Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W096 – Architectural Management

Report of the “Special” Meeting in November 2005 in Denmark

by

Prof. Stephen Emmitt and Dr. Matt Prins

Background

The annual meeting of CIB W096 on Architectural Management was held at the Technical University of Denmark in the town of Lyngby from the 2nd to the 4th of November 2005. The university campus is situated in an attractive area just 10km north of the centre of Copenhagen and the warmer than average weather had resulted in some very attractive autumn leaf colours on the trees to welcome our guests. The meeting attracted fifty delegates from around the world to discuss the theme of ‘Designing Value’. We welcomed many new faces to our meeting from industry and academia in addition to our regular contributors.

New Meeting Format

Five sub-themes (Valuing Design; Communicating Design; Inclusive Design; Design Management; Design Integration; Architectural practice and education) formed the basis of workshop discussions.

This was the first time that the working commission had tried workshop sessions, partly in an effort to move away from the ‘stand-up-and-deliver’ format and partly to try and find a format in which delegates from industry and education could engage in some creative dialogue. Our sessions were extremely successful, leading to high quality, informed, debate and helping to form new alliances and partnerships for future work.

Presentations and Discussions

We advertised the event as a 'special meeting’ of W096 for a number of reasons. The working group was formed in 1992 and we felt that it was time to take stock of what we had achieved, where we stand and where we want to be in the future as an active commission. Professor Stephen Emmitt had recently taken over as joint coordinator from professor Colin Gray and at our business meeting at the CIB symposium in Toronto in 2004 we had agreed to write a new book from W096 members that sets out key objectives for future research and practice in the field of architectural management. The book will be comprised of themed chapters written by participants at the Denmark meeting, edited by Stephen Emmitt and Matt Prins, and published by SPON as part of its CIB series.

The death of Dr. M. Paul Nicholson earlier in 2005, the first coordinator and a tremendous champion of architectural management, came as a big shock to us and hence the special meeting also became a vehicle to pay our respects to Paul. The energy and vitality of
the meeting was certainly befitting of the culture Paul managed to create in many of our earlier meetings.

We were fortunate to have a provocative keynote presentation from Professor Kristian Kreiner from the Copenhagen Business School in addition to four themed presentations. These included reports of live case studies from ELD Partnership in Belgium and Niras/MTHøjgaard in Denmark, and helped to set the scene for the workshop sessions. Delegates also visited the art museum Louisiana to have dinner and see an exhibition of work by Henri Matisse.

Papers were subjected to a double blind peer review process and from 81 abstracts we finally accepted and published 46 papers in Emmitt, S. & Prins, M., (Eds.) (2005) Designing Value: new directions in architectural management, Proceedings of the W096 on Architectural Management, Publication number 307, Technical University of Denmark ISBN 87-7877-190-0. A CIB news article about this publication was already published in December 2005.

Future Meetings and Challenges

On the final day of the conference we held our business meeting and agreed the following venues for our forthcoming conferences.

In July 2006 the commission will meet at the Technical University of Eindhoven, joining the Adaptables meeting together with TG49 Architectural Engineering. Our main theme is dynamic briefing. We will also be part of the CIB World Congress in South Africa in 2007, followed by a meeting in Brazil in 2008.

This is a period of renewed vigour for the commission and our new commitment to high quality proceedings and better dissemination of our work, together with stimulating conferences, holds great promise for the future. One of the most challenging commission decisions made in this context was to aim for a series of publications that addresses good practices in key areas.

Additional Information

For other information on W096 and its future meetings, please contact the Coordinators, Prof. Stephen Emmitt se@byg.dtu.dk and Dr. Matt Prins Prins@bk.tudelft.nl.

You can find more information on the activities of CIB W096 at www.cibworld.nl. Search under Databases/CIB Commissions. Click on Commissions and type W096 in the search field.