There were twelve participants and guests at the London Meeting (from seven countries).

As usual the Meeting heard a number of varied and interesting presentations.

These were:

- G. Armer: Preliminary results of research on measures against the effects of explosions in post offices
- C. Modena: Principal results of research on reinforced masonry for buildings in seismic zone - A BRITE-EURAM Project
- B. Lewicki: Discussion on the definition of the storey drift at first cracking of masonry walls based on experimental tests on wallets
- D. Pume: Mechanical characteristics of mortars and masonries
- B. De Vekey: Laboratory tests on masonry at the BRE

Two Sessions were given over to an EC6-NADS Workshop during which speakers described the national situations in the UK, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Portugal and the Czech Republic. These featured comprehensive information on the preparation and use of NAD of EC6 in the countries concerned.

Future Activities

From discussions it emerged that the following three main subjects were recognised as worthy of serious consideration in the near future:

- the development of background documents to EC6
- the structural restoration
- the reinforced concrete walls and new wall systems.

The possibility of anticipating some "maintenance" activity of EC6 in order to promote and support the future official maintenance action of CEN deserved to be taken into account in the near future too.

W24 - Open Industrialisation in Building

The Fourth Meeting of W24 took place in Tokyo from 28 to 31 October 1996. In charge of arrangements were Professor Dr. Seiichi Fukao and Professor Dr. Shuichi Matsumura and all who took part were full of praise for the official meetings, factory visits, exhibition visits and social programme.

As Joint Coordinator Asko Sarja said:

Overall, everything, here gave us a better understanding of the Japanese way of industrialisation in building. We have good reason to express our warmest thanks to the hosts for their excellent arrangements. This experience will help us take concrete steps towards real industrialisation in building, for the benefit of all partners in construction, and for the current and future life-cycle value of buildings in their changing uses. Still more members, especially from relevant firms are invited to join us in this work in the coming years.

Professor Fukao complements this report in this issue.

The main issues on the Agenda were: Reports on the ongoing work of W24, contribution of W24 to the CIB World Congress in 1998; planning of new W24 activities, and familiarisation of advanced Japanese
industrialised building technologies though company visits, and Japanese reports.

W24 has focused the ongoing work on the following sub-areas:

1. Open industrialisation: Demand-side/User requirements
2. Open industrialisation: Supply-side/Production possibilities
3. Open industrialisation: Linking demand and supply/Communication/Process organisation

The current Work Programme organises the work in five projects as follows:

**Project Person responsible**

1. Status of industrialisation: Asko Sarja
2. Open industrialisation in building - case studies: Peter Adler
3. Open industrialisation as a challenge to architecture: Frank de Troyer
4. Sustainable open industrialised production: G.Z. Brown
5. Innovation methods for improving productivity in building: N.H. Bertelsen

**Future Activities**

Concerning future activities, it was felt that the time had come to start the active creation and planning of new activities for W24. As a first step CERF (Civil Engineering Research Foundation) USA has initiated a project proposal entitled "Exploring the International Use of System Modularity for Constructed Facilities", aimed to be included in the Work Programme of W24. All companies and researchers interested in this theme are invited to join the project and to contact CERF or Professor Asko Sarja, who is one of the Coordinators of W24 and in charge of this proposal. Especially members from producer companies, suppliers, contractors and owners are invited.

It was discussed whether the robotics and automation of construction should be included in the programme as a separate project, since the CIB Board had decided to disband the formal Working Commission in this area. It was stated that the central environmental issues related to industrialised building are utilisation of potential savings in materials and energy, as well as optimal recycling of components and materials in industrialised manufacturing and assembly processes. W24 is open to all proposals from members and non-members of the Commission.

**What is 'Open'?**

The meaning and definition of "Open" in the W24 Title were the subject of prolonged discussion.

The definition in fact is more than merely academic, and includes an important part of the understanding of future developments in industrialised building. Openness is a building concept with many aspects, such as:

- OPEN to individual life-cycle design
- OPEN to competition between suppliers
- OPEN to alternative assemblies
- OPEN to future changes
- OPEN to information exchange
- OPEN to integration of modules and subsystems.

These properties of openness are reflected in product systematics and development, buildings and structural design, manufacturing and production management. They help to improve the flexibility of buildings throughout their service life, the competitiveness of companies applying it, and the international exchange of technologies and products.
In Japan, open components deliveries have rapidly increased during the last decade, as reported by Dr. Shigeaki Iwashita from the Center for Better Living. Selected products are compiled for the use of designers, clients and builders into a vast manual including a wide range of building products.

Professor Dr. Tech. Asko Sarja
Joint Co-ordinator.

After the W24 Commission Meeting there was an:

**Exploratory Meeting on Open Building**

An exploratory meeting was held on 1st and 2nd November 1996, at the Building Center of Japan in Tokyo, at the invitation of CIB Vice-President Dr. Okamoto. The purpose was to investigate the merits of a CIB Working Commission or Task Group on Open Building. More than 30 people from Europe, North America and the Far East attended the two day meeting.

The two leaders and eventual Coordinators for a CIB Group were Professor Stephen Kendall, Marymount University, Arlington VA, USA and Mr. Karel Dekker, TNO, The Netherlands.

Both judged the exploratory meeting to have been successful.

A work programme was drawn up and the following items were identified as justifying high priority for action.

1. **International Status Report on Open Building Activity by Country**
   (to be prepared by Dr. Stephen Kendall)

   This will include articles, reports, and case studies on the status of Open Building activity by country. Each entry will include background on the following points:

   - the legal environment for Open Building
   - the building construction type(s) involved and the "level(s)" included
   - special conditions or opportunities and relevant precedents in the country

2. **Communication Infrastructure**
   (to be prepared by Karel Dekker)

   A recommendation for a communication infrastructure for this Working Commission is being prepared. It will include proposals for, among other things:

   - a Web Site on Open Building for posting notices, articles and reports, and for hosting international symposia and discussions via a subscriber based "under-net" server
   - national or regional information centers

   (to be prepared by Ype Cuperus, OBOM, Delft, Netherlands)

   This Report will document capacity analysis or "test-fit" methods in both residential and non-residential buildings. Capacity Analysis is used to study the potential of a base building to "hold" a variety of "fit-out" plans. It is used in designing new buildings and when an organization or occupant plans to move to another building and wishes to determine which of a number of candidate spaces is best matched to its preferences and requirements.