



**THE PROFESSIONAL  
CENTRE  
SLIEMA ROAD  
GZIRA GZR 1633 -  
MALTA  
TEL./FAX. (+356) 2131**

**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*

16 February 2008

## **FACING THE URBAN CHALLENGE**

### **ARCHITECTURE & A COMMITMENT TO A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE**

In the light of the forthcoming elections, the *Kamra tal-Periti* calls on all stakeholders to collectively re-commit themselves to better quality in architecture and urban design and to higher standards in the construction of buildings and urban spaces for the benefit of the community.

This statement follows the launch in November 2007 of the *Kamra tal-Periti's* Policy Document on the state of the Built and Natural Environment entitled ***The Urban Challenge: Our Quality of Life and the Built Environment***. The document reinforces the belief that quality is essential in adding value to any investment in the country's future. More so where the country's built environment is concerned, since better standards will result in a better quality of life for our citizens and an environment better geared to attract investment and tourism.

During the Annual General Meeting of 7th December 2007, the members of the *Kamra tal-Periti* expressed their unanimous support to this Position Paper and called upon the country's political parties to endorse this document and to include its recommendations within their electoral programme.

The *Kamra's* exposure over recent years to the workings of the Architect's Council of Europe (ACE) and the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) encouraged the *Kamra* to embark on the process leading to the publication of this document, which is intended to promote the *Kamra's* urgent call for a more sustainable development of the built and rural environment and for the endorsement of quality in design as an essential tool for the nation's economic and social development.

The publication of this Policy Paper represents a significant step towards the *Kamra's* longer term goals of having a National Policy of Architecture adopted by Government and of establishing a national Centre for Architecture and the Built Environment including for the creation of an Independent Design Review Commission.

The *Kamra's* Position Paper makes recommendations for better protection of the nation's heritage (built and natural) and the strengthening of the process and management of change (planning), which needs to embrace and build on the values inherent in the country's cultural and geopolitical standing in a global society and suggests more focus in our education system on encouraging creativity and innovation from as early an age as possible and sets an agenda for the renovation of the profession and, recognises the important contribution of all stakeholders.

***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 KTP is also proud to announce that Perit Vincent Cassar, currently a member of the Council of the *Kamra tal-Periti*, has been elected on the Executive Board of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) during elections which were recently held in Brussels. Seven representatives from six different European Chambers, including Spain, France, Poland, United Kingdom, Belgium and Malta contested the elections, held during the General Assembly of the ACE. Perit Cassar was the third elected with a total of 258 votes from 19 different countries and was confirmed as the Treasurer of ACE for the coming two years. This is the second time the *Kamra tal-Periti* is to be represented on the ACE Executive Board. Perit David Felice, the current President of the Kamra was a member of the Executive Board in 2006 and was the ACE delegate on the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP). Perit David Pace is also currently the Secretary General of the Mediterranean Union of Architects (UMAR).

During the above mentioned KTP Annual General Meeting, the Council of the Kamra tal-Periti for 2008 was confirmed as follows: David Felice: President, Chair Board of Professional Conduct; Vincent Cassar: Vice President, Co-ordinator Architecture Centre Work Group; Simone Vella Lenicker, Honorary Secretary; Alberto Miceli Farrugia, Philip Grech: Co-Chairs Built Environment Standing Committee; Anthony Fenech Vella: Chair International Standing Committee; Damian Vella Lenicker: Chair Professional Practice Standing Committee; Danica Mifsud, Etienne Micallef Grimaud: Co-Chairs Communications and Events Standing Committees; Keith Cole: Chair Education Standing Committee and Frank Giordmaina Medici: Chair Finance Standing Committee.

More information regarding the *Kamra tal-Periti* as well as a digital version of *The Urban Challenge* may be downloaded from [www.ktpmalta.com](http://www.ktpmalta.com)

---

The Kamra tal-Periti is the recognised professional body representing architects and civil engineers in Malta. It is established according to regulations made by the Minister responsible for Works in terms of the provisions of the Periti Act (Chapter 390 of the Laws of Malta). Its mission is to support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community. The administration of the Kamra is entrusted to its council which consists of periti elected from amongst its members. The council is supported by a Secretariat and Standing Committees for the Built Environment, Professional Conduct, International Affairs, Education, Professional Practice, Events, Communications and Finance. It has also formed a workgroup for the setting up of a Centre for the Built Environment. The Kamra is an active member of the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) and the Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR). It is affiliated with the International Union of Architects (UIA), the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) and the Commonwealth Architects Association (CAA). The Kamra currently has observer status with the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE). The Kamra has representatives on several bodies in Malta including the Warranting Board tal-Periti, the Building Industry Consultative Committee (BICC), DOCOMOMO (Malta), and the Users' Committee (MEPA). The Kamra is the organiser of Architecture Nights, a series of public lectures by internationally acclaimed architects or architectural critics, and Time for Architecture, an annual architecture festival held in October to commemorate World Architecture Day. The Kamra also publishes a journal on a quarterly basis called The Architect (tA).

***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).***