

SUFFOLK December 2015

Dear FBUA member,

I have agreed to take over as British President starting in May 2016, and am writing to give you some early warning of our planned events and dates for 2016.

You might also be interested to hear what we have been doing during the past year under Denis Legrand's presidency.

In May this year a group of us got together in Nantes for a wonderful congress with visits of a host of different buildings, vineyards, cathedras and chateaux. Just 2 weeks after our presentation in Nantes Cathedral the roof burned off, so we feel particularly privileged to have seen it fully restored and glowing, and hearing Benjamin's account of the historic development of the building from medieval times to the present day. The columns are most unusual as you will see from the photo below, with none of the usual musical subdivision of a normal gothic cathedral.

Nantes was in many ways a great example of a proud city which had invested massively in the regeneration of its old industrial quarters, with huge resources being pumped into public realm works. How differently we approach things on this side of the channel!



Our private guide Benjamin Mouton



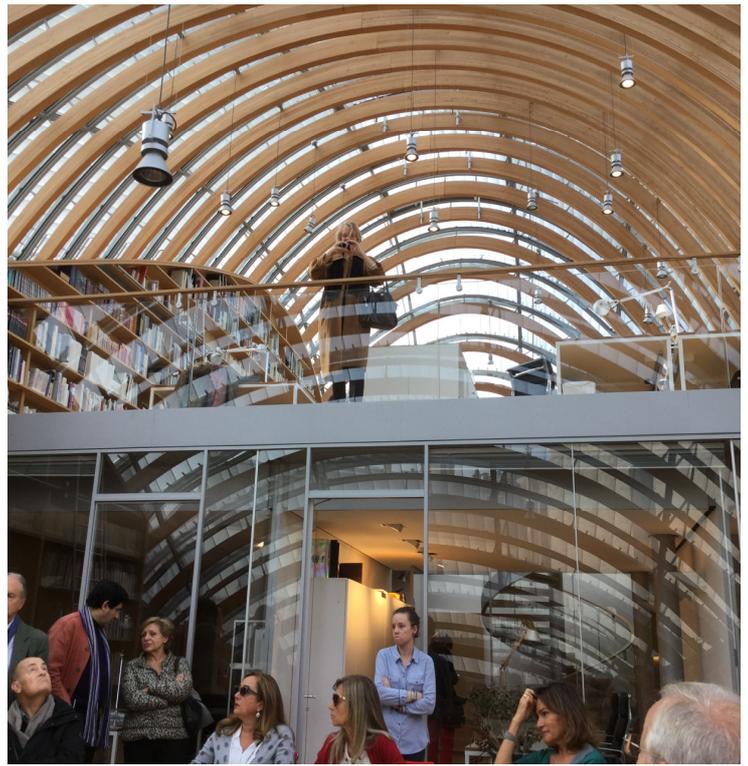
Cathedral roof 2 weeks before the fire

In October the committees met in Paris for another extraordinary weekend and we were joined by French members for some of our visits. The highlights must have been our lunch on the roof of the Chateau de St Germain en Laye, organized by Regis Martin and then the visit to the Renzo Piano Pathe film archive.

It feels like the October and March committee meetings are becoming mini reunions in themselves, so all you Brits who want to take advantage keep the March 2016 date free.



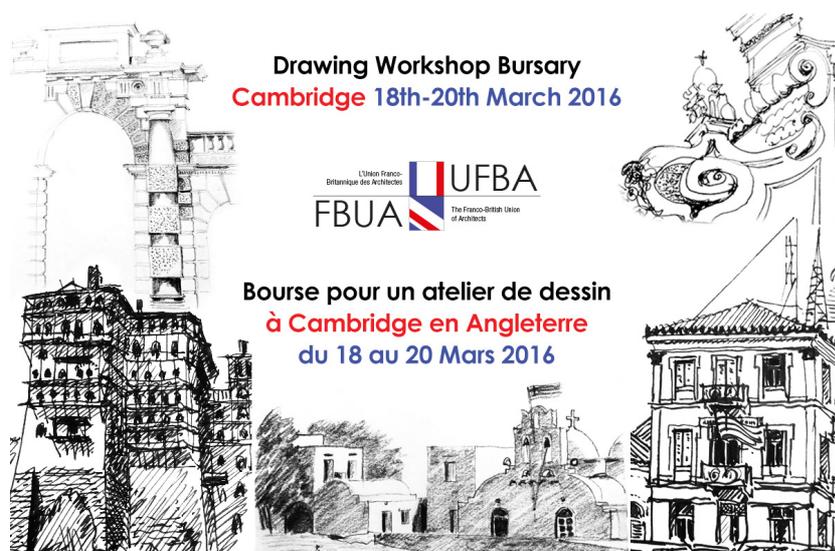
St Germain en Laye



Pathe film archive – Renzo Piano

Our other big project was the launch of the new drawing bursary, made possible by the donation from the Lloyd Davis family, and steered through by Mark Potter. For those of you who missed this new initiative, take a look at our website <http://ufba-fbua.com/bursaries2016/>

and pass the details on to any young architects you know who might be interested in applying. We would like to have around 3 from each side of the channel, and their work will be on display at the May reunion.



So on to future events:

Our first event will be held in the City of London on the weekend of March 11 – 12 2016. This is our annual committee meeting and members are welcome to join us for the evening lecture, cocktail, meal and the Saturday tour. We are still working out venues but do have a lecture up our sleeves – Angus Gavin, one of our members, will be talking on Friday evening about the rebuilding of Beirut. We are still planning the walking tour on the Saturday morning. KEEP YOUR DIARIES CLEAR!

Our second event will be my call – The Annual Congress which is happening this year in Suffolk between 5th and 8th May 2016. Our base will be Bury St Edmunds in the West of the County, accessible by train and now blessed with a number of hotels including a new Premier Inn. The plan is to have one very special day of visits on 6th May, taking in Lavenham, Ipswich, Aldeburgh and finishing at Howard and Moniques AMAZING house in Sudbourne. We shall be visiting a mixture of brand new houses, and better know 20th century icons including the Willis building in Ipswich. We have lots to do and see but at this stage the main thing is to keep that weekend free. The programme will be put together nearer the date.

Ralph Carpenter
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