

ICCROM ARC 83, ROME, ITALY.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION COURSE
JANUARY TO JUNE 1983.**

**REPORT FROM MARGRET DORING TO HER SPONSORS.
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INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first journey taken outside Australia was directly due to being awarded the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Daryl Lindsay Scholarship at the beginning of 1982, an unexpected honour and pleasure for which I want to thank the Scholarship Committee. Because of the Scholarship, I was able to enrol in the 1983 Architectural Conservation Course conducted by ICCROM, the "International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property", in Rome.

Although generous, the Scholarship was not enough to pay for a trip to Europe plus living expenses while I was there. Without additional money provided by the Australian Federation of University Women (Queensland Branch), the Ian Potter Foundation, and the Australian Institute of Building, I would not have been able to go.

I would like to thank these institutions for their wonderfully generous and disinterested support. I hope I will be able to repay them through using what I have learnt to the benefit of our communities.

I would also like to thank some of the other people who gave me assistance, advice and support - my husband Carl Doring and my parents Joan and Neville Haughton. Also Maralyn Whaling, Research Officer of the Institution of Engineers Australia in Canberra, Bob Irving of the University of New South Wales and Ralph Andrews of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. The last two acted as my referees for the Scholarship and Ralph also gave me lots of helpful information about living in Rome and a number of useful contacts I was able to follow up.

ICCROM

The Organisation

ICCROM was founded by UNESCO in 1959 as an autonomous scientific intergovernmental organisation. It has about 70 member states plus around 30 associate organisations (e.g. the Archaeological Survey of India, the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies in York, UK, the National Library of Australia, the Smithsonian Institution in the USA).

ICCROM's functions are, by statute and in short:

- a) to document scientific and technical problems of preservation and restoration;
- b) to coordinate and encourage research in these fields;
- c) to advise and recommend; and
- d) to assist in training researchers and technicians.

It operates through a General Assembly (establishment, policy and budget), a Council (execution of Assembly decisions) and the Secretariat (the Director and Staff, who do the work).

ICCROM Functions

Documentation is undertaken through a comprehensive Library system available to members and others, and through the publication of books and technical notes.

Research is undertaken by staff members or through contracts with outside researchers, and is promoted in conjunction with other organisations such as ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments & Sites).

Advice and recommendations are given through technical correspondence, expert missions (site visits), organisation of investigations (such as preliminary excavations), and direct assistance (rescue missions in disaster areas). In recent years such work has been carried out in the Friuli region of Italy (earthquake), Sri Lanka

(preservation of mural paintings), San Antonio, Texas (advice on preventing further deterioration of old mission buildings), Cairo (museum re-organisation), Cappodocia, Turkey (restoration of a Byzantine church and on-site training of a team to continue the work).

Education and training are principally done through annual courses held at the Secretariat in Rome, but occasional courses are held in other areas to meet the specific needs of member states. For instance:

- A seminar on earthquake protection and repair held in Yugoslavia after the 1979 earthquake in Montenegro.
- An International Symposium and Training Workshop on the conservation of adobe, held in Peru in 1983.

The four annual courses are:

1. Architectural Conservation - 6 months.
2. Conservation of Mural Paintings - 4 months.
3. Scientific Principles of Conservation - 4 months.
4. Preventive Conservation in Museums - 3 weeks.

Australians have attended the Architectural Conservation course (4 persons to date), the Scientific Principles course (6 persons) and the Preventive Conservation course (1 person) The numbers in brackets are an informed guess on my part. Our absence from the Conservation of Mural Painting course reflects the absence of ancient mural paintings in our society, although the need to preserve our existing ancient rock paintings indicates that we could benefit by sending an Australian to do the course.

The ICCROM Secretariat - San Michele

The ICCROM Secretariat is housed in one end of an immense building, about twice the length of and somewhat wider than the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney. It is presently named the Istituto Romano di San Michele, and it occupies the West Bank of the Tiber River in the Trastevere area, between the bridges Ponte Palatino and Ponte Aventino, a short walk from the centre of Ancient Rome.

San Michele was founded in 1693 as an orphanage, and over a hundred years was expanded as one building to finish as a series of linked sections surrounding courtyards and including a church. Its functions altered with its size, being serially and simultaneously prisons, barracks, schools and asylums of various sorts. Semi-abandoned and full of squatters during the war years, the building deteriorated rapidly. It is now being gradually restored for use by Government facilities involved with conservation and restoration. ICCROM will continue to operate at the same end of the building, its facilities and area expanding as restoration is completed.

THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION COURSE, 1983: (ARC83)

ARC83: Syllabus and Content of the Course

The architectural conservation course is intensive, comprehensive and both philosophical and technical. A much condensed syllabus covers the study of:

CONCEPTS

- History of and attitudes to conservation.
- Evaluation of historic buildings and areas.
- Criteria and aims of conservation policy.

ANALYSIS

- Inspection and survey techniques.
- Inventory and documentation of sites and objects surveyed.

TECHNOLOGY

- Character, behaviour, deterioration, conservation and repair of traditional building materials, using traditional and modern techniques.
- Conservation of surfaces (renders, paints, glass).
- Modern installations (heating & energy saving).

CONSERVATION

- Rehabilitation and uses of historic buildings.
- Museums; preventive conservation, design, security.
- Structural consolidation and foundations.
- Historic towns and areas; socio-economic, tourism, and planning concepts.

ARC83: Conduct of the Course.

Lectures are interspersed with site visits, seminars and laboratory work. Classroom time, which includes time spent on site visits, ran from 9.30am to 6.30pm (and sometimes longer) every week day. Despite coffee breaks and a long lunch period, this made for a very long and sometimes tiring day.

Some of the lecture topics are covered by members of the Secretariat staff, but the majority of the lectures are given by academics and practitioners from other countries, specialists in their fields, who stayed with us for periods varying from a few days to several weeks.

Most of the course is conducted in the English language, the exception being some lectures in French and Italian, for which a simultaneous translation is normally provided. Lecturers came from Finland, Sweden, both Germanies, Italy, France, Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg and the UK. We also had the benefit of occasional talks given by ICCROM visitors such as the Chief Historical Architect of the National Parks Service in USA, and the Director of Conservation in the Archaeological Survey of India.

ARC83: Students

The international flavour of the course is enhanced by the students, who come from all parts of the world. We were architects from Tanzania, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Venice, India, Haiti, Canada, Argentina, Poland, USA, Yugoslavia and Malta. Engineers from Ghana and Australia, Art Historians from South Africa, Luxembourg and Guatemala, an Archeologist from Thailand, and a lady who owns the principal marble restoration business in Italy. All the students, with the exception of myself and the marble restorer, were sponsored by some branch, either local or national, of their home government. Most were government employees, a few were in private practice doing government contract work. I think only two of us had no specific employment to return to.

ARC83: Course Presentation

Because of the way the course is conducted, mostly using visiting experts in their field, one could not say the course presented a formalised school of thought on conservation such as one might get from a University Department. Being fellow professionals with our teachers, we could respond vigorously in discussion and argument. Presenting our own ideas and experience, sometimes in opposition to the lecturer, we found we learnt as much from each other as we did from didactic presentations. Interaction between ourselves and the lecturers, and often between two lecturers, greatly augmented the value of the course to us.

This interaction was particularly valuable to a number of us who came from ex-colonies and the "New World". The lecture material, both philosophical and technical, was principally gathered from experience with "ancient monuments" and pre-19th Century buildings. European ideas of what constitutes an historical structure or townscape worth preserving can seem irrelevant to those whose cities didn't exist 200 years ago.

The exchange of experience with, for example Richard from Edmonton in Canada (concerned now to preserve buildings and houses from the 1930s and 1940s, having little left from the city's foundation around 1900), Lakshman from Colombo, Melanie from Capetown, Ahmed from Zanzibar, Daniel from Port-au-Prince and Maria from Buenos Aires (all of whose 19th century cities are rapidly disappearing in redevelopment and succumbing to high-rise) was invaluable, and would possibly not have occurred in a more formally structured course, where the teachers were less open to exchange of ideas and opinion.

ARC83: Student Presentations

The origin of this exchange of ideas was the lectures we each gave about our own experience of conservation. It was perhaps important that the lecture of Richard from Edmonton was one of the earliest (in setting the cat among the 18th Century and older pigeons).

I talked (illustrated with slides) first about the City of Sydney and some of its older buildings, demolished, disappearing and those still with us, with particular emphasis on the Queen Victoria Building and Woolloomooloo. I then talked about the work, costs, compromises and hazards of restoring old houses for the market, using my own houses as an example.

I finished up, since no-one on our course had more than a rudimentary knowledge of Australia, with a guided tour, by slide, of the East Coast, from Hanging Rock to Lizard Island.

ARC83: Lecture Programme

The actual lecture programme tended to criss-cross about the formal syllabus, which theoretically progressed from the conceptual segments (philosophy) through analysis and technology (down to earth stuff) to conservation (real life application of philosophy). This largely happened because the visiting lecturers, nominally with us to discuss preservation of timber structures or perhaps conservation policies in Ruritania, would also have a broader outlook and their own opinions on say, conservation of medieval townscapes or the structural repair of earthquake damage. This again would lead to a lively exchange of opinion and enhanced the value of the course to us.

I could dissect the syllabus in detail, describing each topic that we covered, but this would be tedious. I think it will be sufficient if I limit my discussion to some of the segments (and teachers) I found were particularly interesting or rewarding for me.

Two early lecturers were Paul Philippot of Brussels (a former Director of ICCROM) and Derek Linstrom (Director of the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies in York). Their lectures on the evaluation of cultural/architectural heritage, in which Philippot discussed mainly art works in Europe and Linstrom, architecture around the world, formed a strong base on which we could develop our own ideas and attitudes.

The lectures and discussions on structural consolidation and foundations, by Poul Beckmann, from Ove Arup London office, and Bernard Fielden, also a former Director of ICCROM, were based on their work on York Minster and St Pauls Cathedral in London among other buildings, but could be applied more generally. Beckmann's work on the structural analysis and recording of ancient buildings I found very useful.

Andrea Bruno, Professor of Architecture from the University of Torino (Turin), presented a case study of the transformation of a 19th Century workhouse, an immense building in central Torino, into a modern Computer Centre and Mathematics Institute for the University. Bruno emphasised the financial benefits as well as the aesthetic ones, pointing out that it was cheaper to renovate this existing structure than to build a new one. I found this particularly interesting in view of my later observations of work in progress in Rome and Ferrara.

M. Gael de Guichen, a staff member of ICCROM, presented a condensed version of the course on Preventive Conservation in Museums which he runs each year in September. It was enough to make me wish I could stay on to attend the complete course. His vivid presentation was of the average museum as a sort of chamber of horrors, where exhibits undergo a process of accelerated decay instead of preservation for posterity. He illustrated his talks with pictures of ancient textiles, rotting away in sunlight, rickety display cases containing fragile glass, faience vases erupting with crystal growths and wooden carvings splitting into pieces because of incorrect climate control. All his examples came from established museums, often world renowned.

Dr Scichilone, the Director of an archaeological museum in Southern Italy, reinforced our new critical awareness of museum technology with his discussion of security and the impact of people on museums.

Neil Cossons, at the time the Director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Shropshire, (now the Director of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich) gave us a series of excellent talks about industrial archaeology and the development and management of Ironbridge which whetted my appetite for my hurried visit there a couple of weeks later. There the villages, factories and machinery associated with the Coalbrookdale Ironworks and Potteries have been preserved, with the oldest iron bridge in the world, over the Severn, forming a centre to the Museum.

ARC83: Thesis

My meeting with Cossons, plus other discussions related to industrial archaeology following the lectures of Giorgio Torraca of ICCROM and Albert France-Lanord, an architect/archaeologist from France, as well as discussions about the need to preserve many industrial and commercial buildings of the 19th and 20th Centuries (eg. the present dangers confronting landmark structures like Lever House and the Seagram Building in New York) led to my choice of a Thesis subject.

Each student is asked to present a thesis on a subject of his or her own choice. As I had discovered a dearth of readily accessible information on the preservation, restoration and adaptation of structures built of or using iron or steel, (a reflection of the emphasis on pre 19th Century structures in world conservation) I decided to attempt a bibliography or list on this topic. It isn't finished yet. A lot of the material I needed is in the UK and the USA, and many of the references I was unable to follow up until my return to Australia.

ARC83: Extra-curricular Activities

Three separate weeks during the course are free of lectures, nominally for private study. I have to admit that I spent two of those weeks indulging a life-long passion for skiing (at my own expense), staying with friends who own hotels and pensions in Austria. The third week I flew to London, spending every day in libraries such as those of the Institutes of Engineers, Department of the Environment, Building Research Establishment, several consulting engineers, and one day (when I hired a car and braved the M1) at the Ironbridge Museum Library in Shropshire.

The information I collected on these visits has filled several hundred index cards. Unfortunately, that having been my first visit to England, I seem to have seen little but the inside of libraries, except on the run. Next time I might get to see St. Pauls and the Tower.

ARC83: Site Visits

A major and extremely valuable part of the course were the site visits. These ranged from "History Walks" around central Rome with ICCROM staff as guides in the first week, to a fortnight in Northern Italy in the last weeks.

We visited the Foro Romano, and discussed their work there with the archaeologist (Finnish) and architects (Italian) at present engaged in investigation and restoration on the site. We visited several public housing projects of the Commune of Rome (City government), involving reuse and adaptation of existing old palazzi and tenements.

In discussion with the architect and construction manager it emerged that these projects, apart from their value in preserving the historic fabric, are proving to be competitive financially with demolition and rebuilding in the inner city, or with new development on the outskirts.

We explored the San Michele Building from top to bottom and end to end with the Government Architects on the project. Progressing from sections as yet untouched (to study the sort of decay to be overcome), through sections where stabilising and strengthening is in progress (grout injection in walls, bored piles for underpinning and steel beams for floor strengthening, all within the existing fabric) to completed sections where we could observe the restoration of frescoes and decorative plaster, and the adaptation of existing spaces to modern offices and laboratories and in the case of one huge attic area, the creation of a fine conference hall in which ICCROM General Assemblies are held.

Our studies of this extraordinary building were extended by a visit to the laboratories of the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, about halfway along San Michele. Here we could study the processes and watch the work of restoring paintings, and examine the marvellous bronze equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius (AD 166), which has been moved indoors while methods of repair are investigated.

And outside our classroom, across the courtyard, we could watch the progress of a piece of integrated infill which replaces a whole section of a four-storey wall and roof which collapsed with a roar one night in 1977. The whine of an ancient tower crane was a constant background comment on our conversations.

Other visits in Rome were to a number of churches and palazzi, where we climbed around inside roofs and crypts, studied archaeological excavations and investigated cracks and rising damp and disintegrating frescoes (this inevitably colours ones later viewing of historic monuments as a tourist).

We saw work in progress on restoration of decorative marbles in the side chapels of Santa Maria del Popolo, presented by our colleague in the business. We visited Ara Pacis, the Mausoleo Augusto and the Ghetto district and spent a morning at the offices of Italia Nostra, the Italian National Trust.

One fascinating afternoon was spent at the studio/workshop of Ditta Paolo Medici & Figlio in the Via Papareschi near ICCROM. This firm was founded in 1839 and has been engaged ever since in the business of building and restoration of decorative marble and stone. A large part of their contracts are with the Vatican, but they also undertake restoration work and new designs all over Italy and in other countries (even in Australia - an altar in Geraldton Cathedral many years ago). Our fellow student, Priscilla Grazioli-Medici, the present owner and manager of the firm is the great-great-granddaughter of the founder, who built the original business, in the time of Napoleon, around his unique collection of antique marbles. This collection has been added to by Priscilla and her father and grandfathers and now constitutes an unmatched asset stored in the studio yards. I watched the craftsmen at work, explored (and photographed) the marble collection and enjoyed a pleasant lunch of pannini and a local vino bianco.

We made a day excursion by bus to Capalbio and Canino, about 100kms from Rome, to look at the remains of 17th to 18th Century iron smelting works, and discuss proposals for excavation and restoration of the sites in which ICCROM is involved. Another day was spent looking at stone quarries around Rome - pepperino at Marino, handworked in traditional fashion, then travertine near Tivoli, a huge mechanised operation.

One afternoon we all went to the castle at Sermoneta, a hill town outside Rome, to see restoration of mural paintings and attend an al fresco dinner dance in the castle courtyard, turned on by ICCROM to entertain all the local (ie, from Rome) conservation notabilities. My memories of Sermoneta are of flocks of swallows wheeling round the roof tops of the town below us at dusk, while a chanting religious procession wound through the streets, then hundreds of candles flickering around the battlements after dark, and the truly amazing speed with which the local dignitaries demolished the largest fruit tart I have ever seen.

Our longest excursion was by train to Ferrara, a medieval and renaissance city in the Po Valley, surrounded by some of the richest agricultural land in the world and as flat as the Nullarbor Plain. We all boarded for two weeks at a Salesian convent which we used as a base to explore the City and make day trips to Bologna, Ravenna and Comacchio and a three day interlude in Venice.

The Commune of Ferrara (provincial government) lent us bicycles which we rode everywhere, usually in a large flock containing ourselves plus various visiting husbands, wives, children and friends, and so instantly recognisable wherever we went. The Commune devotes a large portion of its budget to planning and carrying out conservation, restoration and adaptation work, and its architectural staff - notably Carlo Cesari - went out of their way to ensure that we saw every facet of their work and were generously entertained.

A few of the more interesting projects we saw in Ferrara were:

- A large church with a leaning tower which has been underpinned and is now being jacked and pulled back into a stable position.
- A convent about 400 years old being converted for use by the University. Here, decayed timber beams (about ten metre span) supporting upper floors are being strengthened to take new floor surfaces with live loads such as offices, lecture rooms and library, and this without destroying the integrity of the ceilings below. Here also, the four sides of a building surrounding a large quadrangle are bulging inwards, with a pronounced vertical displacement in one corner near a disused well. I was fortunate to be able to discuss the problems and proposed solutions on this building and the church with the consulting structural engineer in charge of the jobs.
- Medieval terrace housing for workers, converted to comfortable subsidized flats for university students (most students come from surrounding country towns and must board in Ferrara while studying).
- A large renaissance town house being adapted for use as college accommodation for girl students. Here the 19th Century accretions are being cleaned back to expose the original painted ceilings and wall finishes in dormitories and common room.
- A renaissance palazzo being converted to become the Northern Head Office of a bank.
- An 18th Century building being converted as a banking chamber plus rental office space.

Most of these jobs have been undertaken by private contractors, the last two on behalf of the public-company owners of the buildings, but all under the close supervision of the Commune Architect's Office. This could lead to the usual problems with developers pulling one way and conservationists pulling the other, but in Ferrara a close spirit of co-operation between Commune and contractors has grown, helped along by the existence of a pool of skilled tradesmen, practised in conservation work, who have been educated and trained by the Commune and contractors working together.

This is the more remarkable when one considers that this co-operation occurs between capitalist businesses and a communist provincial government. The businesses obviously feel that the commercial and aesthetic benefits in the enhancement of the historic town centre far outweigh any extra costs involved in adapting their business operations to fit within an historic structure.

We were entertained to lunch at the head offices of one of the contractors, and I was interested to find that CEI Ferrara, one of the largest construction companies in Italy, operating all over the North, in Calabria and overseas, with a thriving restoration and restructuring department, is a true worker's cooperative such as is no longer known in Australia.

On one day some of us fitted in visits to Bologna and Ravenna, travelling by local trains on different routes from which it was possible to see the nature of the rich farmlands and note many differences to the Australian scene - intensive cultivation, virtually no livestock and therefore very little fencing even between separate properties. Extensive ditching leading into canals appears to be for drainage rather than irrigation. The larger canals contain fish and eel traps at intervals, some clearly very old.

In Bologna we looked at a number of old buildings which have been restored. In Ravenna our main object was to see the wonderful mosaics in the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia and the Basilica of San Vitale.

Comacchio is now a seaside resort on the Po Delta, built on a canal system like Venice. The lakes and marshes surrounding it have been drained over the last hundred years, thus changing its economic base from a great fisheries area (eels were big business before the marsh draining), to one depending largely on tourism for continuing existence, as the main centre for the agricultural industry is Ferrara. Because of this the Town Commune is very conscious of its 17th Century architectural heritage and has a large conservation and planning section of its own, independent of the Provincial Departments. We walked around the town, looking at some of the restoration projects underway, and then visited the Commune Offices to hear about their town planning projects. Afterwards, the Mayor and Commune entertained us to a magnificent feast of many courses featuring the local produce - eels, prawns, calamari and fish from the Adriatic.

In our three days in Venice we managed to pack in an enormous amount of sight seeing (including rising at 5am to photograph an empty Piazza San Marco) in addition to examining the plans for the restoration and adaptation of ancient fishermen's tenements to become public housing, the cleaning and stabilization of carved stone facades on the Modern Art Gallery, and visiting the headquarters of UNESCO's "Save Venice" project.

I managed to explore the islands of Burano, Murano and The Lido, as well as walking what must have been 60km through and around the city at all hours of the day and night. I completely fell in love with Venice and long to return there some day to show my family this dream city. Possibly the Venice interlude was the real climax of my sojourn in Italy, because everything seems to have been winding down after that as we all prepared to return to our normal lives.

ADDENDUM

I would like to complete this report with an account of some experiences and impressions of life in Italy which, while not part of the ICCROM curriculum, were important because of the way they coloured my perceptions of ICCROM and conservation. It doesn't take long to realise that Italy is very different to home, and it takes somewhat longer to adjust to the difference.

My first attack of culture shock happened on arrival at Rome airport and was caused by the sight of numbers of excessively young looking soldiers, all carrying submachine guns at the ready. I suppose one should be prepared for this, but I saw it nowhere else. The next dose of experience perhaps suitably described as 'past shock', came with the bus ride from the airport.

Most city approaches from airports are said to be dreary, but Rome provides a few surprises amongst the dreariness. The first, on the fringe of the suburbs, is a wildly eccentric, apparently deserted group of monstrous housing blocks, like an illustration from an interplanetary comic. Then for miles come row after row of totally dreary, dirty looking, four and five-storey apartment blocks, with shops and garages and signs on the ground floor and flapping washing on the others, all crowded against each other and the streets - not a garden in sight.

Suddenly there is the stunning, almost shocking sight of the Colosseum as the bus sweeps around it in a roar of traffic. I thought I knew all about the Colosseum: 1900 years old; built by Vespasian; gladiatorial combats; the world's most famous stone quarry; - could there be much left? Well there is. It is huge - overpowering. I didn't go back for a second look for a long time - I didn't feel ready for it.

The next shock is the City Terminal. Uninviting, squalid, infested with beggars and touts, it forces you to realise how totally indifferent to the welfare of strangers Rome can be. I recently read H.V. Morton's description. "---the aeroplane has made the air traveller's entrance to Rome (after a long drive) the most ugly and least hospitable of air terminals. If anyone were asked to imagine a departure point for the Siberian mines, or a convict settlement, he could do no better than recall that break and fearsome place."

This juxtaposition of modern squalor and ancient grandeur is rather more than a reeling mind can handle. Dropping from the air into a totally alien place (more foreign to me than other European cities I saw - or Singapore - were), where I understood none of the language (I starved for the first day - being literally afraid to go into a shop or restaurant to ask for food), and where the climate was Melbourne in a mid-winter cold snap (after Sydney in

summer), I felt like a man from Mars. Even more so a few days after arrival when I was attacked by a massive head cold and bronchitis which didn't let go for 3 weeks (obviously an alien virus!).

The feeling of isolation and alienation was the very worst part of my experience and was only slowly dispersed as I learned my way around the city, and gradually felt as though I was becoming a part of the scene, instead of an onlooker from outer space. But it did take a long time. Finding a small sunny apartment helped, and some friends who spoke English. But principally I walked, everywhere, whenever I could, usually alone, constantly getting lost (the sun is in the wrong side of the sky for southerners - remarkably confusing), each time finding and storing some new place or object, so that after a month or so I knew Rome better than I know Sydney after living there for years.

My first exploration took me past Doney's in the Via Veneto on a Sunday, where fur wrapped women and men sat in rows in the pale winter sun, staring across the street, looking for all the world like stuffed sea lions in glass cases. Then on up the hill through the Pincian Gates and out into the Borghese Gardens where all fashionable Rome that couldn't find a seat in Doney's seems to take the air, *en famille*, on Sunday. Mother, father, small children, all dressed up to stroll carefully and stare at each other. The children ride tricycles, or carry a ball - which they would never be so vulgar as to run with or kick.

Later on I discovered where the rest of suburban Rome goes on a Sunday morning, along with teenagers, gypsies and foreigners. They all go shopping for cheap clothes, kitchen wares and gew-gaws at the Porta Portese flea markets, which close off a couple of kilometres of the Via Portuense near San Michele. If you enjoy people watching it's a marvellous place, crammed with characters and roaring with life - unlike the stuffed-shirt parade around Villa Borghese.

I could catch a tram to Porta Portese from home, or walk (not very far) or go by a 23 bus. This bus route goes around the base of the Aventino, one of the Seven Hills and a fashionable suburb. On the top of its scarp, above the river, you can lean on the outer wall of an orange grove, the Parco Savello, and gaze down into the courtyards of San Michele across the river, or northwest to the statue of Garibaldi on the Janiculum and the dome of St Peters - a romantic view, if you can ignore the stripped orange trees and litter of sucked and discarded orange peels carpeting the ground behind you.

The 23 bus I used most frequently, catching it in the mornings at Porta San Paolo, the ancient Ostian Gates now isolated like a triumphal arch in a sea of traffic, and flanked by Cestius' Pyramid, a 27 metres high marble faced tomb built in 12 BC. The pyramid was incorporated in Aurelian's wall when that was built, and its base is now about 3 metres below the existing roadway. The railing round the edge is a favourite idling point for viewing a seething colony of stray cats (highest count 37) which live in the excavated area.

I would get off the bus at the little island in the Tiber, and walk to Trastevere across the two ancient bridges built in the days of the Republic. The paving stones of Ponte Fabricio are worn in deep grooves, and the little statues of four headed Janus on the parapets are almost faceless from centuries of wear (they must be touched for good luck). There are three other modern bridges, all equally handy to reach ICCROM, but there was something peculiarly attractive in the familiar use of these ancient artifacts, as there was in walking back through the Ostian Gates in the evenings and checking out the cat population at the Pyramid.

The 94 bus into town took us from near our front door on a roundabout trip through the leafy Aventino, past Santa Maria in Cosmedin, where the tourists queue to get their hands bitten off by the Mouth of Truth (like Gregory Peck), round the base of the Capitoline Hill and King Victor Emanuele's fantastic monument, past some excavated temples of the 4th Century BC which were the scene of Caesar's murder (only the remaining columns project above the present ground level, from another railed off pit full of cats), and into the Largo Argentina, scene of the biggest and rowdiest traffic jams in the city. With cars sometimes inextricably tangled and facing in all directions, a pair of good sheep dogs would come in handy to run across the cars' backs and bite the drivers' ears. One Friday afternoon we pedestrians were climbing across bumper bars and I saw a driver abandon his car in the middle of the square, presumably to retire to a nearby bar until things started moving again.

From the square, the bus plunges into one-way streets hardly wider than itself, lined with suppliers of ecclesiastical vestments in one direction and butcher shops in the other, so that one is nose to nose first with plaster priests in

gorgeous gilt and satin robes, then, going home, with sucking pigs and coils of sausages. Unwary pedestrians are likely to be hurtled through the doorways to join displays of veal cutlets, or angelic choirs. The last (or first) stop on the 94 route is outside the Pantheon (the oldest concrete building in the world), right in the centre of the old city. This was the best place to catch a bus home after favourite excursions or dinner in town, but always following an obligatory gelato at Giolitti's nearby.

I remember morning markets in the Campo dei Fiori, where Giordano Bruno was burnt and his statue now lowers over crowded meat and vegetable stalls; window shopping along Via Condotti, with coffee and aperitifs afterwards at the Caffè Greco, which Goethe and Byron frequented long ago; or sitting on the Spanish Steps at dusk under a pink sky while a harpist played folk songs and opera tunes a few steps below.

At weekends we could get out of the city. By train to Ostia Lido, where black sand and limy water were a shock to those expecting long golden beaches and clear blue water. By country bus to Tivoli where one day we picnicked on prosciutto, gorgonzola, pannini, Frascati wine and the warm sun in a deserted olive grove covered with spring flowers, and another day stood in pouring rain viewing the fountains of the Villa d' Este from under umbrellas, and laughing at the ridiculous picture we made.

On holidays I could go further afield, always by train. Inevitably crowded, they nevertheless give a marvellously relaxed view of the countryside, farms, lakes, hill towns and forests in all seasons, even if you must stand in the corridor for hours. I remember my first view of the snow clad Alps, North of Milan, in early winter sunlight after a night of heavy fog over the whole Po valley; Capri seen across the Bay of Naples from a train which runs along the water's edge; the incredibly rich country near Ferrara - strawberry and wheat fields and cherry orchards and every uncultivated patch a carpet of red poppies in spring.

I hope that in this report I have managed to convey some of the magic this trip had for me, and also some of the 'Living with History' feeling one has in Rome. I don't mean just the great monumental objects like the Colosseum, or things in Museums like Ara Pacis, but everyday objects that seem to be taken for granted, such as the ancient Ponte Fabricio, still open to motor traffic; fragments of ancient statuary and fluted columns picked up and built into the walls of medieval buildings in the Ghetto and elsewhere; a huge marble foot once attached to some immense forgotten statue and now taking up a parking spot in a narrow street; the Basilica of Constantine, used as a music shell for summer symphony concerts; and of course the ancient housing being converted for modern use as described earlier.

The Romans don't seem to worry too much about their old things, but then they don't seem to pull them down very often these days either. Being in the middle of so much living history has increased my awareness of our own recent history in our surroundings. If we don't work to preserve what we still have, even if it seems unimportant because it is not yet very old, our descendants will never be able to enjoy living in the middle of their history as the Romans can now.

ICCROM ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION COURSE - 1983

DARYL LINDSAY SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDY GRANTS

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

To : The National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
 Tasma Terrace, Parliament Place, Melbourne, Victoria 3002.

The enclosed statement is possibly more detailed than would be asked for by you. I have included this detail and attached comments in the hope that it may be of some use to future course participants in organising their budgets.

Margret J. Doring.

FUNDS RECEIVED

GRANTS:

• The National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Daryl Lindsay Scholarship.	\$ 4,000.00
• The Australian Federation of University Women (Queensland Branch), Fellowship Committee Special Grant.	\$ 3,000.00
• The Ian Potter Foundation, Melbourne.	\$ 2,000.00
• The Australian Institute of Building, Research and Education Foundation.	\$ 500.00

	\$ 9,500.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDS - OTHER SOURCES:

• AMP Society - Loan on Policy	\$ 4,000.00
• Personal loan from mother	\$ 1,000.00
• Saved from Salary	\$ 500.00

	\$ 15,000.00
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COSTS RELATED TO ICCROM ARC83 COURSE

1. TRAVELLING:

Qantas (Sydney-Rome)	\$ 1326.00	
Air India (Rome-Singapore-Perth-Sydney)	1626.00	
Pilgrim Air (Rome-London-Rome)	232.00	
Avis-London (car hire)	202.00	
Train fares within Italy	22.00	\$ 3,408.00

2. ACCOMMODATION:

Apartment, Rome, 6 month lease @ \$390.63/month	\$ 2,344.00	
LESS sublet 17 weeks @ \$54.69/wk	(930.00)	\$ 1,414.00
Pensiones, Rome	66.00	\$ 1,480.00

3. OTHER OVERSEAS EXPENSES:

Daily Living (food etc. \$8/day, 28 weeks)	\$ 1,568.00	
Linen, kitchen utensils etc.(for apartment)	106.00	
Gas (heat, hot water, cooking)	423.00	
Electricity	89.00	
Telephone	407.00	
Transport in Rome (bus, tram, metro)	110.00	
Postage	203.00	
Freight	478.00	
Photographic (film, processing, printing)	514.00	
London trip (petrol, accommodation etc.)	558.00	\$ 4,486.00

4. EXPENSES INCURRED BEFORE LEAVING AUSTRALIA:

ICCROM enrolment fee	\$ 247.00	
Prescription spectacles	100.00	
Camera lens (wide-angle)	130.00	
Identity bracelet (medical information)	186.00	
Luggage	276.00	
Sleeping bag	196.00	
Insurance	159.00	
Passport, academic certificates, driver's licence	78.00	
Adaptor for electric plugs	10.00	\$ 1,382.00

	Sub-Total	\$10,756.00

COSTS NOT RELATED TO ICCROM COURSE

TRAVELLING: Plane & trains in Italy, Switzerland, Germany & Austria & hire-car, Perth.	\$ 1,136.00	
MOTELS & PENSIONES: Italy, Switzerland Austria, Singapore, Perth.	684.00	
OTHER: Clothing, gifts, skiing, books.	1,700.00	
INTEREST: on AMP loan	629.00	\$ 4,149.00

	TOTAL	\$ 14,905.00
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STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE - COMMENTS

TRAVELLING:

The high cost of the airfares was principally due to bad advice, which led me to buy a single ticket instead of a return. I had originally hoped to return via the United States, and at that time I was unable to find a round trip ticket which I could use without returning via the same route, or without having to specify dates. I was also told that tickets were much cheaper if bought in Europe. They may have been, but I couldn't find one. Since then, all sorts of return tickets, allowing great freedom for change of plans, have become available.

ACCOMMODATION & COST OF LIVING OVERSEAS:

Apartment living (rent, gas, electricity) worked out cheaper (approx. \$10.50/day) than a pension or convent. At about \$16/day with no one to share costs, the apartment would still be vastly preferable to six months in a pension. Cost of living (including accommodation) was \$6,420.00 for 28 weeks, or \$32.75/day. This was \$5.75/day more than my original estimate. No doubt others would reduce such costs as telephone and postage, but with husband, children and family company crises left behind at home, I found these unavoidable. Daily living expenses (\$8/day) have been averaged out and include such things as food, drink and other stores, medicines, toiletries, papers, concerts, sight-seeing, occasional taxis, cafes etc.. They do not include the extra costs of travelling at weekends and weeks off, clothing, gifts etc.

PRELIMINARY EXPENSES:

These items were or became essential, or were a form of insurance. eg. Prescription sunglasses for outdoor use and as emergency in case of loss or damage of my normal spectacles. The bracelet was engraved with name, country, blood group and allergies (penicillin and codeine) and had to be robust. I used the sleeping bag in lieu of blankets, which were not supplied in the apartment. The 28 mm wide-angle lens is invaluable for photographing the interior and exterior of buildings. Lastly my luggage consisted of a suitcase, back pack and a large briefcase which held cameras, lenses and a portable typewriter as hand luggage.