About the Conference
Formidable solids of exposed concrete and monotonous, utilitarian shapes of social housing have become one of the most recognizable and universal elements of post-war architectural language. Regardless of the different political systems, geographic conditions or local aesthetic traditions an architectural style new commonly referred to as “brutalism” derived from the French “béton brut” or ‘raw concrete’. This style became a dominant expression of our shared architectural heritage and an inseparable part of cities around the world. In Eastern European countries large-scale micro-neighborhoods embody the pragmatic dimension of the socialist project. On the other hand, there was a striking part of Soviet modernism that was demonstratively irrational, focused not on a standardized function, but on a breath-taking emotion. A similar duality appeared in Western societies. Despite the specific aesthetic values many of these buildings are seen by some as not fitting into the contemporary context. Even though the rising interest around the architecture of brutalism is growing, these monuments and buildings are too often being demolished, recognizably altered or simply left to deteriorate. ICOMOS ISCC20C initiates this InnovateConcrete workshop as a field for debate whether these structures – monuments, apartment buildings or other functional types – can and should remain for future generations as a relevant part of our history.

AGENDA KAUNAS WORKSHOP

First Day – Friday June 11th From 2:00 to 7:00 pm (CEST)

2:00 pm Opening of the Workshop
María J. Mosquera (University of Cadiž, Innovate-Concrete project coordinator)
Gunnar Harbre (ICOMOS ISCC20C)
Marius Pelčius (Director of the 9th Fort Museum)

2:30 pm Innova Concrete Update
María J. Mosquera (University of Cadiž, Innovate-Concrete project coordinator)

3:00 pm Keynote Speaker
Catherine Croft (20th Century Society)

3:45 pm 100 of the 20th Century Concrete Heritage
Suzana Landrev DoCOnnOMoBo (Belgium)

4:15 pm Benchmark Document Guidelines for Conservation of 20 Century Concrete Heritage
Kyle Norman (Stefania Landi)

4:45 pm BREAK

5:00 pm The Study Case in INNOVATECONCRETE
Gunnar Harbre (ICOMOS ISCC20C)

5:15 pm El Instituto Terroja, by Eduardo Torroja, Madrid, Spain
The Work of Eduardo Torroja and the Modern Architecture
Maria Teresa Blanco

5:30 pm The Zarzuela Hipódrome, by Eduardo Torroja, Arribales y Domínguez, in Madrid, Spain
Jerónimo Junquera

5:45 pm El Eléctrico del Horizonte, by Eduardo Chillida, in Gijón, Spain
The Work of Eduardo Chillida and Concrete Sculpture & Art Heritage
Luis Chillida

6:00 pm Flaminio Stadium, by Pier Luigi and Antonino Nervi, in Rome, Italy
The Concrete Architecture in the Mediterranean Areas and the Work of Pier Luigi Nervi
Gabriele di Carlo

6:15 pm The Centennial Hall, in Wroclaw, Poland
Protection of the Concrete Heritage from the Beginning of the 20th Century
Krzysztof Ruszczyk

6:30 pm The Train Station, in Warsaw, Poland
Post-War Concrete Based Cultural Heritage in Central and Eastern Europe
Bartosz Ciekielski

6:45 pm The Fallen Monuments, in Torrecilla Peligros, Abruzzo, Italy
Maçia Bella Isabella Piriz

7:00 pm Conclusions of the First Day
Vaidas Petraitis

Second Day – Saturday June 12th From 2:00 to 6:00 pm (CEST)

2:00 pm Opening of the Workshop

2:10 pm Kaunas Case Study
Vaidas Petraitis (History of the 9th Fort)

2:30 pm Marius Pelčius (Director of the 9th Fort Museum)

2:50 pm David Lopez (INES – Investigation and treatments)

3:15 pm Round Table Cases Studies
During these three years in which we have developed the InnovateConcrete project, seven workshops have been held, which, developed around different themes, have all revolved around a common issue: concrete heritage in the twentieth century. This heritage, in general, are not well considered, very abandoned and poorly preserved. As far as its protection is concerned, it has needed a greater effort, making it known, generating its discussion, and studying the best systems and techniques for its conservation. All this, around very different typologies, different built systems, located in different climates but necessary to achieve same aims: common concrete and its heritage value.
This last workshop held in Kaunas, gives us the opportunity to share the results of all of them and perhaps draw some important conclusions to include in the Benchmark that is being prepared around the criteria of conservation of the concrete heritage of the 20th century.
Moderator: Gunnar Harbre

3:45 pm Reinforced concrete monuments: intentions and consequences
Generally, the reinforced concrete structures can be regarded as a symbol representing 20th-century architecture. However, many of the most important examples of reinforced concrete of the 20th century were specifically constructed as symbols. These include museums and monuments of political significance, buildings to commemorate various events or styles of ideologically important. Today, these monuments are being perceived as a source for multipurpose activities. On the one hand, they perfectly represent the potential of reinforced concrete as a material. On the other hand, close links with political ideologies frequently provoke harsh public reactions. As a result, many of these monuments have been destroyed, relocated or simply abandoned in recent decades.
The aim of the session is to present these monuments as a specific phenomenon of 20th-century architecture.
Moderator: Kyle Norman

4:15 pm Maria Teresa Blanco; Jerónimo Junquera; Luis Chillida; Gabriele di Carlo;
Krzyztof Rusczycz; Bartosz Ciekielski; Maria Isabella Piriz; Marius Pelčius

4:45 pm El Eléctrico del Horizonte, by Eduardo Chillida, in Gijon, Spain
The Work of Eduardo Chillida and Concrete Sculpture & Art Heritage
Luis Chillida

5:00 pm Flaminio Stadium, by Pier Luigi and Antonino Nervi, in Rome, Italy
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Maçia Bella Isabella Piriz

6:00 pm Conclusions of the First Day
Vaidas Petraitis
María J. Mosquera

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