

New IVA- members

1. Christoph Feld

I am pleased to introduce a new member to IVA: Christoph Feld.

He is a professional architect and together with his partner Silvia Nikulski he runs his own office, Iflulnl Architekten und Ingenieure. Together with me we founded a partnership *more Iflulnl*. This is a cooperation to deal with „put theory into practice“. We try to look at architecture and urban design from a theoretical point of view but with a strong effort to get „built results“.

Christoph himself is strongly interested in the matters of IVA and to look to the built environment from our perspective, i.e. to compare various cultures, not only in Europe, but around the world. He made some trips, for example to Nepal, and his view to look at architecture is influenced by such trips.

He promised to write a few lines about himself for the next newsletter.

I am glad that our group is still growing and getting more and more international (Actually Christoph is the first German in our group) and our members have many backgrounds, but are all interested in one thing: comparing and dealing with various cultures in the built environment.

(Renate)

2. Peter Robinson

Some time ago Peter promised to introduce himself. So he did. Read more about him here:

Peter is the Director of PRA Sustainable Urbanism, as well as what you could describe as a freelance academic. You may think that this second position is a strange one. He gives guest lectures and does conduct research, but he does not have a specific affiliation with a University. That is why we have invited him to join our Institut für vergleichende Architektur Forschung IVA (Institute for Comparative Research in Architecture ICRA). While the majority of Peter's work is at a scale larger than architecture, when you talk to him, you would think that he is an architect, as he has a detailed understanding of architecture and comparative architecture. This may also come through his wide travels, as well as consulting in many parts of the world.

Peter's work in Sustainable Urbanism crosses many discipline boundaries, like much of the work in IVA. Urbanism, like Architecture, functions best when discipline boundaries become blurry and when we can make contributions wider than the specific areas of where we are meant to be. Thus when Peter works in the Middle East, he has to think in a Middle Eastern mind-set (no jokes please!), just as when he is working in Sweden or Australia, he has to understand the cultural nature of architecture and its place in urbanism, as well as the appropriateness of the built form for the project he is working on. While he does recognise the globalisation of architecture, his work recognises more of the regional distinctiveness, and tries to respect the local over the global. This is because of what he has learnt in economic development - that many places have skilled people, good education, access to resources, access to transport and movement, ready markets, but what makes each place different is its own distinctiveness, and this is what can make one place more competitive than another - reinforcing their own identity, while creating quality in other areas. Creating places that people want to be in, while giving them a character and atmosphere that no where else can have. If people want to be in a particular place, then business will follow. These days it is businesses that are becoming just as mobile as people. And architecture is a key part of that attraction for both people and business. Peter hopes to contribute his skills and expertise to the network, and if projects allow, make a real contribution.

Peter has a Bachelors Degree from the University of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia) in Town Planning (with first class honours). He also has a Masters in Design Science (Computing) from Sydney University as well as a Master of Arts in Urban Design from Oxford Brookes University.

(Peter)

**IVA-ICRA
NEWSLETTER
8 – 09/2006**

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N-AERUS conference

Maria, Midya and myself attended the last N-AERUS annual conference in Darmstadt last week. N-AERUS is the Network Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South. The three of us gave a talk about Aarbil, Iraq which was highly appreciated. You can find our paper on their homepage (<http://www.naerus.net>)

For IVA it was interesting, since N-AERUS members want to work more closely together with us. I think this gives us a good opportunity to have a wider network with more researchers working in our field. One idea came up that we possibly could organise one of their annual meeting jointly with IVA. Lets think about this opportunity.

(Renate)

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INTBAU

INTBAU has been approached by a representative of a UK-registered Charity, the Ouroboros Trust, which is seeking to develop an interpretive centre on the theme of Wisdom of the Ancients (WOTA). The WOTA concept is planned around the Trivium and Quadrivium, namely Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy and Music, and the centre will focus on ancient understanding of these subjects.

WOTA are looking for preliminary registrations of interest for architects, urbanists and landscape architects skilled in traditional architecture to design the centre. It is expected that the interpretive centre will have a traditional design, in recognition of the function. Museum consultants Hailey Sharp will undertake the exhibition planning.

At this stage I understand that there is funding in place for an initial study only, and that the initial study will be used to help to raise funds for the centre.

You can download a copy of the Design Brief from
http://www.intbau.org/References/WOTA_design_brief.pdf
There is more about the Ouroboros Trust at the website
<http://www.ouroborostrust.org/>

For more information or to register your interest in the project, please contact Antony Harvey direct at harvey493@btinternet.com
Kind regards,
Matthew Hardy.

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INTBAU UK is a registered Charity No. 1103068 - "one world, many traditions"

(forwarded by Peter)

JCCS - Journal of Cultural Comparative Studies. The built environment

The journal is on its way and we (Erich, Günter and myself) await many interesting articles from you. The first issue is planned for the first quarter of next year, and will basically introduce IVA and our work. Therefore: speed up and submit something! As long as the Journal's webpage is not finished, please submit your contribution via email either to me (bornberg@iras.uni-hannover.de) or Erich (erich.lehner@tuwien.ac.at).

(Renate)