

The Ove Arup Foundation Annual Report 2005-2006

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.

There is no geographical limitation to our remit and we have been steadily expanding into the wider world from our historic base, which was the UK. We are very positive about this development. With this years grants we have now funded significant projects in Australia, Hong Kong, South Africa and the United States of America. Details of new grants are given below.

People

The only change this year is that Gordon Benson completed his term of appointment as Advisor for the Royal Institute of British Architects and has retired. We are very grateful for his contribution over the last three years and are in the process of discussions about who should replace him.

Each grant is allocated a Trustee to liaise with the recipient, to ensure that our money is well spent and to give advice where appropriate. In some cases our relationship with the project is ongoing. Our Trustees, past and present, and Advisors are intimately involved with some of the projects which we have instrumental in launching and this we think is a very important aspect of our work. To give examples, Richard Haryott is on the Management Board of the Constructionarium, and the Course Boards of the IDBE Course at Cambridge and the Cities Programme at LSE. Jack Zunz, the founding chairman of the Foundation, continues his involvement with LSE and Max Fordham is involved with IDBE and our initiative to create Visiting Professors in Building Engineering Physics. Raymond Yau is on the Course

Board at Hong Kong University and Des Correia acts for the Foundation on the Course Board for the Cities in Africa at Cape Town. Richard Hough is closely involved with the University of New South Wales.

Financial Health

The financial health of The Foundation remains excellent, and due to the recovery of the stock market has improved, even though we have made grants totalling £164,000 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. 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.

Major Projects

University of Cape Town

We are delighted to report that we made our first contribution of £50,000 towards the establishment of the Centre for Cities for Africa and that the course started teaching during the year. Our contribution helps to attract the highest quality visiting academics, which is having a beneficial effect on the Centre.

London School of Economics – The Cities Programme

The Cities Programme continues to flourish and to graduate students who go on to significant posts concerned with urban development and design. We made a further grant of £10,000 to help with course development.

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

There are changes of personnel afoot, which we shall watch with interest. The course has a strong brand already, and is encouraged and supported by a local Advisory Board of leading employers, who welcome the initiative to develop highly skilled professionals who will be contribute to the sustainable development of the region. It now attracts students from Mainland China as well as some of the major construction companies in Hong Kong.

Visiting Professorships in Building Engineering Physics.
Big strides have been made in this initiative this year. We are delighted that we have been joined by five other sponsors from industry both to fund and direct this very important development, which is being managed for the sponsors by the Royal Academy of Engineering, themselves a sponsor. Between us we have raised sufficient funding to establish Visiting Professors at three universities. We hope to add a fourth during 2006-7. The first universities are Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester, having made what were judged to be the best invited submissions. We look forward to monitoring progress over the next few years. We are committed to providing £30,000 for four years. We think the potential for success is enormous, and in an area of vital importance for the built environment. It 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 providing £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. We are grateful to Arup Group which has allowed Dr Barbara Lane to assist us in setting it up satisfactorily.

Foundation Seminar

A significant Seminar is planned for June 2006. An invited group will review interdisciplinary working in contemporary design, to reaffirm its suitability and to give pointers to the activities of the Foundation over the next few years. It will include a celebration of what we have achieved so far. As may be imagined we view this as a very important event, preparing as it will for our continued major influencing role in education for the built environment. We shall give a full report on our website and in the Annual Report next year.

Other Matters

Teaching of Design in Undergraduate Degree Programmes

We made an initial grant of £5,000 to Manchester University for this study and we look forward to seeing the outcome, which is of great importance for the future of our professions.

University of New South Wales, Australia

For the first time we made two grants to the University this year. The first, for £3,000, was for sending a member of staff to Manchester University to liaise on the subject of teaching design, an issue outlined above, which is exercising both universities as. The second for £10,000 was to fund a series of Masterclass multi-disciplinary design workshops, taking advantage of leading practitioners and academics as they visit Sydney. We are pleased to be able to extend our giving to another part of the world.

Constructionarium

The Constructionarium goes from strength to strength. We provided our second grant of £15,000 during the year and have agreed to make two further grants in future years. Several universities are now using the facility, which is to be made permanent with a substantial grant from the East of England Development Agency. 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.

University of Pennsylvania

The University is establishing a new research unit, which is aimed at non-linear systems organisation. This, it is thought, will be a radical step forward in future directions of design. Research topics will include:

- Non linear methods of systems generation
- A study of classical and contemporary geometry
- 3D Packing and 2D Tessellations
- Aperiodic tiling and fractals
- Developing new computer scripts for 3D design and form finding.

The Foundation provided a grant of £25,000 toward the establishment of this research unit as one of the principal sponsors.

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 - £3000. (Second 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*. (Third 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. (Second year of three.)

The Pidgeon Trust to help to make the archive more readily available to practitioners. - £1,000

Climate Outreach Information Network, for the establishment, promotion and management of the *Ecovation* website, which is aimed at the exchange of experiential knowledge on the environmental renovation of domestic housing. - £5,000

Upkeep Exhibition, to help the establishment of a permanent exhibition for the maintenance of buildings. - £2,000

We also agreed to make grants which will be paid during 2006-7. They are:

£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 is writing a book entitled "Architecture and Engineering: a Study in Sibling Rivalry" to enable him to obtain illustrations. The book will be published in 2007.

We shall also be funding the attendance of one of the staff at Cape Town to attend a conference entitled "Beyond the word Summits" in Autumn 2006 in Uganda. This will address issues of the environment, development and sustainability internationally in the 21st century. This grant is £2,000

The second of three annual grants to *The Anglo-Danish Society* for a scholarship has been deferred for a year as

they did not make an award this year. A further grant will be made next year.

Conclusion

We feel that we have continued to make a very significant contribution to the industry this year and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Trustees (2006-7):

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

Gordon Benson (Retired 2006)
Prof. John Burland
Keith Eaton
Max Fordham
Prof. Peter Guthrie
Ian Ritchie

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