

The Ove Arup Foundation Annual Report

2004-2005

Richard Haryott – Chairman

Charitable Objects

Our Trust Deed states that the Foundation was established for the advancement of education of the public directed towards the promotion furtherance and dissemination of knowledge of matters associated with the built environment with some emphasis on the multi-disciplinary nature of design in engineering and architecture. We seek to realise this in granting our funds to projects.

People

We are pleased to report that the Board of Arup Group Ltd. has appointed its Chairman, Terry Hill, to be a Trustee of the Foundation. We have always had a member of the Board as a Trustee, but with the retirement of a number of our Trustees from the Board of Arup in 2004/5, the link was in danger of being severed. We consider that it is very important that the connection with the firm is maintained and are delighted that Terry has joined us.

There have been no other changes to the membership of the Trustees or Advisory Committee over the year, but we are benefiting from the appointment last year of out-of-UK Trustees, who bring a different perspective to our considerations. Advisors are now invited to attend all meetings of the Trustees. We are as always very grateful for their attendance and the counsel that they give us. We are certain that the quality of our decision-making is improved by their contribution.

Financial Health

The financial health of the Foundation remains robust. This is partly because of our reduced commitments during the last two years but also because of the management of our funds and the continuing good advice from our Treasurer. During the year we transferred some of our resources into shares registered outside the UK.

We are delighted to report that the Arup Group has agreed not only to continue paying for the administration of the Foundation but also to donate a percentage of the firm's profits to us each year for the next five years. We are most grateful for this continued support.

Website

The website continues to attract a steady flow of applications for funding. Tim Blackburn maintains the site and frequently adds articles about the work of those we are supporting, so anyone accessing the site can quickly be aware of our current activities.

Major Projects

University of Cape Town

We have an exciting new project to report. Following a series of contacts over the last few years, the University of Cape Town is to establish a Centre of Cities for Africa. We shall be providing start-up funding of £150,000 over three years to help to launch the Centre. We expect to be able to report more fully on this prospect next year, but we are confident that it will fill a most important need in that continent.

London School of Economics – The Cities Programme

The Cities Programme at LSE continues to flourish and develop. During 2003-4 we agreed to provide £20,000 over two years to fund the provision of core

teaching and support staff costs for the Urban Infrastructure and Development Course and the first of these payments was made during the year. Ricky Burdett, having made a very significant contribution to the successful launch of the Programme decided to move on; we have to thank him for all the efforts he made and which have resulted in the success story to date. His successor is Professor Robert Tavernor, with whom we look forward to working.

University of Hong Kong – Masters Degree in Inter-Disciplinary Design and Management (MIDM)

We are pleased to report that the intake for 2005 is 21, of whom about 80% are sponsored by their employers. This is very welcome following the drop in numbers admitted to the second intake, which was in some part due to the SARS virus. The MIDM course is being linked to the MBA programme at the University an initiative the Foundation welcomed. It is hoped that a dual degree will be created in the future, but this depends on negotiations, which are ongoing. Richard Frewer, who initiated the course, is due to retire within the next year and steps are being taken to identify a replacement for him as Course Director.

Cambridge University – Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment (IDBE)

Our funding was completed during the year. The intake last year was about 15. There was a worrying period when the Department of Architecture seemed under threat of closure, but this seems to have been averted. Both Richard Haryott and Max Fordham are members of the IDBE Advisory Board and are continuing to monitor events.

Other Matters

Development of Joint Civil and Building

Engineering Courses

Visiting Professorships in Building Engineering

Physics.

Our thinking on joint course development has moved on. We are now going to take an important initiative to stimulate action, and have resolved to provide substantial funds over a period of four years to help create what we hope will be several posts of Visiting Professor of Building Physics. The concept has been tested on several of our leading engineering faculties, and the response is very encouraging. We are in discussion with several other potential donors to join together with us to help direct and fund such posts, and again the response is encouraging. Our aim is to enable good engineering departments to increase the interdisciplinary nature of their course, with a particular emphasis on building services engineering as a means of achieving this. The outcome will be a much bigger pool of very bright engineers interested in a career in this increasingly important area of engineering in the built environment.

Teaching of Design in Undergraduate Degree Programmes

With the reorganization at Manchester University complete, the research programme into the teaching of design is getting underway. Funding is now confirmed by the Manchester Centre of Civil and Construction Engineering (MCCCE) for the first phase of the programme, with funds from the Foundation forming an important enabler. We look forward to working with Manchester to improve knowledge in this area, and through that to enable other degree programmes to benefit.

Constructionarium

The Constructionarium, which provides design and hands-on design and construction experience for undergraduate engineers, now has a permanent home at CITB in Norfolk and has welcomed its first batches of students. It is pleasing to note that a

number of universities are expressing interest in its facilities. Half our funding - £15,000 - was granted during the year with the remainder to follow in 2005-2006.

Other Donations

At each meeting we discuss a wide range of applications for funding in the context of the Foundation's objects, as set out in the Trust Deed. Other grants during the year have been as follows:

XL Wales, which stimulates creative problem solving in primary school children throughout Wales - £4000. (First of three diminishing annual grants.)

The Lighting Education Trust, which ensures the continuation of lighting education in the UK - £1,000 annual donation. The Trust has recently celebrated its tenth year of activity.

Anglo-Danish Society – an annual scholarship worth £1,500 to enable students from the built environment to study in the other country. (First year of three.)

£2,000 to the *Eden Scholarship*, which is administered by the *Architectural Association*. The first scholar has been appointed. (Second year of five.)

The Architecture Network for a pilot training workshop - £4,700.

The Construction Industry Youth Trust (CITY), which supports many disadvantaged students in their studies for qualifications for the construction industry - £1,000. (First year of three.)

£2,000 to two students at RCA, who are proposing to carry out a slum redevelopment analysis in India with a view to designing a workable environmentally, socially and economically sustainable prototype model with potential for wider application.

£5,000 to *The Forum for the Future* to take forward the recommendations in the report "Engineering for the 21st Century".

£2,000 to *Heriot-Watt and Nottingham Trent Universities* for a study into what is and might be taught in structural analysis.

Conclusion

We are pleased to report on another productive and interesting year. If our level of grants has been below that of some of the past years, there are a number of plans which should bear fruit shortly and will reinstate our level of support for education in the built environment. The Foundation continues to provide a positive influence on educational development in the field for which it was devised 16 years ago and this gives the Trustees considerable satisfaction.

Trustees (2005-6):

Caroline Cole
Bob Emmerson
Richard Haryott (Chairman)
Terry Hill
Richard Hough (Australia)
Duncan Michael
Turloch O'Brien
Mike Shears
Raymond Yau (Hong Kong)

Officers

Keith Dawson (Secretary)
Stuart Irons (Treasurer)

Advisory Committee

Sir Eric Ash
Gordon Benson
Prof John Burland
Tony Flint
Max Fordham
Ian Ritchie

Website

www.theovearupfoundation.org.

E-mail Contact

ovarfound@aol.com