

# TG26 OPEN BUILDING IMPLEMENTATION



Professor Stephen Kendall has once again been good enough to provide a comprehensive up-date on recent and future events within TG26

Stephen reports:

TG26 met for its fifth meeting in Taipei and Tainan, from 2nd - 5th November 1998. Its previous meetings had been held in Tokyo, Delft, Washington DC and Helsinki. Seventeen members from five countries took part.

As on the past three occasions, TG26 conducted its own business meeting in conjunction with two public seminars. In this case, the public activity was titled:

1998 International Symposium on Open Building - Future Housing: Local Transition and Global Cooperation.

This was the third seminar on Open Building organised by Professor Ming-Hung Wang of the Department of Architecture, Cheng-Kung University in Tainan, a member of TG26. The preparations were excellent and the TG members enjoyed the most generous hospitality as well as top class accommodation and a fine programme of activities.

This Symposium was organised by:

The Architectural Institute of the Republic of China  
The Architecture and Building Research Institute, Ministry of Interior  
The Construction and Planning Administration, Ministry of Interior  
The Cheng-Kung University Department of Architecture

and was co-sponsored by:

Archilife Research Foundation  
The Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Department of Architecture

Twenty five other architecture, construction and consulting engineering offices, foundations and associations provided support as well.

## **The Programme**

The preface to the Conference Programme (which had been prepared in both Chinese and English) stated the background and theme:

Open Building implementation depends on multi-disciplinary cooperation. Many interests and areas of expertise are required to produce more flexible and sustainable people-centered neighbourhoods and buildings. How can these new working methods and teamwork forms be created? The world is increasingly interrelated economically and is interconnected by sophisticated communications. How can these facts of life affecting the work of professionals be harnessed to good purposes and better built environments?

The principle theme of this Symposium is a search for the ground on which to forge links in the international body of knowledge and experience in open building. How can the technical, the legal, and particularly the cultural aspects of open building implementation be understood in light of each other across the world? Global cooperation in this perspective is a matter of real importance. How can the right services be provided at the local level; services that may not be possible without such global efforts? Those advocating open building share the conviction that open building is not only an innovative way to produce better buildings but is also a way to perceive the relations between people and built environments. Further, they see that open building can serve as a driving force to redirect the building industry toward developing more humane and responsive systems of building elements and methods.

The Symposium had three objectives related to open building:

1. To disseminate ideas, case studies and product information
2. To investigate appropriate methods, techniques and proposals for the implementation of open building in different socio-economic regions
3. To search for new topics and working fields related to the future development of open building

## **The Taipei Symposium**

The Symposium was organised around two major conferences venues, one in Taipei and the other in Tainan.

The Taipei Conference on 2nd November opened with remarks from the Director General of the Department of Construction Planning Administration of the Ministry of Interior, and the Director General of the Architecture and Building Research Institute of the Ministry of Interior. Following these introductions, Professor Emeritus Age van Randen, former Dean of Architecture at Delft TU, former director of the OBOM Research Group at Delft, and co-inventor of the Matura Residential Infill System, gave a keynote lecture titled: Setting Up a Consumer Oriented Building Industry - a Challenge for Housing Millions. Following this keynote, Professor Kazuo Tatsumi, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, lectured on Toward the Open System in Multi-Unit Housing. Next came a selection of papers on a range of subjects related to open building.

## **An Excursion**

A bus excursion took the TG26 members from Taipei to Tainan, visiting a residential development organisation and a unit bath factory on route.

## **The Tainan Symposium**

In Tainan, a second Conference was held on 4th November. Opening remarks were offered by the President of the Cheng-Kung University, and by the Chairman of the Architectural Institute of the Republic of China. Following the pattern at the Taipei Conference, keynote lectures were offered by both Professor van Randen and Professor Tatsumi. These were followed by a number of theme papers on a variety of subjects related to Open Building.

A bound Symposium Proceedings has been published. It is available from Professor Ming-Hung Wang by contacting him at [ming@mail.ncku.edu.tw](mailto:ming@mail.ncku.edu.tw)

## **Business Meeting**

A TG26 business meeting took place on 5th November where plans for upcoming meetings and activities were formulated.

TG26 has delineated two kinds of activities in its future planning:

1. A yearly general meeting, hosted by a member institute or an individual member. The purpose of this yearly meeting is to conduct TG business (reporting on member activities, planning future meetings, discussing joint research projects and so on). In addition, the yearly meeting is a time to conduct a formal conference or symposium with a formal call for papers, open to the public. Finally, it is an opportunity to foster links with other CIB TGs and Commissions around common interests, through joint sponsorship of seminars, workshops and other activities aimed at expanding the body of knowledge about research and innovation in building and construction.
2. Regional or local meetings, initiated by a TG26 member or by invitation from an organisation wanting TG26 expertise. The purpose of these meetings is explicitly to support implementation of open building. Since implementation of open building - a neighbourhood reconstruction, a new building or a renovation project - is a local activity, these meetings are focused on problem solving through workshops, focused case studies, and hands-on work by TG26 members in collaboration with local professionals. It is expected that experiences from these local activities will be brought to the yearly meeting for discussion.

In addition, as part of preparations for submitting a request to the CIB Programme Committee for full Commission status, it was decided to form several groups to prepare short papers on Open building and sustainability; Open building and the performance concept; and Open building and the long-term prospects for implementation.

## **TG26 Plans for 1999**

There will be a local/regional activity in Dessau, Germany, May 10-12, hosted by EXPO 2000 Sachsen-Anhalt GmbH Corporation. The Director of EXPO 2000, Mr. Gerhard Seltmann, is planning a conference to which he intends to invite professionals from Eastern Europe to discuss possible methods of rehabilitating the large concrete panel housing estates constructed during the mass housing era. TG26 has been invited to help plan the meeting and a limited number of TG26 members are invited to attend. The liaison for TG26 participation, and the initial contact with Mr. Seltman, is TG member Dr. Seiji Sawada. Karel Dekker, TG26 Joint Coordinator, is playing an active role as well in helping to identify key people to attend the conference. The interest of TG26 in this local activity is to stimulate the conditions for future implementation of Open Building in practice, through the possible development of joint feasibility studies.

The yearly meeting for 1999 will be in London, UK, in late September, 1999, organised by TG26 member Richard Moseley and the exact date will be determined in the coming months.

The meeting and the formal call for papers will have several themes including, but not limited to, both residential and office buildings concerning:

Meeting Customer Needs through Standardisation

Flexibility and Adaptability /Systems and Sub-systems

The Legal and Regulatory Conditions for Open Building Implementation

We decided to organise a formal structure for our group with a committee to review submissions made in response to the call for papers.

### **TG26 Plans for 2000**

Preliminary plans are being drawn up for the yearly meeting in 2000, now scheduled to be held in Japan, the exact date to be decided as soon as possible to allow joint meetings with other CIB Commissions. Meetings and symposia will most probably occur in both Tokyo and Kyoto. Preliminary planning is underway to encourage closely related Task Groups and Commissions to meet co-operatively at the same time.

A regional/local meeting site is being sought for the year 2000.