

The Ove Arup Foundation Annual Report 2002-2003

Richard Haryott – Chairman.

People

This year we have bidden farewell to a number of trustees and advisors who have served the Foundation well for many years. Povl Ahm, Sir Philip Dowson and Brian Perry have all been Trustees since the start of the Foundation in 1989. Their contribution to the establishment of the policy of the Foundation and its subsequent implementation has been incalculable. Povl and Philip were both partners of Ove Arup and Brian his son-in-law. We have found this link with Ove and his thinking to be very beneficial and influential and we are grateful to all that they have brought to our discussions. Sir Alan Muir Wood has served as an Advisor since the earliest days and was the only remaining original Advisor. We have been most fortunate to have his input over the 14 years of the Foundation's existence and to receive the benefit of his incisive mind. We would like to reiterate our thanks to all those who give of their time either as Trustees or Advisors, but particularly to those who have served so faithfully and so long.

We are very pleased to report that Caroline Cole and Mike Shears have agreed to join the Trustees. Caroline is Ove's granddaughter and we are very happy to be able to maintain a link with his family. She has been active in the construction industry for all her working life and the varied experience she brings will be very valuable. Mike is Deputy Chairman of Arup Group Ltd. Apart from his enormous contribution to the Arup firm, his interest in education is well known from his appointment as Visiting Professor to the University of Bristol. Further appointments are under consideration.

We can also report the appointment of three Advisors, who are each distinguished in their fields and who we confidently expect to maintain the high level of advice we receive. Iain Ritchie, the architect is representing the Royal Academy of Arts, Gordon Benson the Royal Institute of British Architects and Professor John Burland, well known for his pioneering geotechnical work, the Institution of Civil Engineers. Advisors join us for two of our quarterly meetings a year and in addition are invited to contribute to discussions on the longer term planning of our work.

Financial Health.

The value of our funds, following reasonable performance up to 2002, suffered along with most other investments during 2002-3. However our financial resources are still substantial and, although we may have to be careful over the next year or so to see that the long-term level of funding can be maintained, we expect to continue to make grants. Given the international uncertainty, we are still deferring consideration of investment in overseas funds. We are again grateful to Arup Group Ltd. for a further gift in excess of £32,500 and for continuing to provide administrative and other assistance to us without cost.

Website

Following a review of our website by Tim Blackburn, whom the Foundation retains for advice on publicity matters, the site was redesigned by Arup Group's web design team with Tim's help and re-launched at the end of the year. It can be found at www.theovearupfoundation.org and will be updated from time to time with news about both the Foundation's activities and those of the organisations which we

support. We believe it to be a significant improvement on the old site, as well as being up-to-date.

Major Projects

London School of Economics

Our support for the *Cities Programme* at the London School of Economics continues. Following the completion of our commitment to help establish the programme, we have been providing £25,000 a year for a Visiting Professor of Design. The Programme continues to flourish and those concerned have established themselves at LSE and made a contribution beyond the immediate course boundaries.

University of Hong Kong

As we reported last year, we agreed to give \$HK 1 million to help with the formation of a Masters level course in *Inter-Disciplinary Design and Management (MIDM)*. We are pleased to say that the University contributed the balance of the funds required for this course and it is to start in the autumn of 2003. The teaching staff is in place and the response from industry and individuals has been most encouraging, so that it seems likely that the intake will be full for its first year. We look forward to hearing about its progress and thank those from Arup Group in Hong Kong who will help to ensure that the Foundations funds are well applied.

Imperial College, London

Our contribution to the establishment of a part-time professorship in design at Imperial College has come to an end. We are very pleased to say that it has been a great success and that the influence that Chris Wise, the first professor has had has been marked and beneficial. We are also delighted to say that Imperial College have decided to continue with the post and make it a permanent feature. Our one regret is that other universities have not followed suit and introduced their own equivalent post, despite the Seminar held at Imperial in February 2002 when the results of the project were made more widely known.

Cambridge University

The Foundation was instrumental in the establishment some years ago of the post-graduate course entitled *Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment*, which gives opportunities to participants to work together on design problems in a studio environment as well as broadening their knowledge base. Further development of this course, following the recommitment of the leaders of the schools of architecture and engineering, is in train. The Foundation has agreed to provide a further £25,000 over two years to help in these developments and the promotion of the course, which the Trustees still believe to be of great importance.

Mathematics for Engineers Research Project.

Philip Kent and Richard Noss at the Institute of Education were commissioned by the Foundation as part of its ongoing commitment to research into educational issues in the built environment to review the role of mathematics in the university education of engineers. Their report has been received and will be published shortly. The Foundation considers this an important if not controversial subject and hopes that this work will not only influence the teaching of mathematics for engineers but also encourage the provision of further funds, perhaps from government, which are required to take the research forward.

Other Donations

Other donations during the year have been as follows:

XLWales, which stimulates creative problem solving in primary school children throughout Wales - £4000 (second year of three).

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

Anglo-Danish Society - an annual scholarship worth £1,200 to enable students from the built environment to study in the other country.

Spacelink Learning Foundation - £2000

Royal Institute of British Architects - £2,000 for a symposium associated with "Coming Homes: The Future of Housing"

Institute of Sustainable Engineering and Technology at the University of Nottingham - £10,000 for support to a student to do research related to building services technology.

Barbican Education - £5,000 for their Creating Cities initiative for schools in the City of London.

New Wells Initiative - £1,500 for a regional one-day seminar in Wells on "Overcoming obstacles to good (urban) design".

In addition we have agreed to give:

£2,000 to ***Hackney Building Exploratory*** to support their educational work with schools in the borough.

£2,000 a year for five years to the ***Eden Scholarship***, which is being established at the ***Architectural Association***.

Conclusion

So it has been a year of change and a very challenging year. We look forward to further challenges ahead, but are still keen to continue to play our role in the furtherance of education in the field of the built environment at all levels and increasingly internationally.

Richard Haryott

Chairman

Trustees:

Caroline Cole

Bob Emmerson

Richard Haryott

Duncan Michael

Mike Shears

Officers

Keith Dawson (Secretary)

Stuart Irons (Treasurer)

e-mail

ovarfound@aol.com

Advisory Committee

Sir Eric Ash

Gordon Benson

Prof John Burland

Tony Flint

Max Fordham

Iain Ritchie