



GLASGOW INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO. 02 OF SESSION 2012-13
HELD IN THE OFFICES OF GLASGOW CITY HERITAGE TRUST,
54 BELL STREET, GLASGOW G1 1LQ
ON THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2012 AT 5.30 PM**

PRESENT

President Michael Jarvis (Chair), Fiona Sinclair (Past President), Victoria Batters, John Dey, Michael Dougall, Stuart Gray, Steven Innes, Elaine Keenan, David Macivor, Nicholas Roberts, Chris Stewart, Nick Walker.

1.0 APOLOGIES

1.1 Elizabeth Reid (Secretary), Gordon Reid (Honorary Treasurer), Maggie Barlow, Robert Campbell, Catherine Cosgrove, Tim Gray, Stephen Miles.

2.0 PREVIOUS MINUTE

2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting on 19 April 2012 were agreed.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 (3.3) Steven Innes confirmed that the most recent CPD event at The Lighthouse had been cancelled, but would be re-scheduled.
- 3.2 (3.6) The President noted that a cheque for £500 had been received from Napier University for "Wood for Good". There was a discussion over whether this should be offered in the form of a specific prize fund, the decision being that the money would be treated as sponsorship for the Annual Design Awards and/or Members' Dinner, with an award made in recognition of Wood for Good as part of the 2012 Design Awards ceremony.
- 3.3 (3.11) Steven Innes noted that September's CPD event was likely to be the "Contract Game", designed for Part III students but being streamlined by Gordon Gibb for use by practitioners also.
- 3.4 (3.13) Chris Stewart confirmed that he and Catherine Cosgrove required to agree the principal initiatives to be developed by the Con-Sus Committee.

4.0 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- 4.1 In the absence of the Honorary Treasurer, the report was taken as read. This included an updated Valuation of GIA's Investment portfolio from stockbrokers Speirs and Jeffrey.
- 4.2 It was noted that Payments In included unclaimed Student Award cheques (£200), CPD Event fees (£195) and Wood for Good sponsorship (£1000); and Payments Out included website work (£1050), bulk e-mail costs (£120) and Bank charges (£10). The Main balance stands at £11,599 and the Reserve balance at £7,500. GIA also holds £815 from the Glasgow Buildings Guardian Committee (now disbanded).

ACTION: The Past-President has to sign a revised mandate with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

5.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Architecture, People and Places Committee **Convenor: Michael Dougall**

Michael Dougall had circulated a full report in advance of the meeting. He noted that an "Expression of Interest" document had been uploaded to the GIA website, effectively inviting interested parties to come forward with ideas for design competitions with which GIA could assist. Two organisations had responded positively, from which Fablevision (Govan) had been selected with whom to develop ideas for a community intervention on a site on Water Row in Govan. A meeting had been held with Fablevision, who explained that a vacant site on the opposite bank of the river from the Riverside Museum looks set to be used as a car park unless alternative (more imaginative) ideas can be generated for the land. The Committee members consider this to be a good fit for a further GIA competition (although they are conscious that it would be important to raise aspirations but not necessarily expectations of delivery). The President suggested that a starting point might be a Community Open Day (avoiding "architecture for architects" in this instance!). He also suggested that the site might have been the topic for a student competition relatively recently (and that this should be checked).

The second proposal for a competition had come from the Forestry Commission (for a visitor hub on the Cuningar Loop near Rutherglen), and it was considered that this could perhaps be re-visited in late 2013.

Michael Dougall reported that there had been some concern expressed by members that the Kilcreggan competition had not progressed beyond the ideas stage. It was agreed that it was important that contact be

maintained with the Kilcreggan community, and that they be encouraged to keep up the momentum on the initiative.

Michael Dougall reported that a very constructive discussion had taken place with architect-members of the Urban Design Panel since the previous Council Meeting. As a result, the Committee members are keen to progress the development of a “buildings exemplar” database that might be used as a reference tool by the Urban Design Panel. It was noted that it was important that a range of buildings be illustrated (not just award winners), and that good examples of other aspects of the built environment be included also (such as “streets”, “parking” etc.). Compiling such a database was expected to take a few years, but the Committee are keen to commit time to do this well.

ACTION: The A P and P Committee plan to meet again with Fablevision.

ACTION: The President has to maintain contact with the client group for the Kilcreggan competition.

5.2 Communications Committee

Convenor: Stuart Gray

Stuart Gray referred to the report circulated, and suggested that another option for the Wood for Good donation might be to treat it as sponsorship for the website (through which the sponsorship could be advertised). Development of the website was continuing with a dedicated Publications section. The Past-President offered to provide hard copies of previous publications by GIA, including editions of the Institute’s Year Book, some of which contained essays by past members such as Jack Coia. Furthermore, the Con-Sus Committee have produced a series of articles that could be reproduced on the website. No minutes of meetings from the Urban Design Panel have been provided recently for posting on the website.

Stuart Gray noted that the Employment section of the website would be launched shortly, and that the Competitions section would go live on 18 June 2012 with the launch of the Alexander Thomson Scholarship Competition. The launch would be promoted to members by e-mail using Campaign Point.

It was confirmed that a meeting had been held to discuss the forthcoming launch of the 2012 Design Awards, with categories and “guest/specialist” judges agreed. Chris Stewart, John Dey, Nick Walker, David Maciver and Nicholas Roberts offered their services as judges should this be required. An online judging facility would be developed to maximise involvement of all judges in as wide a range of entries as possible, and to allow projects to be “scored” against agreed criteria.

Stuart Gray reminded Council members that GIA had a Twitter account. He would provide the password to those who were interested. He also

circulated a publication produced on behalf of GIA by Lansdowne Publishing, in which the winners and commended entries to the 2011 Design Awards were featured. Stuart Gray felt that if a similar publication was to be produced in 2012/2013, the standard of presentation could be improved (provided the publishers permitted the Communications Committee to be involved). Copies of the 2012 edition would be posted to all GIA members.

The President asked for suggestions for an after-dinner speaker for the Annual Members' Dinner.

ACTION: The Past-President has to provide copies of previous publications by GIA to Stuart Gray.

Council members are encouraged to tweet.

Council members are to provide suggestions for an after-dinner speaker.

5.3 Education Committee **Convenor: Fiona Sinclair**

Fiona Sinclair reported that the GIA Student Award judging had been carried out at both the Mackintosh School of Architecture and Strathclyde University, and had been enjoyed by the members of the Education Committee, all of whom had participated. The Mackintosh School of Architecture had held a specific ceremony as part of the Degree Show, at which Nick Walker was given the opportunity to announce the winners and promote the Alexander Thomson Scholarship Competition.

Fiona Sinclair reported that the Education Committee had completed work on the brief and background material for the Alexander Thomson Scholarship Competition. This had been developed in collaboration with the National Trust for Scotland, the competition theme being the design of a contemporary installation to breathe new life into the incomplete and unfurnished parlour at Thomson's Holmwood House near Cathcart. Plans, photographs, the brief and competition conditions would be uploaded to the GIA website in time for the official launch. Entrants would effectively be asked to write their own brief. Fiona Sinclair commended the Education Committee members for their hard work in re-launching a competition for which fresh topics had been notoriously difficult to devise since 1999.

5.4 Practice/CPD Committee **Convenor: Rob Campbell**

Steven Innes reiterated Rob Campbell's apologies and referred to the printed report circulated. He advised that new Committee members would be very welcome.

Steven Innes confirmed that The Lighthouse was proving to be an excellent venue for CPD events. The next event planned, the “Contract Game”, would be limited to 20 participants. It was likely to be charged at £75 per head (including lunch). Further events were being planned around the RIBA CPD core curriculum. These included “Negotiating Skills” (as suggested by one attendee), and a session on Health and Safety.

Chris Stewart suggested that a series of joint events could be held with SEDA.

Steven Innes confirmed that the proposed costs of CPD season tickets were £75 for RIAS members, £100 for non-RIAS members, and £10 for out of work architects. A series of building visits were also being planned, hopefully including the Scottish Hydro Arena, the Velodrome and the Commonwealth Athletes’ Village.

There was a suggestion that building visits could be organised for students through the Education Committee. Rob Campbell is also keen to establish a “buddy” network for small practices/sole practitioners, possibly using the website as a mechanism for this.

ACTION: “Un-attached” Council members to consider joining the Practice/CPD Committee.

5.5 Conservation and Sustainability

Convenors: Catherine Cosgrove and Chris Stewart

Chris Stewart reported that the Con-Sus Committee had been unable to meet for a while, largely due to the various work commitments of its members. A manageable hit-list of initiatives required to be developed, the Committee having been a little over-ambitious when first established. Real opportunities lay in establishing joint initiatives with SEDA, who were interested in updating their image and raising their profile. SEDA had strong links with most Scottish Universities, which would be useful to GIA.

Mention was made of the Coalition Government’s “Green Deal” initiative. It was agreed that it was important to promote the role architects could play in developing this. Michael Dougall suggested that this could be linked to the “Architect in the House” initiative in some way.

ACTION: Catherine Cosgrove and Chris Stewart to produce a hit-list of goals for the Committee.

6.0 ADDITIONAL REPORTS

6.1 RIAS Update

The President noted that Fiona MacLachlan had attended the most recent RIAS Council Meeting to report to members on the developing curriculum at Edinburgh University. There had also been a debate over the absence of women speakers at the RIAS Conference, and the fact that no women had come forward to stand for election to RIAS Council. Chris Stewart reported that Jude Barber and Catherine Houston from Collective Architecture had been invited to write an article for the forthcoming edition of RIAS Quarterly on “positive representation” of women in the profession.

The President reported that RIBA were establishing a branch office in China with a view to promoting UK architects abroad. Accordingly, RIAS are developing some ideas on promotion of Scottish architects abroad.

The President advised that there were 4 spaces on RIAS Council that needed to be filled by GIA Council volunteers.

7.0 AOCB

7.1 The President noted that he had joined Gerry Grams in judging the Silver Medal at the two Schools of Architecture. The President noted that he had been particularly impressed this year with the standard of work at Strathclyde University.

7.2 The President noted that student members were required for GIA Council (one for each Glasgow School of Architecture).

8.0 NEXT MEETING

7.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 09 August 2012 at 5.30 pm in the offices of Glasgow City Heritage Trust, 54 Bell Street, Glasgow G1 1LQ.

Fiona J Sinclair
Past President GIA

07 August 2012