



Stockholm Declaration on Architecture of the Modern Movement as an Integral Part of Europe's Cultural Heritage

Stockholm, 7 June 2007 - Participants in the Europa Nostra Forum "Add Modernism!", organised in cooperation with DOCOMOMO International and the Swedish Association of Architects, having discussed the wider protection, conservation, interpretation and communication issues associated with the architectural heritage of the Modern Movement, and having agreed on the need to bring this insufficiently known and underappreciated part of our common European cultural heritage to the attention of the wider public, and policy and decision makers, at national and European level, adopt the following declaration:

Recognising architecture of the Modern Movement:

- is an integral part of Europe's cultural heritage, given its wide geographical spread and its prevalence and influence in the built environment;
- is a part of the continuum of architectural history, having developed through influences from the past and being itself a strong influence on the architecture of eras which followed;
- is characterised by a focus on structures that answered social needs such as the provision of housing and public facilities for culture, education, health and recreation, and economic needs such as commercial and industrial buildings;
- has resulted from a close and fruitful collaboration between architects, engineers and craftsmen, which created an innovative architecture with new construction methods and use of materials;
- can be seen as a link rather than a break between the worlds of conservationists and of contemporary architects;
- can be for many a gateway to cultural heritage issues and could generate a new interest for both the past and the future.

Although some valuable steps have already been taken in establishing guidelines for its protection and conservation,

Europa Nostra notes with concern that architecture of the Modern Movement:

- is particularly vulnerable because of weak legal protection and, due to poor knowledge, low appreciation among the general public;

- is becoming progressively difficult to keep in use as a consequence of technological changes, economic growth, demand, market constraints, and social change;
- is physically aging and deteriorating in unpredictable ways because of the innovative construction methods and materials used, such as concrete, steel, composites and plastics.

In order to highlight architecture of the Modern Movement as part of Europe's heritage,

Europa Nostra recommends:

- an open-mindedness in the study of the architecture of the Modern Movement which will link conservationists and contemporary architects in valuing this architecture as part of the continuum of architectural development;
- the identification, selection and documentation of relevant examples of individual buildings, building complexes and examples of urban planning and landscapes;
- to make the knowledge about the identified, selected and recorded examples of architecture of the Modern Movement widely available to interested parties across Europe;
- the protection and conservation, for future generations, of significant examples of the innovative approach of architecture of the Modern Movement to aesthetics, the use of materials and construction techniques, and to how social and economic needs and conditions were met;
- developing conservation and restoration techniques for the deteriorating structures that used construction methods and materials characteristic of architecture of the Modern Movement, using a multidisciplinary approach to research involving historians, conservationists, scientists, architects, engineers and other specialists in the field;
- the establishment and development of networks of interested parties in the field of architecture of the Modern Movement, such as owners and users, research institutions and funding bodies, at national and European levels;
- cooperation between stakeholders from civil society, and the scientific, public and private communities in order to raise awareness of the importance of architecture of the Modern Movement and the complexity of its conservation and interpretation.

Europa Nostra calls on:

- all European Institutions and Governments to apply the same rules, standards and funding structures to the protection and enhancement of architecture of the Modern Movement as are applied to all other architectural heritage.

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