

Editorial

The Sad Departure of Ayyub Malik

It is going to be more than a year now that one of the main founders of GBER, co-editor Ayub Malik passed away on 27 November 2007. As the last two editorials were already written, I did not have any opportunity to disclose this sad news to our readers earlier. However, I am sure by now many of you have to come to know about Ayyub either through his final journey to the Central Mosque and Botley cemetery in Oxford or his final send-off congregation at Wolfson College. Because of his sudden departure, many relatives, colleagues and friends are, like me, having difficulties coming to terms with Ayyub's sad demise and his tributes and memorial services are cropping up every now and then over the last year (including a Bon Journal entry on 3 January 2008) and is still continuing.



I first met Ayyub in the early 1990s when I was editing one of the last special issues for the International Architecture journal MIMAR while he was a panel member of Aga Award for Architecture. Since our first meeting we had a series of stimulating meetings to set up an alternative international Architecture journal which finally came to fruition in 2001. If there is one person who needed to be congratulated for the excellent background research and dedication for GBER since its inception it has to be Ayyub Malik. During the past six years or so, Ayyub wrote or compiled documents for practically all issues (those interested please do look up the archive editions of this journal), including an excellent conference report on 'post-colonial cities of Chandigarh, Dhaka and Islamabad (Malik, 2003) a special edited volume (GBER, 2004, 3:1). Apart from his very close relationship and involvement with GBER, Ayyub also wrote some ground breaking research on 'European Mosque Architecture' which he presented at an International Conference in Ireland which was subsequently published.

Apart from his scholarly contribution to Architecture, Planning and various Cultural Studies, Ayyub will be remembered as a first rate international architect for a leading architectural firm in London (Chapman Taylors). He will probably be better known as a successful designer in the UK, including a successful building in London which was opened by the Queen. His other notable works include Halls of Residence and the Art and Music Centre for the University of Lancaster (1965-69) and the Master Plan for the University of Accra in Ghana.

Having had architecture and planning education both at the National College of Arts (NCA) Lahore, Pakistan and the University of North London, Ayyub was based in the capital since 1961. Besides working closely with him as a member of the GBER editorial team, I had the privilege to work with him abroad as members of the invited contributors to Habitat 2 conference in Istanbul (1996) and as advisory team members to the Saudi Ministry of Tourism (2001). He charmed everyone with his disarming personality, particularly with his politeness and thoroughbred professionalism.

In a way Ayyub was an old-fashioned, truly international modern gentleman/artist who created serious ceramics, painting and sculpture as passionate hobbies. He loved conversations of all kinds depicting his liberal internationalism where no one can locate his biasness for any particular region or obsession for any particular topic. He had a huge number of friends and admirers from all over the world and age group. While many of his friends still mourn his sudden death, GBER has definitely lost one of his most dedicated founders and contributors. However, I sincerely believe his enthusiasm, passion and dedication towards global built environment will continue to inspire the GBER team and the host of contributors and readers from all over the world. For additional reporting on the subject do read Jamie Halsall's tribute to Ayyub Malik at the end of this issue.

This issue contains an experiential geographical commentary (Michael Clark) based on the lessons learnt from a number of Chinese cities (including that of Beijing) and Glastonbury (UK). Based on his recent field trip with students to China and his personal visit to Glastonbury festival 2008, Clark comments on a range of built environment matters including that of green architecture, housing, tourism and energy conservation. More interestingly Clark compares some of the above aspects of China with Glastonbury.

The line up for research articles come from The Netherlands (Bijlmermeer, Amsterdam), Nigeria and Kenya. Marion den Uyl's paper (*Solving problems-or merely shifting them elsewhere? Contradictions in urban renewal in the Bijlmermeer, Amsterdam*) deals with the ongoing debates of problems associated with one of the largest restructuring projects in the Netherlands (near Amsterdam) focusing on the immigrant resettled ethnic community from Africa, Suriname or the Caribbean. It may be noted that in the past we have published both articles and editorial on this trans-local community in Bijlmermeer (Leeming and Shakur, T, 2004; Shakur and Halsall, 2007). Marion den Uyl's article takes the issue a step forward (both agreeing and debating previous research findings) but more significantly throws new light toward differentiation, safety, control and relocation aspects. It would be helpful if the readers could discuss their diverse views through the GBER email group.

The other two serious research papers also deal with housing (Nigeria) and immigrants' social and cultural needs (Kenya). Dolapo Amole's article '*Exploring the relationship between typology and quality in the context of students' residential facilities*' looks into the design attributes (of different building functions and levels) and quality indices deriving from environmental interaction. The study is based on empirical studies in twenty halls of residences located in four Universities in south western Nigeria. The second article from Africa is by Crispino Ocheien (*Adaptation of residential space by Somali immigrants in Nairobi to accommodate social and cultural needs*) deals with the social and cultural aspects of housing as experienced by the Somalian community in Kenya. The article particularly focuses on the immigrant community's housing typologies and their social relations. From the perspectives of cross-cultural comparative study this research could be compared with Mario den Uyl's work on Bijlmermeer's Surinamese and other immigrant community settled near Amsterdam.

This issue of GBER welcomes two new members of the international editorial team. With the sad and abrupt departure of Ayyub Malik we welcome academic/architect Muhammad Ali Tirmizi (NCA, Lahore) who has now taken up the important responsibility of being one of the co-editors of the journal which also involves compiling our listing section. While I was attending the International Islamic Arts and Architecture Conference Lahore this year, one of our member of the editorial board from Pakistan, Yasmin Cheema, requested to be relieved from this honorary job because of her hectic other pressing professional responsibilities. She

is now replaced by the distinguished academic/practising Architect from Pakistan, Shakeel Qureshi (see in this issue his extended report of an International seminar on Sustainable Building Design at Liverpool in the summer of 2008). Both Ali Tirmizi and Dr Qureshi are members of teaching staff at the prestigious National College of Arts based at Lahore, Pakistan.

References

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October 2008