

Save The *Internationaal Zeemanshuis* public debate at Antwerp, 22 February 2010

by Luc Verpoest, professor of RLICC

On 22 February 2010 a public debate was organised in *deSingel Internationale Kunstcampus* in Antwerp (Belgium) as to the future of the *Internationaal Zeemanshuis*, a seamen's hotel built in 1949-1954 by the architects Paul SMEKENS and Hendrik WITTOCX and now threatened by demolition. The meeting was organised by *stRaten-generaal* (Antwerp) and *Redhetzeemanshuis* (Antwerp); both organisations are very active in the public debate on architectural and urban development in Antwerp. A lecture by Luc VERPOEST (*RLICC / K.U.Leuven*) on "The preservation of the *Zeemanshuis* as trump for the development of the neighbourhood and the city" was followed by a round table debate with Kristiaan Borret (*Stadsbouwmeester*, Antwerp), Niklaas Deboutte (*META Architectenbureau*, Antwerp), Wessel De Jonge (*Wessel de Jonge architecten bna*, Rotterdam, NL), Christian Rapp (*Rapp+Rapp*, Rotterdam, NL) and Inge Bertels (*Universiteit Antwerp* and *Vrije Universiteit Brussel / DOCOMOMO Belgium / RLICC alumna*). In November 2009, the 2009-2010 first-year students at the RLICC participated in a one-week seminar on the *Internationaal Zeemanshuis* and the issue of urban conservation under the direction of Paul LIEVEVROUW (*RLICC, K.U.Leuven*). The results of this seminar have been presented by Marieke DE BAERDEMAEKER (second-year student RLICC) at this public debate. One team of the first-year students continued to work on the *International Zeemanshuis* for the IPW3 (Integrated Project Work 3), presented in June 2010 (see pages 39-41).

HAPPENINGS

RLICCNWSLETTER Thu 1 Jul 2010

PRECOMOS Seminar on condition reporting system and PhD seminar 22-25 February 2010

by Hsien-yang Tseng, PhD student

This seminar was organized by Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen – the core member of the PRECOMOS (Preventive Conservation, Monitoring and Maintenance of Monuments and Sites) network – at Antwerp, Belgium, 22-24 February 2010. Focusing on a very practical issue of preventive conservation, the main objective of this seminar was to exchange the methodologies and best practices of condition assessing and reporting system of built cultural heritage, which consequently lead to relevant cost calculation of maintenance and repair works. Professionals from Politecnico di Milano, K.U.Leuven and University of Cuenca were invited.

Different systems of condition report developed by Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen, Monumentenwacht Noord-Brabant and Politecnico di Milano were presented, demonstrated and compared, and all testings

took place at one core location at the venue (Hofkamer, Erfgoedhuis den Wolsack, Oude Beurs 27, 2000 Antwerpen). A common framework for thematic issues in condition reporting for the built heritage was developed, the future collaboration between the participating institutions was explored, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted.

Following this seminar, on 25 February most of the participants moved to Leuven to attend the first PhD seminar of preventive conservation, where four PhD researchers in RLICC investigating preventive conservation topics presented their research results. In this seminar they could not only share approaches, concerns, theories and methodology but also feedbacks; the orientation and objectives of each PhD research were reconfirmed.