



AUTHOR(S):

TITLE:

YEAR:

Publisher citation:

OpenAIR citation:

Publisher copyright statement:

This is the _____ version of proceedings originally published by _____
and presented at _____
(ISBN _____; eISBN _____; ISSN _____).

OpenAIR takedown statement:

Section 6 of the "Repository policy for OpenAIR @ RGU" (available from <http://www.rgu.ac.uk/staff-and-current-students/library/library-policies/repository-policies>) provides guidance on the criteria under which RGU will consider withdrawing material from OpenAIR. If you believe that this item is subject to any of these criteria, or for any other reason should not be held on OpenAIR, then please contact openair-help@rgu.ac.uk with the details of the item and the nature of your complaint.

This publication is distributed under a CC _____ license.

Historic Buildings and Refurbishment

Amar Bennadji

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen



This forum heard from a wide range of contributors who offered an equally wide range of viewpoints. Several themes emerged from the session.

Can traditional architecture contribute to new ways of designing and operating buildings? Which in itself could be perceived as a leading question.

And a building is more than just a home, it and its residents will also need to interact in a viable and successful community. In the upgrade of older buildings, care needs to be taken not to cause a different set of technical and social problems. The risks might be addressed by modelling although, understandably, there are reservations about its effectiveness.

Sometimes, a traditional building is not acting as it was designed. Progressive loss of traditional building performance, through modern interventions, will degrade performance (passive performance, e.g. ventilation, in particular). Progressive isolation from the environment and the evolution of expectation of comfort was also explored: how is traditional housing progressively changing, and how it is no longer performing as it used to do.

Humanising modernism – it can be done. Studies discussed the successful re-use of post-war buildings in dense urban contexts, but for this to work it needs strong leadership from civic authorities. Repair and upgrade rather than demolition for carbon and resource retention. Design quality in post war Social Housing is actually quite good; it is easy to criticise some aspects of post war construction, but it is our heritage and its architectural quality should be respected; and indeed it is still popular.

A desire to implement non mechanical solutions, and the re-instatement of natural amenity, especially in monuments.

However, pilot studies took place and results of monitoring will inevitably speed up the renovation of other buildings once revealed and confidence of buildings owners or historic buildings trusts is established, so we can just watch the space now and hope an era of massive refurbishment will take off.

F13

Conclusion:

The refurbishment of historic buildings seems to still be a serious issue as many questions are still to be answered by the research community in the built environment.

The major concern is what historic buildings will we leave to future generations if we are not sure about the consequences of any refurbishment undertaken as many phenomena such as, moisture migration through buildings' fabric, and its potential damaging capabilities are still to be assessed and this involves years of monitoring and observation.

The introduction of computer generated analysis of buildings' behaviour did add a lot to the understanding of historic buildings by the research community but we are still hesitant to take these data as fact since no comparison with real buildings have been observed hence the delay in taking serious repairs and energy improvement of historic buildings at the moment. However, pilot studies took place and results of monitoring will inevitably speed up the renovation of other buildings once revealed and confidence of buildings owners or historic buildings trusts is established, so we can just watch the space now and hope an era of massive refurbishment will take off.