Conference Program

Tuesday 7 July 2009:
Committee meetings; early registration; and evening welcome event at the conservation award winning Mint, Macquarie Street, Sydney, sponsored by the Historic Houses Trust.

Wednesday 8 July 2009:
Morning registration; Conference introduction; keynote speakers; and evening talk at the Sydney Opera House.

Thursday 9 July 2009:
Conference papers; afternoon tours (Sydney Opera House, Castlecrag; Walsh Bay, Sydney CBD); and conference dinner at the Summit Restaurant, a Modernist interior atop Harry Seidler’s iconic Australia Square tower.

Friday 10 July 2009:
Conference papers; and surprise evening Finale.

Registration and Accommodation
Conference fees will be advised in late 2008.

A variety of accommodation, including youth hostels, serviced apartments, the YWCA, boutique and major hotels, is readily available within 10 minutes walking distance of the central city conference venue.

Post-Conference Tours (Saturday/Sunday 11-12 July 2009)
Post-Conference tours include Canberra (a two day tour, 11 and 12 July); North Shore Modernism (11 July); War Sites on Sydney Harbour (11 July); and Sydney City (11 July)

Venue and Date
The Conference will be held on 7-10 July 2009, at the Sydney Masonic Centre, a Brutalist landmark at the corner of Castlereagh and Goulburn Streets, Sydney, NSW, Australia

For further information: www.aicomos.com

Call for Abstracts
We are seeking contributions related to the six conference sub-themes and technical aspects of conserving twentieth century heritage places.

Selected authors will be invited to either present at the Conference or take part as panellists. Other abstracts will be presented to the attendees in brief by the Conference Committee, with digital images provided by the authors.

Submit your abstract to the conference papers co-ordinator Scott Robertson at: rharch@ozemail.com.au

Deadline for one page abstracts:
14 November 2008
Acceptance of papers:
30 January 2009
Deadline for completed papers:
late March 2009

(Please note that the deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended to enable broad notification of the (Un)loved Modern Conference at the ICOMOS General Assembly in Quebec.)

Topics:
Topics are drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including architecture, engineering, landscape, industrial heritage, interiors, archaeology and other aspects covering Modern society and culture.

Six broad sub-themes provide particular focus for Conference attendees:
- Re-engaging with original designer;
- Unloved heritage;
- The single house under threat;
- Managing 20th Century obsolescence
- Re-thinking colonial heritage; and
- War in the Pacific.

Conference Program

Tuesday 7 July 2009:
Committee meetings; early registration; and evening welcome event at the conservation award winning Mint, Macquarie Street, Sydney, sponsored by the Historic Houses Trust.

Wednesday 8 July 2009:
Morning registration; Conference introduction; keynote speakers; and evening talk at the Sydney Opera House.

Thursday 9 July 2009:
Conference papers; afternoon tours (Sydney Opera House, Castlecrag; Walsh Bay, Sydney CBD); and conference dinner at the Summit Restaurant, a Modernist interior atop Harry Seidler’s iconic Australia Square tower.

Friday 10 July 2009:
Conference papers; and surprise evening Finale.

Registration and Accommodation
Conference fees will be advised in late 2008.

A variety of accommodation, including youth hostels, serviced apartments, the YWCA, boutique and major hotels, is readily available within 10 minutes walking distance of the central city conference venue.

Post-Conference Tours (Saturday/Sunday 11-12 July 2009)
Post-Conference tours include Canberra (a two day tour, 11 and 12 July); North Shore Modernism (11 July); War Sites on Sydney Harbour (11 July); and Sydney City (11 July)

Venue and Date
The Conference will be held on 7-10 July 2009, at the Sydney Masonic Centre, a Brutalist landmark at the corner of Castlereagh and Goulburn Streets, Sydney, NSW, Australia

For further information: www.aicomos.com
Sub-theme: Re-engaging with original designers
Twentieth century heritage is unique in affording an opportunity for original designers to re-engage with the conservation or development of their early works which have come to be recognised as heritage places. Re-engagement can bring seamless development of original concepts, but it can also bring challenges to the established heritage values or authenticity of the place, for example by seeking to improve or upgrade aspects of the original design concept that could not be achieved in the past, thus edging evidence of the original detailing and significance.

This session will examine the constraints and opportunities of working with original designers, their children or associates to conserve, manage and interpret heritage places. Keynote speaker Jan Utzon will examine his collaboration with his father Jorn and Richard Johnson on the current work on the Sydney Opera House, recently World Heritage listed. Case studies and philosophical assessments are warmly encouraged.

Sub-theme: Unloved heritage
Conference participants are invited to investigate the following concepts of Unloved Modern, which are often perceived to be unattractive or unworthy of consideration by both architectural professionals and the public.

The Ugly Duckling: Traditional concepts of beauty, aesthetics and forms of urban living were challenged in the twentieth century by buildings which are purposefully aesthetically challenging. Conversely, vernacular, naive or populist interpretations of modernism are dismissed by the professions, although they may demonstrate historically and socially significant patterns of development. Is design preference subjectively exercised in the evaluation of modern architecture at the expense of other considerations?

The Recent Past: There can be something uncomfortable about the recent past, with architectural styles such as Brutalism, Late and Post Modernism already in disrepute and their survival threatened. When do recent buildings and styles of architecture gain acceptance for their heritage value and how can they be evaluated?

The Social Fallout: The social objectives of orthodox modernism resulted in the disjunction of communities and social values. Public antipathy, together with vernacular responses and interpretations of these modern idioms, presents particular challenges to heritage professionals. How are the conflicts between community social values and professional concerns and interests resolved when dealing with twentieth century heritage?

Sub-theme: The single house under threat
The simple, small houses of the twentieth century are under threat. Driven by our desire for larger houses, multiple cars and more commodities, older suburban family homes are being razed to make way for ever-bigger homes covering most of the lot. The modest dimensions of most post-war housing make it particularly vulnerable. Even highly acclaimed project homes of the 1960s and 1970s, designed by some of the leading architects of the period, are under pressure to make way for new Mansions.

Population growth, an increasing number of one and two-person households and our changing lifestyles has all prompted changes in housing. Planning policies that favour urban consolidation challenge the urban character of our cities. The massive financial and cultural investment in the single house is being challenged and, with it, the future of significant individual houses and neighbourhoods, many of which illustrate Australia’s achievements in domestic architecture. What is to be their future?

Sub-theme: Managing 20th century obsolescence
Many twentieth century commercial or industrial buildings are under threat of demolition because they no longer satisfy the functional purpose for which they were designed, they no longer comply with current requirements for code compliance, or their technical services have become redundant.

This stream will examine a range of topics, including:
- the benefits of retention vs demolition;
- changing performance standards since original construction;
- fire safety engineering; lighting and electrical upgrades;
- equitable access; air-conditioning and energy consumption; and addressing environmental sustainability requirements.

Sub-theme: Rethinking Colonial Heritage
The influence of the European and American colonial powers upon many parts of the world not only affected the lives and prospects of the communities and nations which were colonised, but also left an indelible legacy on the built environment. Different built forms became juxtaposed with or replaced the vernacular, just as alien landscapes and infrastructure were introduced to the traditional / indigenous environment. These influences often survived and expanded well into the mid 20th before independence arrived for some of the nations affected.

The different discourses about colonial heritage reflect the contrasting perspectives of different groups at any point in time. But with the passing years and changing circumstances, the understanding of the tangible and intangible aspects of a place’s cultural heritage offers a way to rethink colonialism and perhaps, to change the perception of colonial heritage within the totality of the cultural heritage of a country.

This stream of the (Un)loved Modern Conference provides an opportunity to explore and rethink the significance of twentieth century colonial heritage, and what they contribute today to their societies.

Sub-theme: War in the Pacific
World War II had a profound effect on the European colonial domination of the Asia-Pacific region. Independence for most of the region followed the war, but the physical relics of war linger as a tangible reminder of suffering, loss and the winning of freedom.

The War in the Pacific sessions will examine the meaning of war in the region, the significance of the relics of war and how these relics are

venerated, preserved and interpreted, or destroyed.

Areas to be explored include: thematic studies of war sites; government agency identification and conservation of sites such as coastal defence infrastructure and aircraft crash and shipwreck sites; collections management; interpretation of sites and events; etc.

Technical Streams
The theoretical streams of the conference will be underpinned by technical streams covering the difficult issues associated with the ongoing care, maintenance and continued use of significant built works of the twentieth century.

Papers are particularly sought for subjects which support the major sub-themes of: re-engaging with the original designer; unloved heritage; the single house under threat, managing twentieth century obsolescence; rethinking colonial heritage; and war in the Pacific.

This call for papers seeks papers and case studies for the technical streams on:
1. Curtains walls - original construction and development, deterioration mechanisms, leakage and responses, metal corrosion issues, glass types, etc.
2. Cladding - panel design (e.g. architectural precast and stone), mix design, curing, exposure of aggregates and finishes, adequacy of fixing constraints, bowing marble cladding, matching stone in repair programs
3. Tiled finishes - Adhesion vs mechanical restraint (e.g. terracotta, glazed tiles, mosaics, faience), conserving redundant services (e.g. lifts, air-conditioning, lighting, communications, electrical), dealing with original life-cycle, adapting for sustainable performance, meeting contemporary operational requirements and building code compliance perception and publicity, impact on public safety, owners perspective responses to change/cessation of manufacturing process, decision matrices conservation, interaction with substrates, fixings
4. Services - hazardous materials - asbestos, lead based paints and putties, VOCs

The papers could focus on one or more of the following aspects:
- What was originally constructed and how?
- What went wrong and why?
- The conservation options, the method selected and its success.