



ECIA

European
Council of
Interior
Architects

**Bi-annual report 2015
Switzerland 17 September 2016**

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Opening word of the president

A second year in the board and the first year as a president. A worthwhile year, in which a lot has been accomplished. I am very proud on our board and the work that has been done the last year. After the president change we decided to focus first on the internal organization of the ECIA and the board and to set a next step in professionalization. Therefore we updated the mission and vision, as a process to all set us in the same direction.

We decided to focus on more outward communications, for which we first need a proper inward communication. We digitalized the whole ECIA, reorganized the tasks of the members in the board. Gave everybody a clear topic and task, defined by the qualities of each board member. We intensified the contact with the national organizations. Partly we did this by dividing the member countries to board members to make direct contact easier.

We worked on a new website and a new newsletter that accomplish each other. News will be shown in short attractive articles that can be fully seen at the website.

And finally we worked on new contacts and new members and new partnerships. We set some new contacts with the European Association of Architecture Education (EAAE) to see what we can work out together or learn from each other. We have a new observer member; Romania and we found our first new partner; Tarkett.

We are heading towards the year 2017, a year in which we will celebrate our 25th birthday. A memorable day that we certainly want to celebrate!

The first year we already accomplished a lot, lets run for the second term!

Ir. Anja Dirks - Geluk

Boards report

This bi-annual report covers the period between the General Assembly held in Oslo on the 5th of September 2015 and the General Assembly that will be held in Switzerland on the 17th of September 2016.

In 2015/ 2016 the board consisted of:

Ir. Anja Dirks - Geluk, BNI, the Netherlands, President
Jan Geysen, AiNB, Belgium, Vice president
Elke Kaiser, BDIA, Germany, Secretary General
Marianne Daapp, VSI-ASAI, Switzerland, Treasurer
Tüüne-Kristin Vaikla, ESL, Estonia
Elisabetta Strobel, AIPi, Italy

At the Oslo General Assembly Carlo Beltramelli finished his 6 years of board membership. There were three candidates for the open place in the board; Vanessa Brady from the UK, Tüüne-Kristin Vaikla from Estonia and Elisabetta Strobel from Italy. Both Tüüne-Kristin Vaikla and Elisabetta Strobel were elected after Vanessa decided to withdraw her candidacy to help the ECIA.

Due the early withdraw of the former president, Per Reinholtz, the term of the two years term of the presidency was not finished yet. The board selected Anja Dirks to be candidate for the presidency to finish the term. Anja Dirks was elected as the new president. Due the vacancy she left for a board membership, again for an unfinished period of two years, the GA decided to give Elisabetta Strobel this position for a period of one year. Tüüne-Kristin Vaikla was elected for the regular board membership and filled in the position of Carlo Beltramelli. Furthermore Elke Kaiser was elected for her third period and Marianne Daapp was elected for her second period.

In October/ November 2015 Kees Spanjers and Selma Herrington were delegated to recognize a possible new member school. The Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) applied their interior architecture track to be recognized by the ECIA recognition program. The school attended the full program and was recognized by the ECIA at the end of the year. With this recognition, the CIT has become a new educational member.

In March 2016 our vice president was present at the GIS conference in Bucharest (Rumania) to represent the ECIA and to follow up the work of Joke van Hengstum to have a stable contact here to see if there is interest and possibilities to become an (observer) member. One month later our president was supposed to join the same event in Budapest (Hungary), unfortunately this event was canceled (two times). Never the less the conference in Bucharest led to a new observer member; Romania.

In August 2016 our president was jury for the Estonian national interior award, visiting over 20 projects and selected with the jury four winners. Furthermore this month, she also attended the general assembly of the European Association of Architecture Education (EAAE) in Delft, the Netherlands to set some new contacts to see if there is interest of sharing knowledge and network on the level of education.

During the whole year the board worked hard on finishing the update of the mission and vision of the organization, in order to fresh up the visual identity of the ECIA and to work on a new website. This all to prepare the organization in a next step of professionalization.

Membership developments

Due the attendance of the ECIA in Bucharest (Romania), the Romanian Association of Interior Architects decided to be willing to be an observer member. During the GA in Switzerland the members will decide if they accept this membership.

There are still conversations going on about a membership of the German Architektenkammer for membership.

We continue the work on stable contacts in Poland and Hungary to see if we can welcome them in the near future as observer members as well.

Internally we worked on a different structure to keep in touch with our members. Each board member has a small 'basket' of countries which they keep close contact with. This is divided as following:

Anja:	BNI (Netherlands), Dutch register (Netherlands), IDI (Ireland), SOI (Iceland)
Jan:	AiNB (Belgium), CFAI (France), SBID (Great Britain)
Elke:	BDIA (Germany), Sveriges Arkitekter (Sweden)
Marianne	VSI-ASAI (Switzerland), BÖIA (Austria),
Tüüne	ESL (Estonia), FHI (Finland), NIL (Norway)
Elisabetta	AiPI (Italy), CGDI (Spain), MIDA (Malta),

Due the recognition of the 'The Cork Institute of Technology (CIT)', interior design program we also have a new educational member.

Meetings

The following meetings were held between the GA in 2015 and the GA in 2016:

- 1) General Assembly in Oslo – 5th of September 2015
- 2) Board meeting in Oslo, after the GA - 6th of September 2015
- 3) Board meeting in Antwerp, Belgium - 21st of November 2015
- 4) Board meeting in Berlin, Germany - 12th of February 2016
- 5) Board meeting in Madrid, Spain – 10th of June 2016

1. General Assembly in Oslo – 5th of September 2015

There were 27 delegates and / or presidents of 12 members and all together 17 members as NO's, observers and institutional members attending the GA. The GA was hosted by the Norwegian organisation, NIL. We attended the Designer Saturday opening on Friday the 4th of September at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo (KHiO). We ended the day with a nice dinner at the Ekeberg restaurant.

At the Saturday we held the General Assembly with an afternoon round table session about the 'Visibility & Communication of the national organizations'. Presentations were given by the ESL (Estonian organisation) and the SIBD (by Vanessa Brady from the British organisation). A very interesting discussion and sharing moment followed afterwards.

2. Board meeting in Oslo – 6th of September 2015

To have a quick start and due a financial efficient statement, the board decided to already held their first board meeting in Oslo, after the GA. Anja Dirks lead the meeting for the first time in the role of president. Jan is appointed by the board as vice president. Elisabetta and Tüüne both joint the meeting for the first time as being both a new board member.

3. Board meeting in Antwerp – 21st of November 2016

The second board meeting in the regular year was held in Antwerp - Belgium. The focus was on finishing the mission statement and vision of the organisation and to set green light for the start of the new visual identity and website for the ECIA.

4. Board meeting in Berlin – 12th of February 2016

Due the conversations about the possible membership of the German Architekten Kammer and to be in Germany again, the board decided to held her board meeting in Berlin and to meet with some of the German board (BDIA) in Berlin.

During the board meeting the focus was on organizing the board, the digitalisation of all the paperwork and a lot of achieves that were there and work on the financial situation of the ECIA. This besides all the other regular matters of the ECIA.

5. Board meeting in Spain – 10th of June 2016

The board worked hard to re-establish the contact with the Spanish national organisation and was invited by the Consejo General De Los Colegios Oficiales De Decoradores Diseñadores De Interior (CGDI) to meet up in Madrid. There was a special meeting attended by their new president, Teresa Casas, of the CGDI. This together with their treasurer and the legal advisor. The meeting was held partly in English and partly in Spanish.

Besides this meeting the board also held their regular board meeting with a focus on possible new members, new candidates for board membership, contacts with other organisations and the educational topic.

European matters

Due our strong internal focus on finance, organisation, professionalization and position of the ECIA we decided to set up meetings for European matters. We did however follow the on going things from ACE and the EU commission.

Upcoming year the focus will shift outwards with a priority on the EU directives, meetings with ACE and EU commissioners.

Besides this we have set up a new contact; the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE). The EAAE has set up a network of architecture schools in Europe. This means there is a regular base for meetings, information and inspiration between these schools. We are interested to see how they did this, what the focus is and if there are interesting viewpoints that can help us with our education topic. Or perhaps even collaboration. We will follow up next year.

Working groups/ projects

Charter

The charter was renewed in 2013 and we are still working on some last translations. The Spanish version is concerned finished, thanks to Marianne and our Spanish member organization. We will keep our head up to see if the charter stays up to date. If we keep to the 6 years period of rewriting we keep 2019 in mind.

Examples

Examples was shown by Jan at the GIS meeting in Bucharest. We keep it updated and it seems to be a perfect medium to show the world of Interior Architecture.

Newsletter

Together with the new website we worked on a new newsletter format. The former newsletter was made as a PDF file. We intent to keep the news shorter and to present the full articles on our new website. Therefore a 'mailchimp' format is much more convenient. This new set up was made by Tüüne the beginning of 2016, the new format was send out twice already and will show it's full potential when the new website is finished.

In the new setup we are asking members to actively participate to hand in national news, which we can show.

Website

In order to set up a new website we first worked on what we actually want to accomplish with the new site. We extracted all the information from the current site and checked what was up to date or needed to be updated. We added new information and gave order to the web builders to start building the new site. Goal is that it will be finished at the GA 2016.

ECIA visual identity

We did a small refreshment to the visual identity of the ECIA. Made it more clear and more up to date. The former identity has last for over 20 years, and we didn't want to change it too much. It should stay recognizable and represent the true identity of the ECIA.

Sponsorship

In order to give the projects of the ECIA some more financial support we set up a sponsorship plan in order to attract partners to work on specific projects of the ECIA. We divided 10 categories of potential partners and set up a list of conditions, which our partners have to hold up to. We were able to attract our fist sponsor; Tarkett and are positive about two/ three others to join us the upcoming years.

The sponsorship is not meant to help the daily financial situation of the ECIA, but to work together on projects, like the upcoming birthday event, examples and others.

Relationships

IFI

There has been some contact with IFI to see if we could meet somewhere. So far we were not able to set up a meeting, but we are positive that we will have one upcoming year.

ACE

The contact with ACE will be a priority for the upcoming year. There has been some contact and we will try to set up a meeting.

EAAE

EAAE is a new contact we will follow up the upcoming year.

Financials

By Marianne Daepf

The first half of 2015 was a very turbulent time for the ECIA Board involving intensive work on our strategy. In the second half of the year, our President resigned for business reasons. This presented a new challenge for us to master, also in a financial sense.

We were able to balance the negative results of 2014 in 2015 thanks to the strong commitment of all members of the board. In 2015 we had five board meetings including the Annual General Meeting. In order to minimize travel and accommodation expenditure, we met in Antwerp on two occasions and once in Utrecht. This was necessary to broaden the strategy process.

We also made a committed effort to engage our members in an intensive dialogue in order to reduce the outstanding membership fees. Although this could be partially achieved, it will still require further contact and discussion in 2016.

We know that some of the organisations are in financial difficulties, but our work in ECIA is only possible if our members make their contribution in the form of membership fees.

The following organisations still have outstanding fees:

- AIPI for the year of 2011/2012 (1'794.00 € – 1'000.00 € = 794.00 €)
all other debts have been settled
- CGDI for the year of 2011 – 2014 (7'803.75 €)
- FHI for the year of 2014 – 2015 (1'062.50 €)
- IDI for the year of 2012 – 2015 (2'111.00 €)

In accordance with our statutes, members who do not pay the annual fee for two successive years can be expelled. However, we have no interest in expelling members and will attempt to reach a solution with each individual member to avoid this.

In order to work in an even more professional manner, we require funds. For this reason, we have started to establish a sponsoring system for the future.