



**Modern architecture and cultural connections in the Dutch  
 Antilles, Aruba and the Caribbean**  
*The impact of regional modern architecture and beyond*

**SEMINAR ON MODERN ARCHITECTURE , DO.CO.MO.MO**  
**Willemstad, Curacao 27 - 29 April 2009**

**APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>**

20:00	<b>Welcome</b> By: Sofia Saavedra Bruno (UNA, Chair DOCOMOMO Curaçao)	Aula UNA Openbaar
20:10 - 20:35	<b>Origins of Docomomo</b> By: Wessel de Jonge (Founder Docomomo)	
20:35 – 21:00	<b>Recent trends and development Docomomo</b> By: Emilie D’Orgeix (Docomo International)	
21:00 – 21:10	Opportunity to ask questions to Sofia Saavedra Bruno, Wessel de Jonge and Emilie d’Orgeix	
21:10 - 21:20	<b>Break</b>	
21:20 – 21:45	<b>Some aspects of architecture in tropical regions</b> By: Maristella Casciato (Chair Docomomo international)	
21:45 – 22:10	By: Michael Newton (Docomomo Curaçao)	
22:10 – 22:20	Opportunity to ask questions to Maristella Casciato and Michael Newton	
22:20	<b>Reception</b>	

## APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>

20:00	<b><i>Introduction to theme seminar</i></b> By: Sofia Saavedra	Aula UNA Openbaar
20:05 – 20:25	<b><i>Modern architecture and the construction of a democratic state in the Dominican Republic</i></b> By: Gustavo Luis Moré (Chair Docomomo Dominican Republic)	
20:25 - 20:50	<b><i>From rationalism to regionalism: some lessons of modern movement architecture in Cuba</i></b> By: Eduardo Luis Rodriguez (Vice president Docomo Cuba)	
20:50 – 21:00	Opportunity to ask questions at Gustavo Luis Moré and Eduardo Luis Rodriguez	
21:00 – 21:10	<b>Break</b>	
21:10 – 21:35	<b><i>Soldiers and tourists : the subjective selves of Puerto Rico's modern architecture</i></b> By: Miguel Rodriguez Casellas (Docomomo Puerto Rico & Dean Arqpoli University)	
21:35 – 22:00	<b><i>Caracas modern genome</i></b> By: Hannia Gomez (President of la Fundación de la Memoria Urbana, Caracas)	
22:00 – 22:10	Opportunity to ask questions at Miquel Rodriguez Casellas and Hannia Gomez	

## APRIL 29<sup>th</sup>

10:00	<b><i>Restoration of modern buildings</i></b> By Wessel de Jonge (Docomomo NL)	NAAM (to be confirmed)
11:00	Closure debate: <b><i>Lessons for Docomomo Curaçao and other chapters how to go on</i></b> Moderator: Maristella Casiato	

## CV speakers:

**Maristella Casciato** is an architect and historian; member of docomomo Italy, Chair of the executive committee of docomomo international; co-chair of the docomomo 2004 programm committee; member of the 2004 international organizing committees; and a associate professor of history of architecture at the architecture school of Cesena, university of Bologna. Her research interests include Dutch modernism, the architecture culture of reconstruction in Italy, and the conservation of modern architecture. Book publications include: "Neorealism in Italian architecture", in *Anxious Modernisms* (2000), *Olanda 1870-1940: città, casa architettura* (1980), *The Amsterdam School (1987/1996/2003)*, *Il Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana. Architettura e Costruzione del Colosseo Quadrato* (2002)

**Hannia Gómez** is an Architect and Urban Designer. She is the president/founder of the Caracas-based foundations Centro de la Ciudad and Fundación de la Memoria Urbana. She is author of the forthcoming book *El Cerrito: Gio Ponti's masterpiece in Caracas* (2009), and of numerous articles and lectures on a wide range of subjects dealing with architectural and urban culture. She is also an architecture critic and the curator of Gio Ponti's Villa Planchart in Caracas. Her current work is concerned about development and urban memory.

**Wessel de Jonge (1957)** graduated in architecture at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, in 1985. As a practicing architect, he successfully combines an academic and a professional career. As a researcher at Delft University of Technology from 1986 – 2003, he co-produced various exhibitions and publications on Modern Movement architecture in Holland, and co-published 'The Modern Movement and Restoration; Determining the Impact of Different Restoration Options' in 1990, for the National Department for Conservation. Wessel de Jonge has been the co-founder of DOCOMOMO International, the 'International Working party for Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement'. From 1990 - 2002, he has been the organization's International Secretary and the editor of the DOCOMOMO International Journal. From 1992 – 96 he was the founding Chairman of the DOCOMOMO Specialist Committee on Technology, and the editor of Modern Preservation Technology Dossiers on the conservation of curtain walls, exposed concrete, modern windows and glass. He has lectured and published extensively in many countries on the challenge of preserving recent architectural heritage. As a practicing architect, he has been in charge of the restoration of Gerrit Rietveld's 1953 Biennial Pavilion in Venice, Italy, in 1995; the supervision of the 1999 restoration of the former Technical Schools in Groningen (Wiebenga and Van der Vlugt, 1922-23); the rehabilitation of the former Control Tower (1947) at Schiphol International Airport, completed in 2001; the restoration of the Villa Poot in Bergen (1932) completed in 2002; and the restoration of the former sanatorium 'Zonnestraal' in Hilversum (Duiker and Bijvoet, 1926-31), in co-operation with Henket Architects, completed in 2003. Master Planning projects include the 1999-2004 large-scale rehabilitation project for the Van Nelle Design Factory in Rotterdam (Brinkman and Van der Vlugt, 1926-30); the extensions of Amsterdam's 19<sup>th</sup> century Artis Zoo; and the 1958 Cité Modèle in Brussels. His Rotterdam based studio of 11 staff is currently engaged in projects for the reconstruction of the Poème Électronique pavilion of the 1958 World Fair in Brussels (Le Corbusier, Xenakis, Varèse) for a location in Eindhoven, the rehabilitation of the former GAK Building (Merkelbach & Elling, 1959) in Amsterdam, the relocation of the Rotterdam School for Music and Dance in an 1950s print shop, and the conversion of the 1914 Jobsveem warehouses into apartments. Recent commissions include the design of a new public library in Waregem (Belgium) and the extension to the 1920s Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam, involving the rehabilitation of the museum's entrance and the addition of a hotel and a new theatre.

In 2003, Wessel de Jonge was nominated by H.M. the Queen of The Netherlands the *Royal Medal* as an *Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau*. In 2004, he was awarded the *Annual Award of the Royal Institute of Dutch Architects*, the BNA Kubus

**Ronald Gill** (Indonesia, 1941) is an architect. He graduated in architecture and urban design (1967) and obtained his doctorate (1995) at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands. As a young architect he designed and carried out projects within the Department of Public Works, City of Rotterdam, (1969-1980) which include office, community, sports and recreational buildings, and buildings for the Rotterdam metro. He was sent out by the City of Rotterdam on long term missions to Jamaica, Curaçao, Indonesia, and to Sierra Leone for technical assistance in urban planning and housing and for architectural and conservation projects. He set up the Building Department of the University of the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao (1980-1984), and was a senior lecturer at Delft University of Technology (1990-1995). Consultant, expert and research activities (a.o. for the Paul Getty Foundation, the World Bank and the Govt. of The Netherlands Antilles) include Urban Heritage projects in Indonesia, a.o. Bali, the Caribbean and Suriname, and World Heritage projects on Curaçao and Saba. He was deputy director of the Curaçao Monuments Foundation and wrote many international publications and several books on planning and architecture in Indonesia and on Curaçao. Memberships include ICOMOS

International Council on Monuments and Sites, the Royal Institute of Dutch Architects (until 2006), the Monuments Council of Curaçao (until 2000) and the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies. He lectured on the architectural heritage of the Modernist Movement in Indonesia on the First International DOCOMOMO Conference in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, in 1990. **Hannia Gómez** is an Architect and Urban Designer. She is the president/founder of the Caracas-based foundations Centro de la Ciudad and Fundación de la Memoria Urbana. She is author of the forthcoming book *El Cerrito: Gio Ponti's masterpiece in Caracas* (2009), and of numerous articles and lectures on a wide range of subjects dealing with architectural and urban culture. She is also an architecture critic and the curator of Gio Ponti's Villa Planchart in Caracas. Her current work is concerned about development and urban memory.

**Gustavo Luis Moré** (1956) is the principal partner of G.L. Moré & Asociados, Estudio de Arquitectura, a firm established in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in 1987. Graduated at the Universidad Pedro Henríquez Ureña, Arch. Moré has a 30 years professional experience including post graduate studies at Harvard University, the University of Florida, la Università degli Studi di Firenze, la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and the National Gallery of Art at Washington DC, among other institutions. Since 1996, Arch. Moré is the chief editor of *Archivos de Arquitectura Antillana*, a specialized tri-annual publication covering local and regional architectural and urban theory, projects, academia. This prestigious magazine has received numerous awards throughout the Caribbean and Ibero America. He presides the Dominican chapter of the DoCoMoMo International Working Group, and is the Coordinator of the Centro de Estudios de la Arquitectura y el Urbanismo, besides teaching for many years History of Architecture and Architectural Design master's studios at UNPHU and UNIBE Universities in Santo Domingo. Arch. Moré has a solid, recognized, and prestigious background in the academic and professional fields. His firm activities has covered a wide range of institutional, commercial, residential, preservation, urban, and editorial projects. This extensive professional activity has been recognized with a series of awards in the national and international scene, such as the 1st prize in the design contest for the Rosario Dominicana Headquarters (1985), the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for the design of the Italian Embassy in Santo Domingo (1984), the 1st prizes for the design of the Supreme Court of Justice and General Attorney's bldg. (1997), the Santiago Central Park (2002), the Centro de los Héroes urban design schemes and several first and honorary prizes in the Santo Domingo's Architecture Biennial, the Caribbean Biennale, The Puertorican Biennale and the National Visual Arts Biennale. In addition to the projects already mentioned, some of the most recognized projects of the firm are the Banco Popular Dominicano branch office prototype (2004), Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo bldg. (2002), the Puerto Plata's Justice Palace (2000), the National Symphony Orchestra Auditorium (2000), the Dominican Republic National Library addition and expansion (2007), Caucedo's Multi-Modal Port (2001), Banco Nacional de Crédito Main Office (1992), Banco BHD branch offices (1996-97), Torre San Francisco (1988-91), El Portillo Hotel and Spa, Mon Repos Apartments in Trinidad and Tobago, and Casa del Rey in Dorado, Puerto Rico.

**Michael Newton**, Conservation architect of the Curaçao Monuments Fund Foundation. He was born and raised on Curaçao. Studied Architecture in the Netherlands where he got his Masters at the Technical University of Delft. Worked for 5 years for the Curaçao Department of Urban Planning and Housing, on the first Monuments-policy of the Curaçao government. In 1993 he switched to his present employer. He wrote various publications on Curaçao historic architecture and conservation-policy. Co-founder and advisor of the foundation Pro-Monumento, an independent NGO, and initiator of the first Open Monuments day in 1994. President of the National Archeological and Anthropological Museum. Member of ICOMOS.

**Emilie d'Orgeix**, is an architectural historian (Ph.D, Quebec City, 1995) specialized in architectural history and preservation. She has been secretary general of Docomomo International and co-editor with Maristella Casciato of the *Docomomo Journal* since 2002, has lectured widely in Europe and America, coordinated the publication of four books among which "Cities of the New World" (Paris, 1999), and been curator of several exhibitions on colonial architecture in France, Canada and the USA. She presently holds the position of senior fellow at the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art in Paris where is in charge of the publication, in collaboration with Jean-Philippe Garric, of the *Bibliography of French Architectural Books from the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Centuries*. She has been awarded research fellowships by the Ministry of External Affairs of Canada (Montreal), the Casa de Velásquez (Madrid), the Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisboa), the French School in Rome (Roma), the Coleman Foundation (New York) and the Whitney Foundation (New York).

**Eduardo Luis Rodríguez** (Havana, 1959) is an architect, architectural historian, critic, lecturer and exhibition curator. He serves on the International Specialist Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Patrimony of ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites) and is Vice-President of the DOCOMOMO Cuba Working Party (Documentation and Conservation of the Modern Movement) where he is directing the register of significant

modern buildings in Cuba. He has served, as well, as one of the Executive Coordinators of the 2002, 2004 and 2006 Havana International Architecture Biennials. Since 1997 he has been the Editor in Chief of the magazine *Arquitectura Cuba*, and in 2005 was Guest Co-Editor of a special issue of the *Docomomo Journal* (Paris) devoted to modern movement architecture in the Caribbean islands. Mr. Rodríguez is the author of several books including *Architecture and Revolution in Cuba, 1959 – 1969. A critical view* (Actar, Barcelona, due Fall 2009); *Modernidad Tropical. Neutra, Burle Marx y Cuba: La Casa De Schulthess* (Ediciones de la Confederación Suiza, 2007); *The Havana Guide, Modern Architecture, 1925 – 1965* (Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2000), and *La Habana. Arquitectura del Siglo XX* (Blume, Barcelona, 1998). He is also co-author of *La Habana Colonial. Guía de Arquitectura* (Junta de Andalucía, Sevilla, 1993), and *La Habana. Map and guide to 337 significant architectural monuments* (Trialog, Darmstadt, 1992). His writings have been published worldwide including articles in all Cuban major press as well as in *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* (Paris), *The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts* (Miami Beach), *Architectural Digest* (Los Angeles), *Work in Progress* (Providence, Rhode Island) and *Stadt Bauwelt* (Berlin), among other publications. His essays also have appeared in the *Dictionnaire de L'Architecture du XX Siécle* (Hazan, Paris, 1996), the Gallimard Guide to Cuba (Gallimard, Paris, 1999) and in several books of photography, including *Robert Polidori's Havana* (Steidl, Göttingen, 2001), Andrew Moore's *Inside Havana* (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2002), and the anthology of Cuban and American writers and artists, *Cuba on the Verge. An Island in Transition* (Bullfinch Press, New York, 2003). Eduardo Luis Rodríguez has received many prizes and honors including a *Silver Medal as Distinguished Guest of Old Havana* (1987); the *Award to the Editor* at the Venice Architecture Biennial (2000); the *Award to the Best Book on Theory and History of Architecture* at the Quito Pan-American Biennial (2000), and the *Pierre Vago Award for Architectural Journalism* (awarded jointly, 2008) from the International Committee of Architectural Critics (CICA). He has been the recipient of Fellowships from the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island (1995), the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, New York (1996), the Higher Institute for Ibero-American Studies, Seville (1997), the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University (2004), and the Lower Austria Architectural Network (2005). Mr. Rodríguez has been a visiting scholar and lecturer worldwide, as well as a member of national and international architectural juries.

**Miguel Rodríguez Casellas** holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design from the University of Puerto Rico. His master's thesis in 1991 already showed a concern for large-scale projects next to other interests in art criticism and cultural theory. His thesis, which earned the top award that year at Princeton, proposed a Contemporary Art Museum at the heart of Plaza Las Américas, the largest shopping mall in the Caribbean, based on his research on the role of architecture in the production and dissemination of cultural value for mass consumption. It was obvious for him at the time that the essentialist notions that rule the cultural scene in Puerto Rico had hindered the development of a strong local architectural school of thought. In the early nineties, Rodríguez Casellas worked at Rem Koolhaas' Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam, where he cultivated a taste for large-scale urban projects. At OMA, he was part of the design team for a project involving public transportation and infrastructure within the rubric of urban design. Back in Puerto Rico, Rodríguez Casellas became part of the original design team of Tren Urbano, between 1995 and 1998. The design approach of this early team, which hyperbolizes the sublime scale and dramatic views of the transit facilities, persisted through the later design stages and is evident in the completed project. Later in his career, Rodríguez Casellas would have the chance to return to Tren Urbano as Director of the Public Art Project of Puerto Rico (PAPPR), which incorporated the train stations. Rodríguez Casellas moved to the public sector in 1998, joining the new Department of Urbanism of the City of San Juan, where he developed the Proyecto de Arte Urbano, a small-scale version of the PAPPR that attained instant recognition and propelled important controversies regarding the uses and abuses of public space. In San Juan, Rodríguez Casellas also worked as design manager of the award winning Plaza del Mercado de Santurce project, an architectural rehabilitation and urban design effort designed by architect Emilio Martínez that transformed an entire neighborhood. The City's close work with Emilio Martínez's team was recognized as an example of collaboration between designers and public officials. In 2001, Rodríguez Casellas conceived the Proyecto de Arte Público de Puerto Rico as part of the Directoría de Urbanismo del Departamento de Transportación y Obras Públicas, becoming its director until 2005. The project revisited and expanded the premises of the San Juan public art project, spreading works of art throughout the entire island while acknowledging the utopic and distopic tendencies of Puerto Rican culture. Controversies were part of the project's day to day struggles, as cultural precepts began to crumble under the radical premises of some of the interventions. In 2005, after leaving the Public Art Project, Rodríguez Casellas gained a voice in the public media with a series of articles addressing architecture, the city, and local culture with a vigorous voice and critical instinct. This side of Miguel, the writer, has taken many by surprise, particularly for his ability to expose the hidden inconsistencies of the architectural practice, his use of gender as a metaphor for

repressed cultural content, and a depiction of the contemporary Puerto Rican city that celebrates the beauty of its “accidents” while remaining critical of its shortcomings. In recent years, Miguel partnered with architect Miguel Szendrey Ramos in a firm they named *Ordinal*, a multidisciplinary platform that seeks to radicalize professional practice from a fresh, rather playful perspective, looking for the vindication of a generation of architects that, according to them, lack a coherent cultural project. The name *Ordinal* plays with the etymology of a word that simultaneously produced the terms “order” and “ordinary,” as it is the search for hidden organizing patterns within the banal and ordinary what constitutes the methodological premise of the firm. Since 1996, Rodríguez Casellas has been a professor of Theory, History and Design at ARQPOLI, the School of Architecture at Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, and succeeded Jorge Rigau as dean in 2006.

**Ir. Arch. Sofia Saavedra Bruno M.A.** (1972) runs CASArchitects with Carlos Weeber at Curaçao. Graduated as a civil engineer and architect from the University of Ghent, Belgium (1995), She studied at the École d'Architecture de Paris-La Villette/Institute de l'Amérique Latine (1995), and earned a Master's degree from the Berlage Institute in Amsterdam (1996–1997). She worked on several architectural and urban projects in the Dutch architectural offices de Architekten Cie and One Architecture (1998-2003) as Bouwfonds MAB development in the Hague & Paris (2003-2005). She currently is Associate Professor Architecture & Civil Engineering at the University of Netherlands Antilles UNA, was a guest professor at the University of Delft, Academies of Amsterdam & Rotterdam and participated in various academic workshops in Latin America & the Caribbean. She published the book "Urbanism and Architecture in Chiquitos. Pragmatic translation of European Principles to the Jesuit missions in Latin America.(Santillana 2000). She is the president of the foundation Docomomo Curacao and a founding member of Supersudaca, a think tank dedicated to research in architecture and urbanism: [www.supersudaca.org](http://www.supersudaca.org)