



The Ove Arup Foundation

Annual Report 2011/12

Purpose

The aim of the Foundation is: 'the advancement of education directed towards the promotion, furtherance and dissemination of knowledge of matters associated with the built environment'. We pursue these, where possible, 'with an emphasis on the multi-disciplinary nature of design in engineering and architecture'.

Chairman's Statement

When Sir Ove Arup died in 1988 at the age of 92, the then directors of the firm, including of course several of his original partners, decided it would be appropriate honour his name and legacy by establishing a charitable trust with the main objective to promote knowledge and education in the built environment; and to reflect Ove's great interest, to do so particularly if there was some emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of design between engineering and architecture. In recent years the trustees have been widening this to include economics, sociology and other relevant disciplines.

Since the formation of the Foundation we have given away nearly £3 million and our endowed funds have increased to around £2.8 million. We are grateful for the continuing support of Arup Group which enables us to seek wider outcomes and to take a long-term view over the scope of our activities. We are also very grateful for the support and advice we get from our advisors, who represent the six major UK professional institutions in the built environment field of activity. And also for the collaboration with other like-minded funders and those who have encouraged us in seeking to fulfill our aims. We are confident that with their further support we will be able to widen our activity and ensure positive outcomes from the projects we are engaged with.

Our experience shows that every major donation is best served if there is a willing host. The recipient needs to be keen and active in seeking positive outcomes. A good test of a willing host is willingness on their part to put in some of their own time and funds, and to aspire to continue with the supported project when our catalytic funding comes to an end. In addition to a willing host, there needs to be the right person to inspire and direct the use of our funds. Our money is then the facilitator. The likelihood of realising a successful outcome is improved when all of these elements come together. I am pleased that this has been the case in almost every one of our grants. Some current exemplars are: the work in the research into fire safety at the University of Edinburgh; the Cities programme at the London School of Economics; and the Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor in Building Physics scheme.

Looking forward, we are delighted that the work on fire safety engineering at the University of Edinburgh will be complemented with a research programme into the social aspects of fire safety. Another important area of current interest is how the application of digital technology will impact on urban life.

Richard Haryott

Chairman of The Ove Arup Foundation

Activities during 2011/12

The Ove Arup Global Debate

In November 2011 we hosted a debate at the Guardian newspaper's offices on a subject titled, 'What Future? New Thoughts for Urban Living'. The panel of Lord Alec Broers, Ken McCloud, Pam Alexander and Geoff Mulgan gave their thoughts and issued challenges for how cities should adapt to the needs of their inhabitants. The points that emerged from the debate included the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to planning; the need to build sustainable communities; and the need for flexible spaces and, tenures in housing. We are now looking at ways in which to take some of these forward.

The event was live streamed and then made available for download from the internet.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/what-future-urban-living>

The Case for Centres of Excellence in Building Physics

Following on from the successful Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor in Building Engineering Physics scheme we were pleased to support The Case for Centres of Excellence in Sustainable Building Design that was published in May 2012, and authored by Doug King who is a Visiting Professor in Building Engineering Physics. The establishment of Centres of Excellence in integrated sustainable building design could create over £1bn of savings by 2030 and cut carbon emissions by 3.5 million tonnes a year.

<http://www.ovearupfoundation.org/news/76-sustainability-centres-of-excellence-could-make-huge-savings.html>

The Ove Arup Foundation / Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Teaching Fellows

Again, in association with The Royal Academy of Engineering, we have continued our support for the programme of Visiting Teaching Fellows in Engineering Design for a second year. The programme is focused on enriching the teaching curriculum in all aspects design by placing engineers in universities who are still very much hands-on practitioners and can relate and apply teaching material to the operational issues and real-life problems that graduate engineers may face when they first enter industry.

http://www.raeng.org.uk/education/vtf/ove_arup/default.htm

Cities Programme at the London School of Economics

The Foundation's initial grant in 1998 enabled the founding of the Cities Programme. Since its launch, graduates of the programme have gone on to hold key positions in urban development, design and planning internationally.

The Cities Programme is an international centre dedicated to the understanding of contemporary urban society. Its central objective is to relate physical structure to the social structure of cities. The programme is the graduate education branch of LSE Cities, which is hosted by the Department of Sociology, and offers degree courses at MSc and PhD level. The current cohort numbers over 30 students from a range of global locations.

Our current support of the programme is funding specialist teaching on environment, infrastructure and resources through dedicated courses on City-making and Urban Environment.

University of Cape Town

Our grant in 2006 to the University of Cape Town initiated the Masters programme in 'Urban Infrastructure: Design and Management'; and launched the Centre for Cities in Africa. We are pleased that the final part of our grant has enabled to fund a visiting teaching fellow and to promote the Masters programme.

<http://www.ovearupfoundation.org/news/79-professor-edgar-pieterse-to-talk-about-african-cities-challenge.html>

Fire Engineering Research at the University of Edinburgh

Dr Luke Bisby at the University of Edinburgh remains very active in his work on the effect of fire on materials and structures. The current programme covers a range of areas including the fire performance of various concrete structures, polymers and paint in non-standard fires.

Social Aspects of Fire Safety

A senior research fellow has now been appointed to study and make recommendations on the sociological nature of fire safety. This work will commence in the 2012/13 academic year.

Building the Revolution – Soviet Art and Architecture

While the larger part of our giving is directed towards teaching and research we support one-off projects that are aligned to the aims of the Foundation. We were very pleased to make a grant to the Royal Academy of Arts as part of their 'Building the Revolution' exhibition that ran from October 2011 to January 2012. This enabled the Royal Academy to construct a scale model of Tatlin's Tower, one of the great, unrealised architectural projects of the twentieth century.

<http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/thearchitecturepace/past-exhibitions/re-creating-tatlins-tower/>