

## Repair Mortars for Historic Masonry

### Meeting of the RILEM Technical Committee, Stockholm, 15-16 October 2009

by Prof. Dr. Koenraad Van Balen, Director of RLICC

The network of building materials research laboratories consists of different technical committees. One of them is the RILEM Technical Committee "Repair Mortars for Historic Masonry". At the meeting held in Stockholm on 15-16 October 2009, progress of the editing of guiding documents has been discussed. Their subject is the design of mortar for repair of masonry structures based on technical and scientific input from experts of many Countries (USA, Canada, The Netherlands, Germany, UK, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Turkey, France, Czech Republic, etc.). At the meeting Dr. Ozlem

Cizer, post-doctoral researcher at K.U. Leuven, briefly presented the outcome of her previous PhD research on the competition between hydration and carbonation on lime based mortars. Also Dr. Roel Hendrickx presented his PhD research at the same university on the adequate measuring of the workability of mortar. Both constitute a significant scientific contribution to the documents the committee is preparing and will contribute to the creation of a sound basis for the use of lime based mortar in conservation.

## Des couvents en héritage / Religious Houses: A Legacy

### International Conference, Montreal, 7-11 October 2009

by Prof. Dr. Koenraad Van Balen, Director of RLICC

Christina Cameron of the Heritage Chair at the University of Montreal and past President of the World Heritage Commission invited Prof. Koen Van Balen to participate at the conference "Religious Houses: A Legacy". He presented a paper prepared with Prof. Luc Verpoest on "the Celestine Priory at Leuven: from monastery to heritage - from monastery to library". The conference brought together heritage specialists from Canada and abroad to reflect on ways how religious buildings could preserve their heritage status while the need for the religious use of buildings in many cases (as is also the case in Canada) is declining. Good and bad

practices have been presented. One of the most interesting conclusions seems to be that a timely addressing of the problem and proper preparation with all stakeholders helps to generate the best possible solution. Participation of and contribution from religious congregations present at the meeting, made it clear that this public debate on the topic is creating a solid ground for an open debate in which from the side of religious orders as well as from heritage organizations solutions are sought to the benefit of both.

([www.colloquepatrimoine religieux.qc.ca/en/introduction.php](http://www.colloquepatrimoine religieux.qc.ca/en/introduction.php))

## Networking of Conservation Professionals in the Arab Region

### ICCROM ATHAR Program Workshop Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 16-18 November 2009

by Prof. Dr. Koenraad Van Balen, Director of RLICC

During 16-18 November 2009 Prof. Koen Van Balen participated in the "Workshop on networking of conservation professionals in the Arab region: the role of higher education" at University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The workshop was organized within the ATHAR program of ICCROM. The workshop aimed at understanding the training and education activities in the Arab Region. The RLICC director presented the set-up and the results of the

Master in Conservation of Monuments and Sites programme at K.U. Leuven, and the objectives and activities of the UNESCO Chair on preventive conservation, monitoring and maintenance of monuments and sites. In relation to the latter first contacts were made to identify the training needs that would help to improve the periodic reporting and monitoring of World Heritage Sites.