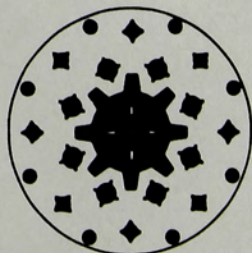


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various teams, working parties and policies have yet to grasp this, or to include the neighbourhood within their own terms of reference.

What is expected of the CAP is that it will raise the profile of the district to a degree that will spark off spontaneous investment in, and care of, the environment. A faith rather than a certainty, this scarcely touches the area's social problems, although newly instituted play schemes and an annual festival in the park might be just beginning to address these. There remain countless opportunities not as yet developed for want of people to undertake the task: for instance, the negotiation of a strategy for student occupation and the improvement of the green escarpment, which lends itself to nature trails and cycleways. There have been some notable failures — the worst being to stop the Council selling off the listed mansion to a private developer, despite several opportunities to retain it for community

use. On the other hand, there is just about to be a notable victory, in the restoration of the railings around the park.

The Community Association is always vulnerable to the loss of any of its small handful of activists, although there are signs of more participation from the council estates and from some of the sequestered luxury-flat residents. Objectives are tediously slow to achieve and the work unremitting; but there is a personal reward when streets that were formerly faceless and alienating become peopled with familiar and friendly figures. Those who choose to identify with, and work for, an area like this are opting for engagement, rather than withdrawal. What all the effort is about is the re-humanisation of the urban neighbourhood, through the re-invention of its public realm, that presently disparaged part of the city where the mutual interests of an otherwise divided society must inevitably meet.

REPORTS

ACSP / AESOP Joint International Congress, Toronto, Canada, 25-28 July 1996

Stephen V. Ward, Oxford Brookes University

Five years ago in 1991, the first joint conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) took place at what was then Oxford Polytechnic in the historic city of Oxford in the United Kingdom. The 1996 Toronto conference was the 'return match', hosted by the Ryerson Polytechnic University and held at the Chelsea Delta Hotel, close to the metropolitan attractions of downtown Toronto. Predictably, the conference, in one of North America's most appealing cities, drew many hundreds of delegates, from both continents. There were no less than 19 subject 'tracks' running simultaneously, plus a poster 'track'. In total, something over 650 papers were programmed, together with 32 fieldtrips ('mobile workshops') and several plenary sessions. Elsewhere on the continent, so it was rumoured, the Olympic Games were taking place.

Within all this activity there was a planning history track comprising almost thirty individual offerings, together with several historical papers scattered in other parts of the programme. As in all such events, it is difficult to convey a full flavour of what was on offer, but this review tries to record at least some fragments of the whole event that were particularly relevant to practitioners of planning history.

Perhaps the most popular of the sessions in the planning history track was the first. This was around table session organised by Carl Abbott, the President of the Urban History Association and a former Council member of the IPHS. Entitled "Toronto as a Capital of Good Planning: Canadian and U.S. Perspectives", its

sub-theme was the way Toronto has for many years been seen as a model by many cities in the United States and the way that role is now being taken over, so it was claimed, by Portland, Oregon. Most of the speakers, who included the distinguished Canadian urban historical geographers, Richard Harris of McMaster University and James Lemon of the University of Toronto, spoke to the first part of this theme. With Frances Frisken of York University they revealed much of the historical underpinnings of Toronto's compact core, never abandoned by the middle classes, its pioneering metropolitan government structure and its enlightened policies, especially in revenue sharing, education and transit. It was easy to see why it had towered over equivalent U.S. cities. We also gained a sense that some of these advantages were in danger of being lost.

The next two planning history sessions dealt with 'Urban Space: European and U.S. Perspectives' and 'Telling the Urban Story'. The first included a paper on the Pre-industrial Townscape in the Industrial Age by Professor Jurgen Lafrenz from the University of Hamburg, a comparative paper on European and American cities by Moshe Adler and a remarkable discussion on 'Nature and the City: Conceptual Duality and the Rise of the Modern Zoological Garden' by Patrick Wirtz of the University of Southern California. In the second session were two papers dealing with aspects of the urban narrative. John Mullin of the University of Massachusetts gave a spirited presentation on the subject of Edward Bellamy's 1887 novel, *Looking Backward*, setting it in the social and cultural context of Boston of the 1880s in which he wrote. He was followed by James Clapp of San Diego State University who spoke about 'Perspectives on American Urbanism in American Cinema'. It was a topic to which the audience particularly warmed and



Toronto Central Business District (D. Massey)

produced one of the most animated discussions in the whole track.

The next session in the track was another round table, of particular interest to the readership of this bulletin. Entitled 'A Life in Planning History: Gordon Cherry 1931-1996' it took the form of a series of short presentations reflecting on Gordon Cherry's contribution. Thus Stephen Ward offered some thoughts on Gordon's scholarship in planning history and Cliff Hague, the current President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, spoke of Gordon's long serving role within the Institute. David Massey reflected revealingly on many years of working closely with Gordon in the Planning History Group / International Planning History Society. From Australia and South Africa, Rob Freestone, Wallace van Zyl and Alan Mabin spoke about Gordon's impact as a stimulus to planning history in their own countries. Donald Krueckeberg from Rutgers University, who chaired the session, also spoke about his transatlantic contacts with Gordon. There were also many speakers from amongst the audience, adding perspectives from Hong Kong, Ireland and further insights from the U.S.A.

This was followed by a session called 'Selling Places, Selling History', with papers on the history of place marketing by Stephen Ward, and the selling of history in U.S. cities by Robber Hodder of Virginia Commonwealth University. Elizabeth Morton of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology gave a paper called 'Using Heritage in the promotion of Regional Identity and Regeneration', highlighting U.S. examples of heritage planning. Finally, Alec McGillivray spoke on the subject of 'Planning and the promotion of complexity', focusing on the so-called 'Theatre Block' in downtown Toronto.

The last session in the planning history track was another rather full event called 'Making and Remaking History: Germany, Eastern Europe and the U.K.'. Maria Cavalcanti of the Federal University of Pernambuco in Brazil presented a paper about 'Urban Reconstruction and Autocratic Regimes', highlighting her fascinating research about President Ceausescu's grand schemes for Bucharest and comparing these with the works of other dictators. Something of the same theme was evident in Reiner Jackson's (University of Toronto) paper on 'Urban Planning from Communism to Capitalism'. Lynn Davies of the University of Reading looked at the remaking of planning in the United Kingdom between 1976 and 1996 in a paper entitled 'Twenty Years of Radical Change'. Finally, Dirk Schubert of the Technical University of Hamburg looked at the scientific concepts of urban planning in Britain and Germany before the First World War in a paper entitled 'From Urban Expansion to Urban Renewal'.

This, then, was the formal planning history programme. Yet it would almost have been impossible

to put together another planning history programme from related contributions in other tracks. Of the sessions I caught, I particularly enjoyed David Crombie's fascinating and spirited reflections on the planning process in Toronto based on many years of very active political engagement in the process. It was also nice to see planning historians contributing in other arenas, such as Rob Freestone's work on the edge city phenomenon, Joe Nasr talking about agriculture as a sustainable use of land or Marsha Ritzdorf about women and planning history. Yet the most impressive example of a planning historian finding a wider role was Eugenie Birch of Hunter College, New York. From being President of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History in 1991, she has now become President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

In some ways, this wider contribution of planning historians hints at the importance of very large conferences like these for our subject. The bewildering randomness of the subjects of the papers presented means that they cannot rival our own, more specialist, gatherings as arenas for developing or refining the subject. The importance of gatherings, like Toronto, for planning history is that they allow us to publicly assert and demonstrate its significance within the wider setting of planning studies. In this connection it is worth noting that the planning history track, though by no means the largest, came about middling in terms of track size. Areas such as planning education or planning theory were quite a number of tracks smaller than planning history. Many other tracks were broadly the same size. In other words, planning history can field a solid team. Its place certainly does not go by default. At times it can draw in those whose primary interests lie elsewhere. Some of its practitioners can contribute to other aspects of the planning debate. Doubtless we can do more to raise the profile of our subject, but there is certainly much to be pleased about.

XIX Congress of the International Union of Architects

Katarzyna Pluta, Warsaw University of Technology

The XIX Congress of the International Union of Architects had as its theme 'Present and Futures, Architecture in Cities' and was organised by the Architects' Association of Catalonia. It was held in Barcelona between 3 and 6 July 1996 and it had broad-based institutional backing. The Congress included an extraordinary number of exhibitions, debates, conferences and visits and was a cultural event of the greatest importance.

The host city of the Congress, Barcelona, is a place which has undergone spectacular transformations in recent years and has a rich architectural legacy, welcomed architects to its very centre. Various

buildings around the city's basic axis of La Rambla were the framework for the Congress and allowed participants to come into direct contact with the city.

During the Congress, architects from all over the world wondered about the role that architecture can play in the changing conditions of the contemporary city. In the last twenty years the process of urban development around the world has entered a new, accelerated phase of growth. The phenomenon of urban concentration is common both to the most developed and to Third World economies. There are more than a dozen cities with over ten million inhabitants, and more than two hundred with over a million. The other, frequently negative, feature of cities is that they are spreading out over an ever larger territory, with increasingly imprecise boundaries. Some main features, which characterise this process, include: changes in population, health and hygiene, new consumer strategies, new technologies and the growth of new channels of communication and transport.

We could sum up this trend and call it the transformation 'from city to metropolis', but we should aim to make this change a positive one. The need for new organisation of space is a most urgent task. In this situation it is very difficult for architects and architecture to stake out a role as director and arbitrator

of the process.

The aim of the Congress was to reflect on and debate the contributions which architecture can make to the new metropolitan situation. This Congress was structured around the following themes:

- Mutations — the major changes taking place in the context of the transformation of today's cities (I had the honour of presenting a paper in this session entitled 'Shaping the architectural and urban complexes in Poland as an element of planning the sustainable development of cities');
 - Habitations — new housing models arising from the new metropolitan situation;
 - Flows — the influence of the media and means of information and transport on contemporary architecture and cities;
 - Containers — the forms of architecture dealing with the new rituals, which shape the public and private life of the inhabitants of cities;
 - Terrain Vague — waste or obsolete land within the city fabric, and the urban projects which may transform them.
- For example, the urban redevelopment of Barcelona rests largely on the articulation and recuperation of dozens of 'terrains vagues' in the inner city, which were turned into parks, amenities, services and even



Barcelona (K. Pluta, 1996)

new centres in conjunction with certain general city infrastructure projects. That was the strategy behind both a rehabilitation of the districts of the city and the launching of the programme which made it possible to host the 1992 Olympic Games.

During the Congress in Barcelona an enormous number of architects and students from all over the world exchanged ideas and engaged in debates. These involved various groups and institutions: architecture schools, professional organisations, national sections of the UIA and their work groups. Over 500 professionals from 66 countries responded to the request for individual papers, with the aim of presenting their reflections on the themes of the Congress or projects which set out relevant answers to the questions under debate. A selection of these proposals was presented at one venue in the form of oral communications and graphic presentations.

Currently there are many recommended and more frequently observed methods of planning cities which should assure their sustainable development, but to reach that target it is necessary to restore the proper role for the factor of urban composition. The built environment in cities should be treated in the same way as the natural world. Both environments should be treated equally and simultaneously on a scale which is clear and understandable by citizens. Such activities will enable us to attain the following aims: the prevention of the ecological destruction of town space, the encouragement of the physical and psychic comfort of man, the restoration of nature's right to harmonious development and the active shaping of the bio-climate by urban activities.

Exhibitions, conferences, debates, seminars and design competitions were part of the wide variety of events on offer to participants of the Congress. Added to this were the schemes and presentations presented by city delegates and national organisations. All these made the UIA 96 Barcelona Congress the cultural event of the year.

'The Planning of Capital Cities'

Michael Harrison, University of Central England

This was theme of the First International Conference of the Hellenic Planning and Urban History Association and the Seventh International Conference of the International Planning History Society. The conference was held at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from 17 to 20 October 1996. The event was supported by the University's Research Committee and the School of Technology, the Goethe Institute, the British Council, the Institut Français, the School of Architecture of the National Technical University, the Ministry of Culture and the General Secretariat of Research and Technology. The Conference Convenor was Professor Vilma Hastooglou-Martiniadis and the

Organising Committee included Dr Kiki Kafkoulas, Professor Georgios Lavas, Dr David Massey and Mr Savas Tsilenis.

Almost 100 delegates from 25 countries were able to attend this conference. Although they were greeted by rain when they arrived in Thessaloniki, they were given a warm welcome (and a large conference pack) by Vilma, Kiki and their colleagues and helpers.

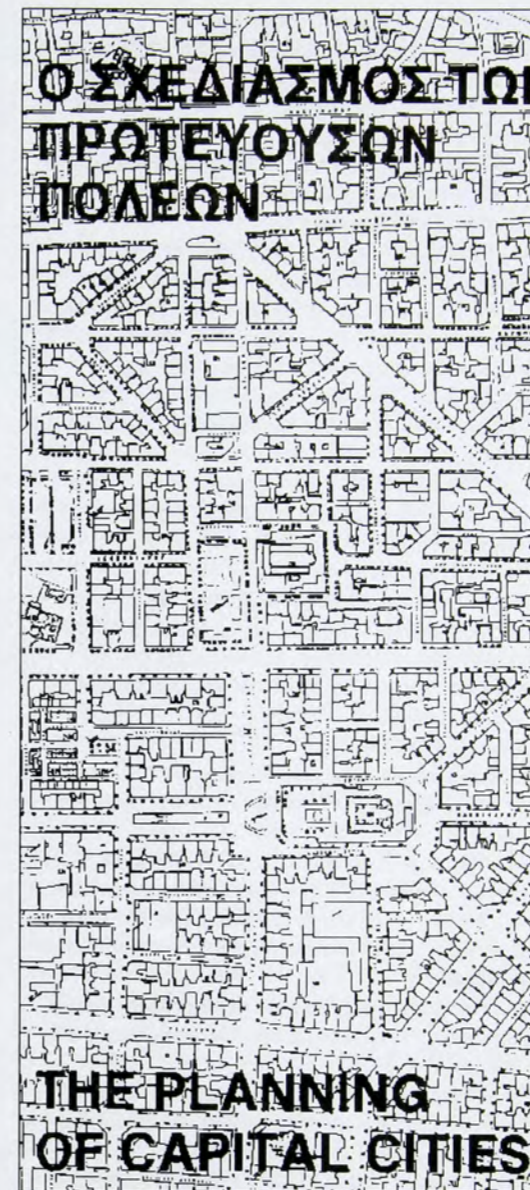
The programme for the conference, whose theme was 'The Planning of Capital Cities', was an impressive, if ambitious, one. In her Opening Address, Vilma Hastaglou-Martiniadis welcomed delegates and reflected on the honour and fear she had felt when the late Gordon Cherry had invited her to organise the event. She acknowledged that it had been a fascinating challenge to bring so many proposals together. Stephen Ward, the new President of the International Planning History Society, rightly thanked the organisers for bringing the conference to fruition. He noted that the theme and the venue had proved attractive. Indeed, Thessaloniki will be the Cultural Capital of Europe in 1997.

Stephen Ward expressed pride in being nominated President of IPHS but sadness at the loss of the Society's founder, Gordon Cherry. The latter's scholarship, leadership and friendship had been of inestimable value to the Society. Gordon had always taken great pleasure in the growing diversity and strength of this increasingly world-wide body of scholars. He would be pleased if we could maintain this momentum. Stephen Ward concluded his address by recalling a message from Gordon Cherry that planning history could be such fun. The truth of this was evident in the ensuing sessions and social gatherings.

Whatever the tone of the conference, there was much to be learnt from the proceedings. The main problem was deciding which of the many sessions to attend after the Plenary Lectures. The latter were of a very high standard. They ranged in time from the Hellenistic age to the present, and geographically from Thessaloniki to Canberra. I must be one of the many delegates looking forward to receiving the printed conference papers.

The topics of the Working Sessions were even more wide-ranging. The period covered spanned early and medieval capitals through to contemporary Khartoum. National capitals, divided capitals, regional capitals and fragmentary interventions were considered. A number of capital cities came in for repeated scrutiny: Paris, London, Athens, Canberra, Washington and Helsinki. Eastern and Northern Europe, the Far East and parts of Africa and Latin America were featured in the sessional papers. Among individual planners, the name of Haussmann not surprisingly cropped up more than most.

In order to make the most of this rich and impressive agenda the delegates had to work hard.



They were timetabled from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (although they were allowed a couple of breaks). As ever, the organisers and chairpersons had difficulty keeping this large group of independent-minded and loquacious academics to time. (I should be careful here, as Heleni Porfyriou reminded me that English workers are among the worst time-keepers in Europe!) Perhaps it was more a case of doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself.

The enjoyment was apparent during the two planned visits. On the Friday afternoon, after a lively and illuminating introduction to the city by Alexandra Yerolympos, we were taken by coach round parts of the historic city of Thessaloniki. This so whetted the appetite of this reviewer, and a number of other

delegates, that they stayed in Thessaloniki on the Sunday morning. The majority of the delegates took the opportunity to visit Pella, the site of the capital of Philip of Macedonia, and Lefkadia. They left me with the impression that that trip was a success also.

On a more sombre note, a session was set aside on the Saturday evening for delegates to pay tribute to the late Gordon Cherry. Stephen Ward took the chair and Tony Sutcliffe, Teresa Zarebska, Shun-ichi Watanabe, Kiki Kafkoulas, Robert Home and Ilan Troen all spoke movingly about the former IPHS President. While recognising his academic contributions, they all stressed his human qualities, especially his ability to engage, involve and encourage other people. The IPHS Council, for its part, is considering ways of commemorating Gordon Cherry's contribution to planning history.

Perhaps mindful of Gordon's dictum that planning history can be fun, the organisers arranged a suitably named 'Convivial Dinner' on the Saturday evening. Here, as elsewhere, during this stimulating and varied Conference old friendships were renewed and new contacts were made. Once again, the organisers should be commended for bringing together this stimulating and friendly body of planning historians. The delegates will have left Thessaloniki with many happy memories and interesting thoughts. We look forward with interest to see what Robert Freestone can arrange for us in Sydney in two years time.

For the information of IPHS members I list below the names of the contributors to the Conference and the title of their papers.

Plenary Lectures

Professor Georgios Lavas (University of Athens), *Thessaloniki, a non-capital city of capital meaning.*
 Professor Wolfram Hoepner (Frei Universität Berlin), *Capital Cities of the Hellenistic Age.*

Professor Anthony Sutcliffe (Leicester University), *Paris and London: Two approaches to capital city planning.*

Professor Alexander Papageorgiou-Venetas (Technische Universität München), *Athens: Modern planning in an historic context. Early planning schemes and their impact on the creation of the cultural-archaeological park.*

Professor Ilan Troen (Ben-Gurion University), *The transformation of Jerusalem into a modern capital city: an exploration of the politics and aesthetics of planning.*

Professor Thomas Hall (Stockholm University), *Is capital city planning different? Reflections on European development from Henry IV to Ceaucescu.*
 Professor John Repts (Cornell University), *Forgotten plans and neglected designs: a new look at the 1912 competition for the Australian National Capital.*

