

MINUTES

EAHN Business Meeting
Saturday 2nd February 2013

Time: 9:30-13:00

Venue: Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

Attendees: Adrian Forty (chair), Mari Hvattum, Tom Avermaete, Ruth Hanisch, Maarten Delbeke, Merlijn Hurx, Belgin Turan, Alona Nitzan Shifan, Michela Rosso, Edoardo Piccoli, Carmen Popescu, Davide Deriu, Lex Hermans, Rob Dettingmeijer, Josephine Kane, Valérie Negre, Mariann Simon, Henrieta Moravčíková, Javier Martinez-González, Cànâ Bilsel, Jorge Correia, Kostas Tsiambaos, Myrto Kiourti, Nancy Stieber, Hilde Heynen, Nele De Raedt (minutes)

1. Apologies for absence

Daniel Walser, Maristella Casciato, Panayiota Pyla, Caroline Gautier

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

The minutes of the Special Business Meeting held in Brussels on 31 May 2012 were **approved**.

3. Election of new officers

The elections of Merlijn Hurx as secretary and Ruth Hanisch as treasurer were **approved**.

A general question arose about the terms of office of the members of the board, and the process of nomination. Adrian Forty confirmed that the normal term is two years, with a possible re-election for a second term. Nominations for the appointment of officers are made through a nominations sub-committee.

A nomination process needs to be set in place for the election of the next president and vice president, whose terms of office will commence at the Turin Conference in June 2014.

[ACTION: Officers]

4. Membership

Secretary Maarten Delbeke reported on the current state of membership. While the old membership database is being replaced by the database linked to the new website, it is difficult to give an exact figure. The old database has about 1600 members; 340 are registered on the new website, 230 of whom are paying members (though paying membership became obligatory in January 2013).

5. Finance

Treasurer's Report.

Current state and the year ahead.

Treasurer Tom Avermaete reported that the current sources of income are the membership fees of individual and institutional members, as well as a small amount from the organized activities. The conference in Brussels in May 2012 failed to produce the expected profit owing to a misunderstanding about the costs for the printed proceedings. The EAHN accounts at the end of 2012 showed a deficit of about 2000€. In terms of finances 2012 was a year of transition. The membership fee was increased from 25€ to 75€. Institutional membership remained at 250€, but only between 10 and 12 institutions have been contributing. Finally, TU Delft has informed

the Treasurer that it will not contribute to the costs of the EAHN office beyond the end of 2013 (currently TU Delft contributes 8000€ per annum, 50% of the costs of the office,).

The precarious financial situation of the EAHN is such that there is no choice but to close the office in Delft within the next 12 months. A proposal to close the office was put, and **agreed**.

Adrian Forty will send a letter to terminate the agreement with TU Delft, and the EAHN will cease to employ a paid officer. Some of the functions previously performed by the office have been absorbed into the new website, and for an experimental period, the remaining functions will be carried out by the voluntary officers. During the transition period, while the Delft office is wound down, the new secretary, Merlijn Hurx will take responsibility for the office's activities, working in partnership with Caroline Gautier. For the time being, Merlijn will also be responsible for the Coco messages, but these will be phased out when an automated email system generating a fortnightly update for members of new information on the website.

[ACTION: Adrian Forty]

Discussion

Rob Dettingmeijer pointed out that an official address is important for the image of the institution [as well as being an obligatory legal requirement]. There was a strong view that, in the long term, an alternative host for the office should be found. It was **agreed** that the officers would make enquiries as to possible suitable host institutions.

[ACTION: Officers]

Tom Avermaete insisted that the **Funding Committee** (at present solely Ruth Hanisch and Tom Avermaete) needs to be expanded. Căna Bilsel offered to join the committee and to provide information about EU funding; her offer was accepted and it was **agreed** that she become a full member of the Funding Committee. It was **agreed** that for the future conferences, a member of the conference organizing committee should become an *ex officio* member of the Funding Committee. Edoardo Piccoli **agreed** to take on this role for the Turin Conference.

It was agreed that more reliable structural funding is needed. The strategic plan may be used to help in applications once possible sources are found. Căna pointed out that the EAHN fits into the EU's network philosophy, though Mari explained that the EAHN has been ineligible for EU grants as these are restricted to projects with specific material outcomes. Ruth Hanisch **agreed** to explore personal contacts within the ERC.

It was suggested that the grants might serve the themed conferences, which have a more concrete outcome. Additionally a framework contract for the themed conferences would help facilitate cooperation with local organisations.

Alona asked about the COST programme, but according to Tom these appear only once in a while and are difficult obtain. It was **agreed** that all officers and the Funding committee should continue to explore the suggested possible sources of funding.

[ACTION: Funding committee]

The question of *student membership* was raised. A proposal was made to introduce a student membership rate at 35€ (to include PhD students), which was **agreed**, with immediate effect. Other membership fees remain unchanged. The student rate will be announced on the website; the secretary, treasurer, funding committee and Turin conference organisers must establish a procedure for verifying student status. This must be ready by March/April so that the new membership category can be included in the announcement for the Turin Conference.

[ACTION: Funding committee, treasurer, secretary, website team, Turin conference organisers]

A new category of supporting membership (individuals or architectural firms of which the names will appear on the website) was proposed. Having a supportive group with important people in the field might add an aura of respectability to the EAHN and its new journal. Mari

noted that this strategy would demand a lot of energy.

The immediate priority is to ensure that members pay the membership fee - to encourage which parts of the website will shortly be closed to non-paying members.

Carmen has received some remarks about conference fees being too high. This needs to be considered for future conferences.

A suggestion from Rob Dettingmeijer was that in order not to exclude people who could not afford to participate, a 'fellowships' scheme might be introduced. In such a scheme, a distinction would need to be made between membership and conference fees.

6. website and journal

Website

A new website team, consisting of Mollie Claypool, Lex Hermans, and Josephine Kane has been established. They will be in close contact with Merlijn Hurx. The technical problems concerning the new website are almost resolved. In order to make the website more lively the first page will consist of three parts: "announcements", "interest groups" and the "journal". It was **agreed** that a fourth theme, "conferences", should be added.

It is confirmed that the old logo will be continue to be used, stressing the 'network' character of the EAHN.

[ACTION: website team]

Journal

Maarten Delbeke presented the first open issue of the journal, *Architectural Histories*. The editor-in-chief explained that for the open issues articles, reviews and position papers appear online as soon as they are ready. Themed issues will be published as a whole when complete. An editorial and first reviews are already available online. Four articles are in review. Three position papers are under consideration by the editorial board. In May 2013 the first issue will be concluded. Maarten also wants to encourage people to submit articles by registering as a member on the journal website. The first themed issue is "Crisis". 40 abstracts have been submitted. Ten are under further development. By March 2013 they will go to peer-review. The themed issue will go online in one issue by September/October 2013. A proposal for the next themed issue is "Proportion".

Valérie asked about the language of the articles. Maarten explained that in general they are in English. It was **recommend** that a summary in the author's language be included.

[Discussion about the Author Processing Charge took place under item 8].

[ACTION: Editor/editorial board]

7. Tours

A short tour will be organized in relation to the São Paulo conference in March 2013 in Rio de Janeiro. (see item 9)

No other tours are at present under development.

8. Strategic plan

The strategic plan 2013-2017 was introduced by Mari Hvattum. The document is intended as a descriptive picture of the activities of the EAHN, to be used for various purposes. In discussion, the following additions and amendments were suggested:

i) Rob Dettingmeijer requested that collaborations with other organizations (like Docomomo) be stressed more.

ii) Alona Nitzan Shiftan requested a change in the first sentence, replacing “network for scholars working on European architectural history” by “network for European scholars working on architectural history”.

iii) The themed groups should gain more prominence in the future priorities.

iv) A statement of the EAHN's position towards the hard sciences and humanities should be incorporated.

v) Alona will provide Mari with a text on the international character of the EAHN.

vi) Tom Avermaete recommended that the incorporation of the journal in publication indexes should be included among the future priorities.

The discussion reverted to the Journal, and concerns about the “author contributions” for the journal were raised. Maarten explained that the business model of open access journals is based on an author contribution once an article is accepted for publication by the editorial board. This is in line within general developments in the world of publishing. The payments system will come into operation from 2015 onwards. Until then the NWO grant for the journal covers the costs, and authors pay nothing. This should provide the journal with some time to grow and to acquire a certain standard of quality. For the future, a system of grants to help authors without the necessary financial means is being looked into. It was recommended that a few words about plans for possible future grants for the journal should be added to the strategic plan.

The strategic plan was approved, subject to the above revisions and amendments.

[ACTION: Alona Nitzan Shiftan, Mari Hvattum]

9. Conferences and Business Meetings

Themed Conferences

The São Paulo Themed Conference in March 2013

The conference entitled ‘ARCHITECTURAL ELECTIVE AFFINITIES: correspondences, transfers, inter/multidisciplinarity?’ will take place between March 20th and 23rd at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (FAUUSP) as a joint initiative between that institution and the EAHN.

So far, a preliminary program has been made that includes three full days of scholarly work and a fourth day dedicated to an architectural tour of the host city. The program schedule announces a keynote speaker each day, starting with Lilian Moritz Schwartz, an anthropologist from Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, followed by Tim Benton, Open University, UK, and Stanislaus von Moos, Yale University, USA, on the last day. Also there is one plenary round-table per day: 1. *Past and Present: the historiography of Latin American architecture* (substitute of Nestor Goulart)/Gauvin Alexander Bailey/ Francisco Liernur); 2. *Architectural History and other geographies* (Sibel Bozdogan / Carmen Popescu / Jose Pessoa); 3. *On new historiographical perspectives for architecture* (Nancy Stieber / Beatriz Colomina / Luciano Migliaccio). These events will be complimented by parallel sessions: five of five papers each and seven of four papers each.

Prior to the Business Meeting, the scientific committee met, via a three-continent Skype call, and agreed a distribution of papers per session. Smaller organizational details were also addressed and discussed. EAHN committee members confirmed to be present in São Paulo are Carmen Popescu, Jorge Correia, Christine Mengin, Belgin Turan Ozkaya and Dietrich Neumann.

2015 Belgrade

For 2015 a themed conference has been proposed in Belgrade, in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Belgrade. Preliminary discussions have taken place, and the Faculty is awaiting a formal invitation to collaborate. It was **agreed** to invite the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade to host the conference: Adrian Forty will write to Ljiljana Blagojevic. The meeting expressed thanks to Carmen Popescu for her initiative in proposing this and the previous thematic conferences, and in making the necessary connections. It was mentioned that activities of this kind might be eligible for EU funding .

[ACTION: Adrian Forty]

2015 Delft

Tom Avermaete indicated that TU Delft, in collaboration with Leiden and Utrecht University, would be interested in organising an EAHN themed conference in 2015.

[ACTION: Tom Avermaete]

International Conferences

Turin Conference June 2014

Michela Rosso reported that 100 session proposals had been received; the conference scientific committee was to meet later in the day to make the selection. The conference will be held in the Castello Valentino; as the Castello contains no room sufficiently large for plenary sessions, an alternative venue is being sought nearby. The organisers were confident about arrangements for the conference so far.

Michela asked if there is a policy for the frequency with which speakers can chair sessions in a conference. It was **agreed** that more than twice in succession is not desirable, but that this rule might be suspended in exceptional cases. Therefore, in the call for session proposals for the next conference in 2016, a sentence should be added that proposals from scholars who have chaired sessions at the previous two conferences would not normally be considered.

Michela **agreed** to prepare a 'manual' for use in preparing future conferences, based on her experience in organizing the conference in Turin, and the accumulated experience of previous conference organisers.

[ACTION: Michela Rosso]

Dublin 2016

An informal offer has been made to host the 2016 EAHN Conference in Dublin has been received from University College Dublin. The meeting welcomed the offer, and it was **agreed** to pursue this initiative. If this initiative is to be realised, a proposal needs to be worked out before the next Business Meeting in February 2014, for discussion there. Adrian Forty will write to Kathleen James Chakraborty to ask about UCD's intentions.

[ACTION: Adrian Forty]

Business Meetings

2014 Israel

The Business Meeting in February 2014 will be held in Israel. Alona Nitzan Shiftan stated that she would organise the meeting on the understanding that she would not be expected to make political arrangements that lay beyond the scope of her influence. She proposed therefore that the meeting take place in Haifa and Jerusalem, and a concerted effort be made to collaborate with a Palestinian institution and to secure access for both Israelis and Palestinians. Even if political circumstances will not permit such official collaboration and/or access, events related to the meeting will nevertheless focus on the political conflict between Palestinians and Israelis and on architectural history in embattled zones. It was **agreed** that a firm programme should be in

place at least three months in advance. Discussion of the timing of the spring meeting took place, but with no dates suiting all members, this was inconclusive.* Adrian Forty agreed to write letters on behalf of the EAHN to facilitate arrangements if required.

* Subsequent to the meeting in Bratislava, Alona Nitzan Shiftan has proposed that the meeting take place in later February-early March, to take advantage of better weather. In this case the definitive date for an agreed schedule will be late November, early December.

[ACTION: Alona Nitzan Shiftan; Adrian Forty]

2015 Pamplona

The 2015 Business Meeting will take place in Pamplona.

[ACTION: Javier Martinez-González]

10. Any other business

The President proposed a vote of thanks to Henrieta Moravčíková, for hosting the Business Meeting in Bratislava.