

**Twelfth Annual Conference
Construction History Society**

Building Practice: Regulation, Corruption and Adaptation



**Queens' College
Cambridge
25-27 September 2026**

www.constructionhistory.co.uk

Friday 25 September

DAY ONE

09.00-9.15 ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION

9.15-9.30 WELCOME

9.30-10.30 Session 1: **Roundtable and Conference Theme Introduction**
FITZPATRICK HALL

10.30 -11.00 BREAK *Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served in the Bar*

11.00 -12.30 Session 2: **Regulation**
FITZPATRICK HALL
SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Kairavi Maniar (3)

Governing Architecture through Financial Regulation: Budgeting and Estimation Practices in the Late Nineteenth-Century Public Works Department, Colonial India

Yizhuo GAO, Xiaomao CAO, Gangyi TAN (18)

Politics, Architecture, and Knowledge: The Design and Construction of "Gandalei" under War Preparedness during the Third Front Construction

Louis Debersaques (25)

(Un)built to escape inspection? Problematising the building sector as an industrial category in (inter)national statistics. Case study: Belgium, 1890s.

Session 3: **Building Practice and Culture**

ANGEVIN ROOM
SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Ruiji Zhu (22)

Contracting "Scamps": Canton Labour, Royal Engineers, and Construction of Murray Barracks in Early British Hong Kong (1843-46)

Anastasia Romanova (17)

From Construction to Symbol: Narrative of the Church of St. Alexei in Pobrebea (Republic of Moldova)

Priya Joseph (9)

Terracotta Tiles from Marseilles to Mangalore: Reading Histories Through Mapping

12.30-1.30 LUNCH *Cripps Dining Hall*

1.30-2.30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
FITZPATRICK HALL

Dr Alexander Bubb

2.30-3.00 BREAK *Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served in the Bar*

3.00-4.30

Session 4: Water and Hydraulics

FITZPATRICK HALL

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Wu Yangjie, Lin Shuopeng, Li Zhaohui (26)

Water Conservancy Project in The Birthplace of a Great Leader: The Debate and Practice of Prefabricated and Cast-in-Place Construction Techniques in the Shaoshan Irrigation District

Yichuan Chen (23)

Parallel developments in structures for land reclamation: Water powered wing-gates in the Netherlands and China, 1800s-1980s

Valentina Burgassi, Sara Taglialagamba (31)

Hydraulic Construction and Acoustic Design in Leonardo da Vinci: Technical Knowledge and Experimental Practice from the Late Fifteenth Century to the Early Modern Period

Session 5: Corruption

ANGEVIN ROOM

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Michela Bonomo (15)

*Negotiated Compliance
Luigi Moretti, Cofimprese and the Politics of Reconstruction in Post-War Milan*

Maria-Cristina Florian (41)

Corruption as an Expression of Freedom: Discursive Practices and Space Creation in Post-Communist Romania

Daniel Alonso Saldaña Ayala (36)

Roads, Concrete and Politics: The Foundation Company and the Emergence of Peru's Cement Industry, 1920-1931

4.30-5.00

BREAK

Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served in the Bar

5.00-6.30

Session 6: Railway and Bridges

FITZPATRICK HALL

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Rosa Caruso (28)

The Dictionnaire des ponts et chaussées by Abram Henri Exchaquet (1787) and its dissemination in Naples

Mike Chrimes (6)

Construction of the Ouse (Balcombe) Viaduct, London & Brighton Railway (1838-1842)

Soheil Shahnazari (4)

Iranian Labourers and Foreign Contractors: The Construction of the Trans-Iranian Railway

Session 7: Publications and Practices

ANGEVIN ROOM

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Debbie Whelan (56)

A clash of wills: Socio-structural engineering in the Pongola Irrigation Settlement

Katharina Herrmann, Stefan King, Sabine Kuban (27)

Lightweight vaults by Christian Friedrich von Leins – the use of hollow pots in the reconstruction of medieval ribbed vaults.

Vladimir Ladinski (2)

Construction Related Periodicals in Croatia and Serbia (1878-1918)

Saturday 26 September
DAY TWO

09.00-9.15 REGISTRATION DESK OPEN FOR NEW ARRIVALS

9.15-9.30 WELCOME

9.30-11.00 Session 8: **Adaptation**
FITZPATRICK HALL
SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Jonathan Guillemin (55)
Repair, Improve or Replace? Regulation, Compliance and Adaptation in Historic Buildings in France, 1891–1955

René Heusler, Jasmin Schäfer, Christiane Weber (14)
Patent Patterns in Engineered Timber Construction (1900–1950)
Case Study of Karl Kübler AG in Southwest Germany and the ‘Crisis-Material’ Hypothesis

Tian Zhang (20)
Constructions without Architects: A Study of Chinese Builders through Lawsuits in Shanghai (1880–1930)

Session 9: **Knowledge Transfer and Building Technologies**
ANGEVIN ROOM
SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Maeshima Ayako (54)
The Investigation of Technology Transfer on Building Methods and Materials for Reinforced Concrete Apartments in African Cities Case Study Based on the Specification and Drawings of Rond-Point, Dakar, SENEGAL

Mahnaz Mahmoudi Zarandi (8)
Tracing Building Knowledge without Codes: Literary and Travel Accounts as Evidence for the Regulation of Windcatcher Construction in Iran

Meenakshi A (37)
“A Concatenation of Circumstances”: Building Collapses, Responsibility and Regulation in Bombay, 1890s–1940

11.00 -11.15 BREAK *Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served in the Bar*

11.15 -12.45 Session 10: **Standards, Regulation, and Governance**
FITZPATRICK HALL
SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Miao Li and James W.P. Campbell (1)
Bureaucracy and Corruption: How Yingzao Fashi seeks to Prevent Corruption in Song Dynasty State Construction

Liliana Ninarello (32)
Regulatory frameworks, material control, and contractual conflict in public construction projects in post-unification Rome

Robert Carvais (30)
The expertise of early modern French construction, as a precursor to peaceful justice

12.45-1.30 LUNCH *Cripps Dining Hall*

1.30-1.45 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
FITZPATRICK HALL

2.00-3.00

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

FITZPATRICK HALL

Dr Hannah le Roux

3.00-3.30

BREAK

Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served in the Bar

3.30-5.00

Session 11: Building Heritage and Conservation

FITZPATRICK HALL

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

George M. Croitoru and Ciresica Micu-Croitoru (24)

An innovative intervention from 90 years ago to save a historical ecclesiastical monument in Romania

Lia Romano (35)

Preserving Built Heritage with Rock Asphalt? Knowledge Transfer and Applications in Nineteenth-Century Naples

Marina Döring-Williams, Luise Albrecht (44)

The Art of the Joint. Fine Opus Testaceum in Roman Brick Tombs — Evidence of On-Site Processing

Session 12: Building Innovation

ANGEVIN ROOM

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Yiwei Zhang and Shujie Zhao (19)

Shading Canopy, Steel Frame, and Spatial Permeability: Two Case Studies of Large-Span Steel Roof Buildings in Early Reform-Era Shenzhen

Heng Xia (11)

Across the Divide: A Comparative Tectonic Study of China's Third Front Industrial Architecture and Otto Steidle's Structure-Infill Prototypes

Wang Tianjun (10)

A Study on the Design, Construction, and Mystery of the Designer of Wuhan Theater in 1950s China

5.00- 5.15

BREAK

Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits served in the Bar

5.15-6.15

Session 13: Modern Building Culture

FITZPATRICK HALL

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

Benjamin Schmid, Baris Wenzel and Christiane Weber (13)

Standards in Structural Engineering – Between Innovation Constraint and Planning Certainty: The Impact of Missing Standards Illustrated by the Munich Olympic Roof Project

Marci S. Uihlein (42)

Becoming the Modern Office Building

6.15-6.30

David Yeomans and James Campbell

CLOSING REMARKS

7.00

DRINKS IN THE OLD KITCHENS

[FOR THOSE THAT HAVE BOOKED DINNER]

7.30

GALA DINNER IN OLD HALL

[FOR THOSE THAT HAVE BOOKED DINNER]

Sunday 26 September

DAY THREE

08.00-9.00	BREAKFAST – <i>Cripps Dining Hall</i>
9.00-10.00	GUIDED TOURS OF COLLEGE
9.00-11.00	GUIDED TOURS OF CAMBRIDGE
11.00	Depart