

The Ove Arup Foundation Annual Report 2006-2007

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.

Although we have been steadily expanding into the wider world from our historic base, which was the UK, we are actively seeking ways of achieving yet greater geographical coverage.

People

We are pleased to report that Professor Christine Hawley from University College London, where she is Head of the Bartlett School of Architecture and Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment, has been appointed as Advisor for the Royal Institute of British Architects in succession to Gordon Benson. We look forward to her contribution over the coming years.

After serving the Foundation since its formation in 1989, both Stuart Irons our Treasurer and Keith Dawson the Secretary, have decided to retire. We are very grateful to Stuart for having guided our financial affairs during this period so successfully. Having disbursed about £2 million in donations, the funds of the Foundation still exceed £2.5 million and this is in no small measure due to his stewardship. Keith has successfully kept the affairs of the Foundation in order. We are sorry to be saying goodbye and give a big thankyou to both of them.

We are pleased to say that we have appointed Peter Klyhn to replace Keith. Peter has been with Arup Group for 13 years and is currently Secretary to the Europe Board. Miriam Staley has been handling the accounts of the Foundation for some time and will take on Stuart's role as Treasurer in addition to her other duties for Arup Group.

We are grateful to the Arup Group for making these key people available to the Foundation, and we look forward to working with both Miriam and Peter over the coming years.

Financial Health

The financial health of The Foundation remains excellent, having improved again this year despite the stock market "correction" in February and March. We have made grants totalling £151,477 during the year. The Arup Group continues to pay for the administration of the Foundation and donates a percentage of the firm's profits to us, which, due to the excellent performance of the Group in 2005-6, was more this year than heretofore. We are most grateful for this important 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. We shall be specifying more explicitly those types of application we do not fund to try to decrease the number of applications which are irrelevant to our objectives, but it seems there are some applicants who will not be put off applying, whatever we publish.

Major Projects

University of Cape Town

Our second contribution of £50,000 towards the establishment of the Centre for Cities for Africa was made during the year. The Centre has got off to a most promising start and we are pleased that our contribution continues to attract the highest quality visiting academics, and this is having a beneficial effect on the Centre.

London School of Economics – The Cities Programme

Although we did not make a grant to LSE this year, we were the guests of the Programme for our December meeting. We were able to hear about the future plans for the programme and to meet some of the students. It was a most worthwhile visit and we learned much. We remain committed to supporting the programme whenever our help is commensurate with our aims.

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

We are sorry to have to report that the course has been suspended pending a review. We have assurances from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor that this does not mean the end of the course, but we are watching the situation very carefully and will take any appropriate action to try to ensure the continuance of a programme which has proved its worth to the industry in the region and is strongly supported by an external advisory board of eminent HK business people.

Visiting Professorships in Building Engineering Physics.

Together with the other sponsors, we have helped to establish Visiting Professors at three universities, Bristol, Cambridge and Sheffield. Although so far we have been unable to add a fourth visiting professor, we remain very hopeful we shall do so, and are actively working to that end. Initial reaction from the universities to the contribution provided by the visitors is very positive. Our commitment is to provide £30,000 for four years. The scheme is setting out to attract the best and brightest students into an area that has the greatest shortage and greatest need.

Edinburgh University Structures and Fire.

We are committed to grants of £25,000 a year for three years, matched by Bovis Lend-Lease, to establish a Professorial Chair in Structures and Fire Engineering. This is a very important development, which it is expected will lead to the development of exciting new integrated ways of addressing fire safety in buildings. However it has proved difficult to recruit the right person for the chair and further steps are being taken to fill the post. We are grateful to Arup Group, which has allowed Dr Barbara Lane to assist us.

Foundation Seminar

The Foundation Seminar took place at the RIBA in June 2006 with invited participants from academia and industry, together with a peppering from other disciplines. We challenged them with the following questions:

- What are the key issues facing those working in the built environment today?
- What are the key attributes required for working in the built environment?
- On an education timeline, what are the key points of intervention likely to lead to the development of

skills for optimal interdisciplinary teams working in the built environment?

With expert facilitation by Chris Luebke from Arup Group, the workshop proved to be both stimulating in itself and productive in its output. The Foundation is grateful and delighted that so many busy people were willing to contribute their time and thoughts. The Trustees are working out how best to implement some of the ideas which we elicited from the Seminar and the result will be evident in future reports. Thanks also to Tim Blackburn, who acted as Rapporteur.

Research into the teaching of design in undergraduate engineering courses

An interesting report on this was completed by the University of Manchester. In particular it throws light on what employers, academics, students and clients seek from graduates of the best engineering courses. We believe it should both be published and taken a further step to determine how course content could be modified to produce the desired attributes. We will explore with Manchester how this might best be achieved.

Other Matters

University of New South Wales, Australia

We made a further grant of £10,000 to the University this year to continue to fund a series of Masterclass multi-disciplinary design workshops, taking advantage of leading practitioners and academics as they visit Sydney. The grant for sending a member of staff to Manchester University to liaise on the subject of teaching design proved beneficial to both universities.

Constructionarium

The Constructionarium continues to flourish and attracted a visit from the patron of the Royal Academy of Engineering, Prince Philip, during the year. We provided our third grant of £15,000 during 2006. Eight universities are planning to use the facility during the academic year 2006-7. The facility is an excellent way of giving students a worthwhile experience in design and construction. Significantly, it brings together academe and industry, both designers and constructors, to help teach the students. We see collaboration of this kind as vital for the future.

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 - £2000. (Third of three diminishing annual grants.)

The Lighting Education Trust, which ensures the continuation of lighting education in the UK - £1,000 annual donation.

£2,000 to the *Eden Scholarship*, which is administered by the *Architectural Association*. (Fourth year of five.)

The Architecture Network for a pilot training workshop - £1,000.

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

The Anglo-Danish Society for a scholarship for students from Denmark or UK studying in the other country. - £1,500 (Third year of four)

£3000 to the *London Architecture Biennale* for a student event.

£5000 to *Barbican Centre Education* for their "Ready Steady Build" initiative for children during the summer holidays in 2006.

£5000 to *Andrew Saint*, who has written a book entitled "Architecture and Engineering: a Study in Sibling Rivalry" to enable him to obtain illustrations. The book will be published later in 2007

We also funded the attendance of one of the staff at the University of Cape Town to attend the conference organised by the Open University entitled "Beyond the World Summits" in Autumn 2006 in Uganda. This addressed issues of the environment, development and sustainability internationally in the 21st century. This grant was £2,000, some of which went directly to the OU and the rest to UCT.

We also agreed to make grants which we expect to pay during 2007-8. They are:

Midlands Architecture and the Designed Environment - £7,000 for three years in support of a new learning manager post which will aim to ensure teachers and young people at participating schools will demonstrate a new

awareness and holistic knowledge of the sustainability agenda and its relationship to design processes.

Vassall Centre Trust - £5,000 to enable the Trust to mount seminars for those wanting to learn about "barrier-free" environments for the disabled.

Inclusive Environments at Reading University - £12,500 for two workshops to establish the situation with regard to teaching about "inclusive environments" in the design of the built environment and to make recommendations.

Human Resources Theatre - £10,000 to assist with the production of a new play entitled *Yellow Lines* which examines how the built environment affects our daily lives.

Industrial Trust - £13,500 to promote interest among young people in design, engineering and the built environment.

Conclusion

This report shows that we have had a busy and productive year. We have changed the content of the report a little this year to take the opportunity to look ahead as well as at the past activities. We hope this will help create ideas and proposals for future investment by the Foundation.

Advancing knowledge and education in the built environment is our principal aim. And the importance of doing so has arguably never been higher. The wealth and wellbeing of the whole of society depends on creating a sustainable future for the planet and all life supported by it. The human population continues to expand, urban living is rapidly on the increase, and resource depletion is of fundamental importance. These issues and many others will only be solved by our ability to acquire more knowledge and to apply it wisely. These issues will help us apply our resources, and in particular to seek out like minded people to join with us to increase resources and the outcomes.

Finally, I would like to add my personal thanks to Keith Dawson and Stuart Irons for their skill and personal friendship as Secretary and Treasurer since the beginning of the Foundation.

Trustees (2006-7):

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

Officers

Keith Dawson (Secretary)
Stuart Irons (Treasurer)
Both retire 2007.
Successors:
Peter Klyhn (Secretary)
Miriam Staley (Treasurer)

Advisory Committee

Prof. John Burland	ICE
Keith Eaton	I Struct E
Max Fordham	CIBSE
Prof. Peter Guthrie	RAE
Prof. Christine Hawley	RIBA
Prof. Ian Ritchie	RA

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