

Fig. 1: Chairman Nobuyuki Sekiguchi guiding presentations and discussions of students' projects.

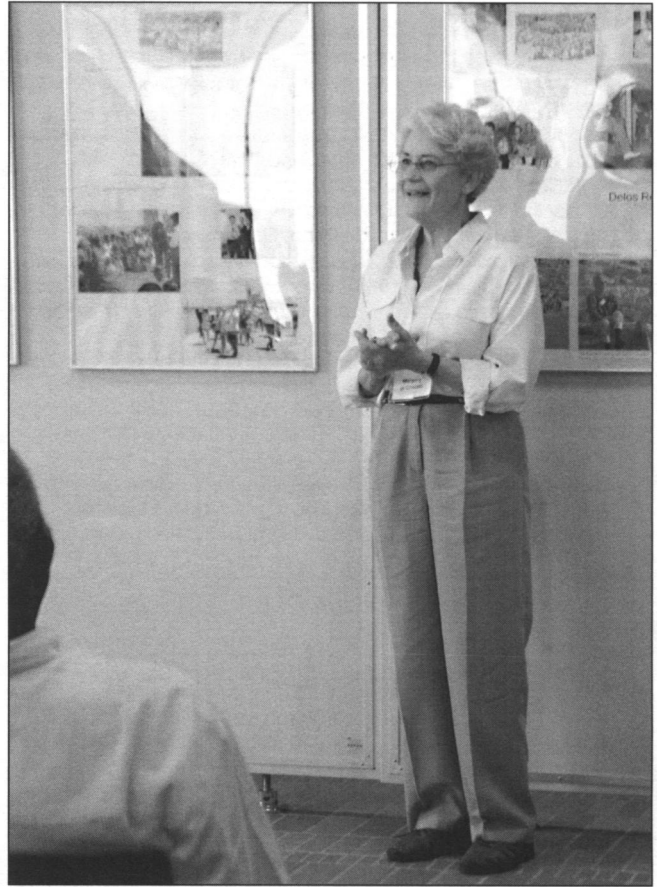


Fig. 2: Margery al Chalabi and her posters on past Delos Symposia on board ship and at the Apollonion, Porto Rafti, Greece.



Fig. 3: David Langridge, coordinator of the session, commenting on posters.

The Poster Session: A fitting finale to a very successful WSE meeting

David Langridge

The author trained and worked initially as an urban planner with work in England and Australia. He was Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Environmental Studies (Architecture Planning, Landscape Architecture), Cheltenham College of Art, between 1971 and 1983. Since 1983, he has lived and worked in Edinburgh as an artist, developing a visual language. His subject matter is the City and its visual form, drawing inspiration from the city of Edinburgh. He is a graduate of the Athens Center of Ekistics and since 2003 a member of the World Society for Ekistics (WSE). The text that follows is the co-ordinator's report of the Poster Session on the afternoon of Friday, 23 September, 2005, with Nobuyuki Sekiguchi as Chairman, at the international symposium on "Globalization and Local Identity," organized jointly by the World Society for Ekistics and the University of Shiga Prefecture in Hikone, Japan, 19-24 September, 2005.



a

The Poster Session concluded the week's deliberations on "Globalization and Local Identity." It consisted of a display of:

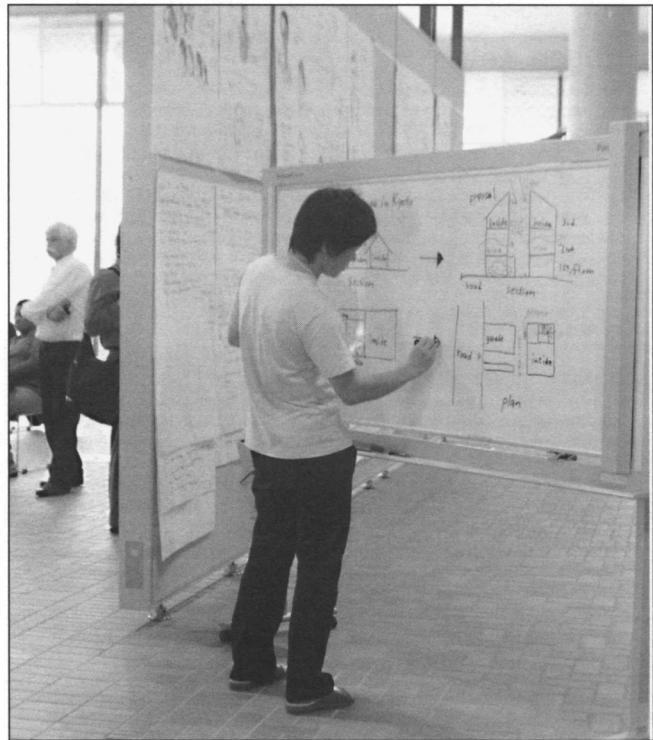
- architectural projects designed by Japanese students of architecture,
- a series of photographs of past Delos meetings, and
- summaries of the presentations from the previous ten Sessions.

The Chairman for the afternoon's Session, held in the lobby of the Main Hall, University of Shiga, was Nobuyuki Sekiguchi. It was a relaxed affair, with refreshments available, in contrast to the formal presentations in the Lecture Hall.

The Session began by looking at drawings, beautifully presented by young architectural students. Each student talked briefly about their design projects and answered questions (fig. 1).

Thereafter, a superb set of photographs was the backdrop for Margery al Chalabi to evoke past Ekistic Meetings on Delos with former luminaries – Margaret Mead, "Bucky" Fuller, Arnold Toynbee, Kenzo Tange, and Dinos Doxiadis. Some present members of the WSE, many attending the Hikone Meeting, were also caught on camera in celebratory mood on the island of Delos in 2001 (fig. 2).

Finally, for the remaining and substantial period of the Session, the time was spent in a study of the "posters" or "works on paper." In essence, these reflected the week's journey from the morning (*Opening Theme*) of Tuesday, 20 September to the final morning (*Student Session*) of Friday, 23 September, 2005. Barry Rae, Ellen Shoshkes, Nobuyuki Sekiguchi, and myself had kept a "diary" of the daily presentations with handwritten summaries and simple illustrations; these were exhibited on large sheets of paper (figs. 3 and 4).



b.

Fig. 4: Posters from individual sessions in preparation.

The Chairman, Nobuyuki Sekiguchi, introduced each of the Chairpersons from the previous formal Sessions to talk for five minutes on the presentations. Using the “posters” as a source of background material, the Chairpersons were able to quickly summarize the contents of each paper for everyone. Sometimes the speakers themselves were invited to provide more detail. This feedback from the “posters” showed their potential as communication aids – jogging the memory of the participants about the main themes and topics under discussion at Hikone.

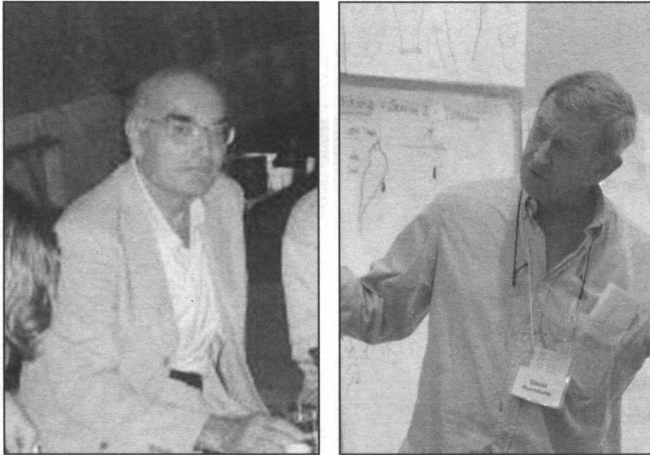


Fig. 5: Chairmen of sessions Ruşen Keleş and David Rushforth presenting their reports.

Session 2:

Local Identity: Some historic examples of polis

Ruşen Keleş (chair)

Professor Dr. Ruşen Keleş taught at Ankara University, Faculty of Political Science, for many years and served as Dean of the Faculty between 1971 and 1975. He was also Head of both the Ernst Reuter Center for Urban Studies and the Center for Environmental Studies at the same university. He was a research associate at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (1976-1977) and at the Institute of Developing Economies (Ajiken), Tokyo (1988-1989). Dr Keleş has published extensively on Comparative Urbanization, Theories of Local Government, Environmental Policies, Urban and Environmental Politics. He is a member of the World Society for Ekistics

The Chairman's report

The distinguished speakers presented several excellent historical examples to the audience.

● Based on long years of excavations and investigations on architectural remains, **Dr Antikleia Moundrea-Agrafioti** competently identified some historic precedents in the protection of local identity under the influence of globalization.

● **Mr Francis Mburu's** paper on the case of Old Town Mombasa' Kenya revealed how significant is the impact of unchecked development of modern building construction in the ineffective performance of conservation efforts.

● **Koji Nishikawa**, in his paper on the Castle Town of Hikone, indicated that during the process of modernization, making the best use of historic features of the communities may contribute greatly to the preservation of the local identity.

All of the speakers emphasized that local values may coincide with cultural features of the settlements. Thanks to their careful analyses, we became more aware of the term “sustainable globalization”. We thank them all.

Box 1: Report on Session 2 by Chairman Ruşen Keleş.

Session 4:

Built environment and local community

David Rushforth (chair)

Mr David Rushforth is a retired geographer/planner/ekistician from New Zealand. He spent the last 20 years of his professional life based at the OECD in Paris. Prior to that he was a planning consultant to governments in Brazil, Saudi Arabia and New Zealand. He is a member of the World Society for Ekistics. The text that follows is a summary report on the 4th session on 21 September on “Built environment and local community” of the international symposium on “Globalization and Local Identity,” organized jointly by the World Society for Ekistics and the University of Shiga Prefecture in Hikone, Japan, 19-24 September, 2005.

The Chairman's report

This session locates itself at the heart of the theme of this symposium on “Globalisation and Local Identity.” It addresses some of the complex issues of “glocalization” from three diverse perspectives presented by distinguished speakers from three continents. They are: Dr Meltem Yilmaz from Ankara, Turkey; Prof Koichi Nagashima from Tokyo, Japan; and Dr Ellen Shoshkes from Boston in the USA.

● **Dr Meltem Yilmaz** presents us with a very thoughtful and thought-provoking paper entitled: “Architectural identity and local community.” In it she looks at cultural landscapes by exploring how architecture expresses the identification of the inhabitant with the environment and how culture plays a determinant role in architectural identity. She reflects on how architectural identity affects and is affected by local community and calls for a reinstated sense of place and local culture in the face of strengthening global forces. She believes that a sense of place can be a catalyst to regeneration and achieved through the imaginative re-use of old buildings and streets. Two possible approaches are suggested, one seeking to preserve existing structures; the other enhancing urban design by combining the old with the new.

● The paper by **Prof. Koichi Nagashima** provides a fascinating and informative insight into the evolution of planning processes in Japan. His presentation, entitled “Local identity by low-rise compact city” describes a dramatic loss of identity in many smaller Japanese cities. He uses a case study of Zushi, a city of 60,000 inhabitants in the commuter fringe of the Tokyo Region to make a plea for reintroducing a more traditional low-rise configuration of building capable of harnessing the local *fudo* (wind and soil; history and culture). Buildings of up to three stories with a courtyard enhance safety and neighborliness; and with due respect of the minimum allowed lot size, medium density as well as open spaces may be achieved. In Zushi, a friendly human scale in harmony with the natural environment has been created but more citizen involvement in preparing district plans is seen to be still desirable.

● The third paper, by **Dr Ellen Shoshkes**, is entitled “East West: US-Japan exchange and its effects on community development – an interactive case study of Jamaica Plain and Zushi.” This research offers a panorama of some complex patterns of inter-action between the two countries over the past twenty years and shows the central place of ekisticians within that exchange. One of the main themes here is cross-societal learning. The links between a community in Boston and another in Tokyo are shown to have deep historical roots which reflect a shared ideal of a decentralized community based on co-operation in harmony with nature. The author demonstrates that this may become reality when embedded in distinct local identity.

Box 2: Report on Session 4 by Chairman David Rushforth.

Overall, the week's presentations were shown to cover a very wide area in the context of the Ekistic Grid. There was, however, a preference among the speakers to discuss the matter of “local identity” up to the scale of a small city or polis. Many participants spoke about learning from the past, pointing out that vernacular traditions, local interpretations, and local solutions were important issues when invoking “local identity.”

Some speakers, Margery al Chalabi, Jurg Lang, and myself, reminisced about how Doxiadis would make a synthesis of the week-long discussions to bring the Symposia to a close. As Co-ordinator, I said it would be too presumptuous for me

to attempt a similar assessment exercise at the Hikone meeting; but to sum up, I believe the "Poster" Session was a fitting finale to a very successful WSE Meeting 2005 at the University of Shiga. It called for maintaining the richness and diversity of "local identity" within the inevitable process of "globalization." Everyone left Hikone inspired by the occasion.

In conclusion, I would like to make some personal remarks concerning the theme of "Globalization and Local Identity." I believe we as Ekisticians are in danger of collecting too many facts because of our knowledge-based backgrounds. We are losing our innate ability to work in harmony with nature and human settlements. This is especially pertinent to local identity concerns. I sometimes feel we can learn from the creative artists – the poets, composers, painters, film producers, and

travel writers. The really good ones understand and evoke powerful images of "local identity" or the "spirit of place."

It is only through a prolonged and thoughtful observation of people interacting with their landscape or townscape that we can begin to identify the qualities and characteristics that make up "local identity." These expressive qualities have most usually endured and persisted from the past right up to the present. The identification by people with a place must somehow be allowed to endure into the future in spite of the increasing "globalization" within our lives. The Ancient Greeks and the Japanese, for example, once possessed this feeling for nature because they could rely on an education based on sensibility rather than solely on knowledge. I personally would like us to return to this path in the future.