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# KTP NEWS

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**KAMRA TAL-PERITI**

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

COMMUNICATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PERIT DANICA MIFSUD

## CURRENT

### KTP / ESF SEMINARS - A HUGE SUCCESS!



Minister George Pullicino delivered the opening speech at a seminar on Design for Energy Efficiency, while Minister John Dalli delivered another at a seminar on Design for Accessibility. Both seminars were held on the 15 May 2008 and formed part of the program FEED 2007: Further Education on Energy and Design for Disability. This program was part financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004 - 2006, and were organised in an attempt to address these issues and to provide a platform for consumers and professionals to discuss the issues at hand, by the Kamra tal-Periti, in collaboration with the Chamber of Engineers, the Services Division (Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs), and the National Commission Persons with Disability. The two seminars were well attended with over 150 attending the morning seminar, while about 80 attending the afternoon seminar. Presentations and further information may be obtained from the KTP website: [www.ktpmalta.com/events/events2008.php](http://www.ktpmalta.com/events/events2008.php)

### KTP APPLAUDS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION



The Kamra tal-Periti applauds the Government's recent decision to withdraw the Development Application for the demolition of what was formerly known as Rediffusion House in Gwardamangia. The move comes as a refreshing foresight that breaks the recent trend adopted by MEPA that the conservation of much older buildings, irrespective of their historical or architectural merit, tends to take precedence over the preservation of contemporary buildings, some of which are iconic examples of excellence in local architecture. Undeniably, in the fast developing societies of today, buildings need not be older than a century to deserve preservation. Indeed the reasons why we preserve our built heritage depend on more important criteria, certainly not the gravely misguided notions of nostalgia. Had this planning application been accepted, it would have led to the irretrievable loss of one of the pioneering examples of twentieth century modern architecture in Malta. This institutional building represents a milestone in the development of architecture in Malta in its historic progression from the Baroque to Neo- Classicism to Victorian-era Eclecticism to the Modern Movement. The full press release may be downloaded from [www.ktpmalta.com](http://www.ktpmalta.com).



In the meantime the Kamra submitted a list to MEPA indicating a number of buildings that it feels require protection. These include the Joinwell Building and Rediffusion House.

### KTP BECOMES MEMBER OF ECCE



**European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers**

The 47<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) was held in Latvia on the 23-24 May 2008. KTP Vice-President, Perit Vincent Cassar, attended the meeting during which the KTP was officially confirmed as a member.

ECCE was created in 1985 out of the common concern of the professional bodies for Civil Engineers in Europe that the Civil Engineers working together across Europe could offer much more to assist Europe advance its built Environment and protect the natural environment. At a European Union level, ECCE aims to promote the highest technical and ethical standards, to provide a source of impartial advice, and promote co-operation with other pan-European organisations in the construction industry. ECCE formulates guidelines to maintain and raise standards of civil engineering education, training and professional competence, as well as assisting in achieving mutual compatibility of Euro codes, standards and regulations in the related industry and encouraging and improving levels of safety and quality in the industry. ECCE is currently looking for fixed premises in Brussels. In addition, one of the sub-committees is preparing a publication that will include examples of civil engineering works in all the member countries. KTP is to suggest local projects to be included in this publication.

### KTP DELEGATION TO ATTEND UIA CONFERENCE



From 29 June to 3 July 2008, the city of Turin, Italy, will host the 23rd congress of the International Union of Architects. Periti Danica Mifsud, Alberto Miceli Farrugia, Tony Fenech Vella and David Pace will be attending on behalf of the KTP. Perit Vincent Cassar will also be present as a member of the ACE Executive Board. Focused on the theme: Transmitting Architecture, the congress will analyse all aspects of a profession that must, on a daily basis, concern itself with the quality of living conditions, the city, landscape, and environment through a dialogue with all stakeholders. The programme offers a large range of conferences animated by architects and international experts who will engage a multidisciplinary debate. Speakers will include: Mario Bellini, Gary Chang, Odile Decq, Peter Eisenman, Massimiliano Fuksas, Thomas Herzog, Tagit Klimor, David Knafo, Kengo Kuma, Michele de Lucchi, Dominique Perrault, Renzo Piano, Hani Rashid, Joseph Rykwert, Alvaro Siza, Paolo Soleri, Muhammad Yunus. The UIA Member Sections and working bodies will also organise debates and exhibitions. Further information may be obtained on [www.uia2008torino.org](http://www.uia2008torino.org)

### KTP TO PARTICIPATE DURING EFAP CONFERENCE

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) conference organized by the Slovenian Presidency will be held on 15-17 June 2008 in Ljubljana. Perit Vincent Cassar, vice-president of the Kamra tal-Periti is to attend. KTP is currently finalising the process for full membership of the Forum.

### KTP PARTICIPATES IN REAL ESTATE FORUM



KTP President, David Felice, addressed the Real Estate Forum held on the 04 June, with a presentation entitled "The Economics of Design: Adding Quality and Value to the Built Environment." This year's Forum was intended to centre on the importance of upgrading the investment value of real estate in Malta as well as address the issue of supply and demand based on the conclusions achieved in the first real estate forum of 2007. The forum was also addressed by Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism, Mario De Marco who highlighted his views on positioning the real estate product as an integral part of Malta's unique tourism value proposition.

### KTP ATTENDS MEETING WITH MEPA EXPERT



Members of the KTP Built Environment Standing Committee met with expert brought over by MEPA, Prof. Ali, on the 30 May 2008. An expert on Tall buildings and Seismic design, with interest on Flood-proof habitation, Prof. MM Ali has been with many committees at the American Concrete Institute and Council on Tall Buildings & Urban Habitat. His most valued association with legendary FR Khan resulted into a book “Art of the Skyscraper”. Prof. Ali’s visit to Malta is part of MEPA’s work on the formulation of a Tall Building Policy for the Maltese Islands. The KTP is currently working on the possible organisation of a Tall Building seminar which is to be held later this year.

### KTP MEETS WITH MINISTER MIFSUD BONNICI



A meeting was held on the 07 May 2008 with Minister Carm Mifsud Bonnici regarding the proposed amendments to Tariff K, following the approval of the draft by the KTP Extra General Meeting held last month. David Felice, Vincent Cassar and Damian Vella Lenicker attended the meeting. Both sides expressed their views on Tariff K, in particular regarding the preparation of valuation reports. The *Kamra tal-Periti* presented copies of the *Valuations Standards* document and *The Urban Challenge* to the Minister, together with various position papers outlining the activities undertaken and decisions reached by the *Kamra* in recent months and agreed to hold further consultations, correspond more closely and co-operate with the Ministry in order to address the issues discussed.

### KAMRA TO BE INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION REGARDING COURSE STRUCTURE



Newly-appointed Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Prof Alex Torpiano responded to the KTP’s request for a meeting, and this was held on the 03 June 2008. David Felice, Vincent Cassar and Keith Cole attended the meeting. Following the recommendations of the Federation of Professional Bodies that there should be representatives of the professions on the Faculty Boards, Prof. Torpiano has attempted to appoint a KTP representative on the Architecture Faculty Board. However, this issue has as yet not been resolved. Prof. Torpiano presented a draft revision to the present course structure which proposes a number of changes. This is currently being discussed by the KTP Council and feedback shall be forwarded to the Dean in the coming days.

### KTP TO PARTICIPATE IN ACE SECTOR STUDY

The Architects’ Council of Europe (ACE) has commissioned the U.K. firm of Mirza & Nacey Research Ltd to carry out Phase II of the Sector Study which is primarily aimed at establishing a comprehensive picture of the state of the Architectural profession in Europe. Mirza & Nacey Research Ltd will be surveying individual architects throughout Europe, with the aim to collect hard facts about the businesses they work in, their working conditions, perceptions of their reputation, status, career satisfaction and the challenges they face. The ACE sees this work as an essential starting point to explore the situation of our profession in Europe. It is vital that KTP members have their say. This will ensure that the report is as comprehensive as possible and has maximum impact and relevance. KTP Secretariat shall be sending a link to this online survey to random periti in the coming days.

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