MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
held in the Harrison Room, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Australia
on Tuesday and Wednesday 17 and 18 April 2007

Present:

Council:
Llewellyn van Wyk President South Africa
Gordon Holden Senior Vice President New Zealand
Philip Kungu Immediate Past President Kenya
Adrian Dobson Honorary Secretary Treasurer UK
Ralph Mills-Tettey Vice President Africa (West) Ghana
William Harris Alternate VP Americas Guyana
Mubasshar Hussain Vice President Asia Bangladesh (first part)
Christos Panayiotides Vice President Europe Europe
John Sinclair Oceania New Zealand
Balbir Verma Chair Practice India (second part)
George Henderson Chair Validation UK

Secretariat:
Tony Godwin Executive Director UK

Country Delegates
Hassan Asmal South African Institute of Architects, President
Divya Kush Indian Institute of Architects, Jr. Vice President
Carey Lyon Royal Australian Institute of Architects, President
Gideon Mulyungi Architects Association of Kenya, President
Mark Olweny Uganda Society of Architects, Council member
Jayantha Perera Sri Lankan Institute of Architects, President
Richard Hastilow Royal Institute of British Architects, CEO
Mubasshar Hussain Bangladesh Institute of Architects, President
Christos Panayiotides Cyprus Civil Engineers and Architects Association, Vice President
Ralph Mills-Tettey Ghana Institute of Architects, Registrar ARC
William Harris Guyana Institute of Architects, Council member
Ronald Lu Hong Kong Institute of Architects, President
John Sinclair New Zealand Institute of Architects, Past President
Rahim Milani Papua New Guinea Institute of Architects, Vice President

Observers:
Alexander Lush Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Council member
David Parken Royal Australian Institute of Architects, CEO
Tom Pilensa Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Martha Liew* Royal Australian Institute of Architects, National Education Manager
Joshua Morrin* SONA Australia, President /RAIA
Patrick Stein* SONA Australia, Vice President Communications /RAIA
Francis Mungai Architects Association of Kenya, CAA Alternate VP Africa (East)
Al Stratford South African Institute of Architects, Vice-President
Rukshan Widyalankara Sri Lankan Institute of Architects, IP President
Louise Cox UIA First Vice President (representing UIA President Geatan Seiw)
Steven Oundo** Architects Association of Kenya, Vice President

Apologies
Mark Raymond CAA Chair Communications, Trinidad and Tobago
Linda Moore CAA Vice President Americas, Barbados

* Present Day 1 only, ** Present Day 2 only
CAA Commonwealth Association of Architects

Notes on attendance list

David Parken and Carey Lyon had to leave after the morning session on Day 2 and thereafter RAIA was represented by Tom Pilensa.

Student Organised Network for Architecture (SONA) is the national student membership arm of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

TUESDAY, 17 APRIL 2007

WELCOME

Carey Lyon, President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, opened the General Assembly at 09:00 with a welcoming address.

1.0 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from the Institutes of Architects of Bermuda, Malta, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

1.2 The member institutes present and their respective representatives were noted.

2.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT ***

Llewellyn van Wyk presented his report for the period 2003 to 2006/7 and elaborated on some of his experiences during the nearly four years of his presidency. He emphasised that the CAA was a unique organisation addressing diversity in the world through a developmental agenda focussing on distinct issues;

- Equipping teachers, students, researchers and architects to deal with the extraordinary challenges of the 21st century;
- Closing what is commonly called the north-south divide in knowledge, skills and technology and in respecting the cultural diversity which is an integral part of that divide; and
- How architects and environmental designers bring about sustainable building and construction activities in the wider sense.

He highlighted achievements of the three year term;

- Review of the Red Book – CAA’s Validation Procedures, with appreciation to the efforts of Gordon Holden and George Henderson;
- Drafting of a Code of Ethics for the CAA – as mandated by the General Assembly in South Africa, for later adoption;
- Completion and publication of An Architect’s Guide to Sustainability which received an award and was nominated for a second;
- Establishment of the P2P programme – to facilitate partnerships between practices, especially between north and south within the Commonwealth;
- Participation in the Global debate around Architectural Validation;
- 7th Student Competition;
- Strengthening relations with the Commonwealth Foundation – thereby receiving grant funding for activities and core funding to run the organisation.

In addition, CAA assisted the New Zealand Institute in connection with registration legislation and to Bangladesh for the protection of the Assembly Building by Louis Khan.

He added that, despite CAA’s limited administrative capacity and modest budget, one could be satisfied at what had been achieved over the period. This was done with an extraordinary network of people sharing their knowledge, expertise and experience, often in partnership or collaboration with others, to the benefit of all.
He advised the meeting that consideration was being given to change from a portfolio-based to an activity-based organisation.

The President thanked the Executive Director and members of Council for their support and the General Assembly for the honour bestowed on him, adding that it had been an enriching experience.

3.0 ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

3.1 Minutes of the 17th General Assembly

3.1.1 The Minutes of the 17th General Assembly held in Bloemfontein, South Africa in August 2002 were considered and the following corrections were noted:

Refer Minute 3.4.7 (ii)
Ralph Mills-Tettey from Ghana (not Nigeria) and Francis Mungai (not Frances)

3.1.2 Ralph Mills-Tettey proposed, Ronald Lu seconded and the meeting adopted the minutes subject to the above corrections.

3.2 Executive Director’s Report (Appendix A)

In closing, Tony Godwin thanked the RAIA, particularly, David Parken and his staff for arranging to host the Assembly particularly at such short notice following the decision not to go to Bangladesh.

3.3 Honorary Secretary/treasurer

3.3.1 Constitution and Charity Commission

The Charity Commission has accepted the Constitution that was agreed at the last General Assembly in 2003. The current three trustees, Roger Shrimplin, George Henderson and Adrian Dobson (all UK based) should be supplemented with an additional two to meet the five required.

3.3.2 CAA Trust Fund

CAA trust fund has a sum of £600. This is not held in a separate account but identified within the reserves of the organisation.

3.3.3 Accounts 2005/2006

Assembly noted the 2006 draft accounts (with 2005 figures for comparison), which Council will adopt when audited.

3.3.4 Budget 2007-2010 (the period to the 19th General Assembly)

Adrian Dobson presented the budget noting the following points;

a  The budget was a plan, not necessarily fixed, but took into account various activities for which CAA was are committed to a greater or lesser degree;

- Website maintenance
- Validation with an increase in 2010 when the contract with the RIBA is due for renegotiation.
- Pre CHOGM workshop, Uganda (committed) with scope for debate about the level of participation at CHOGM 2009, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Student Competition
- 19th General Assembly
b. The postponement of the General Assembly from 2006 to 2007 results in loosing a year in the normal 3-year cycle.

c. A modest growth of 2% in subscription rate has been allowed.

d. A significant increase in administration costs has been allowed for the negotiation of new rates with the South African Institute of Architects and the Executive Director.

e. Council travel in 2008 only has been allowed for a Council meeting at the UIA Congress in Turin.

f. The budget builds up reserves to cover the deficit expected in a General Assembly year and shows a cumulative surplus of £6000.

h. The following points arose from discussions:
   - A conservative view (no income) has been taken for sponsorship
   - The importance of the website
   - No charge is made for validation visits
   - More income generating activity is required.

3.4 Nominations for election of Council Members 2007-2010

The following were elected:

3.4.1 President: Gordon Holden New Zealand

3.4.2 Honorary Secretary/Treasurer: Adrian Dobson United Kingdom

3.4.3 Committee Chairs:
   a. Education: MK Ahmadu Nigeria
   b. Practice: Balbir Verma India
   c. Communication: No nominations

   It was agreed that Council would seek capable female nominations for this post.

3.4.4 The following appointments of Regional Vice Presidents were notified by the Regions:
   Africa: Francis Mungai. Kenya
   Americas: William Harris. Guyana
   Asia: Rukshan Widyalankara. Sri Lanka
   Europe: Christos Panayiotides. Cyprus
   Oceania: John Sinclair. New Zealand

   The assembly mandated Council to seek nominations for Vice president alternates (in particular for the Africa region where the appointment assists with representation)

3.4.5 Senior Vice President: Mubasshar Hussain Bangladesh
(Nominated by Institute of Architects Bangladesh and seconded by Indian Institute of Architects)

4.0 EDUCATION

4.1 No Education Report

4.1.1 Sri Lanka Tsunami student study tour
   Gordon Holden reported on the study tour undertaken by students from his school at University of Wellington, New Zealand

4.2 Validation

4.2.1 Chair of Validation Report*** (George Henderson)
   a. George Henderson gave his report
   b. The respective country delegates indicated that reports of recent visiting boards to Papua New Guinea and Kenya had not been received by the schools and this will be investigated
4.2.2 RED BOOK Review (Gordon Holden)

a The major changes proposed beyond tiding up and clarifications were additions;
   ▪ Accommodating the trend to masters degrees
   ▪ Procedures for considering courses delivered offshore
   ▪ Explicit encouragement for study outside the core subjects of architecture and research
     led teaching

b Further possible additions had come to light in the ‘Gap Analysis’ of systems carried out by the
Validation Roundtable (see below) and it was agreed that these be incorporated and the
document circulated one final time for comment prior to ‘sign off’ by the Validation panel
Executive Committee

4.2.3 Invitational Accreditation/Validation Roundtable Conference, Ottawa 7-9 May 2007

Gordon Holden and George Henderson will represent CAA at this meeting

Presentation

FROM EASTGATE TO CH2 - From Sustainable Development to Sustainable retreat

Michael Pearce

Group Photograph

5.0 COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Website

5.2 Ejournal Contract

Llewellyn Van Wyk explained that the concept was based on a successful publishing model used
by the South African Institute of Architects to produce the Journal of South African Architecture
and is currently generating R120 000 per year.

The proposal is to produce an electronic journal at no financial, or other risk, to CAA. CAA has to
source material and the publishing house will edit this and produce the journal. The venture relies
on circulation to generate advertising revenue. The distribution method would be by institutes to
their individual members. This requires two actions from members;
   ▪ To distribute the journal mails
   ▪ To provide material for publication.

LVW said his idea for initial material would be to feature award winning work from institutes.
Distribution was discussed and some members notably UK and Australia could not do this,
particularly if the journal included advertising. LVW asked delegates to check this matter with
their institutes with a view to overcoming any such issues.

6.0 PRACTICE

6.1 Chair of Practice Report*** (Balbir Verma)

6.2 An Architect’s Guide to Designing for Sustainability (Llewellyn van Wyk)

The guide can be found at;
http://www.comarchitect.org/WebHelp/an_architect_s_guide_to_designing_for_sustainability.htm

The difference in this guide from others in the market is its inclusion of the social dimension of
sustainability.

Gordon Holden congratulated Llewellyn for this milestone document and proposed a formal
launching. A press release was required discussing the difference with other systems and the
relationship of the social community issues to the mandate of CAA.
6.3 Community Asset Management (George Henderson)

The Project is now finished and the output available in a publication entitled ‘The Rough guide to Community Asset Management’, as a series of case studies to help people who are working with poor communities to develop health care buildings and schools. CAA was asked to collaborate on this project by offering its network, knowledge and input.

We offered our institutional network in the 3 countries involved, Malawi, South Africa and Kenya, and then asked those professionals we contacted both in academic and professional circles to nominate projects or particular interesting buildings that would act as examples.

What we have are a series of case studies, which look at the effectiveness of added building mainly in education and in health care. In those three countries that may have worked through some interesting ideas that are useful in other parts of Africa mainly but also building on work in India who is in the same field.

The final report of this activity carried out with DFID (UK’s Department for International Development) and other partners will be distributed to members.

6.4 Proposed activities. Commonwealth Foundation grant application

6.4.1 Global Studio Johannesburg. (Tony Godwin)

It is a conference on people building better cities and then a workshop following that. Promoting dialogue between city building students, academics, professionals and community representatives on best practices in people centred participation planning and design.

The Global Studio itself was started in 2004 spearheaded by the Millennium Project Taskforce on improving the lives of slum dwellers. It also featured an event at the World Forum last year.

6.4.2 Sustainable infrastructure Development: Seminar and Study Projects, Uganda (Mark Olweny)

Mark explained that they had started to look at infrastructure and the effect of infrastructure in cities and towns in particular how that linked with the theme of CHOGM, which had to do with harnessing peoples potential. The workshop took the Architects Guide for Designing for Sustainability and looked at how one could apply that to a project assessment screening before tendering a project.

It was proposed that students from the two schools in Uganda select some real local infrastructure projects constructed. As they could see what had actually happened, they could then look at the project from the beginning, process it through this guide and see how it could have been done differently to avoid any problems that occurred both in the delivery and sustainability of the project.

6.5 GATS and Architects***. (Balbir Verma)

When we were talking about the sustainability, the sustainable environment and sustainable buildings it is also important that the practices of architects are wholly sustainable practices and this is going to be very important in the future.

GATS stands for General Agreement of Trade in Services. It is the first ever set of legally enforceable rules governing international trading services.

A cross border supply of services from one country to another without anyone moving from their normal location. It means providing consultancy electronically or by mail from one country without physical presence in the other country.
There are 5 principle GATS negotiations:

1. Comfort level
   Negotiations on trading services shall be conducted with a view to promote economic growth of all trading partners and the development of developing and least developing countries does consider the comfort level of each sector.

2. Flexibility
   We should understand that it is not necessary to open all sector but the procedures should facilitate compulsory partnership under the existing system.

3. Special attention
   After considering the first and second points it is understood that special attention shall be given to the sectors of export of interest to developing countries and not only to facilitate import of services from underdeveloped countries.

4. Estimated growth rate
   It is understood that in time to come it is the developing countries who have the growth rate will be more than 7% or 8% whereas there are going to be more opportunities in the developing world than there will be opportunities in the developed world.

5. National and professional interest
   Member countries stand to gain from liberalisation in services of large scale and competent workforce in terms of outgoing persons.

Refer to full paper for further information***

7.0 CAA ACTIVITY BUDGET AND FUNDING

7.1 Budget

Referring to the budget presented in 3.3.3 above the Assembly gave the following direction:

- That sponsorship expectation for the student competition should be introduced releasing funds for other activities.
- GATS was an informing role for CAA collecting and passing on information especially to non/UIA members. As such, some staff time was required. The UIA might contribute time to send emails.
- There is a need to implement secretarial attendance on all validation visits (currently only used on ‘back to back’ visits where CAA pays for this) but the schools should be charged for this.
- That the two priorities for development should be P2P and website development.

8.0 AWARDS

8.1 Student Design Competition

It was agreed that the competition remains international.

8.2 Robert Matthew Award** (report attached at Appendix D)

John Sinclair, Richard Hastilow and Philip Kungu were invited to be jury members for the award and were unable to make an award. The jury report*** is at Appendix D.

Not awarded and the jury report is attached

END DAY 1
Day 2 18 April

10.0 Projects 2 Partner (John Sinclair).

10.1 Introduction. Appendix B

10.2 Discussion

LVW wondered if the concept could be taken broader where P2P is an interface to CAA connectivity and where the business component is a subset and other subsets can be plugged in. P2P is a facilitating framework. JS was clear that the proposition was deliberately closed and of practical help to practising architects.

Gordon Holden wondered if the database material was already available from other sources. JS suggests not because of the qualifications placed on members; first that they are CAA members and then their commercial imperative determining that they want to be on the database. Success would be measured first by the number of firms on the database and second by the number of commissions recorded as having been achieved by the partnerships formed.

It was resolved to provide further seed funding of £5000 to P2P as a subscription self-funded activity, subject to a review after one year (carried by 14 votes to 5 with 2 abstentions).

11.00 CAA Code of Ethics
Not discussed

Message from UIA. (Louise Cox)

12.0 Member Institute Reports***
Written reports from: Australia, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, UK.

12.1 Australia and following alphabetically

12.30 Presentation
ARCHITECTURE AT THE URBAN SCALE - A Typology of Procedures and Products
Professor Jon Lang

13.0 Address by the new President (Gordon Holden) Appendix C

14.0 Any Other Business

15.0 Date & Place of the 19th General Assembly

Sri Lanka registered an interest and they were given 30 days to prepare bid accordance with the CAA bid document. This would not preclude other countries expressing an interest during this period.

17.0 Closing Statement by the outgoing President, Llewellyn van Wyk

Llewellyn van Wyk announced that he had been appointed Region V Africa Director of the UIA Sustainable development workgroup.
Appendix A. Executive Director’s Report. Tony Godwin

Governance and Organisation

CAA is a UK registered charity and has to appoint five trustees accountable to the Charity Commission for conformity to their requirements. This does not change the day-to-day operation and management of the organisation but a majority of the five have to be resident in the UK.

The Association is administered under a contract with the South African Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects administers the Validation system.

Activities

Validation is the largest and most important activity and the procedures set out in the Red Book are demanding.

The Student Competition, particularly since the advent of the support of the Architectural Review, is popular, attracting interest outside the Commonwealth, and it was decided to make it open to the world. This also has a profile raising effect for the CAA.

Communication has been neglected but we should consider investing more in the website.

The President has a representation role, particularly at the UIA and the benefit of having Council meetings at UIA conferences has been to express, tangibly, CAA’s policy of ‘collaboration not duplication’ with the work of the global body.

In broader terms, we have moved from running a larger number of small activities, essentially funding speakers to member events or initiating practice seminars to a small number of large activities more ‘global’ in extent. Projects2Partner (P2P), an emerging activity, is an example of such.

The Commonwealth

The institutional and governmental levels of the Commonwealth seem to be in good health but funding is a problem and the Commonwealth Foundation budget has been fixed for a long time. Significantly for us, the Foundation, with a new Director with a background in environmental management, now has Sustainable Development as one of its three programme streams into which CAA, with its long running commitment to sustainability, fits with considerable purpose.

In 2005, together with our fellow professional associations in the built environment, we ran a workshop as part of the People’s Forum prior to CHOGM. This is a civil society discussion resulting in a communiqué incorporating ‘calls’ from the various workshops, which is presented at the Heads of Government meeting. The Foundation holds consultative meetings in London prior to CHOGM and I represent CAA at these meetings.

Council

Your Council has been hardworking and committed and each, without exception, has led or contributed to an activity, and in some cases, more than one.

April 2007
Appendix B. Introduction to Projects 2 Partner. John Sinclair

The concept of P2P really arose out of the CAA lunch reception held at the UIA Congress in Istanbul. I was sitting with a number of colleagues including Joseph Kyaagba, from Nigeria. One concern that was expressed was the manner in which major projects, particularly those carried out with offshore funding in developing countries, were handled. Major firms from Europe and North America tended to be the only ones that could satisfy major funder delivery criteria and there was very little, if any, engagement in the project delivery with local cultural issues, contracting capability and methodologies. The question was whether this was satisfying the brief and I am minded here of the Architects Guide for Sustainability which does address these social issues and the appropriateness of what we do in the project development process.

UIA President Geitan Siew was talking at a recent World Urban Forum about the problems that faced continuing urbanisation and the world. He said, “Ten years of concrete actions, twenty years of lectures accompanied by actions that range from egocentrism to megalomania had led to terrible sufferings of humanity and the worst possible living conditions in a large number of cities, regardless of the social economic level to which they belong.” I was impressed by the fact that the UN estimates that more than half of the world population now lives in urban environments. Almost a third of the world’s urban population will live in segregated suburbs with inadequate dwellings and high levels of criminality without essential public services; that is nearly a billion people."

Geitan Siew went on to comment that “Governments abandonment of long term policies and appropriate actions has allowed for the creation of settlements where individuals think, incorrectly, that they can find a better quality of life for their family. Urban misery is worse than any other notion of poverty because it often compounds the situations of poverty with the loss of human values. Urban growth today is a chronic illness. It is time to accept reality and recognise the malfunctioning of the existing systems, promote shared responsibilities and act in the short term to cure as far as possible while preparing for long term futures.”

I believe that this situation not only offers commercial opportunities but also creates an obligation on practicing architects to contribute their skills in a way that is most effective. I am sure that the talk, the planning, the reports and the government in aid organisation commitments will go on as they should but in the meantime I suggest that as practicing architects we actually do something. In doing something, it is important that we recognise some of the real issues involved, which, while they may not make the highflying agendas at the top, they are very real when it comes to actually doing the work. The biggest one we have constantly is the need for projects to adequately engage with local cultural and local regulatory and industry norms. However, the reality is, that funding agencies require resources and track records, CV’s and skills in projects that local architects will not have. So, the work tends to go to consultant companies who can satisfy funder logistic corporate procurement requirements. This is fair enough from the funder’s point of view; they should require confidence and certainty in the experience and performance of their consultants.

**So how to address this issue?** I had a press release from the Trinidad and Tobago Institute recently and they quoted their Prime Minister who said that local consultants of the design and construction industry are taking too long (to design projects). This is why the government uses foreign consultants and contractors. That is what P2P is all about.

CAA offers, in my view, an invaluable context within which to deal with these issues. CAA is uniquely placed to form effective alliances and go to these major funders and show that, not only can we satisfy their requirements but also we can positively address the real issues of major development work that responds to, and contributes to, the need of a country in all respects.

**What is P2P?** It is Projects to Partnerships, the concept as a function of CAA to facilitate the formation of architectural partnerships to provide consultant services on major aid and offshore funded projects. Importantly it enables architects in developing countries to participate in those major projects in their country and on the other side it enables the larger well resourced practices in developed countries who want to do international work to include local knowledge and industry skills in the project bid.
We are saying that a CAA P2P partnership will be able to offer a demonstrable workable combination of local culture and industry, with local industry knowledge with project experience skills and resources.

Membership of P2P will entitle a member firm to access a database that will list project opportunities and will list the capabilities of the member firms.

**Why CAA is the logical organisation to host P2P?**

- We have commonality of qualifications, of language and a general alignment of contract systems.
- CAA is also a conduit to the Commonwealth Governments and to CHOGM. However, the most important matter is the ability of the CAA to act as conduit.
- CAA and Commonwealth endorsement is a very valuable thing when firms are presenting or bidding for major projects.
- CAA has an established communication system, which I would like to think we could readily plug the P2P database into.
- P2P represents an opportunity for CAA to do something positive for practicing member architects.

So when we are faced with members questioning why belong to CAA and the value of membership, P2P can be counted along with Validation and our other activities. People understand validation but practising architects were never validated.

**How will it work?**

- CAA uses its position to obtain endorsement from organisations like the Commonwealth Secretariat and Foundation, from CHOGM and through member institutes from Governments and major aid agencies.
- CAA establishes and maintains the P2P database of major project opportunities and the information on P2P members and that database is available to subscribing CAA P2P members.
- On that database qualifying members list their details and what they can do as a firm.
- P2P members use that website, not only to identify projects but also to establish who would be a potential partner for a bid they wish to make for a project.
- Any conference or General Assembly, like the one in Dhaka, does offer an opportunity for those architects to meet face to face. Such P2P Forums will bring more practicing architects to our General Assembly.

**Membership?**

- It is not free. We have targeted an initial fee of $150 a year and that in our view will make it self-financing, in fact it should be giving a return back to CAA Administration in 3 years time.
- The initial subscription we had planned to cover conference forum costs in Dhaka so people would be paying that in addition to their General Assembly Registration fees. P2P was established as a parallel programme. It was divided into seven sessions. The programme was a mix of speakers.
- We are suggesting to firms that this is part of their promotional budget. This is aimed at developing work.

**Requirements for participating practices?**

- Would have to be a member of the CAA member institute
- Has to be in good standing with their national institute
- Have to pay the application fee and registration
- Provide online practice information verified by the member institute that this matches the data they hold
- Provide feedback to the P2P database when alliances are formed and successful project bids achieved
Pre-requisites for the Project

- We are looking for delegates to get commitments from their institutes; to encourage membership; to confirm applications for membership; and to act as an advocate where possible with their Government.
- We need a Council member who would take responsibility for managing CAA P2P.
- We need a commitment from a member institute to host CAA P2P (initially). I believe that it must be something that CAA decides to budget for and it has to enter into a contract with an institute to provide those services.
- Endorsement from this Assembly.
Appendix C – President’s Address Gordon Holden

In the challenges we have ahead of us I think we have been rediscovering many of our own roots. The essence of who we are what we do well and why, and for me this is the skeleton and it’s now a matter of ensuring that the ‘flesh’ we add to that skeleton confirms the traditions we already have.

A starting point for me was what we say we do: We are here for the advancement of architecture throughout the Commonwealth and the acquisition of knowledge of the various arts and services there in. In particular promoting co-operation between members and other equivalent organisations. Ensuring the maximum contribution of architects to the well being of society and encouraging activities on a regional basis.

I have pulled out of that a couple of key words. Acquisition of knowledge; we can connect that to validation and workshops and training. Co-operation; we can connect that now to P2P and other activities we undertake and of course, the word “activities” is central to the platform that we reminded ourselves of yesterday as one of our enduring success stories.

We are also saying to the world that we wish to share built environment knowledge and we do this through networks of individuals that we wish to co-operate with, the wider commonwealth and multinational bodies, to promote the contribution that the profession can make and of course be aware of global issues and trends.

We also highlight that we wish to channel support to smaller and less developed communities of architects. That one has come back squarely onto our agenda when we now talk about the level of subscription especially for smaller institutes.

A lot of these objectives are altruistic and noble but I think we have a history of translating them into very tangible, very real output with success stories and we have many of them. I was so pleased to hear Rahim’s (Milani, Head of School, UNITEC Lae, PNG) - the CD of a master class operation dating back to 1989 that now has a life of its own and is completely independently funded. This is what we do; we help get things started.

I do hear that we are seeking to re-commit ourselves to major ongoing projects, Cities and Sustainability. I totally endorse this. We also have an ongoing commitment to Architecture for All. I am very keen that we re-commit to that and re interpret that and discover new projects that we should be engaged with that will assist that.

The other major activity that has achieved high credibility is the Validation process. We had our discussion about revisions to the procedures and there are some more to come. We are about to engage with a validation of validations systems on the global scene and one of the things that we bring to that process, is the Red Book that actually entrenched the concept of recognition of systems way back in drafting in 1998. Now we are seeing that being owned by a whole range of others and slightly proud of our leadership in this role.

So talking a little bit about our achievements, I think we should reflect on some of our ongoing challenges. Our first challenge is that we are running a £60 000 budget and unless we gear that budget is a limiting factor. We don’t count our own contribution and time that we make as individuals and as organisations.

What we are doing well and why. We have common language so we communicate. We have common education with derivations but nevertheless still very recognisable in those. We essentially have a common legal framework. This is what distinguishes us from other organisations especially the UIA, because they are trying to cross some of those tricky boundaries.

I think the validation system has new dimensions that we have to consider. One is recognition that there is a gap post graduation and pre registration, for those countries that have registration.
What happens after the graduate leaves and before they are fully accepted as capable architects? This has been the grey area for most institutes around the world and mostly the universities have said, “Well, that is not our business any more. We don’t get paid for that and the profession has said they should be preparing the graduates. The educational institutions are charged within their context to prepare graduates as thinking people capable of bringing knowledge to bear, and it is an investment in the future to translate that and give it reality, those graduates need to be trained. We can’t leave that body of people out there on a limb.

My vision here is that we need another section to the Red Book that addresses the policies and procedures and types of educational packages that might be able to be prepared. Again, as I mentioned the other night, I don’t see this as a very costly of difficult task. However, I can see within the capabilities of our constituent Institutes and our individual capabilities, how we could address this. I think we need a policy framework. CAA could offer practice experience case studies online donated by members (e.g. the RAIA continuum programme)

After this, I go to Canada and meet up with George for the second of the Round Table meetings and we have some negotiation we need to work on. I will also be going to the Canadian Institute and Conference. I don’t know how difficult it would be to persuade them to join; I have not talked to the Canadians for quite some years, maybe 10, about their view of their status in the world. I was very heartened to hear David Parken’s offer to ‘work on’ the Canadians. I think Australia is the story that just might get them back into a thinking mode to bring them back into the fold. Australia had their time in the wilderness. Thankfully, the thinking has come around again to be a world citizen in the world of architecture and to see it more as a case of what I can give and not what I can take. I would hope that within this next cycle of the CAA, we might get very much closer to the Canadians and persuade them to re-join.

I want to share with you a couple of highlights of this meeting;

- Tony said CAA is most successful when focussed on activities. Let’s not forget that. What we do, we do well.
- Somebody said our students are our future. We have a strong commitment to our students. Let us make sure we keep it up and enhance it where we possibly can.
- Architects, not as heroes but as social contributors.
- To collaborate rather than dominate.
- CAA can deliver what its members can deliver.
- We are the sum of ourselves. It is not somebody else’s responsibility; it’s not what’s it worth or what is it going to deliver? It is what we can give and how effective is it going to be in terms of our constitution.
- To return architects to the trusted advisor role, honest, responsible, accountable, bringing competency, knowledge and skill. This was from our president as he came into office. Magic words that I want to re-enforce and this is the essence of what we should be striving for.

I do think I have been preparing for this for quite a long time. I used to be a marathon runner. I used to climb mountains. I am accustomed to the long hard haul and patience and having a vision that is over the horizon because in order to run well you have to prepare a long time in advance. So I think I have the physical stamina. I am an optimist as I said. I do have an approach to life that is very positive. I think my academic experience has given me a certain generosity and determination of mind and the capacity to deduce complex competing forces through understandable and appropriate explanations if not directions.

I undertake to serve you as well as I can and I can’t do it alone. I am a team player. I will be tapping shoulders. Those who have worked with me before have suggested that I was a hard task master but I thought I was a fair one and we certainly delivered what we said we were going to. I have a good sense of humour, please talk to me. We need to share our concerns; we need to synthetize them and shape them into something that we all want to ‘pull on’ in the same direction at the same time.

I would hope that every region without exception will nominate a capable woman as an alternate VP and that the alternates be given responsibility for an aspect of CAA activity, rather than being dormant, which they then report on at the 19th GA. With that, I thank you. I look forward to your participation and cooperation over the next three years.
Appendix D - The Robert Matthew Award 2007

Jury Statement

This award is given once in the term of each CAA Council elected by the General Assembly.

It is given to recognise innovative contributions to the development of architecture, especially in the Commonwealth context, by an architect or architectural practice being members of one of the architectural institutes or associations, which are members of the Commonwealth Association of Architects.

The Award is to be made to an architect or architectural office making the most outstanding contribution to the development of Architecture having particular relevance to the country or region in which the Architect or Architectural office operates.

The Award may be made for cumulative contributions made over the current session of CAA Council (2003 – 2007) and the immediately preceding one (2000 – 2003).

In the case of the award for these sessions, only two entries were received within the stipulated period.

The body of work in both cases represents a significant contribution to architecture in the respective countries by undoubtedly outstanding architects and for which they have received awards and recognition.

However, having examined both the submissions, the Jury observed that the body of work submitted in both cases did not meet the fundamental requirement of ‘cumulative contributions over the current and immediately preceding sessions’ of the CAA Council.

Consequently and with deep regret, the Jury is unable to make the award in the case of these two nominations. Although the decision is regrettable, it is in accordance of the Award conditions. The Jury therefore advises that, in future, nominations made must seek to comply with the conditions and spirit of the Award.

Jury

P Kungu (Kenya)
Richard Hastilow (UK)
J Sinclair (New Zealand)

18th April 2007