

## Conference and Exhibition Reports

# Third International Symposium, IAPS-CSBE Network at XXIIInd UIA World Congress of Architecture, July 2-7 2005, Istanbul Turkey

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Since the millennium the world has experienced new priorities and challenges. These occurrences have been the influencing factors that have brought about the complex process of globalisation. Social issues, culture, politics and economics appear to be transforming communities around the world. The XXIIInd UIA World Congress of Architecture conference, which was held in July 2005 in Istanbul, Turkey, concentrated on the built environment within the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Architects, policy makers, scholars and students from all over the world attended and took part.



Some of those present are known internationally for their expertise in the field, namely Zaha Hadid, Charles Correa and Robert Venturi. The event also provided participants with an interactive website: <http://www.uia2005istanbul.org> whereby members could obtain up to date information on what was happening at the conference. The accompanying conference exhibition provided a wealth of information in the form of literature and spectacular displays of architectural images and models (see figure 1).

**Figure 1: Model of Diyarbakir (Turkey) Old City Centre dated back to early Byzantine times.**



One of the most interesting debates that took place at the conference was the Social Change and Spatial Transformation in Housing Environments, which was hosted by the IAPS-CSBE Network, Istanbul Technical University (ITU).

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The themes of the symposium ranged from housing environments to appropriate research methodologies. The program of the symposium included the following thematic sessions:

- General issues on urban and residential transformation;
- Social – cultural issues in housing environment;
- Residential areas and quality;
- Historical environment and housing transformation;
- Contemporary housing environment.

Papers were delivered during the two days of the symposium. The first paper focused on the nature of residential communities. Sidney Brower (University of Maryland) provided listeners with the assumption that living in the same place gives rise to a number interests. Case studies from Columbia, Maryland and Washington were used to emulate his argument.

The ‘built environment’ was the common thread throughout the conference. Tasleem Shakur’s (ICDES) article gave a real insight into community identities, built environments, participatory planning, institutional practices and city space worldwide. The main aim of his research was to stimulate debate on the development of global architecture, planning, and the built environment both now and in the future. His paper was an abridged version of his new book\*, launched at the conference, ‘Cities in Transition: Transforming the Global Built Environment’ (see figure 2).

**Figure 2: Tasleem Shakur (Left) pictured with Hülya Turgut Yildiz (the Co-Coordinator, IAPS Network-CSBE) and Jamie Halsall (ICDES) who launched the book: ‘Cities in Transition: Transforming the Global Built Environment’.**



The notion of identity has been of interest to social scientists for many years. Hacıhasanoğlu’s (Istanbul Technical University) paper examined the connections between cultural processes and identity for housing transformations. They form the conclusion that cultural backgrounds/interactions are a fundamental part of the complex processes of identity.

\*Shakur, T. (2005) *Cities in Transition: Transforming the Global Built Environment*. Open House Press, Cheshire.

Another area of discussion was the debate concerning spaces of work. Peter Kellet (University of Newcastle upon Tyne) provided conference with different approaches to space usage and illustrated the way it is used as an expression of change in the work and home environment. Jamie Halsall's (ICDES) work on social segregation focused on the issues surrounding race riots within urban areas. His research drew on previous literature on social segregation within the framework of racial issues. Oldham, a UK inner city area heavily populated by ethnic minorities, was the focus of the case study. His research reveals that there should be more direct attention given to causes of community tension in such areas. Housing and funding policies are seen as a way forward in addressing the issue of community tension.

Yasser Mahgoub (Kuwait University) paper examined the impact of rapid urbanization process during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century within the context of sustainability in Kuwait. Interestingly Mahgoub argues that this rapid, planned changed and urbanization does not permit the city-state of Kuwait in a sustainable way. Furthermore Doris Kowaltowski (University of Campinas) made conference aware of housing projects in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Hacıhasanoğlu's and Kellet's themes of Identity and Space Usage linked and were conceptualised in Kowaltowski's work on private and public space. What was fundamentally clear from this symposium was the interaction between the built environment and globalisation. Social issues play an imperative role within the built environment.

As conference drew to a close at the end of 2 days of intense debate and exchange of views people were in general agreement that the internet should be used more to debate on the issues discussed in conference and beyond, as it was agreed we were not communicating enough. This in turn would help analyse some current research projects and those of the future, promoting shared information on qualitative and quantitative methodology. Using the research discussed in Conference delegates could learn from mistakes of the past and move to the future with an informed view, as in the words of Hülya Turgut Yildiz "of the way things are and the way things should be...".

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