

FOREWORD TO THE 'AUTHENTICITY' THEMATIC ISSUE

It will not have escaped the notice of regular *Bulletin KNOB* readers that the journal has undergone a number of changes over the course of the past decade. The most striking is of course the new design, which was introduced in the first issue of 2013. But behind the scenes, too, important steps in the modernization and professionalization of the journal were taken. A smooth collaboration was forged between the editors, editorial board and the KNOB office, which was permanently embedded in the Faculty of Architecture at TU Delft. All issues from the over one-hundred-year history of the journal were published as open-access downloads on the *Bulletin KNOB* website. The *Bulletin* was incorporated into Elsevier's Scopus, the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and the European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS), resulting in greater visibility in the international academic world and measurable bibliographical citations. And since 2019 English translations of articles in the journal have also been published online. All this occurred under the inspiring leadership of editor-in-chief Marie-Thérèse van Thoor, who relinquished her activities for the journal on 1 January 2020.

Marie-Thérèse van Thoor joined the *Bulletin* as editor at the beginning of 2008, becoming editor-in-chief three years later. She was the first woman to head an editorial team that up to that point had been largely made up of men. It might be going too far to say that she left behind a bereft editorial team at the end of 2019, but her departure did bring home to us just what she has meant for the *Bulletin*. The journal she encountered in 2008 had of course long ceased to be the 'occasional pamphlet' that the KNOB had envisaged at its foundation in 1899. With her vision, dedication and energy, Marie-Thérèse transformed the *Bulletin* into a contemporary scholarly journal for spatial heritage, with an increasing focus on modern architecture, urban design and cultural landscape. Marie-Thérèse has a unique ability to combine drive with work satisfaction. During the past nine years, she has decisively but good-humouredly charted the journal's course and distributed the tasks among 'her' editors.

To mark her departure as editor-in-chief, the KNOB board offered Marie-Thérèse a study day, with a programme of her own choosing. Marie-Thérèse decided to devote the colloquium to a topic close to her heart – authenticity – and invited a number of current and

former editors to contribute. Scheduled for 26 June 2020, the study day could alas not go ahead owing to COVID-19. Fortunately, that did not apply to the preparation of a thematic issue of the *Bulletin* that the editors already had in hand. This special edition of the journal brings together the contributions intended for the study day in article form. The diverse discourses demonstrate that in choosing ‘authenticity’, Marie-Thérèse had settled on a fascinating, complex and above all inexhaustible topic that continues to invite exploration of the wide range of fields to which this concept can be applied. In this issue we find successive contributions on: debates within the KNOB; reconstruction of vanished architecture; adaptive reuse of buildings; reuse of building materials in the past; design in the digital era; landscape authenticity; postmodern housing estates; and the evaluation of modern architecture.



The final word goes to Marie-Thérèse who, taking all this into account and with a special focus on world heritage, reminds us once more of the fluidity of the concept of authenticity, but also offers the prospect of its use as an exceptional mark of quality. Although the reader will not find the ultimate definition of authenticity in this thematic issue, we hope that they will identify with the physicist Enrico Fermi’s comment after listening to some lecture or other: ‘I am still confused. But on a higher level.’

THE EDITORS

