



Karl Ehn, Karl Marx-Hof, Vienna, Austria, 1927-1930. © Ana Tostões, 2015.

ANA TOSTÓES

Chair of **docomomo** International

## Housing for the greatest number

in memory of Paulo Mendes da Rocha (1928-2021)

This is the third journal dedicated to the housing question. In 2014, **docomomo Journal** 51 discussed modern Housing as “*Patrimonio Vivo*”, considering the modern home to explore topics of public and private life, intimacy, exposure, and gender. The house, whether at the level of a cell, a module, a system, or expanded across an entire city, has always been a fundamental subject for debate within the architecture of the Modern Movement addressing the “magic formula”: light, air and openness. **docomomo Journal** 54 “Housing Reloaded” was published, two years after, focused on the strategies used and challenges faced by those attempting to preserve post WWII collective housing in Europe.

In 2021, on the occasion of the last journal edited by me, it was decided to reaffirm **docomomo**’s acknowledgement of the major relevance of reflecting the housing question and explore the subject once again. I wish to thank and acknowledge the commitment of Zara Ferreira, who acted as guest editor for this **docomomo Journal** 65. Her work and perseverance were emulated by the authors who contributed generously with their knowledge and research.

Addressing a broader vision, entitled “Housing for All”, this issue is dedicated to the welfare era, when governments across the world established ambitious housing programs to provide housing for the greatest number and improve the citizens’ living conditions, as a symbol of a modern and democratic society. This bold course of action involved radical changes in the built environment, through new approaches to architectural design and experiments in the use of materials and techniques, the creation of space, and social transformation. Nowadays, understanding how to deal with this legacy presents a major challenge, in a continuously changing context, from the technical obsolescence of buildings that no longer meet today’s demanding standards, or fast-moving sociocultural, political and economic values. The aim of this **docomomo Journal** 65 is to outline how these vast cultural and political ambitions were materialized in various countries, and to analyze the contemporary challenges they face. More than five decades later, are these buildings and neighborhoods resilient or obsolete? In addition to the changes that postmodern society has brought in ways of living, issues such as the demand for spatial and functional transformation, and the updating of regulations on fire, seismic stability, user safety and energy

efficiency, are now part of the contemporary agenda. How can these sites be kept alive while satisfying sustainability and contemporary ideas of comfort?

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> **docomomo Journal** I have edited. It marks the end of a mandate that has lasted 12 years, serving **docomomo** International as Chair. Under my presidency, **docomomo** International was first based at the Mies van der Rohe Foundation, Barcelona (2010–2013), and since 2014, at the Instituto Superior Técnico – University of Lisbon. Pursuing a program based on the concepts of “other territories”, “other times” and “other viewpoints”, and more than a decade of action, it has helped broaden perspectives and fields of study on Modern Movement architecture and landscapes. Breaking with the euro-centric and westernized globalization of knowledge, 30 new chapters have been created, with particular emphasis on Latin American, Asian, and African countries. While maintaining the values of friendliness and trustworthiness that befit a great family, as a global organization, we have welcomed hundreds of new partners and institutional members, contributing to significant growth in our international network, and providing irrefutable evidence of **docomomo**’s continued vigor. In 2014, the updating of the Eindhoven-Statement (1990) with the Eindhoven-Seoul Statement marked a shift in **docomomo**’s mission, scope, and work, to more fully address the topics of reuse and sustainability. Among the six **docomomo** International Conferences held during my mandate, I would highlight the motto “adaptive reuse”, which has become a hegemonic issue for the **docomomo Journal**, and ultimately, formed the conceptual framework of the **docomomo** Award. The importance given to education has been demonstrated by the vitality of **docomomo** workshops and participation in various research projects worldwide. Further steps have been taken in the area of digital development, particularly evident in the **docomomo** virtual exhibition (MoMoVe) and the transformation of the **docomomo Journal** to open source, embracing open science as an important step towards the future. Next year, in 2022, **docomomo** International’s headquarters will be transferred to TUDelft. I am delighted to be able to hand over the reins of an organization in such robust health, and I wish continued vitality and every success to Uta Pottgiesser, the new Chair, and to Wido Quist, the Secretary-General.