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REUSE, RENOVATION AND RESTORATION

Institutional Committee for documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the modern movement

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docomomo International is a non-profit organization dedicated to the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the modern movement. It aims to:

• Bring the significance of the architecture of the modern movement to the attention of the public, the public authorities, the professionals and the educational community.
• Identify, record and promote works of the modern movement.
• Foster and disseminate the development of appropriate techniques and methods of conservation.
• Oppose the destruction and disfigurement of significant works.
• Raise funds for documentation and conservation.
• Explore and develop knowledge of the modern movement.

docomomo International wishes to extend its activities to new countries, establish new partnerships with institutions, organizations and NGOs active in the area of modern architecture, develop and publish the international register, and enlarge the scope of its activities in the realm of research, documentation and education.
Reuse, Renovation and Restoration (the 3 R’s)  
— BY ANA TOSTÕES

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— BY JONG SOUNG KIMM

When the Oppressive New and the Vulnerable Old Meet; a Plea for Sustainable Modernity  
— BY HUBERT-JAN HENKET

The Question of Auckland’s Civic Building  
— BY JULIA GATLEY

Conservation and Renovation Project of Hizuchi Elementary School: First Challenge to Treat a Post-war Wooden Architecture as a Cultural Property  
— BY YOSHIAKI HANADA

Luis Barragán’s House in Pedregal. A Successful Restoration  
— BY LOUISE NOELLE

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Progress Report on the Musashi-Ranzan Country Club Clubhouse Conservation and Repair Work  
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A New Future for the Montréal Mies Gaz Station  
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Preservation and Restoration of the International House of Japan  
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Reuse and Transformation of a Modern Movement Masterpiece: UN-CEPAL-ECLAC Building, Santiago de Chile  
— BY HORACIO TORRENT

Efforts to Improve the Earthquake Resistance of the Kagawa Prefectural Government Office East Building  
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Modern Architecture in the Promotion of National Tourism, the Cap Ducal, an Emblematic Work in Viña del Mar  
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The Question of Auckland’s Civic Building  
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APPENDIX
74–14 SAAL and the Architecture#
International Colloquium

SAAL (Serviço de Apoio Ambulatório Local), Local Ambulatory Support Service, was a program for the construction of houses in poor neighborhoods. It followed the revolutionary process which, in 1974, brought to an end half a century of dictatorship in Portugal. Although properly contextualized in a very specific historical process, nowadays it is still a tool to think, to question and to debate the issues and challenges of housing as well as its ineludible proximity to architecture.

To discuss SAAL, as an historical model, in light of contemporary circumstances, was the goal of the international colloquium 74–14 SAAL and the Architecture# which took place in the University of Coimbra, between November 14th and November 16th 2014.

Looking back to the recent past, especially to the first three quarters of the 20th century, it is impossible to study the produced architecture without referring to its often direct relation to the Welfare State. In 1974–76, however, the country was convulsing, it was a time when the dictatorship’s old social institutions were undergoing a process of substitution and renewal. That was when SAAL appeared as a decentralized service eager to reduce bureaucracy, as an ephemeral process that enabled the tripartite relationship between the state, the poor residents and the architects. SAAL built houses, SAAL accomplished architecture.

That reflection was spread over four converging and indivisible sets of ideas, separated solely by operative reasons, which constitute attributes that qualify Architecture, the word displayed in the title.

Therefore, the first one of these sections – Portuguese – focused on the importance of SAAL for the future and for the present of Portuguese Architecture. Undertaken in isolation, just as almost every cultural activity, the architectonic production in Portugal became international with SAAL, and at particular moments even gained the attention of European architectural criticism. It was from SAAL onwards that Portuguese architectural activity started to be known worldwide, although it never ceased to have only a residual importance in the political and administrative framework of local governance.

The second section — Autonomous — regarded the complex web of relations between architecture and commission, or, in this case, between architecture and power. Given the intertwined interaction between characters — contractor, architect, user — SAAL is an ideal opportunity to reflect on the maintenance of the idea of an autonomy of architecture. The specific matter of architecture — methodological tradition included — resisted even when the political and economic circumstance involving the commission was drastically constrained by the immediate functionality. The urge to build new houses for the poorest people, in SAAL’s case, or the current obsessive need to profit often called sustainability, were both evaluated in parallel during the course of the Colloquium.

The third section — Inclusive — and the fourth section — Transrelational — concerned the way SAAL became an essential study subject, regarding both the interaction with the residents, nowadays known as the participatory process, and regarding the dialog with other areas of knowledge, particularly with the social sciences.

The Colloquium was attended by about 70 people, and the main speeches were given by Alexandre Alves Costa (Universidade do Porto), Daniele Vitale (Politecnico di Milano), James Holston (University of California Berkeley), João Arriscado Nunes (Centro de Estudos Sociais), José António Bandeirinha (Centro de Estudos Sociais, Universidade de Coimbra), Jorge Figueira (Centro de Estudos Sociais, Universidade de Coimbra) and Nelson Mota (Technische Universiteit Delft).

José Bandeirinha
docomomo International member

Notes

Location
Departamento de Arquitectura, Colégio das Artes, Coimbra, Portugal.

Dates
14–16 November 2014

Organization
CES, DARQ.FCTUC

Partners
Museu de Serralves, Centro de Documentação 25 de Abril, docomomo International

01 Opening session. © 74–14 SAAL and the Architecture#. 2014