



The Ove Arup Foundation

Annual Report 2007-2008

Charitable Objects

Our Trust Deed states that the Foundation was established for the advancement of education of the public directed towards the promotion furtherance and dissemination of knowledge of matters associated with the built environment with some emphasis on the multi-disciplinary nature of design in engineering and architecture. We seek to realise this in granting our funds to projects.

People

There were no changes to our Trustees or Advisors during the year.

Financial Health

The financial health of The Foundation remains in a position of strength. Like many other charitable foundations and trusts, the value of our funds suffered as equity markets declined; and the effect of the global economic downturn will be even greater in 2009. Nevertheless, our financial resources are still substantial and we have made grants totalling £102,000 during the year, and a larger figure is expected during 2008-9. We are grateful for the continuing support of Arup Group through their annual donation and for funding the administrative costs of The Ove Arup Foundation.

Major Projects in 2007-08

University of Cape Town – Centre for Cities in Africa

Our third contribution of £50,000 towards the funding of Fellowships at the University of Cape Town was made during the year. During the year Professor Edgar Pieterse succeeded Vanessa Watson as Director of the Centre for Cities in Africa in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. A United Nations – HABITAT report highlighted the contribution made by The Ove Arup Foundation to the work of the African Centre for Cities at University of Cape Town. Our support - a total of £150,000 over three years - has helped the African Centre for Cities to leverage significant extra funding and it is pleasing to note that our contribution continues to attract the highest quality visiting academics.

Midlands Architecture and the Designed Environment

The Ove Arup Foundation made the first of three grants of £7,000 to Midlands Architecture and the Designed Environment (MADE). MADE is the architecture centre for the West Midlands Region and the grant will be principally used to support the appointment of a Learning Manager, who will lead a new initiative to connect the region's schools with built environment practitioners and Arts Council Creative Partnerships teams. This harnessing of environmental values and design awareness to their schools will empower teachers and young people to have an informed and influential voice in proposing ways to transform their school buildings and local environments.

Constructionarium

The Ove Arup Foundation continued to provide financial support for Constructionarium with another grant of £15,000. Constructionarium hosts a week-long residential course held at CITB's National Construction Centre in Norfolk during which engineering students are brought together with design professionals and enlightened contractors to connect theory and practice so that students emerge better equipped to face project challenges post-university. Students see how the theories they learn in the lecture hall translate to the world of practical engineering, with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of design and construction. Feedback from students and industry alike has been very positive. The initiative is growing in importance and there are now some 12 universities participating, with further interest growing.

The Industrial Trust

The Industrial Trust works with companies and teachers to encourage young people to take up careers in industry. Hitherto the Trust has concentrated on the manufacturing and utilities sectors but now, aided by a grant of £13,500 from The Ove Arup Foundation, the Trust is extending its activities to careers in the built environment, currently under-represented in its work. Supporting this initiative dovetails with the Foundation's wish, expressed at last year's workshop, to look beyond our present emphasis on postgraduate and undergraduate education to encouraging careers in the industry at secondary school level.

Human Resources production – Yellow Lines

The Ove Arup Foundation provided support of £10,000 for a new play that investigated how the built environment affects our daily lives. Presented by Human Resources and directed by Mervyn Millar, *Yellow Lines* ran for a short season at the Oval House Theatre at the heart of the major regeneration projects in Vauxhall and Elephant & Castle in London. In addition to the performances, two post-show discussions with industry contributors took place to encourage debate on issues of good design and effective consultation.

Visiting Professorships in Building Engineering Physics

Last year we helped to establish Visiting Professors in this area of crucial importance in creating a sustainable built environment. These are at Bristol, Cambridge and Sheffield. These have been extremely well received and there is demand for a fourth visiting professor. A crucial element of the scheme is a partnership of industrial sponsors, with the scheme being supported and managed for the sponsors by the Royal Academy of Engineering. Funds are being actively sought for a fourth Visiting Professor.

Edinburgh University Structures and Fire

The work to establish a senior post in Structures and Fire Engineering culminated in the appointment in May 2008 of Dr Luke Bisby as Arup Foundation/Royal Academy of Engineering Senior Research Fellow in Structures and Fire. This will enable the integration of Structural, Architectural and Fire Safety Engineering at Edinburgh. The first of five annual grants will be made during 2008-09

LSE Cities Programme

The Foundation was instrumental in helping to set up and launch the Cities Programme at the LSE. Urban planning is arguably one of the most important areas facing us all. The LSE programme has produced alumni who are already hugely influential in urban planning, and the Foundation is exploring with the LSE how this experience can be enhanced for the future.

Other Donations

The Anglo-Danish Society £1,500. Continuing support of the programme for students of subjects related to the built environment.

The Association of Mathematics Teachers £5,000. To assist with a conference on teaching mathematics to primary age and entry level children.

Looking ahead, there are two areas where we have decided to give greater attention. Firstly we would like to make more connections with young people in order to introduce them to and science, engineering and the built environment; secondly, we would like to stimulate thought and debate on our natural and built environment as it adapts to the changing needs of society. In both areas we are not seeking immediate outcomes but looking forward to future generations. Not all our work has long horizons and we will continue to look for immediate opportunities, especially where they promote greater interdisciplinary understanding.

Finally, I would like to thank the Trustees and Advisors for their continuing support in helping us seek and achieve so many positive outcomes.

Richard Haryott
Chairman

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