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K A M R A T A L - P E R I T I

To support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community

07 April 2008

ARCHITECTURE & POLITICS

*“success will depend on our ability to strike an effective partnership
between politics and architecture” - Gonzi*

The *Kamra tal-Periti* organised a Forum entitled: **ARCHITECTURE & POLITICS - PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**, last Friday 4th April, on the occasion of the Union of Mediterranean Architects' (UMAR) 14th General Assembly which was held in Malta last weekend. Prime Minister Dr. Lawrence Gonzi delivered a keynote address. Other speakers included H.E. the Ambassador to France, Jean Marc Rives, Patrice Genet, UMAR President, Prof. Lino Briguglio, chairperson of the National Committee for Sustainable Development and David Felice, President of the *Kamra tal-Periti*.



This was Dr. Lawrence Gonzi's first public debate related to the built environment, given his recent decision to take the local planning authorities and sustainable development under his wing. The KTP hope that this is the start of a long and healthy relationship between architecture and politics, particularly in the light of the fact that these two disciplines are responsible for the physical transformation of many of both Malta's socio-economic and cultural objectives. The *Kamra* thus supports Dr. Gonzi's contribution wherein he stated that, *“The Government of Malta is - as always - open to dialogue with the Kamra tal-Periti with particular reference to those matters that are distinctive locally. We need to work together to achieve the highest professional standards and to make sure that the core values of what we do together, remain linked to what is valuable for quality of life and not merely for material wealth.”*

The *Kamra tal-Periti* is affiliated to the International Union of Architects (UIA), the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), the Commonwealth Architects' Association (CAA), Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR) and European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP).

The forum focused on aspects of architectural practice where economic interest coincides with environmental relevance. Dr. Gonzi highlighted the fact that, *“Cooperation between researchers on this topic with specific reference to the Mediterranean climate is surely bound to be fruitful, as also the documentation of successful traditional low energy media for controlling interior environments. Revised building regulations can then be an important locus for the deepened Partnership between Architecture and Politics for which purpose this meeting is being held... Clearly, success will depend on our ability to strike an effective partnership between politics and architecture.”*

The Prime Minister also made reference to the Kamra’s Position Paper on the Built Environment entitled, THE URBAN CHALLENGE: OUR QUALITY OF LIFE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, when he stated that the *“ideas in this document that are generally consistent with the objectives declared by the Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR) were taken into account in the policies put forward by my Party at the last election.”*

Founded in Rabat (Morocco) in 1994, UMAR represents all but two of the architects’ national organisations from countries in and around the Mediterranean basin. It aims to reveal Architecture to be of public interest, Architecture and the organisation of space being expressions of culture. It also acts as a forum for encouraging relationships of friendship, solidarity and confraternity between all architects, while acting as a representative for more than 300,000 architects in a dialogue with governments, regional and international institutions.

The *Kamra tal-Periti* is a founder member of UMAR and has been prominently active within the organisation. In fact Malta is the official seat of the organisation and its Secretary-General is Perit David Pace, a past President of KTP. Perit Anthony Fenech Vella is the local representative on UMAR and was responsible for the organisation of its General Assembly in Malta.