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Villes en développement



Monastery in Kotté, Sri Lanka

The urban heritage of developing cities

After increasingly winning public interest Europe-wide, the heritage is now becoming a focus of concern in cities of the South. A process encouraged by UNESCO's action on the "world heritage" and no doubt by tourist interest in unfamiliar places. But also because the heritage, which is the expression of cultures and the historical record of a society, builds up the identity of a territory or a country – a necessity felt by everyone in our globalizing, uniformizing context. One of the signs of this awareness is the example of Suzhou in China, where there is a clear will to preserve an architectural and landscape heritage under serious threat from the urban transformations of the past ten years.

In cities, the heritage is not embodied in prestigious monuments alone. It also finds expression in the ordinary urban fabric, built or unbuilt, which forms the living environment of city-dwellers. It embraces archaeology but involves more than just ancient times. It includes the colonial heritage, extending into the XIXth century or even the XXth century, which is particularly rich in the Latin American

countries. And the heritage must be apprehended throughout the urban territory, not just in city centres transformed into mere physical settings.

Preserving and enhancing the heritage is conducive to development. By generating employment and tourism, it fosters economic expansion. The difficulty is to safeguard the heritage without stultifying it, encourage tourist development without disturbing traditional ways of life and their patterns of change. This is the logic pursued by the Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage in its cooperation with cities of the South, an approach that aims to better understand local contexts and thus propose livable solutions that respect cultural diversity. ■

François Barré,
*Directeur de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine,
Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication*

Luang Prabang (Laos) – Chinon (France)

Decentralized cooperation project

Michel Brodovitch, Conseil Général des Ponts et Chaussées

Situated on a peninsula at the junction of the Mekong River and the Nam Khan, one of its tributaries, is the town of Luang Prabang which, with the Plaine des Jarres and the Khmer site of Vat Phu, forms one of the finest and most typical sites of the Laotian heritage.

Its riverside site, the architecture of its nineteen monasteries and a traditional residential environment surrounding them, enabled this urban complex to be inscribed on the UNESCO world heritage list.

The project for the protection and development of Luang Prabang aims to conserve the architectural and urban components of the site while offering sufficient freedom for the deployment of present and future human activities. Here, the urban functions and inhabitants' ways of life, like the buildings, are considered as an integral part of the heritage. The challenge is to interpret the layers accumulated over time and to find a language for future accumulations. This is happening in a globalizing context in which despite people's attachment to their cultural identity, they are under the pressure of an increasing accumulation of layers.

They therefore have to discover how to achieve harmonious development in a period when the growth of tourist activities, fostered by the recognition of this heritage, is accentuating the upheaval in their environment. To implement this project, at the request of the Lao PDR government, the World Heritage Centre has set up a decentralized cooperation programme with the towns of Luang Prabang and Chinon. This cooperation has resulted in exchanges between the two towns and has mobilized a number of partners: the

European Commission, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Culture, Région Centre, the CODEV NGO, the CFSI International Solidarity Collective, and Cités Unies France.

Many activities have been initiated through these partners, and the French Development Agency is supporting the entire project to which it is devoting considerable resources.

The programme components are as follows:

- implementing a regulatory framework for the protection of the urban heritage,
- setting up national and local heritage committees, which are decision-taking bodies able to perpetuate the conservation measures,
- creating a Heritage House to mobilize the skills required for the project:

- . development of an appropriate study methodology,
- . preliminary inventory and studies of a protection and development plan,
- . outreach to professionals and the inhabitants,
- . follow-up of applications for permits,
- . implementation of artisan training projects,
- . coordination of road and sanitation works,
- . study of the humid zones,
- . perspective study on the impact and development of tourism,
- . pre-operational studies on conditions and resources required to help the inhabitants rehabilitate their heritage.
- an action programme to initiate a rehabilitation and development project:
- . restoration of two houses (timber house of Ban Xieng

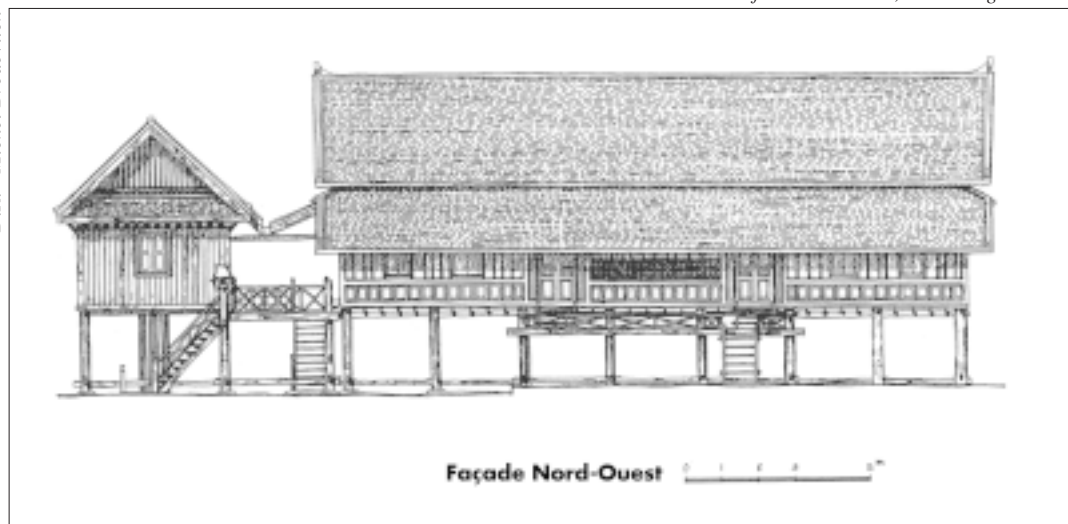
Moane and customs building),

- . restoration of a temple (Vat Pha Fang) and monastic buildings,
- . training of professionals for school worksites,
- . a population aid fund, work on public spaces,
- . improvement of the materials production sectors (lime, wood, bricks, tiles).

The Heritage House has been in activity for three years. It has just inaugurated its new premises in a restored colonial house (the customs building). Under the dual management of a Laotian project leader, Mr Khamphou Pommavong, and a French assistant, Philippe Colucci, five Laotian architects have been working in the house. A *Batiments de France* architect has been providing methodological action follow-up since the beginning of the programme. Yves Dauge, deputy-mayor of Chinon, is preparing project guidelines with the Lao Authorities and the World Heritage Centre.

The programme is now well underway. Studies on the protection plan will be completed

D.R. - Michel Brodovitch



by the end of 1999. Two houses have been restored and have given rise to school worksites led by the Avignon School. Public space development projects are under preparation, follow-up of the permits is performed on a daily basis, and the population aid fund should enable many timber houses to be rehabilitated in the months ahead.

Through these activities, the existence of the Heritage House is facilitating a transfer of knowledge. This is the central aim of the project, which should enable the Lao authorities to acquire local skills within two to three years and thus become responsible for managing and preserving their heritage.

Without drawing conclusions on an evolving project, a few positive effects of this decentralized cooperation principle can be highlighted:

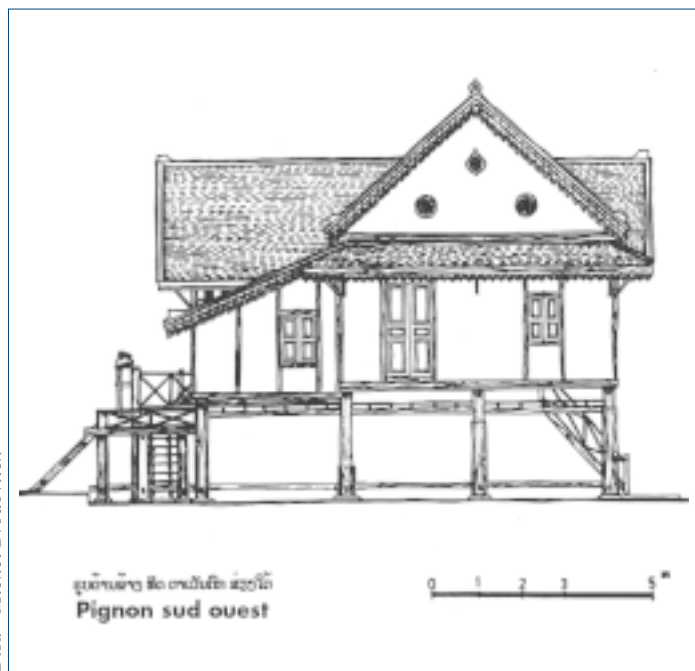
- an exchange between the competent levels of two political authorities sharing similar concerns,

- a highly flexible system bringing several partners together for a clearly identified project thanks to a political request close to local concerns,
- the solicitation of many skills, involving public employees (central and local authorities) and private sector professionals without creating de facto competition,

- opening up towards multilateral cooperation which, under the aegis of UNESCO, can mobilize foreign partners inside or outside the European Community.

- a project that bases its legitimacy on the application of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, particularly in its fifth article whereby the signatory States undertake to:

- . integrate the protection of the heritage into comprehensive planning programmes,
- . set up services with an appropriate staff possessing the means for conservation,



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Restoration of a timber house, Ban Xieng Mouane

- . protection and presentation of the heritage,
- . develop the necessary studies and research,

- . take appropriate legal measures,
- . foster the dissemination of knowledge.

Modern architecture in West Africa

Diala Touré, historian, University of Minnesota. Translation by Davina Eisenberg

Western architecture was transplanted in West Africa during the first half of the Twentieth Century providing the cities of Dakar and Abidjan, among others, with charming neo-basque and neo-norman houses whose authenticity, without being contested by the local population, still has a « barbaric » connotation.

For those who inherited the Sahelian empires, it would have been more legitimate and logical to refer to an architecture, which reflects the meeting of Islam and the West. Sub-saharan Africa knew how to adapt to its culture with style during the previous centuries. The magnificence of the architecture and the power of the empires of ancient Sudan had already inspired the admiration of Arab

travelers and now surprised European travelers.

At the end of the Nineteenth Century, colonial administrators considered this architecture to be « primitive ». Therefore, a typology common to that of the metropolis for public and for private buildings, adopted the model of the bungalow of which the variant was the house with a veranda.

Does this necessarily mean iconoclasm ? Is this taking account of the history of African societies by integrating element typical of their heritage and by providing a reading of the city according to a « modern » typological and esthetic repertoire ? In the 1950's the implementation of modernity in African cities was preceded by series of political, economic and social measures, including the

credit of the Fonds d'Investissement pour le Développement Economique et Social. As a result, massive construction of building took place. Public administrators and African civil servants were encouraged by the French State to become homeowners by means of a whole series of attractive measures. Building sites appeared everywhere and radically transformed the city profiles. Within less than a decade, the areas accommodating the administrative, economic and residential centers were transformed into cities canonised as modern.

Modernity is expressed through the production of innovative architects from the second generation of the Mouvement Moderne, mostly disciples of Tony Garnier and Le Corbusier. Henri Chomette, Daniel Badani, Pierre Roux-Dorlut, Michel Ducharme, Christian Larras and Jean-Pierre Minost created most of the buildings of the large West African capitals including public administration, banks, hotels, public facilities, private residences as well as the first blocks of housing for

African civil servants. The originality of the contribution of these architects is found in their understanding of the physical environment and the local cultural heritage. The Bureaux d'Etudes Henri Chomette rehabilitated the use of local materials for modern buildings. The relaunched crafts techniques and trained architects, engineers, craftsmen and artists within the same process of territorial, technical and cultural modernisation. « *We have to create a new art for a new na-*

tion. To realise the miracle of the harmonious combination of imported technical knowledge with traditional culture felt from within ».

It is the architecture of previous decades that was mainly created by French architects, then that of the 1980's is characterised by a new wave of African architect. The creation of the Ordre des Architectes in the 1970's, and the opening of the schools of architecture in Dakar and Lomé, and the training abroad of many national architects, have

contributed to the birth of a new generation of African architects. Is the nationality factor necessarily important when a good number of African architects trained abroad apply the standards of architecture with Corbusian and Miesian accents without caring, without favouring a diversity of solutions and typologies adapted to ethos, to the territory and to the economy of African societies. ■

With the agreement of Revue Noire

The revitalization programme of historic city centres in Latin America and the Caribbean (Sirchal)

Léo Orellana, Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Communication.

The Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Communication has been developing an action programme to revitalize historic city centres in Latin America and the Caribbean (Sirchal).

This programme has been developed with the participation of UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and in collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, the International Union of Architects and specific local partners.

On of the objectives of this programme is to generate an exchange of experience between Latino-Americans and Europeans. To this end, three seminar-workshops have already taken place:

The first international seminar on the rehabilitation of historic city centres of Latin America, was held in May 1998 in Paris, with a view to setting up a network between very different countries with very different economic and social conditions.

As the represented cities were at different stages in their studies, the most advanced projects were implemented to serve as a reference and driving force. This first meeting established a consensus on the need for consultation between political, technical and financial players in order to improve the management and use of financial aid for city centre rehabilitation projects.

The second seminar, organized in November 1998 in Quito (Ecuador) showed that closer involvement of the private sector was one of the prime movers in the rehabilitation dynamics of historic centres in Latin America.

It proved necessary to define new tools and action mechanisms, in consultation with the municipal and/or administrative structures of each

city, to facilitate the integration of the players concerned.

Another problem to be addressed, was the financing of low-cost housing in the historic centres. New procedures must be studied and developed to set up financial arrangements drawing on diverse sources (public, private, municipal or international) with a view to retaining the resident population.

The rapid growth of cities in Latin America has given rise to heterogeneous clusters rich in architectural concepts and forms. These different types of buildings are mainly located in the historic centres and nearby urban areas. It is essential to take advantage of this diversity and develop XXth century contemporary architecture, which is the main heritage of these cities of tomorrow.

Based on this realization, the representatives of Buenos Aires, Montevideo* and Santa Domingo expressed the desire to prepare a series of exhibitions for the Heritage Days, in the form of architectural routes of the XXth century in each of their cities, from 1999 onwards.

New economic activities are also occupying space in historic centres. Street trading or informal trading is one of the most obvious examples. These activities are developing and invading public space and are deflecting it from its main function. The cities of Lima and Quito have presented interesting experiences in moving informal trading elsewhere. It is too early to gauge the results of these experiences in terms of the recovery of heritage buildings and public space, but it is already clear that economic activities are returning and gaining in strength.

At the third seminar, in May 1999 in Santiago and in Valparaiso (Chile), the debate centred on two main points: - different existing legislation in Latin America, the Caribbean

and France, and new tools for integrating public and private players into projects;

- criteria (architectural, urbanistic, social) for action in the historic centres and mechanisms for implementing and financing projects.

A fourth seminar is planned for the end of 1999 in Brazil, which will inaugurate the second generation of seminars, each focusing on a problem specific to the realities and requirements of the host city.

After a year and a half in existence, the network has more than thirty cities (Antigua, Asunción, Barquisimeto, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Cuenca, Ciudad de Guatemala, Cuzco, Granada, Havana, Lima, Medellín, Montevideo, Mexico City, Oaxaca, Ouro Preto, Panama City, Puebla, Quito, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador de Bahia, São Luís do Maranhão, San Salvador, Santa Tecla, Santiago de Chile, Santo Domingo, Sucre, Valparaiso). It also includes specialists and representatives of UNESCO, IDB, IUA, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), national organizations concerned by architecture and the heritage (Brazil, Ecuador, Chile), French municipalities (Bayonne, Lyon, Nancy and Rennes) and French companies.

The seminar-workshops are laying foundations of a framework to develop exchanges and relations between Latin-American and European players, and are working at cooperation between private and parapublic sectors and with international, regional and multilateral organizations that have become active partners to the programme.

As a living, dynamic continuation of the network, the Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage has set up an Internet site specific to the historic centres of Latin American cities. This site, which is open to the programme partners, is designed as a tool for dialogue, interchange and comparisons of experience and

provides access to the various project presentations. It was inaugurated in May 1998 and consolidates and develops outreach (<http://www.archi.fr/SIRCHAL>).

Another outcome of the first seminars is a partnership between UNESCO, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the French Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage, which will enable a document to be published at the end of 1999 on the problems of historic centres in Latin America. This publication will review the last few decades and will propose a forward-looking vision opening towards the new millennium.

The dynamics of the SIRCHAL programme have also produced several initiatives:

- a cooperation agreement between the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Inter-American Development Bank, concerning the revitalization and development of historic city centres of Latin America and the Caribbean;
- a cooperation agreement between the Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage and the International Union of

Architects (IUA) aimed at drawing up the first inventory of the architectural heritage of the XXth century and disseminating it through the Internet site Archi.fr to all professional, educational and scientific communities;

- a protocol for the revitalization of the historic centre of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) through the Pact Arim 93;

- a protocol for the revitalization of the historic districts of Valparaiso (Chile) through the Pact Arim 93;

Other activities unrelated to the programme have also been developed by the Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage:

- "Recreation, 21 architectures in France at the threshold of the XXIst century", an exhibition presented at the VIIth Biennial of Architecture in November 1998 in Buenos Aires, in March 1999 in Montevideo and in June 1999 in Santiago de Chile.

- "Morro da Conceição", a project to revitalize this district under a Franco-Brazilian cooperation agreement for urban management with the city of Rio, in partnership with ICOMOS France.

→ Contact: Directorate of Architecture and the Heritage, Léo Orellana, special adviser for Latin America, Tel: 33 (0)1 40 15 32 06, Fax: 33 (0)1 40 15 33 07, E-mail: orellana@culture.fr

*Presentation of the revitalization project for Montevideo (Uruguay) by Mariano Arana, Mayor of Montevideo, on 21 June 1999 in Paris, France.

Villes en développement



Cartagena, Colombia



Three generations of city-dwellers in Sahel. Thirty years of social history in Dakar and Bamako, edited by Ph. Antoine, D. Ouedraogo, V. Piché.- Paris : L'Harmattan, 1998.- 276 p (Coll. Villes et

Entreprises).

The crisis being weathered by most African countries since the late seventies has many repercussions on people's living conditions, particularly in cities: unemployment, declining income, degradation of the residential environment and facilities, etc. This crisis particularly affects the insertion process in Dakar and Bamako. Employment, marriage and housing, three dimensions at the centre of urban dynamics, are studied since the 1960s.

Price: FRF 150

→ Contact: L'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'École Polytechnique, 75007 Paris, France



Beirut, a city of the East marked by the West, by Helmut Ruppert.-Beirut: Cermoc, 1999.- 167 p.

The author opts for the field investigation approach but also uses statistical sources to present the Beirut of the

late sixties as a kind of frontier between the cities of the Middle East and those of the West, where the philosophies behind each of the models mix and match. He describes the social differences that emerge between neighbourhoods, analyses the built environment and the mechanisms of urban growth, and the economic activities and trade areas in the city centres.

Price: FRF 95

→ Contact: Librairie Avicenne, 25 rue Jussieu, 75005 Paris, France, E-mail cermoc@lb.refer.org



In the collection "Asie Plurielle", La Documentation Française proposes country case studies. In a socio-cultural analysis, the authors set out the basic facts for understanding the workings and changes

in these societies at the brink of the XXIst century, published in 1999

. Indonesia by F. Raillon

. India by M.J. Zins

. Vietnam by Ph. Papin

Price FRF 98:

→ Contact: La Documentation Française, 29-31 quai Voltaire, 75007 Paris, France

Suzhou (China). Economic development of the natural and cultural heritage.

Lake Tai, at the centre of new development projects

Philippe Jonathan, architect and urban planner*, Coordinator of the Suzhou study group¹

Suzhou (province of Jiangsu) is a city the size of a country, covering 8,500 sq. km, with six million inhabitants. Situated in the delta of the River Yangzi, 100 km to the west of Shanghai, it is composed of industrial areas that alternate with housing areas. The entire region is living through a period of great economic change.

Against the background of the Asian crisis and economic slowdown, the policy-makers in Suzhou are assessing how the city and landscape have changed over the past ten years. Their aim is to enhance the natural and cultural heritage. The urban construction market that "invisible hand" swallowed up whole chapters of Chinese tradition during the wild decade of the nineties, when the city ranked fifth in China for the GDP.

Early in the XIXth century, when Shanghai was still only a small town, the city of Suzhou was an "authority on good taste" that held sway over Southern China. The ancient capital of the Kingdom of Wu, created in the VIth century B.C., was refounded under the Song dynasty. It adopted a "Chinese capital" planning programme featuring the superposition of a network of canals and streets in an orthogonal system. The city seemed immutable until the middle of the XXth century and preserved several tens of refined gardens in a remarkably orderly horizontal architecture with whitewashed walls and grey tiled roofs.

This "Chinese Venice", with its vast Lake Tai (nearly 2,500 sq. m), the first tourist resort in China and the obvious destination for newly-weds, offered the visitor innumerable natural landscapes, monasteries, Taoist temples and private gardens.

The greatest painters and poets in China have celebrated Suzhou. Since the late fifties, the ancient centre of Suzhou went through bad times just like the great historic Chinese cities. The industrialization process of the ancient centre, an "unfortunate" mistake, was followed by de-industrialization (in the eighties) and the creation of new industrial districts outside the city.

The Suzhou master plan, approved in 1996 by the central government, ratified the previous options:

- decrease in population in the centre (290,000 inhabitants for 14 sq. m) and creation of avenues lined with 20-metre high buildings, which transformed the silhouette of the city and gave access to a profusion of automobiles,
- control of urban growth (currently one million inhabitants for 100 sq. km),
- development of two areas, an industrial complex in the east and a high tech development area in the west
- development of medium-sized towns.

The end of the nineties will be a troubled period. The State of Singapore, by opting out of the industrial complex (initial budget US\$ 20 billion over 20 years), has compelled Suzhou and its partners to buy out their interest. These upheavals are making policy-makers adopt new

conceptual approaches and seek out stronger international cooperation. In April 1998, Suzhou, together with Unesco and several French institutional partners, held a conference that brought together mayors from historic Chinese and European cities. Immediately after the "Suzhou declaration", Unesco inscribed four Suzhou gardens on the heritage of humanity list² and is planning further classification measures for the riverside villages of Jiangnan. The disappearance of the heritage is now acknowledged as the main cause of tourist disaffection and an additional risk of destabilization.

Lake Tai is the centrepiece of the hydraulic system south of the Blue River, and the landscape entity towards which the hundreds of canals of the Suzhou region converge. Around the lake, natural areas and vast mandarin tree plantations have been preserved. The once flourishing fishing and river shipping activities are now disaster-stricken and in danger of disappearing completely.

It is in this context that the city of Suzhou is engaging in a major project to enhance and protect Lake Tai. The mayor is in favour of an imaginative approach to tourism, that will take into account the demands of widely-differing client groups just as much as those of local forces.



Suzhou in the delta of the River Yangzi, China

Lake Tai is an area under the protection of the Chinese State³. Its 800 km of shoreline are a very popular destination. 4.5 million visitors, mainly from Shanghai, go there each year and this number should increase threefold in the next ten years. It is therefore important to protect the landscape and propose a wide range of tourist projects.

The city is preparing to consult three teams, North American, Asian and European, recruited for their innovative cultural approach. These teams will first have to explain how they visualize the enhancement of Lake Tai. In the area under study 600 sq. km of land embracing five cities and nine small towns the urban planners will propose measures to protect the landscape and cultural resources and a strategic development framework for thirty sites.

Experiences in Europe and in France regional and national nature parks are of interest to the Suzhou municipal authorities who are determined

to tackle the many challenges posed by the ambitious tourist development project of the shores of Lake Tai. They also want to understand how people in the European civilization "consume" their heritage.

A second phase will consist in international tendering for three urban tourist site projects. The projects will be awarded to developers responsible for all or part of the urban and architectural project work.

Thus the prediction of the urban planners, Xumingtian and Dongyang⁴, that urban projects would open up towards the market, has come true. Suzhou, like most big Chinese municipalities, is indeed seeking to start an urban planning and development system geared to the market fluctuation rate. The Lake Tai project does not only concern the national market. It aims to involve the global market and by actively taking advantage of this market, to interest it in state-of-the-art projects. ■

* Philippe Jonathan is a former student of Qinghua University (Peking). E-mail: jonathan.architects@wanadoo.fr.

1. In July 1999, the Suzhou municipality decided to entrust a preliminary study to the group of urban planners and experts formed by P. Jonathan. This group has already worked for the city of Suzhou (1995 urban development scheme and transport plan in collaboration with M. Jaouen, J.C. Ralite and B. Warnier).

2. The four gardens inscribed in the world heritage have a feature in common they were created on small plots in the city:

- the Garden of the Humble Administrator (Zhuozhengyuan) with a surface area of 51,960 sq. m;
- the Lingering Garden (Liuyuan), 23,310 sq. m;
- the Garden of the Master of Nets (Wangshiyuan), 5,400 sq. m;
- the Villa of the Beautiful Embrace Mountain, 2,180 sq. m;

3. Industrial pollution control on the lake is within the jurisdiction of the State, which has not managed to stop pollution of the lake by the town of Wuxi.

4. Chinese cities. *Villes en Parallèle* No. 23/24. 1996.

Conferences



CODATU

In April 2000, the CODATU (World Congress of Urban Transportation) Association is holding its IXth International Conference on the theme "Urban transportation and the environment", with the Federal District of Mexico.

Contact: *Claude Berenguier, Delegate General, Codatu, Espace Ville, rue Maurice Audin, 69518 Vaulx en Velin cedex, France, Fax: 33 (0)4 72 04 77 02*

Water, land use planning and sustainable development

An international seminar on "Water, land use planning and sustainable development" will be held on 10 and 11 February at the Senate (Paris, France), by the Water Academy and the Water Agencies, in association with the European Union and the French Ministry of Land Use Planning and the Environment. It is intended for administrations, decision-makers, elected representatives, backers, contracting authorities for water management and land use planning, and researchers and design offices. The conferences will present a case-documented status report for France and Europe, and take a special look at developing countries.

Contact: *Académie de l'Eau, 51 rue Salvador Allende, 92097 Nanterre cedex, France, E-mail: academie@oieau.fr*

Urban 21, Global conference on the urban future

In July 2000, Germany will host Urban 21 in Berlin. This global conference is one of the key components of the Global Initiative on Sustainable Development, supported by Brazil, Germany, Singapore and South Africa. Urban 21 is for all experts involved in the development of cities, who are working to improve living and environmental conditions in urban areas.

Contact: *Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning - Urban 21, Am Michaelshof 8, 53177 Bonn, Germany, E-mail info@urban21.de - Website: // www.urban21.de*

Public services and their dynamics in the Machreq and the Maghreb

The Research Group on the Maghreb and the Middle East (GREMAMO) of the laboratory "Developing societies in space and time" (SEDET), University of Paris 7 – Denis Diderot, held an international seminar on the subject "Public services and their dynamics in the Machreq and the Maghreb" from 19 to 21 May in Paris.

This seminar was supported by the Ministry of Land Use Planning and the Environment, the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Public service issues were addressed from six angles:

- health
- water and the environment
- education
- transport, communication and energy
- urbanization and housing
- legal matters and economic theories.

Through an inventory of public services in various countries including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria and Lebanon, the discussions highlighted :

- the diversity of situations (inequality of financial resources, inequality of cities as regards the colonial heritage, diversity of economic policies)
- the historical process of public service privatisations
- the implementation of the general reform framework
- the question of financing public services (insufficiency of financial resources or deliberate political choice)
- privatisation and deregulation of public services
- the role of international institutions and big companies
- control and organization of State regulation of public services
- social and environmental aspects of public services.

Contact: Chantal Chanson-Jabeur, GREMAMO, Université Paris 7 – Denis Diderot, France, Tel: 33 (0) 1 44 27 47 01, Fax 33 (0) 1 44 27 79 87, E-mail: sedet@ccr.jussieu.fr

British cooperation in urban development

In the run up to the 17th session of the Commission of Human Settlements, held in Nairobi last May, the DFID (Department for International Development) prepared a report defining a sustainable urban development strategy in the context of the DFID White Paper on international development, "The UK's development co-operation activities in the urban sector". This report is available from Michael Mutter or Felicity Gu, DFID, 94 Victoria street, London SW1E 5JL, England, E-mail: m-mutter@dfid.gnet.gov.uk

News on cooperation

French offer of expertise unpublished in 1999 urban development

Further to work by Jean-Luc Perramant (c.f. Villes en Développement No. 43, March 99), two associations of professionals, Aitec and Adp, have followed up this document with a view to bringing nongovernmental organizations and design offices closer together for a better international response to urban social development.

A consultative meeting organized by Isted was scheduled for 14 September 1999 at 09.30 on the premises of ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, Arche de la Défense, 92055 La Défense, France.

Contact: Françoise Reynaud, Isted "Villes en Développement, Arche de la Défense, 92055 La Défense cedex, France, Tel: 33 (0) 1 40 81 15 65, Fax 33 (0) 1 40 81 15 99, E-mail: reynaud.ved@isted.3ct.com

"Local Financing" course for technical assistants

African municipal elected representatives, local authority managerial staff and central administration departments, together with twenty technical assistants from Africa, met together from 20 to 22 July at the Ecole Nationale des Cadres Territoriaux in Angers, to discuss the subject of municipal development and local finance management. This seminar, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aid of CNFPT, had the following specific aims:

- analyse local financing requirements of African local authorities and make a progress report on cooperation;
- identify points for discussion and study with all the actors and partners, to facilitate the preparation of programmes for local and institutional development;
- share these studies with French local authorities who will then be able to take the "local financing" aspect into account in local and institutional programmes with the African local authorities.

These discussions on the financial autonomy of local authorities have addressed fundamental questions concerning the increasingly important role of local authorities in economic development, contracting, the development of appropriate local taxation and debt-financing of urbanization. They also highlighted the need for better collection of finance management tools and experiences. This reflective thinking must be continued and extended to other geographic areas.

African School of Architecture and Urbanism (EAMAU)

The EAMAU website has been redesigned and given a new address: <http://www.eamau.tg.refer.org> with access via the Paris mirror site: <http://www.refer.org/togo-ct/edu/institut/eamau>

Since November 1999, EAMAU has inaugurated a new course for senior technicians in urban management (TSGU), with admission through a competitive entrance examination, based on student records or under a continuous training scheme. Information is available from the website or on request.

The "Letter to partners" summarises the activities of EAMAU. It is circulated every three months by E-mail.

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Building blocks of urban transport development strategy in the developing countries

This report has been drawn up by the Isted Urban Transport group, which has brought together key institutional players in the French urban transport sector, among which are representatives of AFD, CFME-ACTIM, the Treasury, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, the Ministry of the Environment and Land Use Planning and professionals from contractor companies and engineering firms in the urban transport field.

The aim of the report is to make an appraisal of the urban transport situation in developing countries and to propose elements of a development strategy for this sector.

The first part is an analysis of the urban transport situation in cities of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries, the Maghreb and Central America. The second part "Elements of urban transport development strategy" analyses the need for and conditions of development of those "mass" transport systems that make up the network structure in major cities.

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