

From the President's Desk

SIA:



Reflections on Architectural Education

A few weeks back Professor Peter Adok (Minister of Higher Education) very bravely acknowledged that the prevailing standard of (H.E.) in the country is deplorable.

More recently, the British Authorities declared that Medical qualifications from Sudanese universities are no longer acceptable in Britain for reasons clearly spelt out.

With such evidence at hand, do we in (SIA) need an honest child to cry in our faces: "Shame on you, can't you tell the king that he is naked"?

No, your institute is fully aware of the situation and is in

the process of proposing means and methods for ameliorating the status of Architecture Education. The start is that as from the next enrolment in architecture schools, the level of entry suggested by (SIA) back in 1997, and endorsed by the Engineering Council, will be the rule for all of the schools teaching for Honours Degree in Architecture. A close follow-up will be effected to ascertain that the adopted curricula satisfy the accreditation norms, the teaching staff is well qualified and on permanent jobs, the space facilities and the teaching means and aids of comparable standards worldwide are made available for the students. The same applies to the academic regulations and byelaws. A graduate with a (CGPA of 37.5%) as is the case in some schools, will no longer qualify even for the associate membership of SIA.

Legitimate questions are to arise about the graduates of the past few years who do not satisfy these prerequisites. This situation has been

carefully considered. SIA has no intention to punish any graduate with a degree in architecture from an authorized school, but it will not allow itself to cheat the clients and the community at large by bestowing its full membership on those whose true abilities as architects are not closely tested.

On page 4 on the first issue of SIA Newsletter the current evaluation and upgrading system of the CPD has been briefly introduced. It is through this instrument, and its likes, that all graduates of architecture will be evaluated and their initial abilities and their progress in the profession will be updated through a careful monitoring at intervals that will be proposed by the executive of SIA to the council and to be approved by highest SIA body- the General Meeting.

Omer Siddig Osman - SIA, President

'As design becomes a commodity, what we consider new today will become history tomorrow. Therefore, there is need to develop a much higher level of teaching design'

Architecture of the Month



The KIOSK of Musawarat: believed to date back to 225 B.C., beautifully combines the Roman, Greek, and Nubian styles.

UIA Bureau Meeting:

On 2 and 3 June 2009, the Association of Architects of Tanzania (AAT) will host the members of the UIA Bureau in a meeting in Dar es Salaam, in conjunction with meetings of the African Union of Architect's Council and that of the Eastern African Institute of Architects. A seminar on architectural heritage will also be held on this occasion. A couple of SIA members have arranged to attend the events.

From AUA's Constitution ...

As we are seeking more exposure and involvement with our regional organizations and partners, and as we are initiating a comprehensive architectural education and training, we would like to highlight the following objectives of the African Union of Architects (AUA) constitution:



A wide discussion will soon be launched by the SIA's Executive Office and Council in regard to these points:



4.3: To represent architects of the member countries at national and international levels.

4.4: To promote the recognition of the architect's role in Society and to maintain public confidence in the integrity and the ability of architects by demanding from members of member institutes of the Union the highest moral and professional standards.

4.5: To foster legal protection within the African states, to enable the Architect to function in a proper manner by defining the qualifications necessary for the practice of architecture and by regulating education and excluding entry into the profession of unqualified persons.

4.6: To promote and encourage the development and education of architects to serve society and to promote and encourage the development for a base for architectural education in all its aspects, and to facilitate international, and in particular, continental exchange of architects, researchers and students.

4.7: To promote research and technical advancement in the field of the built environment and to encourage the association of architects with other disciplines, professions and interests involved in building planning, in highly technical fields.

4.8: To promote an awareness and the preservation of the African architectural heritage.

4.9: To promote the free movement of architects between member countries by the accrediting of qualifications and the encouragement of systems of inter-recognition of qualifications within the framework of registration requirements in member countries and to encourage strict observance of the professional code of conduct in member Institutes.

U. of K.'s students celebrate ARCHITECT'S WEEK ...

The association of Architecture students of the university of Khartoum have organized a week-long celebration that has demonstrated their works, year-long activities, as well as other cultural activities. It is the first time the architecture students work for such a week after the department separated from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture last year. The week's opening ceremony was attended by SIA's president, U. of K.'s Vice-Chancellor representative, Dean faculty of Engineering, and the staff of the faculty of Architecture.

The Exhibits dealt with a couple of contemporary architectural topics, such as; the up-side-down and the Go-Green exhibits. The former exhibit attempted to explore the multi-centrist notion by replicating a student's room furniture in an up-side-down setting; while the latter has shown the potentials use of the recyclable materials. The other exhibits were the Sudanese Architecture, the Projects', the Painting exhibit, My House, and the Computer exhibits.

On the other hand, a couple of seminars and public lectures have accompanied the exhibits as well as a number of musical performances by flutist and composer Hafiz Abdel Rahman, and the students band.



Malaysia Tour

The secretary of the social and cultural affairs had organized a 12-days tour to Malaysia, co-sponsored by ALFA International College for Architecture., from the 4th to the 16th of last April. Led by Mr. Noor el-Deen El-Rigayieg, SIA's executive office member, a team of 12 SIA members visited Putrajaya, Melaka, and toured the marvelous city of Kuala-ampur.

Honoring the visiting team, the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) organized a small reception, in which PAM activities, and the venues of collaboration were discussed.



Selected Tour Photos taken by Mr. El-Rigayieg

UIA Newsletter



A new issue of the international Union of Architects (UIA) e-newsletter June-July has been published on May 31st on their website: <http://www.uia-architectes.org>. the publication gives a comprehensive update on the global architectural scene: news, competitions, conferences, as well as architects networking initiatives.

The most recent issue has outlined, beside other issue: Warsaw's Polish History Museum completion sponsored by The Polish Minister of Culture and Heritage, Fernando Doni's winning design of "Dubai Frame" for which the Mexican architect has collected the \$100.000 prize.

China Sustainable Building Summit which will take place in Shanghai on June 29th to July 1st, has also been featured. Architects and students are very encouraged to subscribe to such important publications. The subscription to the UIA e-Newsletter can be done easily and free on the website mentioned above.

ARC•PEACE

ARC•PEACE is a global network of architects, designers and planners who are committed to social and environmental responsibility. This arises from their belief that their creative mission is to design for peaceful purposes and for preserving the environment and human habitat. The network was announced in 1987 in the wake of an UIA Congress in Brighton. Those were times of cold war and Arc.Peace was an outcry against weapons of mass destruction and for non-violent conflict resolution, for the protection of the natural environment and for responsible development of the built environment. Currently member organizations and individuals from 28 countries communicate through digital means and hold biennial meetings to pursue these goals.

You can bookmark the web site

<http://arcpeace.org/NewARCPeace/01_AP_home.htm> to download the charter, newsletters or publications and register yourself for taking part in discussions.



Arc.Peace 2nd meeting in Stockholm, Sweden (1989)

SIA ON THE WEB ...

The Sudanese Institute of Architects has launched its first steps on the way of electronically communicating with its members and the public. A considerable effort has been put on this growing website (www.sia-sud.org), which will bring current updates on the institute's activities, memberships' application forms, membership records and SIA councils events. The website, as of this month, is still growing and has not taken its final shape. Some of the secretariat are working on updating these sections in order to achieve a sustainable communication with the community. All SIA members are encouraged to visit the website and feed us back with comments and/or opinions.



Pritzker's Prize Laureate 2009: Peter Zumthor



Peter Zumthor

Peter Zumthor of Switzerland has been chosen as the 2009 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize. The formal ceremony for what has come to be known throughout the world as architecture's highest honor had been held on May 29 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A \$100,000 grant and a bronze medalion was bestowed on the 65-year old architect. Past laureates included Jean Nouvelle (2008), Glenn Marcutt (2003), Zaha Hadid (2004), and other legends. Although most of his work is in Switzerland, he has designed projects in Germany, Austria, The Netherlands, England, Spain, Norway, Finland and the United States. His most famous work is in Vals, Switzerland—the Thermal Baths, which has been referred to by the press as “his master-

piece.” Most recently critics have praised his Field Chapel to Saint Nikolaus von der Flüe near Cologne, Germany. The jury singled out not only those buildings, but also the Kolumba Museum in Cologne, calling the latter “a startling contemporary work, but also one that is completely at ease with its many layers of history.”

In Zumthor's own words as expressed in his book, *Thinking Architecture*, “I believe that architecture today needs to reflect on the tasks and possibilities which are inherently its own. Architecture is not a vehicle or a symbol for things that do not belong to its essence. In a society that celebrates the inessential, architecture can put up a resistance, counteract the waste of forms and meanings, and speak its own language. I believe that the language of architecture is not a question of a specific style.

Every building is built for a specific use in a specific place and for a specific society. My buildings try to answer the questions that emerge from these simple facts as precisely and critically as they can.”

The purpose of the Pritzker Architecture Prize is to honor annually a living architect whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture.

** all photos are from the Pritzker Architecture Prize's website: www.pritzkerprize.com, retrieved on May 10th, 2009.*



Brother Klaus Field Chapel (2007)



Kaunsthhaus Bregenz, Austria (1997)



Swiss Sound Box, Swiss Pavilion, Germany (2000)



Thermal Bath Vals, Switzerland (1996)

The Executive Committee would like to acknowledge the considerable assistance of Dr. Osman El-Kheir, SIA Council Member, and the enthusiastic members who have contacted us, encouraging and celebrating our first issue of SIA's newsletter. All contributions and suggestions are very welcomed.

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We are also on the web!

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