

IVA International

The IVA – ICRA international is growing again. I am happy to introduce a new member: Peter Robinson. He lives in Sydney, Australia and is a townplanner and urban designer. His projects take him to many parts of the world, such as China, Europe, Australia, America, and in the near future most probably to Oman, which explains his interest in comparative studies in architecture and urban design.

He promised to write a few lines about his work as well as a few personal details for the next newsletter, so you will have a better idea of what he is doing.

(Renate)

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IVA bi- lingual newsletter

The IVA is really international by now. And since Peter Robinson's German is not too bad, but he still feels more comfortable with English, the IVA newsletter will be from now on in English and German. Don't panic: I will translate all the information I get. And as long as Maria is not claiming that we have to write all in Spanish, Ferenc in Hungarian and Midya does not want the news as well in Arabic and Kurdish.....

(On the other hand: if all are so busily writing notes for the newsletter as in the past, then one single message would fill some 4 pages :-)

Due to the fact that I am currently involved in too many things, please forgive me writing this issue only in English. Next time I promise to do it bilingual.

(Renate)

Journal of Comparative Cultural Studies

Erich (Lehner) and I are about to set up a new journal:

The Journal of Comparative Cultural Studies

It will be a peer reviewed online journal, what means that all abstracts will be available for all just by downloading from the journal's web page. Full articles will be sent to interested on request. The journal will appear 4 times a year and we plan to bring out the first issue around Christmas, latest begin of next year.

Günter kindly agreed to design and set up the home page for the journal, which will be a side link of IVA homepage. We should be online by September. Thank you Günter for your help.

So we (Erich and I) are awaiting lots of interesting articles from all of you. Topics should cover either case studies from one of the many regions that IVA covers by now, or comparative studies in architecture, town planning, urban design, ethnology and so on. Basically the sort of things we are doing anyway.

You can submit either in German or in English, but extended abstracts (800 words) should be in both languages.

There are no limits for articles but please not as long as you all normally write: 50.000 words or so :-)

All published articles will be peer reviewed, that means each submitted article will be in the need of 2 reviewers. I hope we will get all the support from all IVA's :-)

(Renate)

Study trip to Caracas and the Guajiro peninsula

Dear IVA's

Venezuela is a nice and pleasant country, but its vernacular architecture is hardly known outside of its borders. To learn more about the fascinating architecture Maria suggests a route so that all interested can already get first informations via internet or literature. That is:

1. Caracas:

The city is not only capital of the country, but its gateway, too. The contrast of major highways, picturesque landscape and informal settlements makes the city appear most appealing. In particular, the „Ciudad Universitaria“ by Carlos Raul Villanueva is widely seen as a good example of modern architecture in the tropics. Maria can show us around here, but we will try to find some local guides and experts; Prof. Graziano Gasparini would be great for that. (*Maria knows him very well. For those who are not so familiar with South American vernacular architecture: he is the leading researcher and has published many books explaining it. Renate*)

2. Maracaibo:

is the capital of a very interesting region, where we can visit the pile work dwellings (Palafitos) at the Sinamaica laguna (Maracaibo sea). There we can also visit the Wayúus, an aboriginal tribe at the Guajira peninsula next to the Columbian border. For this part of the trip some personal contacts of the employees of the Austrian embassy will probably help us a lot. If we are lucky, i.e. if the dwellings are still there, we will also be able to visit the „Bohios Bari“ South of the Maracaibo Sea.

3. Coro:

The old city centre of Coro is world heritage and good examples of colonial architecture can be looked at. North of Coro lies the Paraguaná peninsula with stunning examples of vernacular architecture. Maybe Prof. Gasparini can be convinced to accompany us (Maria believes that he has a farm here). At the Paraguaná peninsula we can enjoy the tropical beach of the Caribbean and get a nice tan. The journey would then take us back to Caracas and to the airport and then on home. By then we would have completed a trip of about ten days to a fortnight.
Does that sound inspiring?

(Maria)

Maria provided me with fantastic photographs, that she wanted me to send out as well. But I am afraid most mailboxes will run mad when getting so much data. I will try to find a way to circulate them to all of you. For the time being think of the most fantastic vernacular architecture, and the Caribbean needs no pictures anyway...

(Renate)

We plan to do the study trip next February, so be prepared to go there. Hopefully this time I will be able to bring some students from Hannover along, and Maria is in contact with academic staff from the University of Caracas. And she is in contact with Graziano Gasparini and Louisa Magolies, the two experts of South American vernacular architecture. They are not only willing to contribute to our trip but also are really awaiting us. In the end, it could be a very interesting international and inter cultural workshop.

(Renate)

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