

eCAADe

Minutes of the Mid-Year Meeting

Sint Lucas, Brussels

15/16 February, 2002

Present

The President, Andre Brown (AB) welcomed Jonas af Klercker (JK), Henri Achten (HA), Bob Martens (BM), Johan Verbeke (JV), Tom Maver (TM), Jelena Petric (JP), Alexander Asanowicz (AA) and Hannu Penttila (HP).

Apologies for absence

Tom Kvan (HK)

Preliminaries:

Sadness was expressed by the President, on behalf of the Council, at the death of Tom Provost.

1. Minutes

No corrections or matters arising were indicated.

2. Composition and Roles of Administrative Council

The current arrangements were considered to be appropriate and sufficient.

3. Name of the Association

It was agreed that the name of the Association should remain as eCAADe but that the sub-title should read: *Education and Research* in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe.

3a Helsinki 2001

It was generally agreed that the Conference hosted in Helsinki had been an outstanding success, both academically and socially.

The only negative aspects were the shortage of discussion time relating to the 2 special themes and the late withdrawal of sponsorship funding by Nemschek. It was suggested that a record of sponsorship funding from previous conferences might be produced and that future conference organisers might use sponsorship solely for “extras” beyond the normal break-even budget.

It was agreed that the “review machine”, which has been passed to the organisers of the forthcoming Warsaw Conference was a valuable asset for the Association.

4. Warsaw 2002

Satisfaction was expressed regarding the arrangements to date for the Warsaw Conference. 165 Abstracts have been received, some 60% from outwith Europe, and these divide equally across the 3 conference themes. AB + BM will visit Warsaw to assist in the acceptance/rejection decisions and arranging the papers for the Conference programme. The guidelines identified were:

- i. 2 parallel sessions
- ii. 6 page max. length for all papers
- iii. presentations: 80 of 10 minutes, 40 of 20 minutes
- iv. one paper per main author only
- v. good papers with weak English should be accepted conditionally

- vi. sessions time-tabled to facilitate movement between sessions.
- vii. final decision for acceptance at the discretion of the organisers, based on guidance from referees.
- viii. no 2nd round review of full papers
- ix. offer of acceptance of full paper will be conditional on attendance (and, where appropriate, improved English); main authors of full papers should indicate if they are 35 years of age or younger.

The Ivan Petrovic prize should again be offered to the best paper/presentation by a main author under 35. Candidate papers should be identified before the conference and JK agreed to administer the scheme.

The budget should factor in:

- i. free subscriptions for ACADIA, SIGRADI, CAADRIA, CUMINCAD representatives.
- ii. full ECAADE subscription fee for **ALL** paying participants, including those on discounted subscriptions.

Financial arrangements for keynote speakers are at the discretion of the Conference organiser.

5. Future Conferences

It was agreed that the timetable template for all future conferences would be:

Call for papers and launch of website:	1 October
Deadline for submission of abstracts:	1 February
Notification of acceptance/rejection:	1 April
Submission of full paper:	1 June

The location of future conferences would be confirmed 2 years in advance.

The draft brochure for Graz was considered; a number of changes will be recommended to the Organisers.

Due to outstanding issues relating to Dubrovnik and Napoli it was agreed to press for a final agreement with Copenhagen (with backup from Aarhus). BM (with AB) will aim to secure this agreement then communicate with Dubrovnik and Napoli regarding a conference on a subsequent year.

There was currently no wish to take forward the idea of a joint or video-linked conference with a sister organisation.

6. Sister Organisations

i. Past:

CAADRIA (Sydney) was attended for ECAADE by BM, where he sold 40/50 CDS. This organisation has electronic proceedings of all its conferences.

ACADIA (Buffalo) was attended for ECAADE by BM. It had a focus on CAD/CAM and was attended by a number of past Presidents. There were only 35 presentations but featured a Digital Media competition. The special relationship with AUTODESYS was in evidence. The process of digitising past proceedings has begun.

SIGRADI (Conception) was attended on behalf of ECAADE by BM (and also by TM and JP. Proceedings of past conferences are being made available digitally.

CAADF (Eindhoven). It was agreed that this was a good conference backed by a good website.

ii. Future

CAADRIA (KL):	AB + BM will attend
ACADIA (Cal.State):	AB will go. 15 February deadline for abstracts.
SIGRADI (Caracas):	10 May deadline for abstracts.
CAADF (Taiwan):	28-30 April 2003, 15 June deadline for abstracts.

HP will produce a visual timetable for future conferences.

7. Membership Affairs

TM + JP reported that direct membership subscriptions were buoyant and that a healthy year end position was anticipated. Approximately £7500 of reserves had been transferred to a fixed term account; the improved interest income would offset bank charges for credit card transactions.

Following presentation of analyses from HA and JK, the following points were noted:

- i. generally, there is a healthy upward trend in membership.
- ii. the increase is primarily in “direct” subscriptions as opposed to “conference” subscriptions, possibly due to availability of CDs of recent and all past conference proceedings; there is increased interest from libraries.
- iii. the membership dropout from Spain and Germany needs the Councils attention, as does the consistently low participation from France.

With regard to conference attendance, the following points were noted:

- i. the participation from Europe is not increasing but there is a significant increase in participation from outside Europe.
- ii. on average people attend every 1.8 years; this is seen as giving an appropriate balance between “core” and “turn-over” participation.
- iii. on the basis of the above, the conference should be kept at its current scale which appears to be optimum from the point of view of diversity, manageability, social cohesion and profitability.

The following actions were agreed.

- i. the letter which goes out immediately after each conference should elaborate the new benefits of membership (Secretariat).

- ii. the text of the leaflet should be revised to the same purpose. (Secretariat).
- iii. The Council should continue to encourage conference special themes such as education and city modelling.
- iv. AB+JV will pursue EU funding for Conferences; the EAAE Thematic Network bid could be a useful model.
- v. HA will collect info on members web addresses which will be linked from the ECAADE site; this should be ready for Warsaw.

8. CUMINCAD

BM reported that the address will change to cumincad.scix.net and the connection will be more prominent on the ECAADE web-site.

Currently it contains all ECAADE/CAADRIA papers. ACADIA/SIGRADI papers will soon be added. TM will pursue the possibility of copyright waiver of CAADF papers.

There are 3 levels of access:

- i. anonymous: references only
- ii. friend: submitting email address gives key to summaries and advanced search.
- iii. members of ECAADE: can download full papers.

Individuals can submit their own publications.

9. Publications

AB reported on discussion with sister organisations regarding a shared journal – either electronic or paper based. There appears to be broad agreement that a quarterly, professionally published journal is desirable and that together, the Associations could make it successful.

AB awaits a decision from Blackwell for such a journal to be entitled "Architectural Computing" (this term has already been bought by AB from <.org/.co/etc>. AB and HA are to press Blackwells for a decision and will propose layouts for a draft journal in order to obtain an ISSN number for the 'International Journal of Architectural Computing'.

Alternatively or additionally ECAADE should explore the option of an e-journal within the SCI-X project; AB, BM and HA are to take this up.

10. Regional Activities

AA is seeking SOCRATES partners. He raised also the importance of giving special consideration to abstracts for the Warsaw conference submitted from Russia.

JV reported that log-in/password details allowing access to the AVOCAAD system would shortly be issued. All papers from the recently published book are being submitted to CUMINCAD.

11. Any Other Business

TM reported on a recent grant application for funding to record the history of CAAD.

AB raised the idea of creating an Institute for Architectural Computing. Council Members are invited to consider the merits of such an initiative between now and the AGM in Warsaw.