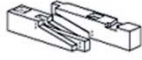


ICOMOS



International Wood Committee

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Dear Colleagues

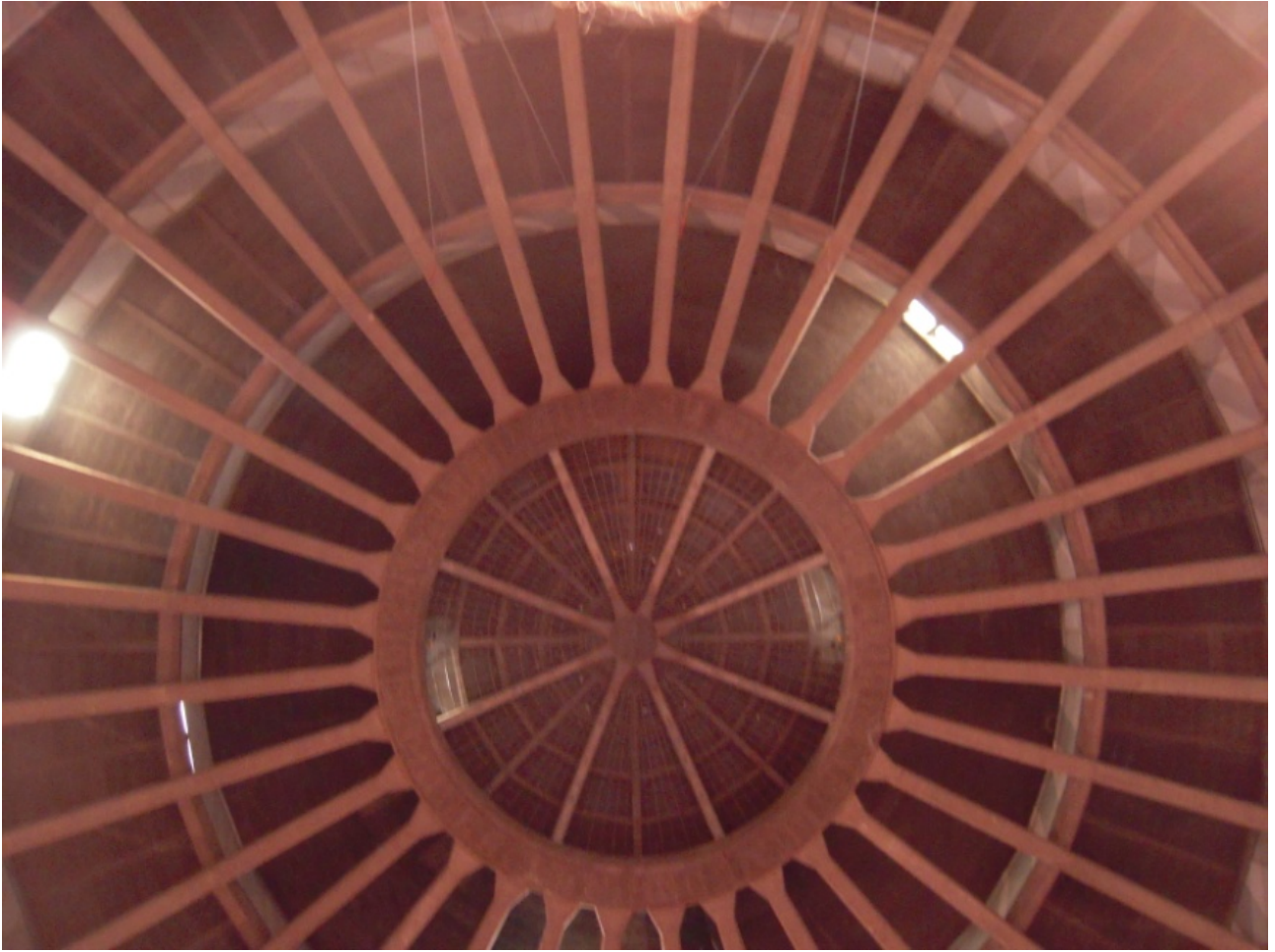
I am glad to inform you that during the Conference REMO (**Repair, Conservation and Strengthening of the Traditionally Erected Buildings and Historic Buildings**), Wroclaw and Wojanow Palace, central Poland, 2 – 4 December 2009, the planned session on the Conservation of the Timber Structures of the ICOMOS Wood Committee took place with the presentation of significant papers on the topic.

The Polish Colleagues were extremely kind and showed a very warm hospitality.

During the bus transfer from Wroclaw (alias Bratislavia, alias Breslau) to Wojanow Palace, where the Conference took place, the Attendants visited the Centennial Hall designed by Architect Max Berg, built in special reinforced concrete in 1911 - 1913 to celebrate 100 years of the Victory on Napoleon. The building and its wonderful dome are in the UNESCO's List for their outstanding value.



Wroclaw, Centennial Hall, 1911 – 1913, Architect Max Berg.



The dome of Centennial Hall



The Protestant Timber Church of Swidnicza built with the Fachwerkbau system





The Protestant Timber Churches of Swidnicza; interior



Protestant timber Church of Javor, Poland, affected with soil settlements (the effects are visible at the beginning of the right wall (left side in the second picture), instability).



*Protestant Workstoffbau church of Javor
Strengthening of the structural system (left) and the rafters of the roof, following the trend "timber to timber".*

Besides the Attendants could visit the remarkable Protestant Wooden Churches of Sviednicza and Javor, both in the UNESCO's List for their outstanding value.

In Javor the Attendants were able to recognize, in the Fachwerkbau (timber frame system), the presence of sinking and rotation of the walls in the right part close to entrance, probably the effects of a soil settlement; they were shown interesting restoration works made with the erection of a new internal timber frame cooperating with the ancient one and some repair works made with application, to a few broken rafters, of side timber plates, nailed with steel bolts (see picture).

* * *

The topics of REMO Conference organized by the Polish Colleagues and held in Wroclaw and Wojanow Palace from 2 to 4 December 2009 were Repair, Conservation and Strengthening of the Ancient Buildings.

I attended the REMO Conference both as ISCARSSAH Member and President of IWC; besides, as Member of the Scientific Committee of the same Conference.

On the 3rd December, afternoon, in Wojanow Palace, the IWC ICOMOS Symposium, as part of the Remo Conference, co-chaired by me and Professor Andrzej Kadluchka, took place. Interesting Papers were presented by Czuba, Jasienko et al.

One of the papers presented was concerned about the Wooden Church of Miekisk Stari, near Cracow.

The site and the Church had been visited during the research on The Hidden European Wooden Churches Heritage, lead by Gennaro Tampone and financed by the European Union (proceedings 2006 available on demand on CD); the Church and its constructive characteristics were later studied by the Polish Colleagues Professors Andrzej Kadluchka and Jerzy Jasinko who presented a scientific paper on its mechanical failures in Florence during the 17th IWC Symposium (Florence, Venice, Vicenza, 2007; proceedings available on demand on CD).

The hall of the Church has a rectangular lay out but the painted dome is polygonal and supported by the walls and by pendentives, imitating the masonry buildings.

The building is outstanding but in a very bad shape, threatened with collapse and destruction; the site is very fashionable and romantic , with magnificent old trees but in condition of neglect.

Recently the original precious Iconostasis of Miekisk Stari, which was lost, has been discovered hidden elsewhere (the news on the circumstances of the discovery were described during the Conference) and plans are made to put it, or just a copy, in the church in the original place in order to recompose the interior in its architectural articulation.





MIĘKISZ STARY



Pictures of the interior of the Church and of the material and structural failure of the dome and its supports



Votes were made by the Conference to strengthen and conserve the Church.

On December, 3rd, evening, a Joint unofficial Meeting of the ICOMOS Scientific International Committees, ISCARSAH and IWC, was attended, for IWC, by; I suggested a few possibilities of co-operation of the two groups on the following topics:

1. **Integration and connections of IWC Principles with ISCARSAH Recommendations,**
2. **Integration of the ISCARSAH Recommendations with wide reference to importance of the load bearing STRUCTURES in the buildings,**
3. Glossary on Structures (as the one made by the STONE ICOMOS Committee but on other bases),
4. Relations with other ICOMOS Committees as that of Vernacular Architecture.

The proposals excited interest and were discussed.

On December, 4th, morning, Debowy Palace in Karpnicky, the ICOMOS ISCARSAH Meeting took place.

For IWC David Yeomans, Jerzy Jasinko and Gennaro Tampone attended the Meeting; I tried to focus the attention of the Participants on the importance of education and training and on the efforts to be made to stimulate the sensibility of Engineers, Architects, Technicians, especially young people .

On this matter I proposed that each Member could ask the University to give, in Courses on Conservation, a lecture on the same existence of the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS, explaining the purposes, the means, the achievements and to offer to young graduates a stage in the private Offices of those Members who had declared their availability to guest training graduated, or in public Bodies.

The proposals excited interest and were discussed.

I gave my availability for attending one working group mainly concerned about the Inspection and the Appraisal of Structures, and we started working.

A directory-working program was proposed, commented and temporarily approved. Discussion, comments and final approval will follow the minutes of the Meeting.

* * *

I wish all the Members may express their good will to cooperate to develop the exposed tasks which were already selected during the Symposium in Florence. Working in these fields is most wanted and will prove to be very useful.

I am waiting for suggestions and your declarations of availability.

Looking forward to meeting you soon,

Sincerely

The President, Gennaro Tampone