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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

15 MARCH 2008

KOHN PEDERSEN FOX TO KICK OFF ARCHITECTURE NIGHTS 08



The *Kamra tal-Periti* is proud to announce world-renowned leading international architectural firm **Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF)** for the first in a series of five debates for **Architecture Nights 08**. These debates, now in their third edition, have gained strong momentum and popularity following the participation of award-winning world-renowned international architects and practices including Mario Botta, Manfredi Nicoletti, Richard England, Peter Lorenz, Building Design Partnership, Llewelyn Davies Yeang and Bennetts Associates, among others, in the past two years.

KPF is an international practice with studios in New York and London and a growing presence in Shanghai. The practice, led by eighteen principles and directors and employing over 400 staff members representing 43 countries, provides full architectural design, programming, urban design, master planning, graphic and product design services for clients in both the public and private sectors. The firm's extensive portfolio, developed over thirty years, includes designs ranging from a small jewel-like glass pavilion for Rodin sculptures to an entirely new city in Incheon, Korea. The breadth of experience allows the firm to bring an international perspective to a local project. The central concern of the practice is design excellence, in a commitment to provide designs that create uplifting spaces for people. Its architecture responds to community, context and environment, demonstrating the important contribution architecture can make to sustainable patterns of living.

KPF's strong body of work has earned the firm recognition as one of the most respected architectural design practices in the world. The work of the practice has been widely exhibited and is the subject of thirteen monographs. KPF has won over 300 awards, a reflection of the firm's commitment to design excellence. The innovative designs of the firm continue to shape the debate about the direction of architecture today.

The firm was established in 1976 by Eugene Kohn, William Pedersen and Sheldon Fox (1930-2006). It is probably best known for its high-profile commercial skyscrapers such as the Shanghai World Financial Center. In 1990, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) awarded KPF with its Architectural Firm Award, the youngest firm ever to receive such high recognition. After several designs, the firm's first widely acclaimed building was 333 Wacker Drive (Chicago, 1983), a 36-storey green glass office tower whose sculptural curtain wall imitated the bending Chicago River along its triangular site. The American Institute of Architects rewarded this design with their National Honors Award in 1984, validating KPF's coming of age as a major player in skyscraper design.



The postmodernist manner in which materials such as colored marbles and classically reminiscent forms were employed by KPF became a hallmark of their buildings in the 1980s, many of which were corporate commissions. KPF increasingly produced tall structures abroad for international clients in the 1990s. They opened offices in London (1989) and Shanghai (2006), and added a number of new principals to the firm. To date KPF has built in over 30 countries. One of KPF's first significant commissions outside the US was the Westendstrasse 1/DZ Bank Headquarters Building in Frankfurt in 1993, a 915,000 square foot mixed-use complex that included a 52-storey office tower, residential apartments and a winter garden, for which it received its third AIA Honors Award in 1994. KPF has also had a large number of commissions on the Pacific Rim, particularly in China's provincial city of Shanghai. The Shanghai World Financial Center, scheduled for completion shortly, will be one of the tallest buildings in the world at 1,509 feet.

Through its thirty years of experience, the designs of KPF have been driven by the pursuit of design excellence. The firm designs buildings and spaces that, informed by the human scale, provide an uplifting backdrop for daily life. The practice has focused on building in the city, recognising the fact that each of the buildings it designs has a civic responsibility above and beyond its specific function. Each

structure engages the tradition of its place. The design of each building draws on its context; in turn, it becomes part of the fabric of the city upon which future generations can build – a contribution to a city that constantly changes.

KPF's design ethos is based on the recognition that buildings have a responsibility not only to those who use them, not only to the city around them, but also to the environment at large. For KPF the ongoing environmental crisis calls not for the rejection of technological advances but for the promotion of appropriate technology, using new construction techniques and innovative building components in order to make buildings more useful and efficient.

KPF shall be represented in Malta by none other than the Director of its London office, Architect John Bushell. John Bushell has over 15 years experience working in the UK, USA and Northern Europe on commercial, residential and public buildings. Since joining KPF in 1994, he has worked on the award winning Thames Court Office project, which won BCO (British Council for Offices) Best Office Award, ULI (Urban Land Institute) Best Workplace and Stone and Steel Association Awards, and on the MidCity Place Office project in central London which set a new standard of effective and efficient delivery. Both projects develop the imaginative use of materials and configuration of space within the strict disciplines of the commercial office environment. Thames Court has been recognized by the City of London as a benchmark for design excellence and a model for future development. He is currently working on the refurbishment of the landmark Unilever House and the office areas for Unilever's transferred global headquarters, and on several mixed-use schemes in central London.

John has also worked on the master plan and subsequent delivery of a mixed-use development and park in Brussels at Zaventem Airport Gardens, a project based on innovative ecological strategies. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree (Hons) and a Diploma in Architecture (with Commendation) both from the University of Cambridge, England, and was an exchange student at Harvard Graduate School of Design. He also has had paintings hung at the Royal Academy.

The debate will be held at the AULA MAGNA in Valletta on Saturday 29th March at 7.30pm. Entrance to this debate is free. Architecture Nights 08 is sponsored by HSBC and Steel Structures.