

MINUTES

EAHN Business Meeting

Saturday 1 March 2014

Time: 9:30-13:00

Venue: Beit Hagefen, Arab Jewish Cultural Center in Haifa

Attendees: Mari Hvattum (chair), Ruth Hanisch, Maarten Delbeke, Belgin Turan, Alona Nitzan Shiftan, Michela Rosso, Edoardo Piccoli, Carmen Popescu, Davide Deriu, Javier Martinez-González, Jorge Correia, Michelangelo Sabatino, Daniel Millette, Nancy Stieber, Nele De Raedt, Teresa Stoppani, Marina Epstein-Pliouchtch, Elvan Altan Ergut, Katia Frey, Eliana Perotti, Panayiota Pyla, Merlijn Hurx (minutes)

1. Apologies for absence

Adrian Forty, Tom Avermaete, Josephine Kane, Maristella Casciato, Mollie Claypool, Rob Dettingmeijer. Carmen Popescu proposed a thought for Karen Theunissen, who sadly passed away in 2013.

2. To approve the minutes of the Business Meeting 31 May 2012

The minutes of the Special Business Meeting held in Bratislava on 2 February 2013 were **approved** with the remark that Michelangelo Sabatino should be added to the list of attendees.

[ACTION: Merlijn Hurx]

3. Election of new officers

The elections of Alona Nitzan Shiftan as President, and Hilde Heynen as First Vice-President were **approved** by unanimous consent of all attendees. Their two years terms of office will commence at the Turin Conference in June 2014.

4. Membership

Secretary Merlijn Hurx reported on the current state of membership. With the introduction of the obligatory paying membership, 2013 was a year of transition. The old database of about 1550 email addresses has been replaced by a web-based registration of paying members. As off 1 March 2014, the EAHN had 126 paying members, including 22 student memberships. With the Turin conference coming up, the prospect is that the EAHN will grow to more than 250 members.

Discussion

Daniel Millette, Carmen Popescu, and Nancy Stieber proposed to use the list with email addresses from previous interested members to broadcast information on the EAHN's activities. In this way the EAHN's outreach can be augmented, and it might encourage former members to register as paying member. The upcoming conference at Turin proves an excellent opportunity to send out an email asking for support. Another strategy to keep people affiliated with the EAHN was suggested by Carmen. When members end their membership they should receive a personal email by the President that reminds them of the importance of their support for the existence of the EAHN.

[ACTION: Merlijn Hurx]

5. Relocation of EAHN Office.

Secretary Merlijn Hurx reported on the relocation of the office from TU Delft to Institut für Geschichte und Theorie der Architektur (gta) at ETH Zurich. At the Business Meeting in Bratislava it was agreed the EAHN

would terminate the agreement with TU Delft, and cease to employ a paid officer. The office was closed on September 1st 2013 by mutual consent of TU Delft and EAHN. The EAHN has thanked both TU Delft and Caroline Gautier for their support, which has been essential to its early growth as an organisation. From September to December, the Treasurer and the Secretary have shared the responsibility for the office.

As from January 1st 2014 the gta at ETH Zurich generously offers a home to the EAHN and administrative support. Katia Frey and Eliana Perotti will be available two hours a week for the office's activities. It is expected that the collaboration will be prolonged for 2015. Katia and Eliana were warmly welcomed. Although at present their work is not confined to two hours a week, they expect that the office will be more manageable after the start up. Katia proposed to streamline communication between members, office, officers and webmaster and webeditor. Furthermore, Katia and Eliana suggested that a banner with supporting institutions should be added to the EAHN Home page.

Discussion

Davide Deriu mentioned that adding a list with Frequently Asked Questions on membership registration would serve the communication with members.

Michelangelo Sabatino and Nancy Stieber suggested that to increase sponsorship, highlighting of supporting institutions should be given priority. Alongside a banner with logo's of the primary supporting institutions on the homepage, a list with both primary (=benefactors) and secondary supporting institutions (=Institutional membership) should be added to the website. Furthermore, the EAHN needs to think about the introduction of a sustaining membership category.

[ACTION: web team]

6. Finance

Treasurer's Report.

Current state and the year ahead.

Treasurer Ruth Hanisch reported that the current sources of income are the membership fees of individual, student and institutional members. Fortunately, the financial situation of the EAHN has significantly improved in 2013. Currently, we have 4931€ (31/12/2013) on the EAHN bank account and 5211€ on the PayPal account. Even with the debts of ca. 5000€ to TU Delft and eventually 1000€ to Susan Klaiber, the financial prospects are good. Ruth proposed to invest this year's positive balance in the payment of debts, and in the development of the website. A future plan of expenses will be presented at the BM in Turin.

[ACTION: Ruth Hanisch]

With the succession of Ruth Hanisch as the new Treasurer, problems have arisen with the access to the EAHN bank account. Attempts to receive authorisation from the bank have been unsuccessful so far. Ruth Hanisch will try to receive the access code, and if necessary will visit the bank in Paris with Christine Mengin once more. Because French banks seem to be uncooperative to international organisations, it was **agreed** that on the long term the transfer of the EAHN bank account to a more modern and accessible bank needs to be investigated.

At present the **Funding committee** consists of Maristella Casciato, Christine Mengin, Sophie Hochhäusl and Ruth Hanisch. Ruth proposed to invite both Rob Dettingmeijer, and Dietrich Neumann to expand the committee. A problem for the EAHN in attracting European funding is that existing networks are not eligible for most grants. Proposals need to concern a research project or in case of a COST Action proposal, already existing networks do not qualify. The EAHN seems neither eligible for *Creative Europe*, because it funds networks of institutions and not networks of individuals. It was **agreed** that the **Funding committee** and all attendees

should continue to search for new possibilities of funding, and find creative ways for the EAHN to start a project that meets the criteria of the available European funds.

[ACTION: Funding committee]

Discussion

Carmen and Nancy suggested that the Bibliography Project (i.e. a bibliography on architectural history, which is made available on the website) could be an appropriate project to apply for European funding. Perhaps a proposal could be made in cooperation with other institutes like INHA in Paris.

Michelangelo proposed to ask conference participants to contribute to specialized bibliographies on architectural history.

Nancy remarked that proposals might also stem from the thematic groups. These groups need to be activated and Turin would provide an excellent opportunity to promote the groups. Therefore group leaders should be invited to Turin.

[ACTION: Merlijn Hurx/Josie Kane]

7. Website and Journal

Website

Last year's development on the website was introduced by Merlijn Hurx. The website has gone through a large-scale redevelopment, which mainly consisted of enhancing the general performance and security of the website, the setting up of a paying members area, the integration of the EAHN website with the journal, and creating an automated system that regularly sends round-ups of news and events. Furthermore, the Turin registration process was integrated with the EAHN website, thus ensuring participants to become EAHN member, before registering for the conference.

For the redevelopment of the website we have hired a professional web developer, but the largest amount of work has been done by Mollie Claypool and Josie Kane. Admittedly, there are still some growing pains, and in the near future we need to invest in a professional web developer, who can assist Mollie Claypool to solve technical issues and to enhance the Interest Groups Forums, and the membership database.

Discussion

Michela Rosso pointed out that several participants experienced problems with the registration process, which is worrisome as within a few weeks many new registrations are expected. Merlijn proposed to consult Mollie Claypool as soon as possible to ask what causes the problems and if they can be easily fixed. * It was agreed that if the problems persist, other solutions for the registration need to be found, however Ruth emphasized that separating the Turin registration process from the EAHN membership registration will result in administrative difficulties for the EAHN and possibly also in the loss of revenues.

Daniel Millette and Panayiota Pyla asked why a recurring payment cycle was chosen, because it is a negative way of billing. Ruth explained that a recurring payment cycle was the most practical option, because it relieves the officers of heavy administrative duties. However, it was acknowledged that Daniel concern is important, and therefore it is **agreed** that an automatic service needs to be installed that sends an email to members reminding them of the payment and offering the choice to opt out before the payment recurs.

[Action: web team]

A general wish was expressed to bring former conference websites under the umbrella of EAHN. The web team will investigate how these former conference websites can be made part of the EAHN web site.

[Action: web team]

* Mollie Claypool indicated that web browsers blocking pop-ups cause most of the problems. Therefore she has added instructions to enable pop-ups to the registration web page. Also, PayPal sometimes seem to cause troubles, however these problems don't occur frequently, and can be solved manually by Mollie.

Journal

Journal Editor Maarten Delbeke reported on the performance of the journal, *Architectural histories*. In 2013 the journal has published: one special collection, *Culture of Crisis*, comprising 6 articles, 2 position papers, and an editorial. Three submissions proposed for the Crisis-issue are still in the pipeline and will be added to the issue in 2014; and one open issue (2013), consisting of 13 reviews (12 book reviews, 1 exhibition review), 4 position papers, 1 article and an editorial. We have received 74 submissions (including commissioned articles such as book reviews and position papers) and rejected 19. Total registered 'users' at the end of 2013: 283; visits: 11,301; unique visitors: 5,934 (51.4%); pages viewed: 62,956; pages per visit: 5.57.

In terms of number of visitors, the balance new/returning visitors, page views, and number of visits the journal is doing quite well. There is an obvious increase of interest when new content is published, a tendency that will hopefully be reinforced now, as content is also advertised on the EAHN-website.

For 2014 the journal plans to publish an open issue (2 research articles and 2 book reviews about to be published), and a special collection on *Proportion*, edited by Matthew Cohen and Maarten Delbeke, to be presented at the Turin conference, of circa 20 papers.

At Turin, the journal will also launch the CFP for the special collection of 2015.

Two members of the Editorial Board have resigned, Nathaniel Coleman and Daniel Maudlin. We will open a vacancy soon. Fabrizio Nevola has signalled that he wishes to be succeeded as a book reviews editor. Maarten will contact potential candidates.

The journal has spent 17.407 Euro of the 45k NWO-grant. Publishing costs have been higher than anticipated because of additional copy-editing costs. Maarten, the EB and Lenore Hietkamp have installed new procedures that should help control these costs. With the remaining funds we are able to cover publishing costs for 2014 and at least part of the costs of 2015, as planned in our grant application.

In order to guarantee the sustainability of the journal it is proposed to introduce the APC, the fee an author pays to publish in the journal, for all submitted content from 1 January 2015 onwards (i.e. not for commissioned content). At the Turin meeting, Maarten will present simulations to the BM that will allow us to set the right amount for the APC. It should be noted that the APC will not only cover the real cost of publication, but also the APC's of those authors who are not able to pay. Moreover, APC's will increasingly be covered by the institutions that subscribe to Ubiquity, our publisher. Contributions from EAHN membership money should help to establish a fund that covers part of the publication costs. Finally, the journal might prove a platform to attract donors who wish the support publications.

Discussion

It was **agreed** that a percentage of the membership fees will be invested in the Journal from 2015 onwards to cover the cost for people who cannot afford APC fees. To determine the level of investments the Journal editor will provide a projection of the typical yearly budget and run simulations with calculations at the BM of Turin.

A question was raised about the balance between research and position papers. Care should be given that special issues do not press too hard on the budget. Maarten Delbeke responded that the decision to invest in the special collection on *Proportion* was the high quality of the papers. Fortunately, the grant allows such an investment, while the journal remains able to accept new contributions.

Mari Hvattum proposed a vote of thanks to Maarten, the editorial board and NWO. Architectural histories is a major achievement of the EAHN that gives meaning to the network. The Journal's publications are of high quality and they are being read. Academic excellence should be top priority, because it is crucial for the future development of the Journal.

[ACTION: Maarten Delbeke]

8. Tours

No other tours are at present under development. Mari Hvattum will ask Daniel Walser if he would like to revitalise the Tours Committee. Otherwise, a new Tours Committee Chair needs to be searched by an open call.

[ACTION: Mari Hvattum]

9. Conferences and Business Meetings

International Conferences

Turin Conference June 2014

Michela Rosso has given an update on Turin 2014. Over 500 proposals have been received. There will be 32 sessions/roundtables clustered in six tracks: Early Modern, Representation and Communication, Questions of Methodology, Theoretical and critical Issues, 20th Century, and Circulation of Architectural Culture and Practices. The website contains the abstracts of all papers, and therefore there is no need for a book of abstracts. The Keynote speakers are: Alina Payne, Hartmut Frank, and Fulvio Irace.

The main venue of the conference will be the Castello del Valentino, the present seat of the Architecture Department of the Politecnico. Carlo Mollino's Teatro Regio and Pier Luigi Nervi's Hall B of Torino Esposizioni provide two additional locations for the opening and closing plenary sessions.

Thanks to the generous support of the Compagnia di San Paolo and the Urban Center Metropolitan, 15 travel grants of **260€** were awarded to young and promising scholars by a selection committee consisting of Michela Rosso, Ruth Hanisch, Mari Hvattum and Merlijn Hurx.

Edoardo Piccoli announced that the proceedings will be published open access at the opening of the conference on the web site of the Politecnico di Torino.

Regarding the financing of the conference, Edoardo pointed out that it seems difficult to create additional revenues from the conference for the EAHN, because sponsors have the prerequisite that no profit is made and that local institutions are responsible for the financial administration. However, as Nancy Stieber remarked, in case there is a surplus, the EAHN could charge overhead.

On behalf of all attendees, Mari thanked Michela, Edoardo and the rest of the organising committee for the fantastic program of Turin 2014.

The Dublin International Conference in June 2016

University College Dublin/Trinity College have accepted to organise the Fourth International EAHN Conference in 2016 in Dublin. A proposal needs to be worked out before the BM in Turin, and Kathleen James Chakraborty should be present in Turin to launch the Call for Sessions at the close of the conference in Turin. Mari will contact Adrian Forty to approach Kathleen James Chakraborty.

[ACTION: Adrian Forty]

Themed Conferences

The Belgrade Themed Conference 2015

Carmen Popescu reported on the Belgrade Themed Conference. The Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in the University of Belgrade has accepted to host the event and Ljiljana Blagojevic will be chair. The theme of the

conference will be 'Histories versus history', but the scientific committee still has to decide on name of the conference. The committee exists of 7 people, the Dean, Mari Hvattum, Hilde Heynen, Susan Klaiber, Lukasz Stanek, and Carmen Popescu. The conference will probably be held in spring or September 2015 and the venue will be the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade.

[ACTION: Carmen Popescu]

The Delft Themed Conference in 2015/2017

The proposal for a Themed Conference in Delft was warmly accepted. Because of the Belgrade Themed Conference, the year 2017 is preferred for the conference in Delft.

[ACTION: Tom Avermaete]

Business Meeting

Turin 2014

A Short BM is planned in Turin on Wednesday June 18th. Michela Rosso will provide further details.

[ACTION: Michela Rosso]

Pamplona 2015

Javier Martinez-González presented a draft program, which includes an International PhD Student symposium. The symposium should bring PhD students closer to the network. Committee members are likely to be asked as respondents. A call for the PhDs needs to be announced at Turin 2014.

It was **agreed** to hold the BM on 19-22 February 2015.

[ACTION: Javier Martinez-González]

Discussion on future meetings

Jorge Correia proposed to plan future BMs together with the conferences, because it would mean less travelling. Furthermore, the combination of the BM with a Themed or International Conference makes it easier to get funding for the attendants.

It was **decided** to see if such a combination is workable from 2016 onwards. This issue will be discussed at the BM in Turin.

[ACTION: Mari Hvattum]

10. EAHN Conference Manual

Jorge Correia and Michela Rosso have drawn up EAHN Conference Guidelines and Templates. The guidelines are still a draft, and Jorge has asked the attendees to provide him and Michela with feedback before the BM in Turin. The documents will be discussed and approved in Turin, after which they will be made available on the website, preferably in the public area.

[ACTION: All]

11. Any Other Business

Maarten Delbeke pointed out that the EAHN needs to revitalise its relations with affiliated organisations as Society of Architectural Historians, Renaissance Society of America, College Art Association, and Architectural Humanities Research Association. A contact person needs to be elected. Michelangelo Sabatino will represent the EAHN at the SAH conference in Austin 2014. Nancy Stieber is contact of SAH to EAHN. One of her concerns is that session proposals are not duplicated for the SAH and EAHN conferences.

Alex Gordon (Head of Liaisons Office Technion) presented possible cooperation project for funding proposals.

[ACTION: officers]

Mari Hvattum proposed a vote of thanks to Alona Nitzan Shiftan, the Technion and Adi Silberstein for their hospitality and the impeccable organization of the Business Meeting in Haifa.