Introduction / Background
Far from declining, both the frequency and severity of building failures are on the increase. Buildings, building systems and facilities are more sophisticated, new materials and techniques are constantly introduced and construction times are cut ever so short.
The topic of Building Pathology is essentially concerned with learning from the past and making use of the knowledge that can be derived from building failures and their treatment. Two of its basic aims are the definition of methods and tools to enable the easy identification of defects (at design stage, as well as in service), and the quest for solutions to reduce their incidence, and their effects, with the purpose of avoiding unforeseen repair or maintenance costs.
CIB’s W086 – Building Pathology has brought together a number of researchers and practitioners from over twenty countries, knowledgeable about building failures, their causes, their investigation and possible remedial actions. The first International W086 Symposium “Dealing with defects in building” was held in September 1994, in Varenna, Italy, and was deemed remarkably successful. The organizers hope to repeat such success, making the knowledge gathered by this discipline available and useful to the construction sector.
The life cycle of buildings has a big influence on the economy of any country, as well as in the...
environment. Failure prevention could, therefore, have highly beneficial effects both on direct costs and whole life costs of every building and on the environmental impact of the construction sector, the world over. The dissemination of Building Pathology knowledge and experience is paramount to enhance design for durability and maintainability of buildings and building components.

As far as the host country is concerned, the Symposium is the latest initiative stemming from the cooperation between GECoRPA, the Portuguese association rallying the enterprises specializing in rehabilitation, and LNEC, the national building and civil engineering research laboratory, a partnership in a particularly good position to promote the changes that are so necessary in this field.

Object
The Symposium intends to take the maximum advantage of errors unfortunately committed during design, construction, maintenance, operation and rehabilitation of current buildings and from the ensuing defects, in order to learn and to avoid repeating the same mistakes in the future. Failures in building will be approached in a straightforward and positive manner. A know-how transfer from researchers to practitioners will be sought, and an open forum will be provided, where to enhance dialogue among stakeholders – construction industries, building products industries, inspection bodies, real estate managers, insurance agencies, building engineers and architects – about building design, technologies and materials, their possible problems and how to prevent or reduce the later in the construction process.

Target Audience
All professionals involved in the design, execution, supervising, co-ordination, marketing, maintenance and rehabilitation of buildings, in particular engineers and architects interested in learning the lessons which are to be taken from defects and “illnesses” of buildings, so as to build or contribute to build more durable edifices and structures. Managers and users of buildings interested in knowing the factors – at design, execution and operation stages – which contribute to durability (or the lack of it). Technical staff of insurance companies. Students of the areas concerned.

Submission of Papers
Abstracts must be submitted preferably by e-mail to: cib.lisboa03@lnec.pt, until December 16, 2002, in English, referring in which symposium theme the paper might be included, and should include:

* title;
* name of authors;
* contact;
* organization represented and official address;
* small text limited to 200 words.

A translation of the abstract into Portuguese will be appreciated, if possible. If sent by mail, a diskette or a CD with the abstract file should be included. Files should be in one of the following formats: DOC, RTF or PDF.

Confirmation of selected abstracts will be made by e-mail by January 31, 2003. Presentation instructions will then be supplied. The papers will be submitted by May 30, 2003.

All accepted papers will be included in the proceedings, if at least one author or co-author is registered. The proceedings will be delivered at the beginning of the Symposium.

Languages
The official languages of the Symposium will be Portuguese and English. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Themes
Four great themes are proposed for the Symposium:
1st Theme – Tools and Methodologies
i) Investigation process, ii) Recording and reporting, iii) Diagnostic aids and expert system
2nd Theme – Costs
i) Costs of defects, ii) Costs of preventable maintenance, iii) Costs of designing for durability
3rd Theme – Case Study
i) Significant cases, ii) Data bases and data base analysis
4th Theme – Feedback
i) To construction professional, ii) To aid teaching, iii) To develop standards

Registration Fee
All persons that intend to participate at the Symposium should make a preliminary registration online or filling a preliminary registration form, and send it by mail or fax to the Symposium secretariat:

CDIT - Centro de Documentação e Informação Técnica
LNEC
Av. do Brasil, 101
1700-066 Lisboa, PORTUGAL
Fax: (+351) 21 844 30 14

420 Euro (before June 30, 2003)
520 Euro (after June 30, 2003)
290 Euro (student - before June 30, 2003)
320 Euro (student - after June 30, 2003)

The Symposium fees include: Conference proceedings, technical tours, lunches, coffee breaks, and the attendance of all sessions. The payment may be done by check or bank transfer without charges.

Conference website
http://www.lnec.pt/cib_symposium_lisboa03/