



SPEAKERS' ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE AT THE MACKINTOSH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

FRIDAY 10 MAY 2013 10.00 – 20.00 HRS.

**MACKINTOSH LECTURE THEATRE, GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART, 167
RENFREW STREET, GLASGOW G3 6RQ**

Richard Rodger

Reinforced Tenements: The Law and Urban Form in Scotland since 1707

Why did tenements dominate the Scottish built environment? Why do tenements prevail and not terraced housing? This presentation will focus on the inter-relationship between the law of property and economics of building to argue that the built form was a direct consequence. It was property law that defined the form of the Edinburgh New Town, and the resultant legal framework caused the tenement to prevail there, as elsewhere in Scotland. Victorian feudalism enabled high-rise and provided the cultural legacy that remains today.

RICHARD RODGER is Professor of Economic and Social History at Edinburgh University. He has published widely on the economic, business and urban history of Britain since 1800. His book *The Transformation of Edinburgh: Land, Property and Trust in the Nineteenth Century* was awarded the Frank Watson Prize for works on Scottish history. Ongoing research involves projects on the development of public health in Victorian Scotland, and a study of Edinburgh trusts as part of a comparative analysis of legal and institutional factors affecting the trajectory of urban development. This research strand began while undertaking MA and PhD degrees in Economics and Economic History at Edinburgh, and continued during appointments at Liverpool, Kansas and Leicester Universities, where Rodger was until recently Professor of Urban History and Director of the East Midlands Oral History Archive. As author and editor, Rodger has published 16 books, and over 100 articles and chapters; he was General Editor for a series of 40 books under the title of Historical Urban Studies, and was Editor of *Urban History*, published by Cambridge University Press, between 1987 and 2007. In recognition of his numerous publications, and contributions to the study of economic and social history, Rodger was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences in 2004 and has recently secured an AHRC grant for £660,000 to develop a project called: Mapping Edinburgh's Social History (MESH): A Capital Digital Resource.

Kathleen James-Chakraborty

Modern Memory and the Revival of the Mietskaserne

The revival of the tenement (Mietskaserne) as a model for Berlin dwelling units coincided with an interest in the city as the locus of collective memory. Not only was the formerly maligned housing type now appreciated for its ties to a vanished past, but the multiple strategies adopted by architects engaged in this effort proved transposable to the creation of Berlin's new memoryscapes. The nostalgia that surrounded the old Berlin tenement in the 1970s and eighties is now beginning to be applied to its successor. In particular the recent demolition of O. M. Ungers's housing on Lützowplatz has prompted a reconsideration of this no longer fashionable but nonetheless admired moment when Berlin was building some of the world's most aesthetically ambitious social housing.

KATHLEEN JAMES-CHAKRABORTY is Professor of Art History at University College Dublin. She has also taught at the University of California Berkeley, where she was Professor of Architecture, the University of Minnesota and the Ruhr Universität Bochum. Her book *Architecture since 1900* will be published next year by the University of Minnesota Press. She is also the author of *German Architecture for a Mass Audience* (Routledge, 2000) and the editor of *Bauhaus Culture from Weimar to the Cold War* (Minnesota, 2006).

Katharina Borsi

The Persistence of the Block

The Berlin block of the nineteenth century is currently undergoing a renaissance. In a modified form the perimeter block appears in a number of current master plans, such as Bercy, Paris, Barcelona as well as in Berlin. Also the nineteenth century quarters it fills are the most sought after due to their vibrant street life and their dynamic mix of uses and functions. A number of its spatial qualities enable the building to accommodate a variety of changing uses and populations from the time of its proliferation in the 1860s to the present day. Generous and undifferentiated spaces in its interior allow the building to continuously readapt to diverse and changing requirements, such that the building can be used for living and working, accommodating industrial uses, office spaces and living units at the same time. Its formal articulation allows a dense and changing pattern of living and working in an urban form that draws its interior and exterior spaces closely together. Programmatic activity can evolve fluidly from the exterior of the street into the interior of the courtyard, which allows a very flexibly definable

gradation from public to private space, while also promoting a distinct neighbourhood identity. The paper compares the spatial performance of the nineteenth century block with some of its recent reinterpretations. It argues that current discussions on the block are too much focused on the reinstatement of its form rather than its performance as an instrument for building the city.

KATHARINA BORSI is an architect, urban designer and educator. She has practiced in Berlin and London, and continues to be involved in design guidance, urban regeneration projects and masterplanning. Her focus in research and teaching lies on urban live projects and the history and theory of urbanism. Borsi is currently the Acting Director of Diploma in Architecture at the University of Nottingham. She has previously taught at the Architectural Association in London and the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow. She holds a PhD from the Architectural Association on the Urbanism of the Berlin block.

Raymond Young

Pioneering tenement rehabilitation in Govan, Glasgow, 1972-76

This presentation recounts the story of the pioneering tenement rehabilitation programme that began as a student project in the Govan area of Glasgow and developed into a city wide programme carried out by community based housing associations and was a major influence on the development of the housing association sector across Scotland which has been responsible for some of the best new tenements in Scotland. The cultural and social context of the project is outlined, including attitudes towards working class tenements in the 1960's and early 70's. The transition from experiment to mainstream is explained and some reflection made on why the programme was successful.

RAYMOND YOUNG CBE FRIAS is an architect by training and was one of the founder members of ASSIST, the community architecture practice in Govan that pioneered both tenement rehabilitation and community based housing associations in the early 1970s. He has long term interest in community regeneration and sustainability, has worked with the Housing Corporation and Scottish Homes, and now runs a very part-time regeneration consultancy from a sustainable straw bale office in Perthshire. He is a non-executive advisory

committee member of Historic Scotland and a General Trustee of the Church of Scotland; previous roles included first chair of Architecture and Design Scotland, convenor of the Rural Housing Service, and a member of the UK Sustainable Development Commission. He has recently published the story of Glasgow's pioneering tenement improvement programme – *Annie's Loo, the Govan origins of Scotland's Community Based Housing Associations*.

Wolfgang Förster

Social Housing Architecture in Vienna

Austria's capital Vienna has long been known for its social housing policies. Starting with an internationally acknowledged council housing programme in the 'Red Vienna' period in the 1920s this housing policy has continually developed. Today, some 60 per cent of all households live in subsidized housing. Well-known architects have been involved, based on the assumption that 'architecture for the poor must never look poor'. New challenges include coping with growing demand due to rapid population increase, affordability for all, ecology and climate change, and demographic changes. Vienna has introduced an innovative developers' competition scheme which judges all new projects – some 6,000 units per year – along four 'pillars': social sustainability, planning, ecology, and economy. The presentation will include some of the most remarkable examples of recent housing projects and urban developments.

WOLFGANG FÖRSTER was born in Vienna in 1953. He studied architecture, planning and political sciences in Vienna and Graz and worked as an architect and researcher. He holds a diploma in architecture and a Ph.D. Between 1988-2001 he served as Deputy Director of the Vienna Housing Fund and, since 2001, has been serving as Head of the Vienna Regional Housing Research Division. Förster also acts as Chair of the UN-ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management where he also serves as a delegate for Austria. He is chair of the EURO CITIES Working Group on Housing, is coordinator of several EU-projects and has published extensively on public housing and urban renewal.

Stuart Gulliver

The Crown Street Regeneration Project, Glasgow: Some Personal Recollections (1987-2000)

The presentation will describe the origins of the Crown Street Regeneration Project. The project was inspired by the International Building Exhibit (IBA) in Berlin in 1987 and adapted to a Glasgow context. The presentation will outline the motivations and processes involved in transposing such as scheme from Berlin to Glasgow.

STUART GULLIVER is an economist and internationally recognised practitioner of distinction in economic development and urban regeneration. He is Emeritus Professor at the University of Glasgow and an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was for 10 years Chief Executive of Glasgow Development Agency and before that was Director of Development at the Scottish Development Agency and had an earlier career in English New Towns.

Gulliver has worked at the highest level in both city and regional development and in recent years has acted as 'Strategic Economic Adviser' to most of the major British Cities. He is currently working with The World Bank in St Petersburg and The Brookings Institute in Washington, USA.

Christoph Kohl

The making of a socially sustainable town

Reflecting on the last 20 years of the work of the firm KK Architects., one sees the repeated recreation and development of the tenement typology as a fundamental component in their urban design. The tenement, or 'Mietskaserner' in German, makes up large parts of the urban fabric of many cities, in particular the city of Berlin, where the office is based. Berlin has been called 'the world's largest tenement city'. While the tenement was previously condemned for the housing conditions within, this rejection was more due to the density of buildings and their occupation rather than the typology as such. KK's work focuses on the essence of this architectural typology and its important role in the

urban fabric; to create the critical mass of urbanity, to give form to the pattern of the cities and to condition the way of social cohabitation. Inspired by the approach taken by the architects of the International Building Exhibit (IBA) in the early 1980s, the office went on to reproduce this typology that was such an essential part of Berlin's urban grain. Early projects show 'new tenement' designs where the typology is employed in the design of a new town composed almost entirely of social housing. Later designs by KK Architects show how the typology is developed and elaborated in different scales and for different social mixes, but always organised in a defined urban grain. The firm's Dutch projects demonstrate how the new towns quickly became new communities due, it is argued, to the successful urban realm created by a residential typology that relates so well to public space.

CHRISTOPH KOHL, born 1961 in Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy, studied architecture at the Technical Universities in Innsbruck and Vienna and completed his thesis at the IUAV University of Venice, Italy, in 1988. After his studies he worked in different architectural practices in Berlin as well as in Rob Krier's office in Vienna. In 1993 he became a partner in the architectural practice Rob Krier · Christoph Kohl. Since 1993, the headquarters of Rob Krier · Christoph Kohl Architecture has been located in Berlin. The transfer from Vienna came about due to their significant participation in the construction and coordination of Kirchsteigfeld, a planning project near Potsdam (1992-1997) that was built according to their urban design proposal. Subsequently they have been responsible for the design of masterplan projects in different European countries, with a focus on the Netherlands. Since 2010 Kohl is the sole director of the office which is now operating under the name KK Architects.

Ken MacRae

The Tenement for the 21st Century

The presentation will discuss the competition, commission and construction of the 'Tenement for the 21st Century' on Shakespeare Street, one of the first New Tenements in Glasgow. The project was designed by MacRae with McGum Logan Duncan & Opfer Architects, Glasgow. It was commissioned in 1984 by Maryhill Housing Association, Glasgow and completed in 1989 as 'Craigie Court'.

After studying at Strathclyde University School of Architecture, Glasgow, **KEN MACRAE** worked for Alison and Peter Smithson, Architects, London, and worked between 1970–1976 for Gillespie Kidd & Coia, Architects, Glasgow. In 1978 he completed a Master's Degree from the School of Environmental Design at the Royal College of Art, London. MacRae started teaching at the Mackintosh School of Architecture as a Part time Studio Tutor in 1984 and is currently a Studio Tutor and Programme Leader for the Engineering with Architecture courses run with the University of Glasgow School of Engineering.

Between 1978–1992, as a self-employed architect, projects that MacRae worked on included hospital rehabilitation, with Hodges & Haxworth, Architects, London; Headquarters for the World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts, London, with John Dangerfield Associates, Architects, Middlesex. He also worked on various projects in Saudi Arabia with IDEA International, London.

Competitions have included the Paris Opera House Competition with Julyan Wickham & Brendan Woods; Awards he has received include the Scottish Civic Trust Glasgow 1990 Award, The Saltire Society Commendation 1990 and the Glasgow Institute of Architects GIA Award 1991.

Karen Anderson

Recent Glasgow Projects and the Tenement Legacy

The presentation will discuss current Anderson Bell Christie projects at Whiteinch, Govan and New Gorbals in Glasgow. These projects are based on a tenemental approach and are all for Housing Association clients, though some of the dwellings are for sale at affordable costs. They illustrate a variety of approaches in their configuration of accommodation and in their response to their sites and the social brief.

KAREN ANDERSON is a founding partner of Anderson Bell Christie. She was previously a Royal Fine Art Commissioner and taught Architecture at the University of Strathclyde. She is past Convenor of the Saltire Housing Design Awards Panel and current Chair of Architecture and Design Scotland. She qualified from the Mac in 1984.

MILES GLENDINNING is Professor of Architectural Conservation at the University of Edinburgh and Director of the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies. He has published extensively on modernist and contemporary architecture and housing: books include *Tower Block* (with Stefan Muthesius), *The Conservation Movement*, and *Architecture's Evil Empire* – a polemical evaluation of contemporary ‘iconic modernism’. He is chair of the DOCOMOMO International Specialist Committee on Urbanism and Landscape (co-organiser of this event). Current research projects include an in-depth investigation of mass housing in Hong Kong and Singapore.

FLORIAN URBAN is Professor and Head of Architectural History and Urban Studies at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts in Berlin, an MA in Urban Planning from UCLA and a Ph.D. in History and Theory of Architecture from MIT. He is the author of *Neo-historical East Berlin – Architecture and Urban Design in the German Democratic Republic 1970-1990* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009) and *Tower and Slab – Histories of Global Mass Housing* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2012).

Organised by the Mackintosh School of Architecture and DOCOMOMO-International, with support from the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS) and the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies (University of Edinburgh)

