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Ing. Lucio Caceres Behrens
Ministro de Transporte y Obras Publicas
Rincon 561, Piso 8
Montevideo
Uruguay

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Dear Minister Caceres:

Thank you for the encouraging telephone conversation of about a week ago. Batuz had not informed me that he had already passed on to you my draft ("sketch") of a symposium that would honor Eladio Dieste. Consequently I started our conversation as if I were beginning from first steps. I was then pleased to know that you were already informed and took at least initial interest in the proposal.

What I propose, of course, starts from what you have proposed: the meetings of some Uruguayan engineers associated with Dieste with people of shared interest at Cadenabbia and Alzella in late May and early June.

My extension of that program has two related goals. First, to put the discussion of "Physics and Architecture" in a context larger than Dieste and his reinforced ceramic works — by engaging some of the most creative architects and engineers who are concerned with other "traditional" materials (e.g., timber, stone, and glass). This will make a larger intellectual and professional contribution. But, secondly, I think the largest honor to Dieste would be not just a salute to his accomplishment (which we would do), but also to recognize him in the context of younger, notable architects/engineers, and recognize his thought and accomplishment also in an emerging broad and respected field. Dieste has done something very special in Uruguay, but it would be most respectful and correct to see that achievement as not only a unique, regional phenomenon.

I had preliminary discussions with Professor Thomas Herzog, a noted architect in Munich; I believe I have secured his participation at Alzella. He also agreed that I may use his name in soliciting the participation of other notable architects/engineers. But if I am to win them for the cause as early as the June meeting in Alzella, I must move fast.

I want, then, urgently, to get moving. But, to win the best participants, I need to paint the larger picture, not just an exploratory meeting in Alzella. Furthermore, I don't think the larger ambition can be realized without your active engagement. Consequently, I will be so bold as to rush ahead with a suggestion of how we might organize events, and what burden this would put on you.

The Alzella meeting does explore ideas, but mainly it organizes a future event that takes place in two venues:

Sometime in 1999-2000, a selected group of architects/engineers gather at MIT and in Montevideo (in either order) to present prepared papers on the theme of "Scientific Innovation in Structure and Construction with Traditional Materials." In Montevideo, this will be part of a special homage to Eladio Dieste (this would be

importantly noted at MIT too, but in Montevideo it would call for an event and (banquet).

Speakers:

The engineers Dieste and Larrambebere from Montevideo, re: reinforced ceramic.
 An architect and engineer pair re: timber.
 An architect and engineer pair re: stone.
 An architect and engineer pair re: glass.
 Two commentators on Dieste and/or the theme of the symposium.

So, ten people, plus yourself (I count myself as one of the commentators).

What would be required from you (meaning the governments of Uruguay and/or Montevideo):

For South American and North American participants one round-trip fare between Montevideo and Boston.

For Europeans, a round trip fare between Europe and Montevideo with a stop in Boston.

Cost of symposium and events in Montevideo.

What I would provide (meaning MIT or external sources we tap).

Honoraria for the speakers (Batuz will not allow this for the event in Montevideo which he associates with the Société Imaginaire).

Cost of symposium and events at MIT.

A publication should grow from this — and that is another considerable expense.

Commitments

It is abrupt to ask you for a commitment to such a plan, but, as stated, I must move quickly to bring at least a few of the eventual participants to the Altzella meeting. And I don't think I can do that without commitment to the larger plan.

Dates

Cadenabbia and Altzella dates are set (I would put the actual Altzella discussions on the evening of 1 June and all day on 2 June.) Because of other commitments and a need to give lead time to other busy people, I would like to see the MIT/Montevideo events at some convenient and pleasant time in the year 2000 (April?).

And a last immediate request

Everyone who sees the two-volume work on Dieste that I was so kindly given in Montevideo takes down the publication information in the hope of ordering it. In my negotiations with distinguished architects/engineers, the opportunity to give them a copy of this work would, I think, do much to enlist their interests as well as to inform them well about Dieste. I believe it was published by your ministry. Would you be willing to send me eight copies that I could distribute? Or alternatively, allow me to request that copies be sent from Montevideo to the selected recipients?

With best wishes,

copy

SA

Stanford Anderson
 Professor of History and Architecture
 Head, Department of Architecture

cc: Batuz