

The Franco-British Union of Architects

NORWICH 1972

FRANCO-BRITISH UNION OF ARCHITECTS



NEWSLETTER

FRANCO BRITISH UNION OF ARCHITECTS 1972/3

President)
Secretary General) Clive Pascall
Vice President: André Remonet
Treasurer General: N. Boutet de Monvel

French Committee

A. Béchu
G. Benoit
N. Boutet de Monvel
S. Claude
F. Carpentier
P. Devinoy
J. Dorian
H. Le Même
L. Noviant
F. Papillard-Charpy
E. Popesco
A. Remonet
P. Roux-Dorlut
M. Tournon-Branly

British Committee

A. Brandreth
E. Caldicott
P. Campbell-Jones
J. Ellis
G. Epstein
D. Goldfinch
Sir Gilbert Inglefield
A. Hickman
L. Manasseh
R. Maxwell
N. Moffett
C. Pascall
J. Ratcliff
N. Royce
D. Waterhouse
G. Whitby
O. Winter

A joint French/British Committee Meeting was held in London on 18 and 19 January 1972. Apart from routine matters, this was largely a continuation of the discussion on architectural education at the previous joint meeting.

M. Noviant, President SADG and Professor at the Ecole des Beaux Arts gave a most interesting and informative description of the educational system in France before and after the new law of May 1968. The new system envisaged comprises university-type institutes, to which entry would be as of right (Baccalaureat) and not by competition as previously, the student being free to choose secondary subjects, and no longer having direct supervision by a Professor in his Atelier. There were dangers that the student was not obliged to cover the whole ground of architecture and that arrangements for practical experience were unsatisfactory. Fears were also expressed regarding equivalent standards of qualification in relation to both the EEC and the UK.

The meeting also discussed the present position in both countries of the profession. In France, the Government had formulated proposals for the reorganisation of the profession without any discussion with it. This resulted in a total rejection of these proposals by all sections (SADG, Academie, Ordre, Syndicats, Students), and this in turn led to the replacement of the Government Director of Architecture. A new draft law was under discussion.

The French expressed interest in the RIBA success in negotiations with the Prices and Incomes Board, the latest position in regard to the Monopolies Commission and the rejection by the RIBA of an amendment to the code of Practice to allow Company Directorships, Relations between Architects, Developers and Contractors, including package deals, were also discussed.

It was pointed out that in the UK, the function of the architect had never been protected because it was considered impracticable: compare the position in Belgium.

Altogether an informative exchange of views which justifies the existence of FBUA as a bridge between the two countries.

A further joint meeting was held in Paris on 17 and 18 March, at which this discussion was to some extent continued, with a contribution on the EEC. The proposed redraft of the statutes was also discussed prior to its adoption at the AGM at Norwich.

As the joint Committee Meeting held in Paris on 15 December unfortunately coincided with the ABS Ball, only 5 British members were able to attend. Nevertheless a number of useful points were discussed. It was agreed that a brochure describing the activities of the Union should be prepared in both French and English.

A most interesting programme for the 1973 Reunion in Grenoble was discussed, and the provisional proposals are shown in detail after the Norwich Reunion report. The approximate cost of the Reunion will be £55 with an additional £43 for the special train Paris - Grenoble - Paris. A travel agent will shortly be writing to all members with full details.

Discussions are being held to see whether the Union can organise an exhibition of Channel Tunnel projects produced over the last 100 years.

Batimat, the French Building Exhibition, is to be held this year in Paris from 17-24 November. The London Building Exhibition is to be held at the same time. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for members to meet informally in Paris during the exhibition. Proposals are being prepared for French members to visit industrialized hospital buildings when in England.

It is planned to hold a Sherry Party for members when the next joint Committee Meeting is held in London in March.

Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Franco British Union of Architects held at the Royal Hotel, Norwich, on Thursday 18th May 1972.

1. The MINUTES of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held in Paris on the 27th May 1971, having been distributed in French and English were duly approved and signed by the President and Vice President.
2. Election of President and Vice President for the year 1972/73

Mr. Clive Pascall was proposed as President and Monsieur Andre Remondet as Vice President for the year 1972/73. The elections were carried with acclamation. Monsieur Henry Jacques Le Meme then gave up the Chair to Mr. Pascall who thanked the members for his election, and said he considered it a great honour and it would be very difficult to follow Henry Jacques Le Meme.

3. Election of Treasurer General.

Mr. John Ratcliff reported that the Joint Committees had agreed to revive the office of Treasurer General which had existed in the past and was covered in the Statutes, and that he should be responsible for regularising the financial questions between the two Committees, particularly as regards Reunions. He had the honour to propose the name of Noel Boutet de Monvel for this office, which was carried with acclamation.

4. Report from the Honorary Secretary of the French Section.

Monsieur Gerard Benoit reported on the Joint Committee Meetings held in London on the 18th/19th January 1972 and also referred to the resumed Meeting in Paris on the 17th/18th March 1972 which covered the status of the profession, education and EEC.

On his proposition the following new British members were elected:-

Peter Blair
Sergei Kadleigh

5. Report from the Honorary Secretary of the British Section

Mr. George Whitby also referred to the Joint Committee Meetings. On his proposition the following new French member was elected:-

Mme Ysmene Benoit

Mr. Whitby also informed the Meeting of the resignation of Mr. Richard Eve from the British Committee and the election of Mr. Robert Maxwell.

6. Adoption of Revised Statutes

Proposed and described by Henry Jacques Le M^eme - discussed and agreed by Joint Committee both in London and Paris. The principle was to provide a correctly balanced wording both in English and French based on the original Statutes dated 24th October 1921. He mentioned that he had also had the help and advice of an Advocat. After a discussion these were adopted unanimously (copies attached).

The President then referred to proposed revisions to the Reglements Interieurs as drafted by Jean Dorian which would form an Addendum to the Statutes, mentioning that these had been tabled and very briefly discussed by the Joint Committee. It was proposed that they be the object of further study, possibly with a view to their being somewhat simplified. Meanwhile, on behalf of members he thanked M. Dorian for his contribution.

7. Next Annual General Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held in Grenoble on 7th/11th June, and the matter was referred to the Secretaries to make the necessary arrangements.

8. The President then proposed a vote of thanks to all those concerned with the organisation of the Reunion, and to mark the occasion presented Mrs. P. Willis with an FBUA medallion.

The meeting was then terminated and was followed by a showing of the film "City".

REUNION AT NORWICH - 18th to 22nd May, 1972

After 38 years since the Union's last gathering in Norwich it was about time that it again enjoyed this admirable city and the East Anglian scene - and a good choice it turned out to be for the 1972 Reunion. It was gratifying to see a strong contingent of nearly 60 French members and guests arrive at London Airport on Thursday, 18th May and the week-end programme started in fine style with a visit to the London Brick Company's works at Stewartby - the biggest in the world.

Here we were welcomed by Mr. Jeremy Rowe, Deputy Chairman, and by Lt. Col. Robert Harvey, in charge of Public Relations and of arrangements for the visit. After a short lecture and slides about the brick production process a buffet lunch fortified the visitors for a tour of the brick fields and works. The whole process was seen from the excavators at work in the vast grey pits to the fiery heart of the kilns. The unique self-firing quality of the Oxford clay and many other fascinating aspects of the material were explained in the research laboratories by geologists and scientists. After all that the unique qualities of afternoon tea were appreciated before the party moved off, overwhelmed by London Brick's hospitality and well supplied with literature and small sample bricks.

The long drive to Norwich provided relaxation to enjoy the East Anglian countryside and after a welcome and dinner at the Royal Hotel the evening arrangements proceeded with the Annual General Meeting, recorded in detail elsewhere. Clive Pascall was installed as President in succession to Jacques Le M^eme and members were pleased to see André Remondet elected as Vice President. There were reports on the joint committees meetings of the past year with their accent on architectural education and on professional arrangements in France and Britain - inevitably with EEC prospects in mind. The matter of bringing up-to-date the Union's Statutes and stated aims and objects was also discussed and, because of the review of the process of electing members, two candidates were elected this year as well as Mme Ysmene Benoit - so well known to British members. We were tempted by the prospect of Grenoble and Haut Savoie proposed by the French as the venue for the 1973 Reunion.

The evening ended with a film, produced by the Cement and Concrete Association called "City" - the message being how we must shut out vehicles from the mini-Utopias we should be creating.

Friday was blessed with glorious spring sunshine all day long - absolutely ideal for morning walkabout tours in small groups carefully arranged by David Percival, City Architect, and David Mawson and colleagues of the Norfolk Association of Architects. The ancient, quaint and well cared for corners of the City such as Tombland and Elm Hill were explored and the City's treasures

and excellent Town Planning city model and exhibition were appreciated in the City Hall - C.H. James' and Rowland Pearce's well known job of the thirties. A fine example of what could be done on a tight budget was seen in David Percival's new Central Library, and French visitors in particular enjoyed the thriving, colourful bustle of the famous market place. The 18th Century Assembly House provided a pause for morning coffee and in St. Peter Mancroft church we paused to admire the lasting qualities of mediaeval conceptions and skills.

A drive of ten miles or so took the party to Bramerton for embarkation on "Regal Lady" - one of Patrick Campbell-Jones' discoveries in the form of a large fishing boat recently converted by a family enterprise for pleasure purposes complete with bar. With buckets of ice on deck with wine submerged therein and a splendid buffet lunch, what more could be desired for our idyllic cruise on the River Yare - between willowy banks and buttercup meadows - back into Norwich.

A short walk from the quay took us to the new offices of Messrs. Feilden & Mawson for a brief visit which left us envious of such splendid premises complete with "think-tanks" and a fine view across Pull's Ferry to the Cathedral, which was the next objective reached after a walk through the Gooseberry Garden and the Close. The Dean, the Very Reverend Alan Webster, and the Vice-Dean welcomed the party and, seated in the magnificent Norman nave, the Cathedral's ancient past was outlined to us and the very active present day part it plays in the City's life. Having explored the building we were invited to a room off the cloisters where the choir boys were at practice. These lads treated us to a French hymn and several other works until the choirmaster had us all at it - a unique episode for an FBUA Reunion. The level of decibels under that vaulted roof were quite stunning and we all felt that afternoon tea - served in the cloisters - was well deserved.

In the great Norman keep of Norwich Castle, the President and Mrs. Pascall held the evening reception jointly with the Lord Mayor, Mr. Richard Seabrook, and Mrs. Seabrook. The Rotunda - David Percival's spacious creation in the central courtyard of the Castle - gives access to all the museum and art galleries and served as a splendid setting for the Banquet at which our honoured guests included the Lord and Lady Mayoress, the Sheriff, Alderman R.J. Symonds and Mrs. Symonds, the President of the Norfolk Society of Architects Mr. Christopher Lambert and Mrs. Lambert. To quote Tony Hickman's press release the President, in his brisk and commanding address, "referred to the problems of the urban environment in both France and Britain. There was a need, he said, in both countries for architects to maintain their principles and to speak out against such schemes as Montparnasse or Knightsbridge Barracks. Whilst politicians could control private enterprise, there was urgent need for the control of politicians, particularly with regard to roads. He said that Norwich was a splendid example where the car was relegated to its appropriate place and that the sympathetic treatment and scale of the pedestrian streets allowed everyone to enjoy them. Norwich showed what could be achieved."

After a fine repast and appropriate toasts the doors of the galleries were thrown open for our company to enjoy the walls full of Cotmans and Cromes and all the other splendours of the Norwich School and the charming natural history dioramas of the Norfolk countryside.

Blessed with continuing good weather, in what turned out to be the first and last fine spell before the rigours of summer set in, the Saturday programme started with a tour of varied city housing schemes en route for the small and most agreeable infants' school at Cringleford (Architects: Tayler and Green). Here Mr. Tayler met us and outlined his fresh approach to school design - not having done one before. The result, designed on a shoestring, is a sympathetic building for the very young customers and good value for money.

A short journey took us to the other end of the educational spectrum - the University of East Anglia (Architects: Bernard Feilden, formerly Denys Lasdun). After a welcome by the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Frank Thistlethwaite, the planning and constructional aspects of the job were explained by David Mawson and the Estates Officer, Mr. Peter Marshall. A large proportion of the proposed buildings are finished and working but gradual expansion will go on for many years with a view to a population of 6,000 students. Apart from the usual lecture rooms, laboratories, library and dining halls the scheme includes a small shopping centre and, of particular interest, the groups of student accommodation units comprising single rooms or small flats for student groups and married students. These ziggurat-like buildings present the advantages of terraces etc. on the sunny side and the high level pedestrian link system was interesting but many of the party had reservations about the gloomy and drab appearance of the undercut shady side.

After lunch in one of the University dining halls a pleasant country drive conveyed us to the great Jacobean house at Blickling. With the aid of an excellent model of the house and grounds Mr. Michael Gooch, Architect in charge, talked about the Hall and restoration work, after which everybody was let loose to explore the fine state rooms and the great gallery with its remarkable ceiling. The gardens were superb, presenting a magnificent prospect from the Hall to the garden Temple.

The rural ride back to Norwich gave the opportunity of a visit to the church of St. Agnes at Cawston and to admire the 16th Century fully developed hammerbeam roof and its carving in this fine example of the East Anglian "wool churches".

After Saturday night's dining and dancing a leisurely Sunday morning was enlivened by the Lord Mayor's annual procession by coach to the Cathedral, lending an additional dash of colour to continuing sunny weather. En route to lunch at the Phoenix Hotel at East Dereham the party visited a housing job off Pottergate and Cow Hill, done by David Percival and his department and presenting the most successful informal blend of new work with the vernacular of the locality.

Honoured guest at lunch was Lady Evershed who spoke about Castle Acre, the object of the afternoon visit, where flourished the Cluniac priory, with associated village and castle, until the upheaval of the 16th Century. Enough of the Priory and its Norman character remain to show the extent of the buildings and quality of the community which, through its "mother" priory at Lewes - the first of the Cluniac establishments in England, maintained strong links with France in spite of stormy episodes with English Kings.

Village ladies refreshed the party with tea and saw us on our way to Oxburgh Hall, escorted by Donovan Purcell, architect in charge. Built in 1482 of mellow red brick and surrounded by a wide moat, the house with its magnificent gate tower must be one of the most romantic of its period. This great tower, flanked by octagonal turrets and rising a sheer eighty feet from the moat, contains most interesting items - not least a collection of royal letters to members of the Bedingfield family of Oxburgh from Henry VIII, Queen Mary and from Queen Elizabeth I - what an elegant signature flowed from her capable hand.

Sunday evening presented a good example of the vitality and self-sufficiency of Norwich when, after a buffet supper in the informal atmosphere of the Maddermarket Theatre, the architects were joined by the legal profession - also week-ending in Norwich from France - to enjoy a delightful programme of what was described as "literary aphorisms" and music, nicely balanced internationally between G.K. Chesterton, Debussy, Rabelais and others and presented with finesse by amateur artist(e)s of the city. This occasion at the end of the Reunion programme was most appreciated and was organised by David Percival and the Norfolk Society of Architects who supported the whole week-end's proceedings splendidly.

Monday morning saw much shopping activity prior to departure but a small group of us found time to visit the Eastern Counties News Building (Architect: Ronald Sims) which recently introduced to Norwich a wholesome job in precast concrete with interesting outside works and sculpture. The party was received by Mr. Geoffrey Copeman, ECN's Assistant General Manager, Mr. Ivor Pinch, Promotion Manager and Mr. Roy Sparks, Works Manager and was shown the vast hall housing the massive press. Various stages of printing processes were explained and we were disappointed that our visit was all too short for this fascinating technology.

on departure from Norwich we were taken under the wing of Mr. Robert Maxwell, Norfolk County Planning Officer and his colleagues and Mr. Ellis Clarke, Town Clerk, for a gentle tour on wheels around the industrial estate and housing work in the expanding town of Thetford. This was extremely well backed up with documents and running commentary and the planners had done a lot of work to ensure that our visit was well spent. The housing groups show an interesting diversity of treatment and the factory buildings present refreshing elevations for this type of work, but the quality fades, unfortunately, away from the "shop window" quality along the main road. On disembarking for lunch the party found its way to the Bell Hotel through the town centre where new development and old buildings and the opened up riverside form an agreeable environment. The Union's guests at lunch, apart from the planners, included the Mayor, Alderman Broadhurst and Mrs. Broadhurst, who expressed their pleasure in welcoming such a distinguished gathering. André Remondet announced that Patrick Campbell-Jones, in acknowledgement of his expert handling for many years of the Union's inner well-being would receive a certain French honour of gastronomic nature later in the year.

As the Reunion came to an end, in an aura of bonhomie and backslapping, so came down the rain for the drive to London - but nothing could dampen happy recollections of Norwich and a successful week-end.

Tony Brandreth.

UNION FRANCO BRITANNIQUE DES ARCHITECTES

1973 CONGRES DE GRENOBLE - PROGRAMME PREVISIONNEL

JEUDI 7 JUIN

- 10H. DEPART DE PARIS EN TRAIN SPECIAL
- 12H.30 DEJEUNER DANS LE TRAIN
- 14H. ASSEMBLEE GENERALE
- 16H. ARRIVEE A GRENOBLE
- 17H.30 PRESENTATION DE LA VILLE SOUS L'ANGLE
ECONOMIQUE ET URBANISTIQUE, ALPOTEL
- 20H. DINER DEBAT SUR LA VILLE DE GRENOBLE
ET LA MONTAGNE

VENDREDI 8 JUIN

- 9H. VISITE DE ST. NIZIER
- 12H.30 DEJEUNER A ST. NIZIER
- 14H.30 VISITE DE LA VILLE NEUVE
VILLAGE OLIMPIQUE - NOVARINA
QUARTIER ECHIROLLES - A.U.A.
- 17H.30 VISITE DE L'HOTEL DE VILLE - NOVARINA
RECEPTION OFFERTE PAR LA MUNICIPALITE
- 19H.30 DINER A LA MAISON DE LA CULTURE
- 20H.30 SOIREE A LA MAISON DE LA CULTURE - WOZZECK

SAMEDI 9 JUIN

- 8H.30 EXCURSION A CHAMONIX (GRENOBLE -
ALBERTVILLE - MEGEVE - CHAMONIX - BONNEVILLE -
ANNENCY - AIX LES BAINS - GRENOBLE)
CENTRE SPORTIF - TAILLIBERT
COMPETITION DE SKI
- 19H. RETOUR A GRENOBLE
- 20H.30 DINER A STE. MARIE D'EN HAUT (MUSEE DAUPHINOIS)

DIMANCHE 10 JUIN

10H.30 VISITE DU STADE DE GLACE ET PARC
PAUL MISTRAL

12H.30 DEUJEUNER

15H. MAISON DE LA CULTURE
VISITE - WOGENSKI
DEBAT MAITRE D'OUVRAGE - DIRECTEUR -
ARCHITECTE FACE AU PROGRAMME:
MAISON DE LA CULTURE

17H.45 RETOUR A L'HOTEL

19H.30 DEPART PAR CAR POUR VOIRON

20H.30 BANQUET DANS LES CAVES DE LA CHARTREUSE
A VOIRON

LUNDI 11 JUIN

8H.30 VISITE DE LA VILLE ANCIENNE

9H.30 VISITE DU TREMPIN DE SAUT ET EXPOSE DU
SERVICE DES SPORTS DE LA VILLE DE GRENOBLE

12H.30 DEPART
SOIT POUR PARIS TRAIN SPECIAL
SOIT POUR PARIS PAR AVION DE GRENOBLE
SOIT POUR PARIS PAR AVION DE LYON
SOIT POUR LONDRES PAR AVION DE LYON

BUDGET PREVISIONNEL PAR PERSONNE

Chambre par nuit	45 Frs
Repas normal	35 Frs
Banquet	70 Frs
Soirée à la Maison de la Culture	20 Frs
Frais divers	100 Frs
Car	55 Frs
Train Paris/Grenoble/Paris	380 Frs
Voiture cinema (76 Pers)	60 Frs
Repas dans le train	77 Frs