

# Programme

Seventh Annual Conference of the Construction History Society  
Online Conference

Saturday 5 April 2020

## 10am Online Session 1: Tradition and Innovation

### **Maryia Rusak**

PhD candidate, Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Norway

Norwegian Systems Architecture: Timber Prefabrication of Moelven Brug

Abstract: *Paper looks at the 19<sup>th</sup> century Norwegian joinery firm, Moelven Brug and how it transformed itself into a major producer of prefabricated timber homes in 1970s in Norway.*

### **Paula Fuentes**

Department of Architectural Engineering, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium;

### **Rosa Ana Guerra-Pestonit**

Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

The Vaults of Sint-Theresia's church in Dilbeek (Belgium): Tradition and Innovation in Tile Vaults in the 20th Century

Abstract: *Paper looks at the transfer of technology of thin tile vaults and how they were used in the vaulting of St Theresia's church in Dilbeek in Belgium in the 1930s.*

## 12 (midday) Online Session 2: Eighteenth century

### **James W.P. Campbell**

Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge, UK

The Significance of John Theophilus Desaguliers's Course of Experimental Philosophy to the History of Hydraulics and what it reveals about the First Pump-driven Fountains

Abstract: *This explores the work of John Theophilus Desaguliers, an 18<sup>th</sup> century British writer whose publications give the very first description of pumped fountains*

### **Lia Romano**

Department of Architecture, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Online paper: Fighting fires. Jean-Far Eustache de Saint-Far's contribution to the debate on fireproof constructions in France at the end of the eighteenth century

Abstract: *Looks at the contribution of the artist-engineer Jean Far Eustach de Saint-Fer (1746-1828) to the debate on the construction of fire proof floors and the promotion of the use of hollow clay pots*

## 2pm Online Session 3: Concrete

### **Andreas Thuy**

ETH Zurich, Switzerland

The 'Pilzdecken' of the Federal Granary in Altdorf: "a paragon facility for the modern art of building"

Abstract: *Paper on concrete and its use by the Swiss engineer Robert Maillart (1872-1940) to produce a 1909 patent for Pilzdecken (girderless slabs showing Maillart's system in action in the building the Federal Granary in the Swiss city of Altdorf constructed in 1912.*

### **Ilaria Giannetti**

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy

Reinforced concrete, industry and design: Balency prefabricated panels between France and Italy

Abstract: *Paper looks the Balency prefabricated concrete panel system and how it was used in France and Italy. The Balency system was invented in France in 1948, patented in 1950 and introduced to the French market 1952 and into Italy in 1964. The article details the system and its adoption, with clear diagrams and photographs showing how it worked*

### **Sofia Nannini**

Politecnico di Torino, Italy

Icelandic Concrete Surfaces: Guðjón Samúelsson's Steining (1930–50)

Abstract: *Paper on Steining, a render specifically designed to protect concrete surfaces from the freeze-thaw problems associated with the cold and used in Iceland and invented by Guðjón Samúelsson in 1930.*

## 4pm Online Session 4: Professions and Professionals

### **Valentina Burgassi**

Dipartimento di Architettura e Design, Politecnico di Torino - École Pratique des Hautes Études,

### **Mauro Volpiano**

Dipartimento di Architettura e Design, Politecnico di Torino

Tradition and innovation: the construction of court palaces and the role of professional figures in eighteenth-century Piedmont

Abstract: *This paper explores the construction of the sixteenth and seventeenth century buildings of the Savoy Court in Piedmont. These are well documented, with building accounts and drawings providing valuable insights into the construction process at the time.*

### **Christiane Weber**

Universität Innsbruck, Austria

Online paper: Professional organisations of Architects and Engineers and their journals in nineteenth century German States

Abstract: *Looks at the professional schools, publications and professional organisations for architects and engineers in the 39 German States before the unification in 1871.*

**Mike Chrimes**

Institution of Civil Engineers Panel for Historical Engineering Works

Jesse Hartley in 1797: evidence on the making of the Liverpool Docks Engineer

Abstract: *The paper examines a new piece of evidence on the life of Jesse Hartley (1780-1860), the engineer of the Liverpool Docks. Hartley's papers were burned after his death but there are a few chance survivals. This paper looks at a diary from 1797, which contains the appointments for the young trainee engineer and gives an idea of his movements. Chrimes compares this to other sources and diaries of the period.*

## 6pm Online Session 5: Iron

**Katerina Maria Chalvatzi**

ETH Zurich, Institute of Conservation and Building Archaeology (IDB)

Online paper: Early iron in Theatre Construction: the Théâtre du Palais-Royal in Paris

Abstract: *Paper detailing the use of iron to create the roofs and hollow pts for the vaults of a theatre in Paris constructed in the 1780s*

**Tom F. Peters**

Emeritus Professor, Lehigh University, Penn., USA

Louis Bruyère's innovative iron bridges and their contribution to the development of modern iron construction

Abstract: *Paper detailing Louis Bruyère's innovative use of iron to create bridges 1790-1830*

**Sara E. Wermiel**

Boston University and MIT, Mass., USA

Introduction of the Rolled I-beam in the U.S.A. in the 1850s. Revisited

Abstract: *This paper examines two rolling mills that heavily influenced the development of the I-section in the 1850s in the US*