

EFLA Newsletter

European Foundation for Landscape Architecture Fondation Européenne pour l'Architecture de Paysage

1st July 2003

President's Note

In early May I was invited to the General Assembly of ACE, Architects' Council of Europe, the architects' equivalent to EFLA. ACE is a much larger organisation, but struggling with rather the same problems : difficulties to engage members in work, problems to influence the European Union, and, of course, limited resources. Consequently this sums up the priorities that EFLA Executive Council currently focuses on, when we try to respond to the wishes from our member associations.

So it is all the more important to communicate what EFLA does in fact achieve. This Newsletter is part of that effort. Active web users will have noticed that the EFLA web site has recently been entirely remade and provides much better services. This Newsletter will hopefully provide concise EFLA information to those who do not log on regularly. Secondly, we focus on EFLA's main task, which is to build contacts and influence the EU and other pan European organisations like the Council of Europe. In this Newsletter a number of current initiatives are reported. In addition the BDLA, our German member association, has taken an important initiative to a project to enhance influence on EU issues. This will be joint with EFLA and IFLA. Thirdly we report on developments of EFLA's economic management. Ways for additional funding besides membership dues are currently underway. A new budget structure following our priorities will be presented for next year. The concern is to work effectively, efficiently and economically.

We look forward to a promising autumn, opening up with an Executive Council 13-14 September in Dublin, our yearly council meeting away from Brussels, which this year is to meet with colleagues in the British Isles and Ireland. But before that, may I wish all colleagues a very good summer!

Lars Nyberg

Education

Le Notre Project

This is the name of a thematic network project funded by the EU Socrates programme, involving over 80 schools. It began in 2002 and will last for three years. Its main objective is to promote a European dimension in Landscape Architecture education. It will also cover management, sciences, history and cultural studies related to the main subject. At a workshop on 3-6 April in Kassel, Germany, EFLA was represented by several delegates. EFLA is a partner organisation, lead partner is ECLAS (European Conference of Landscape Architecture Schools). EFLA Vice President Robert Holden was appointed member of the Professional Practice Working Group (given this is an EFLA concern), which will work with distance learning, internships and lifelong learning (or CPD), including plans for a distance learning European Landscape University embracing undergraduate and Masters level programmes. For more info. see www.efla.org and www.le-notre.org. The network members next meet in Lisbon at the time of the annual ECLAS Conference 23-26 October 2003 (details on www.eclas.org or contact Luís Ribeiro email topiaris@mail.telepac.pt)

Education

EFLA Recognition of Schools

Manchester Metropolitan University is the latest school to renew its EFLA recognition. The programmes recognised are the BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture leading to the Bachelor of Landscape Design and recognition follows the Landscape Institute's confirmation of their accreditation. Prospective new schools expected to submit applications for accreditation in the coming year include University College Dublin and Agricultural University of Sweden at Alnarp. For full information about recognised schools, see www.efla.org.

Education

Bologna Declaration

EFLA continues to monitor progress on the Bologna Process, which is working well across Europe. Remember this covers all of Europe from East to West and far beyond the European Union. It is interesting as an inter government agreement between the ministers of education. See the www.efla.org education downloads for how this affects landscape education.

Professional Practice

EU 6th Environmental Action Programme

This important document (EAP) was adopted last year by the EU. It addresses a number of environmental issues. However, also the EU is growing increasingly aware that environmental problems cannot be solved isolated one by one. Particularly in the complex urban environment many aspects must be handled together in order to enable good and sustainable solutions. In this context planners and landscape architects can play crucial roles when transforming the complex conditions into a good physical reality. The EU has now made an integrated approach through its Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment. A number of working groups are set up to study different aspects. EFLA is represented by our Secretary General, Trygve Sundt, in the Group for Sustainable Urban Design. Parallel to these working groups an Open Platform consultation has been launched, which will end up in a policy document in 2005.

EFLA Seminar on 6th Environmental Action Program

This EFLA seminar on the 14 November in Brussels will particularly focus on Urban Environment, Green and Landscape Management and Tourism. Emphasis will be on practice examples and cross-cutting, especially in view of the EU Thematic Strategy for Urban Environment. Landscape education and research themes will be investigated. Seminar details are to be sent to all national associations shortly.

Professional Practice

The General System and the Unified Professions Directive

The European Commission has proposed a new unified directive, which will embrace the existing directives on Professional Recognition covering areas such as medicine and architecture, and the General System directive professions, including landscape architecture. A point of particular interest is the idea to engage professional bodies such as EFLA to advice on common platforms, which would strengthen EFLA's work for adequate educational and professional standards. To quote the draft directive:

"Under the general system for the recognition of qualifications, the Commission's proposal will introduce a more flexible and automatic procedure based on common platforms established by professional associations at European level, stemming from increased cooperation between the public and private sectors."

Further details including the text of the proposed directive are available on <http://europa.eu.int>. Currently this new directive has passed through national consultation stage and is in committee stage consideration by the European Parliament. EFLA responded to the earlier European Commission General System consultation, which led to this proposal, see www.efla.org to download the response.

Professional Practice

Professional recognition in Italy

Landscape Architecture Teaching : a response to the European Landscape Convention: Conference at the University of Genoa, 20-21 February 2003

The University of Genoa under Professor Annalisa Maniglio Calcagno is a great centre of Italian landscape architecture and hosted this two day conference for Italian landscape architecture educationalists in February. The two days involved a "tour d'horizon" of the Italian landscape architecture scene and its concerns. Over the two days there were 24 speakers who aimed to cover all aspects of landscape architecture education.

There were two foreign contributors, Richard Stiles of ECLAS on Le Notre and Robert Holden, as EFLA education chair, on design of landscape programmes (though Andreas Kipar who runs offices in Milan and Duisburg might qualify as well). Since a couple of years EFLA is supporting AIAPP, the Italian national association, and the efforts of its President, Carlo Bruschi, in terms of developing and supporting the profession. Especially significant is that on the final day there was a Conference Declaration expressing its concern regarding the question of landscape architecture professional registration under the law of 5 July 2001. Basically landscape architecture as a title is recognised, which is a major step forward. But registration is under the auspices of the Italian Order of Architects who are interpreting it as only applying to Architects. The declaration also emphasised the significance of the European Landscape Convention to which Italy has signed.

The declaration was passed unanimously and was signed by Professors Annalisa Maniglio Calcagno, Lucio Carbonara, Francesca Mazzino, Gianpiero Donin, and both Professor Richard Stiles for ECLAS and Robert Holden for EFLA. All this makes ammunition for regularising and strengthening the position of the landscape profession in Italy.

European Landscape Convention : what is it?

The European Landscape Convention was initially adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in 2000. It provides a legal basis for the better management and protection of the continent's landscapes. It also acts as a prescription for development of landscape planning and services, including landscape architecture education and services in those countries where such measures do not already exist. By early 2003 24 states had signed the Convention (the European Council constitutes 44 states ranging from Russia to Portugal and Turkey to Iceland). To come into effect the Convention also has to be ratified by at least ten states. Some big countries such as the United Kingdom and Germany have not signed, let alone ratified the Convention. EFLA supports the signing and ratification of the Convention.

The Convention is developed by an annual meeting. EFLA was represented by Vice President Antonio Sopesens Mainar at the annual meeting in November 2002 in Strasbourg and has representatives on the working groups. The working groups met on 12-13 June and next the annual meeting is in November in Strasbourg on 27-28 November 2003. From a landscape architecture profession's point of view the following aspects indicate the significance of the Convention: awareness-raising; landscape education; identification and assessment; landscape quality objectives; implementation. The full Convention text is available on: <http://www.nature.coe.int/english/main/landscape/conv.htm>, future events and meetings are found on http://www.strategyguide.org/at4/at4_meet.html.

FFP initiative: European Landscape Conference

Une Manière de Protéger la Planète.

FFP, our French member association, has launched a proposal for a phased and themed series of European conferences. The idea was first presented at the 2002 EFLA General Assembly and is now developed in dialogue between EFLA and FFP. A first phase of national seminars will provide the basis for a major European level conference on the future of the European landscapes. The initial contribution to this three year *Assises* process will be a FFP seminar "*Une Manière de Protéger la Planète*" planned for September 2003. Over the next years there will be a series of national events in which the European landscape profession will examine case studies and examples of good practice. All national associations are invited to contribute. The EFLA Seminar on 14 November is an initial pan European contribution. More information will follow on www.efla.org as plans develop.

Architects Council of Europe / ACE

EFLA President Lars Nyberg was invited to the ACE General Assembly on 7-8 May and gave a presentation of EFLA. The Assembly debated among other things the reform of EU's professional directives, as described above. In fact the ACE (unlike us) opposes the integration of all the profession directives into one Unified Professions Directive. They want the separate Architects' Directive may remain more or less unchanged. Another point of interest was Integral Supply Chain Management. Few architects have been working with this, but it may well become an important part of architects' services and a means for quality management. This seems relevant also to landscape architects. A first meeting between executives of ACE, EFLA and corresponding federations for interior architects and town planners was discussed for this autumn.

EFLA Web Site

The EFLA web site has been thoroughly remade providing much better services. A new Forum for debates and working groups has been started. Try our web site www.efla.org to find out how you can use it, to find information about EFLA activities and to participate in open debates!

The Landscape Cafés of Paris

Les "*cafés paysages*" are a series of a public brains trust type discussion groups held in Paris cafes monthly, every third Thursday. Typically French in format, in fact they are a great idea other countries might like to consider. They are free, they are public, they raise landscape issues in a public forum, and they are not exclusive. Contacts when next in Paris are Hélène Lemaire: tel. 01 42 80 32 37 or 06 13 32 59 36, email lnlemaire@hotmail.com and Mathieu Fauvetter : tel . 01 46 33 25 01, email fauvette@club-internet.fr or check the FFP web site <http://www.f-f-p.org>. As Jacques Coulon puts it "*L'avenirdu paysage n'est pas dans sa construction mais dans sa compréhension*".

Calendar

- EFLA Executive Council, Dublin 13-14 September
- EFLA Seminar 'EU 6th Environmental Action Programme' Brussels 14 November
- EFLA General Assembly and Presidents' Council, Brussels 15-16 November