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Oberlichtsaal
Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Identification
Documentation
Preservation

CFP Abstract Submission: 30 April 2017

Young Bauhaus Research-International Summer Conference 2017

Modern Heritage in the MENA region Identification, Documentation, Preservation

The conference will be hosted by the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
August 30-31, 2017

Call for Papers (CFP)

Nowadays, the definition of heritage has become broader and includes the built heritage of the modern era. However, this rich legacy is already for years under serious threat. Management deficiencies, lack of conservation policies along with natural and anthropogenic hazard resulted into undocumented sites with serious structural deterioration. This process of undervaluation has been accelerated in the past decades by the aftermath of recent conflicts and military occupations, the war-on-terror and massive migration especially in the Middle East and North Africa (the MENA region). At the same time, the varying definition of “Modern Heritage” from country to country raises many questions such as whether we have a shared understanding of what is “Modern” and what can be “Modern Heritage”? Answering these questions is necessary to identify, document and preserve such valuable structures successfully.

The Young Bauhaus Research - Modern Heritage in the MENA region conference invites academics, scholars, and young researchers from the fields of architecture, urbanism and civil engineering to engage in a multidisciplinary discussion and to explore new approaches and strategies regarding the different aspects of “Modern Heritage”. This conference will particularly focus on the 19th and 20th century legacy of architecture and urban planning in the MENA region. It includes all aspects of built products such as houses, built infrastructure, industrial or commercial buildings, monuments, artifacts, historical sites etc. This conference brings to attention the susceptibility of heritage of modern movement in the MENA region which is caused by socio-economic and political conditions. Furthermore, the conference focuses on countries such as Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen that are suffering from civil wars which not only are causing loss of lives and facilities but also influence modern heritage significantly.

Moreover, the conference will also focus on the role of engineers in documenting the structures including damage by utilizing modern technology. Such documentation provides important material for further theoretical studies which help engineers to develop models such as Finite Element Models (FEM) to assess the structural health performance of modern Heritage. Preservation, strengthening and rehabilitation solutions suggested based on accurate models help to provide a reliable judgment of the safety of modern heritage. Moreover, these solutions can be optimal if they are based on local resources available in the MENA region.

The main goal of our conference is to enhance the cooperation between the researchers at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and other like-minded researchers from numerous universities and organizations from all over the world. The conference reflects the current research programs at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, such as the research training groups GRK 2227 “Identity and heritage”, GRK 1462 “Evaluation of Coupled Numerical and Experimental Partial Models in Structural Engineering” and the BMBF-Research Group “Which monuments, which modernity?” The conference aims to highlight challenges facing identifying, preserving and documenting modern heritage and also the role of new technologies in this process in three main fields of architecture, urbanism and civil engineering.

Conference Topics:

Contributions are invited under the main discussion themes: Identification, documentation and preservation. Paper topics could include, but are not limited to the following:

Identification and documentation:

- The interpretation of modern and modern heritage and the selection criteria
- Best practices on identification and documentation of modern heritage
- Modern heritage under socio-political changes
- The role of authorities, governments, national and international organizations
- Modern heritage documentation and damage detection and assessment solutions by means of modern technology

Conservation and preservation:

- New conservation treatments, strategies rules and standards
- Modern heritage safety assessment by using new technologies and models like Finite Element Models (FEM) evaluating the quality of FEM to obtain better reliable judgment of the safety of modern heritage.
- Major threats facing modern heritage and evaluating the risk resulting from natural and anthropogenic hazards in the MENA region.
- Current and future preservation, strengthening and rehabilitation solutions based on local resources available in the MENA region countries.

Abstract submissions:

Abstracts in English of no more than 400 words plus a short list of the main literature should be uploaded here: www.uni-weimar.de/modernheritage

Deadline: **30th April, 2017**

The papers will be selected to be presented in form of an oral presentation or a research poster at the conference. The authors will be notified until **31th May, 2017**.

Prospects - Publication and Database

Conference proceedings with a selection of contributions will be published in 2017. Establishing a database which can be frequently updated by international researchers to increase global awareness about the risk of losing modern heritage is a long term goal of the organizing team.

Funding: A limited funding is available for Master students, graduates or international researchers whose contributions are accepted as oral presentation or poster.

For more information kindly contact: modernheritage@archit.uni-weimar.de

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In cooperation with Prof. Hans-Rudolf Meier/ Chair of Conservation and History of Architecture

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