December 2005

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W086 – Building Pathology

Report of the Commission Meeting held in April 2005 in Lyon, France

by

Dr. Enrico de Angelis

Introduction

Items discussed included the status on the “State-of-the-art Report on Building Pathology (BP)”, paper-based archives and IT-related projects.

State-of-the-Art Report: Status

As part of the planned output of W086, a “State-of-the-art Report on Building Pathology (BP)” was scheduled for finalization and publication in 2005. However, a number of contributions by commission members haven’t been submitted yet. It was decided that Coordinators would continue to collect the missing contributions, and to re-discuss the final report at the next W086 meeting in 2006.

Paper-Based Archives on Failure

Examples of national paper-based archive of building failure were presented as follows:

- The English Defect Action Sheets edited by BRE during the golden age of national building research institutions (see fig. 1)
- The Fiches Pathologie du Bâtiment, edited by the French Agence Qualité Construction (a national institution funded by insurances) and the French insurance company Fondation Excellence SMA.
Other paper-based archives were presented, including:

- Various collection from WEKA, a professional publisher, about "Pathologie des structures" and "des ouvrages de bâtiment".
- "Guide pratique des défauts de construction" by the Belgian Research Institute CSTC, expressly made with and for the local Contractors Association.

**IT-Related Projects**

Discussions turned then to digital versions of building pathology related archives, often available for free or after registration from Internet. The following archives were quoted:

- The digital version of AQC-SMA’s "Fiches Pathologie Construction"
- Various collection from WEKA, a professional publisher, about "Pathologie des structures" and "des ouvrages de bâtiment".
- "Guide pratique des défauts de construction" by the Belgian Research Institute CSTC, expressly made with and for the local Contractors Association.
- The BLP collection, a database, available after subscription and the payment of a fee.
- The NUS (National University of Singapore) site "Maintenance Under Tropical Conditions", designed to study the maintainability issues of various categories of buildings under tropical conditions and to offer users a wide archive about building technologies, most frequent failures, defects to be pre-vented, their frequencies and required tests to identify and solve problems.
- The Portuguese PATORREB archive.
- The Italian "imparare dagli errori" archives.

The subsequent discussions confirmed the urgency to find a way (and the funds) to establish an international network linking local archives and a reciprocal control system and sharing of data. It was decided to consult with the CIB General secretariat regarding the possibility of an European fund (e.g. a COST Action) to activate this project.

**Future Meetings**

The next meetings of W086 will be as follows:

- 2006: Meeting in conjunction with the International Symposium "Construction in the XXI Century: Local and Global Challenges", to be held in Rome, Italy on 18-20 October 2006. See News article on the meeting [here](http://www.artecweb.it/PUB/cib2006).

**Additional Information**

For additional information about CIB W086 and its future meetings, please contact:

- The Coordinator, Prof. Sergio Croce at sergio.croce@polimi.it or
- The commission Secretary Dr. Enrico de Angelis at enrico.deangelis@polimi.it.
You can find more information on the activities of CIB W086 at [www.cibworld.nl](http://www.cibworld.nl)

Search under Databases/CIB Commissions. Click on Commissions and type W086 in the search field.