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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*

13 March 2008

## KAMRA TAL-PERITI WELCOMES GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### SEEKS ENDORSEMENT OF ITS POSITION PAPER THE URBAN CHALLENGE: OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Kamra tal-Periti congratulates Dr Lawrence Gonzi and the Nationalist Party on their electoral success; above all the Kamra would like to express its support for the commitment shown towards the environment, sustainable development and the reform of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and their inclusion within the Prime Minister's portfolio.

Prior to the elections, the *Kamra tal-Periti* had called on all political parties to commit themselves to striving for 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. The electoral campaign demonstrated a new willingness to intensify the national discussion on the environment, both built and natural, and on the institutions that regulate it; this is in itself positive and we commend any effort by the political leaders of the country to place this issue high on the national agenda.

These measures follow the publication 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.

It is with this in mind that the *Kamra* makes this call for the endorsement of the document and its contents by the Government. *The Urban Challenge* is also greatly inspired by the work of the Architects Council of Europe (ACE), of which the *Kamra* is an active member and reference is also being made to one of its statements made in another document, called "Architecture and Quality of Life",

*‘The construction activities of society are one of the reliable indicators of change. The built environment records the mood of society more than any other form of cultural expression. Society’s economic and social efficiency is made legible through the way it treats its public spaces and through the nature and extent of its construction activities. A fully functional, quality and well-managed built environment has a motivating effect on society; it sustains its identity and propels it to excellence in all undertakings.’*

The *Kamra* now looks forward with enthusiasm to the possibility to engage in discussion with Government and to offer its contribution, to cause real and urgent change based on a commitment to better quality in architecture and an urban environment that reflects our social and economic aspirations.

*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)*

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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).