

## MINUTES

### **EAHN Committee Special Business Meeting 31 May 2012**

*Time:* 10.00-12.00 a.m.

*Venue:* Palais des Académies, Brussels, Belgium.

*Attendees:* Adrian Forty (chair), Tom Avermaete, Cana Bilsel, Maristella Casciato, Jorge Correia, Maarten Delbeke, Davide Deriu, Elvan Altan Ergut, Lex Hermans, Hilde Heynen, Mari Hvattum, Susan Klaiber, Javier Martinez, Daniel Millette, Dietrich Neumann, Alona Nitzan-Shiftan, Edoardo Piccoli, Carmen Popescu, Panayiota Pyla, Michela Rosso, Nancy Stieber, Belgin Turan, Daniel Walser, Caroline Gautier (minutes)

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

None

#### **2. To approve the Minutes of the Seventh Annual Business Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

The Minutes of the Business Meeting held in Rotterdam on 11 February 2012 were approved, except for a remark by Carmen concerning point 10: thematic tours and associate conferences should be announced more precisely, mentioning clearly each partner.

#### **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a) Membership: Secretary Maarten Delbeke reported on the current state of membership, since the overview given in Rotterdam in February 2012, EAHN membership for 2012 includes 62 paying members out of 1,637 members in total.

b) Funding: Treasurer Tom Avermaete stated there are no major changes since the overview he gave in Rotterdam in February 2012. The financial situation of the EAHN is precarious. Tom asked the meeting to encourage people and institutions to become paying members of the EAHN. Some profit for the EAHN was anticipated from the conference in Brussels. More members are needed on the Funding Committee.

The expenses for the new open access journal, the website and the conference are covered, but not the general costs for the network and the office at the TU Delft, although this infrastructure is needed, and might be used to support fundraising. To continue supporting the EAHN, TU Delft expects a long term strategy from 2013 onwards.

In reaction to this Maristella stated that there are now better prospects for the EAHN, as the organization becomes more established. Hilde suggested that the registration fees of the conferences could be higher, to generate money for the EAHN as a whole. Participation in a conference sustains the EAHN as an organization, but relies on an existing infrastructure. Davide commented that the new journal may encourage more people to participate in the EAHN and become paying members. A system of automatic payments would be good, to sustain regular income, without having to send out renewal reminders every year.

The possibility for grants of the European community is being looked into by Mari.

Hilde explained that a difficulty with funding is that you only know what amount is needed after the work is done. A grants scheme, as operated by the SAH, would seem more realistic in the US than in Europe.

A policy about student fees needs to be addressed in the future. Nancy suggests that architectural offices might be willing to provide travel grants; or foundations like Fondation Le Corbusier, the Scott Opler Foundation, or the Henkel Foundation, who have funded already an SAH/EAHN conference in Zurich earlier.

#### **4. Journal: Announcement of new journal**

Maarten Delbeke announced that the Editorial Board and the Advisory Board for the new open access journal have been appointed. The Newsletter will dissolve into the new journal, and partly into new website. The NWO grant is funding the online open access journal, for which Ubiquity Press is the publisher. A test version of the journal is online since yesterday. The new web editor is Mollie Claypool, who is working on the journal website and new EAHN website.

The proposed name: *Architectural Histories*, the open access journal of the EAHN

URL: [journal.eahn.org](http://journal.eahn.org)

Planning: a double call will be announced, for an open and a thematic issue. The publication for the first issue is planned for January 2013, and the second issue will appear in mid 2013. Adrian congratulated Maarten on this development. EAHN is now leading the field with an open access journal, which is an important new venture for academic publishing more widely, and not only for the EAHN.

#### **5. Website: Announcement of new website**

A new website has been developed, taking advantage of new technology, by Mollie Claypool. On the new website there will be a public area, and an area for members. Parts of these areas are still under construction. The launch of the new website will take place during this Brussels' conference.

#### **6. Nominations: to report progress on Search for Secretary**

Maarten Delbeke stated that he will stand down as Secretary, as he already indicated in Rotterdam. An invitation for a new Secretary will be announced via a CoCo call, but also via the new website. An announcement during the conference will be made.

#### **7. Strategic Plan: to consider attached draft document, and potential sources of funding**

The draft of a Strategic Plan was discussed by the committee. Continuing support from TU Delft/Faculty of Architecture is uncertain, and in February 2012 they asked for a report with future (financial) plans. The final version of the Strategic Plan will be done in the next few months, ready by September. Mari will approach the different committees to have detailed information. This document will also be useful for the EAHN more generally, and might help while applying for funding.

Adrian explains the TU Delft will be less interested in supporting the EAHN if financial weakness continues. Evidence of an expanding and robust organization is important, as well as a steady income from membership in the future. The hitherto free membership has not helped in finding funding elsewhere. Membership will continue to fluctuate in conference years, from year to year. Adrian believed that there should be a five year budget plan, for which any thoughts and suggestions would be appreciated.

Carmen said the EAHN should also use intermediate conferences as a source of income.

Nancy emphasized that the mailing list of 1600+ is valuable, and that the EAHN should not lose these contacts. This list should not be thrown away.

The new website contains much more information about the members, as everyone will have to fill in a profile. This information will also be available to other members..

Jorge indicated that a line of intermediate thematic conferences has started, distinct from the biannual European sequence. This should be included in the plan.

Nancy suggested that thematic groups could be involved in thematic conferences, and asks these groups to all please write three sentences to include in the plan.

Carmen proposed that the 2015 intermediate conference could be somewhere in Eastern Europe.

Maarten explained that there will be workspace for thematic groups in the members section. This is the opportunity to reconsider the status of the thematic groups, and to encourage and review them.

The new website allows groups to be alive all year long, instead of only during conferences. Groups could employ this new possibility.

The conclusion was that the strategic plan be advanced as soon as possible, and that any help is welcome.

## **8. Tours: to report on Brazil Tour and Conference**

Daniel Walser reported on plans for a tour in Tirol, and would like to encourage people to collaborate. Architecture here is very extensive, and runs from early times till today. The best timing for this tour seems autumn 2013, as it will then not interfere with other activities in spring 2013, like the conference in Sao Paulo (with a range of tours after the conference), and the Business Meeting in Bratislava (with different tours).

The Call for Papers for the Sao Paulo conference closes on 15 September 2012. The conference will take place from 20 to 24 March 2013.

It is important that the diverse and cosmopolitan nature of the EAHN appear in the Strategic Plan.

## **9. International Conference 2014 in Turin - 19-21 June 2014**

Michela Rosso introduced herself as the General Chair of the EAHN Third International Meeting 2014 in Turin. An executive committee has been installed, and she is considering the size and balance of the scientific committee, in order to cover also mediaeval aspects, early modern and baroque, and urban studies.

By June 2012 the scientific committee will be in place, and a call for sessions will be launched by the end of June, when the new website is in place.

The EAHN committee should decide if the website for the conference should be independent or part of the general EAHN website.

## **10. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.