you or your colleagues are interested in presenting a paper on deconstruction, materials reuse, recycling potential, and related issues. Contact Charles Kibert ckibert@ufl.edu or Clodagh McGrath mcgrathc@bre.co.uk.
- May 2002: Frank Schultmann from DFIU in Karlsruhe, Germany has tentatively agreed to host this meeting at DFIU. The subject will be Design for Deconstruction and will address both building design and building product design. Other collateral issues such as recycling potential and materials reuse issues will also be included. Subject to DFIU's agreement instructions will be posted on the Internet in the near future.
- May 2003: A request is being made to Delft Technical University to host the final meeting and they will be investigating this possibility in the coming months. The results will be posted on the Internet site.

Charles Kibert mentions that TG39 is looking for more country coordinators. He describes the task of the country coordinators as being to stimulate interest in this subject in their respective countries and to share information with their colleagues about efforts in other countries.



Charles Kibert



Deconstruction - Closing the Loop

Clodagh McGrath looks back at the Conference on 18th May 2000.

In his opening address, Professor Charles Kibert suggested that we regard buildings as a resource, a store of materials that might today comprise an office block but may next year be reconfigured into a house, a factory or whatever. Like a Lego set where blocks are stuck together and pulled apart ad infinitum.

The contents of the speakers' presentations were wide and varied, from discussing the new UK demolition code of practice BS 6187: 2000, to citing an UK example of deconstruction in practice to designing for future reuse and recycling. Together they set the scene for the afternoon debate, not just about how to maximise salvage from the current building stock, but how to how to build in the future so as not to add to the growing piles of construction waste.

After lunch the workshop sessions analysed the issues, practicalities and barriers to deconstruction. Major problems highlighted included the lack of client knowledge, time factors, Health and Safety constraints, site and logistical problems, lack of ready market, and customer reluctance to buy second-hand goods.

By the end of the day, the message from speakers and delegates was that Deconstruction is the way of the future and that the industry has to collaborate in order to achieve it.

To purchase copies of the conference proceedings (£ 30) please contact:

Mrs. Marie Bush
BRE
Garston
Watford, WD2 7JR
United Kingdom
Tel: +44.1923.664386
Fax: +44.1923.664786
E-mail: bushm@bre.co.uk

Clodagh McGrath

