

Subject: Report on the Workshop Architecture and Museum Technology
Location: Convention Center of FAAP, Sao Paulo Brazil
Date: October 9-14, 2016.
Organizers: ICAMT and Exposmus Brazil

The ICAMT – International Committee for Architecture and Museum Techniques of ICOM – International Council of Museums promoted the International Workshop Architecture and Museum Techniques 2016, from October 9th to 14th 2016, at the Convention Center of FAAP – Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado, in São Paulo, Brazil, which will address the present relationship between architecture and museology and the challenges to be considered in the architecture of museums and exhibit areas.

As a former board member of ICMS, I was asked to represent ICMS, on invitation of the ICAMT to attend this conference and give a presentation and talk about ICMS, security measures and proactive museum security. As the former director of security for the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and also as a independent advisor in this field of expertise, I was honoured and more than happy to accept this request - especially because the place and time to start talking about museum security in relation to architecture and design of exhibit areas is not when a museum is build or ready to open but when we start thinking of building it and designing how to deploy it.

It is important to relate, from a security point of view, to the architectural importance of the design and development of new museums or turning existing buildings in to museums as well as the use of museum technology in designing exhibit areas within museums.

The other way around it also is important from an architectural and museum technology point of view to be aware of the need and necessity for security in these museum buildings and exhibition areas.

History learns that we know of each other's work, but working together, sharing ideas, learn from each other and help each other to find beautiful but also working solutions for problems in the this process is not a naturally or an obvious thing.

History also learns that when a building is ready and/or an exhibition area is designed, security departments come in, investigate the dangers working from threat- and risk analysis, have their demands where it concerns constructional and electronicall security that is necessary to protect the artefacts. So they want to have all kinds of equipment like CCTV and detection alarms and more as well as demands on burglary-proof walls and windows. So that means they have to alter some things.

And there lies the birth of the friction between these parties, because to alter a design or building in that stage is usual not possible without changing it. So things will be added and altered and will not fit in the way the architect or designer envisioned it. Ergo annoyance, incomprehension or misunderstanding can be created.

Therefore the chance to talk to this group of experts, who, I think, are not so different from the rest of us but mainly more focused on creativity from another perspective, is one that should be used. To be able to explain that security people can also be very creative and are trained to find solutions for problems (I prefer to say challenges) facing the total concept of building museums and designing of exhibition areas.

How can we respect each other's expertise and come together and inform, learn, adjust and cooperate, before plans are cast in concrete.

To find understanding and connect was my goal for this conference by way of showing the participants that finding right timing and sharing information is the way it can be done. To make clear it can be done I used practical examples of projects from that where or are executed this way.

But also by having a vision on how a security network like ICMS is functioning and explaining that there is a lot of international experience in ICMS.

To explain the change of the way we look at security nowadays: Away from reactive security (reacting on incidents) towards proactive security (preventing incidents to happen) and most of all how we can work together to get consensus and facing challenges together.

These were my goals for this conference.

During the 6 days of the conference where we had a full program during the day and also in the evenings. There were many interesting speeches and presentations, during the breaks there was a lot of discussion although sometimes the language barrier made it difficult. However there were enough bilingual participants, so with help from each other we managed to keep these "in between" conversations going.

We visited the many beautiful museums in Sao Paulo where many topics from presentations of the conference returned. To get a good impression I refer to the website of ICAMT where the program, the presentations and the photos are published to read, see and to share.

[\(http://network.icom.museum/icamt/workshops/2016-sao-paulo-brazil/2016-sao-paulo-workshop-day-1-and-7/\)](http://network.icom.museum/icamt/workshops/2016-sao-paulo-brazil/2016-sao-paulo-workshop-day-1-and-7/)

My presentations were planned on day 6, being the last day of the official program

The first one was about ICMS and what we do since 42 year and what we are planning to do the coming years. I also invited the participants to visit our site and join the ICMS as a member.

The ICMS presentation was made in PREZI format and I will add a PDF format of it with this report. It can be used by the ICMS members on other occasions, when needed.

The second presentation was about how we can work together and what is possible within the security - for example using material that is invisible for the visitors of a museum, fits in in the "look and feel" of an exhibition area, and still are state of the art when it comes to security, but also thinking about simple solutions in problems that can occur. This presentation is in PDF format available on the website form ICAMT as mentioned above.

The above mentioned presentation was mostly covering the constructional and electronical security measures. I was also asked to talk about the organizational part of security with the main focus on proactive security. This specific presentation is also added to this report, in a PDF format.

In the panel discussion afterwards we talked about how to improve the collaboration between the different experts involved in developing, designing, and securing museums and how to interact with different demands in this matter. The general feeling was that talking about security in this way was a useful contribution in the goals of the conference. It will lead to better understanding in the total process of building and running a museum to make beautiful exhibitions, in beautiful buildings, where visitors and art are secure and safe.

Dick Drent